



COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES
SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
2nd Grade





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Introduction

September 11, 2020

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

St John Chrysostom

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

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

Bishop Youssef

Bishop Basil

Bishop Gregory

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



Overview and Milestones

Theme of the Year

The Loving Motherhood of the Church

Rationale: As the youth are sensitive to adult evaluation while desiring fairness and structure, we introduce them more thoroughly to the living sensitivity and care of their spiritual mother; The Church. This will in turn help their desire for belonging and security through groups/clubs as the church is this family they are to desire. This family, the church, will help them grow in the path of perfection they are seeking and help influence their decisions wisely.

Psych Analysis



Physical

Muscular Strength increases



Intellect

Logical reasoning begins, influenced by others, seeks perfection



Social

Sensitive, Fairness emphasis, self-critical



[Detailed Characteristics](#)

Building Blocks

BB1: The Rock

St. Stephen, The Rock VS. the Sand, King Constantine Restores the Church, St. Mark, The Birth of the Early Church, Flight Into Egypt, St. Anthony, Disobedience and Disrespect in God's House, Stronger United, Jacob becomes Israel,

BB2: The Body of Christ

Submission, I Am the Vine You Are the Branches, The Benefits of the Sacraments, The Golden Mouth, Together in Christ St. Demiana, Using Our Gifts, Placed in a manger, The Good Samaritan, The Meaning of Church Architecture, The Symbols of the Church, The Unction of the Sick

BB3: Koinonia in Church

Elijah Raises the Widow's son, The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Ruth, St. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth, Abraham and Lot, The Spirit of Sonship, The Holy Spirit Grants us Self-Control, Conduct in God's House

BB4: The Church Mother and Teacher

Understanding the Icon of the Theotokos, Overview of the Beatitudes, Archdeacon Habib Girgis, Pope Anianus I, Church surrounded by Saints, Saint John the Beloved, St. Macrina, the Younger, St. Mina, Deborah & Barak, the Son of Abinoam, St. Peter & Cornelius, Raising the Son of the Widow of Nain, A Tool Given by the Church for Prayer

BB5: House Churches & People Generosity

Church in the Home, The Widow's Mite, Examples of Generosity from the Bible, Serving the Needy, David & Absalom, Solomon Builds the Temple

BB6: Church Is All About Love

Our Greatest Example is Jesus, How Can We Follow Jesus' Footsteps?, Sign of Love, The Ultimate Gift of Love, Discrimination (eg. Racism),

End of Year Milestones & Objectives



Scripture

- + Is attentive to bible readings in church
- + Begins to ask parents, servants and priest questions



Spiritual

- + Pray using the Agpeya
- + Shows reverence to the priesthood (kissing hands)
- + Learning how God wants us to use our gifts



Social

- + Joins Church fellowship activities



Rituals

- + Attends hymns
- + Attends liturgy in the main church, not in the cry room anymore.
- + Learned the basics of Baptism, Confession & Communion



Acknowledgements

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

Providing Feedback

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

Disclaimer

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



Building Block I: The Rock

Lesson I.IS - El Nayrouz Feast: St. Stephen

Building Block I
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: [Coloring page](#), coloring pencils; Stones with at least one smooth flat side, permanent markers, markers, stickers, paints to decorate the stone, and paint brushes.

Video: [Sciboys E14: Nayrouz Feast \(6:59\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of standing up for our faith without being afraid.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Courage



MEMORY VERSE:

“

You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance.”

Psalm 65:11

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

What would you do if someone came up to you and said, “Only silly people believe in Jesus”? Would you be quiet, or would you tell them that you believe in Jesus? What if they laughed at you?

Consider beginning the lesson with the following game:

The children will make a circle in the middle of the classroom. The servant will stand in the middle of the circle and tell them that half the children will be assigned to ask others, “do you believe in Jesus?”, while the other half of the class will respond to the question by saying, “yes!” as enthusiastically as possible. The



children will then have a few minutes to mingle and complete the previous task. Then the roles will switch and the children will be allowed to mingle once again.

Consider concluding the activity by asking the children if they were afraid of saying that they believed in Jesus. Remind them that even though we may be scared, we should defend what we believe in.

The book of Acts tells us about a man named Stephen who said he believed in Jesus even when people said they would hurt him if he did.

He was the first martyr in the church! Did you know that the name Stephen means “The Crowned”?

Our early church fathers, like St. John Chrysostom, talk about how good God is, in that we are found worthy and blessed to see the people, who out of their love for God, gave up their entire life till death to receive the crown of martyrdom. These people sacrificed everything for the Lord Jesus Christ. We can learn so much from them.



LESSON BODY:

The celebration of this feast brings to mind honoring the martyrs who gave their lives for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the beginning of a new Coptic year.

The first day of the blessed month of Tout marks the beginning of the Coptic New Year and is the day set aside to celebrate the Feast of El-Nayrouz (Coptic New Year). On this feast day we honor those who stood and confessed their faith in the Word of God with firmness and commitment and with the totality of their lives.

There is one saint who stood strong in his faith in God. He believed in God with all of his heart and his name was St. Stephen. St. Stephen loved the Lord so much that he wanted everyone to believe in Him. He was a Christian man in the city of Jerusalem. He understood the power of the Holy Spirit that lives inside of him.

St. Stephen wanted everyone to know the good news about Jesus. He preached to the people about Jesus. Some of the Jews at that time were very angry because they did not want the Jewish people to listen to St. Stephen and become followers of Jesus.

The Jews were so angry at St. Stephen that they went out and told all the people lies about him and wanted all the Jews to hate him. The Jews believed those lies and had St. Stephen arrested and taken before the Jewish court. Even when St. Stephen was standing in court, he had faith and put all his trust in God.

St. Stephen spoke the truth about Jesus, but it made the people in the Jewish court very angry, so they took him out of the city to throw stones at him until he died.

Do you think St. Stephen was scared as they were throwing stones and rocks at him? Do you think he said anything as they threw those stones and rocks at him?

The Bible teaches us that as the Jews stoned St. Stephen, he “was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:59-60). Even when these people were hurting him, he was asking God to forgive them! How many of us can do the same?

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Coloring Page¹:

1. Provide children with a coloring page, markers, and crayons.
2. Consider having the children write the memory verse on the bottom.



Forgiveness Stones:

1. Collect stones with at least one smooth flat side.
2. Provide the children with a permanent marker. Have them write their name on one side of the rock, and on the other side write, "I will forgive like Stephen".
3. The children can color or design their rocks (markers, stickers, etc.).



VIDEO:

[Sciboys E14: Nayrouz Feast \(6:59\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

True/False Room Game:

Separate the room in half, one side is true the other is false. Give the children the statements, such as those below, and have them walk to the side of the room they believe is correct.

- A martyr is someone who denies what they believe. (False).
- St. Stephen is the first Christian martyr. (True).
- St. Stephen was afraid of teaching people about Jesus. (False).
- St. Stephen forgave the people who were hurting him. (True).
- The celebration we celebrate to honor the martyrs is called the feast of Nayrouz. (True).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE

¹ Edward. (2012, October 12). The stoning of st. Stephen. Retrieved July 28, 2020, from <http://www.coloringbook4kids.com/2012/10/the-stoning-of-st-stephen.html>



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- Oftentimes, you will be the only one defending your faith.
- We should try to defend our faith every day—at home, in our neighborhood, at school, when we are playing with friends, and even in church.
- What are some things you can do if someone makes fun of you for being a Christian? (Do not fight with them, do not hold a grudge against them, pray for them, and know that sometimes being silent is the best thing to do.)



Lesson 1.2 - Foundation of the Church: The Rock VS. the Sand

Building Block I
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Wooden building blocks, a small rug, and one rock for review.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 7:24-27

Craft: Rocks, paint, paintbrushes, permanent markers, markers, and garbage bags.

Video: [Gospel Pictures: The Parable of the Two Builders ~ Animation \(5:46\)](#)

Song: [Kids Online Channel: The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock with actions || Sunday School Song \(1:12\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop a deeper understanding of how we build a firm foundation in our hearts by staying focused on Jesus and by building our relationship with Him.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith



MEMORY VERSE:



Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock...



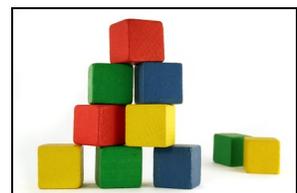
Matthew 7:24

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider asking the children what they think a foundation is, and explain to them that the focus of the lesson will be on building firm foundations.





Activity: Divide the children into two teams. Each group will receive a pile of blocks from which they are to build a tower. However, one group will be building on the solid hard floor, while the other has to build on a lumpy soft rug. Which is easier? After the towers are built, shake or tug the rug and watch what happens.

Consider asking the children why one block building was more stable than the other, why is it better to build a building on a hard flat surface?



LESSON BODY:

Consider reviewing the meaning and purpose of parables, a parable is a story or example that teaches us something. Jesus used stories to explain and communicate His teachings. He liked to use things that were familiar to the people of the time. One story He told had to do with building a house.

Read Matthew 7:24-27 together:

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”²

Have the children imagine being in a storm and standing outside while it’s pouring down rain. There is a lot of loud thunder happening around you and it’s really dark. Most of us would hold on to our parents’ hands because we know that they will always protect us—we trust them. So, when they tell us, it will be okay, we believe them.

“And well did He call this man foolish: for what can be more senseless than one building a house on the sand, and while he submits to labor, depriving himself of the fruit and refreshment, and instead thereof undergoing punishment?”

- St. John Chrysostom

Consider asking the children why they trust their parents.

We trust our parents because we have experience with them. As babies, we knew they would always feed us and pick us up when we cried. Now, we know that they will always be there when we get hurt. We spend years and years getting to know our parents and putting our lives and trust in them. We obey them, because we love them, and so we grow in our relationship with them.

Consider reminding the children that Jesus (God) is also our parent.

Now this is exactly what Jesus wants from us—to put our lives and trust in Him. To know that no matter what storm comes, even when we are scared, that we have built that relationship with Him to know that He keeps His promises and will take care of us—we trust Him. By getting to know Him and building that relationship with Him, as well as obeying Him, our faith in Him grows.

Refer back to the parable. Consider asking the children why Jesus emphasizes the importance of listening to Him even when storms come, and engage in the following discussion.

² St. John Chrysostom, (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/585b63219ac03ecd4b8e6e11>

What kinds of “storms” might we encounter in our lives? (Moving, changing schools, losing a pet, etc.) Why are these things difficult? How can we handle it when they come up? Jesus says here that we are to hear His words and put them into practice...how can we do that?

Consider emphasizing to the children that just as they listen to their parents and trust them to protect them during a storm, they must also listen to Jesus’ words and live by them in order to make it through the ‘storms’ of their lives. Brainstorm with the children ways of learning what Jesus wants them to do.

The more we know and love the Lord, the more stable and reliable our faith and even in hard times it will hold firm.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Rocks of Faith³:

1. Cover the tables and floor with garbage bags.
2. Give each child a rock, a permanent marker, and a paintbrush.
3. Have each child write their name and “Faith” on the rock using the marker.
4. Allow the children to decorate the rock as they wish using the paint or the markers.

Explain that the rock each one made represents his/her faith. Remind them to build their faith stronger each day with prayer and Bible reading when they see their rock.



VIDEO:

[Gospel Pictures: The Parable of the Two Builders ~ Animation \(5:46\)](#)



SONG:

[Kids Online Channel: The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock with actions || Sunday School Song \(1:12\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

³ Daisyraytheclown. (2013, August 05). Faith Rocks. Retrieved July 28, 2020, from <https://ministry2kidz.com/2013/11/05/faith-rocks/>



Have the children sit down in a circle and pass around a rock, everytime the child gets the rock he/she must answer questions, such as the following, pertaining to the lesson.

- What is a parable? (It is a story/example).
- How does God feel when we do not do what He says? (He is sad, like our parents when we do something wrong.)
- How many houses were in the parable? (There were two houses.)
- Which house survived the storm? (The house that was built on a rock.)
- What is represented by the firm foundation? (Obeying Jesus.)
- What is represented by the sandy foundation? (Not obeying Jesus' Words.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- We should obey Jesus, which will help us prepare for the storm that may come so that when the storm comes, we are not shaken.
- We are growing to build our faith in Jesus Christ. We are going to do this by getting to know Him. How can we get to know him? (Listening to our parents, reading His Word in the Bible, going to Church, talking to our father of confession, and by praying.)



Lesson 1.3S - SPECIAL (FEAST OF THE CROSS): King Constantine Restores the Church

Building Block I
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Synaxarion Reference: [Barahmat 28](#) and [Paona 10](#).

Craft: Paper, scissors, hole puncher, markers, and pipe cleaners.

Activity: Tennis balls, stickers, letter stickers, and paper.

Video: [Little Angels Sunday School: Feast of the cross \(3:12\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of showing compassion to others and remaining faithful to our beliefs.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience, Compassion, and Faithfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow Me.



Matthew 16:24

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



So, as we celebrate the Feast of the Cross, we should remind ourselves of loving and obeying God the same way that Christ obeyed God till His death on the Cross. *"He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* (Philippians 2:5-8).

Today, we will learn about someone who did not really know who Jesus was, and was not even born as a Christian. Even though this person was not a baptized Christian at the time, he obeyed God's commandments to him, and restored the Church in the world! Today we will learn about Emperor Constantine.



LESSON BODY:

[Barahmat 28](#) and [Paona 10](#):

The following information reviews the entire story of Emperor Constantine as told in the Synaxarion. When teaching the lesson, consider emphasizing Constantine's compassion, the appearance of a bright cross to him, his obedience to God's command, his love of Christians, and the fact that he closed all the pagan temples in the areas in which he ruled and freed the Christians.

Emperor Constantine's father's name was Constantius I Chlorus, and his mother's name was Helena. Constantius reigned over Byzantium and left Helena to return to Byzantium. Helena raised Constantine and sowed in his heart mercy and compassion for the Christians, but she did not dare to have him baptized.

Constantine grew up, and he was a bold and skilful horseman. He went to his father who rejoiced in him when he saw that he was full of wisdom, knowledge, and he was a skilful horseman. After his father's death, he received the kingdom and he reigned with justice and integrity, and stopped all unfair practices. All the people were subject to him and they loved him and his righteous judgement spread throughout the Empire. The nobles of Rome sent for him to come and save them from the injustice of Maximianus. Constantine marched with his army toward Rome to save them. During the war, he saw in the heaven, in the middle of the day, a Cross made of stars, and on it was written in Greek words which are interpreted as "With this you shall conquer." The light of the Cross was shining greater than the sun, and he showed his ministers and the nobles of his kingdom. They read what was written, marvelled and they did not know for what reason that cross had appeared.

Consider asking the children how they would feel if a cross appeared to them in the sky. Would they be scared, impressed, or maybe comforted?

That night the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a vision and told him: "Make a sign for yourself like that sign which you had seen, and with it you shall conquer your enemies." The next morning, he prepared a large flag with the sign of the cross on it, and made the sign of the cross on all the armour of the soldiers. He engaged with Maximianus in a battle and fought. Constantine overcame Maximianus who withdrew with his army, and while crossing the bridge over the Tiber river, the bridge broke and he and most of his men died. Constantine entered Rome and its people welcomed him with joy and gladness, and the men praised the Honorable Cross and called it the Savior of their city. Then they celebrated for the Cross seven days and Constantine became the Emperor of the East and the West.

Consider emphasizing to the children that even though Constantine was not baptized as a Christian at the time, he was obedient to God.



When Constantine established himself in Rome, he and most of his soldiers were baptized by the Pope of Rome, in the eleventh year of his reign. He sent throughout the kingdom and commanded to set free all those who were imprisoned for the sake of faith, and that they should not work during the Passion week as the Apostles commanded.

In 312 A.D., the righteous Emperor Constantine the great, issued his command to close all the pagan temples, and open all the churches throughout the whole Roman Empire. The news of the command arrived in Alexandria on this day, and all the people were very happy! All the Christians made this day a great feast day.

Consider emphasizing to the children how important Constantine's command was, as it had been illegal to be a Christian before this. Ask the children how they would feel if it was illegal for them to be Christian.

In the seventeenth year of his reign, the Holy Council of the Three Hundred and Eighteen bishops assembled at Nicea in the year 325 A.D. which arranged the affairs of the Christians and put down the canons of the church. He rebuilt the city of Byzantium and called it after his name Constantinople and he brought to it many of the bodies of the apostles and holy martyrs. He departed in the city of Nicomedia. They carried him and brought him to Constantinople. The Patriarch, bishops, priests, and all the people received him with prayers, psalms, and spiritual hymns, and laid him in the sanctuary of the holy apostles. He was 75 years old when he passed away.

Consider discussing with the children the importance of Constantine's work for the church and how we all still are blessed by what he had done.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Obedience Game:

1. The child gets a sticker if he/she obeys right away, completely, correctly and with a happy heart.
2. They start earning letter stickers to spell the word "obedience."
3. Then, it is like a race to see if the kids could earn 10 additional stickers.

Here are some of the examples you can ask them to do:

- Walk to the front door and then come back and give your servant a high five.
- Jump up and down five times.
- Give another child a hug.
- Clean up the room.
- Find a tennis ball and give it to your servant.
- Say the memory verse.

After you play with those rules (going one at a time), make it into a competition. Ask them to do similar things, but they have to race to see who could obey first. After the game is over, make sure to tie it into a real life example reminding them that we should always obey.

Key of Obedience⁴:

1. Pre-cut one square and three key shapes for each child.
2. Using a marker, have the children write "I can obey" on the square shape.
3. Using a marker, have the children write ; "All the way!", "Right away!", "In a happy way!" on the key shapes.
4. Pre-punch a hole in each shape.
5. Have the children assemble the key chain together using a pipe cleaner.



VIDEO:

[Little Angels Sunday School: Feast of the cross \(3:12\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson by conducting a true and false game. Divide the room in half to mark where the children should go if the statement is true and if it is false. Consider having the 'true' side of the room have a cross on a table, while the 'false' side would have nothing. The servant can use statements such as the following:

- Constantine was raised by his mother to love Christians and show compassion to others (True).
- Constantine was not a skilled horseman (False).
- Constantine was baptized at a young age (False).
- Constantine won the battle against Maximianus (True).
- Constantine saw a cross in the sky that said "With this you shall conquer." (True).
- Constantine did not put the cross on the soldiers armour (False).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

⁴ United Faith Church. (n.d.). The Keys to Obeying... I Can Obey... All the Way, In the Right Way, In a Happy Way #ChurchCraf...: Preschool bible lessons, Sunday school crafts, Sunday school classroom. Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/491314640594629267/>



- We saw how Constantine showed compassion, fairness, and love towards all people. How can we be more like him? (Listening to others, being kind, sharing, offering our help to those who need it, etc.)
- At the time of Constantine, people were put in prison and killed for being Christian. We are so privileged now to be able to freely be Christians (although we face other forms of persecution). How can we show God how faithful we are? How can we reflect the image of Christ and bring others to Him? (By telling others about Christ, by attending church and learning about our faith, by taking communion so we can be united with Christ, and by remaining faithful to God even when others make fun of us.)
- Obedience is a reflection of our love; if we love God, we obey Him and obey our parents and our teachers.



Lesson 1.4 - The Birth of the Early Church: The Great Commission

Building Block I
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Dominoes set.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:18-20

Craft: Construction paper or cardstock, pipe cleaner, scissors, glue, hole punch, markers, and stickers.

Activity: Two bells.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of how the church began and grew according to Jesus' commandment to spread His word.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Kindness



MEMORY VERSE:

“

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

”

Acts 1:8

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Play Dominoes with the children. Have the children assist in setting up a Dominoes course around the room.

Have the children watch how one domino knocked over starts a whole line-up falling down. Explain that today they will be talking about sharing and spreading something that can start small and have a huge impact. One small group of people can change the world, just like the disciples did!



LESSON BODY:

Today's lesson is about a special mission Jesus gave to His disciples and to us. It is called the Great Commission. Right before Jesus ascended to heaven, He called His disciples together and He told them about this special mission.

Matthew 28:18-20:

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

This mission Jesus had assigned them had three parts to it.

The first part was to go and make disciples. A disciple just means a follower of Jesus. So, Jesus told the disciples to go and tell other people about Him. Remember, Jesus was leaving so He was putting the responsibility on the disciples to share who Jesus was and what He came to do.

Consider using the following quote by St. John Chrysostom about the topic, in your servant pereopration.⁵

"Thus all nations are created a second time to salvation by that one and same Power, which created them to being."

- St. John Chrysostom

The second part was to baptize. When people put their trust in Jesus, they should be baptized. It is a way to tell the world that they now belong to Jesus.

The third thing was to teach the people to obey God's commandments. The Bible is full of God's commandments that tell everyone how to live and honor God. Every follower of Jesus has this as their mission. That means you and me! So, tell your friends about Jesus and fulfill the mission Jesus has given you.

The Lord Jesus taught His disciples, showed them His miracles, and gave them faith and commanded them to go and make disciples. However, they still needed one thing. What was it? It was the descent of the Holy Spirit on them on Pentecost to support them, to guide them and to speak on their tongues to the people so that they can believe in the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When St. Peter received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost he talked to the people about the Lord Jesus. Immediately 3, 000 people became Christians. We all received the Holy Spirit when we were baptized and anointed with the Mayroun oil. The Holy Spirit who helped the disciples can help us now to be good Christians, to help us pray and to help us to tell others about the Lord Jesus who is our savior.

The church started by only these twelve disciples and now there are many, many Christians all over the world.

Consider reminding the children of the domino effect they saw at the beginning of the lesson. Remind them that even if they do something small to tell someone about Jesus, it can change many lives!

⁵ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5735de63ec4bd7c9723b9aeb>

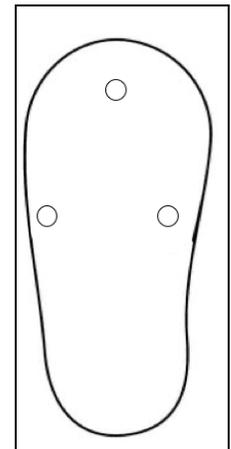
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Great Commission Sandal⁶:

1. On construction paper or cardstock, have the children cut out a template of a sandal.
2. Have the servants use a hole puncher and punch one hole closer to the side of the flip flop where the big toe would go. Then punch two more holes DIRECTLY across from one another further down.
3. Fold the pipe cleaner in half and thread the center through the top hole. Twist the pipe cleaner on the back of the shoe a bit and then fold down.
4. Now thread the two remaining ends of the pipe cleaner into the other two holes. Turn flip flop over and again twist ends and then fold down so that they stay secure. You may want to use a little tape on the back to hold the ends.
5. Have the children write "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations!" on the sandal.
6. Allow the children to decorate the sandals with markers and stickers.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

⁶ Alicia. (2011, May 17). "Walk With Jesus" craft tutorial. Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <http://through-my-is.blogspot.com/2011/05/walk-with-jesus-craft-tutorial.html?m=1>



Review Game:

1. Divide the class into two teams.
2. Give each team a bell.
3. First child to ring in gets a chance to answer.
4. If correct, that team gets a point.
5. Have two new children come up for each round.
6. The team with the most points wins the game.

Give the children the statements below:

- Jesus has given us a mission. (True).
- The name of the mission is called the Great Participation (False).
- The Bible is full of God's commandments. (True).
- Our Memory Verse is from John. (False).
- Jesus died for some of our sins but not all. (False).
- A follower of Jesus is called a disciple. (True).
- We should obey God's commands. (True).
- Jesus talked about His mission first to the disciples. (True).
- We should obey Jesus' commandment and do good works so others can glorify our Father in Heaven. (True).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- We all have the responsibility to tell people about Jesus. But how can you talk about Jesus to others and make disciples? Maybe you ask your friends at school if they want to pray with you before you eat lunch? Maybe invite them to church and/or Sunday School. You can also be kind and welcoming to everyone in the class and by being kind, maybe people will see Jesus through your actions. We have to be good disciples so people can see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven.



Lesson 1.5 - Founder of Our Church: St. Mark



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: [Coloring Page](#), markers, crayons, construction paper, business size envelope, jumbo craft stick and glue.

Activity: Plastic or plush lions.

Video: [Jakys: St Mark for Kids \(1:39 - 4:28\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

This lesson will teach the children about the founder of our church, St. Mark the Evangelist and Apostle who had so much faith in God that He used St. Mark to start The Coptic Orthodox Church.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Devotion and Faithfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



Matthew 5:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children the following questions:

- Can you name a saint?
- Who is your favorite saint?
- What do you think is the most interesting thing about his/her life?

Today, we are going to learn about the founder of our church. His name is St. Mark. Not only was he the founder of our church, he was also one of Jesus' disciples. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He asked His



disciples to go and spread His word across the world. St. Mark went to Egypt to talk about Jesus and He became the founder of our Coptic Church.



LESSON BODY:

Saint Mark the Evangelist is the Founder of the Coptic Orthodox Church⁷. He is one of the seventy apostles (Luke 10:1) and the writer of the second of the four gospels. He was born in the City of Cyrene in Libya, three years after the birth of Jesus Christ.

His original name was John and his surname was Mark (Acts 12:12). He had Jewish parents (his mother is called Mary as in Acts 12:12) who later moved to Palestine. St. Mark's house became one of the most famous houses in Christian history! Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrated Passover, washed the feet of His disciples, instituted the sacrament of Eucharist, appeared to his disciples after His resurrection, and the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the feast of pentecost, all in St. Mark's house.

Consider showing the children an icon or a picture of St. Mark with the lion.

St. Mark and his father were walking and were approached by a lion and lioness, St. Mark prayed and both animals fell dead. His father believed in Jesus because of this.

When St. Mark went to Alexandria and ripped his shoe, he went to a shoemaker named Annianus to fix his sandals. Annianus cut his hand in the process, and St. Mark healed it for him. Annianus and all his family then believed in God and were baptized by St. Mark in the name of Jesus. Other people in Alexandria likewise became Christians.

St. Mark ordained Annianus as Bishop of Alexandria before he left Egypt. On St. Mark's second visit to Alexandria, the number of Christians increased a great deal. So, he built three more churches for them.

The pagans captured St. Mark because they were afraid of him and of Christianity in Egypt. They put him in jail and later on dragged him to Alexandria where they killed him. St. Mark was not afraid because he was going to go to heaven and knew he would receive the crown of martyrdom.

⁷ St. Mark the Apostle, the Founder of the Coptic Church – The Coptic Church – Coptic Orthodox. (n.d.). Retrieved August 12, 2020, from <https://www.suscopts.org/coptic-orthodox/church/saint-mark/>

Supplementary

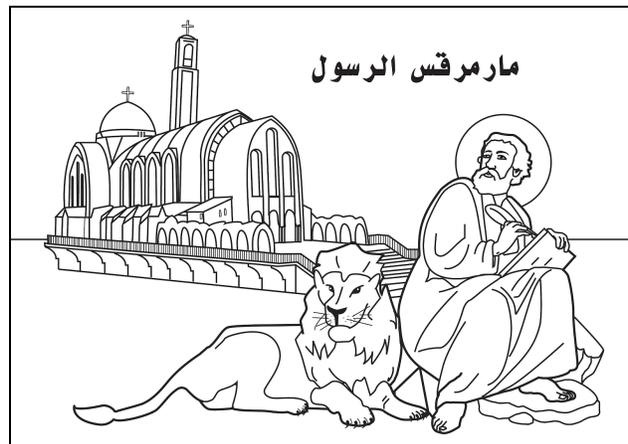


CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Option 1:

St. Mark Coloring Page⁸:

1. Give each child a coloring page.
2. Give the children some markers and crayons to color with.
3. Assist the children in writing their names and the memory verse at the bottom of the page.



Option 2:

Church craft⁹:

1. Give each child a construction paper, envelope and four popsicle sticks.
2. Have children glue the envelop with the flap open, onto the construction paper
3. Have children draw a cross at the top and add a door as shown in the picture.
4. Have children draw faces with thin tipped markers on the sticks.
5. tuck the stick people into the envelope.
6. Let them write the verse on the construction paper.



Activity: Lion Hunt¹⁰:

Hide several toy plastic or plush lions around the party area. Give each player a small paper sack. Tell the players they are going on a lion hunt to see how many lions they can find. They can collect the lions in their paper sacks. The player who finds the most lions wins the game and a large plush lion.

⁸ Dark mark coloring pages. (n.d.). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <http://globalperspectives.info/coloring/d/dark-mark-coloring-pages.html>

⁹ Envelope church. (2018, May 26).Prekinder. Retrieved September 10, 2020 from <https://www.prekinders.com/envelope-church/>

¹⁰ Miller, K. (2019, January 10). Lion Themed Games for Children. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://itstillworks.com/12510209/lion-themed-games-for-children>



VIDEO:

[Jakys: St Mark for Kids \(1:39-4:28\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

- What was St. Mark's original name? (John).
- Where was St. Mark born? (Libya).
- Whose house did the disciples and Jesus meet at after Jesus' resurrection? (St. Mark's).
- Where did the shoemaker that St. Mark visited live? (Alexandria, Egypt).
- What happened to the shoemaker while St. Mark was there? (He cut his hand)
- What was the shoemaker's name? (Annianus)
- Who healed Annianus? (St. Mark).
- Did many believe after this? (Yes).
- Who believed after St. Mark healed Annianus? (Annianus and his family and many who heard his story.)
- On St. Mark's second visit to Alexandria, how many new churches did he build? (Three).
- Were the people who didn't believe in God, the pagans, happy with St. Mark? (No, they jailed him, then killed him.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

- St. Mark is the reason we have the Coptic Church, how can we contribute to the church like St. Mark? (Telling others about Christ and showing Christ through our actions. Refer to the memory verse.)
- St. Mark remained faithful to God even until his martyrdom, how can we become 'martyrs' in the 21st century? (We face different forms of persecution. People will always have something negative to say about Christianity, it is our responsibility to speak up even when everyone else does not have anything nice to say about Christians.)



Lesson 1.6 - Our Blessed Church: Flight Into Egypt

Building Block I
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Matthew 2:13-18, Isaiah 19:25

Craft: [Coloring page](#), [maze page](#), pencils, markers, and pencil crayons.

Video: [The Global Gospel: Escape to Egypt \(2:03\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children should understand how God always takes care of His people and therefore should learn to trust Him, and that Jesus' arrival in Egypt laid the foundation for the Coptic Church.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faith and Trust.



MEMORY VERSE:



...Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word...



Matthew 2:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider beginning the lesson with the following game.

Flight into Egypt Tag:

Have one or several children be marked as "Roman Soldiers". These children will be 'it'. The rest of the children will pretend to be part of the "Holy Family". The "Roman Soldiers" must try to tag the children who are part of the "Holy Family". If a child is tagged, they become a "Roman Soldier".



Consider asking the children who were part of the “Holy Family” how they felt while being chased. Were they scared or stressed? Remind the children that today they will be learning about the time when St. Joseph, St. Mary, and Jesus had to flee from King Herod and go to Egypt in order to protect Jesus.



LESSON BODY:

Read Matthew 2:13-18 and summarize with the children.

There was a King during the time that Jesus was born who wanted to destroy Jesus. Does anyone remember who the King was? King Herod! King Herod then sent three wise men to find Jesus, because Herod told them that he wanted to worship Jesus, but Herod was secretly planning to kill Him!

Consider having the children determine why King Herod would want to hurt a baby. Remind them of how people were saying that baby Jesus would be the King of the Jews and King Herod was worried that Jesus would take his place.¹¹

When the three wise men left, an angel of God appeared to St. Joseph in a dream at night and said to him: "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." St. Joseph obeyed the Lord's command and arose immediately and took our Lord and St. Mary, and left Judea to go to Egypt in the same night.

Consider emphasizing St. Joseph's obedience to God.

The Holy Family remained in Egypt until one night an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream saying “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead.” But, then St. Joseph heard that King Herod's son took his father's place. St. Joseph was afraid and so God warned him in a dream to go to Nazareth instead. St. Joseph, St. Mary, and Jesus lived in Nazareth and this is where Jesus Christ grew up.

The land of Egypt was blessed greatly by the coming of Jesus Christ, St. Mary and St. Joseph. Their arrival fulfills what was said in the Old Testament; the Lord spoke through a prophet and said: “*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*” Matthew 2:15.

Consider describing the following quote from H.G. Bishop Youssef which describes the accounts surrounding the effects of the arrival of the Holy Family in Egypt.

“An ancient Coptic legend says that as the Holy Child entered Heliopolis, "the noise of a rushing mighty wind was heard, the earth trembled, the idols crashed from their pedestals...”. Apart from this legend, we are

“Joseph, when he had heard these things, was not offended, neither did he say, The things is hard to understand [...] (for the man was faithful): neither is he curious about the time of his return, and this though the angel had put it indefinitely thus: Be there until I tell you. But nevertheless, not even at this did he shudder, but submits and obeys, undergoing all the trials with joy.

- St. John Chrysostom

¹¹ St. John Chrysostom. (AD407). Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/com/57eb0db6b0d44ee10cfac2f6>

specifically told in Isaiah 19:1: "*Behold the Lord rides on a swift cloud and will come into Egypt and the idols of Egypt will totter at His presence and the heart of Egypt shall melt in its midst.*"¹²

Each place visited by the Lord was blessed by His presence, and this was true for Egypt too! Before the Holy family visited Egypt, the people there did not believe in God, but worshiped things called idols. An idol is something that a person has created that people wrongfully treat like God.

Jesus' arrival in Egypt laid the foundation for the Coptic Church, as people began to realize that their worship of idols was wrong.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

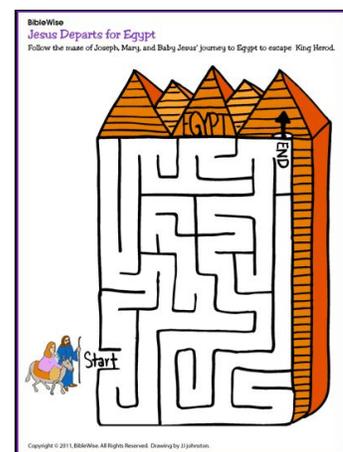
Coloring Page¹³:

1. Give each child a coloring page.
2. Give them markers and pencil crayons to color with.
3. Assist them in writing their names and the memory verse on the top of the page.



Jesus Departs for Egypt Maze¹⁴:

1. Provide the children with a maze sheet as attached.
2. Give the children pencils and inform them that they must try to find the route for the Holy Family to make it to Egypt.



VIDEO:

[The Global Gospel: Escape to Egypt \(2:03\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISmDaZgC_mk&t=30s)¹⁵

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

¹² H.G. Bishop Youssef. (2000). Flight of the Holy Family into Egypt – Literature – Resources. Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://www.suscopts.org/resources/literature/255/flight-of-the-holy-family-into-egypt/>

¹³ Mary and Joseph Flight Into Egypt coloring page: Free Printable Coloring Pages. (2017, May 13). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/mary-and-joseph-flight-into-egypt>

¹⁴ Jesus Departs for Egypt. (n.d.). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://www.biblewise.com/kids/fun/jesus-departs.php>

¹⁵ The Global Gospel. (2016). 009 - Escape to Egypt (English) [YouTube]. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISmDaZgC_mk&t=30s



Questions:

- Who wanted to kill Jesus and why? (King Herod wanted to kill Jesus because he was scared that Jesus would take his throne.)
- Where did the Holy family go to hide from king Herod? (Egypt).
- Where did Jesus grow up? (In Nazareth).
- Why did the Holy Family flee to Egypt? (Because God told them to go to Egypt.)
- What is believed to have happened to the idols in Egypt after Jesus arrived? (They fell down.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

It is important to notice how obedient St. Mary, St. Joseph and Jesus were. St. Mary and St. Joseph were obedient to God. When God told them to go, they went. Jesus was obedient to both His parents and to God.

- We should always remember that God has a plan for us and trust in Him always.
- God sent His son, St. Mary and St. Joseph to Egypt. He took complete care of them and always knew what was best for Him. He never left them. We need to trust Him and His Church.
- The Church is the House of God and it is important that we have faith in the church and in God.



Lesson 1.7 - Founder of Monasticism: St. Anthony

Building Block I
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Synaxarion Reference: [Toba 22](#)

Craft: [Coloring page](#), coloring pencils, and markers.

Activity: Duct tape.

Video: [Christian Youth Channel: St. Anthony the Great \(2:15\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will be able to understand the different ways we can live for God. We may live in the world, while others may leave the world like St. Anthony.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Self-Control



MEMORY VERSE:



Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."



Matthew 19:21

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider opening the lesson by playing the game Graveyard:

1. The children have to disperse themselves around the room and stay quite without laughing or smiling.
2. The teacher will go around and try to make the children laugh or smile.
3. If they do, they are out of the game.



4. The goal is to be the last person to laugh or smile (last person standing).

This game teaches the children about the life of silence and self-control in Monasticism because graveyard requires complete focus and control over senses and laughter. Likewise many Fathers who become monks have to endure self control and sustain their focus in prayers and helping others.

There are certain people who love God so much, that all they want to do is to spend time with Him. Does anyone know who these people are?

They are monks and nuns. What do you all know about monks and nuns? There are monks and nuns that live in monasteries together and those that live by themselves way out in the desert in caves. These people all want to dedicate their lives completely to God.

A monk or nun does not get married. They do not go to work the way our parents do. They work, but a different kind of work. They spend most of their time praying. They use the rest of their time doing useful things for the church, writing and translating spiritual books, meditating or teaching hymns to people.

Does anyone know who the entire world believes is the first monk? St. Anthony.



LESSON BODY:

Tell the story of St. Anthony the Great:

About 251 years after the time of Jesus, a young man in Egypt named St. Anthony listened to the Gospel from Matthew 19:21. *“Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.””*

Anthony heard Jesus’s words. His parents had died and he cared for his younger sister. He was very rich. The words of Jesus spoke to Anthony.

At this time, there was no such thing as a monastery or being a monk. So St. Anthony sold his riches, found his sister a Christian home, and went off to the desert to live in a cave. There he spent his days and nights in prayer and Bible study. He ate little food.

Be mindful as you describe St. Anthony’s trials. Ensure that the description is not graphic and the emphasis is on his prayer and faith in God, rather than the ways St. Anthony had been attacked. Emphasize that although there may be demons, we have so many angels who defend us. St. Anthony proves that we are victorious when God is with us.

St. Anthony the Great was tempted by demons many times, just like Jesus was, because they knew how close he was to God. Finally, after many years, and a lot of prayer to God that God would strengthen him, a light shone through the roof of the cave. From then on his pain was gone and so were the demons. St. Anthony thanked God for the strength He had given him.

Consider asking the children if they think St. Anthony was scared when he was being tempted. Remind them that even if he was scared, he never stopped praying and he knew God was always with him.

He decided to go even farther away from people to be alone with God. He found an old fort on the banks of the Nile. He continued in fasting and prayer. St. Anthony thought he would never see another human being again. But, after twenty years, other men began to seek out this holy monk in the desert to learn from him.

The people who came and learned from St. Anthony began to leave the cities they lived in to seek God alone. They became known as monks. Each lived in a cave alone and only occasionally would they come together for prayer. Many came to St. Anthony to live near him and to learn from his teachings. Because of this, St. Anthony is known as the Father of Monasticism, this means that St. Anthony started the practice of being a monk!

As St. Anthony grew closer to God, people would come to him for prayer. A ruler in Egypt was healed of blindness. A girl who was paralyzed was healed. His wisdom was so well-known that Emperor Constantine the Great wrote to St. Anthony for advice. St. Anthony died in 356 AD and before he died, he asked the other monks to bury him in secret.

Supplementary



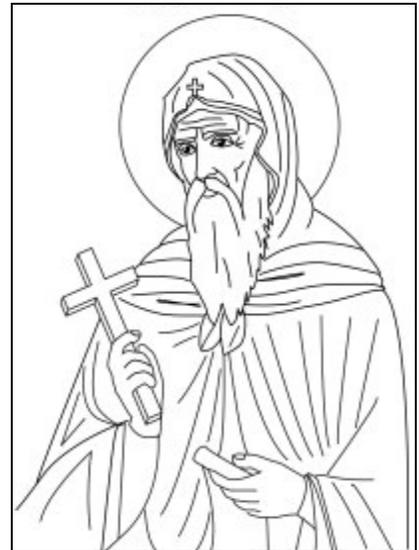
CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

St. Anthony Coloring Page¹⁶:

1. Give each child a [coloring page](#).
2. Give them coloring pencils and markers to color.
3. Assist the children in writing their names and the memory verse at the top of the page.

Steadfast in the Path Game:

1. Use duct tape and stick the tape to the floor in a path around the room going zigzag, wavy, straight, and in any other combined patterns.
2. Ask the children to make a line on the path and start walking with their steps in front of each other so that their feet stay on the tape.
3. Ask them repetitively to multitask by having them, for example, rub their stomach and pat their heads while walking, until some of them start to fall out of the tape path.



This game teaches about how the life of Monasticism and life for all Christians in general requires us to stay steadfast in our path to God and never deviate from the true faith. Multitasking symbolizes increased challenges in life from pressures from others, temptations, and confusing heracies.



VIDEO:

¹⁶ Coptic Saints – A to D. (2015, January 15). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://bishoysblog.com/coptic-saints-a-to-d/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

- What is a monk? How does a monk live? (A monk is someone who lives alone and for God. A monk can live with other monks or by themselves.)
- Who is considered the father of monasticism? (St. Anthony the Great).
- What does the word monk mean? (It means that a man has decided to be single and live his life fasting and praying all the time.)
- What verse did St. Anthony hear that changed his life? (Matthew 19:21).
- What does Matthew 19:21 say? (Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- By going into the desert to be away from other people and worship God only, St. Anthony showed a lot of self-control. How can we have more self control? (By praying, reading our Bible, being kind, making sure we use our time wisely - not only using technology.)
- St. Anthony faced some scary things during his life, but he never doubted God’s love for him. What can you do the next time you feel afraid or alone? (Do the sign of the cross, pray your Agpeya, read your Bible, talk to your Abouna, etc.)



Lesson 1.8 - Eli the Priest: An Example of Disobedience and Disrespect of God's House

Building Block I
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Leviticus 7:31-32; I Samuel 2:12-22, 23-27, 29-30, 34-35

Craft: Pre-cut paper plates, markers, stickers, traffic cones, a small piece of cardstock with the memory verse written on it, and tape.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will develop an understanding of the consequences of not obeying God and respecting His house.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience



MEMORY VERSE:



And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"



Matthew 21:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider playing the following game to open the lesson.

