

the people for three days. After that they should stand at the foot of the mountain and Moses should come to the top of it. Moses consecrated the people and prepared them to meet God on Mount Sinai. On the third day

LESSON 12

WE OBEY GOD

(Ex. 19 : 9, 16-20, 20 : 1-20)

How do we obey or disobey our parents? It is very painful for our parents when we disobey them. They love us. They want us to move in good ways by obeying them. But when we disobey they are unhappy because we move away from good to bad ways. God the Father, similarly wants us to obey Him. He expects that we, His children should do right by obeying His laws.

God gave His laws through Moses. We have studied the story of the boy Moses. Moses grew up and God made him the leader of Israel. God asked him to go to Egypt and bring the people of Israel to Canaan. Moses brought back the people from Egypt. On their way, in the Sinai God gave the people His laws. They should obey Him by observing the laws. There was a mountain in Sinai called Mount Sinai. God told Moses that He would appear to him and the people on Mount Sinai and give them His laws. Moses should prepare



Mount Sinai was wrapped in cloud like a pall of smoke. God descended upon it in fire. The whole mountain quivered. People trembled. Moses led them out to stand at the foot of the mountain as God had said. Moses went up to the top of the mountain. God spoke to Moses out of the cloud.

God gave His laws to the people. One of the laws is,

"Honour your father and your mother".

We honour our parents by obeying them. God has appointed our parents, elders and teachers to nurture us in His ways. When we obey our parents we obey God. When we disobey them we disobey God. They show us how we can lead a good life. We must hear them and obey them that we can grow as good children of God.

For Memorisation

Ex. 20:12

"Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you".

Instruction to teachers

Emphasize that in order to obey God we must also obey our parents and elders.

Unit III. God Comes To Us

Aim:—To introduce the child to the birth and early life of Jesus and of John the forerunner. To introduce Mary as the mother of Jesus and as a person who herself served God from an early age.

LESSON 13

MARY IS PRESENTED AT THE TEMPLE

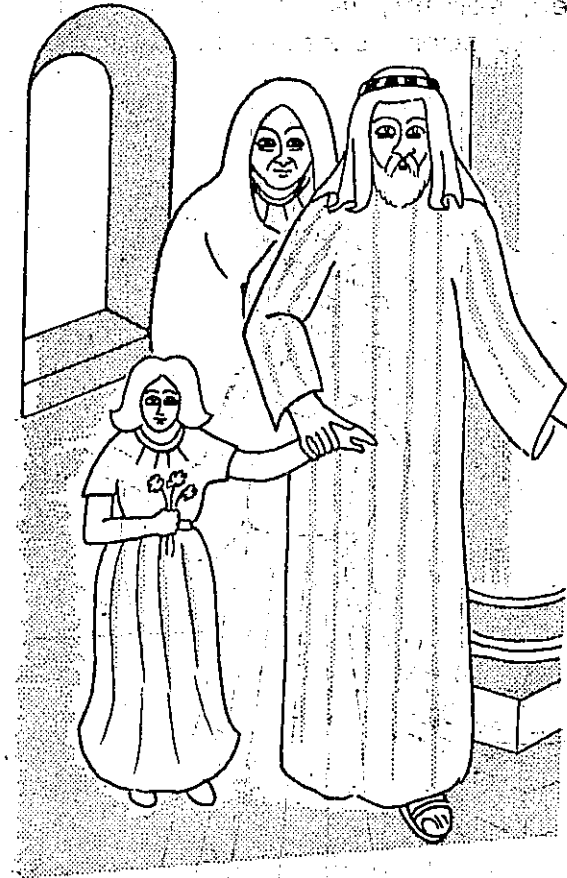
Do you remember any occasion when your brother, sister or any child is brought to the Church for baptism? What all things happen there? In baptism the parents present the child to God. The baby is dedicated to God and he becomes the child of God. You might have noted the priest making the sign of the Cross upon the child's forehead. The baby is thus sealed by the sign of the Cross and is dedicated to God.

In Palestine there lived an old man, Joachim. His wife was Anna. They were very devout and they worshipped God. Both were very old and had no child. They always prayed for a child. Joachim and Anna believed that one day God would answer their prayers and bless them with a child. They vowed that if God give them a child, they would dedicate the child to the service of God.

God answered their prayer. A little baby girl was born to them. The child was given

the name Mary. The little girl was beautiful and charming. She made her parents happy, because she was very lovely and good.

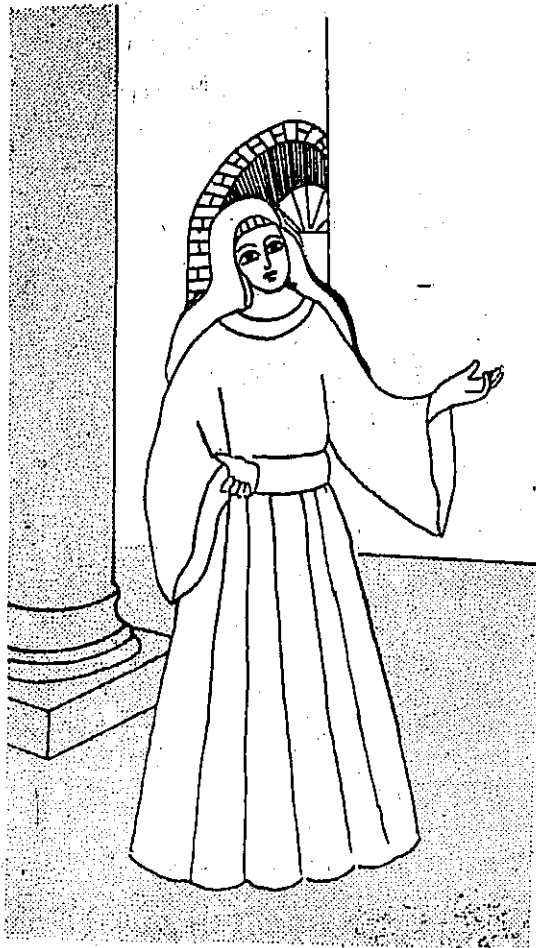
When Mary was three years old, her parents brought her to the temple of Jeru-



salem. They dedicated her to the service of God. The high priest of the temple took charge of her and looked after her. Joachim

and Anna thus thanked God for God's gift by dedicating the child to God.

In those days many people lived in the temple. Old men and women and little boys and girls were among them. They all spent their time in prayer, singing psalms, reading scriptures, serving in the temple and doing some works such as sewing etc.,



Mary joined that company. She sung hymns and read psalms. She served God in love and obedience. God gave her all blessings. God was pleased to honour her by choosing her as the mother of Jesus Christ.

For Memorisation

Lk. 1:28

"And he (the angel) came to her and said,
"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"

Activity

Learn the prayer to Virgin Mary,

"Peace be unto you, Mariam, full of
Grace....."

Instruction to teachers

Teachers may read liturgical texts of the feasts related to St. Mary and the life history of St. Mary.

praying in her room. Angel Gabriel greeted her saying "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you"! Blessed are you among women"! Mary was troubled by these strange words. Gabriel

LESSON 14

MARY IS CHOSEN

(Lk. 1:26-56)

How do we get messages from other places? We get messages through radio, newspaper, cable, letters, telephone... etc. How does God send messages to men? God sends messages through angels. Angels are the messengers of God. Today let us study how Mary received a good news from God.

Mary was living in the temple. Meanwhile, her parents died. Years passed. Mary grew into a beautiful maid. The high priest of the temple decided to arrange marriage for her. The priest sought for a suitable groom. They found out a very good and elderly man called Joseph. Mary was betrothed to him. Joseph took Mary to his home in Nazareth. Mary led a quiet and prayerful life there. She spent her time in household works, sang psalms and prayed. Everybody loved her.

One day God sent an angel to Mary in Nazareth. The angel was Gabriel. Mary was



then comforted her and conveyed God's message. Gabriel told her that she would give birth to a child and the child should be named Jesus. The child shall be called the Son of God.

Mary answered saying, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word". The angel then left her and Mary praised God.

