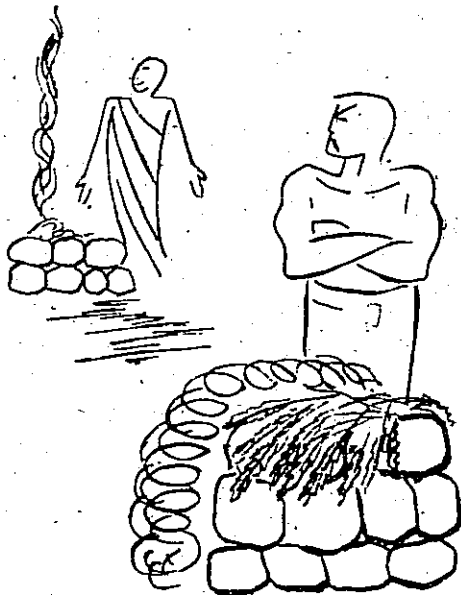


Lesson 4.

From Adam to Abraham (Genesis)

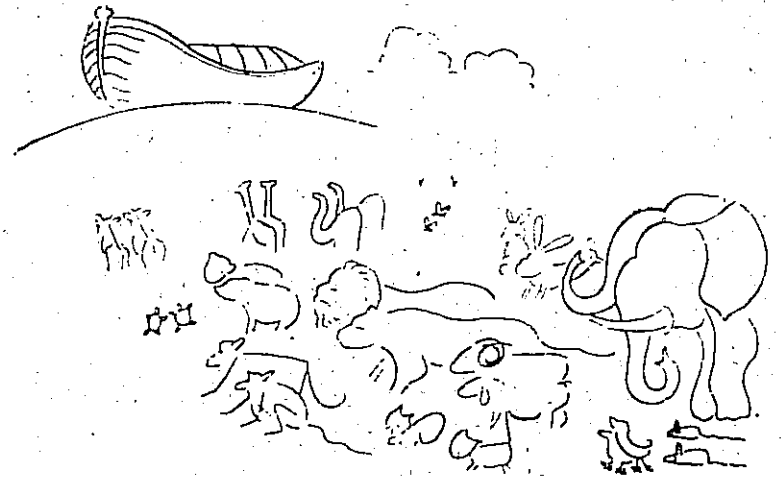
God created men in His own image and blessed them. He created all things and made the earth beautiful. God wished that men should live a happy life on this earth. But man drew away from God by disobedience. So he lost his heavenly joy. Sorrows and sufferings came over him.

One day, Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam brought offerings before God. God was pleased with the offerings of Abel but He was not pleased with that of Cain. Cain became very angry and he hated his brother. When they were in the field Cain killed Abel.



God said to Cain, "where is Abel your brother"? Cain said; "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper"? Thus the jealous and angry man displeased God again.

Men began to multiply on earth: And evil also increased. God decided to punish the world by a terrible flood. Noah was a just and good man. He walked with God. God told Noah to make an ark and protect his family from the flood. Noah obeyed all what God commanded him. Noah, his wife, his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, his sons' wives and a pair out of all living beings entered into the ark. All the other creatures perished in the flood: Noah and his family were protected by God. When the flood was over Noah built an altar and offered burnt offerings to God. God was pleased and blessed him.



After the flood Noah's family spread into different parts of the earth. Once they came together and planned to build a tower which would reach heaven. They wanted to be famous and united. But God confused their language, so that they might not understand each other. Thus they could not complete their work. That place was called 'Babel'.

Evil spread rapidly over the earth. As a punishment God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorah, two very wicked cities. Abraham prayed to God not to destroy the place if there were fifty righteous men. But there were not even ten. So the angels brought out of the town Lot and his family and then burned Sodom and Gomorah. Lot and his family were commanded, not to look back upon the place. But Lot's wife disobeyed, looked back and she became a pillar of salt. God has protected and preserved the good and the just always from calamities and sufferings.

Verse for Memorization

Hebrews 11:5

"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was attested as having pleased God."

Questions

1. Why did men drift away from God?
2. God chose certain men specially. Why?
3. Disobedience leads man to ruin. Give examples from the lesson you learned.

Activities

1. Collect the names of the men lived from Adam to Abraham with a short account of each.
2. Cut out pictures of Noah, his family, ark and the different creatures and colour them.

Lesson 5.

Abraham (Genesis 12:1-22)

In the last lesson we learned that God chose certain men and blessed them. Abraham the father of Hebrew people, was one among them.

The people who were scattered from Babel settled down in different parts of Asia, Africa and Europe. Abram was born in Ur of the Chaldeans, in Babylonia of Asia, as the son of Terah. One day God commanded Abram "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Gen. 12:1). God promised, "And I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great..... and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves" (Gen. 12:2,3)



Abram obeyed the command of God and set out from Ur to the land of Canaan. Sarai his wife, Lot his nephew, many servants and sheep and cattle were with him. Abram believed that God will take care of him and so he was not worried about his safety. They passed through valleys, mountains and deserts on their way to the land of promise.

After reaching Canaan Abram offered sacrifices and worshipped God. He and Lot fixed their tents. After sometime men of Abram and men of Lot quarrelled each other. Abram asked Lot to choose a place for him. Lot turned to east and fixed his tent in the valley of Jordan. He moved his tent upto Sodom. Abram came to Hebron and stayed in the plain of Mamre.

God appeared to Abram and promised that his children would increase like the stars of the sky. Even after many years Abram and Sarai had no issues. Then Sarai gave Hagar the servant as Abram's wife. Abram had a son in Hagar and he called the child Ishmael which means "God heard the cry of sorrow."

God appeared to Abram and told him, "I am God almighty; walk before me, and be blameless and I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly" (Gen. 17:1-2). Thus God repeated the promise that Abram will be the father of nations. God told Abram that as he will be the father of a multitude of nations he will be called 'Abraham' instead of Abram. His wife Sarai will be known as 'Sarah'.

God established circumcision as the sign of His covenant with Abraham. Abraham, Ishmael and all the men in the family were circumcised.

One day Abraham sat in front of his tent and saw three men standing before him. They were angels. Abraham ran out and gave them a warm welcome. Sarah prepared food for them and Abraham got ready a calf



for them. They ate the food. God blessed Abraham that Sarah his wife would have a son by next year. According to this promise Isaac was born.

Leaving behind his parents and relatives in his native place, Abraham moved towards the promised land with faith in the almighty God. To fulfil His promise God gave Abraham a son in Sarah when Abraham was hundred years old. If we have full faith in God He will guide us always.

Verse for Memorization

Romans 4: 3. "Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

Activities

1. Colour and display the pictures representing the journey of Abraham.
2. Act the scene in which the angels appeared to Abraham.

Lesson 6.

Isaac (Genesis 20-28)

On the eighth day of his birth Isaac was circumcised. Since Sarah did not like Ishmael to be Abraham's heir along with Isaac, she asked Abraham to send Hagar and his son away. Abraham was very sad but he did so. God promised that he would make Ishmael also a big nation.

God decided to test the faith of Abraham. God commanded Abraham to take his son Isaac to the mount Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering. Accordingly Abraham started off with Isaac. On the third day they reached the land of Moriah. Isaac was carrying the firewood for the offering and Abraham the fire and the knife. As they were climbing the mount Isaac asked Abraham, "My father behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham replied, "God will provide himself the lamb for burnt offering, my son". (Gen. 22:7-8)

Abraham built an altar on the top of the mountain. He piled the firewood, bound Isaac and laid him on it. Then Abraham took his knife to slay his son. Suddenly he heard the voice "Abraham, Abraham do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him for now, I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me" (Gen. 22:12). When Abraham raised his head he saw a ram caught in a thicket by his horns. Abraham sacrificed the ram instead of his son.

Since Abraham was not unwilling to sacrifice his son, God blessed him. This incident shows the firm faith of Abraham and hence, Abraham is known as the "Father of the Believers".



Isaac grew up and attained maturity. Abraham thought of taking a wife for his son from his own kin. Isaac married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel, a relative of Abraham. Abraham died in his 175th year. He was buried in the cave of Mach-Pelah, east of Mamre.

Isaac had two sons in Rebekah. They were twins, the elder Esau and the younger Jacob. Esau was a skillful hunter while Jacob looked after the sheep.

Once Jacob made a delicious porridge. Esau who came tired asked his brother the porridge. Jacob said that he will give the porridge in return for his birthright and Esau sold his birthright to his brother and thus lost a great privilege.

When Isaac was very old he asked Esau to go hunting and give him some tasty food. Esau went to the forest for hunting. Meanwhile Jacob brought two good lambs according to his mother's instruction. Rebekah



prepared tasty food. Jacob put on the best garments of Esau and the skin of the lambs. He took the food to his father. Isaac mistook him for Esau, as he was blind. He ate the food and blessed Jacob. After sometime Esau came to his father with well cooked meat and asked for his blessings. Then Isaac understood that it was Jacob who had come first and received the blessings. When Esau came to know about this trick he became sad. He cried to his father "Bless me, even me also, O my father!" But Isaac told him that he had given his blessings to Jacob and that Esau would live with his sword and he would serve his brother.

