



STANDARD

3

My Bible Lessons

Sunday School Text Book



Published by

**SHARON FELLOWSHIP
SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEXT BOOK

Standard 3

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PREFACE

The Sunday school has played a major role in the growth of the church. A majority of the believers had found Jesus as their savior during their Sunday school days. Apart from that, the Sunday school has been the foundation for Bible study in the lives of most of the men and women who have been mightily used by God's hands for his kingdom's glory from time to time. It is also worth telling that the Sunday school has been the starting point for many church ministries.

It is a great pleasure for me in seeing the steady growth and active functioning of the Sunday school in the Sharon Fellowship Church (SFC). This wonderful ministry of bringing children's to Christ is worth of all our appreciation. It is a truth that the Sunday school can breed mighty warriors for the kingdom of God.

Even my pleasure abounds to see the revisions taking place in the textual contents of the Sunday school books with regard to the present educational trends and standards. As a part of the efforts in this regard the class 3 book has been revised. I heartily congratulate all who have strived in this endeavor. It is my sincere hope and prayer that this book may be a blessing for all the children.

Thiruvalla
10-11-2016

Rev. John Thomas
(General President)

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STATEMENT

The Sunday school has always been active from the starting of the Sharon Fellowship church. In order to facilitate the study of the word of God for children, books were first published by Sharon Bible College, Thiruvalla and Mannakala Faith Theological Seminary. But later on these books were not available. It was at this juncture in the year 1998 that our present acting President Dr. T. P. Abraham took the initiative of printing apt Sunday school books for classes 1 to 10.

After the creation of the Sharon Sunday school Association in 1998, the books for 11, 12 and Nursery were printed and published. These books were relevant for imparting Christian values and Biblical knowledge to its readers.

We are in the age of technological advancement and it was essential to impart the word of God in an easy and understandable manner. It was for this reason that the previous books were revised according to the recommendations of the 2013 Committee. The revised versions of class 1 and class 2 were printed in 2013 and 2014 respectively. By the grace of the Almighty God this year also we are presenting English Edition of class 3 book to the church.

This book was prepared and translated by **Rev. D. Joy**. The Association expresses its heartfelt gratitude in this regard.

The Sunday school needs everybody's prayers to carry on this responsibility of nurturing up a generation zealous in our Lord & Savior Jesus. Let us work together for this. I convey my sincere regards to all.

On behalf of the Sharon Fellowship Sunday School Association

Thiruvalla

10-11-2016

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INTRODUCTION

Sunday school is doing the great ministry of relating children with Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore there is no wrong in saying that today's Sunday school is tomorrow's church. From this it is clear that the future of church is depending upon Sunday school. It is from this perspective that every church should see Sunday school and encourage its activities.

Sunday School Teaching is neither a trivial task nor simple mission. Rather it is very important like any other service of the Church. It is a mission that God entrusted upon us by considering us as Faithful. Therefore teaching ministry of Sunday school should be done with enough prayer and hard work.

Sunday school studies may enable our children to receive Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. It may also help them to grow in Christ and also to become the witnesses of Gospel where ever they are. This new curriculum of Sunday school is helpful to attain the above mentioned aims. Teachers should study it well and teach students with this aim.

Sharon Sunday School Association decided to revise the old curriculum by including the contemporary elements to get a quality Christian education for our children. As a part of it, this text book of 3rd class is reaching in your hands. I pray that its learner may be blessed by this text book.

Pastor Abraham Mannamaruthy

Thiruvalla
10-11-2016

Director, Sharon Fellowship
Sunday School Association.

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Lesson 1

God Gives Leadership To Joshua

Reference: Joshua chapter 1; Numbers 13; 27 :12 – 21

Aim: To teach the students that God is looking for obedient and faithful people to hand over the responsibilities.