The news that Mary received from God was a great news. The news was that God Himself would come on earth and live with us. Mary was chosen to be His mother, the mother of the Son of God.

For Memorisation

Lk. 1:46, 47

"And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour".

Activities

1. Make angel's wings and dramatize the story.
2. Learn verses of the Magnificat and sing as in Church.

Instruction to teachers

Emphasize that the little girl who took delight in the service of God in the temple, in prayer and singing psalms was to become the mother of the Son of God.

LESSON 15

JOHN IS BORN

(Lk. 1:5-25, 1:57-80)

Discuss how babies in the children's own families were given names—how the family decided what name to give.

In Jerusalem there lived a priest called Zechariah. His wife was called Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God. They obeyed and loved God. Both were old and had no children. They still prayed God for a child.

One day Zechariah was offering incense in the temple of God. A large number of people were praying outside the altar of incense. Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was frightened. The angel comforted him and told him that his wife would give birth to a child. The child should be called John. He would become a great man.

Zechariah could not believe these words. So the angel gave him a punishment. Zecha-

riah would be silent and unable to speak till the child is born to him. Zechariah came out of the temple silent. He could not speak.

After a few months as the angel said, Elizabeth gave birth to a son. All her family and her friends were very glad. All rejoiced with her saying, "God is gracious". In those days they used to name children on the eighth day. The friends and relatives of Zechariah and Elizabeth gathered to participate in that function. They thought of calling the child by his father's name, Zechariah. But Elizabeth said that her son should be called John. They



could not agree with her because there was no one in the family by that name. They approached Zechariah enquiring what he would like to call his son. He wrote on a tablet "His name is John".

As Zechariah wrote the name of the child, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak. Not only did he speak, he sang a song of praise to God. All marvelled and praised God.

Little John grew and became strong in the Holy Spirit. He became the prophet of God. He prepared the people to receive Jesus Christ the Saviour.

For Memorisation

Lk. 1:76

"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways".

Activity

Discussion on how we are often given names of saints. See how many children in the class have names of saints. Ask the children if they know the stories of their saints.

LESSON 16

JESUS CHRIST IS BORN TODAY

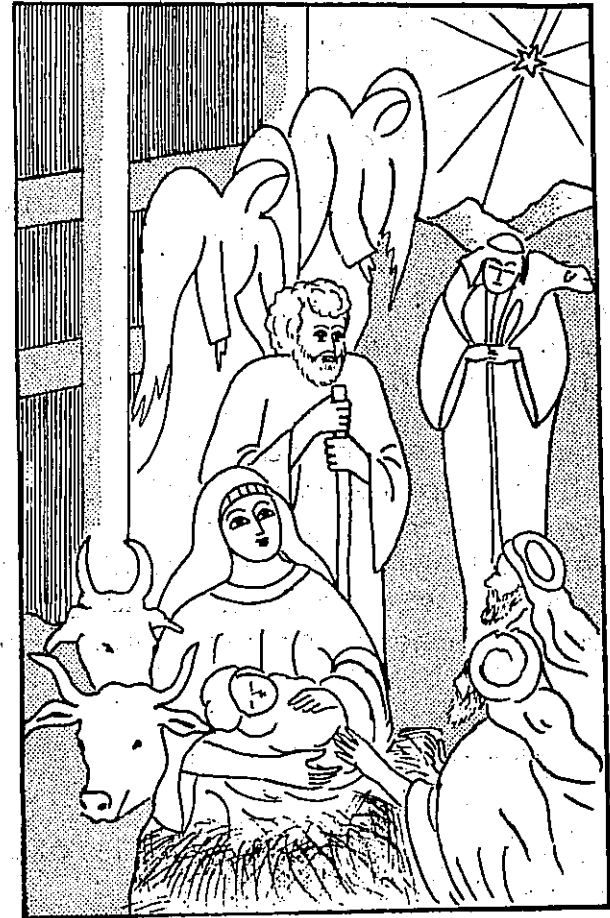
(Lk. 2:1-20)

Talk about the feast of Christmas. Ask the children what they remember of that day. (Creche, Christmas cards, Christmas gifts, Christmas tree, Christmas father, Christmas service.....etc). Ask the children what the importance of that day is.

Joseph and Mary lived in the little town of Nazareth, but their home town was Bethlehem. At that time Caesar the Emperor who ruled the country decided that a census should be taken in all his empire. He ordered that every one should be enrolled in his home town. Joseph and Mary went from Nazareth to their hometown, Bethlehem. It was very nearly time for Mary's baby to be born. It was quite a long journey. They had to travel nearly a hundred miles. Mary rode on the back of a donkey. After that very tiring journey they reached the little town of Bethlehem. In the night, time came for Mary to give birth to her son. They did not get any room in the inn.

So they wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes and laid him down on the straw in a manger. Thus Jesus Christ, God's promised Saviour, was born.

There was a little group of shepherds out in the field near Bethlehem, looking after their flock of sheep. Suddenly a great light shone



around them. An angel of God appeared to them. The shepherds were frightened but the Angel said to them,

“Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord”.

As the angel finished speaking, the shepherds saw around them a large number of angels, all shining bright. They were praising God and this is what they sang,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased”.

As the shepherds watched in amazement the angels disappeared.

The shepherds decided that they must go at once into Bethlehem to see this baby, about whom God sent the angel to tell them. When they came to the stable they found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God.

For Memorisation

Lk.2:11

“To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord”.

Activity

1. Study a Christmas hymn.
2. Make a Creche.

Instruction to teachers

Bring out worship of the shepherds and angels at the birth of the Saviour.

LESSON 17

JESUS AND THE WISE MEN

(Mt. 2:1-15)

Discuss function of star for guidance in travel, especially for sailors.

We shall study the story of three wise men who were guided by the star to worship the child Jesus. The wise men were living in a country in the East. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem they found a strange and brighter star in the East. They understood it to be the sign of the birth of the King of the Jews. They decided to find out that great new born King and worship him.

Guided by the star, they went to Bethlehem. The star seemed to move ahead of them. The star led them until it stopped right above the place where the child lay. They went inside and saw the child Jesus with His mother Mary. They fell down on their knees and worshipped the Child.

Then the wise men offered Him the rich



gifts they had brought: gold and frankincense and myrrh. These men were wise and rich. Yet they worshipped the little baby Jesus

born in the humble manger because they knew that this child is the King of all.

During Christmas season, we give gifts to our friends and near ones and we receive gifts from them. But what kinds of gifts can we offer Jesus? The best gift that we can offer Jesus is love. We can express our love to Jesus by loving the poor. When we give gifts to the poor we offer our gifts to Jesus. Obedience is another precious gift. Praise and glory are also other gifts we offer Jesus through prayers. Let us worship Jesus offering Him our gifts of love, obedience, praise and glory.

For Memorisation.

Mt. 2:11

"They saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh".

Activity

Prepare gifts for the poor and place them around the Creche. Plan a party for poor children or orphans and give them gifts.

Instruction to teachers

Establish the idea of Christmas as worshipping and offering our best gifts to Jesus, our King.

LESSON 18

JESUS IS BROUGHT TO THE TEMPLE (Lk. 2:22-38)

Ask the children if they know of any people who are very old. Do they see any people like this in the Church? Emphasize their piety and devotion. There were two such pious and devout old people who were blessed by God to see the infant Saviour.

When the baby Jesus was forty days old, Joseph and Mary carried the child to the temple in Jerusalem. They came to present the child to the Lord. They also took with them two young pigeons to offer as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. Mary and Joseph had to express their gratitude to God because God blessed them with the child Jesus.

As they entered the temple, there was an old man waiting for them. The old man's name was Simeon. He lived in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He spent his time in prayer. He had been waiting all his life to see the Saviour. God's Spirit had told him that



he would not die until he had seen the Saviour. On the day when Joseph and Mary brought the little Jesus to the temple, God's Spirit inspired Simeon to go to the temple. When the old man saw the baby he knew that He is the Saviour. He took Jesus in his arms and praised God saying,

"Now, Lord, let thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation".