God blessed Isaac because he lived in obedience and love to God. We should obey and love God like Abraham and Isaac.

Verse for Memorization

Mathew. 22:32

"I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob"

Activities.

1. Act the scene of Abraham going to sacrifice Isaac.
2. Colour and exhibit the different pictures connected with Abraham taking Isaac to sacrifice.
3. Learn by heart the prayer which begins "Those who art full of blessings".

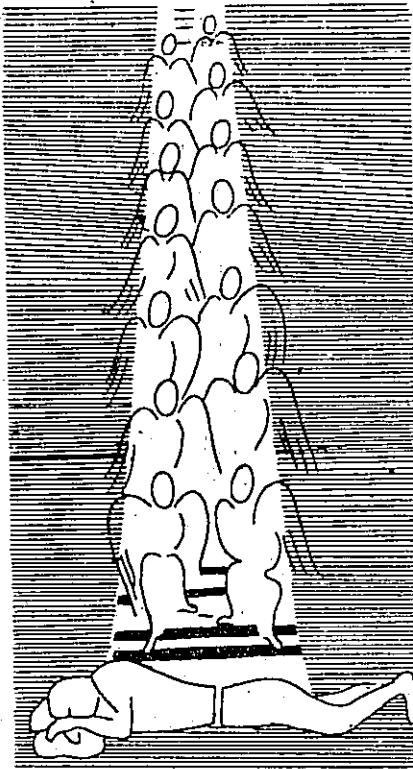
Questions:

1. Why did Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael out of his house?
2. How Jacob got the birthright of Esau?
3. How was the old Isaac cheated by Jacob?

Lesson 7

Jacob (Genesis 28-36)

Isaac sent his son Jacob to Laban, brother of Rebekah. Laban was staying in a place called Haran. On his way to Haran Jacob rested at Luz. He slept there using a stone as pillow. He had a dream in his sleep. There was a ladder on the ground which reached up to heaven. Angels of God were ascending and descending on the ladder. Then God spoke to Jacob "I am



the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves" (Gen. 28:13-14).

Jacob awoke from his sleep. He was afraid and he said "surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it." He stood up, took the stone which he had used as a pillow, set it up for a pillar and pored oil on it. Jacob called that place 'Bethel' which means the 'House of God.'



Jacob travelled eastward and reached Haran. Laban took him home and made him stay there. Jacob married Leah and Rachel, the daughters of Laban. Jacob had eleven sons and a daughter. Years passed by. With his family and properties Jacob returned to his father. On the way he sent messengers with gifts to his brother Esau to get reconciled with him.

After crossing the stream Jabbok Jacob was left alone in the night. A man wrestled with him until the break of the day. The man said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking". Then Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Then the man told Jacob that his name would be no longer Jacob but Israel, because he wrestled with man and God and won. The man blessed Jacob and disappeared. Jacob called that place Peniel, saying, "for I have seen God face to face and yet my life is preserved."

When Esau knew that Jacob was coming he ran to meet him. The two brothers were reconciled. From there Jacob went on to Succoth. On the way at a place called Ephrath, Rachel delivered a son and she died there itself.

The sons of Jacob were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher. The only daughter of Jacob was Dinah. The descendants of Jacob or Israel are called Israelites. The twelve tribes of Israel came from the twelve sons of Jacob. Each tribe had its own special duties and privileges. The privilege of priesthood was given to the tribe of Levi. Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world was born in the tribe of Judah.

Verse for Memorisation

Genesis. 28: 15.

"Behold I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land; for

"I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you."

Activities

1. Write the names of the twelve sons of Jacob.
2. Draw pictures to illustrate the vision of Jacob in Bethel.
3. Give an account of the incident which took place at the ford of the Jabbok.

Questions:

1. How did the town Luz become Bethel?
2. How did Esau and Jacob get reconciled?
3. Write three sentences each on Israel, Peniel, Bethel and Benjamin.

Lesson 8.

Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob. He grew up in love and loyalty to God. Since Jacob loved Joseph more, his brothers were jealous of him. They did not like Joseph because he used to tell his father about their misconduct.

Once Joseph had a dream. He and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field. Then his sheaf arose and stood upright. The sheaves of his brothers gathered round it and bowed before it. Then Joseph had another dream. The Sun, Moon and eleven stars bowed to him. Joseph told about these dreams to his brothers



When they learned the meaning of these dreams they hated him all the more.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to bring news of his brothers who had gone out to look after the sheep. When the brothers saw him they said, "here comes the dreamer" and planned to kill him. Reuben, the eldest brother was against killing him. So they stripped him off his long robe and put him into an empty, dry pit. They sold him to a group of Midianite traders for twenty shekels of silver and those traders took him to Egypt. The brothers of Joseph dipped his robe in a goat's blood and sent it to Jacob. He was very sad, thinking that a wild animal had killed his son.

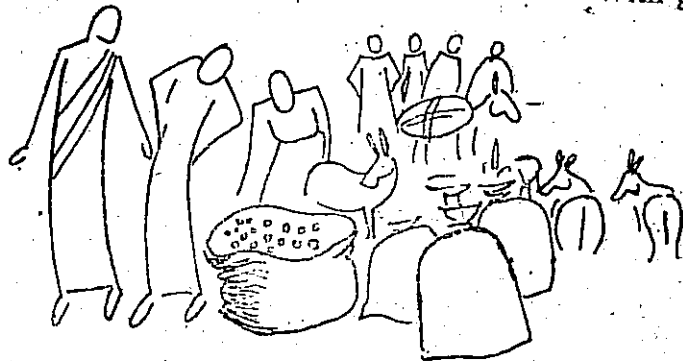
The traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. Joseph spent his days relying on God. The Lord was with him. Joseph's master made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. The wife of Potiphar was a wicked woman. She lied against Joseph to her husband. Potiphar believed her words and put Joseph in prison. The keeper of the prison made Joseph overseer of the other prisoners.

After two years king Pharaoh had a dream. Seven sleek and fat cows came out of the river Nile. After them seven gaunt and thin cows came up and ate up the first seven cows. Later he saw another dream. There were seven plump and good ears of grain on one stalk. Then seven thin and blighted ears swallowed up the seven plump ears. Pharaoh was not able to get the meaning of the dreams and was very much worried.

Pharaoh heard that Joseph in prison was clever in interpreting dreams. He sent for Joseph and told the dreams to him. Joseph explained that both the dreams meant one and the same thing. The seven fat cows and seven good ears are seven years of plenty. The seven lean cows and the seven empty ears are seven years of famine. So after seven years of plenty there will be seven years of famine.

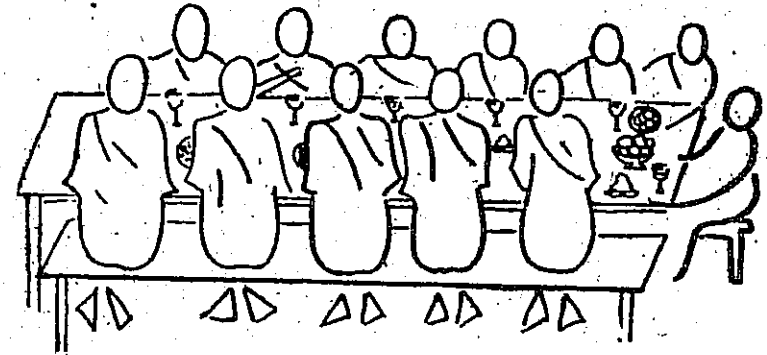
Pharaoh was pleased. He made Joseph overseer of Egypt. Joseph collected grain during the years of plenty. After seven years the famine started. People from different countries came to Egypt to buy grain. Brothers of Joseph also came and bowed before him. They did not know that Joseph was their brother. Thus the dream of Joseph came to be true.

Though Joseph had recognized his brothers, he deliberately treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. To prove their honesty they were asked to bring their youngest brother. They were kept in prison and set free after three days keeping Simeon in custody. The sacks of the brothers were filled with grain and their money was also placed back in the sacks. When they returned home they told everything to Jacob and all were afraid to see money in their sacks. With great



reluctance and sorrow Jacob sent Benjamin with the brothers. They visited Joseph and he invited them to eat with him. All were amazed to recognize Joseph as their own brother.

When Pharaoh knew everything he told Joseph to bring his father and all his family to Egypt and settle down there. Joseph's brothers went back to Jacob and told everything. He offered sacrifices to God in thankfulness. God told Jacob "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt for I will there make of you a great nation and I will bring you up again". Jacob came to Egypt with his family. When Joseph saw his father he embraced



him and wept. The people of Israel lived there and grew in great numbers and plenty.

Joseph had two sons Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob on his death-bed blessed Joseph and his sons and told them to bury him in the place where Abraham was buried. When Jacob died they buried him in the cave of Mach-Pelah near Mamre. Joseph and his family stayed in Egypt. He died in his 110th year. Joseph relied on God and God protected him from all the dangers.

Verse for Memorization

Gen: 39:23

"The keeper of the prison paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph's care, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper".