Introduction: The Bible tells us interesting stories of many men and women of God. Can you name one of your favourite bible characters? Why do you like that particular character than others? If you want to keep something of yours safe whom would you trust it with? Wouldn't that be the one you trust the most? Same way God also selects and appoints people. Do you like to be one of them? Then listen to this lesson carefully.

Background: The people of Israel left Egypt in the leadership of Moses. After leading them successfully for many years, Moses grew old and died without entering to the promised land, Canaan.

Explanation: After the death of Moses, God chose Joshua, the son of Nun. The meaning of the name Joshua is "Jehovah saves". Joshua was one of the members in the group whom Moses sent to spy on the Promised Land. Joshua and his friend Caleb were the only two

members in the team who encouraged the people by saying that “our God will hand over this land to us”. After appointing him as a leader, God insisted Joshua to lead the people of Israel to Canaan, the promised land which is also known as ‘a land flowing with milk and honey’. Joshua who had been working faithfully along with Moses for many years now took the leadership without any hesitation. It was not one or two persons to be lead; rather lakhs and lakhs of men and women, their pets and cattle; altogether a huge crowd had to be lead. God spoke to Joshua in the same way as He had been speaking to Moses. God gave him a blueprint of the land, which has to be captured. God said them “From the wilderness, and this Lebanon, even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border”. Now as a leader, Joshua had three different responsibilities.

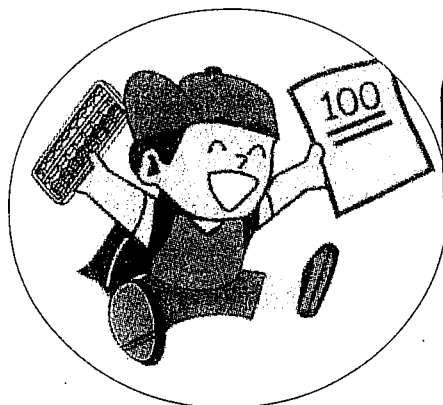
1. To lead the people a long way to the land of Canaan, promised by God.
2. To protect the people until they inherit the land and fight with the opponents who come to stop and destroy the people of Israel.
3. To lead the people in a proper way without letting them go astray from God.

In this attempt Joshua always had the support and help from God, because God had promised Joshua “Be strong and of good courage; be not affrighted, neither be you troubled: for Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua equipped people three days in advance for the journey with all the necessary things including food. Joshua encouraged people and appointed assured persons for certain responsibilities. Then people said to Joshua: “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go” (Joshua 1:16). Such a way they accepted his leadership. Thus Joshua succeeded in a great adventurous journey consisting of both failures and success. They passed mountains, valleys and rivers. In the coming lessons we too can join the courageous journey with Joshua and his people. Are you ready to march, little ones?

Practical Lesson

God needs co-operation of the faithful people to perform miracles. Therefore He chooses and appoints people of honesty and chastity. God needs courageous people with both obedience and fear of God to carry out His plans into practice. Being good children of God you should prepare yourself for the same even from your very childhood.

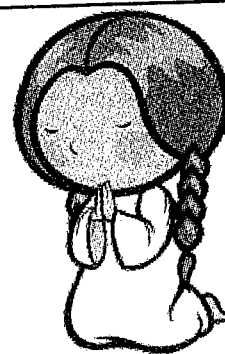


My Decision

If it is the will of God, I am ready to take any responsibilities that God may give to me.

My Prayer

Oh! God, help me to obey your instructions and live a better life thus I also can be used for the fulfillment of your plan in my generation.



Memory verse

Joshua 1:16

All that you have commanded us
we will do and wherever you send
us, we will go.