"God Commands" Game (adapted from Simon Says):

1. Tell the children that they will be playing a game that requires them to obey commands and to listen very carefully!
2. The teacher can be the Priest (Simon) or can designate a volunteer child as the Priest.



3. The Priest stands in front of the group and tells players what to do. For example, "Priest says, touch your head!" However, if the command does not have the name Priest in it and a child copies the command, they are eliminated from the game. Do a practice run for children in case some of them have not played the game before.

Emphasize the importance of obedience to the children. Inform them that there are many examples of people who disobeyed God in the Bible, and one of those people was named Eli.

Consider asking the children if they know who Eli was?

Eli is the priest of Shiloh, and one of the last Israelite Judges before the ruler of kings in ancient Israel. Priests were God's instruments to point people to God. They were to obey God's laws regarding worship and sacrifices at the tabernacle. Levites were men who served God by serving at the tabernacle and helping the priests. They were given instructions on how to properly worship the Lord and how to do their work.

Consider explaining to the children that a tabernacle is like a church, it was seen as God's house!



LESSON BODY:

The following story comes from Leviticus 7:31-32 and I Samuel 2:12-22, 23-27, 29-30, 34-35.

Eli was one of the high priests in a city named Shiloh. He was a faithful servant of the Lord for forty years. He had two sons named Hophni and Phinehas. He also took a boy named Samuel, son of Elkanah and Hannah, when he was still a little boy and taught him the ways of the temple.

Consider explaining to the children that the temple is like the church.¹⁷

He did well in serving the community, but he failed as a father to his own sons!

Eli's sons were men that did not know the Lord. Eli's sons did not value the sacrifices that were the Lord's. They thought what belonged to the Lord was worthless and they did not respect God or His house.

"He who admires and respects God does so to his own salvation, and highest benefit; and how? Because he follows after virtue and is honored by Him. For 'them that honor Me' he says, 'I will honor.'"

- St. John Chrysostom

God sent a prophet with a message for Eli. He said that God is displeased with him because he honored his sons more than God. Eli knew God's instructions for proper worship, and he knew that his sons were not obeying them. Eli did not discipline his sons or remove them from their positions at the temple. Eli told his sons what God had told him, but they still did not stop disrespecting God and Eli did not punish them.

Then Eli received another message from God; He was going to punish his family for their wrongdoings. The prophet of God said that God will no longer allow anyone from Eli's family to become priests or grow past a young age, and as for Hophni and Phinehas, they would both die on the same day.

¹⁷ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5de467401f75ae05ba98ce7d>

There was a war in their city and the city was destroyed, they searched for a safe place to stay. Eli sat outside the gate of the temple anxiously waiting for news from the battlefield. The news of defeat reached Eli and also news that his sons were dead.

When Eli heard this sad news, he fell backward from off his seat and died, being ninety-eight years old.

Though Eli and his sons were punished for disrespecting God, God did not abandon His people. He promised that a priest would come who would respect God, obey Him, and guide the kings of Israel.

Consider discussing with the children why it was so bad for Eli's sons to disrespect God. Remind them that in the Old Testament, priests connected the people of Israel to God, and if those people were disobedient, that connection could be broken.

Supplementary

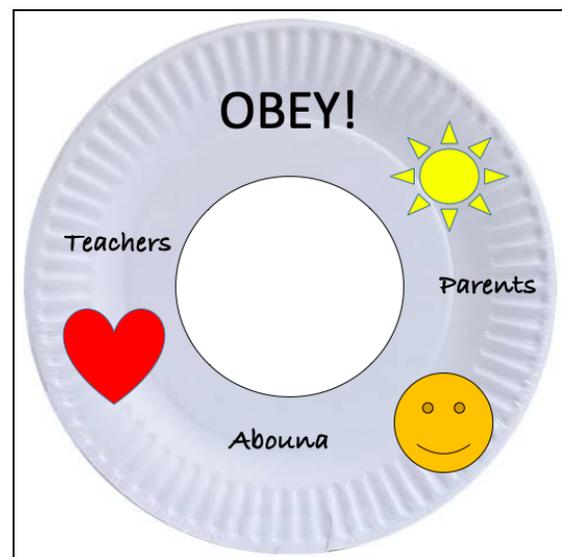


CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

"Obey" Paper Plate Craft¹⁸:

Tell the children that they will be making some "Obey" paper plates and will be able to play a game afterwards!

1. Hand out the pre-cut paper plates. These plates will have the center cut out of them so only the outer ring remains.
2. Instruct the children to decorate the plate and to also write the word "Obey" on the plate in bold and write multiple authorities that should be obeyed such as: parents, teachers, and Priests..
3. While children are decorating their paper plate rings, write the memory verse for the lesson on a piece of cardstock and tape it to the cone.
4. Once children have completed decorating their "Obey" paper plates they can play the ring toss game! If a child throws their ring and it lands in the cone, the child will read the verse.



Ask the children how they think the verse relates to obedience. Remind them that it is important to obey God and authorities such as our priests, teachers, and parents by being respectful.

¹⁸ Digital by Design. (n.d.). "Obey Your Parents in the Lord" Sunday School Lesson. Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-lesson-obey.html>



When we disobey that means we have gone on our own path, when that happens it is like when the ring that flies off into the corner of the room and doesn't land on the cone!

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Respect the Church Sit/Stand Game:

This game will review the spiritual outcome of the lesson by asking the children to identify whether certain behaviours are respectful or disrespectful of God's Church. If the behaviour is respectful, stand-up, if it is disrespectful, sit down. The servant may say behaviours such as:

- Being early for church. (Stand up).
- Running around the church during communion. (Sit down).
- Saying the responses during the liturgy. (Stand up).
- Talking to your friends during the liturgy. (Sit down).
- Sleeping during the liturgy. (Sit down).
- Looking towards the altar during the liturgy. (Stand up).
- Playing games when you are bored. (Sit down).
- Making the church dirty. (Sit down).
- Cleaning after yourself. (Stand up).

Questions:

- Who were Hophni and Phinehas? (Eli's sons.)
- Were Eli's sons righteous or evil? (They were evil.)
- How did Eli and his sons disobey God? (They did not honor God. Eli honored his sons more than he honored God. They were not properly worshipping God and found His sacrifices worthless.)
- What did the prophet tell Eli God was going to do? (Punish him and his family for his son's wrongdoings.)
- How did Eli die? (After hearing the news of his sons' death, he fell backward from his seat and died.)
- How old was Eli when he died? (Eli was ninety-eight years old when he died.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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



- We should be respectful of our church and respect all the rules of our church as well as, be obedient to God.
- How can we show God how much we love Him and respect His house? (Everytime we arrive in Church, let's do the sign of the cross and pray that God teaches us how to be obedient so that we can honor Him.)



Lesson 1.9 - Members of one Church Body: Stronger United

Building Block I
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: 4-5 Books.

Scripture Reference: Acts 12:1-17

Craft: Construction paper, stapler, scissors, pencil crayons, stickers and markers.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand the importance of having a church community and building connections with others who follow Jesus.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Unity.



MEMORY VERSE:



And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.



Ecclesiastes 4:12

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

Begin by calling a child to the front. Ask them to hold a single book above their head with flat palms.

Give them a few seconds to feel the weight and ask them if this is getting hard. The delay is key to making the task harder with fewer books. If they are ready for more, carefully place another book on the stack. Repeat this process until the books slide off. Be sure to catch the books to prevent injury. Most children will lose the balance of the books and they will slide off.

Invite several children to try this “strong” test. Always congratulate them for the effort but remark how hard it must be to keep adding weight.



Invite two or four children to try to balance the books at a time. As you add more books, remark how it is still hard but much easier than doing it alone. Discuss with them the difference of doing the task alone or with the support of others.



LESSON BODY:

God gave us a wonderful gift, it is a group of friends who are all working together to learn how to love God and love others. It is called the Church.

Consider telling a very simple version of the story of Peter in prison from Acts 12:1-17.

During the early Church there was a king named Herod who did not like the Church nor the Christians. He had just killed St. James. King Herod saw that killing the Christians pleased the Jews, so he went and arrested St. Peter. St. Peter was kept in prison while constant and continuous prayer was offered to God for him by the Church.

Consider asking the children if they ever pray for their families and friends when they need help.

One night, Peter was sleeping bound by two chains between two soldiers. An angel of the Lord appeared to him and said "Arise quickly!" The chains immediately fell off his hands. Then the angel told Peter to get ready and follow him. Peter followed the angel out and immediately came to the house of Mary, the mother of Mark. Many people were gathered at Mary's house and were praying together.

The church was at Mary's house praying for Peter when God sent an angel to free him from prison. The church was very surprised and happy to see Peter standing at the door of the house. God had heard and answered the prayers of the church for Peter.

Consider asking the children this question?

→ *What are times when we pray together? (While in church, with our families at home etc.)*

The early church had unity and God blessed those who were saved and on one occasion, "about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41) were saved. So, what did the early church do? In Acts 2:42, it says they "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Consider discussing these points with the children:

- How can our Churches be unified? (In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul encourages the believers to all work together as one unit. He said that in the same way a body is made up of many parts, each of us is like a part of the body of Christ - His Church. Each one of us has different skills and talents. Trying to use your gifts alone does not build unity. When we come together, using all of our gifts, in a way to glorify God, we will be unified.)
- Do all members contribute to their Church unity? (When we show other people God's love by how we love each other and work together, we build unity. When we care for one another the way God cares for us and remember that on the inside, we are all alike, we are unified before God.)

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Paper Unity Chain¹⁹:

1. Provide each child with a small strip of construction paper.
2. Give the children markers, pencil crayons, and stickers.
3. Have the children first write their name on their piece of paper then decorate it as they wish.
4. As the children complete their strip, have them bring it up to a servant who will staple it into a ring.
5. As each child finishes their strip, thread a new strip through the previous one and staple it into a ring, making a chain.
6. Continue to do this until all the children's strips have been added, making a 'unity chain'!



Consider asking the children how their strips on paper would look on their own. Not as interesting, right? Emphasize that when members of the Church come together, they are much stronger, and build a beautiful chain like the one they made today.



VIDEO:

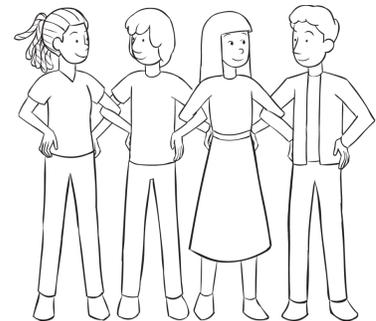
[LifeKids: What is the Church? | Bible Story | LifeKids \(2:19\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider reviewing the lesson by using a short activity where the children build a chain as they answer the review questions. The activity would begin with the first child answering a question and standing on one end of the room if they got it correct. Then as the children answer the questions correctly, they will go up to the child who is standing and link arms. This will continue until every child has answered a question. The goal of the activity is to build a human arm-link chain²⁰ from one end of the room to the other to demonstrate the power of working together.



- Who was the King in today's lesson? (King Herod).
- Why was King Herod killing the Christians and attacking the Church? (He didn't like the Church and saw that it made the Jews happy when he attacked the Christians.)

¹⁹ Paper Chain Advent Craft. (n.d.). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/paper-chain-advent-craft.html>

²⁰ Playmeo. (n.d.). The Connections Ice Breaker Game Helps Groups Make Alliances. Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <https://www.playmeo.com/activities/ice-breakers-get-to-know-you-games/making-connections/>



- What was happening when St. Peter was thrown in jail? (The entire Church was praying for him!)
- What happened when St. Peter was sleeping? (An angel of the Lord appeared to him and brought him out.)
- Whose house did he go to when he came out? (Mary the mother of John.)
- Does God hear our prayers? (Yes He does, especially when we pray all together!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- How can we be more united? (We can be more united by praying together, helping one another, etc.)
- When you have a disagreement with someone, ask yourself what you can do to encourage the other person and to be united with them and with God. (We should pray for those we have disagreements with and try to help them.)



Lesson 1.10 - God's People: Jacob becomes Israel

Building Block I:
The Rock



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: Genesis 32:9-12, 22-32.

Craft: [Coloring page](#), pencil crayons and markers.

Activity: Ice Cubes, paper towels, straws, salt, and a hair dryer.

Video: [Sharefaith kids: Jacob Wrestles with God\(3:26\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the importance of prayer when they face a difficult situation, and the need for them to turn to God even when they are struggling.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Faithfulness and Prayerfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."



Genesis 32:28

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children the following questions:

Have you ever fought anyone? When people physically fight, it is sometimes called wrestling. Maybe when you were young, you wrestled with your brother and/or sister.

You think we could wrestle with God? The Creator of the whole world? Who do you think would win?



LESSON BODY:

Read Genesis 32:22-32 and summarize with the children.²¹

Consider reviewing the stories of Jacob and Esau before beginning the lesson.

Now remember, Jacob deceived his father Isaac and took the blessing that belonged to his brother Esau as the firstborn. Jacob ran away after he deceived his father.

One day, Jacob was close to the area where his brother Esau was, so he sent messengers to Esau to see if he would meet with him. Esau agreed and told the messengers he would meet Jacob with 400 men.

400 men is a lot of men. Jacob was really scared.

Consider asking the children these questions:

- *What do you think he did when he was scared? (Jacob prayed to God to deliver him from Esau.)*
- *What would you do? (Allow the children to discuss their thoughts with their peers.)*
- *Why do you think Jacob was scared of Esau? (He stole the blessing that belonged to Esau and Esau told him he was coming with 400 men. Jacob was scared that Esau was going to attack him.)*

So Jacob prayed to God. *Consider reading Genesis 32: 9-12 at this time.*

Jacob's prayer demonstrates a model for everyone to use when they pray, it included four main parts:

1. Jacob showed God that he **knew Him** personally. (O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac)
2. Jacob remembered **God's promises**, this gave him comfort even though he was distressed. ('I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.')
3. Jacob remembered what **God had done for him**, giving himself hope. (I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.)
4. Jacob presented **his need** to God. (Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.)

After he finished praying, Jacob sent a huge gift of camels, donkeys, cows, and sheep to Esau, hoping Esau would see the gifts and be happy. So Jacob sent his family ahead of him to Esau, and planned to follow them.

Remind the children that after this point, Jacob was very stressed and afraid. He had struggled while praying to God, because he was dealing with a big problem and needed God's help. This is when a Man, (to be interpreted as God or an angel) appeared to Jacob.²²

"[Jacob] first cast off all that was his, then remained behind alone and wrestled with God. For whoever forsakes worldly things comes nearer to the image and likeness of God."

- St. Ambrose of Milan

²¹ H.G. Bishop Serapion. (2012, January 11). Wrestling With God. Retrieved on July 30, 2020 from <https://www.orthodoxsermons.org/sermons/wrestling-god>

²² St. Ambrose of Milan. (AD 397). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5838d64c205c248f42e51bf2>



When nighttime came Jacob was alone and a Man appeared to him. This Man wrestled with Jacob all night. When the Man saw that Jacob was not going to quit, He touched Jacob’s hip socket and made it fall out of the joint--the Man broke Jacob’s hip!

The Man said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But Jacob responded and said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!” So the Man said to Jacob, “What is your name?” So Jacob told him. And the Man said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

Any idea who this Man was? It was God!

Be sure to emphasize with the children that the purpose of this story is not to fight God, but to understand how God sees our struggles. Jacob did not stop struggling with God until He received a blessing. This blessing was his new name, and this new name helped him begin a new life with God’s blessing.

Remind the children that what Jacob’s story teaches us is the importance of being committed to praying. Just as Jacob would not let the Man go until he received a blessing, we cannot give up on praying to God just because we did not get what we wanted right away.

Conclude by discussing the idea that we grow from struggling, just like Jacob did. When we continue to pray when we struggle, we are blessed through God!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Melt the Ice Cube Challenge:

1. Put ice cubes in a bowl and keep them frozen until you are ready to use them. Set out the rest of supplies. Keep the hair dryer out of sight until you use it. You will need to be near an electrical outlet.

Consider telling the kids that we sometimes wrestle with God too and that we may want to do things our way instead of His way.

Consider also asking them if it is hard for them to obey God sometimes.

2. Give each child a paper towel. Explain that they’re in charge now. They will each have to choose how they think they can most quickly melt an ice cube. They can use a straw to blow hot air on it, sprinkle salt on it, or hold it to try to melt it most quickly. Pass around the supplies so kids can choose, then distribute the ice cubes.
3. Give the children one minute to try to melt their ice cube using their chosen method. Meanwhile, turn on the hair dryer and blow hot air on your ice cube. Call time, then compare everyone’s efforts.

Consider asking the children to compare their way to the servant’s way of melting the ice cube.

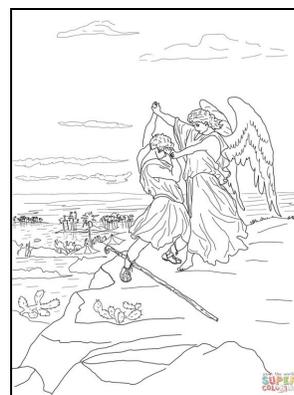
Consider also asking them why the hair dryer was the most effective way of melting the ice cubes.

The servant’s ice cube melted much faster because it has more power. And with God’s power, we can do greater things. We can stop doing things our way. We can surrender to God’s will and power and trust that He knows best.



Jacob Wrestles God Coloring Page²³:

1. Give each child a [coloring page](#).
2. Give them pencil crayons and markers to color.
3. Assist the children in writing their name and the memory verse at the top of the page.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith kids: Jacob Wrestles with God\(3:26\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why was Jacob scared of Esau? (Because Jacob stole Esau's blessing and was scared that Esau was going to attack him.)
- What did Jacob do when he was scared? (He prayed).
- What were the four parts of Jacob's prayer? ([1] He knew God, [2] he remembered God's promises, [3] he remembered what God had done for him, [4] he showed God what he needed)).
- Who did Jacob find when he was alone at night? (God).
- What did the angel do with Jacob? (God wrestled with him and broke his hip!)
- Why didn't Jacob stop wrestling with God when God said "let me go?" (Because Jacob wanted the blessing!)
- What was Jacob's name changed to? (Israel).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- The next time we are scared, we should pray and ask God to give us strength.
- We should remember that in everything that happens in life, God has the power to help us pass it.
- Next time we are scared what should we do? (Pray and ask God to give us strength and faith in Him.)

²³ Jacob Wrestles with God coloring page: Free Printable Coloring Pages. (2018, April 25). Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/jacob-wrestles-with-god>



→ What can we learn from the way Jacob prayed? (Any time we pray, we should always remind ourselves that God is our Father, and thank Him for everything He has done for us, before we tell Him our problems.)



Building Block 2: The Church: The Body of Christ

Lesson 2.1 - Jesus is The Head Of Our Church: Submission

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Radio control toy (car, boat, helicopter, etc.).

Scripture References: Ephesians 1:20-23

Craft: Construction paper, envelope, craft sticks, markers, glue and sticks.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn that submitting to Jesus shows our love for Him as He is the Head of the Church; which is His body.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Submission



MEMORY VERSE:



And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



Ephesians 1:22-23

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Bring in a remote control toy car, helicopter or boat.

Show the children the toy and ask them:



- Have you ever seen one of these before? What is it?
- Do you have anything that is radio controlled?

Radio controlled cars, trucks, boats and airplanes are so much fun because you actually get to control it. You might have other toy cars that you can look at or push around, but when it has a radio control you can do all kinds of cool things with it!

Put the car on the floor and watch it drive/fly around.

Consider asking the children this question: On its own, what can the car do? (Nothing!)

This car is in control of itself right now and it isn't going anywhere! It is only when someone takes control of the remote control of the vehicle that it can move all around.

Continue moving the vehicle around the room for the children to see.



LESSON BODY:

We are just like this car. When we try to control ourselves, we do not really go anywhere. We sit there and are completely stuck. It is not until someone comes and moves our car that we ever get to go anywhere. When someone comes to move our car, they can lead us, guide us, and direct us.

Consider asking the children these questions: Who do you think is best at leading us? (God!). Who is best at guiding and directing us? (God!).

God, our creator, is the one that can truly guide and lead us. We should let God have the control so that He can lead us, guide us, and direct us where He wants us to go. We need to let God have control of our life, like the car, even when we may not want to. God knows what is the best for us and we need to trust Him.

Consider asking the children this question:

When we have a question about the Bible, where is the best place to find the answer? (Abouna or the Bible.)

People can sometimes be wrong or mistaken, but the Bible will never mislead us! God has always had a plan for everything. He had a plan for creating the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1), He has a plan for every single family (Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4), and He has a plan for His Church.

We may ask, "Who is the head or the one in charge of Jesus' church?"

Read Ephesians 1:20-23 and summarize with the children.

Consider asking the children these questions: Who is the head of the Church? (Jesus!). Is Jesus the head of only a few things or all things? (He is the head of everything.)

Jesus is the head over ALL things in the church. He is the One with the last word on everything in the church because He made the church possible by paying for our sins with His own blood. (Acts 20:28). These same verses also tell us that the church is Jesus' body. Jesus is the head of His Church. Ephesians 4:4 tells us how many bodies there are in the Church--one! One head and one body. Jesus is the one head over the one body which is the church.

In James 4:7 the Bible says that we should submit to God, that means that we let Him take control and guide our lives. (*Hold out the radio control.*) That's like taking the controller and giving it to God and saying, "I want YOU to control the car."

Consider asking the children what it means to give God our controls.

By giving God our control we are saying that we want HIM to take control and to guide our lives as He sees fit.

It is important to note that submission--giving up our own desires--is not forced upon us. It is something we choose to do because of how much we love and trust God.

When God is controlling our lives through His Holy Spirit then we can know that He will always lead us and guide our lives. Let us give the control of our life over to God today--even when we do not want to. We sometimes think we know what is best, but, we never know better than God.

Consider using examples from the Bible to demonstrate submission to God. Examples: St. Mary when Archangel Gabriel came with the news or when God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

Supplementary



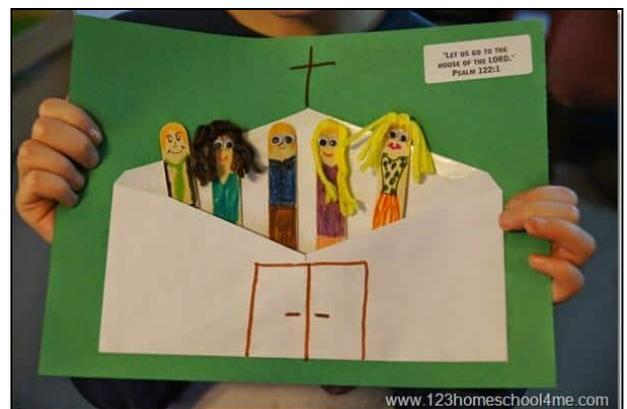
CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Follow the Leader:

1. Choose someone to be the leader and explain to them that they can do whatever they want and everyone has to copy them.
2. Play 4 rounds (or as much as time permits) with a different leader each time, each round being about 2-3 minutes long
3. Prompt a discussion with the children focusing on Christ as our leader of our lives and is in full control, we should want to let Him lead us by following His examples and commandments.

Jesus is the head of the Church craft²⁴:

1. Assist the children in glueing the open envelope to the construction paper.
2. Have the children draw people on the craft sticks as well as draw a door on the envelope and a cross on the top of the construction paper to resemble a church.
3. Have the children stick the craft stick people into the envelope.
4. Assist the children in writing their names and the memory verse at the top of the construction paper.



²⁴ Gorden, B. (2019, April 02). Jesus in the Temple as a Boy Sunday School Lesson. Retrieved July 31, 2020, from https://www.123homeschool4me.com/jesus-in-temple-as-boy-sunday-school_26/



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- According to the Bible, to whom should we submit to? (God).
- Why should we submit to God? (Because He created us and has planned everything for our good. He knows what is good for us.)
- Who is the head of the Church? (Jesus).
- What is the Church to Jesus? (The body).
- What does it mean to submit to God? (To let God take control and guide our lives even when we don't want to.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

We can learn to submit to God by submitting to the little things He has taught us. One important instruction is for us to obey and honor our parents. Colossians 3:20 teaches us to “obey [our] parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”

To submit to God because we love Him. We submit not because we are forced to, but because we want to.

Let us obey and honor the things our parents tell us to do.



Lesson 2.2 - Rooted In Christ: I Am the Vine You Are the Branches

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Any electrical device (preferably a lamp or any plug-in light) and [Commentary from St. John Chrysostom on John 15:1](#) (see below in Life Application).

Scripture References: John 15:1-11

Craft: Maze, purple/gold/green/brown colored pencils/crayons; Bunch of grapes coloring sheets, purple tissue paper, scissors, and glue.

Video: [LifeKids: Vine and Branches | Bible Story \(1:50\)](#)

Song: [I Am the Vine, John 15:5](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of what it means to be an active member of Christ's body, the Church.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Fellowship and Obedience.



MEMORY VERSE:



I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.



John 15:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Have a child attempt to turn on any electrical device (preferably a lamp or another plug-in light) that is not plugged in. Try plugging it into something besides an electrical outlet (have another child hold the plug, put it under a pillow, attach it to a chair, etc.).



Can anyone tell me why this device won't turn on? (It's not connected to the power source - not plugged in to the right thing.)

As Christians, we are like this light. We cannot shine if we are not connected to our power source. Can anyone tell me what this power source is? *Have children guess what our power source is.*

Our power source as Christians is God, who makes Himself known to us through the Church! Let's see what the Bible tells us about this.



LESSON BODY:

Jesus had twelve friends who followed Him and helped Him teach. These followers were called Jesus' disciples. Sometimes a lot of people came to see and listen to Jesus. When they went home, Jesus told His disciples even more about what He had been saying. This helped them be better teachers and helped them to continue spreading Jesus' message.

Here's one of Jesus' stories that He told His disciples. This story is when Jesus was preaching and He said, *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser."* (John 15:1) A vine is just like a tree and vinedresser is the gardener. Every vine has branches that grow from it. Jesus, the Son of God, is the vine, and we are the branches that grow from it by being connected to Him. God the Father is the vinedresser who cares for the vine and branches.

Consider displaying an image of a vine and vinedresser at this point for the children to visualize this idea.

What does a branch need to grow? *Allow the children time to respond.*

(Sun, soil, nutrients.) If a branch does not have these things, it will not grow.

Jesus used this teaching to show the people that they will not be able to grow unless we are connected to Him. Only from Him can we grow. It is impossible for a branch to survive if it is not connected to the vine because it does not get the nutrients it needs to survive.

Do you know what grows on a branch? *Allow the children time to respond.*

(Fruit, leaves, or flowers).

Being children of God which means we have fruits that set us apart. Any branch that is healthy and connected to a vine will produce fruits and leaves. However, we need to be connected to Jesus in order to produce these fruits. If we are not, Jesus told us we will not be able to grow fruit. Just like the light can't function without being plugged in, we cannot function without being connected to Jesus.

To have fruits grow from our vine means participating in the activities and sacraments of the church so that we can obey and grow with Him. We can stay connected to Jesus

"...By fruit is meant life, i.e. that no one can be in Him without good works. And inasmuch as even the best of men require the work of the husbandman, He adds, And every branch that bears fruit, He purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit. He alludes here to the tribulations and trials which were coming upon them, the effect of which would be to purge, and so to strengthen them. By pruning the branches we make the tree shoot out the more. You are clean through the word which I have spoken to you, i.e., you have been enlightened by My doctrine, and been delivered from Jewish error"

- St. John Chrysostom

with obedience and love. Just like Jesus showed His Father He loved Him by following His commands, as children of Jesus we should show Him love by following his commandments and obeying His words.

When Jesus told this story to the disciples, He also told them that the vinedresser will also prune (cut off) our fruit when they grow to produce room on the branch for more fruit. This means that God will reward our hard work to obey Him by tending to us and caring for our branches! Sometimes, it might seem like we are going through a hard time and we cannot understand why a fruit has been pruned. But God, as the Master gardener, is always caring for us, the branches. *See the commentary from St. John Chrysostom on the right for more on this pruning interpretation.*²⁵

Jesus told us how He is the vine and all of us, being His people, are the branches. This means that we are His children. How do you feel knowing that you are a child of a King?

Allow the children time to respond and reflect.

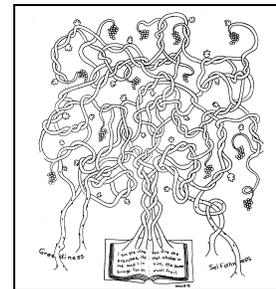
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

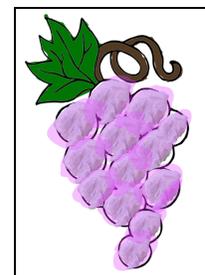
Maze²⁶:

1. Have the children name as many good deeds as they can think of that they do. Help them out if they get stuck with these
 - a. Discussion examples: Putting away clothes, making your bed, reading the Bible, sharing toys, picking up toys, doing homework well, etc.
2. Color the grapes, which grow from the Bible purple, and their vines gold and the leaves green.
3. Color everything else brown.



A bunch of grapes²⁷:

1. Print out a coloring page of a bunch of grapes. ([here](#)) Let the children color the leaf and stem.
2. Give the children pieces of purple crepe paper cut in strips about six inches long. Also, another alternative for the crepe paper is tissue paper.
3. The children will roll the pieces of the crepe paper into a ball.
4. Then, they will glue the paper balls where the grapes are in the coloring page.
5. Once dried, the children can add the memory verse on the coloring sheet.



²⁵ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/jn/15>.

²⁶ I am the Vine, You are the Branches. (n.d.). Retrieved July 24, 2020, from <https://happyheartsbiblestudy.weebly.com/-i-am-the-vine-you-are-the-branches.html>

²⁷ True Vine Group Group Activities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from https://sermons4kids.com/true_vine_group_activities.htm



VIDEO:

[LifeKids: Vine and Branches | Bible Story \(1:50\)](#)



SONG:

[I Am the Vine, John 15:5](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson by splitting the room in half using a piece of tape or a piece of furniture. Tell the children to move to the left (false) or right (true) to indicate if the following statements are correct or incorrect.

- God the Father is the vine. (False; Jesus, the Son, is).
- God the Father is the vinedresser. (True).
- We are the branches of the vine. (True).
- The fruit produced from the branches are the bad things we do. (False; they are the good things God cultivates in us.)
- I need to be connected to the vine, Jesus, to produce fruit. (True).

“And forasmuch as Christ was sufficient for Himself, but His disciples needed the help of the Husbandman [farmer], of the vine He says nothing, but adds concerning the branches, Every branch in Me that bears not fruit, He takes away. By fruit is meant life, i.e. that no one can be in Him without good works. And inasmuch as even the best of men require the work of the husbandman, He adds, And every branch that bears fruit, He purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit. He alludes here to the tribulations and trials which were coming upon them, the effect of which would be to purge, and so to strengthen them. By pruning the branches we make the tree shoot out the more. You are clean through the word which I have spoken to you, i.e., you have been enlightened by My doctrine, and been delivered from Jewish error.”

- St. John Chrysostom



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Consider the commentary by St. John Chrysostom on John 15:1 on the right as a guiding idea for the application of this lesson.²⁸

What are some things I can do to take care of my branch and ensure it is connected to the vine, Jesus?

- Spend time with the vine, Jesus, by praying and reading the Bible.

²⁸ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5735dfbfec4bd7c9723ba53a>



- Attend and benefit from the sacraments and services of the Church.
- Focus on cultivating fruit in my life by doing good works (e.g. being obedient, caring for my friends and siblings, being kind, etc.).



Lesson 2.3 - United in the Sacraments: The Benefits of the Sacraments

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Paper, markers, Seven Sacraments visual chart (see below), and velcro tape.

Craft: Blue or dark blue and yellow (cut into the shape of a window) cardstock/construction paper, [Seven Sacraments Cross Printable](#), colored card stock or construction paper (cut into small one inch shapes), colored pencils/crayons/markers, pencil or black gel pen, scissors, and glue sticks.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be able to list the seven Sacraments and describe how these sacraments benefit us as our connection and union to and with God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect



MEMORY VERSE:



He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.



Mark 16:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Today, we will be learning about the seven sacraments. Does anyone know what these are?

Allow the children to discuss their existing knowledge.

A sacrament is a special ritual in our Church where God does something divine we cannot always see, but it is a blessing. It is grace and a gift from God that God does through Abouna. We have seven special sacraments in our Church. Let's see what you all already know about these special sacraments!

Have the children fold a piece of paper in half three times. Unfold the paper to create eight boxes to use for this activity. Have them label the paper in the first box in the upper left-hand corner of the page: "The Seven Sacraments and Me." Then, have them label each of the remaining boxes as one of the Seven Sacraments: Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Eucharist, Unction of the Sick, Matrimony, and Priesthood.

Next, have them create fifty-second fast drawings. Give them ten seconds to remember a Baptism they witnessed. Then give them fifty seconds to draw a picture of that memory. Repeat this process for each of the Seven Sacraments.

The goal here is to remind the children of the sacraments so you have a foundation to build upon as you introduce them to the children. You may decide to come back to this paper later in the lesson and have the children draw what they know about the sacraments after the lesson.



LESSON BODY:

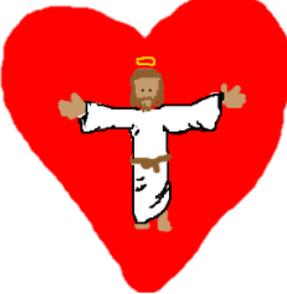
The seven Sacraments of the Church are the channels by which we receive the graces and blessings of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has existed in the church since the day of Pentecost, when He dwelt in it according to the Lord's promise that the Father would send the Holy Spirit to us (John 14:16, 17).

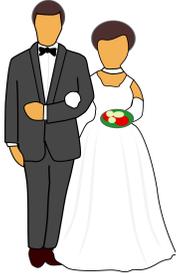
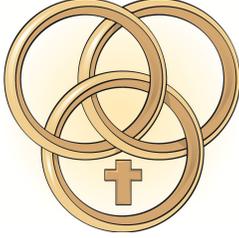
The Holy Spirit works in the church through the Sacraments, giving us His gifts, blessings and comfort, and teaches us and guides us to the way of truth. (John 14:26).

A Church Sacrament is an invisible blessing we receive when we participate in a visible activity performed by a priest. Each sacrament has something that we can see (the material) to represent something that we cannot see, which is God's grace blessing us. The church offers us seven sacraments as a means of union with Him:

As you explain each sacrament with the children, consider using the visual below as a prompt. You may wish to have the images of the chart removable and re-attachable using velcro tape. This chart can be printed and used by the children in the review portion of the lesson.

Sacrament	Material	Blessing
 <p style="text-align: center;">Baptism</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Water</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">God's Family</p> 

 <p>Chrismation</p>	<p>Holy Oil (Myron)</p> 	<p>Holy Spirit</p> 
 <p>Confession</p>	<p>Repenting Person</p> 	<p>Absolution</p> 
 <p>Communion</p>	<p>Body & Blood</p> 	<p>Abide in Christ</p> 
 <p>Unction of the Sick</p>	<p>Holy Oil</p> 	<p>Healing</p> 

 <p style="text-align: center;">Matrimony</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bride & Groom</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">United in God</p> 
 <p style="text-align: center;">Priesthood</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ordained Person</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Priestly Authority</p> 

1. In the **Baptism** the material is water by which we receive the second birth from Water and Spirit. Through baptism we become members in God's family, in unity.
2. In the **Chrismation** the substance is the oil of Myron, by which the Holy Spirit dwells in us and unites with us.
3. The visible material of the Sacrament of **Confession** is the confessing person, who accepts the prayer of absolution at the end of Confession to gain forgiveness of sins, which cleanses us in preparation of the eucharistic union (Communion).
4. The material of the Sacrament of **Communion** is the bread and wine, by which we eat the Holy Body and Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Through the Eucharist we abide in Christ, and He in us.
5. The material of the Sacrament of **Unction of the Sick** is oil, by which we receive physical and psychological healing.
6. The material of the Sacrament of **Matrimony** is the bride and groom who receive the prayers, so the Holy Spirit dwells upon them and unites them in body and spirit with God.
7. The material of the Sacrament of **Priesthood** is the ordained person, who accepts the prayers of the Sacrament of Priesthood and the laying of hands for a certain priestly rank, to gain the grace for starting church services.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

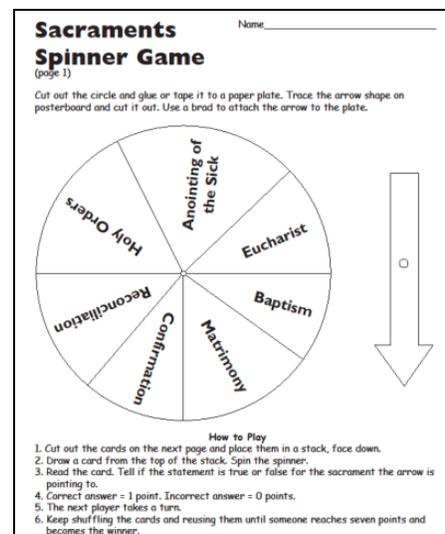
Seven Sacraments Stained Glass Window²⁹:

1. Write a list of the Seven Sacraments onto the white cross or color the illustrations if you are using the printable. Another option is to have the children copy a Bible or saint quote onto the cross.
2. Have the children glue the yellow window shape to a piece of black or dark blue paper.
3. Glue the cross to the center of the yellow window.
4. Next, have the children glue the small pieces of colored paper to the window shape, creating the "Stained Glass Window."



Sacrament Spinner Activity Sacrament spinner Activity:

1. Prior to class, print an activity sheet for each. Cut out the circle and glue/tape it to a paper plate.
2. Cut out the arrow, and use a brad to attach the arrow to the plate, it should spin freely.
3. Cut the cards on the next page and place them in a stack, face down.
4. The teacher then draws a card from the top of the stack and asks one of the kids to spin the spinner.
5. The teacher reads the card out loud and asks if the statement on the card is true or false for the sacrament the arrow is pointing to.
6. A correct answer is 1 point, allow the next player to go up next after each round.
7. Keep shuffling and reusing cards until one person gets to 7 points and "wins."



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson by displaying the Seven Sacraments visual chart at the front of the classroom. Print and cut out the visuals of the table and attach velcro tape to the back of each image. Invite the children to review the

²⁹ Gordon, Jessica. "The Seven Sacraments Stained Glass Window {Catechism Craft with Free Printable!}." Shower of Roses, www.showerofrosesblog.com/2014/09/the-seven-sacraments-stained-glass.html.



lesson by helping you attach the appropriate images and words to the correct sacrament. Prior to this activity, have the children define the meaning of the word sacrament to you.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Consider the instructions to Catechumens from St. John Chrysostom on the right when introducing the children to the application portion of this lesson.³⁰

The sacraments of our church are a gift we are able to experience God through. Each and every Sunday, we are invited to participate in this gift. How should I approach this gift? Half asleep, grumpy, bored, noisily, disrespectfully? No, of course not! If I am going to meet God, who is the King of Kings, I must prepare myself and my heart. What are some ways we can prepare ourselves to benefit from the sacrament of Communion?

- Attend Church quietly and respectfully.
- Pray during the liturgy.
- Be kind to my friends and family all week before liturgy to prepare my heart.
- Remember that Jesus is present in the Church and invites me to abide in Him through communion!

“For he who is about to approach these holy and dread mysteries must be awake and alert, must be clean from all cares of this life, full of much self-restraint, much readiness; he must banish from his mind every thought foreign to the mysteries, and on all sides cleanse and prepare his home, as if about to receive the king himself. Such is the preparation of your mind: such are your thoughts; such the purpose of your soul. Await therefore a return worthy of this most excellent decision from God, who overpowers with His recompense those who show forth obedience to Him.”

- St. John Chrysostom

³⁰ St. John Chrysostom. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1908.htm>



Lesson 2.4 - St. John Chrysostom: The Golden Mouth

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [The Life of St. John Chrysostom](#).

Scripture References: James 3:4-12.

Craft: [St. John Chrysostom coloring sheet](#), pencil crayons, and markers.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the life of St. John Chrysostom and his 'golden mouth.' They will see how St. John's Christ-like use of his tongue helped encourage his congregation to repent. The children will also learn that they should control their own tongues and use their words to edify those around them.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Repentance, Obedience and Self-Control.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

”

James 3:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Did you know words are a very powerful tool? Let's play a game to see this.

1. Divide the class into two teams.
2. Have the two teams line up in a single file line so that only the first person from each team faces each other.
3. The two people facing each other (one at the beginning of the line from each team) will start the game.



4. One person from the starting two players must say a word and the other player has to say the first thing that comes to their mind that relates to the previous word they just heard within three seconds. The players go back and forth until a player takes too long to say a word or repeats a word already said by one of them. For example: The first person would say apple, the other would say red, then rainbow, then rain, then thunder.
5. When the person loses, he/she has to go to the back of the line of his team and the winner stays for the next round.
6. The winner is the one that stays for the longest amount of rounds.

This game showed us that the tongue and mind are connected. It's difficult to have full control of the tongue! Today, we are going to learn about a saint who had excellent control of the words that came out of his mouth. Have you ever heard of St. John Chrysostom? Can you say it? *Have the children repeat his name.*

The word 'Chrysostom' means 'golden tongued.' St. John received this name because he was a very skilled preacher. Whenever he spoke, he was always kind with his words. Let's learn more about him and his life so we can have golden mouths like him.



LESSON BODY:

The following reviews the entire story of St. John Chrysostom.³¹ When giving the lesson, consider emphasizing St. John Chrysostom's courage and dedication to God, and the fact that He always used his tongue to glorify God and bring people to Him.

St. John Chrysostom was born about 347 A.D. in the city of Antioch in Syria. His parents, Secundus and Anthusa, were very rich. They became Christians before John was born, and John was baptized when he was very young. John's father died when he was a boy, and his mother taught him carefully about Jesus and the Christian life.

Because St. John was such a wonderful speaker, he was able to encourage people to do many good and Christ-like things. He was able to share his love for God with people who did not believe in God. For example, one day, John was telling men who believed in other gods about Jesus. One of these men, Anthemios, fell down to the ground shaking after denying the true God. John prayed for Anthemios and he was healed. Anthemios and many others became Christians and were baptized.