Activities

1. Colour and exhibit pictures showing the main incidents in the life of Joseph.
2. Find out the similarities between the story of Joseph and that of Jesus.

Questions

1. What were the dreams of Joseph? How did they come to be true?
2. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?
3. How did Joseph become the minister of Egypt?

Lesson 9.

Life of Moses (Exod: 2)

Unit: 3

GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE

Aim: To teach the story of Exodus and Ten Commandments, relating them to the child's experiences in order to foster his sense of right and wrong, and to relate them to the lives of Moses, Aaron and Joshua.

Jacob and his family settled in Egypt. The family which consisted of seventy members became a nation of lakhs of people after a few generations. The Israelites were happy because the Egyptians respected Joseph. But later on kings who did not know Joseph began to rule over Egypt. The Israelites were compelled to do hard slavish work. One of the Pharaohs of Egypt commanded that all male children born to Israelite families should be killed.

Amram, a Levite took Jochebed from the tribe of Levi as his wife. A son was born to them and the mother hid him for three months. The child grew up and it was difficult to hide him. The mother took a basket of bulrushes and made it waterproof. She placed the child in it and it was kept among the reeds of the riverbank. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

After a while the daughter of Pharaoh came down with her maidens to bathe at the river. She saw a basket among the reeds. When she opened the basket there was a lovely child in it. The Princess took pity on him.

The child's sister who was watching all these came to the Princess and asked her whether she should bring a Hebrew woman to nurse the child. The Princess asked her to do so. The girl brought the child's mother herself. Pharaoh's daughter asked her to nurse the child for her. The mother took the child home and brought him up.



When he grew up the mother took him to the palace. The Princess regarded him as her own son. She called him Moses, which means 'drawn out of water'. Moses enjoyed all the pleasures in the palace and he was given splendid education. Moses feared God, loved men and lived a good life. He had a special love for his own people and he was moved by the cruel sufferings of the people of Israel in Egypt.

Once Moses saw an Egyptian beating one of the Israelites. Moses was not able to tolerate it and so he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. On another occasion he tried to settle a quarrel between two Israelites and then one of them asked him "do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Hearing this Pharaoh sought to kill Moses. So Moses fled to the land of Midian in Arabia and stayed there.

He lived in Midian with Jethro, the priest and married Zipporah, the daughter of that priest. While keeping the sheep Moses used to pray for his brothers who were suffering in Egypt. God preserved Moses to be the leader to liberate the Israelites from their sufferings.

Text for Memorization

Psalm 91

Activities

1. Present a short drama on the early life of Moses.
2. Colour and exhibit pictures showing how Moses was taken out of water.

Questions

1. Why did the Egyptians oppress the Israelites?
2. How did the child Moses reach the hands of his mother again?
3. Why was Moses compelled to flee to the land of Midian?

Lesson 10.

Moses and The Exodus (Exod. 13-14)

The people of Israel wanted to be free from slavery. They believed that God would lead them to Canaan, the land of promise, flowing with milk and honey. They remembered the words of Jacob on his death bed, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you, and will bring you again to the land of your fathers" (Gen. 48:21). They anxiously waited for that day.

God heard the cry of Israel. He sent Moses to lead them. While Moses was looking after his sheep on mount Horeb, God appeared to him. Moses saw a bush burning, yet it was not consumed. God called Moses out of the bush, "Moses, Moses"! God commanded "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground". God said that He would send Moses to deliver the people of Israel from Egypt. Moses answered in humility that he was slow of speech and tongue.

God gave Moses some signs so that the people of Israel might believe and obey him. God asked him to put the rod in his hand on the ground. Moses put it down and suddenly the rod became a serpent. Then God asked him to take the serpent by the tail. When he did so it became a rod again. Moses became bold and set out with Aaron his brother to Egypt to deliver his brothers.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him that they have come to take away the people of Israel. Pharaoh did not pay attention, to their words. His heart was hardened. God sent plagues on Egypt one

after the other. On each plague Pharaoh repented but when the plague disappeared he hardened his heart. The following were the plagues sent by God on Egypt.

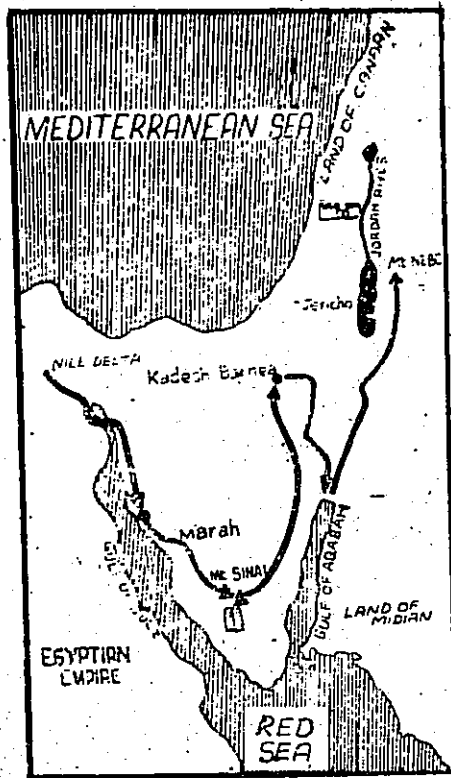
1. The water of Nile turned to blood.
2. The land was filled with frogs.
3. The dust of the earth became gnats.
4. The land was filled with swarms of flies.
5. All the cattle died.
6. Boils came upon the Egyptians.
7. Hail was rained on Egypt.
8. The land was filled with locusts.
9. Darkness for three days in Egypt.
10. All the first born sons in Egypt were killed.

When the 10th plague came Pharaoh permitted Israelites to go. According to God's command every family of Israel killed a lamb and put its blood on the lintel and the two doorposts of the house. The angel of destruction did not enter such house. The people ate roasted meat with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Thus they observed the passover. God commanded Moses to observe the Passover every year in remembrance of Israel's deliverance.

The people of Israel, about six hundred thousand men besides women and children, set out from Egypt after 430 years. The people of Israel went on foot from Rameses to Succoth. Moses and Aaron led them.

When Pharaoh heard that the people of Israel had fled he and his army followed them. Israelites reached the shore of the Red-Sea. They turned back.

saw the Egyptian army and cried in fear. God commanded Moses to lift up his rod and stretch his hand



over the sea. When he did so the sea was divided into two. The people of Israel walked on dry ground and reached the other side. When Pharaoh and his army were in the middle Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and suddenly the waters returned. Pharaoh and his army were drowned in the sea. Thus God delivered His people and they praised Him with songs.

Crossing of the Red Sea by Israelites fore-figures the sacred Baptism: Baptism is the release from the land

of slavery, sin and death. Through Baptism we enter the promised land, a new experience as members of the Church, the Kingdom of God.

Text for Memorization

Exod. 14:14

"The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be still."

Activities

1. Learn by heart three verses of the song in Exod. Ch. 15.
2. Write in order the plagues God sent on Egypt.

Questions

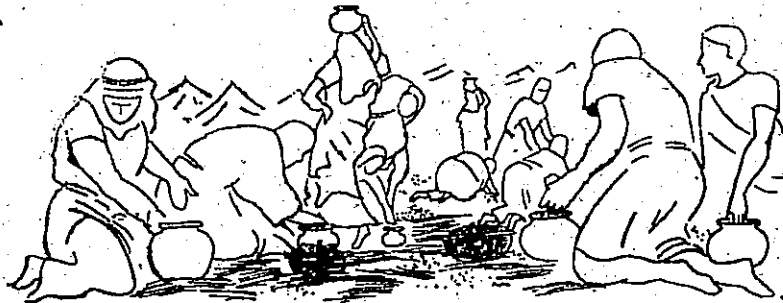
1. How did God appear to Moses on Mount Horeb?
2. What was the sign which God gave Moses that the people might believe him?
3. What does the passover show in the Old Testament?

Lesson 11

The Ten Commandments (Exod. 15-20)

After crossing the Red Sea the Israelites continued their journey through the desert. They came to a place called Marah. They could not drink the water there because it was bitter. The people became angry and murmured against Moses. Moses prayed to God. God showed him a tree. When he threw it into the water, the water became sweet. This tree which Moses put into the water refers to Jesus. Jesus came down to the world to remove the bitterness of sin and death and to give us life.

While the people were travelling through the wilderness of Sin they complained to Moses and Aaron about the shortage of food. Moses then prayed to God and God gave them bread from heaven. The people called it manna. They could gather manna in the morning and



quails in the evening. According to God's command on the 6th day they collected twice as much as they gather daily. They observed the seventh day as the Sabbath of God. It was Saturday. Now instead of



the old Sabbath we observe Sunday as the great and holy day because Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday.

The people of Israel moved further and camped at Rephidim; but there was no water for them to drink. They found fault with Moses and asked "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst". Moses prayed to God and God commanded Moses to strike the rock at Horeb with the rod by which he struck the Nile. Moses struck the rock and water gushed out of it.

The people of Israel reached the wilderness of Sinai on the day when it was three months after they had started from Egypt. They camped in the wilderness. Then God called Moses to the mountain. God descended upon mount Sinai. Then it was covered with smoke and the mountain quaked greatly. Moses went up to the mountain. God gave Moses the ten commandments for the people of Israel.