In the temple there was also a very old lady whose name was Anna. She was a prophetess who brought God's messages to the people. She spent all her time in the temple fasting and praying night and day. She too had been waiting all her life for the Saviour. When Anna saw the baby in Mary's arms, she also praised God. She talked about Him to all those who waited for the Saviour.

Joseph and Mary presented the child Jesus before the Lord. They offered the young pigeons before God as a sacrifice. They thanked God for His blessings and returned home with joy.

For Memorisation

Lk. 2:30

"Mine eyes have seen thy salvation".

Activity

1. Have the children ask their parents what happened the first time they were brought to the church.
2. Repeat the prayer of Simeon (Lk.2:29-32).

Instruction to teachers

Emphasize that Simeon and Anna who waited and prayed all their lives to see the Saviour, were blessed by God to see the Saviour.

LESSON 19

JESUS SPEAKS IN THE TEMPLE

(Lk. 2:39-52)

Begin by asking students how we learn about God. We learn about God from the Church and from the Sunday School and when we hear God's word in the Bible, in preaching and in prayer.

Jesus was often called the Teacher. He taught people using very good stories. Jesus taught about God the Father, about Himself and about the Holy Spirit. Jesus began to teach very early, even when He was a boy. The boy Jesus was also eager to learn. He listened to the teachers. We shall study today an incident which shows how much the boy Jesus was interested in learning and teaching.

Every year Joseph and Mary went to the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve years old they went up to Jerusalem as usual. The

boy Jesus was also with them. When the feast was over, Joseph and Mary returned home. They were travelling with a large number of people. Joseph and Mary thought that Jesus was in the company. But at the end of the first day's journey they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances. The parents were horrified to find that He was not with them. Joseph and Mary returned to Jerusalem. After three days they found Him in



the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Mary and Joseph were so upset by now that Mary went straight to Him and said,

"Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously".

Then Jesus answered,

"How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

But they could not understand what He was telling them.

The boy Jesus had great interest in God's teachings. He carefully listened to the teachings and tried to teach others too. Jesus took delight in staying in the House of God for days together praying, listening to God's teaching and discussing them with the teachers. All who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. Even in boyhood Jesus understood what God has chosen Him for. He knew that His real work for God was to learn Himself and teach others the ways of God.

Jesus went home back with Joseph and Mary. He was obedient to them as a good son should be obedient to his parents. Jesus grew in wisdom. He was loved by God as well as by men.

For Memorisation

Lk. 2:52

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man".

Activities

1. Take the children to the Church. Have the priest show them the large Gospel book that contains Jesus' teachings.
2. Dramatize the story.

Instruction to teachers.

1. Focus on the boy Jesus' interest in staying in the House of God, in listening to God's teachings, in discussing God's teachings with others, in teaching others God's teachings.
2. Emphasize the importance of listening carefully to God's teachings.

LESSON : 20

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

(Mt. 3:1-6, 11-17)

Begin by showing the children pictures of a baptism. Talk about what happens in baptism. (In baptism we become the children of God and members of the Church).

Jesus did not leave His hometown nor go out to teach in public until he was about thirty years old. John, Jesus' cousin about whose birth we studied earlier was a prophet. A prophet is one who carries God's message to the people. John from his boyhood was living in the wilderness away from men. There he spent his time in prayer. His clothings were rough, a garment of camel's hair and a leather girdle around his waist. He ate only wilderness food, locusts and wild honey. Out there in the wilderness God spoke to John and gave him a message to preach to the people.

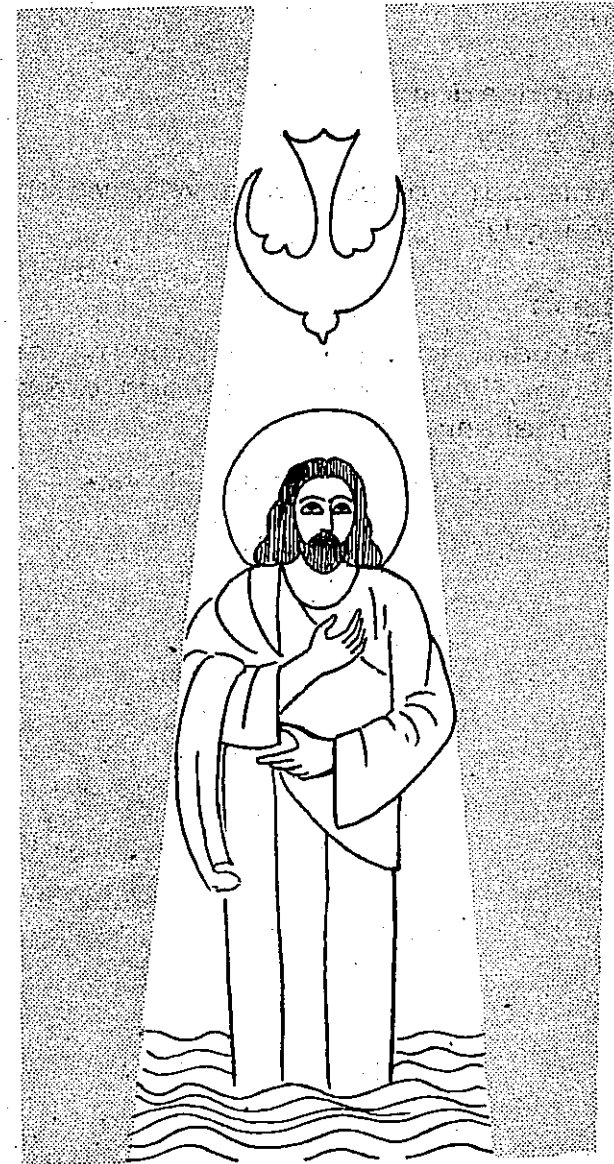
John appeared in the wilderness alongside the river Jordan. When he began to preach, people flocked from all parts of the

land to listen. He preached to them that they should prepare themselves to receive the Lord Jesus Christ. They should turn away from their wicked ways and repent of their sins. John told them that the Lord Jesus is greater than himself and all men. John said,

“He is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry”.

Many people who came to listen to John repented of their sins. John baptized those who repented in river Jordan as a sign of their turning away from their sins. Thus they prepared themselves to receive the Lord Jesus.

One day when John was preaching to a large crowd beside the river Jordan, suddenly he looked up and saw Jesus coming towards him. Jesus asked John that He wished to be baptized, by John. John was surprised at this request. He was reluctant to baptize the Lord. Instead he wished himself to be baptized by Jesus. But Jesus told him that they should fulfill all righteousness. They should show others what is needed to live God's life. Jesus should be an example in everything. Then John consented. John baptized Jesus in the waters of river Jordan. Then an amazing thing happened. As Jesus went up out of the water, the heavens were opened. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove. Then a voice was heard from heaven,



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

For Memorisation:

Mt. 3 : 17

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

Activities:

1. Learn to sing one of the hymns from the Feast of Epiphany or from baptismal service.
2. Try to see a baptism service.

Unit IV. God Cares for Us

Aim:—To acquaint the child with Biblical stories concerning the love and protection of God.

LESSON : 21

JESUS CARES FOR CHILDREN

(Lk. 18 : 15-17; 7 : 11-16)

Ask the students how a mother cares for a young baby. What are the things she does to satisfy the baby's needs? (Provides food, clothing, toys, protection, love etc). How does a mother care for a child when it is sick?

Jesus loved children of all ages. He enjoyed the company of children. He touched them to give them His blessings and His life. There are several instances in the life of Jesus Christ to illustrate how He loves and cares for little children.