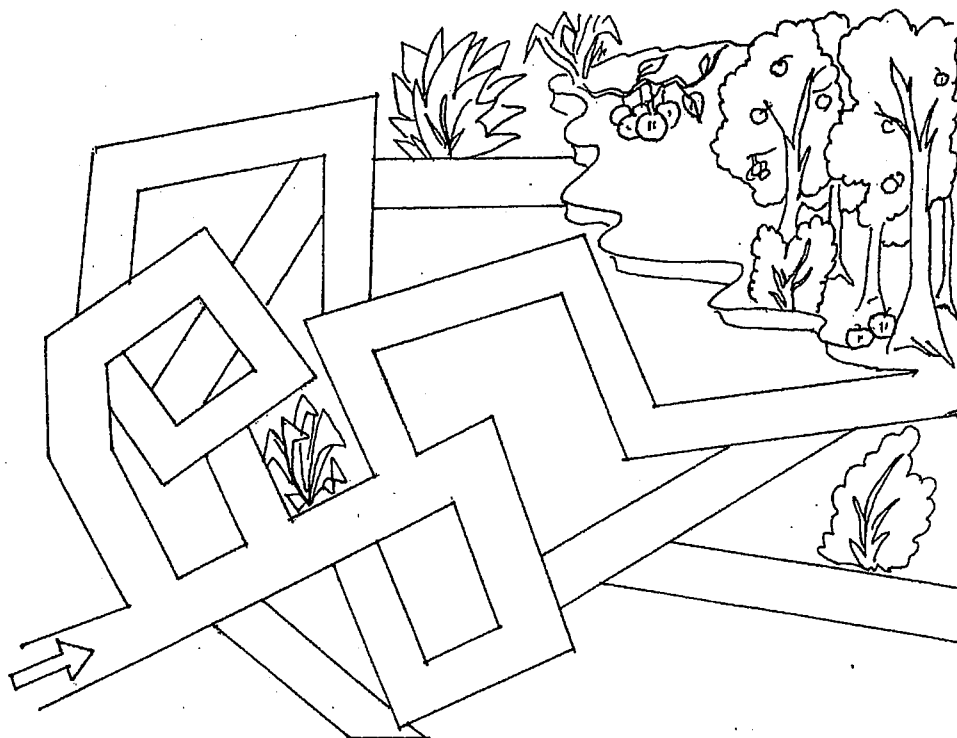
QUESTIONS

1. Who was the person appointed by God as a leader after Moses?
2. Name of the father of Joshua.
3. What is the meaning of the word 'Joshua'?
4. What were the main responsibilities of Joshua?
5. What was the name of the land that God promised to Israelites? How was that land known about?



Give colour to the picture of Joshua and make a stick with paper and paste it in the hand of Joshua

Show the way to Israelites to the promised land of Canaan.