They are given below:

1. I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.

8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet anything that is your neighbour's.

God led the Israelites for forty years after delivering them from Egypt. He protected them in all difficulties. He gave them the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. These ten commandments are a relevant set of laws for mankind even today.

Verse for Memorization

Exod. 20:3

"You shall have no other gods before me".

Activities.

1. Learn the Ten Commandments by heart.
2. Trace the important incidents during the journey of the Israelites.

Questions

1. Give a short description of the incident at Marah.
2. How God supplied food for Israelites?
3. What is the significance of Mount Sinai?

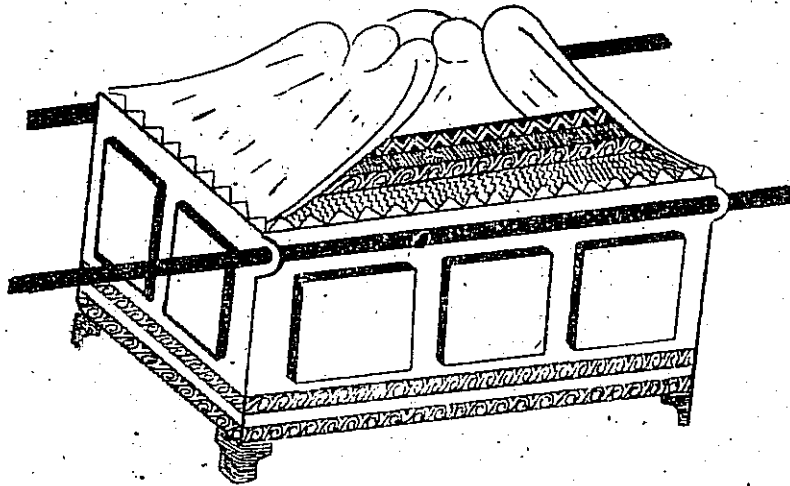
Lesson 12.

Aaron And The Tabernacle (Exod. 33-40)

We have learned the Ten Commandments which God gave to the people of Israel. The first three of them speak of the relation between human beings and God. The other seven teach us the relation between human beings themselves. The people of Israel agreed to obey all these commandments.

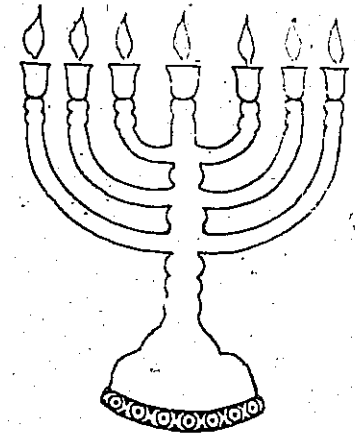
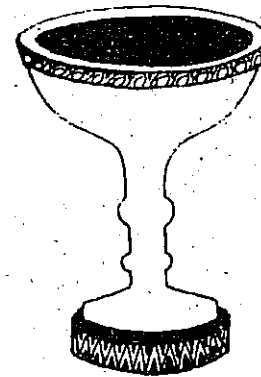
God called Moses to Mount Sinai and commanded that the people of Israel should make a sanctuary for God to dwell in their midst. God revealed to Moses how to make and furnish the Tabernacle. Moses acted according to what God commanded.

Moses built a tent outside the camp for the people to come together and worship God. It was



called the tent of meeting. When Moses entered the tent there was a pillar of cloud above. God would speak to Moses who was inside the tent.

The people brought offerings of gold and silver to furnish the inside of the tent. God instructed the artists and guided them. The Ark of the testimony was made to keep the two tables of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written. Mercy seat was made up

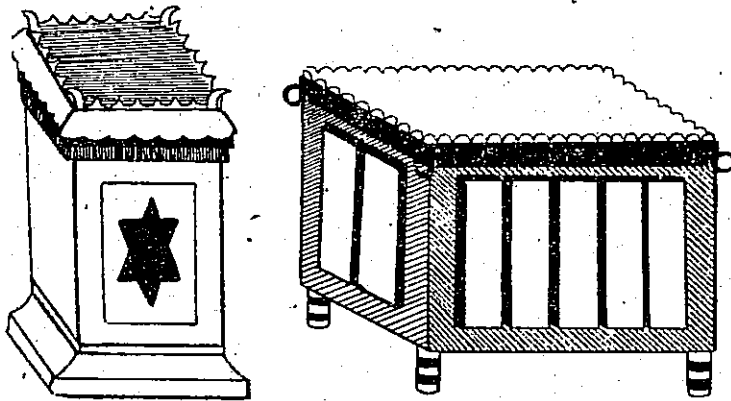
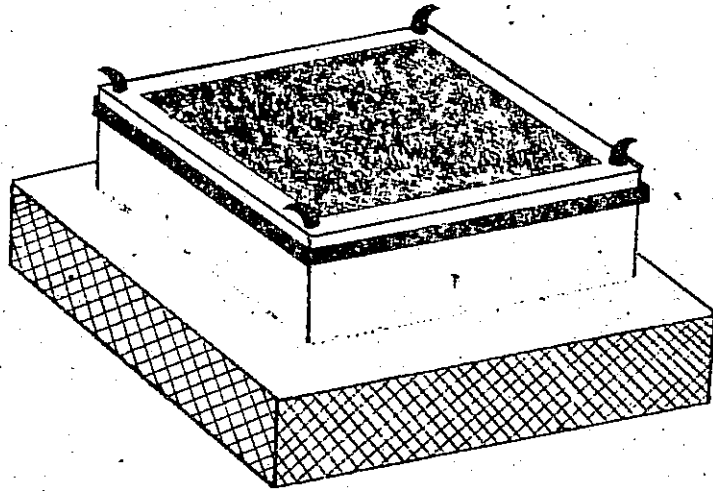


of pure gold. The two cherubim made of hammered gold, spread out their wings overshadowing the mercy seat. A beautiful lampstand was placed on the side. An altar of incense and an altar of burnt offering were made of acacia wood. And finally the court was also made.

Aaron and his sons were specially set apart for the ministry of priesthood. Holy garments were made for them. Aaron's robe for the priestly service was called 'Ephod'. It was made of gold and twined linen.

The Tabernacle and everything in it were purified by the anointing of oil. Afterwards Aaron and his

sons were also anointed. Whenever they entered the tent of meeting they used to wash their hands and legs. The glory of God filled the tabernacle and the cloud covered the place.



Through the tent of meeting God revealed the arrangements for the place where God dwells. By the instructions given to Aaron, God revealed the duties of Jewish priests.

Text for Memorization

Psalm: 93:5

"Thy decrees are very sure; holiness befits thy house, O Lord, for evermore."

Activity

Make a list of the articles in the tent of meeting.

Questions

1. What is the Tent of Meeting?
2. What was the special place given to Aaron and his sons?

Lesson 13.

Joshua Leads The People in Canaan (Joshua 1-6)

God led the people of Israel towards Canaan, the promised land. God gave them ten commandments through Moses. But Moses and Aaron were not able to reach the promised land. God had graciously permitted Moses to view the land of Canaan from Mount Nebo in Moab. Moses died in the land of Moab and then he was 120 years old.

Moses had laid his hands upon Joshua, the son of Nun and blessed him before his death. After the death of Moses God called Joshua and asked him to lead the people of Israel to Canaan. God promised him "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you..... be strong and of good courage". (Joshua 1:5-6.) The people of Israel obeyed Joshua and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Joshua sent two men secretly to search out the land of Canaan and Jericho. They came to the house of a woman called Rahab. She allowed them to stay there. When the men from the king came in search of them she hid them in her home. Later she let them out by a rope through the window. When the Israelites invaded Jericho, they noted the scarlet cord in the window of her house and saved Rahab and all her family.

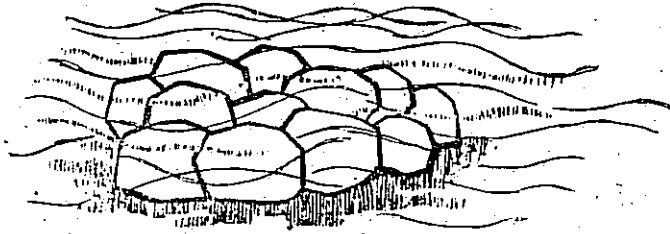
While Joshua and the people were travelling towards Canaan they reached the bank of River Jordan. According to God's command the priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant stood still in the river.



The waters of Jordan suddenly stopped from flowing and rose up in heap. The people passed over on dry ground and reached the other side. At last the priests

also crossed the river with the ark of the covenant and then the waters of the river flowed as before.