One day some mothers brought their children to Jesus so that He might touch them and bless them. The disciples of Jesus did not like that. They rebuked the mothers and prevented them from bringing the children to Jesus. But Jesus called the mothers to Him and said,

“Let the children come to me, and do not



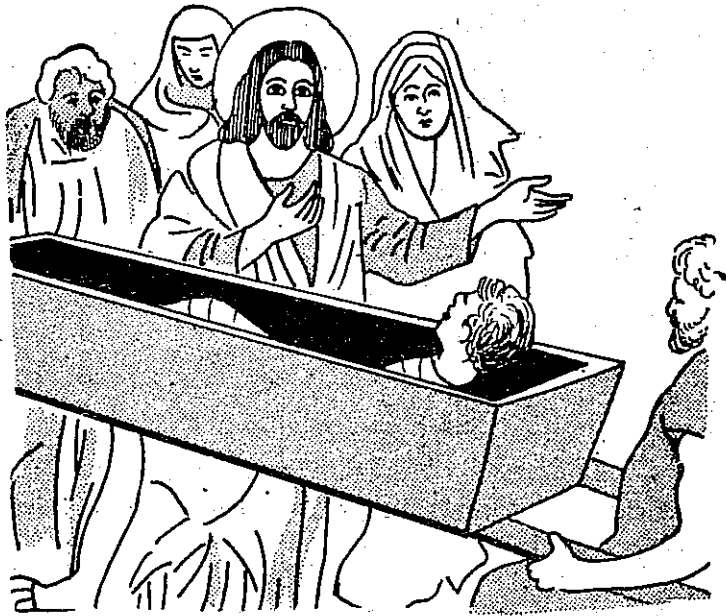
hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God”.

Jesus took the little children in His arms, laid His hands upon them and blessed them.

There is also another story which shows Jesus' kindness towards children and their

families. Once Jesus was going to a city called Nain. His disciples and a big crowd followed Him. As He drew near to the gate of the city he saw the dead body of a boy being carried out. He was the only son of his mother and she herself was a widow. A large crowd followed the dead body. Jesus saw the mother. He had compassion on her. He comforted her saying, "Do not weep". Jesus went near and touched the bier and said,

"Young man, I say to you, arise".



At once the dead boy sat up and began to speak. Jesus gave the boy to his mother. All were amazed and glorified God. Jesus was

compassionate towards the parents for their children.

For Memorisation:

Lk. 18 : 16

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God".

Activity:

1. Distribute pictures of guardian angels for the children to place by their beds and to pray for God's care.
2. Let the children pray for all children they know of, remembering them by name. Let them pray especially for those children who are sick.

JESUS GIVES LIFE TO BOYS AND GIRLS (Lk. 8:40-42, 49-56)

Discuss what kinds of things we need to live; make a list of them (air, water, food, clothes, house etc. . . .); Emphasize that above all, we need God's strength, His life in us in order to live.

Once while Jesus was teaching, a ruler called Jairus pressed through the crowd to Him. He fell down at Jesus' feet and cried out, "Lord, my daughter is dying, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live". Jesus at once followed the man to his home with the disciples. The girl was about twelve years of age and she was his only daughter. On the way a messenger came from Jairus' home. He told Jairus, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more". Jesus heard what he said. Jesus comforted Jairus saying, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well".

They reached Jairus' house. Jesus entered the room where the child lay. He permitted no one to enter with him except three of His disciples, and the father and mother of the child. All were weeping and bewailing her. Jesus told them, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping". Some of them laughed at His words because they were sure that the girl was dead and believed that she would not live

again. Jesus took the girl by the hand and called her saying, "Child, arise"! The girl got



up at once. Jesus asked to give her food. Her parents were amazed.

Jairus and his family were very happy and they praised God.

For Memorisation :

John. 11 : 25

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live".

Activity :

Dramatize the story, include the unbelieving crowd. Point out the faith of Jairus and life in us. We receive God's life in us in Holy Communion.

LESSON 23

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

(Mk. 4:35-41)

How do you feel when a great storm comes? Are you afraid? Do you usually rush to your parents for protection? What do you do?

Jesus was very tired after a long day of teaching. He wanted to rest and spend some time in quietness. He asked His disciples to take Him by boat across to the other side of the Sea of Galilee where He could find some peace. Thus Jesus and His disciples left the crowd and crossed to the other side. As soon as the boat launched out from the beach Jesus lay down on the cushion in the back of the boat and fell asleep. Suddenly, there arose a great storm of wind in the sea. The waves beat into the boat and began to fill the boat with water. The little boat was tossed dangerously to and fro by waves. The disciples were terrified at the fierceness of the storm. They went to Jesus and woke Him up and cried out,



"Save, Lord; we are perishing". Jesus rose from the sleep. He spoke to the storm, "Peace, be still". At once the wind subsided and the waves calmed. Jesus Christ is powerful enough to calm down such a great storm and protect us from dangers.

The disciples were with Jesus when He performed miracles on several occasions. They could be courageous when the Lord was

with them. But they were afraid when the wind storm beat against their boat fiercely. They were lacking in their faith in Jesus. Jesus was astonished on the disciples' lack of faith. He asked them, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?"

Jesus Christ is with us. He protects us from dangers. We must have faith and trust in His power to protect us.

For Memorisation :

Ps. 91:11

"For He will give His angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways".

Ps. 138:7

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble thou dost preserve my life".

Activity :

1. Recite a hymn which stresses the faith and trust in God's protection.
2. Cut out the pictures of the sea, boat, sleeping Jesus and the disciples and paste them on a paper in order.

Unit V. Jesus Saves Us

Aim:—To show God's power of life through stories on Christ's death and resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON 24

HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID

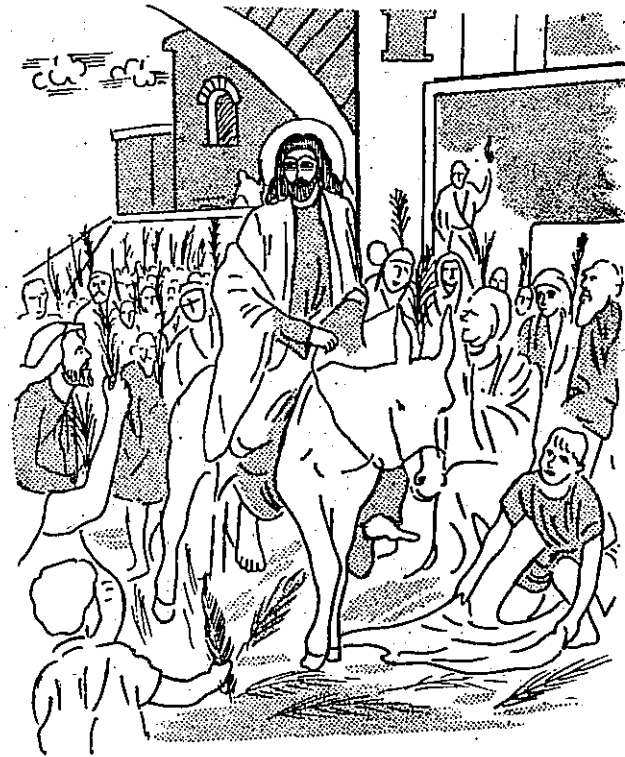
(Mt. 21:1-17)

Discuss what happens when the president or a high official comes to town or village, or when the Patriarch or bishop comes to your parish church for a visit. How do we receive them? Stress the idea of celebration.

Jesus Christ and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. They were going to participate in the great feast called the feast of Passover. They came near to the city of Jerusalem. It was a little village called Bethphage. When the Lord and His disciples reached this place, He sent two disciples into the village. He told them that as they enter the village they would find a donkey tied up, with her colt alongside her. They must untie them and bring them to the Lord. If any one stopped them, they should say that the Lord has need of the donkeys. Then he would at once let them take the donkeys.