Lesson 2

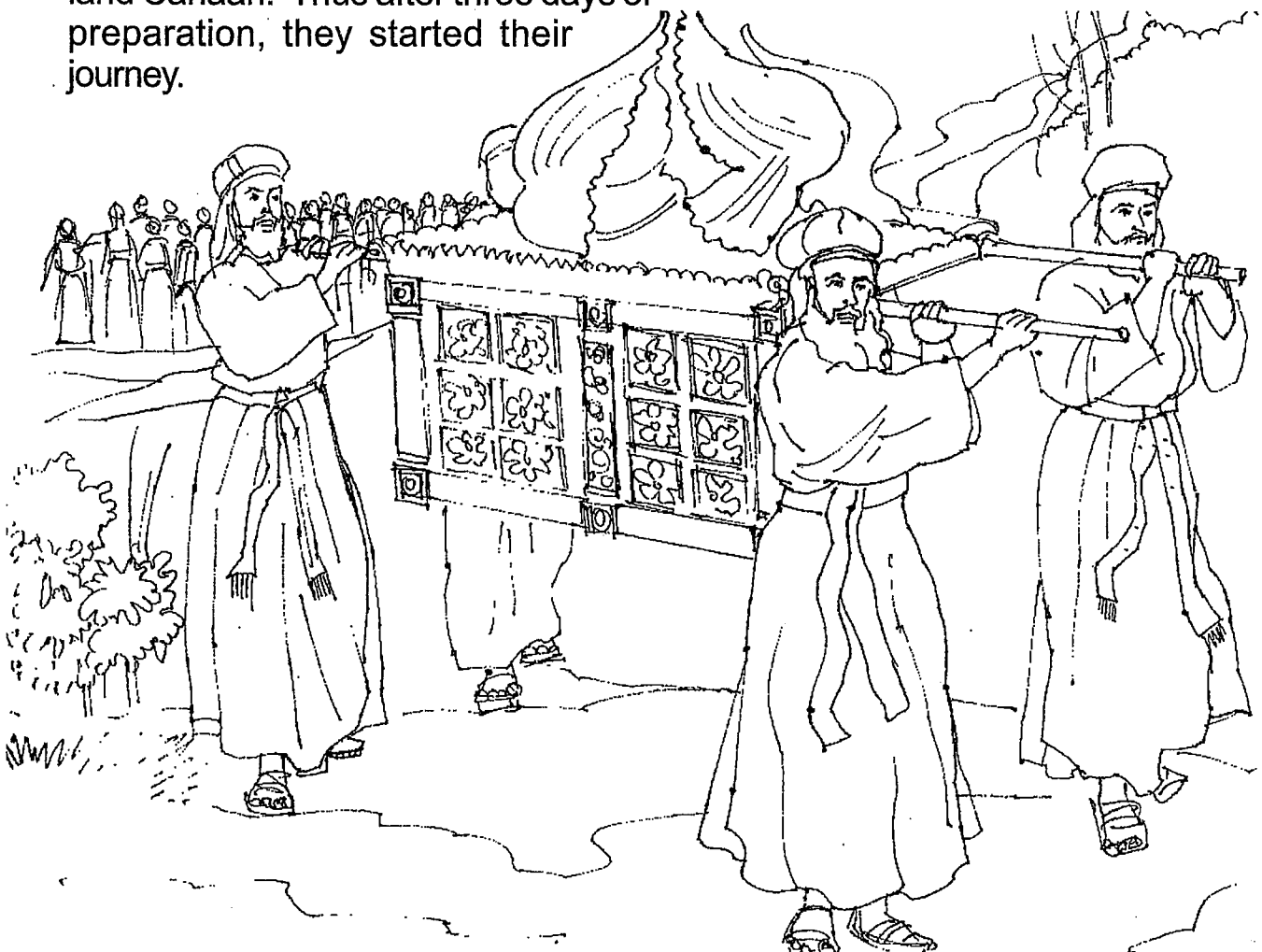
Crossing the river Miraculously

Reference:: Joshua Chapters 3,4.

Aim: To teach the students about the provision of God during the times of difficulties and troubles in their daily life.

Introduction: What was the most difficult problem that you have faced in your life and finally how it was solved? Sometimes problems come to us in a way that even we cannot imagine. But God can solve our problems in many ways that we may never imagine. That is what we learn from the experiences of Israelites throughout their challenging journey to Canaan under the leadership of Joshua.

Background: We learned from the previous lesson about Joshua being given the leadership and their preparation for the Journey towards the promised land Canaan. Thus after three days of preparation, they started their journey.



Explanation: Under the leadership of Joshua they have been marching forward. First of all they had to defeat the city of Jericho. But in order to enter into the city of Jericho, they had to cross a large river. Thus they moved from Shittim and reached the banks of Jordan. At the Harvest season this river would flow over the banks. Now they started to worry about crossing the large river without any transportation facilities. They had no boats or ships like we have today to cross this huge river. So for three days they were camped on the banks of Jordan river.

After three days, people were asked to prepare for the journey and line up behind the priests who were carrying the Ark of the covenant in front. The ark of covenant was given to the people of Israel as a proof of the presence of God in the midst of them, this ark of covenant had to be carried on the shoulders of the priests according to the instructions that given by God with immense fear and obedience. The Ark of covenant was allowed to be carried by the Levite priests only. Ordinary people were never allowed to even touch the ark. Therefore according to the instructions that given by God, people have to lined up behind the ark by leaving a distance of 2000 cubits by measure.