From the very place where the priests stood in river Jordan, they collected twelve stones according to

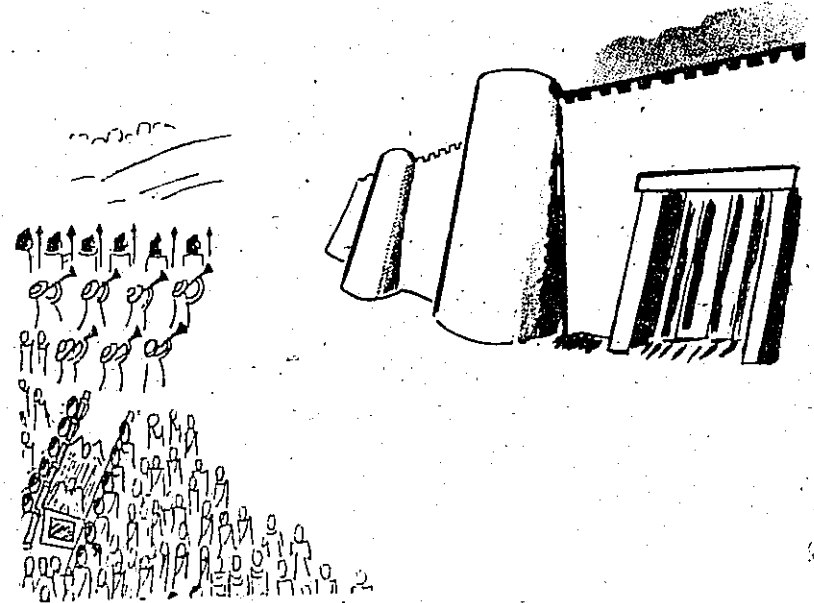


the number of the tribes of Israel. Those stones were set up in Gilgal in memory of their crossing of Jordan.

The people of Israel celebrated the passover in the plain of Jericho. They made the unleavened bread out of the crop of the land. They were getting the manna upto that time. Since there was plenty of foodstuff in the land of Canaan, Manna was stopped.

In obedience to the command of God, the army of Israel marched around the city of Jericho. Seven priests with trumpets walked in front. The ark of the covenant moved behind them. The army and the people walked behind the ark. In this order they marched around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they marched seven times around the city. The priests blew the trumpets. The people raised loud noise. The wall of the city fell down flat. The city of Jericho and everything in it were at the disposal of the people of Israel.

Thus the Israelites entered Canaan, the promised land under the leadership of Joshua. They glorified God. In their journey the grace of God was with them and they could cross the river Jordan and capture the



city of Jericho. The presence of God guides and protects the Church through out ages.

Text for Memorization

Joshua: 1:5

“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you”.

Questions

1. Write the story of Rahab, saving the spies of Israel?
2. How did the Israelites crossed the river Jordan.
3. What did the people do to keep the memory of crossing Jordan?
4. How the Israelites captured the city of Jericho?

Lesson 14.

Judges: Gideon and Deborah

(Judges 4-8)

Unit 4

GOD GUIDES HIS PEOPLE

Aim: To Teach How God Gave His People Prophets,
Judges and Kings.

Moses liberated the Israelites from Egypt and led them to Canaan. After Moses, God selected Joshua as their leader. The people settled down in Canaan. The Canaanites, former inhabitants of the land and other enemies plundered and destroyed the wealth, sheep and cattles of the Israelites. So God raised Judges from among the people to protect them from enemies. They judged the people and led them according to the Will of God. Deborah and Gideon were two such Judges.

The people of Israel, did what was evil in the sight of God. Whenever they did so God punished them by raising enemies against them. Jabin, the king of Canaan, enslaved Israelites. Then the people cried and God heard their voice. He raised up a woman to deliver Israel, the prophetess Deborah. She led the people as Judge.

According to God's command, Deborah called Barak and told him that he should go and fight against Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army. She told that God had promised to give Sisera into the hands of Barak. Barak replied "If you will go with me, I will go". Barak and Deborah together set out for war. They met the enemy near mount Tabor and Israelites defeated Sisera's army. Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled for life. He went into the tent of Jael the wife of Heber. She hid Sisera there and covered him with a rug. As he was lying fast asleep she drove a tent peg into his temple and he died. When Barak came in search of



Sisera he saw Sisera dead in the tent. Barak and Deborah praised God and sang thus, "So perish all thine enemies O Lord, But thy friends will be like the sun as he rises in his might". We can see the famous song of Deborah in Chapter 5 of 'Judges'.

After a time of peace, the Israelites forgot God again. This time God used the Midianites to punish them. Midianites invaded Israel and destroyed everything. The people prayed to God. God heard their prayers and appointed Gideon of Ophrah Judge over the people.

One day as Gideon was beating out wheat an angel of the Lord appeared and told him "the Lord is with you, you mighty man of valour". Then Gideon asked "If the Lord is with us, why then has all this befallen us". The angel assured Gideon "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian, do not I send you?" Gideon wanted a sign from God. He brought food before the angel. He placed meat and the unleavened cakes on the rock and poured broth



over it. The angel touched them with the tip of his staff. Fire sprang out and consumed the bread and meat.

That night God asked Gideon to destroy the altar of Baal and the idol of Asherah. He pulled down the altar of Baal and thus he was called Jerubbaal.

3. Then the Midianites together with Amalekites invaded Israel. Gideon gathered an army according to the Word of God. He wanted to test whether God was with him. He spread a fleece of wool on the ground and prayed to God, "If there is dew on the fleece alone and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that thou wilt deliver Israel by my hand." In the morning the fleece alone was wet and the ground was dry. In the next night he prayed to God "Let it be dry only on the fleece and on all the ground let there be dew." God did so in that night. Thus Gideon was sure that God has chosen him.

As God commanded Gideon selected three hundred men out of the army of Israel. He invaded the Midianites with his small army in the night. The enemies were confused and took to flight in all directions. Each man drew his sword against his own companion. In this way the people of Israel were delivered from Midianites by the power of God.

Text for Memorization

2 Cor. 12:9

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Activities

1. Discuss the qualities of good leadership.
2. Read the story of Deborah and Gideon from Judges Chs. 4-8.

Questions

1. Why was Gideon called Jerubbaal?
2. How did Gideon make sure that God had chosen him?

Lesson 15.

Samson (Judges 13-16)

The people of Israel drifted away from God. So God gave them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

In the land of Zorah, there lived a man, Manoah. He belonged to the tribe of Dan. He and his wife had no children. One day an angel of the Lord appeared before the wife of Manoah and told her "you shall conceive and bear a son. . . . No razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from birth; and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines".

The woman told her husband the news that the angel had brought. On another occasion the angel appeared when both were present. And the angel repeated his words to them. The next year Manoah's wife gave birth to a male child. They called him Samson. He grew up strong, filled with the Spirit of God.

When Samson was a youth he decided to marry a Philistine woman. He has been looking for an opportunity to deliver his people. One day Samson went with his parents to that woman's house. On the way when they passed through the vineyards a young lion roared against him. The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him and he tore the lion to pieces. After some days Samson passed that way and saw the dead body of the lion. Inside that he found a swarm of bees with honey. He took the honey, ate it and gave it to his parents also.

Samson arranged a feast in his wife's house. Thirty young Philistines took part in it. Then Samson put a

riddle to them "out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet". If they could tell the meaning within seven days, Samson promised to give them thirty pairs of garments. The young men failed to solve the riddle. So they approached Samson's wife. She managed to get the answer from Samson himself and she told them it secretly. On the seventh day the young men told Samson "What is sweeter than honey"? What is stronger than a lion? Then Samson understood that his wife was cheating him. He killed thirty Philistines, took their garments, gave it to the young men, and went back home in hot anger.

On one occasion the men of Judah bound up Samson and brought him to the Philistines. The Philistines shouted with joy. The Spirit of God came upon Samson. He broke off the ropes, took the jawbone of an ass and killed a thousand Philistines with it.



Samson was Judge over Israel for twenty years. He married a woman called Delilah. The Philistines influenced her and asked her to find out the secret of Samson's strength. On being compelled by her he revealed the truth that the secret of his strength was his hair. No razor had come upon his head for he has been a Nazirite to God from his birth. Once Delilah made him sleep in her lap and shaved off the seven locks of his head. Samson did not know that his strength had left him. The Philistines caught hold of him, gouged out his eyes and put him in prison.



They brought him into the temple of Dagon on the festival day. All the Philistines shouted for joy and mocked him. Samson prayed to God to give him strength once more. The power of God came upon him again. Samson pulled down the pillar and the temple fell upon the people. Three thousand Philistines were killed that day along with Samson.

Samson was the mightiest of all Judges. He did various deeds of power in the Spirit of God. When



Samson disobeyed God, the spirit of God left him and he lost the power of God. But when he repented he got the power back. Holy Spirit abides in us and makes us strong. Because of our sins we will lose the power of Holy Spirit. But we can get it back through real repentance, and God's forgiving grace.

Text for Memorization

Rev. 12:11

"And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death".

Quest ons

- 1: What was the riddle and its answer?
- 2: Why did Samson lose his strength?
- 3: How did he gain his strength again?

Lesson 16:

Samuel and Saul (1 Sam. 8: 16)



There was a man called Elkanah in the hill country of Ephraim. His wife Hannah had no children. Elkanah used to go to Shiloh every year with his family to offer sacrifice to the Lord. Hannah prayed to God earnestly for a son. She promised that she would dedicate him for the work of God. God heard Hannah's prayer. She had a son the next year. The boy was named Samuel.