Consider pausing here and asking the children: What are some ways I can use my words to show my love for Jesus at school? (Not using bad words, not being angry, speaking about Jesus, etc.).

At this time, most people in Antioch were not Christian, they were pagans, meaning they did not worship the true God. Crowds of pagans would gather to hear lessons that they could learn from and so lots of non-Christians attended St. Chrysostom's sermons. This did not stop him from speaking out against the cultural sins and idols head-on. And he encouraged his people to live differently than the culture around them, and to bring people to Christ by acting like Him rather than just telling them to be like Christ. St. John Chrysostom encourages us to share Christ in our surroundings using our words and actions.

³¹ Introduction. (1984). In St. J. Chrysostom & C. P. Roth. *On wealth and poverty* (pp.7-19). Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press.

When John finished his schooling, he returned to Antioch and became a monk. St. John lived in the monastery for four years, performing many miracles and serving as an example of Christian life. But, John became ill and had to go back to Antioch. He was ordained a deacon and served the Patriarch, St. Meletios, for five years.

Consider pausing here and discussing with the children how St. John not only spoke Christ-like things; but also had Christ-like actions too! The tongue is a powerful tool that can direct and guide your whole body, like a rudder on a ship (James 3:4). A rudder is the primary control surface used to steer a ship.

When Patriarch Meletios died, the new patriarch, Flavianos, saw a vision telling him to take John to Constantinople and ordain him as a priest. The next day, they left Antioch for Constantinople. As the patriarch was ordaining John, a white dove appeared and sat on John's head, showing the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

John went back to Antioch as a priest. Soon, the Patriarch of Constantinople died and John was named patriarch. During John's time as Patriarch of Constantinople, John continued to preach the Word of God with great wisdom.

John was never afraid to speak out against those who did not live the way of Christ and would continuously profess Christians to repentance. *Consider pausing here and reminding the children of the meaning of the word repentance (To ask for forgiveness for one's sins and to stop doing the sin.)* He was a great preacher who strived to pull his congregation out of their sins to humble them and lead them to the Cross. He always used his ability to speak good and powerful words for the glory of God. In other words, John's golden tongue encouraged the people around him to turn to God and ask forgiveness for their sins. May we follow his example and use our own tongues to bring glory to God's name.

Supplementary



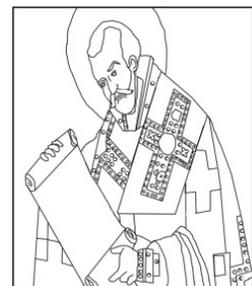
CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Kind Building Words Activity:

1. Tell each person to find a partner.
2. Start a timer of 30 seconds. Partners must compliment and say encouraging words to each other.
3. When the timer ends, the partners have to find a new partner to repeat the same activity.
4. This should teach the children to always complement each other and be kind.

St. John Chrysostom Coloring Sheet³²:

1. Print out this [coloring sheet](#).
2. Have the children color the coloring sheet using markers and pencil crayons.
3. Invite them to write the memory verse in the scroll portion of the image.



³² Free Coloring Page ~ Saint John Chrysostom. (2016, January 26). Retrieved July 31, 2020, from <http://www.scholarsonline.com/free-coloring-page-saint-john-chrusostom/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What does 'Chrysostom' mean and why did St. John have this name? (Golden mouth/tongue; he spoke many beautiful and inspiring words in his life.)
- Why is the tongue like the rudder of a ship? (It is a small part of the body that can and should direct the actions of the whole body, just like the rudder is small but directs the movement of a whole ship.)
- How did St. John Chrysostom use his tongue to bring people to Jesus? (He spoke about God to unbelievers.)
- What does the word 'repentance' mean? (To ask for forgiveness for one's sins and to stop doing the sin.)
- How did St. John Chrysostom use his tongue to encourage others to repent? (He encouraged the people in his congregation not to follow the sins of the culture that surrounded them.)

Conclude by inviting the children to sit in a circle. Have them answer the following question one by one by sharing with one another in the circle.

What are some of St. John's qualities you admire the most, or wish to imitate? Why?



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

St. John Chrysostom lived an incredible and holy life. One of the most famous things about him was his golden mouth. Can you think of any beautiful and inspiring ways you can use your words so that you speak golden things like St. John Chrysostom?

- Speak kindly and gently to my friends, family, and peers.
- Not arguing with people around me.
- Controlling my tongue when I feel like saying something mean or lying by remembering that my tongue is powerful. It can build people up, like St. John's did (it can be golden!), or it can tear people down.
- Evangelize by speaking about the love of God to my friends who might not know God.
- Making sure my actions reflect the words I use.
- Encouraging people around me to repent using my words in nice, Christ-like ways (e.g. encouraging my friends to share, telling people how awesome God is, etc.).



Lesson 2.5 - Together in Christ St. Demiana

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: An icon of St. Demiana and the Forty Virgins and [The Story of St. Demiana](#).

Craft: Paper plates (one per child), construction paper (various colors), stickers (optional), scissors, glue, markers/crayons, brad fastener, and cotton balls.

Song: [My Mothers the Nuns \(Spiritual Song\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn the story of St. Demiana and the Forty Virgins. Through this story, they will understand that we should encourage each other in our faith.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Steadfastness and Courage.



MEMORY VERSE:



Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Matthew 5:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Allow them to each identify who their favorite saint is and why, one by one. Ask them to explain what they think the most interesting part of the saint's life is.

Today, we are going to learn about a saint whose holy life helped bring 40 other people to a life with Christ! Her name is St. Demiana. Have any of you heard her story before?

Allow the children time to discuss.

Consider showing the children an icon of St. Demiana and the Forty Virgins at this point.



LESSON BODY:

The following reviews the entire story of [St. Demiana](#). When teaching the lesson, consider emphasizing her ability to bring people to God and her bravery in the face of those who did not believe in Him.

St. Demiana was the daughter of Mark, a wealthy and powerful Governor of many areas in Egypt. She was the only daughter to her parents. When she was one-year-old, her father took her to the church of the monastery of Al-Maymah. He offered gifts and prayers to God so that He might bless her and keep her in His care.

St. Demiana was very beautiful. When she was fifteen years old, her father wanted her to get married. She refused and told him that she had vowed herself to be a bride to the Lord Christ. Though her father wanted her to marry, he agreed because he knew her deep love for Christ. Demiana asked him to build her a palace where she could worship God in peace and quiet with her virgin friends. He fulfilled her wish and built her the house that she wanted. She lived in it with forty other virgins. They spent their time reading the holy scripture and in worship, encouraging one another to live a life with Christ.

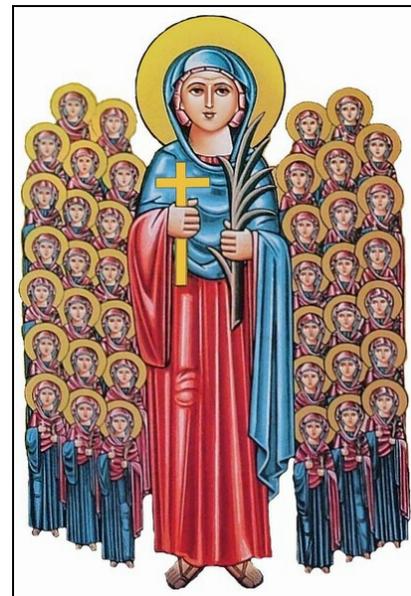
Consider pausing here and discussing with the children. What kind of friend must St. Demiana have been if she was able to encourage so many people to follow her in her love for Christ? An amazing one! Her love for God was contagious.

Shortly after, Emperor Diocletian sent for Mark, St. Demiana's father, and ordered him to worship the idols. He refused at first, but after the Emperor convinced him he obeyed his order and worshipped. When Mark returned to his home, and St. Demiana knew what had happened, she rushed to meet him. She did not greet him, but said, *"What is it that I heard about you? I would have preferred to hear about your death rather than to hear that you have renounced your faith and forsaken the God Who created you from non-existence into being, to worship gods made by hands. Take note that if you do not return to your first faith and renounce the worship of stones, you are not my father and I am not your daughter,"* and she left him.

Consider pausing here and discussing with the children. So, St. Demiana not only encouraged her forty friends to live a life with Christ; she also encouraged her father! Do we encourage our family and friends to have a relationship with God?

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

When Diocletian knew that the one who turned Mark from worshipping the idols was St. Demiana, his daughter, he sent her a prince to gently try to convince her to worship idols. He ordered that if she disobeyed him then the prince should behead her. The prince went to her with two hundred soldiers and the



instruments of torture. When he arrived at her palace, he said to her, *"I am a messenger sent from Emperor Diocletian. I came to call upon you according to the Emperor's orders, to worship his gods, so that he can grant you all that you want."*

The saint shouted in his face saying, *"May God denounce the messenger and the one by whom he was sent. Don't you have any shame at all to call stones and wood gods which are inhabited by devils? There is no god in heaven or on earth except one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Eternal Creator, the Everlasting, Who is everywhere, Who knows all the secrets, and Who can throw you in hell where is the everlasting torment. As for me, I am the maidservant of my Master and my Savior Jesus Christ, and His Good Father and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, Him I confess and upon Him I depend, and in His Name I die, and by Him I live forever."*

Consider pausing here and discussing with the children. Wow, St. Demiana is brave! How do you think her friends, the forty virgins, felt when they saw St. Demiana put in this situation? They were surely scared for her because they loved her, but they were probably also inspired by her courage.

The prince became very angry and ordered that she be tortured. The virgins were standing weeping over her. When they put her in prison, the angel of the Lord appeared to her, touched her body with his illumined wings, and she was healed of all her wounds. The prince used all his evil imagination to torture St. Demiana. The Lord raised her up safely through it all.

When the prince saw that all his attempts were in vain before the steadfastness of this pure virgin, he ordered her beheaded, and all the other virgins with her. Thus, they all received the crowns of martyrdom.

Consider concluding by mentioning the memory verse to encourage the children of the reward for their persecution and death. It's important to note that our persecution may not be death. It could be that we are made fun of, are made fun of by people who don't believe in God, etc.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Time for God Craft³³: This craft will help the children see how they can dedicate time for God the same way St. Demiana and the Forty Virgins did.

1. Help the children cut arrow shapes out of the construction paper, one larger than the other.
2. Have each child write down activities or things that take attention in their lives (sports, television, friends etc) in a circle around the plate, make sure to leave space at the top of the plate.
3. Get children to write "GOD" at the top of their paper plate.
4. Decorate with stickers and drawings.
5. Glue the larger arrow pointing towards "GOD" on the paper plate.

³³ Schmidt, K., & Angelita. (2019, September 22). Bible Ministry-To-Children. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://ministry-to-children.com/put-god-first-bible-craft/>





6. Get the children to write “First” on the larger arrow that is pointing towards “GOD” and on the smaller arrow have them write “Then...”
7. Help the children use a brad fastener to attach the smaller arrow in the center, allowing it to swing around on the plate.

Being Close to God Activity³⁴: This activity will help the children understand what it means to live a life that is close to God, just like St. Demiana and the Forty Virgins.

1. Divide the children equally and have them stand in two lines facing each other about 10 feet apart.
2. Each child will need to be facing another child.
3. Have the children toss a cotton ball back and forth to the person across from them
4. If there is an odd number of children, have the extra child count the number of successful catches or have a teacher pair up with them.
5. Give all the children in the first row (Row A), a cotton ball.
6. Instruct them on your signal to toss the cotton ball to Row B across the aisle to the person directly facing them.
7. Tell the children that the cotton ball in this activity represents our relationship with God.
8. Many of the tosses will fall short since the children are so far apart.
9. Record the number of successful throws on a chalkboard or whiteboard.
10. Make sure each child in Row B has a cotton ball.
11. Children in Row B will take a step forward and throw the cotton ball to the children standing directly in front of them.
12. Once again, record the number of successful throws.
13. Row A will receive the cotton ball and take a step forward then throw it to Row B once again.
14. Do this several times, each time taking one step closer until the two rows are together
15. Once together, the children can simply drop the cotton ball into the hands of the other children, resulting in no misses.

Explain that our relationship with God is similar to the activity just played. The further away from each other, the harder it was to catch the cotton ball. Likewise, the further we are from God, the harder it is to have a relationship with God. On the other hand, the closer we are to God, the easier it will be to have a strong relationship with Him. How do we get close to God? We can get closer to God by reading the Bible and praying.



SONG:

[My Mothers the Nuns \(Spiritual Song\)](#)

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of My Fathers the Monks (see video above for example).

My mothers the nuns of the desert

³⁴ Being Close To God. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.kidssundayschool.com/gradeschool/activities/being-close-to-god>



I wish to live a life like yours) (x2)

Life of prayer, vigils and tears (x2)

You offered unto our Savior.

My mothers, my mothers.

Our strong mother Saint Demiana,

And her sisters the forty virgins (x2)

To the Lord they were, a sweet perfume (x2)

And served their beloved Bridegroom.

My mothers, my mothers.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Have the children sit in a circle. Remind them of the key attributes of St. Demiana's life, and invite them to chime in and complete the statements you provide (e.g. How many friends did St. Demiana have with her in the palace? 40!).

Conclude by inviting each child to take a turn identifying one quality or aspect of St. Demiana's life that they admire or wish to emulate.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Summarize the values the children learned from St. Demiana's life (collect responses from the review portion of the lesson). Some ways to apply these values include:

- Encouraging those around me (friends, family) to spend time with Christ (Bible, praying, church) and be strong in their faith.
- To have courage and steadfastness (consistency in the faith) in my relationship with God; e.g. I will read my Bible every night, even when I am sleepy.



Lesson 2.6 - Diverse Members and Talents: Using Our Gifts

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [God the Dispenser of Talents, Gifts or Both](#) (for servant preparation).

Scripture References: 1 Corinthians 12:14-18

Craft: Bottle caps (3 per child) or yellow circles of paper (3 per child), silver or gold paint, drawing paper, black marker, crayons, and staplers or tape.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will see their God given talents and be encouraged to use them. They will learn not to compare their diverse talents because we are diverse members of a Church that completes each other.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Unity, Gratitude and Generosity.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

”

Ephesians 4:4

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Invite the children to sit in a circle.

What is something you are good at? Allow each child to take a turn identifying a talent they have. Support them by providing suggestions if a child struggles to come up with something.



Everyone is good at something. Some people are amazing artists, others are super good at math, and others are wonderful friends. When someone is good at something, we call this a 'talent.'

Talents are a gift from God. God has given gifts and talents to every single person He created. Why do you think God gives us talents? *Provide the children time to discuss.*

He loves us! God gave us these talents to be used for the benefit and enjoyment of humanity. He also gave us gifts from the Holy Spirit because of His deep love for us. We receive these gifts from the Holy Spirit through life with Christ in the Church. We also use our talents so that when people see us, they glorify God.

For servant knowledge and more information on the difference between gifts and talents, consider reading [God the Dispenser of Talents, Gifts or Both](#).



LESSON BODY:

There are many people in the Bible who used their talents to serve God. Can you think of any? *Provide the children time to discuss.*

Noah was talented in architecture and ship building, so he built a great ship to save his family from the flood. David was a talented musician and writer, which he used to write many psalms that our Church loves and uses today. St. Paul, in the New Testament, was skilled in making tents; he used this skill to make money for himself and others on his journey.

Sometimes, it is easy for me to compare my gifts to other people's gifts. I can feel that my talent is not as special as someone else's. Is this okay? *Provide the children time to discuss.*

Let's read 1 Corinthians 12:14-18 to see what St. Paul tells us about comparing our gifts and talents.

"For in fact the body is not one member but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased."

When a band plays, does everyone play the same instrument? No. Different people play different instruments to create a beautiful song. The children of God are like a band. We all have different parts to play in order to accomplish our goal.

St. Paul compared the church to a body. Different body parts do different things, but all of them are important. The church too is like a body. Not all the people do the same thing, but all are necessary. If one person refuses to do their part, it hurts the whole body. We all have a part to play that contributes to the work God wants us all to accomplish together.

God gives us different gifts so we can serve and complete each other and glorify Him. Wouldn't it be silly if David never played music because he was jealous of how well Noah could build boats? Of course! What would happen if a person like David never used his talents? *Provide the children time to discuss.*

If David never used his talents, we would not have the beautiful psalms we have today that glorify God. Similarly, if you do not use your talents for God, God will not be glorified.

Does everyone know what it means to glorify? To bring Glory to God? To bring glory to God is to show the world, through your actions and talents, how good God is!

Supplementary

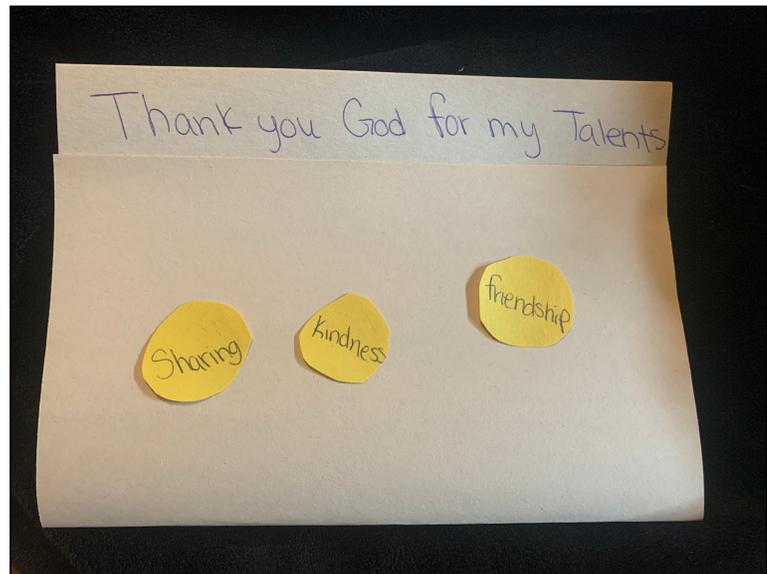


CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Talent Bucket Craft³⁵:

Prep: Paint the bottle caps beforehand so they have time to dry. Make sure you have at least 3 per child.

1. Instruct each child to write at the top of a piece of paper “Thank you God for my Talents”.
2. Each child should write some of their talents on the bottle caps (circles of paper may be used as an alternative, as in the image on the right). Examples of talents could be: singing, drawing, love, kindness, friendship, sharing, respecting and giving a listening ear.
3. Help the children fold the piece of paper, but not all the way so that the “Thank you God for my Talents” is still showing.
4. Staple or tape the sides and let the kids decorate the paper.
5. Put their bottle caps inside so they can pull them out as a reminder of their special talents.
6. Tell children that every time they figure out they have a new talent they can add it.



Talent Show Activity:

1. Have each child think of something they are talented at.
2. Have each one come up to the front of the class and share their talent with everyone. Whether it be singing, drawing, love, kindness, friendship, sharing, respecting and giving a listening ear, etc. To save time if children have the same talent you can have them present it together.

³⁵ DLTK's Bible Crafts for Kids Parable of Talents Craft. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/parable_of_talents_craft.htm



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson by having the children sit (false) or stand (true) to indicate if the following statements are correct or incorrect.

- Only some people are talented (False).
- God gave us talents because He loves us (True).
- St. Paul said that the body of the church only needs certain parts, not all of them (False).
- I should always use my talents to glorify God (True).
- Some people have better talents than others (False).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Have the children sit in a circle again.

Today, you all shared a talent with us. Let's go around the room again, one by one, and share how you can use that talent to glorify God this week. For example, if I am a talented singer, this week I can encourage my family to sing hymns together!

Allow each child to explain how they can use their talent to glorify God this week. Support them in brainstorming ideas.



Lesson 2.7S - SPECIAL (NATIVITY FEAST) - House of Christ: Placed in a manger

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED

Scripture References: Luke 2:1-15

Craft: Paper plates, crayons, brown paint, scissors, yellow feathers or yellow tissue paper, paper towels, construction paper, and pencils/markers.

Song: [Away in a Manger](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand the humility of God in that, although He is our true King, He sent His son Jesus to be born in a humble manger.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Humility



MEMORY VERSE:



Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.



James 4:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Ask the children to imagine what it would be like to be a King. If you were a king, wouldn't you have everything you have ever wanted? Wouldn't you have a fancy castle or palace to stay in? You would have enough riches and money to buy yourself any toy or anything else you wanted. Want 100 soccer balls? You would have that! Want 1,000 ice cream cones? You would have that too! You would even have people that would do all your chores like cleaning and laundry!

Now let the children imagine what it would be like to be a king but not have any of the nice stuff. No castle, no servants, and no riches.



Consider asking them if they know what the word “humility” is, then explain what it means.

Humility is an act of thinking about yourself less and putting others before you. This does not mean that you think negatively about yourself, but rather that you never think about yourself, and instead think of others.

God is the creator and master of all things, but He chose to send His only Son to come down to earth as a human without living in a castle or having lots of money. In today's story, we will see how Jesus, who is a king, was born in the most humble of ways.



LESSON BODY:

Read Luke 2:1-15 and summarize with the children.

Caesar Augustus had sent out a decree, like an order, for everyone to be registered in his/her own City. There was a man named Joseph who went from Galilee, a city of Nazareth, and went to Bethlehem. He went with Mary, his wife, who at the time was pregnant with Jesus. Mary was almost due to give birth during the time Joseph and Mary were going to Bethlehem,

Arriving in Bethlehem, they found no rooms available in the inns, so they stayed in the stables with the animals. A stable is a very small farm house where the animals sleep.

Consider asking the children how they would feel if the only place to sleep was with animals instead of a nice hotel with a clean bed and a bathroom.

While they were in the stables, Mary gave birth to Jesus, wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no room anywhere else.

Consider asking the children this question: What is a manger? (A manger is a box that animals like horses or cattle eat from.) Where are babies normally born? (In a hospital where it is really clean with doctors and nurses there to help.)

A manger is a long open box or trough for horses or cattle to eat from. Jesus being born in a manger is symbolic of the Body of Christ being our Spiritual food.

The Shepherds

There were shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over the flocks of sheep when an angel of the Lord appeared before them and told them that the Saviour was born and that they would find Him lying in a manger.

Consider asking the children how they would react if someone told them that a king or someone very important was lying in a manger among cattle and other animals. Encourage them to share their thoughts with their peers.

The shepherds then went to Bethlehem where they found Joseph, Mary and Jesus lying in the manger. When the shepherds returned to their flock of sheep, they glorified and praised God for all the things they heard and saw.

Consider asking them: Do you think Jesus, Mary or Joseph complained? (No).

When everyone had marvelled at what the shepherds were saying, Mary stayed quiet and kept it in her heart. Jesus, Joseph and Mary never complained about their situation or bragged about their blessings. We should learn from them and practice being humble by not thinking highly of ourselves.

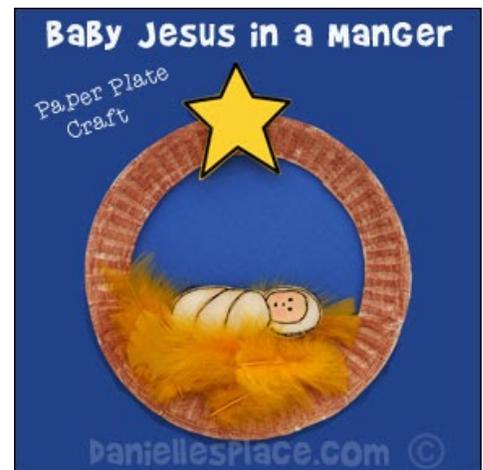
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Baby Jesus in a Manger Craft³⁶:

1. Cut $\frac{3}{4}$ of the center out of the paper plate.
2. From construction paper cut out star shapes.
3. Children can draw baby Jesus and cut Him out, or the servant may print out pictures of baby Jesus beforehand.
4. Color the paper plates, covering it as much as possible.
5. on the bottom half of the plate, use the feathers, tissue paper or construction paper to use as 'straw' for the manger.
6. Glue baby Jesus on to the feathers/tissue paper and glue the star on top of the paper plate.



SONG:

[Away in a Manger](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Which city was Jesus born in? (Bethlehem).
- Where did Joseph and Mary have to stay? (In the stables with the animals.)
- Where was Jesus placed when he was born? (A Manger).
- What is a Manger? (What animals eat out of.)
- Who came to see Jesus? (The Shepherds).
- Who told the Shepherds about Jesus? (An Angel).
- Did Jesus, St. Joseph or St. Mary ever complain? (No, they were humble and stayed where they could).

³⁶ Digital by Design Inc. (2014). Christmas Crafts. Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/christmas-crafts-bible-2.html>



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Just as Jesus was humble, we too must be humble.

- What are ways we can be humble? (Do not complain about what we have or do not have, put others before ourselves, and to not think you are better than anyone else etc.)



Lesson 2.8 - Loving Others in the Body: The Good Samaritan

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: White/chalk board and something to write with, or a poster with the word “Love” written on it.

Scripture References: Luke 10:25-37

Craft: Paper, crayons/pencil crayons, scissors, brass fasteners, hole puncher and copies of this [PDF](#) printed ahead of time.

Video: [God's story: The Good Samaritan \(3:50\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the parable of the Good Samaritan and will have an understanding of what makes a good faithful neighbor.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Kindness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

... '[love] your neighbor as yourself.'

”

Luke 10:27



Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Love Activity

1. Write the word “love” on the board (or a piece of paper to display).
2. Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine someone they love. Then, take volunteer answers. Try to restate the children’s answers into statements about who we should love.
 - a. for instance if a child says “mom” ... you can say “Good answer, we should love our moms – God wants us to love our moms.
 - b. Or if a child says “friends” ... you can say “Good answer, we should love our friends – God wants us to love our friends.
3. Once the children have shared their answers explain that God wants us to love everyone in our lives. Even people that we normally would not like!



LESSON BODY:

Read the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37 and summarize with the children.

One day, a lawyer asked Jesus, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 10:25). Jesus then asked the lawyer what he knew about the law, so the lawyer answered him saying, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27).

If we do this we shall inherit the kingdom of Heaven. God asks us to love our neighbors, but what does this mean?

Consider asking the children who our neighbor is. (Our neighbor is anyone!)

Parable of the Good Samaritan

A certain Jewish man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. On his way, thieves came and stole his clothes, beat him up and left him to die. By chance, a certain priest came down the road right after the thieves had left. When this priest saw the man on the road, he just walked past him on the other side and ignored the hurt man. Next came a Levite (someone who serves God), who walked by and looked at the man on the road, and he too walked past him on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan (someone who was not a Jew), as he journeyed, came where the man was. When he saw the man on the road, he had compassion. The Samaritan then went to him, bandaged his wounds and put him on an animal to carry him. The Samaritan brought the man to an inn where he took care of the man.

Consider asking the children what a Samaritan is. (A Samaritan is someone who lived in Samaria, the Jews believed that they were bad people.)

The next day, before the Samaritan left, he gave the innkeeper money and told him to take care of the man. If the innkeeper needed more money, the Samaritan was willing to give him more the next time he returned.

Consider asking the children who they think from the three was being a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the thieves. For discussion concerning the meaning of neighbor, the servant can choose to use the commentary of St. Cyril of Alexandria.³⁷

The one who was being a neighbor was the Samaritan, even though the Jews were certain that they were bad people! He showed love and mercy upon a complete stranger. Jesus wants us to love each other and to give mercy and kindness to those in need.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Love Your Neighbor Donkey³⁸:

Purpose: This craft will remind the children to treat others how they would want to be treated!

1. Download and print out copies of the [PDF](#) ahead of time.
2. Tell the children that they will be making a “Love Your Neighbor Donkey” which will always be a reminder to them to treat others the way that they would want to be treated (be kind to others)!
3. Instruct the children to color in the donkey parts before cutting them out.
4. Once children have finished coloring and cutting, the teacher can choose to hole punch the ‘x’ marks on the donkey so that the children can attach the body parts using the fasteners.
5. Walk children through how to attach the parts together with the fasteners.
6. Once the donkeys have been made, have the children write one nice thing that they will do for someone else this week on the flip side of the donkey!



³⁷ St. Cyril of Alexandria. (AD 444). Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/lk/10>

³⁸ Good Samaritan Brad Donkey. (n.d.). Retrieved July 17, 2020, from <https://biblecraftsbyjenney.weebly.com/good-samaritan-brad-donkey.html>



Encourage the children to display kindness toward others and to help them when they are in need, just as the Good Samaritan had done!



VIDEO:

[God's story: The Good Samaritan \(3:50\)](#)

Questions:

- Who asked Jesus about loving our neighbors? (A lawyer).
- Who were the three people that saw the man? (A priest, Levite and a Samaritan)
- Did Jews like the Samaritans? (No, they thought that the Samaritans were bad people.)
- Who helped the man on the road? (The Samaritan).

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Why did Jesus tell this story? (To show us what it means to be a neighbor.)
- Who from the three were not being good neighbors? (The priest and Levite.)
- Why was the Samaritan a good neighbor? (Because he showed mercy to the man.)
- How did the Samaritan know the man was worth helping? (He didn't, but he knew all men were worth helping.)
- Why is it difficult to help people we do not like? (Let the children discuss among their peers. Maybe because we think we are better than the person we do not like, but this is wrong. God made us all equal and in His image.)

True or False: Consider letting the children stand up for true and sit down for false.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| → The man who was injured was a Jew | True |
| → The Samaritan was also a Jew | False |
| → 2 men walked passed the man without helping | True |
| → The first person to walk by was a Levite | False |
| → The Samaritan already knew the injured man | False |
| → We should always help others | True |
| → We should only help people we know | False |



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- How can we show kindness this week and be a good neighbor? (Open doors for them, do chores, send cards, be nice, share what we have, include them in activities, etc.)

This week we will practice helping people because Jesus asked us to be loving neighbors.



Lesson 2.9 - The Meaning of Church Architecture



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [The Rites of the Coptic Church: The Structure of the Coptic Church](#) or [Architecture of the Coptic Church](#) (for servant preparation), table of the types of Church Shapes (see below) labeled image of the areas of the Ship Shaped church (see below).

Scripture References: Genesis 6:9-9:17, Exodus 3:5, 20:26.

Craft: [Orthodox Church Handout](#), pictures of the icons that are in the church, glue/tape, colored pencil crayons, markers, other decorations (glitter, stickers, etc).

Song: [My Coptic Church](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand the spiritual significance of the three shapes of the church (Circle, Cross and Boat).



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Appreciation.



MEMORY VERSE:



The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.



Proverbs 18:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider asking the children to identify the shape of their church. Have them identify any significant shapes, like circles.

Our church is beautiful isn't it! Everything in our church has a special meaning, and today we are going to learn about all these interesting features!



LESSON BODY:

This lesson draws on the information and images from [The Rites of the Coptic Church: The Structure of the Coptic Church](#). The table below may be used by the servant to visualize this for the children; this table may also be utilized in the review portion of the lesson.

 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Saint Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Delray Beach, FL, USA</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">St. George Cathedral, Cairo, Egypt</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Virgin Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Lynnwood, WA, USA</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Cruciform (Cross) Shape</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Circular Shape</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">The Ship Shape</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Represents the crucified Body of Christ.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Represents the eternal nature of the Church.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Represents Noah's ark that saved people from the flood.</p>

The structure of the Coptic Church can take on three designs:

1. **The Cruciform (Cross) Shape:** This type represents the crucified Body of Christ. It was very common in the Byzantine style, but is rarely used in Coptic Churches today.
2. **The Circular Shape:** This type represents the eternal nature of the Church through an endless line (a circle). It is very common among Coptic Churches.
3. **The Ship Shape:** This type represents Noah's ark that saved people from the flood. Likewise, the Coptic Church has the ability to save people. This is the most commonly used shape in the Coptic Orthodox Church. There are several components to this design:

The servant may wish to stop at this point and conclude the lesson by reminding the children of the story of Noah's ark in Genesis 6:9-9:17 and remind the children of the saving role of the Church.

If the servant would like to cover more content regarding the architecture of the Ship Shaped Church, consider bringing the children on a field trip to the church to better visualize the areas of the Church below. The information below is only an overview of the information provided in the hyperlinked source above; consider including more if the children are capable and willing of learning more.

- a. **The Nave:** Contains the Chancel and seats for the congregation.
- b. **The Chancel:** Contains seats for the chorus of deacons, two lecterns (bookstands) for reading the Bible and giving sermons. This area is separated from the sanctuary by a screen or fence.

- c. **The Iconstasis:** This is a wall made of wood or marble between the sanctuary and the Nave, covered in icons of the Lord, angels and saints. It contains three doors: the Royal door (main entrance) and a door on either side. The main curtain is opened during the Liturgy to symbolize our glimpse into the splendor of heaven.
- d. **The Sanctuary:** This is the place that represents heaven itself, or the place where God dwells. To indicate this reverence, our church follows the following rules in this area:
 - i. Lay people are not allowed to take communion in this area.
 - ii. No one can wear shoes here, following the divine command to Moses in front of the burning bush (Exodus 3:5).
 - iii. No talking (except for urgent matters) in the Sanctuary.
- e. **The Altar:** This is inside the Sanctuary. It can be made of wood, stone or metal. It is in the shape of a cube to represent the Tomb of our Lord. It is also hollow because historically, the relics of saints were kept inside or beneath it (today they are outside so people can receive their blessing). The Altar is directly on the ground (not raised) as per the divine commandment in Exodus 20:26.
- f. **The Ciborium/Canopy:** This is the structure that is the shape of a bowl or cup above the altar. It is often designed with an icon of the Lord, surrounded by angels, to represent the heaven of heavens in which the Lord and His heavenly creatures dwell.
- g. **The Tribune:** This is behind the Altar and around the eastern wall. It is more common in ancient churches to have seven semi-circular steps made of marble or stone here.
- h. **The Niche:** This is another area that will usually contain an icon of the Lord coming from a cloud, holding the earth in one hand and the pastoral rod in His other hand. This represents the Bosom of God. There is often a sanctuary lamp here that is perpetually lit to represent the star which appeared to the wise men and guided them to baby Jesus.

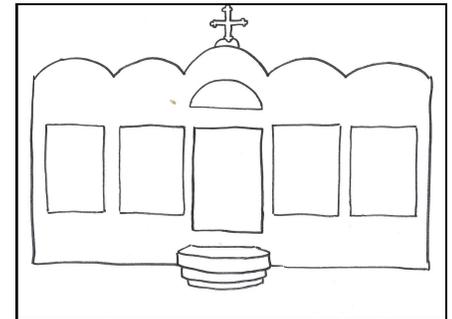
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

“Orthodox Church & Icons” Craft³⁹:

1. Pass out the Orthodox Church Handout to the children.
2. Review the symbolism of the shapes with the children (Cross = Crucified Body of Christ ; Circular = Eternal nature of the Church, etc)
3. Pass out pictures of the icons that are represented in the Church to the children. You can tell the children a bit of information about these icons while they are gluing/taping them to their Churches.
4. Children can decorate their Churches further.
5. Optional: children can show their Church to a partner and explain the significance of the shapes as well as the various Icons depicted.



³⁹ Church Craft with Icons. (2011, October 31). Retrieved August 04, 2020, from <http://orthodoxeducation.blogspot.com/2011/10/church-craft-with-icons.html>



SONG:

[My Coptic Church](#)

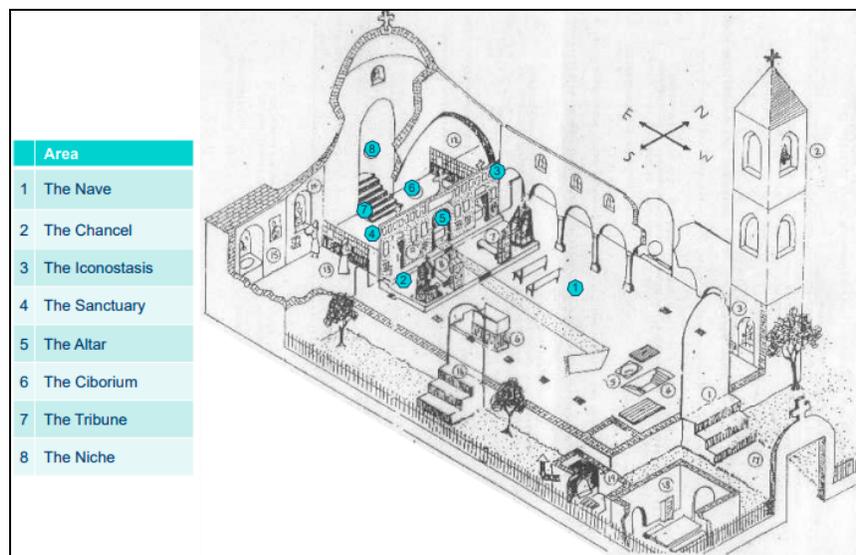
Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Invite the children to recall the meanings of the three types of churches. This can be done using the table of the Church Shapes above. The images may be removed and reattached by the children using velcro-tape, or they may complete these tables as individual worksheets.

If the servant chooses to bring the children to the Church to learn about the areas of the ship shaped Church, this can be reviewed by, enlarging and printing the image (from the source hyperlinked above) below. Consider having multiple copies for children to complete independently or in teams. Cut out the different areas of the church into individual slips, and task the children with matching the area with the appropriate label.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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



Remind the children that the Church is their home and place of safety. To remember and appreciate this, they can do the following:

- Thank God for the Church in their prayers.
- Respect the Church by keeping it clean and having appropriate behaviour inside.
- Kiss the icons of the Church.
- Pray when you enter the Church.



Lesson 2.10 - The Symbols of the Church

Building Block 2
The Church: The Body of Christ



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Paper and markers.

Scripture References: Matthew 26:26, 27, 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21, Malachi 1:10, 11, Revelations 8:3, 4, and Matthew 24:30.

Craft: Single hole puncher, 12 gold bells (per person), a roll of beaded chain (4 per person), pliers, gold paint, hanger hooks, empty plastic water bottles, scissors or box cutters, disposable ice cream cups (2 per person), hot glue, plastic water bottle caps, and small craft metal rings; Censer label sheet and pen/pencil.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn the meaning of church symbols such as the Cross, Altar, Chalice, the Baptismal Font, Icons, and Incense Censer so that they may respect them in the church and understand their significance.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Respect and Adoration.



MEMORY VERSE:



...so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.



1 Timothy 3:15

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Before bringing the children to the church, provide each child with a piece of paper and markers.

Today, we are going to be having a lesson inside the church. Before we go into the church, let's take a few minutes to draw some things inside the church we remember.

Provide the children with time to draw and allow them to share their finished drawings with each other afterwards.

As an alternative to this drawing activity, the servant may wish to prepare a slideshow with images of items from the church (see images provided below) that will be discussed in the lesson. With each image, invite the children to discuss what they think this item is used for or if they remember anything about it.

If any of the children drew one of the symbols that will be discussed in this lesson (cross, altar table, chalice, baptismal font, icons, incense censer), highlight this and explain that we will learn more about this today.

Today we will be focused on some important symbols in the church. Let's go together! Remember to be respectful and quiet as we enter the House of God.



LESSON BODY:

Take the kids on a tour inside the church and explain the following symbols to them. Note that the servant does not have to state all of the information provided below. These notes are provided for information and context for the servant to inform the children. Not all of the information needs to be part of the lesson. Invite the children to share their experiences in the church regarding these items, and provide them with relevant information throughout the tour so that they understand the significance of these things.

The Altar:

The Altar can be made of:

- Wood: Wood was mainly used during the first four centuries. Timber Altars are still used in temporary church buildings in Egypt, until the final construction of stone, marble or brick Altars are built. In the early days, the majority of the Altars in our churches in America and Australia were made of wood.
- Stone: From a very early date, stone was used for altars. And it is almost certain that there is a very close connection between them and the tombs of the martyrs.
- Metal: When Christianity was declared as the official religion of the Roman Empire, it became natural that more expensive materials were used for making Altars. For example: silver, gold and precious stones.



The Chalice:

This is the communion cup (which contains the wine-which we believe is the blood of Christ). The Lord Himself used the chalice (Matthew 26:26, 27) and the Apostles imitated Him. St. Paul the Apostle calls it "*the Cup of Blessing*" and "*the Cup of the Lord*" (1 Corinthians 10:16, 21). The historian Tertullian refers to it as having the shape of a lamb engraved on the outside of it, to remind us of the Lamb of God (Christ) who purchased His Church and adorned her entirely with His Holy Blood.



The bowl of the Coptic Chalice has a bell-shaped form, the stem is long and rests on a circular stand. The Early Christian Chalices were commonly made from wood or glass. By the third and fourth centuries, precious metals became common, and valuable chalices of gold and silver set with jewels were offered by believers as a sign of their love.

The Censer:

One of the first gifts offered to Christ while He was yet an infant was the frankincense from the Magi, a costly gift of love which should be offered to Him by His people today. *"For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same, My Name shall be great among the Gentiles, and in every place incense shall be offered unto My Name, and a pure offering"* (Malachi 1:10, 11). The Bible tells us that incense is offered and burned in heaven as well (Revelations 8:3, 4).

The censer represents several things:

- Censing is a symbol of the presence of God among His people.
- It symbolizes praying as a sacrifice of love (Exodus 30:1 - 8).
- Censing also symbolizes the purification of people. When God said to Moses, *"Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment, Moses said to Aaron: Take your censer and put therein from off the Altar, and lay incense on it, and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone forth from the Lord, the plague has begun."* (Numbers 16:46).

According to the Coptic rite, burning incense has a strict order that the Priests and Bishops must follow.

The Censer is a brass or silver vessel in the shape of a cup, in which incense is burned. In the usual form of the censer, the container is suspended on three chains from which it can be swung during raising incense. In our church, the censer symbolizes St. Mary who bore the "True coal burning with Fire", that is Jesus. Its three chains remind us of the Holy Trinity.



Icons:

The Coptic Orthodox Church does not use icons simply as a means of decorating the church walls. Icons in the church signify the spiritual presence of Christ, as well as the saints and events of their lives.

The halo is an expression of light radiating from within the saint, as a sign of the holiness he or she attained by his or her spiritual striving, supported by the grace of God.

Because the saint has already completed their struggle and has attained victory, they must be portrayed as victorious and joyful, never as weak or full of pain. Icons show saints in their glorified state for a two-fold reason: to honor the saint who is portrayed, and to encourage us, who are struggling to emulate their lives.