The river was still overflowing before them even then the people had no idea about crossing the river without any transportation facilities. Then Joshua said unto the Israelites "Sanctify yourselves; for tomorrow Jehovah will do wonders among you." (Joshua 3:5) with these words Joshua prepared and encouraged the people for a miracle. Then to the priests he ordered "Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people." And they carried the ark of the covenant, and started to move before the people in the river.

And Jehovah said unto Joshua, "This day will I begin to magnify you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you." (Joshua 3:7).

The priests reached the brim of the river bearing the ark of the covenant. When they stepped into the river Jordan, that the waters which came down from above stood, and rose up like that in a Dam, a great way off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan; and those that went down toward the sea of the Arabah, even the Salt Sea, were wholly cut off. The people with all their cattle crossed Jordan through dry land and reached city of Jericho. To commemorate this miracle that the God did for them, they took twelve stones from the midst of dry Jordan river. When they found that everyone crossed the river the priests who were carrying the arc of the covenant also crossed and reached the other side. Suddenly the water began to flow just as it was before. People continued the journey happily under the leadership of Joshua. When they reached a place called Gilgal they set up all the twelve stones that they have taken from the river so that their generations would remember the miracle that God had done for them. These 12 stones represent the 12 tribes of Israel.

Practical Lesson:

If God is with us throughout the journey of our life, we will be able to overcome the problems of life and we can complete our journey successfully.

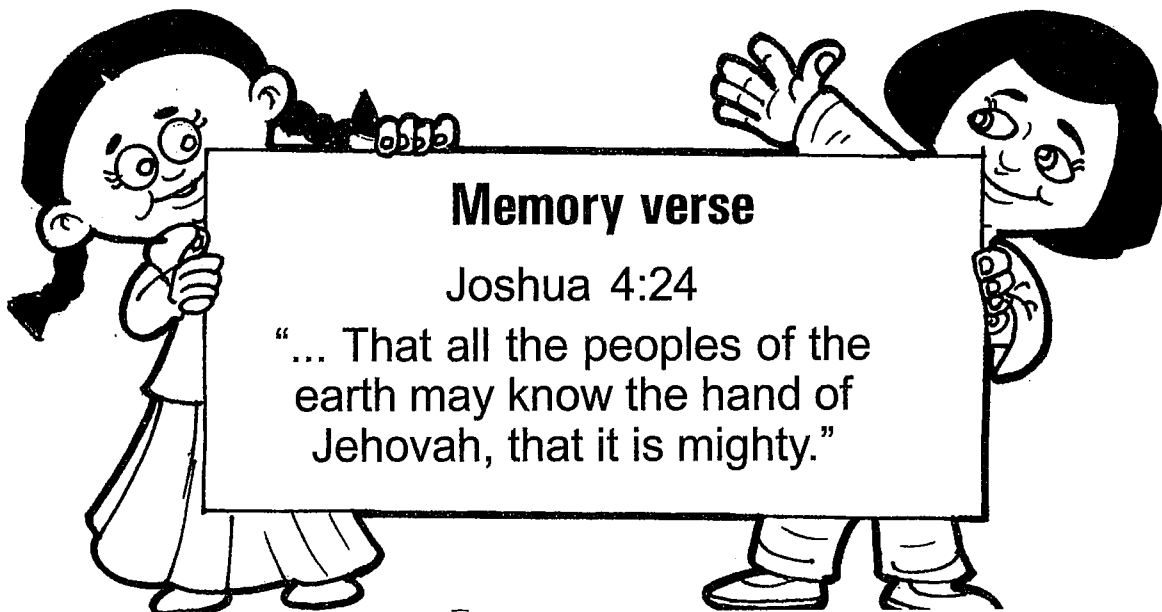
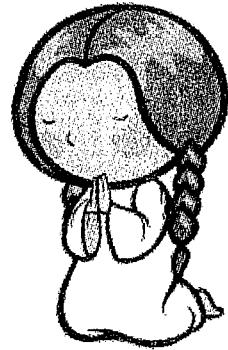


My Decision

When I face problems in life, instead of being sad, I will trust in God and try to move forward without any complaints against the persons or situations.