When Samuel was five years old his parents brought him to Shiloh. Hannah entrusted him with Eli the priest for God's work. The boy grew in favour with the Lord. Later Samuel became the Judge of Israel.

All the elders of Israel once approached Samuel and told him that they would like to have a king over them. All other nations around Israel had their own kings. Samuel prayed to God and God permitted him to take a king for Israel. God chose Saul, the son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin to be the first king of Israel. According to the command of God Samuel anointed Saul as the King. The Spirit of God was with Saul.

Philistines came in large numbers to attack the Israelites and camped at Michmash. The people of Israel gathered together in Gilgal where Saul was then. They had to offer sacrifice and seek mercy from God. They waited for seven days but Samuel did not come to offer the sacrifice. The people began to scatter. So Saul himself offered the burnt offerings before God. As soon as he finished it Samuel came there. Saul explained the situation. But Samuel said "You have done foolishly—Your Kingdom shall not continue".

One day Samuel told Saul, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, "I will punish what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way, when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass".



Saul went with the army of Israel as God had commanded. They defeated the Amalekites. Saul took Agag their king prisoner. Although God's command was to destroy everything Saul did not destroy the best of sheep and cattle. He brought them alive. God was angry with Saul as he disobeyed God's words.

God told Samuel that night "I repent that I have made Saul King." Samuel prayed for Saul the whole night with tears.

In the morning Samuel went to Saul and asked him why he had not destroyed the cattle of the Amalekites. Saul answered that he had brought them alive to sacrifice them to the Lord. Then Samuel said "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams." Samuel informed that God had rejected him from being King because he had rejected the words of the Lord.

The Philistines fought against Israel. All men of Israel fled. Saul and his men were defeated. His sons were killed. When the archers came near, Saul took his own sword and fell upon it. Thus the first king of Israel died on mount Gilboa.

Saul had no right to offer sacrifice to God in place of a priest. Since he offered sacrifice at Gilgal in place of Samuel God was displeased. Saul disobeyed the command of God by taking away cattle and sheep alive from the battle field. So God punished Saul.

Text for Memorization

1 Sam. 1:27

"For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me my petition which I made to him".

Questions

1. How did the boy Samuel happen to live with Eli?
2. Why was king Saul thrown out from his kingship?

Lesson 17

David, The Shepherd King (1 Sam. 16ff.)

Most of the psalms in the Holy Bible were written by David. He became the King of Israel after Saul, the first King.

David was the son of Jesse who lived in Bethlehem. He grew up as a clever, good looking and active young man. When he was a boy he looked after the sheep of his father.

One day Samuel, the prophet of God came to Jesse's home. God had commanded him to choose one of the sons of Jesse as the King of Israel. Jesse had eight sons. Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel told Jesse that the Lord has not chosen any one of them. Then David the youngest was out with the sheep. Jesse sent for him. When David came in, God said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he". Samuel anointed him King in the midst of his brothers. The Spirit of Lord came mightily upon David.

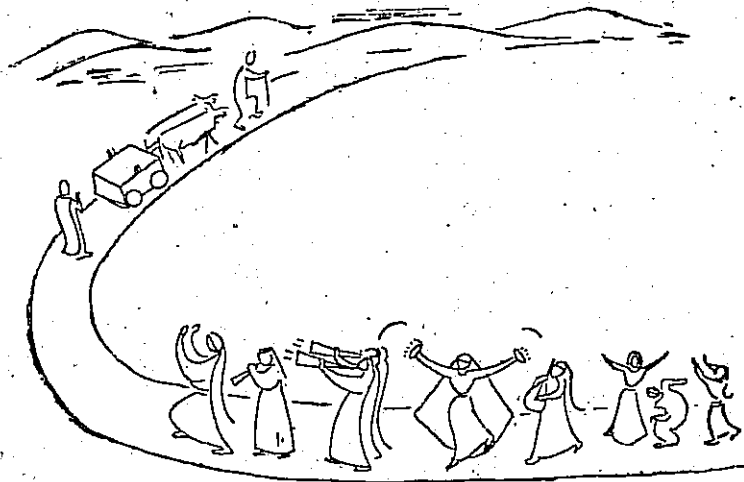
Philistines invaded Israel. The army of Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side. One Philistine champion named Goliath challenged Israelites for a duel. But no Israelite was bold enough to accept the challenge. David went to the battlefield one day to meet his brothers. He was very angry at the proud words of Goliath. David decided to accept the challenge because he was sure that God was with him.

David and Goliath met in the battle field. David struck the Philistine with a sling and a stone and killed

Goliath with his own sword. As the champion fell the Philistines fled. When victorious David came to the city the women danced and sang "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands". When Saul heard this song he was very angry and he became jealous of David.

On many occasions Saul tried to kill David. But David escaped all these because he put his trust in God. David had to hide himself many times in fear of Saul. Saul followed David even with his army. David got many opportunities to kill Saul. But he never wanted to kill the anointed one of God. God preserved David and kept him out of all dangers.

After the death of Saul, David became the King of Israel. He spent much of his time in communion with God. It was his desire to build a temple for the worship of God. He sang "I will not enter my house or get into my bed; I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty one of Jacob" (Ps. 132:3-5).



David was a mighty King of Israel. He defeated all his enemies. David established peace and order in the country. He built the city of Jerusalem and made it his Capital. David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, in a great procession. David walked before the Ark and danced in great gladness. The simplicity of David's heart is evident from this incident.

Text for Memorization

Ps. 27:4

"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple."

Activities

1. Find out the Psalms written by David.
2. A Film strip about David's life.
3. Dramatize the various incidents in the life of David.

Questions

1. How did David become popular all over Israel?
2. Why did Saul try to kill David?
3. Write an incident to prove the simplicity of David.

Lesson 18.

Solomon Builds The Temple

(1 Kings 3-8, 2 Chro. 2-7)

David wanted to build a temple for God. He started collecting the necessary materials for its construction. But it was Solomon the son of David, who was fortunate enough to build the temple.



After the death of David, Solomon became King. He regularly prayed for grace from God to rule the

people. One night God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said "Ask what I shall give you". Solomon replied "Give thy servant an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good and evil." God was pleased because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or power, but only wisdom to discern the right. So God gave him not only a wise mind but also great riches, long life and power.

One day two women came to the King, Solomon. They had a child with them. Each one claimed to be the mother of the child. It was very difficult to find out whose child it was. Solomon ordered for a sword. He commanded "Divide the living child into two, and give half to the one and half to the other". The mother of the child requested the King "Oh, my Lord, give her the living child and by no means slay it". But the other said "It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it". The King understood that the first woman is the mother of the child and that is why her heart ached. Solomon ordered to give the child to the first woman. All people were amazed at the King's wisdom. Wisdom of Solomon became world famous. People from many lands came to hear his words.

Solomon decided to start the building of the temple. He sought the help of the neighbouring nations in the building of the temple. The materials were collected from different parts of the world. Many countries sent architects and craftsmen. The temple was completed by the work of thousands of labourers - working continuously for seven years.

Soon after the completion of the temple it was dedicated. All the people of Israel took part in the worship of the day. At the end of the service Solomon knelt before God and praised Him. He prayed for all the people. The temple was filled with the glory of God. The whole place was illuminated by God's glory. Solomon offered sacrifices before God.

Solomon was very loyal to God. He became a favourite King of Israel by God's blessing. The 'Book of Proverbs' in the Holy Bible shows the wisdom of King Solomon.

Text for Memorization

2 Chronicles 1:1

"Solomon the son of David established himself in his Kingdom, and the Lord his God was with him and made him exceedingly great".

Activities

1. Dramatize the story of the two women and the child.
2. Select ten pieces of advice from Proverbs.

Questions

1. Describe an event to prove Solomon's wisdom.
2. Describe briefly the dedication of the temple of God.

Lesson 19.

Elijah and Ahab

(1 Kings, 17, 18, 2 Kings 2)

After the death of the King Solomon Israel was divided into two. The southern Kingdom was called Judah and the northern Kingdom Israel. Israel was bigger and richer than Judah. Kings of Israel became unfaithful to God.

The King Ahab ruled over Israel, 875 years before Jesus Christ. Jezebel, wife of Ahab wanted to do away with the faith in Yahweh. She persecuted the devotees of Yahweh. And the people started worshipping idols. The prophets of God exhorted the people to put their trust in the true God. Elijah, the prophet travelled all over the land and turned the people towards the faith in God.

One day Elijah went to Ahab and said: "As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word". Afterwards Elijah ran away from the King. Ahab and the people did not take his words seriously. According to Elijah's prophecy there was no rain in the land for three years. The people were faced with a severe famine. According to God's command Elijah met Ahab again. Then Ahab cried out: "Is it you, you troubler of Israel"? Elijah answered: "I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals".

Elijah asked Ahab to bring together all the people of Israel and prophets of Baal. According to the order



of Ahab all the people came to Mount Carmel. Elijah told the people, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him". Elijah wanted the people to bring two bulls for sacrifice. One bull was for Yahweh and the other for Baal. Elijah told the prophets of Baal: "You call on the name of your God and I will call on the name of the Lord; and the God who answers by fire, he is God".