The disciples brought the donkeys to the

Lord. They spread their garments on them and the Lord sat on the ass. As He began slowly to move along the road into Jerusalem, a huge crowd received Him into the city just as they receive their King. Some of them



spread their garments on the way, while others cut down palm branches and spread them on the road. They also held palm branches in their hands and they shouted,

LESSON 24

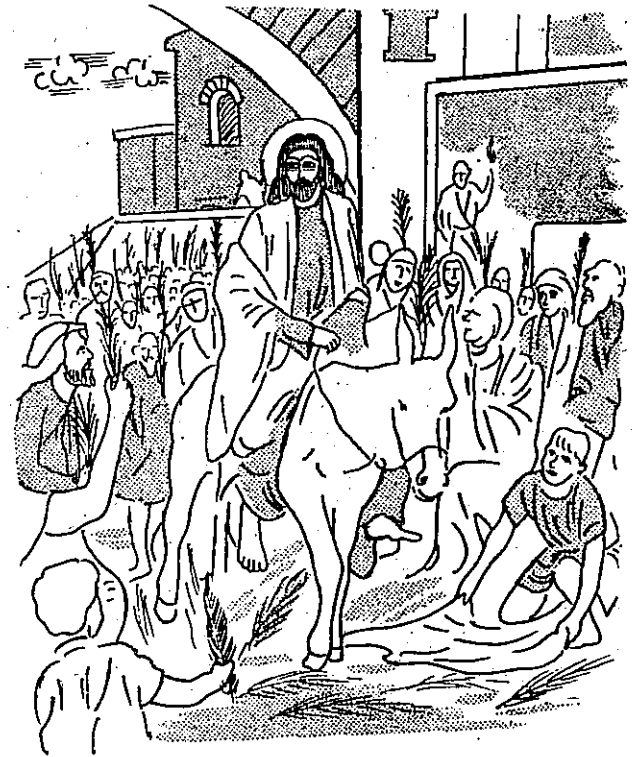
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"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!"

When the party reached the outskirts of Jerusalem, all the people who saw them and heard the shouts of praise were puzzled and asked "Who is this"? Then the joyous crowd shouted back to them, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee!"

For Memorisation :

Mt. 21:9

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!"

Activity :

1. Learn to sing the song used in the procession on Palm Sunday.
2. Ask the children to collect Palm leaves and flowers for the Palm Sunday.
3. Make Palm crosses to place above their beds.

LESSON 25

JESUS DIES AND RISES AGAIN

(Jn. 19, 20)

Talk about the feast days of Palm Sunday, Holy Friday and Easter. Recall what happens in Church on these days. Students may easily remember the processions held on these days.

Do you remember the processions held on Holy Friday? We go in procession around the Church, the priest carrying a Cross on his shoulders. What does this procession signify? Jesus our Saviour was crucified on a Cross. He had to carry that big Cross to a hill called Golgotha where He was crucified. The procession carrying the Cross held on Holy Friday recalls this event.

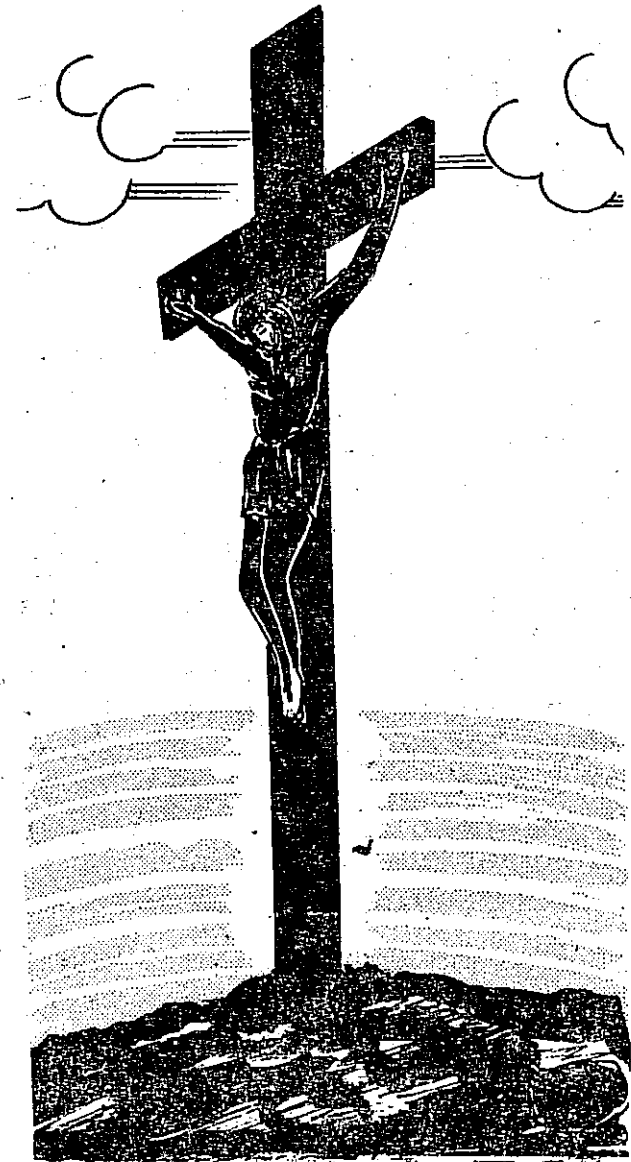
Jesus Christ travelled from one place to the other healing the sick, raising the dead and teaching the ways of God. Jesus was good and did good to all. But some people among the Jews hated Him. They were jealous of

Him. They wanted to do away with Him. The officers of the Jews were those who hated Jesus most. They conspired to get Him arrested and they were looking for a suitable occasion. Jesus Christ knew that time has come when He would be arrested and put to death and He informed His disciples of this.

Some four days after Jesus' royal entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus had His Last Supper with His beloved disciples. After Supper Jesus with His disciples went to a garden called Gethsemane. He used to go there for prayer. He went into the garden to pray. He knew that He would be arrested soon and be led to be crucified. Jesus was deeply grieved. He fell on His face and cried out to the Heavenly Father over and over again.

Meanwhile some officers of the Jews rushed to the garden with a band of soldiers with lanterns, torches and weapons. A disciple of Jesus was also with them. His name was Judas. He agreed with the officers to help them find out Jesus and to receive thirty silver pieces as a reward for betraying His beloved master. With Judas' help they arrested Jesus and brought Him before the rulers for trial. They made several false allegations against Jesus so that they could have Him sentenced to death. At last Jesus was handed over to be crucified.

The soldiers took Jesus. They stripped His clothes from Him and dressed Him in a

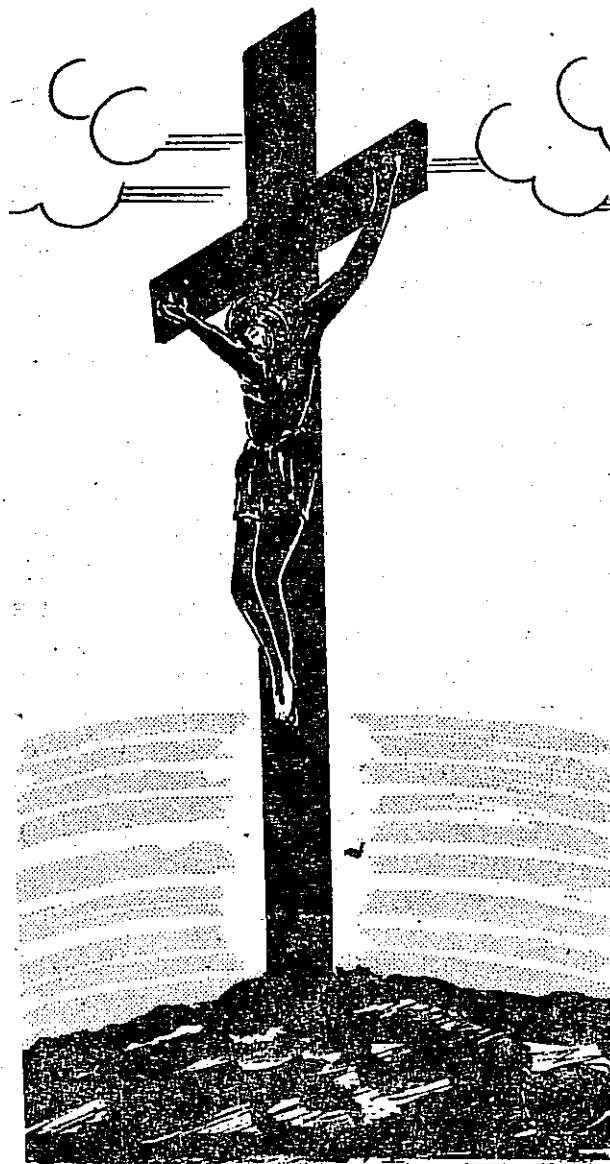


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The soldiers took Jesus. They stripped His clothes from Him and dressed Him in a



purple robe. They weaved a wreath of thorns and placed it on His head as a crown. They gave Him a big cross to carry, on which He was to be crucified. They led Him to Golgotha through the streets of Jerusalem. They nailed Him by His hands and his feet on the Cross. Jesus our Saviour was thus crucified to death. Some of His disciples got the body down from the cross. They anointed the body with special ointments and bound it in the best linen and laid in a new tomb and rolled a large rock against the mouth of the tomb to close it.