When we see the icons of the saints in the Church, we should be encouraged to live our life like the saints--with God!

The Cross:

The cross is placed not only inside the church building, but also on the exterior of the church and on the towers.

The cross is symbolic of the church being under the authority of the Crucified Christ, living with His Law, guided by the Holy Spirit, and preaching the Gospel. In other words, this symbol reveals to the whole world that there is no other message to the Church except to follow the Crucified Christ.



We can also use the cross as a reminder of the Trinity. When we do the sign of the cross, we point upward to show that the Father is above us in heaven, downward to show that Christ came to earth, and across our shoulders to signify that the Holy Spirit is with us, in us, and surrounding us.

The Baptismal Font:

It is often found in a special room, at the north-west of the Church's nave. During baptismal rites, the priest recites certain prayers to sanctify the water and the baptized person. The baptized person is immersed in water three times, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, signifying that he is buried with the Lord for three days. The receptacle for baptismal water is normally made of stone, but sometimes it is made of metal. From early times, like during the time of John the Baptist, baptism is by immersion. The large basin that babies and/or adults are baptised in are usually made below ground-level. This act of baptism is a sacrament that brings a new baby and/or adults into the family of Christ's church.



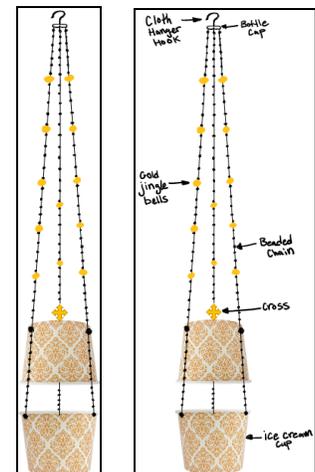
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Incense Censer Craft:

1. Take one of the ice cream cups and make three holes with the hole puncher near the top around the rim (this will be the bottom).
2. Attach three of the cut beaded chains by looping them into the holes and then secure them with glue from inside of the ice cream cup.
3. The servant should poke a hole with scissors into the middle of the bottle cap then attach the hook to it (this will be the very top of the censer).
4. Next attach the three chains to the underside of the cap with glue.
5. Take the second ice cream cup and poke a hole in the bottom of it and put a beaded chain through it, and then glue the other end of it to the bottle cap.
6. Paint the censer gold or glue yellow construction paper and add gold glitter.

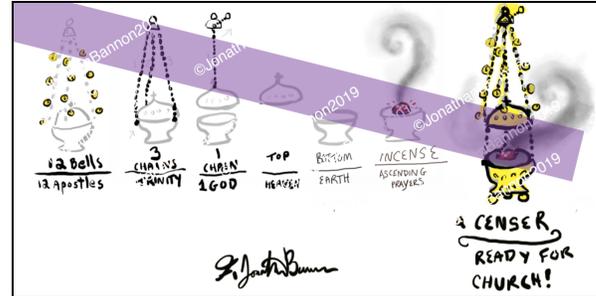


- Attach the 12 gold jingle bells with glue or small crafting rings throughout.

Labeling the Censer:

The children can try and label or identify the parts of the incense censer and the significance of each part using [this](#) interpretation.

- Why are there 12 jingle bells? (The 12 jingles represent the 12 disciples of Jesus.)
- Why are there 3 chains supporting the censer? (The 3 chains represent the Trinity.)
- Why is there one chain in the center? (The single-chain in the center represents our one, true God.)
- What does the top of the censer represent? (It represents heaven.)
- What does the bottom of the censer represent? (It represents the earth.)
- What does the incense in the censer represent? (It represents the ascending prayers.)
- What else does the censer represent? (St. Mary who carried the true coal burning with Fire, that is Jesus.)



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

To review the lesson, bring the children back to the classroom and provide them each with a new piece of paper and coloring markers. Invite them to draw one item from the church that they learned about. Allow them to share their drawing with the class when they are done and invite them to explain why they chose to draw this item, and why that item is significant.

Questions:

- What does the Cross symbolize in the Church? (the church being under the authority of the Crucified Christ.)
- Why are there three chains on the censer? (They symbolize the Holy Trinity)
- What is the Chalice? (The communion cup).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:



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

Bring the children's attention to all of the Church's wonderful symbols.

Wow! There are so many beautiful and meaningful things in the church that we learned about today. What are some things we can do when we are inside of the church to show God we understand how significant these things are and that we love and respect His house?

- Kiss an icon and pray when I come into the church.
- Say prayers in my heart when Abouna walks around the church with the censer.
- Kiss the cross.
- Bow in front of the altar.



Lesson 2.11 - The Unction of the Sick



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A black or white board and chalk or marker to write with.

Scripture References: James 5:13-18

Craft: Needles, 2 paper cups per child, three yards of string, pencils, tweezers, markers, and pencil crayons.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the Holy Unction and connect this sacrament to the miracles performed by Jesus.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Prayerfulness



MEMORY VERSE:



Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.



James 5:14

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Discuss the concept of illness with the children.

- Have they ever been sick?
- What do they feel like?
- How is that different from being well?
- What do their parents do to make them feel better and get well when they are sick? (go to the doctor, take medicine, special foods or special equipment, etc.)



Consider writing the words “Holy Unction” on the board and ask the children to repeat the word until they have learned it.

What is the holy unction? It is one of the Seven Sacraments of the church.

Consider asking them if they know what the word “Sacrament” means. (Sacraments are things that allow us to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit).



LESSON BODY:

Consider beginning the lesson by discussing the miracles of Jesus – healing a blind man and a leper. Then consider asking the children these questions:

- What did Jesus do? (Heal them.)
- Why? (He loved them.)
- Does Jesus also love us? (Yes!).
- Who has the power to heal someone? (Doctors, Yes!).
- But, who more than doctors? (Our Lord!).

Read James 5:13-18 and summarize with the children.

Today’s lesson will be focusing on the Sacrament of the Holy Unction.

The Holy Unction is when the sick is anointed with oil that has been blessed. The sick person is praying for Jesus to make them well. The book of James tells us whenever we are sick, we should call the elders of the church and be anointed with oil. The elders of the church today are our bishops, priests, and the Pope!

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted this Sacrament when He said to His disciples: “Heal the sick, cleanse the leper” (Matthew 10:8), and, “Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, heal the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you’” (Luke 10: 8-9). For the Lord Jesus came so that we may have life, and that we have it more abundantly (John 10:10), so He healed the sick, raised the dead, opened the eyes of the blind, purified the lepers, after having saved them and forgiven them. Jesus “went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil” (Acts 10:38).

Let’s quickly recap all that Jesus instructed and did: Forgave the sinners, healed the sick, raised people from the dead, opened the eyes of the blind and healed the lepers. This was all to save them and to remind them that the Kingdom of God has come near to them! Remember, God wants nothing more than for us to be with Him.

Our fathers the Apostles practiced it according to the orders of Jesus Christ, as the Bible says, “So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them” (Mark 6:12,13).

Our teacher St. James advised the believers to practice this Sacrament when they are sick, and to ask healing from God. St. James advises us, “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” (James 5:14-15).

Consider asking the children this question: *What are some of the examples of why we pray? (When you are in trouble, when you are happy, when you are sick, to show faith, for confession of sin, and to pray for others.)*

Because this Sacrament provides healing for the soul too, the church always asks her children to first repent from their sins, and after the anointing of the sick, receive communion.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Paper Cup Praying Phones⁴⁰:

Through this game, the children will be able to practice praying.

Before class: With a needle, punch holes in the center of the base of each paper cup. Ensure that the hole is just wide enough to fit the string. There should be two cups for each child.

1. Give each child 2 cups and approximately 3 yards of string.
2. Have the children pull string through the paper cups using a pencil. They may require additional assistance with this step as the string can be difficult to pull through the small hole. If necessary, use tweezers.
3. Tie knots at each end to prevent the string from pulling through the cup. (Alternatively, a paper clip can be tied at the end of the string to keep it in place).
4. At this step, ask the children: What are some things that you can pray for? They should decorate the cups with images of these things.
5. After the paper cup phones have been made, the children can test out their new craft by partnering up and taking turns sharing and listening to each others' prayer requests.

Note: Remind your children that they have to hold the cups so the string is tight (don't let it sag in the middle) and put the cups up against their cheeks with their mouths inside the cup for the phones to work properly.
6. Practicing prayer is important and necessary to continue to build our faith and love in God and strengthen the fellowship of the church.



⁴⁰ Digital by Design, I. (2014). Paper Cup Phones Craft and Bible Verse Review Game. Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-prayer.html>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Can you pray when you are in trouble? (Yes).
- Can you pray when you are happy? (Yes).
- Why do we pray? (This is our way of communicating with God, building a personal relationship with Him, the only way we can do this is by talking to Him.)
- What else can we pray for? (Some examples include: Guidance, Protection, Strength, Wisdom.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- What can we do when we feel worried or nervous, and feel like we need some healing? (We can talk to God through prayer. When we open our Agpeya we are talking to God directly, and He hears our prayers. And our personal conversations with God help us build our relationship with Him.)



Building Block 3: Koinonia in Church

Lesson 3.1 - Caring For One Another: Elijah Raises the Widow's son

Building Block 3
Koinonia in Church



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Timer.

Scripture References: 1 Kings 17:7-24

Craft: Thought Bubble Reflection sheet (see below), blindfolds, and scarves.

Video: [Elijah and the Widow | #BibleTaleTime](#) (3:29)

[Experiment - Be kind to one another by Sharing](#) (3:52)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn the story of Elijah and the widow. Through this story, they will understand the provision of the Church for her people through her members when we obey and trust God.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience, Trust and Fellowship.



MEMORY VERSE:



*Two are better than one...
For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.*



Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Have you ever been stuck in a problem you thought had no solution? Let's play a game to help us understand this difficulty.

Elijah Thinks Fast Activity⁴¹:

1. Have the children form pairs.
2. Explain that the goal is to challenge themselves and their partner to try and say 25 words with at least one vowel in 15 seconds. Remind the children that the vowels are: a, e, i, o and u.
3. Set a timer for 15 seconds and indicate that the first person of the pair can start. Encourage the children if they are struggling because this task is hard. When the first round is finished, the next partner will attempt the challenge.
4. After each partner attempts, invite each child to sit down. Tell them that you can complete the challenge easily in less than 15 seconds. Proceed to count out loud from 1 to 25 - that's the trick! Each of these numbers has a vowel in it.

Often in life, we will be put into different challenging situations - just like in this challenge. We should turn to God for solutions and answers in these struggles because He always has more knowledge and wisdom than we do. When we turn to Him in obedience and trust, God will use the members of His Church to provide for us and bring us to success.

Today, we will learn about a prophet from the Bible named Elijah who faced many difficult situations that he was able to overcome by obeying and trusting God's promise that He would provide.



LESSON BODY:

Read 1 Kings 17:7-16 and summarize with the children.

Elijah was a prophet. One day, he had a problem - he was in need of a place to stay and food to eat. The place he was in, Zarephath, was in a drought. A drought is an extended amount of time where there is no rain and therefore, a shortage of water. In Zarephath, the stream of water had dried up and there was no food or water, leaving Elijah starving.

Consider pausing here and asking the children if they can think of solutions to Elijah's problem. Emphasize that there was nothing available to Elijah; as such, he turned to God in prayer. Remind them that during the time of Elijah, he couldn't just drive to a new city.

When Elijah prayed to God, He told him to find a poor widow who had a son in Zarephath and ask her for food. When Elijah arrived at Zarephath, he saw the woman God

"When Elijah reached the gate of Zarephath, he met a woman and immediately realized, through the Holy Spirit, that she was the widow about whom God had talked to him. She was there and looked at him. It seems to me that Elijah had asked his Lord whether she was the one...When he found her barefoot and dressed in rags in the act of gathering some wood, wasted by starvation and made miserably thin, he made the impression of seeing a burned stick, and he himself was ashamed of asking her for bread so that he first asked her for water. Later he added the request of bread. He knew for sure that a jug of flour would not have been lacking thanks to the promise of the Lord."

- St. Ephrem the Syrian

⁴¹ 'Elijah Thinks Fast' Childrens Lesson on Elijah and the Widows Son • MinistryArk. (2020, January 03). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://ministryark.com/lesson/elijah-thinks-fast-childrens-lesson-on-elijah-and-the-widows-son>



sent him to find gathering sticks. This woman was very poor and she was experiencing the drought as well. Why would God send Elijah to ask this poor woman for help?

Allow the children to discuss. Consider Elijah's own worry about this, but his ultimate confidence in God's provision and help, as illustrated in the quote below by St. Ephrem the Syrian.⁴²

Elijah went to the woman and asked her to bring him some water and some bread. The woman probably thought Elijah was crazy for asking her to sacrifice some of her food for him, especially since she was experiencing the drought too. She told Elijah that all she had was a small handful of grain and a little bit of oil; she was gathering the sticks to make her and her son's final meal before dying. But Elijah promised her that God would provide and that they would have more than enough food until God sends rain and ends the drought. The woman obeyed, and she brought Elijah some bread.

Then, a miracle happened. She kept on making food for her, her son, and Elijah and her food never ran out! Each day when the woman went to make food for her, her son, and Elijah, she kept finding more and more flour and oil each day. See how God provides for those who seek Him out in prayer and obey His commands! Because God and the woman obeyed and trusted in God, God provided for His people through His Church.

Consider pausing here to introduce and paraphrase the quote from St. Ephrem the Syrian as commentary for 1 Kings 17:16 that is provided below.⁴³ You may wish to use this quote to highlight the obedience of the woman as a reminder for the children of God's rewards and the promise of the Church to take care of those who obey Him.

Then tragedy struck. The woman's son died, and the woman began to question whether or not God really loved her. But, God gave Elijah the power to raise the woman's son from the dead. So, once again, because of the obedience and trust of Elijah and the woman, God provided unimaginable solutions to the many problems Elijah (and the woman) faced in life.

Had Elijah not obeyed God, he would have gone without food. Had the woman not obeyed Elijah, she would have run out of food. She would also have lost her son forever. God blessed the prophet and the woman for following His directions. Elijah and the woman's obedience show us the way to live. This is our first key lesson for today. When we have difficult situations in life, like Elijah and the widow, we can turn to God in prayer and obedience for solutions and trust that He will protect us.

"She went and did as Elijah said.' Consider the faith of the widow, her obedience and charity, and then meditate on the greatness of the reward that he granted her. Indeed it is written, 'The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah,' nor did the number of her family members diminish, because, in exchange for the nourishment given to the prophet, her dead child was resurrected."

- St. Ephrem the Syrian

Sometimes, we as a Church need the help of others around us. Without their help we could not survive. Likewise we can help others by offering them what they might not have. This could be anything from prayer to food, or maybe even some clothes! When we stick together as a Church, we are all better off than when we are alone. This is our second key lesson for today. We need to support one another by offering prayers,

⁴² St. Ephrem the Syrian. (AD 373). "On the First Book of Kings 17.2." Retrieved from Ancient Christian Commentaries on Scripture: Commentaries on 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther, p. 241.

⁴³ St. Ephrem the Syrian. (AD 373). "On the First Book of Kings 17.2." Retrieved from <https://catenable.com/com/5e1b67d28bc66721fe4ef92e>

time, donations, love and support, just like the widow and Elijah did for each other. This is the work of the Church!

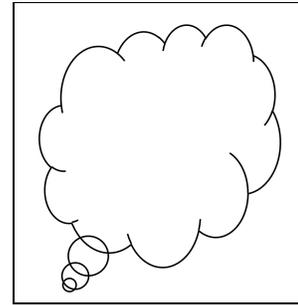
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Thought Bubble Reflection Craft:

1. Provide each child with a Thought Bubble printout page (see example on the right).
2. Invite the children to draw and write some things within the thought bubble that they can do next time they are faced with a hard situation. For example: praying, asking Abouna/servant/parent for help, reading my Bible, etc.
3. Invite the children to share their drawings at the end. This craft may be used to review the lesson to consolidate and summarize learning.



Two Are Better Than One Activity:

1. Have the children pair up. Blindfold one child and “hand-cuff” the other (tie their hands together with a scarf).
2. Set up a target, such as candy wrapped in plastic, that requires the use of hands.
3. Have the child with the pair of eyes help the child with the handcuff to unwrap the candy.

Summarize by explaining that this activity is an example of how we need each other to get things done in the Church. What would happen if you were alone? Would you have been able to grab the candy and open it? This is what we do in Church. We pray for each other, help each other, and provide for one another. The saints also do this in heaven.



VIDEO:

[Elijah and the Widow | #BibleTaleTime \(3:29\)](#)

[Experiment - Be kind to one another by Sharing](#)

Questions:

- Where did the widow and the son live? (Zarephath)
- Why did Elijah, the widow and her son only have very little food? (There was a drought in Zarephath.)
- How much food did the widow have for her and her son? (Only one loaf and a little bit of oil.)
- What did God tell Elijah to do? (Go to the widow and ask for food.)
- What did Elijah promise the widow? (There would be food to sustain the widow, her son and Elijah each day until the drought ended.)
- What happened when the woman obeyed Elijah? (There was an endless supply of flour and oil!)
- Was Elijah concerned for the widow? (Yes, he was!)



- How did God bless Elijah and the woman for their obedience? (He provided them food, shelter, and even raised the widow's son from the dead.)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

There are two key lessons from this story: turning to God in trust and obedience in difficult times, and helping one another in the Church. To review these two lessons, consider integrating the supplementary activities above as follows:

- The Thought Bubble Reflection Craft: Have the class sit in a circle to share the different things they plan on doing next time they are in a difficult situation to be more like Elijah and the widow.
- Two Are Better Than One Activity: Have the class sit in a circle and identify different ways they can help each other to contribute to the fellowship of the Church.

The servant may also wish to use the discussion questions provided for the video above as review questions for the lesson as a whole.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Remind the children of the practical applications of prayer to God in difficult times that they determined in their Thought Bubble Craft Activity.

When you see someone in need, we try to help them as much as we can and pray for them. As a Church, we are one family and should help each other. Some ways we can do this are:

- Obeying God and our parents when we are told to do something and trusting that He will always provide for and protect us.
- Being generous with what you have (like the widow). We can support the work of the Church by helping one another wherever we can.



Lesson 3.2 - Forgiveness: The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Building Block 3
Koinonia in Church



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: The Holy Bible, foam hearts, washable markers, and bowls of soapy water.

Scripture Reference: 1 John 1:9 and Matthew 18:23-34

Craft: A ziplock bag for each child, pieces of cardboard/paper with the names of the children written on it.

Video: [LifeKids: The Unforgiving Servant | Bible Story | LifeKids \(2:32\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop a basic understanding of the concept of forgiveness and its importance in one's life.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness and Fellowship.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Jesus said to him, `I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

”

Matthew 18:22

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider the following questions to begin the lesson.

If you had \$5, what would you like to buy? If you had \$100, what would you buy?

Allow the children to discuss.



Imagine you owned the items and then let your friends borrow them. If the friends broke them would it be easy to forgive them? Would it be easier to forgive the friend that broke the big thing or the one that broke the little thing?

It might be easy to forgive them the first time. But what if they did it again? And again? And Again? How many times should you forgive this person?

Consider asking the children to discuss a time you felt this frustration from having to keep forgiving someone for the same thing over and over.

Today we are going to learn about a parable that Jesus told about this difficult feeling we experience when we are asked to forgive others around us, even when they hurt us.



LESSON BODY:

Sometimes we can get tired of forgiving the same person over and over and over. In Matthew 18, Jesus' followers were trying to figure out when they could give up on forgiving someone who did the same bad thing over and over.

St. Peter asked Jesus if it was enough to forgive someone who did something wrong to you seven times. What do you think Jesus said? Seven times is a lot, right?

Well, seven times isn't enough for Jesus. Jesus told St. Peter that we should forgive our enemies seventy times seven times. That's 490! That's a lot more than seven. Why do you think Jesus commanded this?

Allow the children to discuss.

One way Jesus responded to His followers was to teach them in parables, or by using a simple story to teach a spiritual lesson. In Matthew 18, Jesus used a parable called The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant to explain why we are commanded to forgive one another so many times.

There are three main people in this parable Jesus told in response to the disciples' questions about forgiveness. There's a king, the first man who owed the king a lot of money—millions of dollars—and the second man who owed the first man a day's worth of pay.

Summarize the story of Matthew 18:23-34 after reading it with them. It may be helpful to write on the board the different people (King, Servant 1 and Servant 2) and how much they owed.

You may wish to note and emphasize that the servant owed his master the equivalent of \$108 billion dollars (1 talent = \$10,800,000), while his fellow servant only owed him \$800 (1 denari = \$8). This shows the extreme forgiveness of the master, and the wickedness of the servant. The master forgave his servant an unpayable amount, and the servant would not in turn forgive his fellow servant for a small amount in comparison to what he had been forgiven.

How would you feel if you were the master? How would you feel if you were one of the fellow servants? How would you feel if you were the servant himself?

Read aloud Matthew 18:35, and then have the entire group discuss these questions.



“So, My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” So what does this mean? This means that if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us. Put another way, God will only forgive us when we forgive others.

God wants us to forgive others—even people who do bad things to us over and over—because God forgives us over and over. It does not matter how much we think someone doesn’t deserve to be forgiven or how bad this person hurt us.. Forgiving those things will never come close to how much or how many times God has forgiven us and continues to forgive us.

When Jesus said we should forgive up to seventy times seven, He was saying we should forgive an unlimited amount of times, since our Father in Heaven does the same to us.

Forgiving others brings us peace. It allows us to love each other like Christ does, and prevents sin from getting in between us. *Consider asking the children: Do you know what happens when you don’t forgive? It sits on your heart and is really really heavy. As time goes by, the burden gets heavier and heavier until the day you forgive!*

We must remember that we all do bad things - for not one is without sin even if his life on earth were a single day. Sometimes we are not kind to our parents, sometimes we take cookies without asking, and sometimes we do not play nicely with others. When we do something wrong it is called sin. Since sin is separation from God, we need to ask our Lord Jesus to forgive us.

The definition of sin in the Orthodox church, based on the meaning of the word in the original Greek, is ‘missing the mark’. The “mark” is God, so when we sin, we are choosing other things over Him.

You MAY consider introducing and paraphrasing the commentary on the right by St. John Chrysostom on Matthew 18:35 at this point to illustrate the importance of forgiving one another, so that our sins may be washed clean by God.⁴⁴

Through seeking forgiveness from the person we wrong, and through asking forgiveness through the sacrament of Confession, our Lord Jesus washes away our sin and makes our hearts clean. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

By continually forgiving one another, we contribute to and strengthen the unity and bond of the Body of Christ. This is one way we can live in fellowship with one another.

“What then means the parable?
He says not your Father, but my Father.
For it is not meet for God to be called the
Father of such a one, who is so wicked
and malicious.

Two things therefore does He here
require, both to condemn ourselves for
our sins, and to forgive others; and the
former for the sake of the latter, that this
may become more easy (for he who
considers his own sins is more indulgent
to his fellow-servant); and not merely to
forgive with the lips, but from the heart.”

- St. John Chrysostom

⁴⁴ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). “Homilies on Matthew.” Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/57eb0db6b0d44ee10cfac4de>



Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Forgiveness Activity:

1. Give each child a bag. In every bag fill it with twice as many small cardboard cutouts (or another inexpensive alternative of similar weight) as there are children in the classroom.
2. Have each cutout written with the name of the others in the classroom while the other half written with the name of the person carrying the bag.
3. Tell the kids each cutout with their name in another bag is a sin they committed against you. Every time you take out your name from another person's bag you must take out one of your own names in your bag.
 - a. What happens is that just as you forgive others their sins against you, God is also forgiving you of your own sins. When you ease the burden off of others you ease your own burden. In the end, the kids will find that all the weight they carry will be gone when they forgive one another. They will also want others to forgive them their wrongs against others and ask them to remove their names in their own bags.

Once the activity is completed, explain to the children that we say "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" when we pray "Our Father." If we do not forgive the little that people may do to us, how is it that we expect God to forgive all the sin that we commit against God. Although God is merciful and kind, He is also fair and just. As can be seen in the example of the unmerciful servant: it pleases God when we forgive others. Also, explain to the children that we ought to ask forgiveness for our sins, and confess them in the presence of a priest for them to be forgiven. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9). The game is a simple demonstration of the importance of forgiveness.



VIDEO:

[LifeKids: The Unforgiving Servant | Bible Story | LifeKids \(2:32\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who forgives us? (Our Lord Jesus).
- Who helps you to forgive others? (Our Lord Jesus).
- Is it important for us to forgive others? (Yes!)
- Why is it important for us to forgive others? (It is important for us, since God forgives us so much more!)



→ What do we say in “Our Father” that is related to today’s lesson? (Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Today, we saw that Jesus wants us to forgive each other, over and over. Why? Because He does the same for us, always, even when we commit sins over and over. By forgiving one another, we participate in the love of God and the unity of the Church.

This week, let’s challenge ourselves to do the following:

- If someone hurts you this week (e.g. not sharing, mean words, etc.), don’t seek revenge or insult the wrongdoer. Instead, think of this as your opportunity to wash away your own sins, for if you forgive them, Jesus will forgive you too! *This point is provided in further detail in the commentary on the right by St. John Chrysostom on Matthew 18:35.*⁴⁵
- Look for ways to contribute to the unity and body of the Church by being kind to one another.
- Remember that Confession is one of the seven sacraments of our Orthodox church, and it is an important part of our salvation. If we struggle with forgiveness, we can talk to our father of confession about it during confession.

“Let us not then thrust the sword into ourselves by being revengeful. For what grief has he who has grieved you inflicted upon you, like you will work unto yourself by keeping your anger in mind, and drawing upon yourself the sentence from God to condemn you? For if indeed you are watchful, and keepest yourself under control, the evil will come round upon his head, and it will be he that will suffer harm; but if you should continue indignant, and displeased, then yourself wilt undergo the harm not from him, but from yourself.

Say not then that he insulted you, and slandered you, and did unto you ills beyond number; for the more you tell, so much the more do you declare him a benefactor. For he has given you an opportunity to wash away your sins; so that the greater the injuries he has done you, so much more is he become to you a cause of a greater remission of sins.”

- St. John Chrysostom

⁴⁵ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). “Homilies on Matthew.” Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/57eb0db6b0d44ee10cfac4de>



Lesson 3.3 - Love Strengthens Fellowship: Ruth

Building Block 3
Koinonia in Church



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [Dog puppet](#) (optional).

Scripture Reference: Ruth 1-4.

Craft: Balloons, painters tape, small chair; embroidery floss/ribbon/string, assorted beads, and letter beads.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Ruth \(3:37\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn how to support, serve and love their friends, as exemplified by the loyalty of Ruth to Naomi. They will also see that God rewards this faithfulness, such as in His blessing of Ruth by blessing her descendants.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Loyalty, Faithfulness, Love and Fellowship.



MEMORY VERSE:



For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.



Ruth 1:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Today, we are going to hear a story about two women named Ruth and Naomi. Ruth gave up all she had because she loved her older, poor friend Naomi – her mother-in-law.



Tell the children that they will be watching a video about loyalty. Before sharing the video, ask the children if they know what the word loyalty means. Once the children have shared their opinions, tell them that loyalty means staying by someone’s side/loving them no matter what! (Kind of like how a dog always stays by their owner). Another way to explain loyalty is by comparing it to being a really good friend. Do we ever leave our friends? No!

Following the animated video of [Hachiko](#), a dog who was very loyal to his owner, the servant may present the story in an interactive way. Showing the video itself might be too long to convey the purpose of the lesson, so a quick summary should be sufficient. Alternatively, the servant can use a homemade [dog puppet](#) to tell the story of Hachiko to the children!

Ask the children if they are loyal to someone or know anyone who is loyal like Hachiko the dog. Once the children have shared their thoughts, state that they will be learning about a lady who was very loyal to her mother-in-law. Her name was Ruth!



LESSON BODY:

The story begins with Naomi, and her husband, Elimelech living in the land of Moab. Naomi had two sons named Mahlon, and Chilion, and it was in the land of Moab that her sons found wives - Orpah and Ruth.

The servant may consider making a family tree or have pictures to help the children understand the relationships between the different characters in the story.

But, something horrible happened, Naomi’s husband and two sons died. Naomi decided that she would go back to the land of Bethlehem. Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “return to your own mother’s house.” One of her daughters-in-laws left, but the other, named Ruth, clung to her and said, “Where you go, I go.”

You may consider introducing and paraphrasing the interpretation of St. Ambrose on the Book of Ruth on the right.

⁴⁶ *You may wish to emphasize that Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi is an example for all of us to be loyal to our God, our Church, and those we love in our life (family, friends, etc.).*

Naomi and Ruth left Moab and traveled to Bethlehem. It was also the beginning of the barley harvest in Bethlehem.

There was a very rich man who was a relative of Naomi’s husband and his name was Boaz. Ruth went to the fields to gather grain for bread on Boaz’s land.

“Ruth entered the church and was made an Israelite, and [she] deserved to be counted among God’s greatest servants; chosen on account of the kinship of her soul, not of her body. We should emulate her because, just as she deserved this prerogative because of her behavior, [we] may be counted among the favored elect in the church of the Lord. Continuing in our Father’s house, we might, through her example, say to him who, like Paul or any other bishop, [who] calls us to worship God, your people are my people, and your God my God.”

- St. Ambrose

⁴⁶ St. Ambrose. “EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 3.30.3.” Retrieved from Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, p. 177.



Ruth worked hard, all through the day and did not rest very much. Boaz saw her in his field and asked the servant who she was. The servant told Boaz that she is the woman that came back with Naomi.

Boaz went to Ruth and told her to stay in his fields to pick up grain and to stay close to his workers. Boaz explained to Ruth that he told his men to stay away from her and that she could drink from his water. Ruth asked Boaz why he was being so nice to her and Boaz told her that people had told him about all the things she has done to take care of Naomi.

Boaz asked her to eat a meal with him and when they were full, Ruth went back to the fields. Boaz told his servants to leave extra grain in the field on purpose for Ruth to pick up. She worked until evening collecting the grain.

Naomi asked Ruth where she worked that day and Ruth told her about Boaz. Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was a relative and it was a blessing that he noticed her and was protecting her. Ruth kept going every day to the barley fields until the end of the harvest.

Boaz was at the city gate and bought the land that Naomi's husband had sold when they left. He also talked to the elders and his relatives about marrying Ruth. This was the custom in Israel during that time before anyone got married. To confirm a marriage, similar to that of a contract or a promise, one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This is what the people did in Israel. They were witnesses to Boaz wanting to marry Ruth. Today, in our world, instead of taking off our sandal and giving it to the person next to us, we would just sign a contract!

Boaz married Ruth and they had a son they named Obed. Obed would be the father of Jesse and Jesse would be the father of David. Through this family line, Jesus would be born.

"Ruth, a foreigner, did not leave Naomi's side. See how much merit there is in standing by the deserted in solace. From her seed, Christ is born."

- St. Jerome

You may wish to conclude by introducing and paraphrasing the words of St. Jerome on the blessedness of Ruth's life and genealogy in Christ, as described in the quote above.⁴⁷ Consider emphasizing that Ruth's decision to remain loyal to Naomi is praiseworthy because Naomi was of old age and Ruth lived a difficult life of poverty in the beginning of their journey together. See how much God rewards our fellowship and love to one another!

⁴⁷ St. Jerome. "Letter 39.5" Retrieved from Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, p. 177.



Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

“Friends Stick Together” Game⁴⁸:

1. Tell the children that they will be playing a game that will require them to “stick together,” just like how Ruth stuck with Naomi in the story that they learned about earlier!
2. Place a balloon at the start line (created using painter’s tape) on one side of the room and a chair at the other side of the room.
3. Divide the class into pairs. Each team will go one at a time.
4. Tell the children to place the balloon between them. Once the children have placed the balloon between them, state that they have to get the balloon to the other side of the room around the chair and back without using their hands, arms, legs, etc.
5. If the balloon falls on the floor, the team must pick up the balloon and return to the start line.
6. The next team can go once the previous team has returned to the start line without dropping the balloon.

The servant may connect this game to the lesson in that true friends are loyal to one another and will “stick together”; similar to the lesson opener about Hachiko the dog as well as the story of Ruth. To be loyal, one ought to really serve and love the other person.

“Friendship Necklace/Bracelet” Craft⁴⁹:

1. Tell the children that they will be making “Friendship Necklaces/Bracelets” and that once they are done, they will be giving their necklace/bracelet to someone else in the class.
2. First, show the children how to make their necklaces/bracelets by putting beads through the ribbon/string. Show the children a finished product before they start. Early finishers can create another necklace/bracelet if they wish to do so.
3. Once children have finished, tie their necklaces/bracelets so that the beads do not fall off and instruct them to put their necklaces/bracelets in the “Giving” basket so that someone else in the class can receive their necklace/bracelet. The teacher will also place a few necklaces/bracelets in the basket that they have made before the class to give the last few children more options to choose from.
4. Remind children that Ruth gave away all that she had because she was very giving and loving to her Mother-In-Law Naomi! Why? Because she was a great friend (loyal)!

The servant may connect this craft to the children: that friends are giving and loving to one another just like how Ruth was giving and loving to her Mother-In-Law Naomi! These bracelets are an indication of loyalty - through serving and loving the other person.

⁴⁸ Digital by Design. (n.d.). Ruth and Naomi Bible Crafts and Bible Games for Children’s Ministry. Retrieved July 15, 2020 from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-ruth-naomi-friends.html>

⁴⁹ Colorful Beaded Friendship Bracelets for Kids. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2020, from <https://www.projectswithkids.com/beaded-friendship-bracelets-kids/>



VIDEO:

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Ruth \(3:37\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

To review the lesson, divide the children into two teams. The children will work as a team to answer a review question. Then, if they answer it correctly, they get a chance to bounce a ball into one of three plastic cups to get a prize for their team.⁵⁰

- Where was Ruth from? (Moab).
- Who was Ruth's mother-in-law? (Naomi).
- Did Ruth marry Boaz? (Yes).
- Why did Ruth stay with Naomi? (To serve her.)
- Do you know what it means to be loyal? (To be committed to someone, to love them and serve them.)
- How do we know who our real friends are? (Prayer, talk to our parents or father of confession, someone who is looking out for our best interest.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

If you want loyal friends, we must also be loyal friends too. Find good people to look up too and learn from. (E.g. Your parents, your priest, one of the servants in this class). They can teach you how to be a good friend like Ruth.

Ruth chose to stay loyal to Naomi. She left her old life behind and chose to be loyal and to stay close to Naomi. Ruth's loyalty is an example and a challenge for all of us. God wants us to be loyal to Him and loyal to those who love us. When we are loyal and faithful like Ruth, God will reward us and bless our lives, just as He did with Ruth in making her an ancestor of Christ.

⁵⁰ Fun Review Activities and Classroom Games to Do Now. (2020, May 14). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://www.teachhub.com/classroom-activities/2019/10/fun-review-activities-and-classroom-games-to-do-now/>



Lesson 3.4 - Fellowship of Our Mother St. Mary: St. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth

Building Block 3
Koinonia in Church



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Costumes for St. Mary and for the six months pregnant St. Elizabeth, and coloring pages.

Scripture References: Luke 1:39-45

Craft: [Paperdoll template](#), cardstock paper, hole punch, small brads, glue, scissors, markers, pencils, yarn, and buttons etc. to decorate.

Video: [Superbook: Mary Meets Elizabeth \(0:56\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of love that serves others with humility as in the Virgin Mary's example when she visited her cousin Elizabeth.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Humility, Love and Service.



MEMORY VERSE:

“

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

”

Luke 1:46-47

Lesson

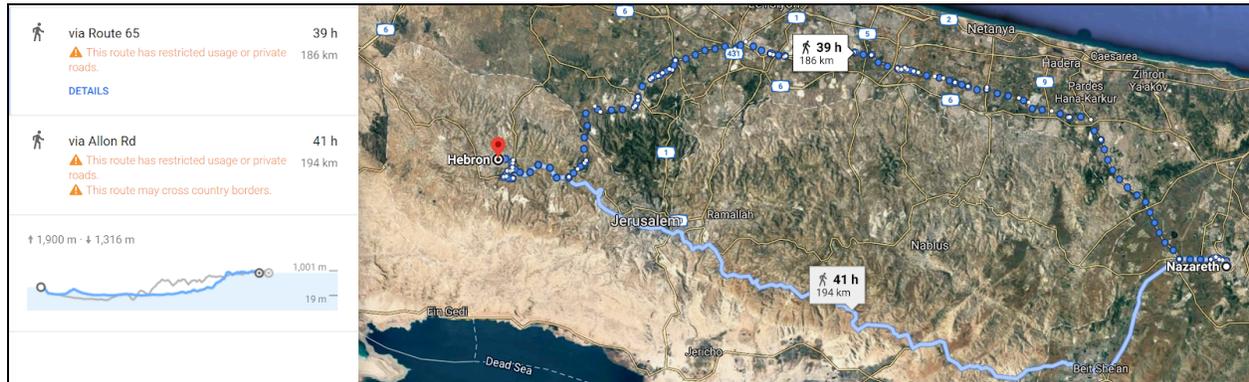


LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Who here has been on a walk before? How long of a walk would you want to go on? Can you imagine going on a walk for almost three whole days? Now imagine if you had to walk to (...)? *The servant may describe a location nearby that the children would know that is around 200 miles away.*

If someone you loved very much was in need of help, and they lived that far away, would you walk all the way there to give them the help they need? That is what the Theotokos St. Mary did for her cousin St. Elizabeth. When she heard that her cousin, St. Elizabeth, was six months pregnant and needed someone to help her out, St. Mary quickly got up and ran to go stay with her. Can anyone guess how long she had to walk to visit her? Almost three whole days of walking!

The servant may show the following image to show the children how far of a journey St. Mary travelled out of her love for St. Elizabeth.



The Archangel Gabriel told St. Mary that her relative St. Elizabeth was already pregnant with a child in her sixth month. Because St. Mary was very loving and caring and knew that St. Elizabeth was an old woman and would need help, St. Mary went quickly to see St. Elizabeth.



LESSON BODY:

After journeying for several days, St Mary finally arrived at the house of St. Elizabeth. When St. Mary entered the house of St. Elizabeth and saw St. Elizabeth, she greeted her. When St. Elizabeth heard the voice of St. Mary, immediately the baby moved in her belly.

St. Elizabeth understood that her baby wanted to tell her something. She understood that the Holy Spirit of God moved her son to tell her that St. Mary was the mother of God. She immediately said to St. Mary *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”* (Luke 1:42) The Holy Spirit filled St. Elizabeth, which allowed her (and St. John the Baptist who was in her womb), to realize that St. Mary was pregnant with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. St. Elizabeth praised St. Mary because God saw her as being so righteous that she would be given the grace and blessing of giving birth to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

St. Elizabeth saw the humility and love of St. Mary, and she said, *“But why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.”* (Luke 1:43)

St. Mary then gave a beautiful prayer to God where she gave God all the glory. She praised Him and was thankful for being considered worthy to be the Mother of God. St. Mary taught us that when someone says something good about us, we should give all the glory to God. She also showed us that we should thank God for everything that He gives us. She also thanked God for always remembering those who seem weak and not important, and for blessing all His people.



The servant may read the full Magnificat of St. Mary if they choose rather than summarizing it for the children. If you do read the full Magnificat, be sure to explain each part as you read through it to make sure the kids understand.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. (St. Mary praised God) For He has regarded the lowly state of His servant; for behold, that's why all generations will call me blessed. (She is humble and doesn't think highly of herself) For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. (Praises God for how good He is) And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. (Praises God for all His mercy) He has shown strength with His arm; (He is strong and powerful) He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (He scatters the bad away) He has put down the strong from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. (Those that think they are the best, God has humbled, and the one who doesn't think highly of themselves, God has shown to others) He has filled the hungry with good things, (Those that seek in Him, find) and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his children forever." (Luke 1:46-55)

St. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, until the end of her pregnancy, serving her with humility then left back to her home.

Consider the interpretation of St. Mary's time with Elizabeth in the commentary by St. Ambrose of Milan on the right.⁵¹ You may wish to mention to the children that out of St. Mary's humble service and time with Elizabeth as a friend, God produced much blessing for Elizabeth's own child, St. John the Baptist.

In this story, we can learn from St. Mary how we should show humility and love to others by serving them. Even though it was a long journey, she went quickly without complaint to St. Elizabeth who needed her help. When St. Elizabeth praised her at the sound of her voice, St. Mary gave all the glory to God.

"Now it was not only for the sake of friendship that she abode so long, but for the increase also of so great a prophet. For if ather first coming the child had so far advanced, that at the salutation of Mary he leaped in the womb, and his mother was filled with the Holy Spirit, how much must we suppose the presence of the Virgin Mary to have added during the experience of so long a time? Rightly then is she represented as having shown kindness to Elisabeth, and preserved the mystical number."

- St. Ambrose of Milan

⁵¹ St. Ambrose of Milan. (AD 397). Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/com/5735df9fec4bd7c9723b9d46>

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Walking Paper Doll Craft⁵²:

The purpose of this craft is to use the walking paper doll symbolizing the journey that St. Mary took to reach St. Elizabeth therefore the children will demonstrate their knowledge of the lesson while also practicing humility.

The servant may prepare by downloading and printing the [template](#) unto cardstock paper before class.

1. Children will cut each part of the template and punch holes in the arms, shoulders, legs and hips (see picture).
2. Each body part should be fastened to another part with brads where the appendages would meet in real life.
3. Children should decorate the doll according to what they look like using yarn, fabric, any other materials available.
4. Then, children must write a list of people who they would walk as far as St. Mary did for St. Elizabeth on the back of the figure.



VIDEO:

[Superbook: Mary Meets Elizabeth \(0:56\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider playing the following 'Sit-down, Stand-up' game with the children to allow them to get their bodies involved. If they believe an answer is true, then they can stand up, if false, then they sit down. The servant may explain each answer to clarify the children's understanding after each turn.

- St. Mary took a plane to visit St. Elizabeth. (False).
- St. Mary travelled a very long distance, which took her several days of walking to visit St. Elizabeth. (True).
- St. Mary wanted to visit St. Elizabeth to relax and enjoy the countryside. (False).
- St. Mary travelled to serve St. Elizabeth and help her. (True).
- St. Elizabeth was only one month pregnant, and she was not close to giving birth. (False).
- St. Mary was also pregnant. (True).