The prophets of Baal made an altar. They killed the bull and placed it on the altar. They cried aloud till noon but there was no voice or answer. Then Elijah came to the altar, placed the bull over the wood and poured water. He knelt and prayed to God: "Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that thou, O Lord, art God, and that thou hast turned their hearts back". Soon from heaven fire came down and burned the offerings. The people fell on their face and said "The Lord is God".

Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. There he prayed to God for rain. When Elijah prayed, it rained heavily on the land.

Text for Memorization

Ps. 34:15

"The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry".

Activities

Read the following Bible portions.

(a) 1 Kgs. Chs. 17, 18 (b) 2 Kgs. Ch. 2.

Questions

1. How did Elijah prove that Yahweh alone is the true God?
2. How did the prophecy of Elijah come true?

Isaiah, The Prophet (Is. 1-6)

God appointed Judges, kings and prophets to lead the people of Israel. Prophets were the messengers of God. They taught the people the Will of God. They advised the people to repent of their sins and walk in the ways of God.

As we have studied, Israel, the Northern Kingdom drew away from Yahweh and began to worship idols. Then God sent Elijah, the prophet to the king and people of Israel but they did not obey the counsel of God's prophet. So God made use of the Assyrians to punish Israel because of their sins. Thus Assyrians conquered Israel in the 8th cent. B. C. They took the major part of her people as slaves to Assyria.

Judah, the Southern Kingdom stood for 150 years after the fall of Israel. Some of their kings put their trust in Yahweh and tried to turn the people from evil ways. But in course of time Judah also drifted away from God. God sent many prophets to the people. Isaiah, the son of Amos was the chief among them. He lived in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, the kings of Judah.

One day when Isaiah was praying in the temple he had a vision. He saw God sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up. There were angels around God, each with six wings: With two the angel covered his face, with two covered his feet and with two he flew. One called to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory". Isaiah was afraid as he saw the glory of God. He said, "woe is me! For



I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts"! Suddenly an angel took a burning coal with tongs from the altar and

touched his mouth, And Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah answered soon "Here am I! send me".

Isaiah advised even the kings of Judah. He knew that he is speaking the words of God. Therefore he did not fear anyone. He pointed out courageously the mistakes of even the kings without caring for their displeasure. He spoke of the evil ways of the people.

Judah was threatened with invasions by their enemies. The kings planned to make treatise with neighbouring countries. Then Prophet Isaiah told them, "put your trust in the Lord alone and not in neighbouring countries. If you walk in the ways of the Lord you need not fear your enemies".

The Prophet Isaiah pointed out the sin of the people, their disobedience and lack of trust in God. He advised them "though your sins are like scarlet they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson they shall become like wool." He emphasized the importance of justice and righteousness. The Words of God rushed out through the Prophet, "Cease to do evil, learn to do good, seek justice, correct oppression and defend the fatherless".

Isaiah could foretell the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord—"Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel". (Is. 7:14) He prophesied also about the sufferings of Jesus. God revealed His ways to Isaiah since he walked in the ways of God.

Text for Memorization

Is. 2:5

"O house of Jacob come, let us walk in the light of the Lord".

Questions

1. What were the duties of the Prophets?
2. What was the vision that Isaiah had?

Lesson 21.

Jeremiah, the Prophet

Assyrians had conquered Israel, the Northern Kingdom. When Assyria became weak, Israel thought she could re-establish her kingdom. In the meantime



another nation, Babylon, came up as a great power. Babylon wanted to invade Judah. Jeremiah the prophet lived at that time.

Jeremiah was born in Anathoth a small town near Jerusalem. His father Hilkiyah was from a family of priests. Jeremiah did not wish to be a prophet but God called him to be one. He told Jeremiah "I appointed you a prophet to the nations". Then Jeremiah humbly answered "Ah! Lord God, behold, I do not know how to speak for I am only a youth". God commanded "Do not say I am only a youth, whatever I command, you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you". Jeremiah so gladly accepted the work which God gave him.

Altogether five kings ruled Judah during Jeremiah's life time. Josiah was the first among them. He was one of the good kings who ruled over Judah. Josiah wanted the people know God and live in God's way. He repaired the temple which Solomon had built.

Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah became the next king over Judah. He was not a good man like his father. He hated Jeremiah. He wanted to wage a war against Babylon. Jehoiakim was planning to make Judah a free nation. But Jeremiah advised the king not to go for war. Babylon was then very powerful. He told the king that God will use Babylon to punish Jerusalem on account of their sins.

Jeremiah was suspected by all because of this advise to the king. The prophet was counted a traitor. The servants of the king caught hold of the prophet and put him into a pit of mud. They burned the scroll on which his prophecies were written.

Later, Zedekiah, the king revolted against Babylon. But the Babylonians fought terribly as Jeremiah had

predicted. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon came with a big army and they captured Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem were not able to escape. There was no food in the city. People began to die of famine. The king Zedekiah tried to escape with some soldiers. But he was caught by the Babylonians. The king was bound and the princes were killed before his eyes. They put out the eyes of Zedekiah and took him to Babylon.

The city of Jerusalem was destroyed. The king's palace and the temple were burned. The gold and silver vessels in the temple were taken away. The inhabitants of the city were made slaves. Many people fled to Egypt. They dragged Jeremiah also with them. Tradition says that Jeremiah was stoned to death by the Jews in Egypt.

Jeremiah was a sensitive man who deeply loved his people. The word of the Lord was like fire in his heart, he could not keep it back. During his ministry he warned God's people of the calamity that was to fall upon the nation because of their sins and idolatry. To most people Jeremiah is known as the "prophet of doom". He foretold about a new covenant that God's people would keep written on their hearts. He foresaw the eventual return of the people from exile and the restoration of the nation.

Regarding the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour, Jeremiah prophesied, "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness" (Jer. 23: 5, 6).

Text for Memorization

Jer. 20: 11

"But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, they will not overcome me".

Questions

1. Why was Jeremiah put into the pit of mud?
2. How was king Zedekiah punished

Lesson 22.

Jonah

The Old Testament teaches that God punishes men when they commit sin. But God is merciful even in his punishments, if His people repent. Now we shall study how a group of people escaped God's punishment by their true repentance.

Jonah, the son of Amittai was a well known prophet of eighth century B. C. God asked Jonah, the prophet to go to Nineveh a great city and speak out against it. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria. The people of Nineveh lived in all evils. God wanted to bring them back to the way of righteousness.

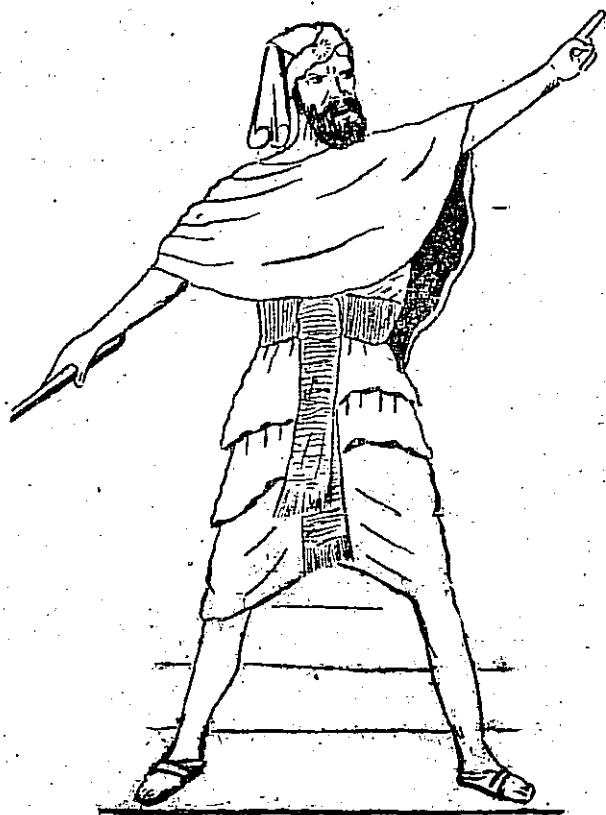
But Jonah did not like to go to Nineveh. He wished to run away from the presence of God. So Jonah set out in the opposite direction, went to the harbour Joppa and got into a ship which was bound to Tarshish.

God decided to punish Jonah. He sent a strong wind on the sea. The storm became very violent. The ship was almost sinking. The sailors were terrified. They threw the cargo out of the ship. There were people from different nations in the ship. Each one cried to his own God, to save him from this danger. But Jonah was sleeping in one of the rooms in the bottom of that ship. The Captain found Jonah there, woke him up and asked him also to pray to his God.

The sailors drew lots and found that Jonah is to be blamed for getting them into this danger. Jonah confessed his sins against the Lord and told them, "Take me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet

down for you". The sailors were unwilling to throw him into the sea. The storm was getting worse. At last they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. The sea calmed down at once.