On the third day-on Sunday, early in the morning some women who loved Jesus came to the tomb. They were taking spices and ointments to anoint the body of Jesus. To their surprise they found the stone rolled away from the door and found the tomb empty. They found inside the tomb two angels and were afraid. Then the angel told them, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen as He said". They returned from the tomb with great joy and announced the good news to the disciples.

Jesus died and rose again from the dead. He saves us too from death. He gives us new life. Jesus is our Saviour and giver of new life.

For Memorisation

Ps. 118:24

"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it".

Activity :

Learn some hymns from the liturgy of Holy Friday and Easter.

Instruction to teachers :

Avoid too much details on the crucifixion and resurrection stories. Emphasize the idea that Jesus is our Saviour and giver of new life.

LESSON 26

JESUS RETURNS TO THE FATHER

(Lk. 24:49-53)

(Acts. 1:3-12; 2:1-8)

Show an icon of the Ascension and ask the children who the people are and what is happening.

Jesus, after His resurrection appeared to His friends and disciples on several occasions. The risen Lord stayed on earth for forty days. During these days He presented Himself to them alive and strengthened them in their faith and taught them again about the Kingdom of God. After forty days Jesus showed Himself to His disciples for the last time. He called them out to a mountain called Mount of Olives. There He gave them His final message. He told them that they should go back to Jerusalem. There they must wait and pray for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would come upon them and fill them with power. Jesus stretched out His arms and blessed them. As they watched He ascended slowly into Heaven until a cloud hid him from their sight.



Jésus had already promised them before His death that He would send them the Holy Spirit. He told them that He would not be with them for a long time. He would return to His Father and prepare a place for us all in Heaven. But He would not leave us alone on earth. He would ask His Father to give us a Comforter, the Holy Spirit who would abide in us for ever and show us the ways of God.

So it was necessary that the risen Lord should ascend to His Father.

The disciples then went back to Jerusalem. They spent the next ten days together in prayer and worship, waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. After ten days, on Sunday they were all assembled together praying. Suddenly there was a sound from Heaven like the rush of a heavy wind. It filled all the house where they were sitting. Then it was just as if tongues of fire settled on the head of each of the people there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in different languages, as the Spirit gave them power. A large crowd gathered there hearing this strange event. All were amazed.

The disciples thus were given the Holy Spirit. There after they had a new power and a new life. They were powerful and courageous to face hardships for Christ. They loved each other. They shared together all they had. The Holy Spirit dwells in each one of us. He gives us a new power and a new life. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to face difficulties. He enables us to love each other and share with others what we have.

For Memorisation :

Ps. 143:10

"Let thy good Spirit lead me on a level path".

Activity :

1. Make a picture with figures representing the Apostles. Have each child make a tongue of fire and paste it over the head of a figure.
2. Show copies of the Bible in different languages.

Unit VI. We Go To God's House.

Aim:—To prepare the child for participation in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist.

To help the child develop positive habits of church behaviour and skills such as the sign of the Cross.

father and mother are members of God's family.

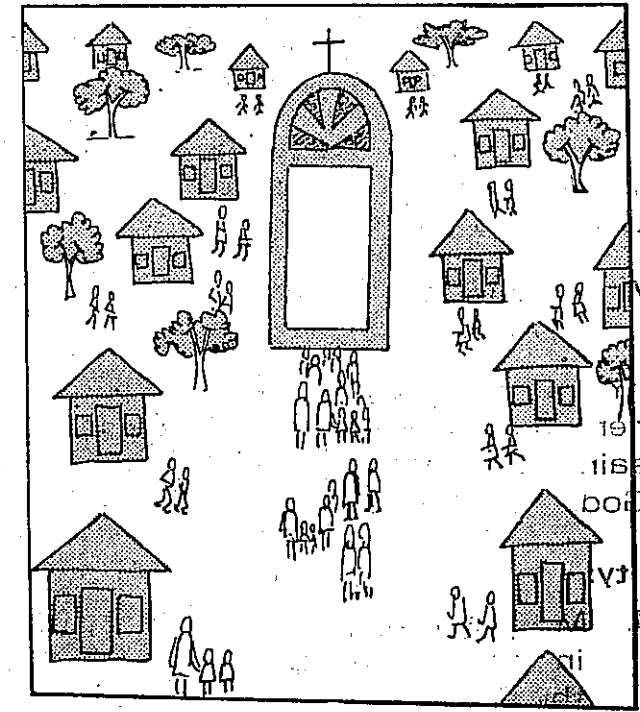
LESSON: 27

WE ARE THE FAMILY OF GOD
(Eph. 2:19-22)

Talk about the children's families. eg. How many members, how many cousins, aunts, uncles, etc., Ask if their big family of relatives comes together often and on what occasions.

Each one of us comes from a family. Our family generally consists of father, mother, brothers, sisters, grandfather, grandmother etc. But in fact ours is a bigger family than this. We have cousins, aunts, uncles etc. who live in other small families. Our big family constitutes all these smaller families. All the members of our big family gather together on certain important occasions, such as marriage, baptism, burial etc.

Our Church too is a big family. It is the family of God. It is composed of many smaller families. Can you give the names of those smaller families which belong to the big family of God? You and I, our brothers and sisters,



How do we become members of the family of God? We know that when a baby is born in our family, he becomes a member of our family. Similarly, one becomes a member of God's family when he is baptized. Through baptism he is born into the family of God.

God's family includes you and me and all our families. Yet it is still bigger than that. The family of God includes all the saints and all those who have departed from this life.

They are with us, though we cannot see them with our eyes. They pray with us in the Church. They pray for us and we pray for them. Can you make a list of the saints and the departed ones you can recollect who are members of the family of God?

In God's family God is our Father. We are brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit keeps us together in love.

For Memorisation:

Eph. 2:19

"You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."

Activity:

1. Make a large poster with the Church in the middle. Draw houses around the Church. Draw figures to represent members of your family in one of the houses. Put the family name on each house.
2. Help the child recollect the names of saints and the departed ones. (the child can easily remember those who have departed in his own family).

Instruction for teachers:

Emphasize the ideas,

1. We all are members of God's family.

2. God's family also includes the saints and the departed ones.
3. We all belong to one family—the family of God; God being our Father and we brothers and sisters.

LESSON: 28

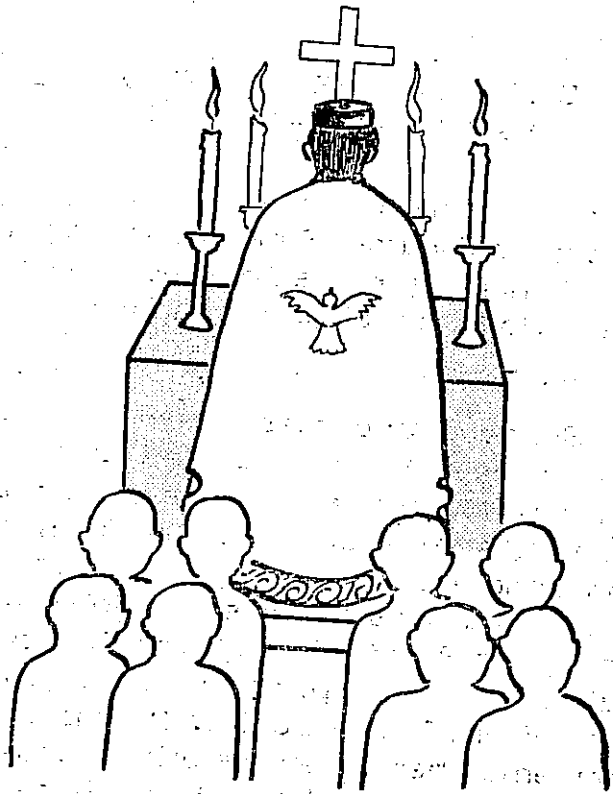
WE GATHER IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

(Ps. 134; 135: 1-3, 19-21)

Ask the children if they know where God's house is (Church). Talk about what they do in God's house (pray, sing songs, hear the Word of God, receive communion, praise God. etc.,).