⁵² Liddiard, M. (2020, April 22). DIY Articulated Paper Dolls. Retrieved July 29, 2020 from <https://www.handmadecharlotte.com/diy-articulated-paper-dolls/>



- St. Elizabeth was not happy to see St. Mary. (False).
- When St. Mary spoke, the baby in St. Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy! (True).
- St. Elizabeth called St. Mary the "mother of my Lord". (True).
- St. Mary took all the credit when St. Elizabeth praised her. (False).
- St. Mary was humble and gave God all the glory. (True).
- St. Mary was thankful to God for His mercy and goodness. (True).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Just like St. Mary showed love and humility in travelling to serve St. Elizabeth, we should do the same for others. If someone we know needs help with something, let us go help them. If they need a pencil in school, give them one of your extras. If they drop their pencil case, we can stop what we are doing and help them pick it up, even if it is difficult for us. If our parents need help in the house with chores, let us go quickly help them out before they even ask like St. Mary did.

We can also show humility by giving God all the glory when someone praises us for something good we have done.



Lesson 3.5 - Fellowship in Disagreements: Abraham and Lot

Building Block 3
Koinonia in Church



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: M&M's candy or Skittles if we are fasting.

Scripture References: Genesis 12-14

Craft: One paper plate per child, scissors, paint/coloring markers, glue, and [this printable](#).

Video: [Amber Grohs: Abraham and Lot \(3:31\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be able to tell the story of Abraham and Lot in their own words. Through it, they should learn that disagreements with others does not mean that we stop loving them. We ought to seek to make peace with others.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Peacemaking and Fellowship.



MEMORY VERSE:



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.



Matthew 5:9

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Introduce the lesson by pairing up the children. Tell them to place their hands in the position for what would appear to be an arm wrestle. Tell them that each person will score a point every time the back of their partner's hand touches the table within twenty seconds without ever mentioning the words "arm wrestle". Every point equals one M&M or skittle. Then ask each team how many points each member scored.

Ask the children why they arm wrestled when you never asked them to. Sometimes our default mentality is to engage in conflict and competition rather than to find solutions together. The teams could have simply tapped



each other's hands for the sake of the other team member without losing any of their own points and without wrestling.

Just as Abram laid aside his disagreements with Lot and decided to help him, we do not need to let conflict with others control our actions, even if we might disagree with them. We can be at peace with one another and extend a helping hand for the other just like the Church does with us.



LESSON BODY:

Abram, his wife and Lot decided to travel south to Canaan from Egypt. Now, both Abram and Lot were very rich; they both had lots of livestock, silver, and gold. When Lot and Abram reached their destination, the land was not able to support them because they had too much livestock; there was not enough grass for the animals to graze!

At this point, the servant may consider asking the children what they think happened between Lot and Abram.

It happened that one day, Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen got into an argument with each other. Abram told Lot, "Let there be no anger between my herdsmen and yours, for we are brethren." (Genesis 13:8).

Ask the children how they think Lot reacted to this? Was he angry with Abram and fought with him? No! Abram stopped the conflict before it could spread into a larger fight, calling Lot and his servants his brethren. Likewise, we should stop conflict early and consider all those around us like our family, as explained by the commentary on this passage by St. Ambrose of Milan provided on the right.⁵³

Abram told Lot to look at all the land and space there was for him to live. Abram said to Lot, "Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." (Genesis 13:9).

Comment to the children that since the land was not large enough, the decision they made to separate may have been the only feasible alternative that did not harm either of the families.

"Holy Abraham enjoyed the presence of his nephew, to whom he showed fatherly affection. A conflict occurred between the servants of the nephew and those of the uncle. As a truly wise man Abraham was aware that disagreements among servants often break the peace among their masters. He broke the thread of discord so that the contagion might not spread. He thought it preferable that the two separate than that good harmony among them be broken. This is what you should do whenever you find yourself in a similar situation, to forestall a hotbed of discord. In fact, you are not stronger than Abraham. He thought it best to withdraw from the servants' disputes, not to treat them with contempt. And if you are strong enough, take care lest someone weaker than you gives ear to the whisperings of the servants. It often happens that by their undivided service they sow discord among relatives. Better it is to separate from each other so that friendship might remain. When two cannot live together in a house with common property, is it not better graciously to withdraw than to live together in discord?"

- St. Ambrose of Milan

⁵³ St. Ambrose of Milan. (AD 397). "On Abraham." Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5838d64c205c248f42e51a03>

Then, Lot looked up and saw all of the plains of the Jordan and saw that they were very bountiful. So, Lot chose all the plain of the Jordan and traveled east, and he and Abram separated. Now, Abram lived in Canaan and Lot lived in the cities on the plains.

From Abram, we are able to learn how we should react when we have an issue with a friend or sibling. Abram did not fight and argue with Lot; he allowed Lot to choose where he wanted to live, and said he would take what was left. Because there were issues and disagreements between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock, separating and choosing different land made peace within the households. We should learn to behave the same way as Abram did because Jesus Himself said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Peacemaker Craft⁵⁴:

1. Prior to class, print [this printable](#) for each child.
2. Help the children cut out and color the stick figures.
3. Allow the children to paint the plate yellow (To symbolize peacemaking).
4. Ask the children to glue the stick figures and the "B" as shown in the picture. Explain to the children that we are all equal and friendly when we treat each other the same.



Abram and Lot tableau:

1. The children will create a quick tableau of Abram and Lot, as they are peacemaking between the strife of their herdsmen. A tableau is a frozen acting scene (take a look at the image).
2. Have some children be the herdsmen (some Abram's and some Lot's).
3. Have two children representing Abram and Lot as well.
4. Some of the other children can act as different animals.
5. Have the people acting as Abram and Lot, looking far on the land, and choosing between lands. They can also be acting as peacemakers. Allow the children to show forth their creativity.



⁵⁴ Spell, M. (2010, May 12). Blessed are the Peacemakers: Craft. Retrieved July 31, 2020, from <https://spelloutloud.com/blessed-are-peacemakers-craft.html>



VIDEO:

[Amber Grohs: Abraham and Lot \(3:31\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

To review this lesson, prepare a game of jeopardy. This fun game can be done using the Smartboard, PowerPoint, or just on the blackboard. Use images and read-alouds to limit the amount of reading necessary for the children to participate. You can find downloadable Jeopardy formats on the internet, or create your own. To begin, create questions and answers worth a specific amount of points. Divide the children into two teams and have each team choose a number. Their goal is to answer the question that is attached to the number they chose.⁵⁵ The following are some sample questions.

- Why did Lot and Abram decide that it is best for them to separate? (Their herdsmen got in a fight because of the land).
- How did Abram choose his land? (He did not! He asked Lot to choose which land he wants and Abram would take the other.)
- Where did Lot live after the split? (Cities on the plain.)
- What is our memory verse? (*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*" (Matthew 5:9))
- What important action did we learn from today's lesson? (Peacemaking).
- How did this story talk about peacemaking? (There were issues between the herdsmen, so, when they separated, the solution was aimed at peacemaking.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

If we disagree with someone on something does that mean that we stop being their friend? (No.)

Abram was a peacemaker by letting Lot choose which land he would prefer to live in. This story teaches us that if we ever disagree with someone, we need to make sure that we do not upset them in any way because we want to be peacemakers. If we find ourselves in a conflict, we should try to stop it early like Abram did

⁵⁵ Fun Review Activities and Classroom Games to Do Now. (2020, May 14). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://www.teachhub.com/classroom-activities/2019/10/fun-review-activities-and-classroom-games-to-do-now/>



(recall the commentary above from St. Ambrose of Milan). Similarly, if we cannot make peace, we should peacefully separate ourselves to calm down and find a better solution for all.

Next time your sibling/friend wants to play with your favorite toy, offer it to them! It pleases God when we do not fight with one another. We should strive this week to make sure that we do not upset anyone. Be considerate of others - seek to lift others up, and care for their needs.

To be peacemakers, we should watch our actions in the fellowship activities we have. Whether that may be in hymns classes, or Bible study, or mahragan, or the church choir, art, play, or sports teams, we should be mindful of keeping the peace with the people around us, so that we bring the light of our Lord Jesus Christ to them and keep peace.



Lesson 3.6 - Indication of Fellowship: The Spirit of Sonship

Building Block 3
Koinonia in Church



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A small plant (or if possible go outdoors and show a tree), a dead branch, markers, and chart paper or a whiteboard.

Scripture References: Romans 8:12-17, John 5:1-8

Craft: Colored construction paper, large chart paper, markers, glue stick, video tutorials (see below).

Video: [LifeKids: The Fruit of the Spirit | Bible Story | LifeKids \(2:36\)](#)

Song: [Fruit of the Spirit Children's Song](#) and/or some of verses of the [morning doxology](#).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding that we produce fruit by abiding in Christ.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Commitment and Fellowship.



MEMORY VERSE:



For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.



Romans 8:14

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

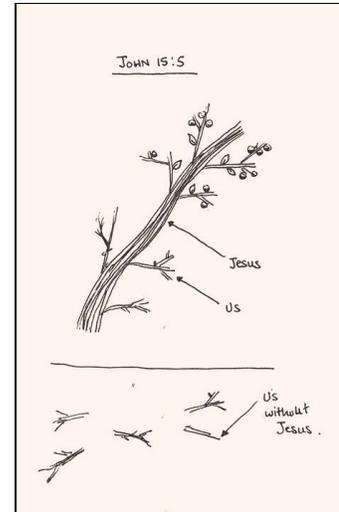
Bring a small plant to class and show it to the children. Likewise, show the children a dead branch. Comment on how without the tree, the branch is dead. Tell the children that we are similar to these branches. Consider leaving this plant on the side to give as a prize, as a reward for good class behavior and/or engagement.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may engage the children in the following discussion:

When you think of “fruit,” what comes to mind? Let the kids share what comes to mind. If and when someone says, ‘tree,’ tell the children to think about the image of a tree that is bearing fruit for now. Keep that picture in your head: there is a big tree with a very strong trunk and all kinds of branches and nice, juicy, sweet fruit hanging off all the branches. The servant may draw this picture on the board.



Now, remember our lesson (2.2) on Jesus telling us that He is the vine and we are the branches? (John 15:5). So, we are the branches of the tree, and our Lord Jesus is the vine. The servant may label the branches of your tree with the children and servants’ names, to have a similar look to that of the image shown.⁵⁶

Today, we are going to focus on the fruit. If Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches...what is the fruit? Allow the children to guess.

The fruits are: love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are called ‘virtues’ or ‘fruit’ of the Holy Spirit. The servant may label on the drawing.

“For as believers we do not merely live in the Spirit; we are led by Him as well. To live in the Spirit means to live with God. For the Holy Spirit to live in us, we have to be close to God. The Spirit is meant to have the same power over us as a pilot has over his ship or a charioteer over his horses.”

- St. John Chrysostom

The fruits of the Spirit are the characteristics we express and feel inside when we are connected to our Lord Jesus Christ and when we have His Holy Spirit within us and flowing through us, just like the sap flows through a tree.

What happens when a branch is broken off of a tree? Is the fruit that was on the branch going to survive? No – the branch can not live on its own. The branch will not be able to get water so it certainly cannot sustain fruit. The same thing happens to us when we are not connected to Christ: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness, self-control – start to die in us.

You may want to bring to the childrens’ attention St. John Chrysostom’s quote above to emphasize that we must be led by the Holy Spirit, just as a pilot leads a ship or a charioteer his horses.⁵⁷

“We have been enriched with God’s Spirit, for his Spirit has come to dwell in our hearts, and we have taken our place among the children of God.”

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

The Spirit of God dwells in us and guides us. Just like a pilot over the ship, or charioteer, or even like the GPS system in our cars, He guides us to bear fruit and to please

⁵⁶ Be-The-Change. (2012, July 25). Be-the-change. Retrieved July 29, 2020, from https://be-the-change.tumblr.com/post/27931286837?utm_content=bufferbc1be

⁵⁷ St. John Chrysostom. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://ukmidcopts.org/resources/contemplations/504-2/>

God. So, when we abide (or more simply to live with) in God, He abides in us, so that we can become more receptive to our Guide - the Holy Spirit, Who directs us. He warns us before we go off the right path, He tells us when we need to make a U-turn, or when we may need to reroute. Remember, we need this guide to get us to Heaven!

Finally, the servant may connect this idea of the Holy Spirit being our guide so that we bear fruit to the idea of fellowship through the Spirit of sonship, as illustrated by the quote above by St. Cyril of Alexandria.⁵⁸ Through the Holy Spirit, we have ‘taken our place among the children of God,’ and so, we have fellowship with one another as members of the living Body of Christ.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Children of God⁵⁹:

1. Get a large sheet of paper that can be hung on the wall and write in the center: “Children of God”
2. Give each child a piece of colored construction paper (the color they choose).
3. Play [this video](#). If there is no screen in the class, please watch the tutorial prior so that you can teach the children.
4. Ask the children to write their name on the fish.
5. Take the large paper with “Children of God” on it and let all the children color the sheet blue with blue coloring crayons (blue like the ocean).
6. Use a glue stick or tape to stick all the fish origami on the big sheet, without covering the “Children of God” in the center.
7. Hang it on the wall to remind the children that we are all children of God and that God loves all of us.
8. If the video cannot be played or is hard to understand, feel free to cut out fish from paper or print the image below instead. The children can also draw the fish if they wish, then cut it out, color it, and print their name on it.
 - a. The link for the fish drawing is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daEkHGbltHU>. The drawing portion is from minute 1:20 until 4:00.
9. Tell the children that by being children of God, we can attain the fruits of the spirit through the power we gain from God.



VIDEO:

[LifeKids: The Fruit of the Spirit | Bible Story | LifeKids \(2:36\)](#)

⁵⁸ St. Cyril of Alexandria. (n.d.). “Letters 1.35.” Retrieved from Ancient Christian Commentaries on Scripture: Romans, p. 218.

⁵⁹ Maniacs, O. (1970, January 01). Easy Origami Fish for Little Kids. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <http://origamimaniacs.blogspot.com/2011/12/easy-origami-fish-for-little-kids.html>



SONG:

[Fruit of the Spirit Children's Song](#)

The servant may also guide the children to sing the following verses of the [morning doxology](#): If you do choose to sing this doxology, make sure to explain to them what they are singing.

O true Light, that gives light, to every man, that comes into the world.
You came into the world, through Your love for man, and all the creation, rejoiced at Your coming.
You have saved Adam, from seduction, and delivered Eve, from the pangs of death.
You gave unto us, **the Spirit of sonship**, we praise and bless You, with Your angels.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Divide children into two teams. The two teams have to compete to see which team can answer the question correctly. The first team to hit the buzzer gets to answer the question. If they get it right their team gets a point.

- What part of the diagram is Christ? (The vine).
- What part of the tree are we? (The branches).
- Can the branches live without the vine? (No).
- What happens to the fruit that we bear when we are not connected to Christ? (They start to die).
- What is the memory verse? (*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God"* (Romans 8:14).)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Understanding that we have to abide in Christ to bear fruit. Abiding in Christ takes commitment. Commitment to praying, reading the Bible, coming to Church and Sunday School, and to fellowships in the Church. We can also learn how important it is to have communion continuously, since this is the true Body and precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. What better way to abide in Him? Other ways that we can abide in Christ and bear fruit is to seek to live according to the commandments - to love one another and to honor our parents, for example. These fruits are gifts from God that we should develop and use to show our love for Him and the members of our Church community.



Lesson 3.7 - Fruit of the Spirit: The Holy Spirit Grants us Self-Control

Building Block 3
Koinonia in Church



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: Jenga sets (enough for the class to be broken into groups of three), scissors, glue, green and white card stock paper, fruit templates and visuals obtained from [this site](#), and pencil crayons/markers.

Video: [PursueGOD Video: KIDS - Self-Control \(2:52\)](#)

Song: [Steve Green - Topic: The Fruits of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22 - 25 \(1:59\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will develop an understanding of how to obtain self-control and will learn the importance of it in our Christian lives.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Self-Control



MEMORY VERSE:

“

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.

”

Proverbs 25:28

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

We have learned that Christ is the Head of the Church and we are the body. We have also learned that He is the Vine and we are the branches. We are all members of His body and we are also all His children. Because we are the children of God, our Heavenly Father has sent us the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. This is how much God loves us and has made us His own – that the Spirit now dwells within us and will never leave us.



During our lives, the Holy Spirit gives us nine very beautiful gifts called the fruit of the Spirit. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Today, we will focus on self-control.

Ask the children which one of them knows what the fruit of the spirit are and what self-control is? Ask them "are they actual fruit you eat?" Wait for an answer and say "yes, of course not! what does it mean then?" Then say what the fruit of the spirit actually are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control).

Remind the children that it is only by being connected with Christ that we get the fruit of the Spirit. Among other things, attending liturgy and taking communion are ways we stay connected with Christ.



LESSON BODY:

The servant may pose the following questions to the children: Have you ever wanted something so much that you had a tantrum when you were told you could not have it? What is self-control? Who needs to be self-controlled? Why do we need to be self-controlled? When are you most tempted to lose self-control? How do we train ourselves to acquire self-control?

Self-control is saying "no" to behavior that does not please God and worldly wants (allowing things to be so important to you that they contribute to sinful behavior). It's saying no even when you want to REALLY say yes. Or saying no to something you really really want.

Explain that self-control is not easy. It takes time and wise choices. The Bible indicates that everyone is to have self-control. It means thinking before you act and thinking before you speak. *The servant may give an example of self-control. Possible examples could include: speaking kind words towards someone you may not like, not complaining, using your time wisely, not hitting someone or getting in fights, fasting etc. Have the children brainstorm examples of self-control also. Share Proverbs 25:28 with the children (using the visual.) Ask the following questions: What would happen to a city if its walls were broken down? (It would be easily attacked by enemies.) What if we don't have self-control? What happens to us? (We become weak. Sin destroys us little by little.)*

When we choose to have the Holy Spirit live inside of us, God helps us to maintain self-control. Self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23).

Here is an example of someone with great self-control: St. John the Short!

Anger can easily get out of control. Has anybody seen anything (on TV for example) where someone's anger got out of control? *The servant should allow the children to share what they saw and point out how damaging anger is. Then tell them the following story.*

There was a very holy monk named Abba John the Short and one day he was sitting in front of the church. The other monks were coming to ask him for spiritual advice. One older monk was watching all the monks go to Abba John the Short and became very jealous, and said to him, "John, you are full of poison."

But now look at what Abba John responded with, in humility and gentleness, "That is very true, abba; and you have said that when you only see the outside of me; imagine if you were able to see the inside of me,

too!” He did not try to defend himself; he did not get angry at all. He was someone who prayed a lot and was filled with peace within himself and was not even moved towards anger.

The servant should emphasize that we need to attach ourselves to God and then we will be filled. It is when we are filled with the Spirit of God that we will be able to fulfill what God wants from us.

Do you know a good way to practice self-control? The Church teaches us that fasting helps us learn self-control. Self-control of our thoughts, words and desires! Just saying no to the ice cream you want during any fasting period will help you learn self-control.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Jenga⁶⁰: As the children play, remind them to have self-control every time they remove a block from the tower. The more cautious and careful they are, the more likely they are to win. Not only is this a really fun and an interactive way to practice self-control, but the entire game becomes a metaphor for self-control in life. Take your time, stop and think, breathe, and carefully move forward.



Fruit of the Spirit⁶¹:

1. Prior prep, to do before class: Print and cut out the fruits and the “fruit of the spirit” lettering. Cut half of the green construction paper vertically (to create two long rectangles) and cut up one half to look like grass.
2. Arrange and glue all these previous steps together to make a crown layout so all the children have to do is color
3. Form the crown onto their heads

The end results should look like this:



⁶⁰ Jenga. (2020, April 06). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jenga>

⁶¹ Fun, S. (1970, January 01). VBS - Fruit of the Spirit Crafts. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <http://sundayschoolfun.blogspot.com/2015/07/vbs-fruit-of-spirit-crafts.html>



The fruit templates and visuals can be obtained from [this site](#).



VIDEO:

[PursueGOD Video: KIDS - Self-Control \(2:52\)](#)



SONG:

[Steve Green - Topic: The Fruits of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22 - 25 \(1:59\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review some examples of people who lacked self-control in the Bible with a Guess Who Game.

- Who lacked self-control by eating a piece of fruit, even though God had commanded against it? (Eve).
- Who lacked self-control by giving into peer pressure and ate a piece of fruit also? (Adam).
- Who lacked self-control by complaining in the wilderness to Moses? (The Israelites).
- Who lacked self-control by spending all of his money on wild living? (The Prodigal son).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- Although it may at times be hard to have self-control, we ought to learn to think before we speak, and before we act. Especially in tough situations, where one may be inclined to fight back or get angry, let us train ourselves to take a deep breath, say a quick prayer and ask God to give us the strength to please Him - to act in self-control.
- Remember that it is not a weakness to hold still and not fight back, it is the opposite. If we are angry, holding back from screaming is actually the powerful act, since not everyone can do it.
- In all things, let us seek the help of the Holy Spirit in us - ask in prayer that God may help us resist sin and to have self-control.
- Let's all try to fast during the major fasting periods in the Church. If you want to start fasting for the first time and need help, talk to your father of confession!



Lesson 3.8 - Conduct in God's House

Building Block 3
Koinonia in Church



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: White/black board and something to write with.

Craft: Any Bible story or Agpeya prayer that can be read.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn the importance of respecting the presence of God in the liturgical prayers, by showing reverence and not distracting our neighbors.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Reverence and Respect.



MEMORY VERSE:



For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.



Isaiah 56:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

The servant may begin the lesson by creating a discussion with the children about how they would act if they were in the presence of a king or a world leader such as the President. The servant should aim to get the children to realize that when we are in the presence of someone of great importance and power, we act with reverence (reverence is a deep form of respect) and respect.

Consider creating a pros and cons list of things you would and would not do in the presence of a King or someone of great importance. You may use a white/black board or chart paper to do this.

Imagine that the President walked in right now or that we were standing in front of the Pope. How would we act? Would we turn around and speak to our friends or try and distract them? Of course not! Would we sit on



our phones and play games? No! We would stand there and give them our undivided attention because we know that they are very important people.

Using the discussion created, the servant should aim to show that if we have reverence for earthly leaders, how much more should we revere the King of kings.



LESSON BODY:

Whenever we are in the Liturgy, we are with God, His saints and His angels. He is present before us in all His glory.

Consider trying to emphasize that during the liturgy, we are in the presence of the Pantocrator, the Lord of Hosts. Consider the following quote by Bishop Mettaous in his book "How to Benefit from the Holy Liturgy":

"In our Coptic Church, the Holy Mass, in her essence of group prayer and worship, is the house of God and the door of Heaven, the house of angels and the congregation of the saints. During the Holy Mass, angels and archangels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim, together with all the heavenly hosts are present and are surrounding the Altar with great glory."

Everyone close your eyes and I want you to imagine what I'm about to describe to you. In every liturgy you are standing amongst the angels, the archangels, and all the saints. You are standing amongst St. Mark and Pope Kyrillos, St. George and St. Mina, and even St. Mary. That's not all. The Cherubim and the Seraphim too!! Even the doors of Heaven are open. Now, on top of all of these blessings, God Himself is present.

By establishing this concept with the children, it will naturally lead them to show reverence and awe during the liturgical prayers. The servant may narrate the following story of Pope Kyrillos VI, and how he was extremely reverent in the church, knowing and understanding the holiness of the place. Pope Kyrillos never smiled nor talked during liturgy because of how serious he took liturgy. It was never a joke to him because he knew how holy it was.

One of Pope Kyrillos' closest deacons, a professor named Hanna Youssef, remembers attending Vespers at St. Menas' Monastery. During the doxologies, Pope Kyrillos stood silently in the church, as he was used to. Suddenly, he smiled widely and laughed. Hanna was in shock, he remembers. He said, "For knowing him for so many years, I knew how strict he was on himself and others inside the church." After the service, Hanna asked him for the reason of the patriarch laughing, but the patriarch did not want to respond. Finally, being pressed, Kyrillos told him, but on the condition that he would not tell anyone until his death. Pope Kyrillos said, "When I entered the sanctuary, I was deeply troubled by an issue related to the Copts. Suddenly, St. Menas appeared to me and asked why I was distressed. When I explained the reason, he responded, "Do you think you are alone? We are all here supporting you." Then, he lightly pushed me, and so I laughed."

Consider asking the following question to the children:

→ Do you think a saint like Pope Kyrillos is an exception or an example? The example! (Emphasize that we are all called to be saints, and that saints should be examples for us: we should learn from and imitate (copy) them in their actions. Just like Pope Kyrillos VI was extremely reverent in the church, we can learn from him.)

Whenever we are in Church, we are praying together. The most important thing then is to support each other when we pray in Church. When we are in Church, we must be careful not to make noise so that our friends and family can focus during prayer. If we distract them, we are not respecting them. Why are we not respecting them? We are not respecting them because we do not allow them to pray and come closer to God. This includes not being on our phone. When we are focused in liturgy, it helps our friends and the people standing next to us to also focus.

Also, when we are busy talking or making noise, we are not praying to God for our friends and family! In the Liturgy we pray for everyone, and we should focus as much as possible. So when we are all quiet and not talking or moving around in church, we are respecting God, His saints, and each other.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Uh Oh, distraction: As an activity, demonstrate to the children how distracting it can be for them if they are trying to pray and someone is making noise. Get one of the children to read something in front of the class, a simple text. While the child is reading the text, have the rest of the children try and distract the reader with noise or movement or you may use one volunteer (perhaps one of the other servants) that can make noise by closing and opening the door. Everyone will be distracted.

Perhaps, start another exercise with them. Get them to write a couple of sentences describing how their day went. While they are writing their sentences continue interrupting them and see how long it takes them to write the sentence.

This is what we do to each other when we are distracting in Church.

Rhythm Master, Conterate:

1. Instruct the children to sit in a circle.
2. Choose one of the children to step out of the room for a minute.
3. While the one child is outside, the servant should choose a “rhythm master.”
 - a. This rhythm master has to set a rhythm by clapping, or snapping, or tapping on their shoulders or tapping in different beats on their legs.
 - b. Once the rhythm master is chosen and everyone inside the room is aware of them, the child who was outside can now be brought back into the class.
4. Everyone else in the class has to follow the command of the rhythm master. Once the master changes the rhythm, everyone in the class has to quickly follow the new rhythm.
5. The child who was once outside has two/three guesses to find out who the rhythm master is.





The servant should then connect this game to the lesson: just like we focused on the rhythm master here, in the game, we ought to focus on God during the liturgical prayers.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What is the most important thing we want for our friends? (To become closer to God.)
- How can we respect others in Church? (By keeping silent and allowing them to pray to God.)
- Whenever we are in Church who are we in the presence of? (God, the saints and all the angels.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Next time we are in Church we will keep quiet and try to avoid moving around too much. If we feel distracted, we can focus on the icons and think about the different saints who are around us. We will also not get on our phones or our parents' phones. We should try to pray to God by singing the hymns and reciting the prayers aloud as much as we can. We can also try to involve more of our senses, by having the books in our hands and following with them.



Building Block 4: The Church: A Mother and Teacher

Lesson 4.IS - SPECIAL: Understanding the Icon of the Theotokos

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Copies of the coloring page of the Theotokos icon, crayons, and stickers of different colored stars.

Craft: Small Theotokos icons (printed or purchased), popsicle sticks, hot glue gun, glue stocks, plastic jewels, string, and any other decorative craft materials.

Song: [Christian Youth Channel: Oh Mary, Mother of God - Hymn \(4:57\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about celebrating the Feast of St. Mary by learning about her icon.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Humility



MEMORY VERSE:

“

...The angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!'

”

Luke 1:28

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The servant may want to introduce the lesson by asking the children some of the following opening questions using the icon picture⁶² provided (or any other):

⁶² St. Mary's Feast Schedule. (2019, August 14). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <http://word.stmary-ottawa.org/st-marys-feast-schedule>

- Do you remember how the angel appeared to St. Mary to announce the birth of Jesus?
- How did Mary react when Gabriel greeted her? (She was troubled at the greeting.)
- Why was Mary chosen to be the mother of Jesus? (She found favor with God. See Luke 1:28) (God was pleased when Mary surrendered to His Will and became obedient to Him.)
- What other characteristics do you think St. Mary may have had which was pleasing to God? (The kids may come up with a list.)
- How about you? In what ways can you be pleasing to God, your parents, or your friends? (Being humble, obeying, being patient, following God's commandments etc.)
- Will others see you as a good person with these characteristics? (Allow for discussion)
- Why do you think we celebrate St. Mary's feast/fast? (To honor her and ask for her intercessions.)



LESSON BODY:

Consider doing the activity as part of the lesson, use the following steps:

1. Print out multiple copies of the [coloring page](#)⁶³ of the Theotokos icon.
2. Distribute gold, blue, and purple colors (crayons): give each child three stars of a different color.
3. Explain the icon itself, then follow by the colors and the stars

Ask the following questions while doing the activity, allowing the children to answer, provide an explanation when the children have answered:⁶⁴

- What does the word "Theotokos" mean? (The Mother of God.)
- What is the icon? (The icon has 3 purposes)
 - Educational - it teaches something (i.e. it answers the question 'why' to the things on the icon)
 - Liturgical - it plays a role in the liturgy
 - Spiritual - the one who prays with the icons obtains a connection with the saint because icons are "windows into heaven."
- Where would we find the icon of St. Mary in Our Church? (On the left-hand side when facing the altar. Jesus sits at the left hand of St. Mary. He is the King, and she is the Queen, always at His right.)
- St. Mary is pointing to baby Jesus, Why? (Because she wants us to listen to whatever He says; she is also presenting Him to us.)
- Why is Christ's hand pointed to heaven? (Because He is leading us to His Father.)

"I have been amazed that some are utterly in doubt as to whether or not the holy Virgin is able to be called the Mother of God. For if our Lord Jesus Christ is God, How should the holy Virgin who bore Him not be the Mother of God?"

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

⁶³ Orthodox Christian Icon Coloring Book. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.scribd.com/doc/14024263/Orthodox-Christian-Icon-Coloring-Book>

⁶⁴ St. Cyril of Alexandria. (AD 427). Retrieved from <https://pintpipeandcross.wordpress.com/the-early-church-fathers-on-mary-the-mother-of-god/#:~:text=%E2%80%9C9CWe%20confess%2C%20then%2C%20our,humanity%2C%20one%20and%20the%20same>

- Why do we paint her robe blue? (Because she became the Second Heaven when Jesus was in her womb.)
- Why do we paint His robe in red/purple? (Because Jesus died on the Cross to save us (it is the color of blood)).
- Why do we place three stars on her? (Because she was a virgin before, during, and after Christ's birth. She is the Ever-Virgin Theotokos.) (Consider explaining the word "virgin" as "pure." St. Mary kept her purity before, during, and after Christ's birth.)
- Why is there a halo around their heads? (Because they have the divine light. Christ is the source, and St. Mary is filled with it. Halos and the rest of the icon are gold to reflect divinity and heavenly realm.)



5. Have the children color in their coloring page.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Theotokos Frames Craft⁶⁵:

1. Print out little pictures of Theotokos icons.
2. The children will be creating frames for the Theotokos icon pictures using popsicle sticks, glue, glitter glue and any other arts and crafts the servants can provide.
3. Each child will need eight popsicle sticks that they will glue together to make the frame. There will need two popsicle sticks for each side, two on the top and two on the bottom. After the children finish their frames you will glue the picture of the Theotokos icon in the middle.



SONG:

[Christian Youth Channel: Oh Mary, Mother of God - Hymn \(4:57\)](#)

⁶⁵ Holy Icon crafts. (2020, March 08). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from

<https://orthodoxpebbles.com/orthodox-basics/holy-icon-crafts/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Briefly go over each section of the icon (covered above) with the children to refresh and review what they have learned from the lesson. Emphasize the importance of St. Mary the Theotokos by asking and explaining the following question:

- What can we learn from St. Mary? (Humility)
 - St. Mary showed great humility because she was the one that God picked to bear Jesus Christ. God could have picked anyone to carry Jesus Christ, but he picked St. Mary. Even though St. Mary knew that God had picked her, she did not brag and tell everyone; she remained humble, and we should learn to do the same.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- How can we be more humble like the Theotokos this week? (By not being too proud of anything we can do perfectly.)
- So the next time you get a good grade on your test, will you go tell those who did do well on the test that you are better than them? (No! I need to stay humble.)
- How can we honor the Theotokos' icon when we come into church? (By respecting it and kissing it.)



Lesson 4.2 - The Teaching of the Law of Christ : Overview of the Beatitudes

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A Bible for each child, pieces of paper with situations the children might have to face, an icon of the Sermon on the Mount, and a visualized representation of the Beatitudes (see example below).

Scripture References: Matthew 5:1-12

Craft: Scissors, colored construction paper, glue sticks, paper plates, markers, and pencils.

Activity: [Worksheet](#), and pencils.

Video: [Crossroads Kids’ Club: Sermon on the Mount \(4:34\)](#)

Song: [Brentwood Benson: Beatitudes \(Lyric Video\) \(3:12\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be introduced to the Sermon on the Mount. The children will begin to understand that following Jesus’ teaching changes our hearts for good.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Obedience, Love and Faithfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:

“
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
”
Matthew 5:3

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Have each child come to the front of the class, one at a time, and take a slip of paper on which you have written a difficult situation they might have to face.

The servant may consider using the following situations as examples:

- *Your brother or sister criticizes you.*
- *Someone is mean to you at school.*
- *Other children make fun of you because you refused to lie.*
- *Others make fun of you because you do not use bad words.*

Have each child explain how they might react to the situation. Let the other class members add their ideas.

Today, we are going to discuss some of Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount that will help you all know what to do and/or how to react in these difficult situations. These teachings help us become more like Jesus because they tell us how He wants us to live.

Consider showing the children an icon of the Sermon of the Mount at this point.



LESSON BODY:

Today we are going to talk about an introduction to the Sermon on the Mount in which Our Lord Jesus gave us some rules to follow.

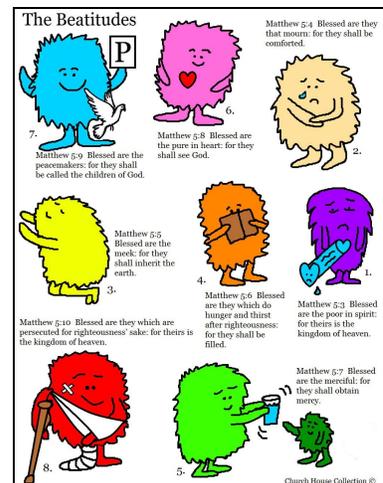
The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most beloved, well known, and frequently quoted portions of the Bible. It is considered by some to be the greatest sermon of all time.

One day during Jesus' life, more and more people came together to hear Him speak. The group grew into a large crowd. The fact that so many people were drawn to Jesus shows their need and their want to know Jesus. Jesus recognized their needs and spoke to their hearts.

He went up the side of a mountain, sat down, and started teaching.

Read Matthew 5 with the children. Provide each child with a Bible (or printed passage of the Sermon on the Mount) so that they may follow along. Emphasize the following points:

- **The Beatitudes:** Explain that the teachings in Matthew 5:3–11 are often called the Beatitudes. How can the Beatitudes help us become more like Jesus?
- **Loving your enemies:** What should we do if there is a problem between us and someone else? (Matthew 5:23–24) How should we treat our enemies or those who do not like us? (Matthew 5:43–47)⁶⁶
- **Becoming perfect:** How can we become perfect? (Matthew 5:48)



⁶⁶ N.A., N. (1970, January 01). The Beatitudes Cards. Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://churchhousecollection.blogspot.com/2013/04/the-beatitudes-cards.html>



As you read the passage with the children, consider pausing with each Beatitude and visualizing/summarizing these new concepts. You may wish to create a summary visual of the Beatitudes similar to the image on the right.⁶⁷

The Sermon on the Mount focuses on the changes that must happen inside our hearts; and when those changes do happen in our hearts, how we demonstrate these qualities as followers of Jesus.

“How foolish, therefore, are those who seek God with these outward eyes, since he is seen with the heart!”

- St. Augustine of Hippo

Jesus’ teaching was this: Our actions alone are not enough to save us. It is what is inside our hearts that matters to God. It is these changes in the heart that cause us to act in certain ways and not in others. But remember: our actions alone are not enough and our heart alone is not enough. You need both. It may seem hard to have both, but when God is in your heart, and starts to change your heart, your actions will then reflect Him and will show other people who you believe in and follow.

Consider pausing here and providing the children with appropriate Christian responses to the scenarios discussed in the opening activity.

Remember that we can all act more kindly and more friendly to others. True change comes from within when we take Jesus’ words to heart and let His love shine through us.

We know that the people really wanted to hear what Jesus said. They knew He had something important for them to hear. What do you think would have happened if they just listened to the words He said, but didn’t do anything with what they learned...what do you think would happen?

Allow kids to think about this and discuss their thoughts.

Do you think you learn anything just by hearing something? If I plant a seed in the ground, what will it need to grow? It needs sunlight and water! The same is true with our hearts. God can plant a seed in our hearts and help us grow, but we have to do our part. As the seed needs the sunlight, we need our own light in our lives--like Church and Sunday School. And as the seed needs water, we need our own water in our lives--like prayer and reading the Bible.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Beatitude Hands⁶⁸:

1. Have the children trace their hand on all eight half-sheets and cut them out.
2. On the plate, write “BLESSED ARE...” in the center. Consider preparing these plates prior to the class to save time.

⁶⁷ St. Augustine of Hippo. (AD 430). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/57eb0f15b0d44ee10cfac727>

⁶⁸ Sermon on the Mount "Blessed Are" Wreath. (2013, February 05). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.christianitycove.com/beatitudes-church-craft-wreath/3516/>

3. On the board or a sheet of poster paper, write out the Beatitudes so the children can copy them on the hands.
 - a. ...the poor in spirit
 - b. ...they who mourn
 - c. ...the meek
 - d. ...they who hunger and thirst for righteousness
 - e. ...the merciful
 - f. ...the pure of heart
 - g. ...the peacemakers
 - h. ...they who are persecuted for righteousness



4. Glue the hands facing outward to the paper plate, starting at the ridges or rim, so that the fingers dangle outward over the rim. To have them evenly spaced, first glue one at the top, one at bottom and then one on each side. Fill in the other four evenly in between.

Living the Golden Rule⁶⁹: Hand the worksheet out to the class and give them ten minutes to complete

1. How to solve the worksheet
 - a. Under each line is a symbol and on the side of the sheet there is a letter that goes with each symbol.
 - b. Use the key to match each symbol with its letter to make a sentence.
2. After, go through the worksheet and share the answers and ask the children if they know any other characters in the Bible that followed the golden rule.

[Answer key](#)

BibleWise Living the Golden Rule

Use the code below to reveal how each Bible character lived the Golden Rule (Matt 7:12).

 Joseph	G A M P O T S T H E S C B	KEY A ⊖ N ⊕ B ⊖ O ⊕ C ⊖ P ⊕ D ⊖ Q ⊕ E ⊖ R ⊕ F ⊖ S ⊕ G ⊖ T ⊕ H ⊖ U ⊕ I ⊖ V ⊕ J ⊖ W ⊕ K ⊖ X ⊕ L ⊖ Y ⊕ M ⊖ Z ⊕
 Ruth	S H T C B C E S M G T	
 Good Samaritan	S H T C B C E S M G T	
 David	S H T C B C E S M G T	

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VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: Sermon on the Mount \(4:34\)](#)

Questions:

- What was the message given by Jesus about? (God's Kingdom and love.)
- What are some examples of who will be blessed by God and why? (Those who are poor for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, those who are sad for they shall be comforted, or those who are humble for they shall inherit the earth.)
- What did Jesus do after He came down from the mountain? (Helped/healed everyone He met.)

⁶⁹ Living the Golden Rule. (n.d.). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.biblewise.com/kids/fun/living-the-golden-rule.php>



→ Is our actions alone enough? (No our heart and actions need to both be there.)



SONG:

[Brentwood Benson: Beatitudes \(Lyric Video\) \(3:12\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

To review the lesson, considering asking the children the following questions:

- What does “Poor in spirit” mean? (Jesus wants us to be humble, not prideful or arrogant. Jesus doesn't want us to be braggers.)
- Who are “The meek”? (Someone that puts others before themselves.)
- If you have mercy, what are some things you show to others? (Compassion, kindness, and forgiveness)
- How can we be “Peacemakers”? (Make sure that we are not angry at anyone.)
- Who do we see in our church being “Persecuted for righteousness”? (Saints.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Let's think of actions that would let others know that our hearts have been changed for good because we're following Jesus.

With the children, brainstorm actions that might show others that they're following Jesus. Keep the direction of ideas realistic, guiding the conversation to ideas that kids actually might do. For example:

- Letting a sibling go first when playing a game.
- Thanking a parent for making dinner.
- Feeding a pet when asked.
- Helping wash dishes without being asked, and so on.
- Not talking to our friends during liturgy.



Lesson 4.3- The Idea of Sunday School: Archdeacon Habib Girgis

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: Poster paper, markers, pencil crayons, crayons, and tape.

Video: [SAC TV: About Habib Girgis SACPress \(3:19\)](#) *The servant may want to refer to this video for his/her own benefit before the lesson.*



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children should begin to understand that Sunday school was created for their benefit and is there because the Church wants them to be ready to live in the world as sons and daughters of Christ.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Persistence



MEMORY VERSE:



Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.



I Corinthians 15:58

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The servant may want to introduce the lesson by asking the children some questions about Sunday school.

→ *If there was no Sunday School, what would you do? (Let the children share their ideas with their peers.)*

→ *What do you think Sunday school was like 50 years ago? (If the children have no ideas, prompt them with some questions).*



→ *What do we do in Sunday School? (You may want to share your experience when you were young about the Sunday School you attended and perhaps the impact the servants had on you.)*

We learn about God through nice lessons, fun activities, crafts and songs. We meet good friends and learn about our Church.

Do you know how Sunday School started in Egypt? Well, today we are going to find out!



LESSON BODY:

Sunday School officially started with Habib Girgis. Habib Girgis was born in Cairo in 1876. His father died when he was still a child, but his mother raised him to know God and the Church. He joined the Copts Secondary School (think of this like a Christian school) and he was the first child picked to enroll in the seminary when it was re-established. He was appointed as a religion teacher while he was a child in his final year. He was the highest-ranking graduate of the seminary's first graduating class.