At the Lord's command a large fish swallowed Jonah. He was inside the fish for three days and three nights. There Jonah repented and confessed his sins to



God. He prayed for the pardon of his sins. God heard his prayer. Then the Lord ordered the fish to spit Jonah up on the beach. The fish did so.

God commanded Jonah again to go to Nineveh. He obeyed the orders. Jonah went to the city and walked for three days through it. The prophet proclaimed: "in forty days Nineveh will be destroyed". The people of Nineveh believed in God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sack cloth. Everyone from the greatest to the least repented and prayed. The King covered himself with sack cloth and sat in ashes. God saw what they did. They had given up their wicked life. So God forgave their sins. Thus the city of Nineveh was saved from the anger of God.

Text for Memorization

1 Jn. 1: 8

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves".

Questions

1. Why did God punish Jonah?
2. What was the punishment given by God?
3. How did Jonah escaped from the punishment?
4. How the people of Nineveh escaped from God's punishment?

Lesson 23.

Amos (Amos 1-9, Ps. 41:1-3)

Amos lived 750 years before Jesus Christ. He was born in Tekoa, a village in Judah. He was a shepherd and dresser of Sycamore trees. God chose Amos, the shepherd and farmer as His prophet.



One day Amos was looking after his sheep. Then the Word of God came to him. God commanded him: "Go and prophesy to my people, Israel". Thus Amos who belonged to the Southern Kingdom set out to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom. He reached Bethel, a town in Israel. King Jeroboam, son of Joash was then the King of Israel.

When Amos reached Israel, the people were very much demoralized. "They sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes" (Amos 2: 6). Amos preached against the king, priests, dukes and rich men. He told them clearly that God would not bear the oppression of the poor. He gave warning that the King and the people would be destroyed, if they did not turn from their evil ways.

The religious observance in those days was insincere. Amos with passion and courage preached that God would punish the nation if they are not prepared to practise justice. Famine and tempest would ruin the country. Amos exhorted the people "to seek the Lord and live". He called for justice to "flow like a stream" and said "perhaps the Lord will be merciful to the people of this nation who are still left alive" (Amos 5: 15).

Amaziah, the priest, did not like the preaching of Amos. He reported about the prophet to king Jeroboam and tried to drive away Amos from Bethel. The priest told Amos "O Seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there" (Amos 7: 12).

Amos came back to Judah. He wrote his book of prophecy there. Amos was the first prophet in the Bible whose message was recorded at length.

As in the time of Amos, there is prosperity today. But there is also injustice, oppression of the poor and insincerity in worship. It is our duty to bring love and justice to the poor and the needy. We should look after the sick and disabled. We must care for widows and orphans.

Text for Memorization

Amos 5: 24

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream".

Activities

1. Visit an orphanage in your neighbourhood and offer them gifts.
2. Collect gifts and money and give them to needy people.

Unit: 5**GOD SAVES HIS PEOPLE**

- Aim:*
1. To teach the event of John the Baptist's birth and his role as prophet and forerunner of Jesus Christ.
 2. To teach briefly of Christ's teachings, Transfiguration, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension.
 3. To help understand the Pentecost as the New Life of the Church.
 4. To help to see all these are Lord's supreme saving act.

John, the Baptist (Lk. 1, Mt. 3)

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus Christ, our Saviour. John is known as the forerunner of the Lord.

When Herod was King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. His wife's name was Elizabeth. Both of them obeyed fully all the laws and commands of God. They had no children and they were very old. One day when Zechariah was in the temple, the angel Gabriel appeared and told him that a son would be born to him. Since Zechariah could not believe this he was punished by the angel and he became dumb. The child was born as the angel had said. On the eighth day after the birth of the child, Zechariah wrote the child's name as 'John'. Zechariah could speak again at that moment. He praised the Lord.

John went to the desert and lived there in prayer and contemplation. John's clothes were made of camel's hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and honey.

John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. People came from all over the country near the Jordan river. He asked "Turn away from your sins, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand". They confessed their sins. John baptized them in the river Jordan.

The Jews were looking for the coming of Messiah. Some of them thought that John is the expected one. But John told them "He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Mt. 3:11). When John saw Jesus coming to him, he

introduced Jesus to the people saying "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29).



At that time Herod was the King of Judea. He was a wicked king. He took Herodias, wife of his brother Philip, to be his wife. John preached against this wicked action of Herod. The king became very angry and John was imprisoned. Herod wanted to kill John. But he was not bold enough to do so because the people counted John a prophet.

In a feast, Salome, daughter of Herodias danced before the guests. The king Herod was very much pleased and asked her to demand any present. Persuaded by Herodias, Salome asked for John's head in a platter. With much reluctance Herod ordered to give John's head to Salome. Soldiers killed John, cut off his head and gave it to the girl.

Since John the Baptist raised his voice against immorality he had to face death.

Text for Memorization

Lk. 7:28

"Among those born of women none is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he".

Activities

1. Act out the end of John the Baptist.
2. Arrange an imaginary dialogue between John and Herod.

Questions

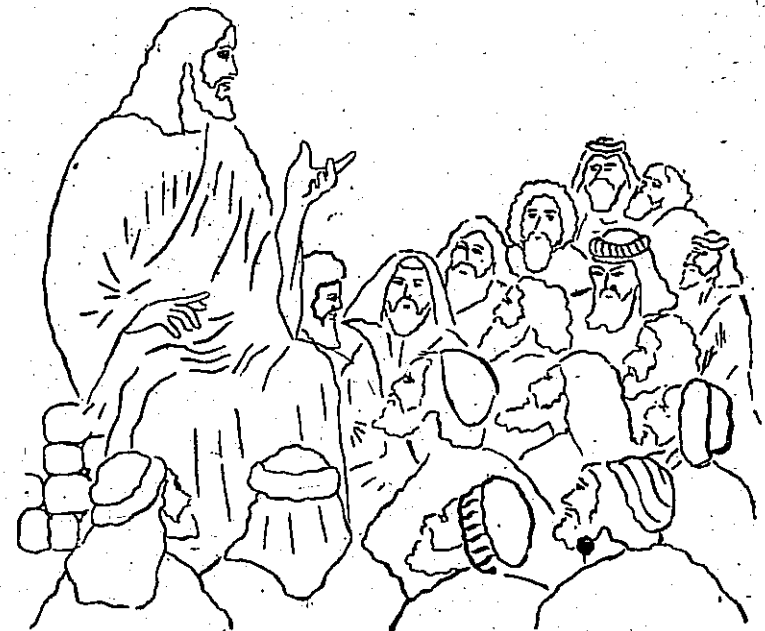
1. Write a paragraph on the birth of John?
2. How he prepared the way for Jesus?
3. Why did Herod imprison John?

Lesson 25.

Christ Teaches (Jn. 3: 2, 7: 14, Mk. 10: 1)

Crowds of people came out to John to be baptized by him. In many ways John's preaching prepared the way for the Good News to the people and helped them receive Jesus.

From Galilee Jesus came to John at the river Jordan one day. Jesus wanted John to baptize Him. But John tried to make Him change His mind by saying "I need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?" Jesus told him "Let it be so now". John baptized Jesus. As



soon as He came up out of the water heavens were opened to Him and the Spirit of God came down as a dove on Jesus. There heard a voice from heaven "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased".

Jesus started His ministry and travelled over the different parts of Palestine. He was a good teacher. The people called him 'Rabbi' which means 'teacher'. Even at the age of 12 He proved to be a good teacher. Jesus had gone to Jerusalem on a passover festival with His parents. In the Temple He listened to the teaching of Jewish leaders and asked them questions. Those who heard the words of boy Jesus were wonder-struck.

The most outstanding characteristic of His teaching was that it was very simple. Unlike the Jewish rabbis Jesus taught with authority. He used many parables and little stories in His teachings. So everyone could understand His words.

The central theme of Jesus' teaching is the Kingdom of God. 'Kingdom of God' is the state in which God's Will is perfectly fulfilled. In this Kingdom all will live in the presence of God according to God's Will. Jesus has come to save us from sin, grant us eternal life and bring us into the Kingdom of God.

The idea of the 'Kingdom of God' was made clear through certain parables. Through the parable of sower, Jesus explains that the Word of God is not accepted by many. Like the seeds which fell on good soil, the Words of God influence the hearts of good people. Only those who hear, understand and act according to the Words of God can enter and experience the Kingdom of God. Jesus told that the Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. It is the smallest of all seeds. But it grows as the biggest of all plants. Similarly the Kingdom of God grows from a small beginning. In the parable of yeast, Jesus says that like the little bit of yeast leavens the whole body, the Kingdom of heaven rises. Jesus told another parable about the Kingdom of heaven. In this parable

of weeds He says that seeds and weeds grow together till the harvest. Like this the good and the evil grow together till the Last Judgment. Along with the experience of the Kingdom of heaven there will be bad effects of the evil also.

The Kingdom of God has come with the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. This Kingdom is growing. Every Christian who has been baptised is a citizen of the Kingdom of God. The fulfilment of the Kingdom will be brought about with the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Text for Memorisation

Lk. 2: 52.

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

Questions

1. What were the special characteristics of Jesus' teaching?
2. What are the important parables about the Kingdom of God?