On Sundays and feast days we gather together in the house of God. In God's house we worship God our Father. He protects us from dangers and provides us with food, clothings, and everything that we require. We thank Him for all His mercies. In God's house we hear God's Word. Jesus Christ had taught us God's Word. The priest reads out to us the God's Word from a book called the Gospel. Can you remember, when the priest reads the Holy Gospel? During the Holy Eucharist the priest turns towards us. A table called the table of the Holy Gospel is placed in the midst of the Sanctuary. On the table there is a thick book—the Holy Gospel. The priest reads aloud from the Holy Gospel God's Word which Jesus

had taught. The Holy Spirit gathers us together in love in the house of God. We exchange one another the kiss of peace. It shows that we have no hatred towards each other. We love all and remain in peace with all. The Holy Spirit makes us receive the Holy Communion together.



In God's house the priest leads us in our worship. He celebrates the Holy Eucharist. He gives us Holy Communion. He gives the sermon. He prays for all of us, for the sick, for the departed, for the afflicted etc. How

the priest looks when he stands vested in the Holy Eucharist? He wears special and beautiful clothes which are called "vestments". When he is vested he looks like an angel in glory who stands before God.

For Memorisation:

Ps. 134:2

"Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord"!

Activity:

1. Visit the Church; learn some hymns sung in the Church.
2. Have the priest visit the class and tell what he does in the house of God.
3. Encourage the child to bring the whole family to Church.

Church, so there are two or three steps leading to it.

LESSON 29

WHAT WE SEE IN THE CHURCH (Ps. 84)

Review what the class saw during their visit to the Church. Let each child say the name of one object and the teacher list them on the chalk board. The screen which separates the Sanctuary, Altar, Cross, Icons, Censer, Gospel, Candles, Chalice and Cup etc., are the names which the students might recollect. Today let us learn about these things that we see in our Church.

The first thing that we notice as we enter the Church is the beautiful screen. What purpose does it serve? It is to separate that part of the Church which is called the Sanctuary. You may note that the priest and the servants of the altar enter into the Sanctuary, and lead us in worship. During the services the Sanctuary is brightly lit up. What does the Sanctuary remind us? The Sanctuary reminds us of heaven, which is the place of light and joy. The Sanctuary is a little above the rest of the



At the Centre of the Sanctuary there is a special table called the Altar. The priest celebrates the Holy Eucharist on the Altar. The Altar is beautifully lit up with candles. The Altar is also the throne of God where God makes His presence for all of us His children. At the middle of the Altar there is the Cross. Jesus our Lord was crucified for us on the Cross. The Cross reminds us that Jesus who loves us and died for us on the Cross is present in our midst in the house of God. On the two sides of the Cross on the Altar there are twelve candles. The candles give light. Jesus had twelve disciples. They gave light to the world by preaching Jesus Christ. The Apostles are present with us in God's house.

We can see many icons in the Church, icons of Jesus Christ, St. Mary, the Apostles and the Saints. Jesus Christ is present in God's house. We worship God with St. Mary, The Apostles, the Saints and all the believers who departed from us.

The censer is used in the Church for the Holy Eucharist and for all offices. The priest sets incense in the censer. The incense goes up so too our prayers rise to heaven. The incense is sweet, our prayers too become sweet when we are good and it pleases our heavenly Father. The censer with the incense shows that the Church stands in prayer in God's house.

Do you know the names of the vessels

that the priest uses for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist? They are the Chalice and the Paten.

On the right side of the Altar there is another table which is movable. On that table the Holy Gospel is placed, and therefore the table is called the table of the Holy Gospel. Holy Gospel contains God's word taught by Jesus.

With all these the Church becomes beautiful. It looks heavenly. The Church is God's house on earth, the heaven on earth.

For Memorisation :

Ps. 84:1

"How lovely is thy dwelling place, O-Lord of hosts!"

Activity :

1. Show pictures of each object or have a special class in the Church so that the priest can show the objects.
2. Have the children draw pictures or make paper models of the things they see in Church.

What do we do when we enter the Church?

What do we do when we enter the Church?

Church? We bow in deep reverence and cross ourselves saying the prayer,

"Lord, in reverence have I entered Thy house,
Before Thee shall I offer my gifts".

After we have entered the Church we keep silence. We stand erect before God with our face turned towards the east. We fold our

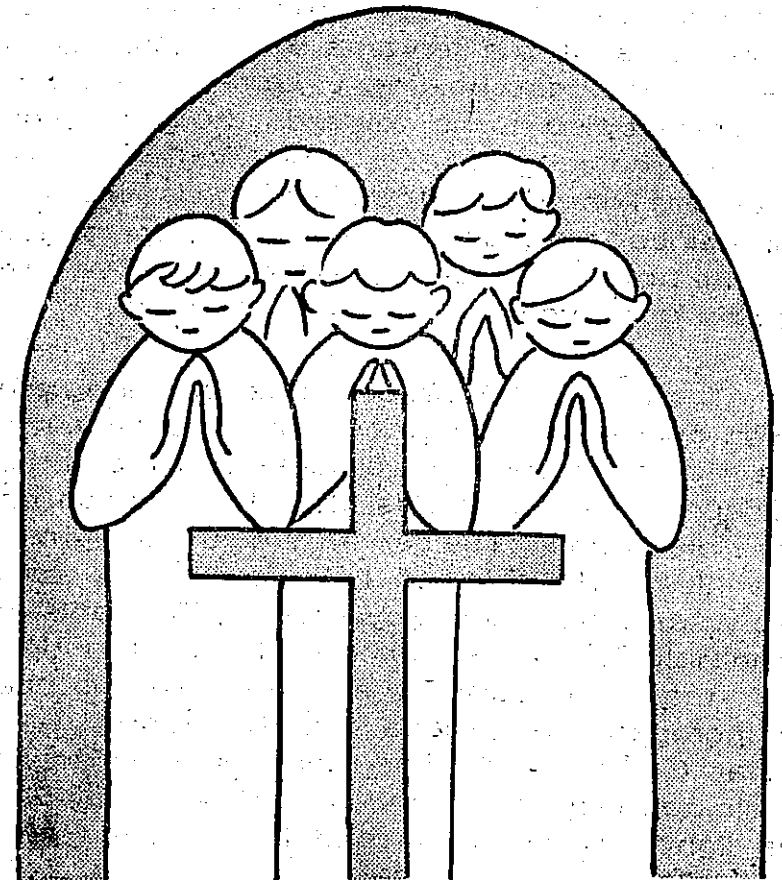
LESSON : 30

WHAT WE DO IN THE CHURCH (Ps. 5 : 7)

Ask the children to list the different actions they do and observe in the Church. They bow in deep reverence, cross themselves, offer their gifts, give each other hand of peace, receive Holy Communion, pray and sing songs of praise and thanksgiving, hear God's Word etc. They also see many actions made by the priest and servants of the altar during the Holy Eucharist. The priest blesses the congregation with the sign of the cross, wishes peace upon them and does similar other actions. The servants stand assisting the priest. All act and behave with deep devotion and reverence. Ask the children how they act and behave in God's house.

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the children to the different actions they may observe or participate in while attending the Church Service.