Habib Girgis became the first professor of theology and homiletics (preaching and writing sermons) in the seminary. He did not find anyone to teach him, so he became devoted to the seminary's library; he read, studied, searched, and summarized everything he learned. He also received mentorship from Hegemon Philotheos Ibrahim who was by then a very old man who was really sick. At the time, the seminary had no specialization in teaching religious subjects. So, Habib Girgis taught all the subjects until other individuals of that generation came who could teach the specific religious subjects.

At age 22, he established the seminary and later, he was appointed dean of the seminary.

At age 24, St. Habib Girgis started the Sunday school movement for religious education of the young in their own communities. He wanted every child to have Sunday School the way we have it now! Professor Habib Girgis established Sunday Schools (in the 1900s) and designed its curriculum. The seminary and Sunday school became one educational entity/unit under his leadership.

He stayed alone as the only teacher for a long time. It took him 40 years to get 400 teachers to work in Sunday School.

The Sunday school movement faced many obstacles, but Habib Girgis did not lose hope. Habibi Girgis placed all his trust in God, and because of his devotion, persistence, and his companions, the Sunday school movement prevailed.

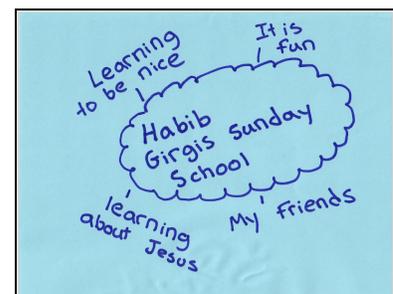
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Habib Girgis Poster:

1. Get poster paper that can be put on the wall and write Habib Girgis Sunday School as the title.





2. As the children come up, grab a marker, and write or draw why they come to Sunday School.
3. Hang the poster on the wall so that the children always remember the importance of Sunday School.

Early Teachers Activity:

1. Put the children in groups.
2. Each person in the group should think of one thing that makes a great Sunday School teacher.
3. Allow the children to share with the class what each of them thought a good teacher needs.
4. The children can also make a word design of a good trait for a teacher instead. For example: Patience. They would take the word "Patience" and children could draw what patience looks like.



VIDEO:

[SAC TV: About Habib Girgis SACPress \(3:19\)](#) *The servant may want to refer to this video for his/her own benefit before the lesson.*

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who knows why we go to Sunday school? (To learn more about God.)
- Who started Sunday School? (Habib Girgis.)
- Why did he study all the books in the library? (To learn about God and to grow in his relationship with God so that he could start the Sunday School curriculum.)
- When you come to church and Sunday School, we also study a book. What book do we study? (The Bible.)
- The Bible is even more important than our school books because it tells us about God and Jesus. It tells us about how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit love us. It tells us what kind of people God wants us to be and the kinds of things that He wants us to do.

At this point the servant may want to share some pictures of Habib Girgis and discuss the importance of Sunday School.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:



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

- Regularly come to Sunday school and seek to learn.
- Even when we get older and busier, we must remember to always come to Sunday school to learn more about our Church and God.
- As Habib Girgis made it a point to read and study the books about God, we should also read our Bible to get to know God.
- Like Habib Girgis, we must never give up even when we have many obstacles in front of us. With the guidance of God we can do anything as long as we stay persistent. None of our work we do for Christ, will go in vain/unnoticed by God.

Lesson 4.4 - Pope Anianus: Second Pope of Alexandria

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Synaxarion Reference: [Hator 20](#)

Craft: [Coloring page](#), markers, pencil crayons, paper cards (one per child), string (one per child), glitter and/or stickers, pencils.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will be introduced to Pope Anianus' story. They will learn from his life how to stay a devoted child of God no matter what obstacles you face.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Steadfastness



MEMORY VERSE:



And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.



Acts 2:42

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Can you name a Pope? What do you know about him? What do you think is the most interesting thing about his life? Does anyone know who the first Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church is?

Invite the children to share their existing knowledge. Remind them that St. Mark is considered the first Pope of our Church.

Today, we will be learning about the second Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church, St. Anianus.



LESSON BODY:

St. Anianus was the first convert of St. Mark the Evangelist when he came to Alexandria in 48 A.D.

This saint was the son of parents who did not believe in the Lord, and he was a cobbler (shoe maker). When St. Mark entered the city of Alexandria, it happened by God's divine will that he tripped and tore his sandal. He gave it to Anianus, the cobbler, to repair. While Anianus was working on the shoe, the awl (sharp tool) went through to the other side of the sandal and injured his finger. He screamed in pain, saying "O, the Only God." When St. Mark heard him mention the Name of the Lord, he glorified the Lord Christ. Then he took some dust from the ground, spat on it and applied it to the finger of St. Anianus who was healed immediately.

Anianus was exceedingly amazed. He took St. Mark to his house, asked him about his name, his belief, and where he came from. The apostle began to tell him about the books of the prophets concerning the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the mystery of His incarnation, His death and resurrection and the performing of miracles in His Holy Name.

Anianus' mind was illuminated and he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and all the people of his house believed with him. They were all baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and God's divine grace was poured upon them. They continued to listen to the teachings of the Apostle Mark, who taught them the doctrine of the church, its ordinances, and its laws.

When St. Mark decided to go to Pentapolis, he laid his hand on Anianus and ordained him patriarch over the city of Alexandria. In the year 64 A.D., St. Anianus continued preaching and baptizing people in secret, helping and strengthening their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (It may be helpful to explain to the kids why St. Anianus was preaching and baptizing the people in secret. Provide the context of this time period.) He turned his house into a church. It is said that it is the one known as the church of St. Mark the Martyr, where the church of St. Mark in Alexandria now stands.

He departed in 86 A.D. and his departure is celebrated on Hator 20.

Pope Anianus' story teaches us to be steadfast (firm in our faith), just as he was.

Consider pausing here and defining the word 'steadfast' with the children, both in the context of the saint's life and their own.

Even when the whole country was against learning about Jesus, Pope Anianus was steadfast in his faith and, eventually, his home became the first church in Egypt. This church still stands today as the church of St. Mark in Alexandria.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

St. Mark Coloring Page:

1. Prior to class print a [coloring page](#) for each child.



2. Allow the children to color the coloring page, while reviewing the story of Pope Anianus.

Answers From an Expert Activity: This activity will prompt the children to ask and express questions about their faith so that they can be steadfast in their faith.

1. Ask the children to write at least one or two questions they have about Christianity and the Coptic Orthodox Faith. They can write them on a card and use stickers and glitter to decorate the card.
2. Give each child a piece of string to tape one end to the back of the card. The other end can be taped to their personal bed or desk or fridge or anywhere at home.
3. See if the priest can come in the class for 10 minutes to answer questions the children have about Christianity, the Church, the faith etc. If not, the servant can answer questions directly.
4. Invite the children to write the answers to their questions on the back of the cards as they receive them.
5. Allow the children to take the finished product home (or display them on the classroom wall) as a reminder that they can and should seek out answers for their questions, just as St. Anianus asked St. Mark questions out of steadfastness in his faith.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Review the lesson by having the children sit in a circle. Begin by asking general review questions, such as:

- Who was the saint who first told St. Anianus about the Church (St. Mark)
- How did St. Anianus and St. Mark first meet? (St. Mark's sandal strap ripped and St. Anianus fixed it.)

Following these general review questions, allow each child to take a turn, one by one, and identify one thing they learned from the story of St. Anianus and how this can guide and inspire them to grow in their relationship with God.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Remind the children of the meaning of the word 'steadfast' and brainstorm some practical ways that they can be steadfast this week (e.g. pray and read the Bible even when it's hard).



Just as Pope Anianus was interested to learn about the Church and asked St. Mark about his belief and faith, we should also be interested to learn more about our Church and ask questions when we do not understand something.

Encourage the children that anytime they have a question about the Church to ask their parents, Abouna, or Sunday school servants right away. These are people that can support them in their steadfastness.

Lastly, don't forget to thank God for St. Anianus each time you pray and each time you enter the Church! We thank God for St. Anianus because St. Anianus opened the first Church for us.



Lesson 4.5 - Equality in the Church: St. Macrina, the Younger

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Craft: Printer, [St. Macrina the Younger picture](#), paper, glue, candle in a jar, and scissors.

Activity: Sound system (speaker, phone, tablet).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop the understanding that our Church is a true Mother to all.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Respect.



MEMORY VERSE:



There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



Galatians 3:28

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Split the children into two groups, with one having more girls than boys and another with more boys than girls. Tell them that only one group will be able to answer questions and/or speak throughout the lesson while the other one will stay quiet. This group will be determined by a game of rock, paper, scissors where one representative from each group will attempt to win privileges and a chance to interact in the lesson for their entire group.

At this point, the servant may want to wait for a few seconds to see the childrens' reactions. The servant may want to ask the following question.



“How does the non-winning team feel? And the winning team?”

Explain to the children that this game is meant to show them that it does not feel good to be on the non-winning side. Tell them that in the church, we do not discriminate based on race, gender, or status. God loves us all equally, so we should love others equally as well. Now let’s hear a story about a saint that God loved very much.



LESSON BODY:

St. Gregory, the bishop of Nyssa and St. Basil, who wrote our liturgy, had a sister named St. Macrina.

St. Macrina was born in Cappadocia in the beginning of the fourth century. One day, their mother Emilia, saw an angel in a dream who told Emilia to name her unborn child Thekla, in honor of the martyr St. Thekla. Emilia fulfilled the will of God and named her daughter Thekla. She was called by the name Macrina, in honor of a grandmother.

Besides St. Gregory and St. Basil, she had seven other siblings. Her saintly mother, Emilia, guided the upbringing and education of her elder daughter, Macrina. She taught her the readings and writings of the Holy Scriptures and the Psalms of David, selecting examples from the sacred books which spoke of a spiritual and God-pleasing life. Saint Emilia taught her daughter to pray and to attend church services. Macrina was also taught how to properly take care of a big house and various handicrafts. She was never left idle and did not participate in childish games.

When Macrina grew up, her parents married her to a Christian man, but he died. Many young men wanted to marry her, but Macrina refused them all, having chosen the life of purity. Saint Macrina lived in the home of her parents. She helped them fulfill the household tasks as an overseer together with the servants and helped with the upbringing of her younger brothers and sisters. After the death of her father, she became the chief supporter of the family.

When all of her siblings grew up and left their home, Macrina convinced her mother, Emilia, to leave the world, to set their servants free, and to settle in a women’s monastery. Several of their servants followed their example. Having taken monastic vows (*the servant may want to explain what type of vows nuns and/or monks take*), they lived together as one family, they prayed together, they worked together, they possessed everything in common, and in this manner of life, they were all the same.

After the death of her mother, Macrina guided the sisters of the monastery. She enjoyed the deep respect of all who knew her. Macrina was very strict in everything she did. She slept on boards and had no possessions.

At this point, the servant may take a moment to ask the children why “strictness” is an important trait to learn. Ask them why they think St. Macrina was strict.

St. Macrina was granted the gift of doing miracles. There was an instance when she healed a girl of an eye-affliction. Through the prayers of St. Macrina, there was no shortage of wheat at her monastery during the times of famine.

Saint Macrina, The Younger, died in the year 380, after a final prayer of thanks to the Lord for having received His blessings over all the course of her life. She asked the Lord to send an angel to guide her to the place of rest. This was heard and written by St. Gregory of Nyssa, her brother.

The Church is full of saints of different races, ages, gender and status. In your own Church, you have people coming from Egypt and people who grew up here. You might have people from different backgrounds. They are all members of the Church and part of the body of Christ.

St. Macrina asked her mother to free her servants and treated them as her brothers and sisters. You too can treat everyone in the church with respect and love as our Church teaches us.

For more on St. Macrina, [click here](#).

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Musical Diversity Game⁷⁰:

Children can quickly zero in on the differences between themselves and others, resulting in a sense of shame or pride, depending on how they view their own traits. A game of musical diversity can get them thinking more about their similarities.

Play some music and allow the children to wander or dance around freely. When the music stops, they have 30 to 60 seconds to grab a partner and find one thing that they have in common.

Candle Jar Craft:

1. Print out any of these pictures below⁷¹
2. Cut out the picture to have no white borders
3. Glue the picture to the outside of the candle jar



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

⁷⁰ By, W., Hooser, T., & About the Author Tamara Christine has written more than 900 articles for a variety of clients since 2010. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in applied linguistics and an elementary teaching license. Additionally, (1970, October 31). Activities for Children About Equality. Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://howtoadult.com/activities-for-children-about-equality-9649123.html>

⁷¹ Beecham, F. (2018, July 19). Today, the Church remembers St. Macrina, the Younger. Retrieved July 29, 2020, from https://medium.com/@Troy_Beecham_Episcopal/today-the-church-remembers-st-macrina-the-younger-a5d9fe191af4



Questions:

- Name some members of the family of St Macrina. (St. Basil the writer of the liturgy we pray, St. Gregory of Nicea, St. Emilia, her mother.)
- How was St. Macrina brought up? (She was taught to read and write the scriptures, run a house and was not left to idleness.)
- What did St Macrina suggest to her mother after all her siblings left the house? (To free the slaves and for both to become nuns.)
- What was St. Macrina's prayer at her departure? And who heard it? (She thanked God for all His gifts and asked Him to send an angel to guide her to the place of rest. Heard and written by St. Gregory of Nyssa, her brother.)
- What do we learn from St. Macrina's life? (We are called to be saints no matter how old we are, or whatever background we come from. We kiss each other in the liturgy to express our love towards one another.)
- In the church, can I choose certain people to be my group of friends and refuse others? (No, because our Lord gave us the "New Commandment" to love one another as He loved us.)
- What values did you learn from the life of St. Macrina?



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- So from today's story about St. Macrina, we learned that all people are equal in God's eyes. We are all made in God's image. Next time you see someone that looks or talks differently than you or has different things than you do, remember to always be kind to them because we are all the same in God's eyes.
- We must treat all people in the same way that St. Macrina treated the servants in her house.
- What do you think we can do when we see people who are different from you? (Be kind, be their friend, etc.)
- If you have a classmate that is very different from others and seems lonely, what should you do? (Be their friend, invite them to eat with you, pray with them, etc.)



Lesson 4.6 - Fighting for our Church: St. Mina

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Synaxarion Reference: [Hator 15](#)

Activity: Garbage bag and gloves for the children.

Video: [Rafik Bekhit: St. Mina Miracle \(coptic orthodox\) for kids \(3:10\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will be introduced to the story of St. Mina. The children will begin to understand what it means to devote themselves to the Lord.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Sacrifice



MEMORY VERSE:



But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.



Hebrews 13:16

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider asking the children the following questions before beginning the lesson:

1. Who here knows what sacrifice means? (Sacrifice means giving up something you want for the benefit of someone else. For example, sacrificing a day with your friends to help your mom clean the house.)
2. Who is someone who sacrificed something for you. Why did he/she do that? (Family, friends etc. because they love you.)
3. What did you sacrifice for someone whom you loved? (Let the children share their experiences with their peers.)
4. Who made the biggest sacrifice for all of us? (Jesus died for our sins.)



5. What simple things can we sacrifice for Jesus? (Read the Bible or pray instead of playing, give up certain foods for the fast, etc.)



LESSON BODY:

St. Mina was born in Egypt, in the city of Niceous, to good Christian parents. His mother could not have any children so she used to pray in front of St. Mary's icon, asking to be blessed with a child. Once, while she was praying, she heard an "Amen." Thus, when she finally had a son, she named him Mina.

Consider asking the children if they have ever asked a saint to pray on their behalf. It is good to ask for a saint to intercede on our behalf when we need God's help.

St. Mina's father held an important position in the Roman Empire. When his dad died Mina was fourteen years old. St. Mina then joined the army and was given a very high position due to his father's importance.

Strongly desiring to serve God rather than his country, he resigned from the army after three short years and devoted his entire life to the Lord Jesus Christ. St. Mina became a hermit, leaving everything to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. While being a hermit, he saw visions of heavenly angels crowning martyrs with beautiful and glorious crowns. One day as St. Mina was contemplating his visions; he heard a voice say, "Blessed are you, Abba Mina, because you have been called for the pious life from your childhood. You shall be granted three crowns; one for your celibacy, the second for your asceticism, and the third because you will be martyred."

Consider defining these words to the children:

→ *Celibacy: Not getting married.*

→ *Asceticism: Giving up things you desire or want for God.*

→ *Martyr: Dying for Christ*

Following this, St. Mina was overwhelmed by a great desire to live in Heaven. In true faith and with devotion in his heart, he went to the Roman ruler declaring that he was a Christian. St. Mina was severely tortured with endless sufferings. His suffering attracted many pagans (non-believers), not only to Christianity, but to martyrdom as well.

The saint's torturers tried to burn his young body for three days after they cut his head off, but the fire had no effect upon it. After receiving his body, some Christian believers placed it upon the back of a camel and set out for the Western Desert. While on this journey, the camel suddenly stopped at a certain spot in the desert and would not move. Since the camel would not move, the people knew that St. Mina should be buried in this particular area. His present monastery marks this spot today at the end of the Lake of Marriot, close to the city of Alexandria.

Several years after his burial, shepherds were tending their sheep at this location and a very sick little lamb fell to the ground. The shepherds were astonished/shocked that the sickly little lamb was completely healed after falling on this particular spot and raised itself. The story quickly spread throughout the countryside and many sick people came to the spot where the small lamb was cured. Simply lying on this spot cured many.



The daughter of King Zinnon, a Christian king of good repute, became very ill. His counsel suggested that she visit this spot famed for its healings. When the daughter visited the spot, St. Mina appeared to her in a dream and told her that his body was laid to rest there. In the morning she bathed in the lake and was healed. After she was healed, she told her father about the dream she had with St. Mina.

Immediately, the King ordered that the body of St. Mina be dug up and a church be built at this place bearing his name. Sick people worldwide came to visit the city founded around the church and were healed through the intercessions of St. Mina, the Miracle Performer.

Clay bottles were filled in this city for the many pilgrims who came seeking the blessings of St. Mina. The bottles were filled with water or oil and taken back by the pilgrims to relatives and friends for blessings. These bottles have been discovered in numerous countries around the world bearing the name and picture of St. Mina.

During St. Mina's short life, he was blessed with converting many to Christianity through his great and unwavering faith, which helped him endure cruel persecutions. Following his death, people were restored to wholeness through his undying faith and prayers.

Did you know that until today our beloved Church follows this practice of prayer for the sick? The Orthodox Church has a special prayer of healing which can be prayed at any given time. The priest prays for the sick person, anointing them with Holy Oil.

There is a lot to learn from St. Mina. First, we should learn how to sacrifice the things we love for God because we love God more than anything on this earth. Remember, St. Mina sacrificed the world because of his love for God. Second, we should learn from St. Mina's great faith. He never doubted or commanded God. Just like the Miracle Performer's great faith, we should pray, neither commanding God to heal nor doubting his ability to heal, but seeking His promised mercy upon all those suffering with sickness and disease.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Cleaning the Church Activity:

Saint Mina gave up his life through martyrdom for the Church, so we also must learn how to take action and sacrifice for our Church and for Christ who died for our sins.

1. Walk around the church with the children and let them pick up garbage they find around the church. They will not sweep or mop, just pick up visible things.
2. Make sure that they wear gloves before cleaning the church.
3. The teacher should hold a big garbage bag for the children to throw what they pick up in it.
4. Use extra servants or parents to supervise the children while going around the church.
5. Tell the children that doing something for Jesus can be as simple as taking care of His Church and keeping it clean.



VIDEO:



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How old was St. Mina when his dad passed away? (Fourteen.)
- What prayer did we get from St. Mina healing the sick? (Prayer of the sick.)
- What dream did King Zinnon's daughter have? (St. Mina appeared and told her that his body was laid at the place where the lamb was healed.)
- How long was St. Mina in the army before he devoted his life to God? (Three years.)
- What are ways that we can sacrifice for God? (cleaning the church, giving more time for God, praying for others, helping those in need, fasting, paying attention in liturgy etc.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- How can his example guide and inspire you to grow in your relationship with God? (We can sacrifice our desires for God and to help others.)
- If you want to go play with your friend, but you have not read your Bible for that day what should you do? (Read my Bible before I go to play. Jesus is the most important person in my life!)
- What can you sacrifice to spend more time with God? (Sacrificing sleep to go to church early, sacrificing play time with my favorite toys and/or video games to read my Bible, complete my Bible studies, learn hymns, watch a movie about a saint , etc.)



Lesson 4.7 - Defending Your People: Deborah & Barak, the Son of Abinoam

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Judges chapters 4-5

Craft: [Tree trunk and leaves template](#) (cut out 1 tree trunk and 3 copies of the leaves), markers, pencil crayons, and tape/glue.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Deborah \(Younger Kid Version\)](#)

Song: [CJ and Friends: Every Move I Make | Dance-A-Long with Lyrics | Kids Worship](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn the story of Deborah and what it means to lead others to God. They will also learn more about what it means to be courageous.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Courage and Leadership.



MEMORY VERSE:



...I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you...



Isaiah 41:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST)

Ask the children if they know what a 'judge' does and discuss. Do the same for the word 'courage'.

Let's play a game about courage. Each of you will be the judge of whether or not a scenario is courageous! Have the children stand up.

Are you courageous?:



1. Prior to class, put 2 sheets of paper on opposite walls of the classroom, one with “Courageous” on it and the other “Not Courageous.”
2. Prompt them to get up so you can introduce the activity.
3. Explain to the children that you will tell them different scenarios and that each one of them is responsible to judge if the person in the scenario is courageous or not, then they need to walk over to the wall that they think is correct.
 - a. Examples of scenarios:
 - i. George was really scared of the big water slide that was in the pool that his family goes to. He was always terrified of this water slide until his younger sister begged him to go with her on it. Even though Jack was scared, he went on the slide anyways just for his sister, was he courageous or not?
 - ii. Marina does not like mushrooms on pizza! Her mom really wants her to try mushrooms, but she has always hated mushrooms. One day, her mom really wanted her to come and eat the pizza that she spent her whole afternoon making. Her mom told her that she put mushrooms in the pizza, and when Amanda heard that, she jumped out of her chair and ran to her room crying and saying “You know I HATE mushrooms!”
 - iii. Henry is sitting at lunch at school and sees that his friends are making fun of another boy named Abel. Henry gets up and goes to his friends and tells them that it is not right to make fun of people. Then Henry gets up, leaves his friends, and goes to sit with Abel.
 - iv. Megan is at recess with her friends. Before the soccer game starts, her friends tell Lilly: “You can’t play with us, we don’t like you.” Megan stays quiet and doesn’t say anything.
4. Encourage the children to tell you why they chose that wall before moving on to the next scenario.



LESSON BODY:

In today’s lesson, we will learn about a prophetess who was a very important and courageous judge of Israel; her name is Deborah.

Consider asking the children if they know what a prophetess is. (A person who is seen as an inspired teacher of the will of God.)

Deborah was a very wise woman and judged the children of Israel as she sat under a palm tree. At that time, the children of Israel were greatly oppressed (not treated well) for twenty years by the king of Canaan. One day, Deborah called for the leader of the Israelite army, Barak. She told him that the Lord commanded him to take 10,000 men to war against the king of Canaan’s army. Deborah told Barak that the Lord was with him and that God had promised to deliver the leader of the king’s army, Sisera, into the hands of the Israelites. However, Barak said that he would only go to battle if Deborah went with him. Deborah was hesitant to go with him because she was worried that people might say that the Israelites only won because a prophetess was with them. Barak insisted, and together he and Deborah gathered 10,000 men and went to Mount Tabor where they would meet the Canaanite army.

The servant may consider pausing here and asking the children what they think will happen next. Consider asking the children: How did Deborah and Barak know when they should go to war against the King of Canaan’s army?

At the right time, God had revealed to Deborah when to begin the war. Deborah told Barak and they went to war on the day God had instructed them. So the Israelites fought, God was with them, and they won the battle. Sisera fled from his chariot and ran to escape death. He came to the house of a woman named Jael and hid there. She gave him a blanket for him to rest because he was very tired from battle. Sisera asked Jael

to give him water because he was thirsty, but instead she gave him milk. As Sisera was going to sleep, he told Jael to stand guard at the front of the tent and that if anyone asked if she had a man in her tent, she should say no. Then Sisera went into a very deep sleep, and while he was sleeping, Jael killed him. Barak, looking for Sisera, came to Jael's tent and she told him to come and see Sisera. When Barak saw that Sisera was dead, the children of Israel rejoiced.

The children of Israel were saved because of Deborah's great wisdom. She was a wise and courageous woman who loved the Lord and was guided by Him. She led her people to victory through her relationship with God. From Deborah, we can learn that if we have a strong relationship with God, He not only gives us courage, but we can also lead others to have a better relationship with God.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Deborah's Tree Craft⁷²:

1. Use [this template](#)⁷³ for the children to color the tree trunk, Deborah, and the leaves for the tree.
2. Help the children cut out and roll up the template in the shape of a tree trunk and leaves and glue/tape everything together.



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Deborah \(Younger Kid Version\)](#) *Note: The video suggests that Deborah did not go with Barak. Clarify to the children that Deborah did go with Barak to fight the army.

Questions:

- How many years were the Israelites struggling to try to rescue themselves before they cried out to God? (20 years).
- What did Deborah tell Barak about God when he was scared to go into battle? (That God is marching in front of them.)
- What was the lady's name that Sisera ran to when his army died? (Jael).



SONG:

[CJ and Friends: Every Move I Make | Dance-A-Long with Lyrics | Kids Worship](#)

⁷² Duvall, R. (2010, May 11). Deborah a Judge of Israel. Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <http://handsonbibleteacher.blogspot.com/2010/05/deborah-judge-of-israel.html>

⁷³ BibleOrphanMinistry. (2014, October 11). A Template for Deborah. Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <http://bibleorphanministry.blogspot.com/2014/10/a-template-for-deborah.html>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who is Deborah? (A judge and prophetess.)
- What does prophetess mean? (A person who is seen as an inspired teacher of the will of God.)
- How many people did Deborah tell Barak to take with him? (Ten thousand).
- What was special about Deborah? (She had a very strong relationship with God; she was a prophetess.)
- Why did the Israelites win the war? (Because God guided them through Deborah.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

Deborah was a wise and courageous woman who loved God and was guided by Him. She guided her people to victory through her relationship with God and her prophecies. Similarly, if we have a strong relationship with God, we can lead others to a better life and a better relationship with God.

Be courageous like Deborah who was not afraid and went to war with Barak. This does not mean that we should go to war and fight with others, but when you are in a situation that requires you to be courageous, remember that God will always help you be courageous when you're doing the right thing! Your courage is a gift from God that we should use, just as Deborah did.

What are some ways that you can be courageous this week?

- If someone is being mean to us/bullying us, you can stand up to them; politely ask them to leave you alone.
- Be brave in your unique identity in Christ (e.g. be confident when you choose not to lie, swear, steal, etc., even if those around you are all doing it.)
- Be strong and ask your servants, priests, parents and teachers for help when you don't understand something. They will help you to be courageous.
- Start with small steps - for example, try things you do not usually like: putting mushrooms on pizza or going on the really big slide. This will encourage us to take the big courageous steps for God as we grow.



Lesson 4.8 - Ambassadors of Christ: St. Peter & Cornelius

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: The Holy Bible.

Scripture References: Acts 10: 1-48.

Craft: Plain printer paper, pencils, markers, scissors, and crayons.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, children should be able to tell the story of Peter and his vision. Children should begin to understand the importance of baptism.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Acceptance



MEMORY VERSE:



But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.



Acts 10:35

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Start introducing the lesson by playing the following game with the children:

The Sorting Game: To introduce the children to the ideas that will be discussed, play a round of the Sorting Game.

“Jesus told his friends to tell everyone about him. But some of Jesus’ friends thought he meant to only tell certain people, like the Jews. So for a while, they only told the Jews about Jesus. They sorted people kind of like the way we divide food we eat between the good-tasting and the bad-tasting food.”



Let's play a game to see what this was like. Have the group stand in a circle. Call out the following categories (feel free to adapt them to your group). After you read a category, have the children who meet the criteria come and stand in the center of the circle. Then have the children return to their places in the circle before you read the next category.

For example:

- all children wearing red
- all children with green eyes
- all children wearing tennis shoes
- all children with freckles
- all children with black hair
- all children who have brothers
- all children who have sisters
- all children who go to school
- all children who enjoy playing at the park

Today's story is about St. Peter and Cornelius and how God showed St. Peter that he should not treat others differently just because they believe something different from him.



LESSON BODY:

Today we are learning about Cornelius. This story is found in Acts 10:1-48. Cornelius lived in Caesarea and was a centurion, which means he was a captain of 100 men in the Italian army. He was faithful and feared God; he gladly gave gifts to the poor and he prayed a lot.⁷⁴

One day, an angel of God came to Cornelius. He was scared when he saw the angel! The angel told him that God had heard his prayers. The angel told him to *"Send for Simon Peter, and he will tell you what to do."* The angel left and Cornelius told two servants and a soldier to go to Joppa to get Simon Peter.

"Observe by whom the beginning of the Gentiles is made - with a devout man, and one proved to be worthy by his works."

- St. John Chrysostom

The next day, Peter went to the housetop to pray. He was very hungry and fell into a trance. He saw the heavens open up and something like a huge sheet tied by its four corners came to earth. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. *Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."*

"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

While he was thinking about what just happened, the three men sent by Cornelius asked if Peter was there. Peter went down and told them that he was the Peter they were looking for. After they explained why Cornelius sent them, Peter invited them into his house.

⁷⁴ St. John chrysoston. (AD 407). Retrived from <https://catenabile.com/com/58cf03f5dec071662b7b92af>

Peter got up in the morning and prepared to travel with Cornelius' men. Peter took six Jewish believers along with him on this journey.

When they went into the house, all the people that Cornelius had invited were there to greet Peter. Cornelius fell to the floor and worshiped Peter. Peter told him to get up because he is a normal man like Cornelius

God sent Peter to teach Cornelius and his family. Peter told them that God does not show favoritism; everyone is treated the same in every nation. He told them about Jesus and how He died. He said that we are commanded to preach to all people so all can go to Heaven.

During this time, it's important to know that Peter and Cornelius would not normally be seen together because it was unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with someone from another country.

But, when the people that were at the house of Cornelius heard what Peter had to say, they believed. The last verse in Acts 10:48 says that Peter told them to be baptized in the name of the Lord and then the people that were at Cornelius' house asked Peter to stay for a few days with them.

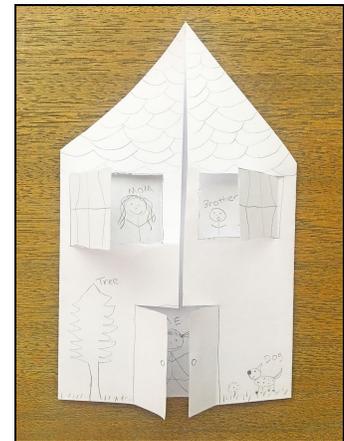
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Cornelius' House⁷⁵: *The visuals for the craft can be found [here](#) or in references.

1. Start by folding a piece of 8.5 x 11" printer paper in half. Unfold, then fold in each end to the center line as shown below.
2. With the two pieces folded to the center, take scissors and cut the roof of the house by trimming off two small triangles off each side.
3. On the front of the house add windows and a door. Use scissors to cut the door and windows so they fold open. Have the kids draw in pencil first so they can erase if need be. We added small half circles to the roof, window coverings, grass, dog and tree to the front of the house.
4. Unfold the paper house and have the kids use markers and/or crayon to color in their pictures they drew! Instead of mom, brother, and family members, the kids can draw in Peter and Cornelius.



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who was the God-fearing, generous centurion in this story? (Cornelius.)

⁷⁵ Krantz, S., & 55 Easy Activities for 5 Year Olds - HAPPY TODDLER PLAYTIME says:. (2019, January 18). Paper House Craft. Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://thecraftingchicks.com/paper-house-craft/>



- What did Peter say in response to the dream about eating unclean animals? (I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.)
- How many times did God give Peter the same vision? (Three times.)
- Who was looking for Peter? (Cornelius.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- As we close, let's think about what this lesson means to us. Do we see others as God does? (He doesn't look at people the same way as we do. He doesn't like people or not like them based on their skin color, size or where they live.)

It's important to make sure that the children also understand that accepting everyone the way God accepts us does not mean we are okay with having friends who do wrong things. Consider providing an example of this.

- God sees the heart of every man, woman, boy and girl. We are all made by Him and are all made in His image. Therefore, we should be accepting of everyone, even if we feel like they are different than us. Let us all try our best to make Him happy by accepting and loving others, by going to liturgy, being nice to our siblings, praying, reading the Bible, etc.



Lesson 4.9 - The Church Is Our Comfort: Raising the Son of the Widow of Nain

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: [Bigger word search](#), [smaller word search](#), and pencils.

Scripture References: Luke 7:11-17

Craft: Printer paper, pencil or pencil crayons, and stickers (optional).

Activity: White board or poster paper, and white board markers or markers.

Video: [Quiz Worx: Jesus And The Widow's Son \(5:41\)](#)

[Jesus Raises The Son of The Widow of Nain \(2:22\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of Jesus' compassion and care which we see also in His Church, the source of our comfort.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Compassion



MEMORY VERSE:



When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."



Luke 7:13

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

The servant may want to consider opening the lesson by prompting the children with some of these questions:



Who in this room has ever been sad? Raise your hand! Who has ever lost a pet or someone you love? Raise your hand! See? Everyone has times in life when the heart hurts and feels heavy. Does anyone want to share a time when they felt sad? (Allow the children to share).

Once you get this kind of sad feeling, it is difficult to feel happy again, isn't it? When these hurtful and sad times come, we can rely on a special promise from Jesus.

If we ever need comfort, we can always come to the Church which is filled with people who can help and support you. When you come to Church, you will find God, all of His saints and all of His angels! We are all God's children, and if we ever feel sad or upset, it is important to go to Him so that He can help you.



LESSON BODY:

Read Luke 7:11-17 and summarize with the children.

Jesus and his disciples were going to the town of Nain. As usual, a large crowd of people followed Him. Nain was not a very big town.

As they neared the gates of the city, they met a funeral procession. The only son of a widow had died, and they were preparing to bury him. The woman was weeping. Her husband had died and now she lost her only son.

Consider asking the children this question:

→ How do you think the widow felt? (Sad, alone, heart-broken etc.)⁷⁶

Jesus knew how heart-broken she was and told her, *"Do not cry!"* He went over to the stretcher where the body lay. The people carrying the stretcher stopped as Jesus reached out and touched the body.

He said to the dead man, *"Young man, I say to you, arise."*

To the astonishment of the people watching, the young man sat up and started talking! The joy that the mother felt was indescribable; her son's life had been restored. Those who saw what happened were afraid because they had never seen such a manifestation of power (miracle).

Consider asking the children these questions:

→ How would you feel if you saw this miracle? (Happy, amazed, hard to believe, shocked etc.)

→ Where can we go to find comfort? (The Church.)

They said, *"A great prophet has arisen among us and God has visited his people."*

"Observe how He joins miracle to miracle. In the former instance, the healing of the centurion's servant, He was present by invitation, but here he draws near without being invited. No one summoned Him to restore the dead man to life, but He comes to do so of His own accord."

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

⁷⁶ St. Cyril of Alexandria. (AD 444). Retrieved from <https://catenabible.com/com/585b6d619ac03ecd4b8e73d1>

Throughout the countryside, people started talking about the dead man who had been made alive again. They were questioning who the man was and who could perform such miracles. Jesus brought so much comfort to this mother when He raised her son from the dead.

We may not see Jesus the way the widow saw Him, but each time we come to Church, He is there and is always ready to comfort us. Every time you walk into Church, God is standing there with His arms wide open, waiting for us to run to Him. The Church is our source of comfort because we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit after He ascended into Heaven and He did.

Consider asking the children ways they can be compassionate like Jesus who showed the widow compassion.

→ We can listen to other people.

→ Help others when they need it (opening doors for others, help carry things etc.)

→ We can hug people when they are sad.

→ Try to see things from someone else's point of view.

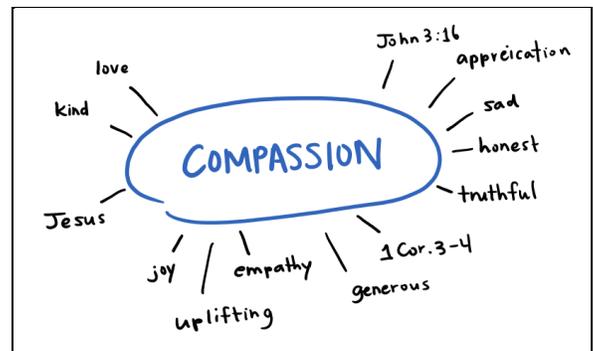
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Mind Map Activity:

- The teacher will write on the board, the word "COMPASSION" and circle it. Tell the children, "Let's think about compassion. What is compassion, what other words can we use to describe compassion, how do you feel when you hear the word compassion or when someone is showing compassion to you, stories of compassion in the Bible, etc." The servant is to write and record the children's comments around the word "COMPASSION."



Encouragement Reminder Craft:

- Give each child a piece of paper. Have them write their name on the top of the paper. Their paper will be passed around the room. Each child will write or draw something nice and encouraging for the person (the name on top of the paper).
- To help the children with ideas, tell them they can write something they like about the person or draw a picture that cheers them up or put a sticker that they like.
 - Examples (prompts):
 - Draw a smiley face
 - Write "Have a happy Sunday!"
 - Write a compliment - e.g. "You have a wonderful smile!","You are awesome!"



VIDEO:

[Quiz Worx: Jesus And The Widow's Son \(5:41\)](#)

Questions:

- Jesus saw how broken-hearted the widow was and had compassion for her. What is compassion? (Concern for the suffering of others.)
- How did the people react when Jesus raised the widow's son from the dead? (Scared, confused, amazed.)
- What was the town's name that Jesus was going to? (Nain.)
- Do you remember any time when someone or yourself showed compassion?



SONG:

[SingKids! songs by Sue Bleazard: Compassion... a recipe for life!](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

To review the lesson, allow the children to play [this word search](#). If they finish quickly, you may give them [this word search](#) to complete. Make sure that every time a child finds a new word, they tell you what part of the story this word came from.



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- Do you remember times someone or yourself has shown compassion?
- What are ways you can show compassion to others this week? (giving a hug to someone that is having a bad day, helping my parents with cleaning up after a long day at work, etc.)

Just like Jesus showed compassion, we too must show compassion



Lesson 4.10 - The Agpeya: A Tool Given by the Church for Prayer

Building Block 4
The Church Mother and Teacher



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Pitcher of water, 2 oranges (one peeled, and one unpeeled).

Craft: Paper plates, rulers, markers, split pins (or paper fasteners), [template for clock arrows](#).

Video: [St John & St Verena Coptic Orthodox Church VIC:Sunday School Resources Praying from the agpeya \(2:06\)](#), [Leading children to Heaven: Why do we need to pray the Agpeya "The Coptic Book of Hours"? \(3:24\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand how the Agpeya is arranged and how to pray with the Agpeya.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Prayerfulness



MEMORY VERSE:



Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgements.



Psalm 116:164

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

[Leading children to Heaven: Why do we need to pray the Agpeya "The Coptic Book of Hours"? \(3:24\)](#)

The servant may wish to refer to the video above. Introduce the kids to the lesson by doing the demonstration in the video and expanding on it with the children as a brief discussion.



LESSON BODY:



The word ‘Agpeya’ is a Coptic word that means ‘book of the hours’. It is called this because it comprises all the prayers we should pray at specific hours of the day.

Introduce the memory verse at this point (“Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments.”).

The Church arranged it so that we pray the Agpeya seven times every day. Prayer is the way we communicate with God. The Agpeya teaches us how to pray and allows us to include God in everything we do in our lives.⁷⁷

The Agpeya consists of prayers for different hours of the day; each one reminding us of God, His love, and care for us. We offer thanks to the Lord for everything He gives us. We ask Him for all our needs and we praise Him and glorify Him.

“Of prayer nothing at all has been prescribed, except clearly to ‘pray at every time and every place.’”

- St. Tertullian of Carthage

Consider asking the children if they know when they should pray with the Agpeya.

Consider asking the children what they think is the difference between praying from our hearts and praying with the Agpeya.

Praying from our hearts is very important. Using our own words is very powerful too! But sometimes when we stand up to pray, we do not always know what words to pray with, and this is why we use the Agpeya! When we do not know how to pray, all we need to do is grab the Agpeya. The Agpeya is full of psalms that describe what we want to say and guides us to a complete and concise (clear) prayer to God.⁷⁸

“All in love, as also thou doest. Give Thyself to prayer without ceasing.”

- St. Ignatius of Antioch

Prime/Morning Prayer: We should pray this every morning as soon as we wake up. It reminds us of our Lord Jesus Christ’s incarnation, death and resurrection. We pray this hour to give thanks to the Lord for letting us wake up from sleep and to grant us the power of His resurrection.

Vespers/Eleventh Hour: Commemorates the act of taking down Christ’s body from the cross. We give thanks to God and ask Him to count us among the laborers who were called at the eleventh hour of the day.

Compline/Twelfth Hour: Reminds us of the burial of our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask God to forgive us our sins and protect us through the night. We should pray this every night before we sleep.

The order of prayers for every hour is as follows (*You may want to refer to [this video](#) to aid you in explaining the following*):

Beginning	Middle	Ending
The Lord’s Prayer	Psalms (12 in every hour except Prime which has 19)	“Lord have Mercy”41 times reminding us with the 39

⁷⁷ St. Tertullian of Carthage. (AD 220). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5735dfccec4bd7c9723ba9ec>

⁷⁸ St. Ignatius of Antioch. (AD 108). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5735dfccec4bd7c9723ba9eb>

		scourges (whips) our Lord suffered and the crown of thorns put on His head and the slap on His face.
Prayer of Thanksgiving	Gospel	Absolution of the hour
Psalms 50	Litanies	Conclusion of every hour

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Agpeya Clock Craft:

1. Print and cut out [template for clock arrows](#) prior to class starting.
2. Hand out to each child one paper plate, ruler, pencil, and markers.
3. Ask the children to use the ruler to draw seven equal triangles on the inside of the plate, you may want to use the picture⁷⁹ as a guide. *Some of the children will need some assistance.
4. Ask the children to put the name of the different hours of the Agpeya in each of the triangles.
5. Allow the children to color and draw in each triangle. For example, the children may draw a cross in the sixth hour triangle symbolizing Jesus' death/crucifixion.
6. Help the children to pin the clock arrows on their clocks using the split pins.



VIDEO:

[St John & St Verena Coptic Orthodox Church VIC: Sunday School Resources Praying from the agpeya \(2:06\)](#)

Questions:

- Can you name three different hours in the Agpeya? (Third, sixth, eleventh, etc.)
- Why do we use the Agpeya? (To pray to God continuously.)
- What does each hour of the Agpeya always start with? (Our Father, Thanksgiving Prayer.)

⁷⁹ Walshaw, J. (2014, February 7). How to make a paper plate clock. Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <https://www.muminthepadhouse.com/make-paper-plate-clock/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- How many times did David praise the Lord daily? (Seven times.)
- How many times do we say ‘Lord Have Mercy’ in each hour? (Forty one times.)
- What are the hours of the Agpeya that you learned about today? (Prime, Vespers, and Compline.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

What did we learn from this lesson that we can apply to our lives?

Next time you are unsure what to pray about, pick up your Agpeya and pray!

So, this following week, you should try to pray with your Agpeya at least three times.



Building Block 5: Examples from the Bible: House Churches & People's Generosity

Lesson 5.1 - Church in the Home

Building Block 5
Examples from the Bible: House Churches
& People's Generosity



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Acts 12:12, Romans 16:3, 5

Craft: [This worksheet](#), popsicle sticks, markers or crayons, scissors, glue, materials for decoration.

Video: [2 Fish Talks- Daily Bible Stories Kids Devotions: Children's Daily Bible Story -Paul Works with Priscilla and Aquila, December 11 -2 Fish Talks \(0:00-0:49\)](#)

Song: [YancynotNancy: Yancy & Little Praise Party - As For Me \[OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO\] from Ready, Set, Go \(2:11\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, children will begin to understand that their homes can be churches too.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Hospitality



MEMORY VERSE:

“

But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

”

Joshua 24:15

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider introducing the lesson to the children by asking them if they know anyone who has a church inside their house.

Have the children talk to the person beside them to brainstorm how they think this is different from having the church as a separate building. Give the children a few minutes and then have a whole class discussion about how the children think that having a church in our homes might be different from the way we usually have church. Ask the children if they think they would like to have church in their homes. Finally, tell the children that a church is any gathering of Christian people, so it can be anywhere. It can be in a park or at our homes.

You may wish to introduce the quote on the right by St. John Chrysostom at this point to reiterate this idea to the children.⁸⁰

“For indeed, a house is a little church...”
- St. John Chrysostom



LESSON BODY:

The Bible teaches us that when we are gathered together for prayer we are the Church, because we are the Body of Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself says: *“When two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”* (Matthew 18:20)

Consider asking the children if they think our homes can become a church? Why or why not?

If we make our home a place of prayer, when our friends come over, we can pray together. We should always be welcoming of others into our homes for their service and prayer. This way our home becomes part of the Church.

Our family is a small church. If we are the Church at home, we should act the same way we do at church, at home with our parents and siblings. We should be nice to them and treat them like we would inside the Church.

Mary’s House: The First Church⁸¹



Do you know in whose house Jesus prayed the first liturgy in the world? (St. Mark’s mother, Mary,)

Do you know what else happened in this room? (Jesus met the disciples twice after He rose from the dead.)

What else? (The Holy Spirit came down like tongues of fire on the disciples.)

St. Mary was so generous because she let Jesus and His disciples

use her house for service and prayer.

⁸⁰ Reference unknown.

⁸¹ Mystical Supper icon (3). (n.d.). Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <https://www.orthodoxmonasteryicons.com/products/mystical-supper-icon-3>

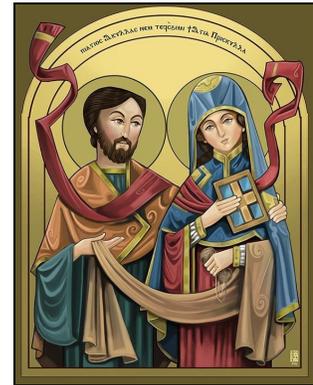
Priscilla and Aquila's House Church: Romans 16⁸²

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus...likewise greet the church that is in their house” (Romans 16:3,5).

Priscilla and Aquila were married to each other; they were also tentmakers. When Paul came to their city of Corinth they let him stay in their home and helped him with his service. They opened their house as a church for people to come and pray.

Consider mentioning that there are many other examples in the Bible, and list the following examples:

- *Nymphas' House Church*
- *Lydia's House Church*⁸³
- *Philemon and Apphia's House Church*



Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Popsicle Family Craft⁸⁴:

1. Print [this worksheet](#), one for each child.
1. Help the children create their family using popsicle sticks. You will help the children cut the popsicle sticks using scissors.
2. You can make each popsicle stick a different size, for example, the parents would be taller than the children and the youngest sibling would be the shortest.
3. Have children glue their popsicle sticks to the paper and let them decorate their family as they would like.



⁸² Saint/s of the Day – July 8 – Sts Aquila and Priscilla – Disciples and friends of St Paul and Martyrs – Patrons of Marr...: St priscilla, Church icon, Bible pictures. (n.d.). Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/521291725602667670/>

⁸³ Paul and Lydia... (2019, January 25). Retrieved July 30, 2020, from <https://pastorernieblog.org/2019/01/25/paul-and-lydia/>

⁸⁴ Intentionalmomblog. (2013, February 08). A As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://intentionalmomblog.wordpress.com/2013/02/08/a-as-for-me-and-my-house-we-will-serve-the-lord-joshua-2415/>



VIDEO:

[2 Fish Talks- Daily Bible Stories Kids Devotions: Children's Daily Bible Story -Paul Works with Priscilla and Aquila, December 11 -2 Fish Talks \(0:00-0:49\)](#)



SONG:

[YancynotNancy: Yancy & Little Praise Party - As For Me \[OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO\] from Ready, Set, Go \(2:11\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who is Mary? (St. Mark's mom, she welcomed Jesus and the disciples on many occasions, one of the most important occasions is the last supper.)
- What did she offer? (Her house for Jesus and his disciples to come and eat)
- What did Priscilla and Aquila do for a living? (They were tent makers.)
- Who was it that they invited into their home? (St. Paul).
- Where did Priscilla and Aquila live? (Corinth).
- What did Priscilla, Aquila, and St. Mary do that was so great? (They gave their houses as places for prayer.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- The selfless act of giving these houses as churches gave Christianity the opportunity to take root and grow.
- Mary of Jerusalem, Priscilla, and Aquila, and many others are strong role models for generous dedication to Christ and the faithful building up of His Church.
- How can we transform our house to a church? (By praying with your family everyday, reading the Bible together, treating your siblings like you would treat others in church.)



Lesson 5.2 - The Meaning of Giving: Jesus Compares the Widow's Mite to the Rich Men's Gifts

Building Block 5
Examples from the Bible:
House Churches & People's
Generosity



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Penny, nickel, dime, quarter, and \$1 bill.

Scripture References: Luke 21:1-4, Acts 20:35, and Matthew 6:33

Craft: [Coin box and coins printout](#) (print onto cardstock paper, if possible), scissors, crayons, and markers.

Activity: Two sets of candy, one more desirable than the other. A method of keeping tally of the scores.

Video: [Care Bear's Bible Stories for Kids: 79 A Poor Widow's Gift \(0:50\)](#)

Song: [Hilltop City Life Christian Channel: Christian Kids songs, Giving and be Generous \(2:09\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of true giving and generosity according to Jesus' teaching.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Generosity



MEMORY VERSE:



...for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.



I Samuel 16:7

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Show the coins and ask the kids to tell you how much each is worth.

Consider asking the children the following questions:



- *What does it mean to be rich?*
- *Can someone be rich even though they don't have much money? Can someone with lots of money still be poor?*

Today we will hear two stories about two very different people. One had lots of money and the other was very poor. We will learn how God wants us to be cheerful givers because giving (whether it is our time or money) is an act of worship when we do so with the right attitude.



LESSON BODY:

Read Luke 21:1-4 to the children.

Jesus instructed the Jews to give to the temple and to the poor as part of their service to God. One day, Jesus sat at the temple and watched people put money into the offering boxes. Some people were rich and gave lots of money, and some gave money but were unhappy about it. Then a poor woman, a widow, came up to the boxes. The poor woman put two of the smallest coins there were in the offering box. The disciples with Jesus were not very impressed, but Jesus said this woman has given more than any other today. How could that be? She had put two of the smallest coins. Jesus said it was because those two coins were all the woman had, but she put them both into the offering box.

The more we give to others, the more God will bless us in our giving. This doesn't just mean "more" in terms of quantity. What this story teaches us is that the more meaningful and sincere our offering is to God, the more pleased He will be. God always rewards this attitude of giving.

The servant may wish to use the following quote from Abba Agathon to help reiterate this point to the children.⁸⁵ You can use this quote, for yourself or for the children, to help explain that when we give to God, He returns our offering with blessings upon blessings.

"I have never given alms to anybody, but in every act of giving I rather received alms, for I count the profit of a brother to be my fruit."

- Abba Agathon

The more we give, the more we receive. Jesus Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). So there

"It is a good thing for a man to give alms, even though he does so for the approbation of the children of men, for from this he will come to do it for God's sake."

- Amma Sarah the Nun

is a blessing in receiving, whether being nourished, clothed, or cared for, but the blessing of giving to others is greater than this. How did the woman think she would buy dinner that night? She trusted in God to provide for her. She obeyed God's command, knowing that He would fulfill His promise to care for her in return. We must trust God the same way. Sometimes, that trust feels difficult. But God promises that if we try, He will reward our efforts.

Consider concluding with the quote on the left from Amma Sarah to reiterate that even if our offerings are not quite like the widow right now, if we continue to try and be generous, God will change the intentions in our heart to be more like this blessed woman.⁸⁶

⁸⁵ Abba Agathon. (n.d.). "The Life and Sayings of Holy Abba Agathon of Egypt." Retrieved from <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/03/saint-agathon-of-egypt.html>

⁸⁶ Amma Sarah the Nun. (n.d.). *The Paradise of the Holy Fathers*, p. 114.

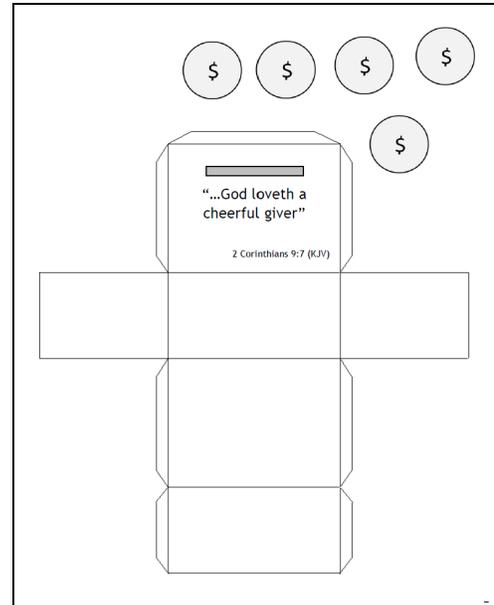
Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Giving to God Craft⁸⁷:

1. Help the children cut out their template.
2. Make sure they do not cut off the tabs on the side, those will be the parts that you glue afterwards. They will also need help cutting out the coin insert at the top.
3. Instruct the children to fold the now cut out template on each line (for example fold the sides up, fold the front and the bottom up, and fold the top to go over the box).
4. Ask the children to apply glue to each of the tabs to glue the box together.
5. They now have a box they can collect money in!
6. Have them cut out the template and color it however they please! They will then glue it together and use this box to collect money.



Will I give my candies away?:

1. Assign the children each ten points, represented by little candies, and make sure to record how much each child has. Tell them that the player with the greatest number of points at the end will win but also mention that every player who gives candies receives points as well (but don't mention how this is calculated).
2. Make sure to give them no more than a minute. The twist is that giving candy will be assigned double the points of receiving.
3. What will happen is that children will be tempted to keep candies to themselves - it is harder to give up what is tangible for 'abstract' points. But if they give up their candies they will rack up more points. The person with the least final number of candies wins. If they have less than ten, subtract the difference of the final amount from their initial, double that, and add it to the initial and that is their score. If they have more than ten that final number is their score.

Consider exchanging a better candy for those with less than ten for the number of points they have.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

⁸⁷ Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4: The Widow's Gift; God Loves a Cheerful Giver Craft: Sunday school crafts for kids, Sunday school lessons, Sunday school kids. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/275282595952082283/>



- How did the Pharisees feel about their giving? (proud, self-righteous, etc.)
- Why was Jesus not impressed with the giving of the rich? (it was "extra" money for them, not a sacrifice.)
- Which giver was Jesus pleased with? (widow).
- Which giver did the crowd think had given more? (the rich men.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- We are going to give what we have to others to receive blessing from God. If we have an allowance, we are going to give some to the church or to the poor. We also should share with others who do not have what we have.
- How can we be generous this week? (Sharing with siblings, being kind to friends, giving a snack to a friend that does not have a snack, etc.)
- When our parents give us our allowance, where can we give it to help those in need? (The church, and charities.)



Lesson 5.3 - Examples of Generosity from the Bible

Building Block 5
Examples from the Bible: House
Churches & People's Generosity



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A valuable item that most grade two children would like (Build A Bear, Disney character, etc)

Scripture References: Exodus 36:1-7, 2 Corinthians 8-9, Luke 10:25-37, Luke 7:1-10, Matthew 14:14-21, Luke 19, Philippians 4:15-16, and Luke 16:19-31.

Craft: Mason jars, stickers, markers, decorative ribbon, glue, tape, christian wood pendants, construction paper, scissors, markers, and any other decorative materials.

Activity: Styrofoam cups, tape, and colored soccer jerseys (preferably two different colors to differentiate the teams.)

Video: [Leading Children to HEAVEN: Why give CHEERFULLY?!! \(2:54\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will develop an understanding of cheerful generosity and giving through examples from the Bible.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Giving



MEMORY VERSE:

“

*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart,
not grudgingly or of necessity...*

”

2 Corinthians 9:7



Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider using the following activity to introduce the topic of generosity to the children. The goal of the activity is for the children to share their experiences with giving and to appreciate giving to others. The servant may need to explain the meaning of generosity, which can be explained as giving to others kindly and with love.

1. Instruct the children to sit in a circle as we will be sharing about times we gave something to someone!
2. First, the servant may share an experience about a time when they gave something to someone and how it made you feel.
3. Then, pass the item to the child beside you and they will share about a time they gave something to someone and how it made them feel. If they can not think of anything, you can ask them about a time their parents or other relatives gave something to them and how it made them feel! (Repeat this process around the circle until the item is returned to you.)

The Bible teaches us to be generous. There are many Bible stories that talk about the importance of giving to others!



LESSON BODY:

Throughout the Bible, we learn about many righteous people who showed generosity to others. Some gave a lot of money, some gave a very small amount, and some gave their time and their resources, but all of them showed generosity. Being generous does not mean we have to give a lot of money, it means we must give willingly. What does it mean to give willingly? (When you give out of love, not because someone is forcing you too!) Let us look at some examples of people in the Bible who gave cheerfully and some of their qualities.

Generous people give cheerfully.

Generous people give with a smile on their face because they love to share what they have. St. Paul told us that God loves a cheerful giver because that means they are doing it out of love, not because they are being forced to! When we give cheerfully, we are acting like Christ and become closer to Him.

“Paul’s purpose was not only for money to be contributed to the poor but for it to be contributed with great eagerness. Likewise, God appointed almsgiving not only for the nourishment of the needy but also for the benefit of the providers, and much more so for the latter than for the former. For if he considered only the interest of the poor, he would have commanded solely that the money be given, and he would not have asked for the eagerness of the providers. But now you see the apostle in every way ordering by will first and above all for the givers to be joyful: the suppliers to furnish in a cheerful manner. And at one time he says, “Everyone must do as he has chosen in his heart, neither out of grief nor necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver,” not simply a giver but the one who does this with pleasure.”

- St. John Chrysostom



Consider the quote above by St. John Chrysostom from his homily on almsgiving to further discuss the concept of giving cheerfully.⁸⁸

The servant may choose any three or more of the following examples to discuss with the children.

Generous people often give more than they are asked to give:

In Exodus 36:1-7 we see God's people bringing more than enough to meet the need — to the point that Moses must tell them to stop!

Generous people give more than just their money.

In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan, who gave time, resources, and skill to help the man who had been left for dead at the side of the road.

Generous people give to help others, even when they differ from one another.

We see it in Luke 7:1-10, as a Gentile builds a Jewish synagogue! Sometimes we're given opportunities to help people who are different from us.

Generous people give to see the impossible become possible.

A little boy offered Jesus his small lunch in Matthew 14:14-21. He only had a few loaves and fish, and Jesus had 5,000 mouths to feed. Gifts in God's hands can be, and often are, divinely multiplied to meet the needs of greater works.

This is one of the greatest giving stories, a beautiful picture of faith to see something amazing happen because of your gifts.

The young boy's desire to give allowed our Lord Jesus to perform a miracle and feed the 5000.

Generous people give as a byproduct of their own personal transformation.

The story of Zacchaeus, in Luke 19, is the story of a transformed giver. A tax collector doing unlike anyone in the world in order to give — moved by Jesus' call to come back to God's ways.

This is the story of someone who changes from "collector of money" to "giver of money"!

Generous people give when others will not.

In Philippians 4:15-16, the apostle Paul is sad because of the lack of response from the churches he's encountered.

"Not one church shared with me," he says. *"Only you,"* the Christians at Philippi. Even when he was ministering to others, far away, the Philippians were giving to his ministry! Others ignored his need, but one church, at Philippi, was willing to give, even if it meant standing alone.

⁸⁸ St. John Chrysostom. (n.d.). *Ancient Christian Commentaries on Scripture: 1-2 Corinthians*, p. 280.

The day may come when you find yourself here too: You look around, and no one else is giving; but something inside you says, “Go for it.” That is the Holy Spirit speaking to you telling you to give what you have.

Greedy people do the opposite of generous people, they do not share what they have with those in need.

The servant may read Luke 16:19-31 to the children, or they may summarize as follows.

Lazarus was a very unfortunate beggar who was poor and sick. But there was also a rich man who did not share even the crumbs from his table with Lazarus. Years later, after the rich man and Lazarus had died, the rich man was suffering in hell and Lazarus was in heaven. When the rich man asked for mercy to be granted to him, Abraham, who has in heaven, said no, because in the rich man’s lifetime, he did not share the good things he had with Lazarus, who was poor and sick.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Giving Jars Craft⁸⁹:

This activity teaches the healthy habits of giving to others! The jars will serve as a reminder that we should always give something to others, as was done throughout the Bible.

1. Tell the children that they will be making “Giving Jars”! They can place change or money as donations in the jars.
2. Start decorating a mason jar using many of the materials to show the children how to apply certain materials to the jar. Show the children a finished product to give them an idea of what their jars could look like!
3. Hand out the jars to the children so that they can start decorating their jars and offer assistance to children who need some help with applying certain materials to their jars.
4. The servant can place either coins or cash. The children will add to this jar as time goes by and will be encouraged to give the items in their jar to others (church, family, friends, people in need)! When the jar is full, the teacher can take the jar to donate to the church.
5. The children can take their own jars and fill them at home and then donate the jar content when it is full.



The Giving Game⁹⁰:

⁸⁹ How to Make Prayer Jars - Religious Craft Activity & Lesson. (2018, September 6). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.swww.com/blog/how-to-make-prayer-jars-religious-craft-activity-lesson/>

⁹⁰ Youth Group Game On Generosity. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://youth-group-games.com/blogs/free-games/youth-group-games-on-generosity>



The servant may place styrofoam cups in the center of the room and tape 2 circles (one on each side of the room) before the beginning of the game.

1. State that in life, sometimes you give and sometimes you receive. In this game the goal is to give more than you receive!
2. Divide the class into groups of 3. Give colored soccer jerseys to the 2 teams who will be playing the game first. Each team will start the game at their own circle.
3. Instruct one child from each of the 2 groups playing to be the “Guardian” of their team’s circle. The “Guardian” must choose one foot which has to stay in the circle at all times. The other foot can be outside of the circle and can be used to pivot. The “Guardian” is similar to a goalkeeper who tries to defend their net.
4. Tell the children that the goal of the game is to place the styrofoam cups in the other team’s circle without being tagged by the “Guardian” of the circle (clarify that only the players in the circles can tag others). If someone is tagged, they have to return the cup to the center of the room and sit down beside their circle. They must wait there until their teammate places a cup inside of the other team’s circle. If their teammate is successful, they will be able to rejoin the game. The team with the least styrofoam cups in their circle at the end of the game are the best givers!



VIDEO:

[Leading Children to HEAVEN: Why give CHEERFULLY?!!](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Name ways that we can be generous. (Refer to the lesson body for examples.)
- Does God want us to be generous or greedy? (Generous).
- Should we be generous to people who are mean or selfish? (We should always be generous, even when we do not want to.)
- What can we give to others? (Our help, our love, we can share our toys etc.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- “What do we have extra that we could share?” Discover what you have extra, package it up and search out a place in your community to donate it.
- Some examples include:
 - food – take some food to the Food Bank.
 - clothing – pack up clothes that have been outgrown or not being worn and give them to a charity or needy family.
 - blankets and other household items – many churches make home starter kits for those in need.
 - toys – many organizations collect toys for underprivileged children.



Lesson 5.4 - A Sign of Love: Serving the Needy

Building Block 5
Examples from the Bible: House
Churches & People's Generosity



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 25:35-40, 2 Timothy 2:24, Ephesians 6:7-8, and 1 Peter 4:10

Video: [The Holy Tales: Bible: Helping One Another | Animated Bible Story For Children | HolyTales Bible Stories \(4:19\)](#)

Craft: Wheel [template](#), spinner [template](#), split pin fasteners, paper clip, markers, construction paper, scissors, glue, and tape.

Activity: Bible index cards (plain and colored).



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

Children will learn about the spiritual discipline of serving. This lesson will help instill an Orthodox understanding of responding to those in need.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Charity



MEMORY VERSE:



For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love...



Hebrews 6:10

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

What does the word "serve" mean?

Allow the children to offer a few ideas. Then the servant may want to say:



The dictionary says that “serve” has more than twenty meanings! The word “serve” can mean to offer food, to help, to spend time, to work, to give honor, and to be obedient.

Let’s look at a Biblical example of what it means to serve in the Bible.



LESSON BODY:

Today’s story is called the Parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of what it means to serve others.

Read and paraphrase Luke 10: 30-37 with the children.

One day, Jesus told a story to the people. Once, there was a man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. While he was walking, a group of robbers attacked him and stole his belongings. They beat him and left him on the road, half dead. Another man, who was a Samaritan, was also walking along this road. When he saw the beaten man, he took pity on him and decided to help him. He went to him, and cleaned up his wounds. He put the beaten man on his donkey and brought him to an inn to heal. The next day, he gave money to the innkeeper to continue taking care of him. He promised the innkeeper he would return to check on this man and pay any other costs for his healing.

At the end of this story, Jesus said to the people: “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:37).

Why do you think Jesus commanded us to be like this Good Samaritan?

Allow the children to discuss.

God promised eternal life to those who serve Him. When we choose to serve others, we are in fact serving God Himself! In Matthew 25:35-40, Christ said: “for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.” “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”

Consider the quote above by St. John Chrysostom. You may wish to discuss with the children that God does not expect us to make all the problems of the community disappear in our service; He simply wants us to love others, particularly those in need, in the same way He loved us.⁹¹

“And mark how easy are His injunctions. He said not, I was in prison, and you set me free; I was sick, and you raised me up again; but, you visited me, and, you came to me. And neither in hunger is the thing commanded grievous. For no costly table did He seek, but what is needful only, and His necessary food, and He sought in a suppliant's garb, so that all things were enough to bring punishment on them; the easiness of the request, for it was bread; the pitiable character of Him that requests, for He was poor; the sympathy of nature, for He was a man; the desirableness of the promise, for He promised a kingdom; the fearfulness of the punishment, for He threatened hell. The dignity of the one receiving, for it was God, who was receiving by the poor; the surpassing nature of the honor, that He vouchsafed to condescend so far; His just claim for what they bestowed, for of His own was He receiving.

- St. John Chrysostom

⁹¹ St. John Chrysostom. (AD 407). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/57eb0db6b0d44ee10cfac5b4>

The servant may also choose to read the following verses to find additional characteristics of a servant: 2 Timothy 2:24, Ephesians 6:7-8, and 1 Peter 4:10.

Did Jesus only heal certain people? Only good people? Only Jewish people? Of course not. Jesus served people of all kinds as the ultimate through His humility, obedience, and love for others.

We must serve others because Christ was also a servant, and through serving others, we also serve Christ.

Brainstorm with the children ways they can serve your community.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Wheel of Service Craft⁹²:

1. Before class, cut each piece of construction paper into 16.
2. Print and cut out the wheel and the spinner template.
3. Decorate (optional).
4. Tape the paper clip on the back of the arrow.
5. Help the children make a small hole in the middle of the wheel and the arrow.
6. Have the servant help the child put a fastener through the hole on the arrow and the wheel and secure it.
7. Hand out 6 pieces of construction paper to each child.
8. On the pieces of construction paper have the children write out different ways they can serve/help others
 - a. Some examples:
 - i. Donate old toys/clothes/ books
 - ii. Do the dishes
 - iii. Volunteer at church
 - iv. Clean up trash at a local park
 - v. Share with your friends
 - vi. Clean up the yard
 - vii. Bake treats for your neighbors
 - viii. Do a chore without being asked
 - ix. Pray for others
9. Glue the pieces on each section of the wheel



“Preparing to Serve” Matching Game:

1. Prepare for the game by picking two different colors of index cards (you will need five of each color).

⁹² Getting children excited about Service. (2011, September 5). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://iheartcraftythings.com/getting-children-excited-about-service.html>, Wheel of Fun. (2011, August 4). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.happygoluckyblog.com/wheel-of-fun/?showComment=1312497483391>



2. Cut each card in half for a total of ten smaller cards in each color. With one color, list: needs in the church, community, or at home. With the second color, list acts of service for the children to match with each need. Let the children know that “We are going to work together to match a need with an act of service.” At the end of the game, discuss each pair of cards and encourage children to serve in similar ways.



VIDEO:

[The Holy Tales: Bible: Helping One Another | Animated Bible Story For Children | HolyTales Bible Stories \(4:19\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What kind of services did Jesus do? (Healing others and doing good)
- Why should we be servants? (Because Jesus was a servant)
- What kind of services will we begin to implement?



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- Have each child think of a particular person who is hard to love and have them pray for that person and plan something nice for them.
- Another way to serve is to pray for others. Instead of only praying for our own needs, we can be servants by praying for those around us. Serving is about others and not ourselves! When we serve, we should strive to be more like Jesus, caring for those around us more than we do our own needs and wants.
- Jesus was the ultimate servant during His life on earth because He willingly gave up His life for us. We honor His example of servanthood by humbly serving others in our daily lives.



Lesson 5.5 - Parental Love: David & Absalom

Building Block 5
Examples from the Bible: House Churches
& People's Generosity



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture References: 2 Samuel 15-18.

Lesson: White beach ball.

Craft: [Absalom Template](#), 12" x 18" dark brown construction paper, 9" x 12" green construction paper (for pre-cut oak leaves), Post-It Notes, tape, scissors, marker, and crayons.

Video: [LifeKids: David and Absalom | Bible Story | LifeKids \(2:13\)](#)

Song: "My Church, My Church, My Church" based on [koogi TV: knisty knisty](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children should develop an understanding that, similar to David's love for Absalom, the church cares for her children. In turn, they should develop love for God, the church, and their families.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love



MEMORY VERSE:



And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us.



Ephesians 5:2

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

"A Father's Love" Icebreaker:

1. Have the children stand in a circle facing out.



2. Choose one child (representing the son/daughter) to stand in the center of the circle and choose another child (representing the father) to stand outside of the circle.
3. Instruct the children in the circle to hold hands.
4. Explain to the children that without touching anyone in the circle, the child on the outside of the circle (the father), can do whatever he or she wants to help the children in the center of the circle (the son/daughter) to get out. The children making the circle cannot move their feet but they can move the rest of their bodies.
5. Once the child on the outside of the circle (the father) has helped the child on the inside of the circle (the son/daughter) to get out, the game can be repeated with 2 new children on the inside and outside of the circle.
6. After the game has been played, ask the following question to the children: "How is the child on the outside of the circle like a Father and how is the child on the inside of the circle like a Son/Daughter?"
7. Once children have shared their opinions, tell them that a Father's love for their child is unconditional. God (our spiritual Father) loves us very much as well as our earthly fathers (Dad and Abouna). They would do anything to find us if we got lost!

Today, we will be learning about a story of a Dad who loved his son very much, despite his son's disobedience to him and God (David and Absalom)!



LESSON BODY:

For this lesson, the servant should ensure to emphasize the Motherhood of our Church; thereby, fostering a love for the church in the children. As Pope Tawadros said, "The Church over generations has always been a "mother" who cares for the well-being of Her children, paying attention to the physical, spiritual, and emotional aspects of their lives. Her seven sacraments are the foundation of Her faith and godliness over the years as witnessed by Her history." Allow this quote to serve as a central idea behind the lesson. Similar to David's care for his son, the church also cares for the well being of her children.

Read and paraphrase 2 Samuel 15-18 with the children.

There was a man whose name was Absalom. Absalom was the son of King David. Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. Whenever anyone had an issue, they came to the king for a decision, and Absalom would call him. Whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, Absalom would put out his hand, take him, and kiss him. In this way, Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king and he stole the hearts of the men of Israel. In short, Absalom prepared himself for the kingdom, through outer appearances of greatness.

Now it came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king, "Please, let me go to Hebron and pay the vow which I made to the Lord. (2 Samuel 15:7). And the king said to him, "Go in peace." (2 Samuel 15:9). So he went to Hebron.

Then Absalom sent spies throughout Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'" (2 Samuel 15:10). Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom." So David gathered his servants and escaped from his son.



After Absalom, the rebel, sat on the throne, he gathered his great army, and crossed the Jordan to fight against David and his men; seeking to kill him. In this he symbolized the Devil, who, with his deceit and pride, became the ruler of this world. At the same time, David organized his troops. By organizing his army, David represents the Lord Christ, who sets His men as spiritual soldiers to wrestle till the end to destroy evil and the devil, to destroy the sin, but not the sinners; the corruption, but not those deceived by corruption.⁹³

As David organized his troops, he commanded his three captains: *“Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom”* (2 Samuel 18:5). This was not the command of a war leader, but that of a compassionate father, who saw his rebellious son as a boy who needed fatherly compassion.

So the people went out into the field of battle against Israel. The Israelites were overthrown there before the servants of David.

The servant may consider asking the children the following questions:

- *If this is how the human father feels toward his rebellious son, and the Bishop or the Priest toward one of their congregation; how would our heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, feel toward the sinners?*
- *How beautiful is it that the Church, as our mother, accepts us even though we may have upset the people around us, or hurt someone or the other? Our Lord Jesus Christ and the church seek us all, and with compassion, wait for our return even when we may have wronged.*

Absalom rode on a mule; he got caught in the branches of a tree, and was left hanging between heaven and earth. When David received the news, he was deeply moved, went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said: *“O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!”* (2 Samuel 18:33).

To make the lesson more engaging, the servant may ask the children several questions within the lesson:

- *Who in the story can be likened to the church? (David, in that he loved his son, although Absalom was trying to kill him.)*
- *Do you think that even if we do wrong, the church will accept us back? What about God? (Yes!)*
- *What did David do that showed that he was a loving father? (He asked his army to make sure that they take care to not harm his son; He also wept when he heard the news about his son.)*

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

“Absalom in a Tree” Craft⁹⁴:

⁹³ Malaty, T. (2004). *The Second Book of Samuel* [PDF]. Orange, California: Coptic Orthodox Christian Center.

⁹⁴ Wooten, R. (2014, August 19). "O Absalom, My Son, My Son!" Retrieved July 31, 2020, from <http://childrensbiblelessons.blogspot.com/2014/08/lesson-o-absalom-my-son-my-son.html>

1. Before class, draw and cut out leaves from the green construction paper. Ensure that each child has four leaves.
2. Hand out the brown construction paper, pre-cut oak leaves, [Absalom template](#), and a Post-It note for each child.
3. Instruct the children to roll the brown paper, twist, and crumple. This is the branch of the tree!
4. Tell the children to fold down the middle of the pre-cut oak leaves if they want their leaves to look more realistic.
5. Instruct the child to tape the leaves onto the branch (The servants can help with this part if necessary).
6. Instruct the children to color and cut out Absalom (The servants can help with this part if necessary).
7. Tell the children to tape Absalom on branch by the hair (The servants can help with this part if necessary).
8. Instruct the children to write "Absalom, my son, my son!" and "2 Samuel 18:33" on a Post-It Note and stick it on the branch.



The servant should connect this craft to the lesson. Inform the children that even though Absalom sought to hurt his father, David still loved him. Point out that if they do something wrong, God, the Church, and their parents will still love them. Reaffirm that the church cares for her children and for their well being in all facets of their lives.



VIDEO:

[LifeKids: David and Absalom | Bible Story | LifeKids \(2:13\)](#)



SONG:

“My Church, My Church, My Church” according to the same tune as [this Arabic version](#).

*My church, my church, my church
She's my home, she's my mother
She's the source of all my joy*

*When I was a little child
Forty days to be exact
My parents took me with great joy
to the church to be baptized
Abouna took me by the hands
and dipped me in a deeper water
that was my baptism
it was a second birth for me*



*She raised me since my childhood
in the sunday school
joyful with me and I with her
because my faith grew in her
I build my values on her teachings
and obey all her guidance
my Lord please take care of her
and bless her forever*

*What's best in her is on the altar
the heavenly are there in great glory
the hosts of the angels are singing
praising our dear savior
we eat His body with great joy
And His blood keeps harm away
in communion we win the kingdom
and life eternal*

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

To review the lesson, bring a white beach ball and write a variety of the review questions on the ball. The goal of this game is for the children to play catch. When a child catches the ball, they must answer the question their right thumb is touching.⁹⁵ Some possible review questions include:

- What were David's roles/his job? (Father, King).
- Who was Absalom? (David's son).
- What is our memory verse? ("And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us." (Ephesians 5:2)).
- Did David want to kill Absalom when he came to fight? (No).
- What did David do when he heard the news about his son? (He wept, and wished to have died instead of his son).
- Who can King David be compared to? (His fatherhood to that of God who loves us regardless of how many times we sin against Him, and his unending love is also signifying the love of the Church who cares for her children.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE

⁹⁵ Fun Review Activities and Classroom Games to Do Now. (2020, May 14). Retrieved July 29, 2020, from <https://www.teachhub.com/classroom-activities/2019/10/fun-review-activities-and-classroom-games-to-do-now/>



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- To love, knowing that we are loved by our Father in Heaven, the Church, our mother, and by our parents. Just as David loved his son, our Church loves us, and cares for us.
- Remember always that “The church is not a museum for saints but a hospital for sinners.” Although we may sin, the church is where we go for healing, for she is our mother, and she cares for us.



Lesson 5.6 - Solomon Builds the Temple

Building Block 5
Examples from the Bible: House Churches
& People's Generosity



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Scripture Reference: 1 Kings 5-9:9, 1 Chronicles 28

Craft: Envelopes, glue sticks, construction paper, popsicle sticks, markers, and verse cut outs.

Video: [Sharefaith Kids: Solomon's Temple - 1 Kings 8 | Sunday School Lesson For Kids | ShareFaithKids.com \(4:38\)](https://www.sharefaithkids.com/lesson/solomon-temple-1-kings-8)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that the peoples' love for God was so deep and strong that they built a great temple to worship Him. Similarly, this should inform their loving of the beauty of the church.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love and Respect.



MEMORY VERSE:



*How lovely is Your tabernacle,
O Lord of hosts!*



Psalm 84:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

The servant may engage the children in the following discussion to open the lesson.

When giving someone a gift, is it not usually wrapped, and you make sure it's new and nice? How much more do you think we should do when gifting the Lord God of hosts?

That is exactly how King Solomon felt. He gave the Lord the best of the best; the best materials, many years of building, and a lot of builders to make sure that the house of the Lord was beautiful. This action reflects His love of God.



LESSON BODY:

King David had a child whose name was Solomon. Before King David died, he instructed his son, Solomon, to build a temple for the Lord.

In 1 Chronicles 28, it says, *“King David rose to his feet and said, ‘Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. But God said to me, ‘You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.’ However the Lord God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever... and of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. Now He said to me, ‘It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father’”* (1 Chronicles 28:2-6).

David then spoke to Solomon, and told him, *“Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it”* (1 Chronicles 28). Then David gave Solomon the plans, and all the gold that he had prepared to be used for the house of the Lord.

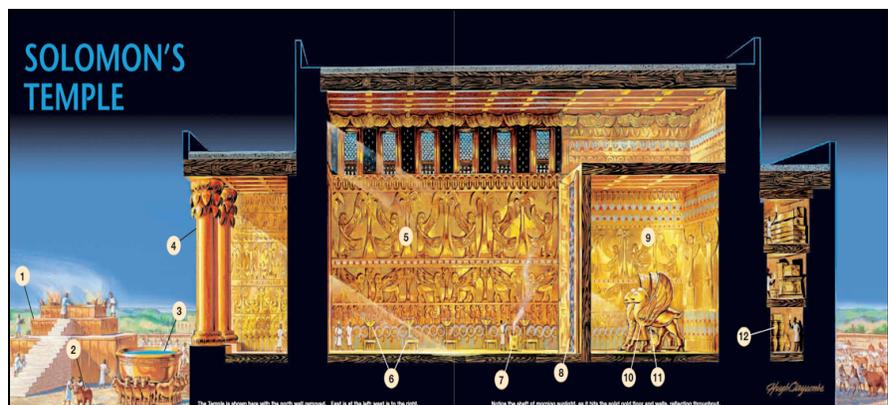
When Solomon became king after his father, he began to build a house for the Lord. Solomon used the most precious building materials most of which were imported, like the cedar from Lebanon (verse 6); cypress wood (6:34); pure gold (6:22); and bronze (7:15).

King Solomon had set up 30, 000 men to cut wood, 150, 000 to cut stones, and 3, 300 foramen. The temple took seven years to be completed.

The servant should emphasize how many people and many years went into the building of the temple, all because it is the house of the Lord. Since this is the house of the Lord, we notice that so much effort, and only the best materials are used. Likewise, we should develop a love and longing to give to the house of God.

When Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord, the Lord appeared to him and said, *“I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually (‘continuously’).”*

The servant may emphasize that similar to Solomon’s days, the Lord also dwells in His church during our days.



He, whom heaven and earth cannot contain, finds pleasure in dwelling in the midst of His people. Our Lord is present before us on the altar whenever we are in the liturgy. We must remember then, that the Church is the house of God, so we should love it, and respect it.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Envelope Church⁹⁶:

1. Give each child one envelope, one piece of construction paper, a marker, popsicle sticks, and a verse cut out.
2. Instruct the children to glue the envelope to the construction paper, with the flap open.
3. They can then draw a cross on the top, and doors in the front to create the resemblance of the church
4. Give each child as many popsicle sticks as there are members in their family for them to color and then instruct them to draw faces on them.
5. They can then stick the sticks into the envelope, and glue the verse onto the paper.



Church Clean-Up:

After discussing the beauty and their love for the church, the children may put this into practice by cleaning up the sanctuary. This activity can be done to explain the concept of caring for our church, and preserving its beauty to glorify God. This activity can include putting books away, organizing the head scarfs, or even sweeping the floor.



VIDEO:

[Sharefaith Kids: Solomon's Temple - 1 Kings 8 | Sunday School Lesson For Kids | ShareFaithKids.com \(4:38\)](#)



SONG:

"My Coptic Church"

*My Coptic Church,
The church of the Lord
Ancient and Strong, I wish her long life*

⁹⁶ Cox, K., About Karen CoxKaren is the founder of PreKinders.com. She also works as a full-time Pre-K teacher in Georgia. Read more..., Says, W., Says, K., Says, M., Says, S., . . . Says, P. (2020, March 24). Envelope Church. Retrieved July 31, 2020, from <https://www.prekinders.com/envelope-church/>



*In the early years, After the birth of Christ
St. Mark came bearing, The light of the true faith
He dwelt in the land, proclaiming salvation
In the name of our Redeemer, Christ who removed our sins*

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Create a wheel with a variety of review questions on it. Then randomly call upon children to come up and spin the wheel to see if they can answer the question correctly. Some of the review questions may include:

- What is today's memory verse? ("How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!" (Psalm 84:1)).
- How many years did it take for Solomon to build the House of the Lord? (Seven years).
- Who was Solomon's father? (King David).
- Who built the temple? (King Solomon).
- Did David have any plans to build the temple of God? (Yes! He had prepared some of the materials too).



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- Always look to participate in making the church perfect. For example, if you see garbage on the floor in church, even if it is not yours, will leaving it there glorify God? If you see a hole in the wall, maybe you can't fix it, but you can ask a servant to let someone know!
- If you see anything that makes the church not look perfect, find a way to encourage it to be made perfect. We might not all build a temple like Solomon, but we can glorify God like Solomon did by looking for the things in church that can be made perfect.



Building Block 6: Church Is All About Love

Lesson 6.1 - Our Greatest Example is Jesus

Building Block 6
Church is All About Love



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A mirror, the Holy Bible, and prepared picture/presentation or video if possible.

Scripture References: John 3:16, Matthew 25: 31-46, and Luke 6:27-31.

Craft: Yarn or string, scissors, letter beads, and colorful beads.

Activity: Hat/box and strips of paper with the scenarios pre-written on them.

Song: [kidsperform: Song "What would Jesus do?" - kids show example video \(2:52\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will understand that Jesus is the greatest example of love, and begin to understand the importance of helping those around them by being unconditionally loving.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Love



MEMORY VERSE:

“

He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

”

1 John 4:8

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):



Being a Mirror of Christ⁹⁷:

Bring a mirror to class and show it to the children. Ask them what the object is (a mirror), and what it is used for.