What do we do when we enter the



hands on our breast and participate in the worship praying and singing.

When the Holy Eucharist begins we see a procession around the altar. The curtain which separates the Sanctuary is drawn aside. We see that the priest who is beautifully vested starts the procession around the altar. He holds a censer in his hands. He censes the altar and the Holy Gospel. The incense rises to heaven along with our prayers. One of the servants of the altar goes before the priest holding a lightened candle. The priest also turns towards the west and censes the congregation. The candles at the altar are lighted. All the Church bells ring and announces to us and the world the importance of the time. We feel ourselves that we are taken to heaven.

There are other processions too during the Holy Eucharist. The priest and the servants at the altar come in procession to read the Gospel to us. He holds the Holy Evangelion or Holy Gospel. The servants hold two lighted candles at the sides of the priest. They turn to west and proceed towards us. The table of the Holy Gospel is placed at the front middle of the Sanctuary. The priest blesses the congregation and reads out the Gospel. We hear God's Word. The two servants stand holding the lighted candles. The Word of God is light. It shows us and keeps us in God's ways.

During the Holy Eucharist we give one another the hand of peace. It is called "the kiss of peace". We know that the parents kiss children and the children kiss parents. The brother kisses sister and sister kisses brother. We kiss only those whom we love. Kiss of peace shows that we love and remain in peace one another and there is no hatred or malice between us.

There are occasions when we bow our heads. When the servant asks us to bow our heads before the merciful Lord, we do so and pray for God's mercies.

The priest turns towards and blesses us with the sign of the cross several times.

The priest once again comes in procession towards us. He holds the cup and chalice in his hands. The servant comes before him with the censer. All the servants hold lighted candles. The Church bells ring and all those who are prepared come to receive the Holy Communion. They cross themselves and receive Holy Communion. Christ thus comes to us and abides in us.

The priest gives us again the final blessings. Then we come one by one and kiss the priest's hand or the cross and return home in peace.

For Memorisation :

Ps. 5 : 7

"But I through the abundance of thy steadfast love will enter thy house, I will worship toward thy holy temple in the fear of thee".

Activity :

Make the students recollect the context of the various actions in the Church by doing them in the class. For example, how they should enter the Church, kiss of peace, bow heads before God etc.,

Instruction for teachers :

Emphasize how they should behave in God's house. Some important actions in the Holy Eucharist are only explained here. The teacher is at liberty to introduce to the children other actions too.

LESSON : 31

GOD GIVES HIMSELF TO US

(I Cor. 11:23-25; Ps. 116:12-19; Mt. 26:26-29)

Show the children a picture of someone receiving the Holy Communion. Ask them to describe what is happening.

Jesus came to Jerusalem for the last time at the time of the feast of Passover. We have already studied in our earlier lessons that how royally, people received Jesus to Jerusalem. The Feast of Passover was a great festival for the Jews. They observed this festival to commemorate their deliverance from slavery in the land of Egypt. The observances of the festival include a special feast in which the Jews participate in small groups. All the members of a house or a teacher and his disciples sit together for the feast. The feast is called the Passover meal.

Jesus and His disciples wished to eat their Passover meal together. The disciples arranged the meal in a house. In the evening Jesus and His disciples sat for the meal. Jesus knew

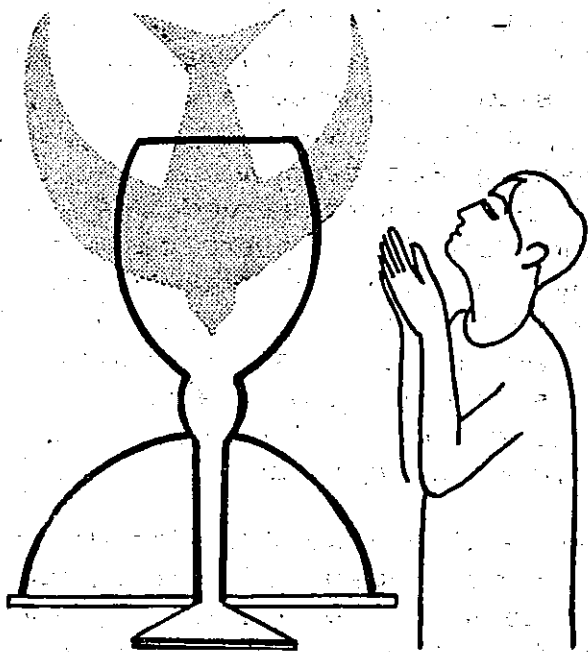
that it was His last supper with His beloved disciples. He was ready to give Himself to the salvation of man being crucified on the Cross. As they were eating Jesus took bread and blessed. He broke it and gave it to the disciples saying,

"Take, eat; this is my body".

Likewise He took the cup. He gave thanks and gave to the disciples saying,

"Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins".

Jesus Christ thus gave His body and blood to His disciples.



Christ also asked them, "Do this in remembrance of me". We as Jesus had commanded thus, gather together in the house of God and offer the Holy Eucharist. We remember Jesus Christ and how He saved us through His Death. Jesus Christ gave Himself to us through His death on the Cross. He still gives Himself to us through Holy Communion. He gives us His body and blood.

Holy Eucharist is offered usually in the morning. We observe fast from the previous day's supper till the Eucharistic service is over. It prepares us to receive Holy Communion. We receive communion with all devotion and holiness.

For Memorisation :

Ps. 116:13

"I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD".

Activity :

1. Make a chalice and paten out of paper.
2. Go to communion as a group.

LESSON : 32

A BABY JOINS THE FAMILY OF GOD

Mt. 28 : 19-20

Acts. 8 : 26-39

Ask the children if they have seen the baptism of a child. (perhaps one of their brothers and sisters). Have them describe what happened.



Jesus Christ, before He ascended to heaven, asked His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations baptizing people in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The disciples went to different countries and baptized many and joined them to God's family. One of the disciples of Christ (not one among the twelve) and a deacon of the Church named Philip preached Christ in Samaria. He baptized many people in Samaria. One day an angel of the Lord asked him to go to a desert which went down from Jerusalem. He went to the road. There he found an Ethiopian travelling on his chariot. He was a minister of the queen of the Ethiopians. He had come to the temple of Jerusalem to worship and was returning. He was reading the Bible. Philip went and joined the chariot. Philip interpreted the meaning of the portion of the Bible the Ethiopian was reading. The Ethiopian was reading a portion from the prophecy of the prophet Isaiah. Philip interpreted that section and told him that it refers to Jesus Christ. The Ethiopian was convinced and he believed in Jesus Christ. As they went along they came to some water. The Ethiopian expressed his wish to be baptized. Philip baptized him and included him to the family of God. The Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing. How happy is the man who enters God's family!

Similarly everyone of us has become members of God's family. Parents bring their

child to the Church. You might have noticed the baptismal font made of stone inside the Church. The priest goes to the font, pours water into it and blesses it. The child is taken into the font. The priest then baptizes the child in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. After that the priest anoints the child with a special oil called the Holy Oil. The child is thus made a member of God's family. He becomes God's child. Baptism is certainly a joyous occasion in our life because we become God's children.

For Memorisation :

Gal. 3 : 27

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ".

Activity :

Arrange to see a baptism in the Church.

B-PRAYER

Evening Worship

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and + of the Holy Spirit, one true God: Glory be to him; and may grace and mercy be upon us for ever, Amin.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, +
By whose glory, the heaven and the earth are filled /
Hosanna in the highest. + Blessed is he who has
come, / and is to come / in the name of the Lord
God. / Glory be to him in the highest. +

Qauma

Trisagion

Holy art thou, O God,
Holy art thou, Almighty,
Holy art thou, Immortal,
Crucified for us, / have mercy on us. ++ (Thrice)

Lord, have mercy upon us,
Lord, be kind and have mercy,
Lord, accept thou our office,
and our entreaties; have mercy on us.

Glory be to thee, O God,
Glory be to thee, Creator,
Glory be to thee, / O Christ the King /
who dost pity sinners thy servants, / Barekmor.