Mirrors have been around for hundreds of years and they pretty much have one purpose: to reflect. They reflect light, colors, and images. They show things as they really are.

God wants us to do the same thing. Except He doesn't want us to reflect just ourselves, He wants us to reflect the image of Jesus Christ. If you reflect Jesus with your actions and what you say, people will see what it's like to become a Christian, and they may want to become Christians too. Reflecting Jesus's image means to do things that Jesus would do and love others like Jesus. When we do this other people see Jesus in us.

Love is an action. No one showed the depths of true love more than Jesus when He died on the cross for our sins. He set the example for believers to show love to each other and to the world by what He did.



LESSON BODY:

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children if they think Jesus loves them. Ask them how they know this. The children may respond by saying that they know this from the Bible or from Abouna.

The greatest example of God's love is through Jesus. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us, so that we would be able to be with Him forever in Heaven. God loves us so much that He made it possible for us to be with Him forever! Review the following verse with the children. We see this in the Bible: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

You may wish to introduce and paraphrase the quote on the right by St. Clement of Alexandria, which reiterates this point.⁹⁸

One day, when Jesus was teaching on the Mount of Olives, He told those who were listening to Him a story about the Kingdom of Heaven. He said that those who would be invited to enter would be people who had seen Him when he was, *"hungry and ...gave [Him] food; [He] was thirsty and [the people] gave [Him] drink; [He] was a stranger and [they] took [Him] in; [He] was naked and [they]*

"The perfect person does not only try to avoid evil. Nor does he do good for fear of punishment, still less in order to qualify for the hope of a promised reward.

The perfect person does good through love.

His actions are not motivated by desire for personal benefit, so he does not have personal advantage as his aim. But as soon as he has realized the beauty of doing good, he does it with all his energies and in all that he does.

He is not interested in fame, or a good reputation, or a human or divine reward.

The rule of life for a perfect person is to be in the image and likeness of God.

- St. Clement of Alexandria

⁹⁷ Object Lesson on Reflecting Jesus - Mirror. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/pages/object-lesson-reflecting-jesus>

⁹⁸ St. Clement of Alexandria. (n.d.). "Image of God Archives." Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/tag/image-of-god/>

clothed [Him]; [He] was sick and [they] visited [Him]; [He] was in prison and [they] came to [Him].” (Matthew 25: 35-36). The people in the story were confused. They had never seen Jesus hungry, sick, or in prison! Jesus responded and said that even if they had ever helped anyone who was hungry, sick or in prison, they were helping Him.

In this story Jesus gives a very important message; when we love others, we are loving Jesus Himself! This story shows us the importance of helping and loving everybody, even strangers or the people we do not like.

This is the basis for the Golden Rule! *Consider asking the children if they know what the Golden Rule is. (“And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.” (Luke 6:27-31))*

It’s a simple rule we can easily remember. But that doesn’t make it easy to do.

Jesus gives this instruction in the midst of his teaching to love our enemies. He is telling us that it does not matter what someone else does to us. Love them and be kind to them anyway. Our kindness should not depend on what other people do.

But what does kindness look and sound like? Jesus explains it to us in the Bible. However you would want someone to treat you, is the same way we should be treating others. If you want someone to treat you with kindness and respect, you should also be treating them with kindness and respect.

Even though kindness is not all about our actions, it does come out in our actions and our words. If we are developing a spirit of kindness deep within our heart, we will more easily choose to treat others the way we want to be treated. The more we choose kindness, the more it will become our natural reaction.

We should also always ask ourselves; What would Jesus do? In every difficult situation we are placed in we should ask ourselves this question.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

WWJD Bracelet⁹⁹:

1. Before class: sort the letter beads and find all the Ws, Js and Ds
2. Cut 10 inches of string for each child
3. Have the children string the colorful beads and then half way through, string WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) and then finish stringing colorful beads
4. When they’re done, help them tie the string around their wrist.



⁹⁹ What Would Jesus Do "WWJD" Bracelet: WwjD bracelet, WwjD, Bracelets. (n.d.). Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://www.pinterest.ca/pin/414683078164645247/>



What Would Jesus Do?¹⁰⁰:

1. Before class: write various phrases with scenarios on strips of paper and put them in a hat/box.
2. Have the children pick a strip out the hat/box, and have the servant read it out loud to the class.
3. Have the children answer what they think Jesus would do in the situation.

Scenario examples:

- “You’re in a store. You see a dollar on the floor. Obviously, somebody dropped it. You remember an old saying a friend once taught you: “Finders, keepers; losers, weepers.” What would Jesus do?” (Jesus would give it back to the person that dropped it.)
- “Your friend loves to jump out and scare you when you’re in his house. You really can’t stand being startled like that. It makes you scream. Now, he is in your house. You see the perfect opportunity to jump out and scare him in return. What would Jesus do?” (Jesus would tell His friend that He does not like being scared like that and would ask His friend to stop.)
- “You burned popcorn in the microwave. You know your mom will be mad about the smell. Your friend Jack just left. You could say that he popped the popcorn and put the timer on too high, and it will get you out of trouble, and besides: She would never yell at him, so nobody will be in trouble. What would Jesus do?” (Jesus would apologize to His mom for burning the popcorn.)
- “In school, everyone was given a piece of candy by the teacher and was told not to eat it until you get home. You lost yours on the playground. When you get back to class, you see more candy sitting on the desk of the kid seated next to you. He is in the bathroom, and besides: He’s diabetic and isn’t supposed to eat candy. Do you just take it? What would Jesus do?” (Jesus would leave the boy’s candy and buy him some sugar free candy for the boy to eat since he’s diabetic.)
- “Your mom told you to walk the dog. She isn’t home from work yet. Your favorite TV show is on, and if you walk the dog you’ll miss part of it. You can just tell her you walked the dog. She’ll never know the difference; the dog can’t talk even though he might really need to go. What would Jesus do?” (Jesus would record His TV show and walk the dog, then watch the recorded episode later.)
- “During a test in school, you see a kid copying answers from the kid sitting next to him. But the cheating kid is kind of big and scary. You’re not sure you want to get him in trouble by telling. He might be mean to you later. What would Jesus do?” (Jesus would tell the teacher that the boy is cheating.)
- “Your friends want to walk out on the lake after it freezes. Your mom has told you never to do this, and you tell your friends as much. They laugh at you and call you a baby as they head out onto the ice. What would Jesus do?” (Jesus would obey His mother and not go on the ice.)



SONG:

[kidsperform: Song "What would Jesus do?" - kids show example video \(2:52\)](#)

¹⁰⁰ Kate, M. (2013, April 05). Bible Game - What Would Jesus Do? Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.christianitycove.com/bible-game-what-would-jesus-do/3832/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider playing the 'What Would Jesus Do?' game to review the themes of the lesson.

Questions:

- What is an example of Jesus' love for us? (When Jesus came to die for our sins.)
- How should we be treating others? (We should be treating others the same way we would like to be treated.)
- Why is it important that we treat others with love? (It is important that we treat others with love, because Jesus loves us and we should be like Jesus.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- We choose to love others as God loves us. Pray for others, serve them and help them.
- The love of Jesus is greater and deeper than anyone can fathom, yet we can understand our unworthiness and receive the grace that is given to those who believe. Jesus shows His love to you every day.
- We should always ask ourselves What Would Jesus Do? (Whenever we are in difficult situations, we should pray and ask ourselves this question to help guide us on how we should behave in difficult situations.)
- What should we do next time we are placed in a difficult situation? (We should ask ourselves WWJD?)



Lesson 6.2 - How Can We Follow Jesus' Footsteps?

Building Block 6
Church is All About Love



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Stock paper

Scripture References: 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, 1 Corinthians 3:18-20, James 1:5, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 2:6 and Psalm 111:10.

Craft: 16 oz foam or paper cups, paint marker pens, tacky glue, printer paper, and scissors.

Video: [FLEXTALK: Wisdom Isn't Just for Old People \(Kids\) \(2:38\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn the definition of wisdom and should be able to make wise decisions that reflect our relationship with Jesus Christ.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Wisdom and Humility.



MEMORY VERSE:



If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.



James 1:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Open the lesson by playing the "Good and Bad Ideas" activity described under the "Supplementary" section of the lesson.



Ask the children how they determined which idea was good or bad. Explain why certain ideas were good or bad. Emphasize the importance of thinking about what Jesus would do in the situation as discussed the previous week.



LESSON BODY:

Because Christ lived a perfect life of obedience, we too can walk in wisdom, truth, love, and faith.

Consider asking the children what they think it means to be wise. Remind them of the activity they just completed, and how wisdom means being able to know what ideas are good or bad.

As a servant, you may wish to read and reflect on the quote on the right by St. John Chrysostom.¹⁰¹ This lesson should serve to accomplish the spirit of this quote.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-24. This verse reminds us that while we could do anything we want to, like only eat ice cream, not everything we want to do would be a good idea! Only eating ice cream might be fun at first, but later it would hurt our stomachs, and we would not get the healthy food we need to grow! This verse also shows us the importance of thinking about other people. Whenever we do something, we should always make sure that it will not hurt anyone else. When you think about the outcomes of your actions, you are being wise!

Consider asking the children if they think being wise means acting like you are better than everyone else.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-20. This verse describes how important it is that we never consider our wisdom to be better than anyone else's, especially God! We have to remember that being wise means listening to God's will, not what we think is right.

"Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have great wealth and glory than riches can provide. If a child learns a trade, or is highly educated for a lucrative profession, all this is nothing compared to the art of detachment from riches; if you want to make your child rich, teach him this. He is truly rich who does not desire great possessions, or surround himself with wealth, but who requires nothing... Don't think that only monks need to learn the Bible; Children about to go out into the world stand in greater need of Scriptural knowledge."

- St. John Chrysostom

Being humble before God is the most important part of wisdom. Read the following verses:

- Proverbs 11:2 (*When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.*)
- Psalm 111:10 (*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments*)
- Proverbs 2:6 (*For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding*).

Using these verses, consider having the class identify qualities that help us walk in wisdom (humility, fearing the Lord, obeying His word, and knowing His word) and write the qualities on the board.

¹⁰¹ St. John Chrysostom. (n.d.). "Homilies on Ephesians, Homily 21." Retrieved from <http://www.orthodoxchurchquotes.com/tag/wisdom/>

Conclude the lesson by reminding the children that while they may not always make the most wise decision, when they pray to God and ask for His help, they will grow in wisdom.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Wise Owls Cup Craft¹⁰²:

Ask the children if they know of an animal that is wise. Some may answer an owl which will be the lead-in to the “Wise Owls Cup Craft”!

1. Show the children the finished model before walking them through the process of how to make the owl! The owl will display the message “Wisdom comes from God” as a constant reminder to children that God gives us wisdom.
2. The owl face, wings, and feet can either be drawn on printer paper ahead of time or there are templates online that can be used to print out.
3. Instruct the children to color in and cut out the owl face, wings, and feet.
4. Next, instruct the children to color in the paper cups using the brown paint marker pens. To save time, brown paper cups can be used instead of white paper cups.
5. Lastly, children can write the words “Wisdom comes from God” on their owl cups. An alternative could be to type out the words and print them out as a template for children to cut out and glue onto their owls.



Remind the children that God gives us Wisdom when we follow in His footsteps. This wisdom is given to us by God if we remain close to him (by praying and worshipping him)!

Good and Bad Ideas Activity:

Print two sets of the game cards on card stock paper, (attached at the end of the lesson). Cut out the cards, separate them into sets, and then shuffle each deck. Divide the children into two teams and have them work together to find the “good” idea and the “bad” idea that match. The team who correctly matches all twelve pairs first is the winning team (consider bringing small prizes)! This game will help the children understand that there is a right (wise) decision for every wrong (unwise) decision.

Briefly explain each pair and the potential consequences for the “bad” ideas.

“Good Idea” Cards:

Study to make a good grade on a test.	Be kind to someone who is mean to you.	Ask a friend if you can borrow their new video game.
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¹⁰² Digital by Design. Wise Owls Cup Craft. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from <https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-wisdom.html>



Be a friend to the new kid at school.	Ask your mom or dad for the money to see a movie.	Be respectful to your teacher even though you're upset.
Complete your homework before going outside to play with your friends.	Clean up your room the first time you are asked.	Volunteer to help with a fundraiser that will help a needy family.
Pray with a friend who is sad.	Give away some of your clothes and toys to a good cause.	Invite a friend to church so they can learn more about God.

"Bad Idea" Cards:

Cheat to get a good grade on a test.	Get revenge on someone who is mean to you.	Take your friend's videogame when they aren't looking.
Make fun of the new kid at school.	Take money from your mom or dad's wallet without asking.	Yell at your teacher because you're upset.
Play outside too long and forget your homework.	Wait to clean your room until your mom or dad threatens to ground you for not listening.	Not helping others at Church.
Ignore your friend when they are sad..	Keep all your things for yourself even if you do not need them.	Don't tell your friends you go to church.



VIDEO:

[FLEXTALK: Wisdom Isn't Just for Old People \(Kids\) \(2:38\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What does it mean to follow Jesus? (To follow Jesus means to be like Him.)
- Who is our example for making wise decisions? (Jesus, when we do not know what to do, we can ask ourselves what Jesus would do to know what the wise decision would be.)
- Why is it important for us to be wise? (It is important for us to be wise because God taught us that we should be wise and it helps us make good decisions.)
- Where does true wisdom come from? (Wisdom comes from God and listening to His word.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- We cannot be selfish if we want to walk in wisdom. We must consider the results of our decisions and the impact they have on our own lives, the lives of others, and our belief in Jesus Christ.
- Our wisdom comes from God and listening to Him. What are some things we can do to become more wise? (Read the Bible, ask God for help before we make a decision, think of what Jesus would do, and become more humble.)



Lesson 6.3- Mary Anoints the Feet of Our Lord : Sign of Love

Building Block 6
Church is All About Love



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Several boxes with small holes or fabric bags, cloves, garlic, lemon, garlic, and perfume.

Scripture Reference: John 12:1-8

Craft: Paper plates, scissors, foam balls, stickers, more decorations, and glue.

Video: [LifeKids: Mary Pours Perfume on Jesus | Bible Story | LifeKids \(1:37\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will develop an understanding of what it means to give out of love.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Giving



MEMORY VERSE:

“

But the righteous gives and does not spare.

”

Proverbs 21:26

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Guess the Smell Opening Activity:

In advance, you will have prepared several boxes with holes punched in them or bags out of fabric that can “breathe” but not seen through. Each one will have a different distinct scent in it. Ideas might include: cloves, lemon, and garlic. One must have perfume in it.



In our Bible story today someone gave a special gift of love to Jesus. An item like that gift is in one of these boxes. Let's do a sniff test and discover what it was.

Pass one box (or bag) around the circle. Have each of the kids take turns smelling it. Tell them not to say anything about what it smells like to them. Once they have all smelled it, ask what they think it is. Do this for each box/bag.

Ask which smell they think is the gift that a woman gave Jesus. (Perfume)

This gift was not just any old thing the woman in the story could find. The perfume she gave Jesus was the best and showed how much she loved Jesus.

We have been learning about the love and the care of our church and how our Lord Jesus Christ was the greatest example of love that He has for us His people. Today, we will continue to learn what happened after our Lord raised Lazarus from the dead.



LESSON BODY:

Read John 12: 1-8.

Jesus visited the house of His friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus whom He raised from the dead. They made Him a large supper and while everyone was eating, Mary wanted to do something nice for Jesus, because she loved Him very much.

Consider asking the children to list some things they do for the people they love. For example, have they ever made a card for their parents on their birthday. Why do they do something like this? It is how they can show someone how much they love them. Mary wanted to do the same thing!

Mary took a bottle of very, very expensive and sweet-smelling perfume. This was the best perfume she owned! Then she did something very surprising. She poured the perfume all on our Lord's feet and anointed them with the perfume.

Consider asking the children why she would give Jesus all of this perfume if it was the very best that she owned. Remind the children that she loved Jesus so much that she did not care about how much the perfume cost, she just wanted to do something nice for Him.

Mary had very long and beautiful hair. After she poured the perfume on His feet, she wiped our Lord's feet with her hair. She did not stop to think about keeping her hair clean, again she wanted to show Jesus how much she loved Him!

"The traitor rebukes the woman who had shown her devotion towards Christ, and attacks the admirable deed, and affects to blame it out of love towards the poor, because ointment was brought and not money. But it was out of ignorance as to what is really excellent that Judas said this. For the bringing of presents unto God ought to be honoured more than the poor. The Evangelist however sets forth the reason, on account of which Judas said this: it was not that he felt any concern for the poor, but because he was a thief and a sacrilegious person, stealing the money which was dedicated to God. And the Lord also makes it clear that the woman was free from any blame, whereby He covertly rebukes the traitor; not in His good judgment finding fault with things that were worthy of praise, but saying: Let her alone."

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

After this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, got annoyed and he was shocked because the perfume was very, very expensive. He started to blame her loudly, but Jesus defended her and told Judas not to be mean to her because she did this to show her great love to Jesus in preparation for His death and burial.

You may wish to consult the quote above by St. Cyril of Alexandria as commentary on Judas' lack of love.¹⁰³ This may be a point of discussion for the children to contrast the love and generosity of Mary.

Judas was angry because instead of recognizing how much Mary loved Jesus, he loved money more than anything. Unlike Judas, Mary was being generous from her heart.

Consider emphasizing to the children that Mary is a good example of being generous and truly loving others. They should realize that loving others means giving freely, without worrying about money or themselves.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Fragrance Flask Craft:

1. Hand out paper plates and allow the children to cut them into the shape of an older looking jar
2. Using colors and decorations, they'll make jars full of the "best" perfume they have to offer to God.



Give God Your Best Game:

Tell the children that when we love Jesus, we want to give Him our best. In this game, allow the children to practice giving or doing their best.

1. Shout out an instruction such as "Do your best (jumping, hopping, skipping, singing, smiling, twirling, clapping)!"
2. Children will all do their best together until you say the next command.

Ask what they think it means to honor Jesus. Honoring Jesus means to treat Him with respect. Mary did not keep her oil for herself; she honored Jesus by giving Him her best. Jesus gave His best when He died to rescue people from sin.

When we love Jesus, we want to give Him our best. What are some ways you can give Jesus your best? *Invite the children to discuss their ideas.* Mary loved Jesus more than anything in the world so she anointed Him with her very best oil.



VIDEO:

[LifeKids: Mary Pours Perfume on Jesus | Bible Story | LifeKids \(1:37\)](#)

¹⁰³ St. Cyril of Alexandria. (AD 444). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/57eb0c76b0d44ee10cfabfe1>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- What did Mary do while they were eating? (She poured a bottle of very expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair.)
- What can we learn from this lesson? (To love God and give to Him generously. We should be excited about giving and happy just like Mary was.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- We should give to God as generously as we can and be happy and excited when giving.
- We should not be mean to others who want to give generously, rather we should learn from them.
- What gifts can you give God? (Prayer, offering ourselves to our Father in the morning and at night, fasting, honoring our parents, helping others, coming to church and pray in the liturgy and the feasts, and offering our money to Church and to God.)



Lesson 6.4 - Forgiveness and the Paralytic: The Ultimate Gift of Love

Building Block 6
Church is All About Love



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Crayons or colored markers and blank sheets of light-colored construction paper.

Scripture Reference: Mark 2:1-12

Craft: [Printed paralyzed man figure](#), crayon pencils, markers, scissors, felt, large craft sticks, and a hot glue gun.

Activity: Pretzels.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Jesus Heals A Man \(3:39\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children will learn about the story of the paralytic man and understand the power of God to heal and the importance of the Church to receive forgiveness.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness and Friendship.



MEMORY VERSE:



When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'son, your sins are forgiven you'



Mark 2:5

Lesson



LESSON OPENING(CREATE AN INTEREST):

"Sick Kids" Icebreaker¹⁰⁴:

¹⁰⁴ Who Needs a Doctor? Group Activities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 16, 2020, from https://sermons4kids.com/who_needs_a_doctor_group_activities.htm



1. First, explain that a paralytic is someone who cannot move. Remind the children that God can heal people of many different things, not just being paralyzed.
2. Instruct the children to get into groups of two. One of the children will lay down and pretend that they are sick/paralyzed while the other child will try to quote today's Bible verse or parts of it to help their "sick" classmate to get up. Children can switch roles when complete.

God can heal people in many different ways. Even though we can go to a doctor when we are sick, God is the true performer of miracles, who can heal us in every way!



LESSON BODY¹⁰⁵:

Read Mark 2:1-12.

Consider asking the children to identify who brought the paralytic man to Jesus. Emphasize the importance of the faith of the man's friends in leading to his healing.

In this story, we see a paralytic man who wanted to be healed. The crowd was too big, so the man's four friends cut a hole in the roof and lowered him down on his mat to Jesus.

Consider asking the children if they think the four men were good friends to the paralytic man.

This story teaches us the importance of having good friends. Real friends are people who bring us closer to God, just like the men in this story who brought the paralytic man to Jesus.

Consider asking the children if they know where they can find good friends? The servant should consider Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty's interpretation of the 4 men in the parable and highlights how the church works in unity and with love for each of God's children.¹⁰⁶

"...these four men refer to the Church as a whole: Three are the orders of the clergy (bishops, priests and deacons) and congregation. All are bound to work together with one spirit, in order to bring forward every paralytic soul to Lord Christ."

- Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty

If real friends are people who bring us closer to God, the first place we should look is the Church! In this story, the four friends represent the Church, and it is through these friends that the paralytic finds healing, and that we find salvation!

Just like the paralytic man, when we come to Church we are being brought to Christ, and the Church works together to heal us when we sin. So when Jesus told the paralytic man that his sins were forgiven, Jesus was healing him from the inside, out!

Only one person can forgive us all our sins. Who is that? (God)

When Jesus told the paralytic that his sins were forgiven, Jesus was claiming to be Whom? (God)

¹⁰⁵ St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church. (2016, October 25). Healing of the Paralytic (English Sermon) H.G. Bishop Abraham [Youtube Video]. Retrieved July 31, 2020, from <https://youtu.be/HZxi6Vlcrljo>

¹⁰⁶ Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty. (2003). *A Patristic Commentary: The Gospel According to St. Mark*. Coptic Orthodox Christian Center. Orange, California.

And, when the paralytic walked, Jesus proved that He was indeed God! Everyone was amazed, they had never seen anyone who could both heal someone and forgive their sins!

When we go to Church we can also be amazed by our own healing. The Church heals us by allowing us to hear that our sins are forgiven, just like the paralytic man. Receiving forgiveness is the ultimate gift of love that we can receive from the Church, it is a miracle!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

“Sick Pretzel Eaters” Activity¹⁰⁷:

1. Explain to the children that the man in the story who Jesus healed could not do some tasks that most people find easy. He needed the help of his friends in order to even see Jesus! Without his friends, he would not have been able to encounter Jesus and receive divine healing.
2. Next, give a pretzel to each child and instruct them to hold onto their pretzel with one hand and to stretch out that one arm. They will pretend that their arm is paralyzed and will be given the challenge of trying to eat their pretzel without bending the elbow of their one arm.
3. After seeing the children go through much difficulty trying to eat their pretzels, restate the story of the paralytic man and how his friends helped him to see Jesus. If the children still do not catch on, go over to one of the children and feed your pretzel to them. By this point, the children will realize that friends are needed in order to accomplish certain things!

Paralyzed Man and Mat Craft¹⁰⁸:

1. Give one [printed paralyzed man](#) to each child.
2. Have the children color and cut out the paralyzed man printout.
3. Pre-cut a rectangle of felt to fit between two large craft sticks for each child.
4. Assist the children in glueing the felt to craft sticks using a hot glue gun.
5. Assist the children in glueing the man to the mat.
6. Assist the children in writing the memory verse and their name at the bottom of the man.



¹⁰⁷ Sunday School Lesson: Jesus Heals and Forgives. (n.d.). Retrieved July 23, 2020, from <https://childrensministry.com/jesus-heals-forgives/>

¹⁰⁸ Daisyraytheclown. (2018, July 16). Paralyzed Man & Mat Craft. Retrieved July 31, 2020, from <https://ministry2kidz.com/2018/07/16/paralyzed-man-mat-craft/>



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: God's Story: Jesus Heals A Man \(3:39\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

- Why was it almost impossible for the men to get their friend to where Jesus was? (Because it was so crowded.)
- How did they solve this problem? (By cutting a hole in the roof and lowering him down on his mat.)
- Did Jesus heal the paralytic man? (Yes.)
- Did Jesus show compassion and provide comfort for this man? (Yes.)
- How would you feel if you were one of the people who saw this miracle taking place? (Possible answers may include; surprised, amazed, shocked, etc.)
- Have you ever been sick, and prayed to God to make you better? What happened? (Possible answers may include; Yes, Jesus helped me feel better.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- Jesus is the only one who can perform miracles and heal people.
- Our friends should bring us closer to Jesus and to the church, if they do not, they are not really a friend.
- Where can we go to be healed and to find true friends? (We can go to church and confess our sins!)
- How can we be more like the friends in the story? (We should support and help our friends always tell people about Jesus, and bring people to church.)



Lesson 6.5 - Discrimination (eg. Racism)

Building Block 6
The Church is All About Love



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Poster of attached table, velcro tape, and a world map or globe.

Scripture Reference: Leviticus 19: 33-34

Craft: [Printable human figure](#), scissors, pencil crayons, markers, tissue paper, ribbon, glitter and glue.

Song: [InfinityPointZero: Jesus Loves Everyone \(2:39\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

The children should be able to understand that the Church has no place for hatred or racism.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Inclusivity and Love.



MEMORY VERSE:



For there is no partiality with God.



Romans 2:11

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST)

Consider beginning the lesson by asking the children if they know what the word "racism" means. Explain to the children that racism is when people are being discriminated against because of their skin color.

Today we are going to talk about racism and inclusivity. Jesus loves all His children no matter what their skin color is, He created us all to be like Him. So, we should also love all no matter what they look like. We should also make everyone feel included!



LESSON BODY:

Consider asking the children to describe the people they meet everyday. Ask them to consider if everyone looks the same, speaks the same language, or even dresses the same.

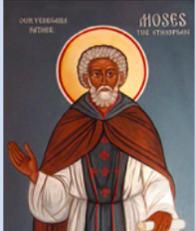
We see a lot of people everyday! Each person is different, but God loves everyone equally!

Consider reinforcing and explaining the memory verse at this time.

Even within our Church, we see lots of different people each Sunday! Did you know that the Coptic Church is connected to many other churches with different peoples! We will talk about some of them today!

Consider printing off the following table onto a poster and attaching the images using velcro tape as you describe each church.

Consider also having a world map or globe while reviewing the different churches to show the children where each is located.

Church Name	Coptic Orthodox Church	Ethiopian Orthodox Church	Syriac Orthodox Church	Indian Orthodox Church	Armenian Orthodox Church
Current Patriarch	 H.H. Pope Tawadros II	 H.H. Abune Mathias	 H.H. Ignatius Aphrem II	 Catholicos Baselios Marthoma Paulose II	 H.G. Sahak II Mashalian and H.G. Nourhan Manougian.
Notable Saints					

Remind the children that although each Church may have small differences, we are all united in Christ. This means that we must love and respect one another!

Why does God care about whether we respect other people and their differences?

Consider asking the children if they remember what happened when the people of Israel were in Egypt in Exodus.

When the Israelites first came to Egypt, they were foreigners. Being a foreigner means that you have travelled to somewhere where you were not born. To the Egyptians, the Israelities were strangers! During the time when Moses was born, the Egyptians did not have the love of God in their hearts, and Pharaoh was afraid of the Israelities because they were strangers who could overpower him.

After God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, He gave them a very interesting commandment. God told them that because God loved them so much to save them, they should represent that love when they meet others. He told them:

“And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19: 33-34).

The servant might want to consider tying the concept of people being oppressed and the commandment “love your neighbor as yourself.” The servant can consult Father Tadros Yacoub Malaty bible commentary book on Leviticus and the particular point made under chapter 19 as quoted.

Even in the Old Testament, God has made it clear to us that we cannot judge people because they are from other countries or different from us. Just as Jesus told us, our main duty is to love one another!

“Regarding our relationship with our brethren: no stealing, lying, dealing falsely, swearing by God’s name falsely, **oppressing the neighbor, nor do injustice in judgement, slander, hate your brother in your heart, take vengeance...but rather ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’**”

- Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty

To be like Jesus, we must love one another. Love has no room for hatred, being mean, or making fun of people who are different. We must love everyone as we love ourselves!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Multicultural Children Craft¹⁰⁹:

1. Print out [the template](#).
2. Have the children cut out the printable people using scissors.
3. Have the children color the people using pencil crayons or markers.
4. Have the children glue on any extra embellishments such as tissue paper for hair, ribbon for a skirt, glitter, etc.
5. Assist the children in writing the memory verse and their names on the back or on the legs/ arms of the people.



SONG:

[InfinityPointZero: Jesus Loves Everyone \(2:39\)](#)

¹⁰⁹ Hello, W. (2018, February 22). MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S ART WITH FREE PRINTABLE. Retrieved July 31, 2020, from <https://www.hellowonderful.co/post/MULTICULTURAL-CHILDREN----S-ART-WITH-FREE-PRINTABLE/>



Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Is it good to judge others based on their skin color? (No, we should never judge others based on the color of their skin.)
- Can you name one of the Orthodox Popes? (H.H. Pope Tawadros, H.H. Abune Mathias, etc.)
- What happened to the Israelites when they first came to Egypt? (They were treated as foreigners and became slaves.)



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- Jesus loves us all no matter what our skin color is, so we should always love others as well and we should never judge someone based on the color of their skin.
- What should we remember when we meet someone who is different than us? (We should love them and show the same kindness that Jesus showed the world through His sacrifice!)
- What can you do the next time someone is making fun of a person based on their appearance, clothes, language, etc.? (Tell them to stop, pray for them, and comfort the person who is being made fun of.)



Spare Lessons

These lessons are spare and can be given in the event a lesson is given on the day of Palm Sunday or the feast of Resurrection.

SPARE.1 - Church surrounded by Saints - A Cloud of Witnesses, Intercession

Spare



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: A picture of Pope Kyrillos and St. Mina and one of Mother Irini and St. Philopateer.

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 12:1

Craft: Colored construction paper, pictures of saints, markers, pencil crayons, scissors, single-hole punch, and yarn.

Activity: A beach ball with sections, and a black permanent marker.



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will be introduced to the concept of intercession. The children also will learn how to start asking for saints' help in their lives.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Prayerful and Faithfulness.



MEMORY VERSE:



Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.



Hebrews 12:1

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

Consider opening the lesson by telling the children the following story:

One day a young boy named George had a really, really, really hard test coming up, but he was not sure who he could ask to pray for him! Maybe his parents, Abouna, his Sunday school teacher, or maybe even a friend! But he kept wondering if there was anyone else he could have asked!

Consider asking the children if they know who George should have asked to pray for him. Introduce the idea of saint intercessions at this time.

When we ask someone to pray for us it means they are interceding on our behalf.

Consider asking the children if they know what intercession means.



LESSON BODY:

Intercession means we are asking God for something for another person, like our parents or our friends. Just like Jesus when He intercedes before God the Father on behalf of all of us, even though we are sinners.

We are all children of God, even people we do not know are the children of God so, as God's children, we are taught to intercede for one another. That means we should be interceding for everyone!¹¹⁰

Sometimes we may also ask those who are in Paradise to intercede for us.

Consider asking the children if they know who in Paradise we ask to intercede for us.

“But not the high priest [Christ] alone prays for those who pray sincerely, but also the angels...as also the souls of the saints who have already fallen asleep.”

- Origen

We ask saints!

Consider asking the children if they can name a saint, name the saint of their Sunday school class and who their favorite saint is.

We ask for the intercessions of Saint Mary, the Angels, and Archangels. We also should ask for intercessions of the disciples, apostles, martyrs, fathers, and saints to pray on our behalf. So, what does that look like? When we ask St. Mary to intercede on our behalf, what is she actually doing?

They stand in front of God and pray for us. So, imagine St. Mary going in front of God and asking Him: “God, please protect this class.” Not only should we ask the saints who are in heaven to intercede for us, we must intercede for one another.

Praying for one another does many things. It strengthens our relationship with the Lord and also strengthens our relationships with one another.

¹¹⁰ Origen. (AD 233). Retrieved from <https://www.churchfathers.org/intercession-of-the-saints>

The most special intercession is the one Jesus made for us when He died on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus was the only One who could have interceded for us in that way. He was the only person who could intercede for us before God in order to save us.

Through intercessions and prayers, we walk on the path to Salvation while being supported and protected by the prayers of others. We receive help with problems through the prayers and intercessions of others.

Consider giving the children examples of intercessions such as Pope Kyrillos and St. Mina or Mother Erene and St. Philopateer.

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Prayer Hands, Saints Can Help us in Our Prayers to God:

1. Before the lesson, print off pictures of saints.
2. Get each child to select some construction paper. Then have them trace out their hand and cut them out. They should begin with two which they will use as their cover and back. On the front of one hand get them to write "[Name] prays!" and on another get them to write "Saints that help me pray".
3. They will trace more hands and cut them out. Then color some pictures of saints or cut some pictures of saints and glue them onto their other prayer hands. They can do as many as they want.
4. Once they are finished, they will gather them together with the two hands that say, "[Name] pray" and "Saints that help me pray" holding the other hands with the picture of saints together. Holepunch them when organized.
5. Get the children to cut a piece of yarn. They will thread the yarn through the hole and tie it together.



Beach Ball Prayer Game¹¹¹:

Preparations: (prepared before lesson)

In each section, write a prayer prompt on the ball. There are a total of 6 sections.

¹¹¹ S., & S. (2019, August 24). Beach Ball Prayers. R m
<https://www.raisingprayerfulkids.com/post/beach-ball-prayers>





- I praise You for...
- Thank You for...
- Please bless... (*through the intercession of [name of saint]*)
- Jesus, forgive me. (*through the intercession of [name of saint]*)
- Please help me with... (*through the intercession of [name of saint]*)
- Hallelujah!

1. Throw the ball person to person. When the ball is caught, check which prayer prompt the right index finger lands. Then read off the prayer prompt and finish the prayer prompt out loud, if desired (Some children may not be comfortable sharing their prayers out loud, i.e. "Jesus forgive me" so that is okay). For some of the prayer prompts encourage the children to pray through the intercession of a saint.
2. How do you pray in those ways?
 - a. "I praise You for..." is very similar to thank you, but the thanks/praises are directed to God's work. The focus is on God, not on a person or thing. E.g. "God you are so creative, you made each animal on the planet unique!"
 - b. "Thank You for..." giving thanks to God for a person(s) or thing(s). E.g. "Thank you God for my friend, Maria!"
 - c. "Please bless..." is also very similar to thank you, but involves blessing the person, situation, or thing. E.g. "God bless Maria, she is a great friend!"
 - d. "Jesus, forgive me." Confess out loud, pause and silently confess, or just move one. It is a good practice to seek forgiveness.
 - e. "Please help me with..." is asking God for help with or for something or someone. E.g. "Lord, my little brother was feeling sick this morning, please help him feel better and get better soon."
 - f. "Hallelujah!" Praise the Lord! Have the children shout "Hallelujah!" and do a silly dance or move, etc.

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Consider using the beach ball from the game for the review activity. Have the children sit in the circle. Pass the beach ball around the circle. When the child catches the ball, they must answer a review question, then they pass the ball to another child who has not answered yet. The review questions can include the following:

- What is it called when we ask for supplications of others on our behalf? (Intercession).
- Who can we ask for intercessions from? (The saints, both alive and in Paradise. Our parents, our friends, our Sunday School teachers, our priest, etc.)
- What was the most special intercession? (When Christ died for us on the Cross for our sins.)
- What happens when we ask for someone to intercede for us? (They stand before God and ask God to protect us and guide us.)
- Who should we intercede and pray for? (Everyone!)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- Saints in Paradise can intercede for us, and when we are in Church we are closest to Heaven. So, what can we do the next time we go to Church? (When entering Church, you can light a candle in front of an icon or stand in front of the icon and ask for the intercessions of that particular saint and of all the saints in the church.)
- How can we intercede for others? (We can pray for them when they ask us to. We should pray for everyone, even the people we do not like!)



SPARE.2 - Saint John the Beloved

Spare



SERVANTS PREPARATION/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

Lesson: Bible, board, markers, and paper.

Scripture References: Mark 14:32-34, Mark 10:35-45, and Revelation 1:1-2 & 9.

Craft: [Heart outline](#), markers, pencil crayons, strips of paper with the verses written on them, and glue sticks.

Activity: Card stock paper.

Video: [Crossroads Kids' Club: What's That Word: Humility \(1:11\)](#)



OVERALL GOAL OR PURPOSE OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the children will learn how Jesus turned John's prideful moments into humble lessons for the future and how Jesus' resurrection made a difference in John's life.



MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Humility



MEMORY VERSE:



And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.



Mark 10:44

Lesson



LESSON OPENING (CREATE AN INTEREST):

John had a very close relationship with Jesus as one of His most trustworthy disciples, but even he made mistakes! Today we are going to learn how Jesus' resurrection affected the disciple John, one of Jesus' closest friends."

Consider asking the children if they already know anything about John (he was a fisherman, he had a brother named James, he wrote the books of John and Revelation, etc.)



Also consider making a list on the board (or on a piece of paper) of all the things they mention about St. John.



LESSON BODY:

Consider writing each scripture passage (Mark 14:32-34, Mark 10:35-45, Revelation 1:1-2 & 9) on an index card and giving each child a reference to read in order to involve children more in the lesson discussion.

Make the distinction that John the disciple is not the same person as John the Baptist.

St. John, the Apostle, was also known as the beloved disciple or the disciple Jesus loved. He is an example of someone who lived with a simple, but deep love for Jesus. He encouraged all believers to love Jesus and love one another and he wrote the books of John, 1, 2, & 3 John, and Revelation.

Read Mark 14:32-34.

Consider asking the children how many disciples Jesus took with Him to Gethsemane to keep watch while He was praying. (Three).

When Jesus went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane, He only took three disciples with Him, one of them being John. Based on this, it is clear John had a close relationship with Jesus and was trusted by Him. However, there were also moments when John was thinking of himself, leading to Jesus correcting him.

Read Mark 10:35-45 and give a brief summary of the passage.

Consider having the children comment about what seems silly or immature about John (and James') request:
¹¹²

- They asked for something selfish.
- They were proud and wanted to be above the other disciples.
- They did it behind the other disciples' backs.
- They claimed they could handle what Jesus would go through.

"They were conferring with Him about glory. He intended to precede loftiness with humility and, only through humility, to ready the way for loftiness itself."

- St. Augustine of Hippo

Jesus responded to John and James by telling them that such a position was not something that Jesus could just give to anyone who asked. The disciples were angry at James and John for trying to place themselves above them. When Jesus realized how the disciples felt, He gathered all 12 of them and told them that greatness is not determined by who has power, but by serving others as Jesus served the world.

Though John did make mistakes, he learned from Jesus' lessons on earth and became a servant-leader within the early church after the resurrection.

In John's books, he demonstrated clear humility. Read Revelation 1:1-2 & 9. Ask the following questions:

- Who received credit for John's writings? (Jesus).

¹¹² St. Augustine of Hippo. (AD430). Retrieved from <https://catenabile.com/com/5838fee5205c248f42e52e23>

→ What was John’s purpose in writing? (That others would believe and be assured that he shared in their sufferings.)

Conclude the lesson by reiterating the transformation of John’s heart from subtle pride to incredible humility after Jesus’ resurrection. John’s heart was transformed by Jesus’ infinite love!

Supplementary



CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES:

Loving Heart¹¹³:

1. For this craft, print out [outlines of a heart](#).
2. Provide the children with markers and pencil crayons.
3. Ask the children to pick a piece of paper with the verse on it and glue it on their colored heart.
4. Some verses to include are are:
 - a. “Let all that you do be done with love.” 1 Corinthians 16:14
 - b. “We love Him because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19
 - c. “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”” 1 Peter 4:8
 - d. “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12
 - e. “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” 1 John 4:12



Ask them to take these crafts home to remind them about love and how it changes lives, just like how Saint John was changed by the love of Christ.

Resurrection Opposites – Memory Game:

1. Write the following words on card stock paper, (One word on a card)
2. Tell the children you are trying to find opposite matches when playing this game. So, if they find ‘hateful’ on one card they would then try to find the card that says, ‘loving.’” Help the children identify the opposites as they play and allow them to play additional rounds if time permits. Then review the matches to instill how we should act because we have also been changed by the resurrection.

→ Humble	→ Rebellious	→ Faithful
→ Prideful	→ Obedient	→ Unfaithful
→ Loving	→ Impatient	→ Forgiving
→ Hateful	→ Patient	→ Unforgiving
→ Selfish	→ Jealous	→ Trusting
→ Sacrificial	→ Grateful	→ Doubting
→ Kind	→ Greedy	→ Brave
→ Mean	→ Content	→ Fearful

¹¹³ Pictures Of Hearts To Color And Print. (n.d.). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <http://cwallpapersgallery.blogspot.com/2015/07/pictures-of-hearts-to-color-and-print.html>



VIDEO:

[Crossroads Kids' Club: What's That Word: Humility \(1:11\)](#)

Review



REVIEW LESSON:

Questions:

- Who was John? (John was one of the 12 disciples and a very close friend to Jesus.)
- What major event changed John's heart forever? (The resurrection of Jesus.)
- What was John struggling with the most in his life? (He was struggling with his pridefulness, he needed to be more humble.)
- Even though John struggled with his pride, did Jesus still love him? (Yes, Jesus loved St. John a lot and taught him how to become more humble.)



REVIEW MEMORY VERSE



REVIEW MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS



LIFE APPLICATION:

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

- John was a close friend and confidant of Jesus whose inward pride turned into outward humility after the resurrection. We too should cling to the wondrous hope that Christ's resurrection gives and dedicate our lives to spreading the message of Jesus' victory over death!
- How can we be more like St. John in our lives? (By praying for God to help us humble ourselves and having humility.)
- If we want to be more like Jesus, we need to humble ourselves and cling to words of the Lord.