My Prayer

God, make my hard times in favour to my opportunities to overcome all the obstacles which comes in my life, Amen!



Memory verse

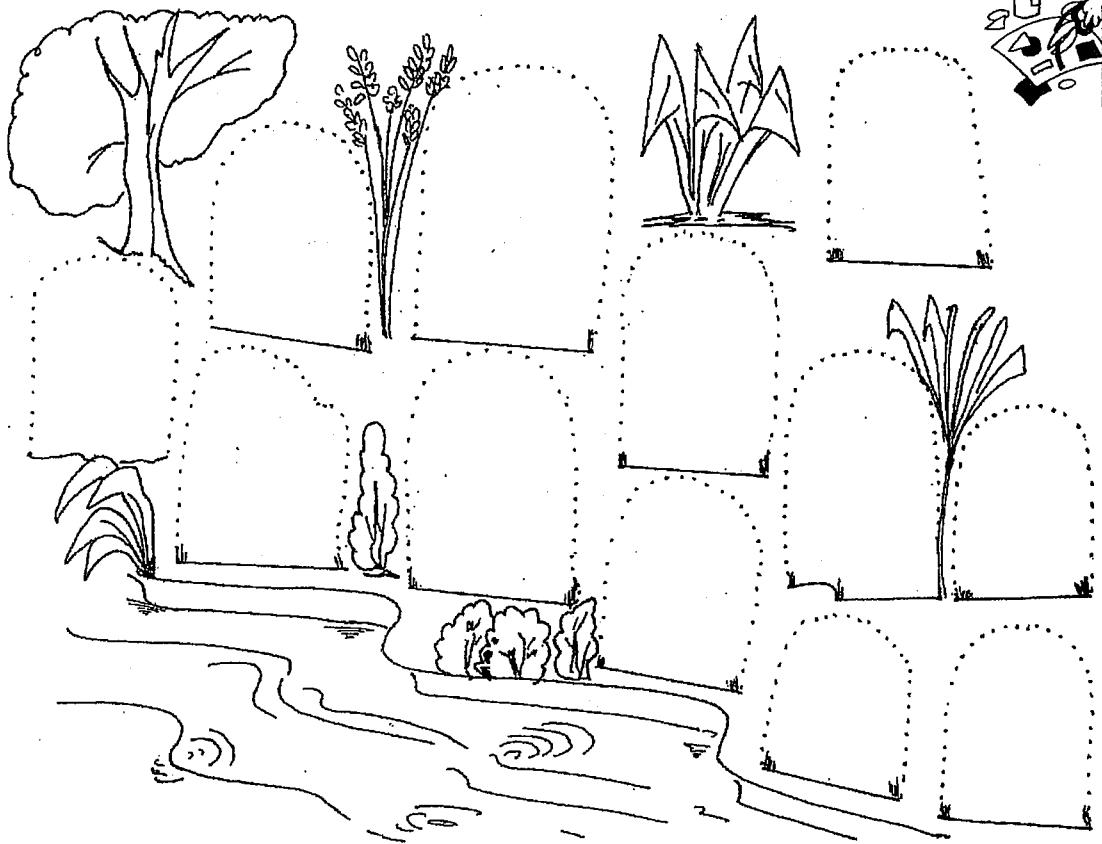
Joshua 4:24

"... That all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of Jehovah, that it is mighty."

QUESTIONS

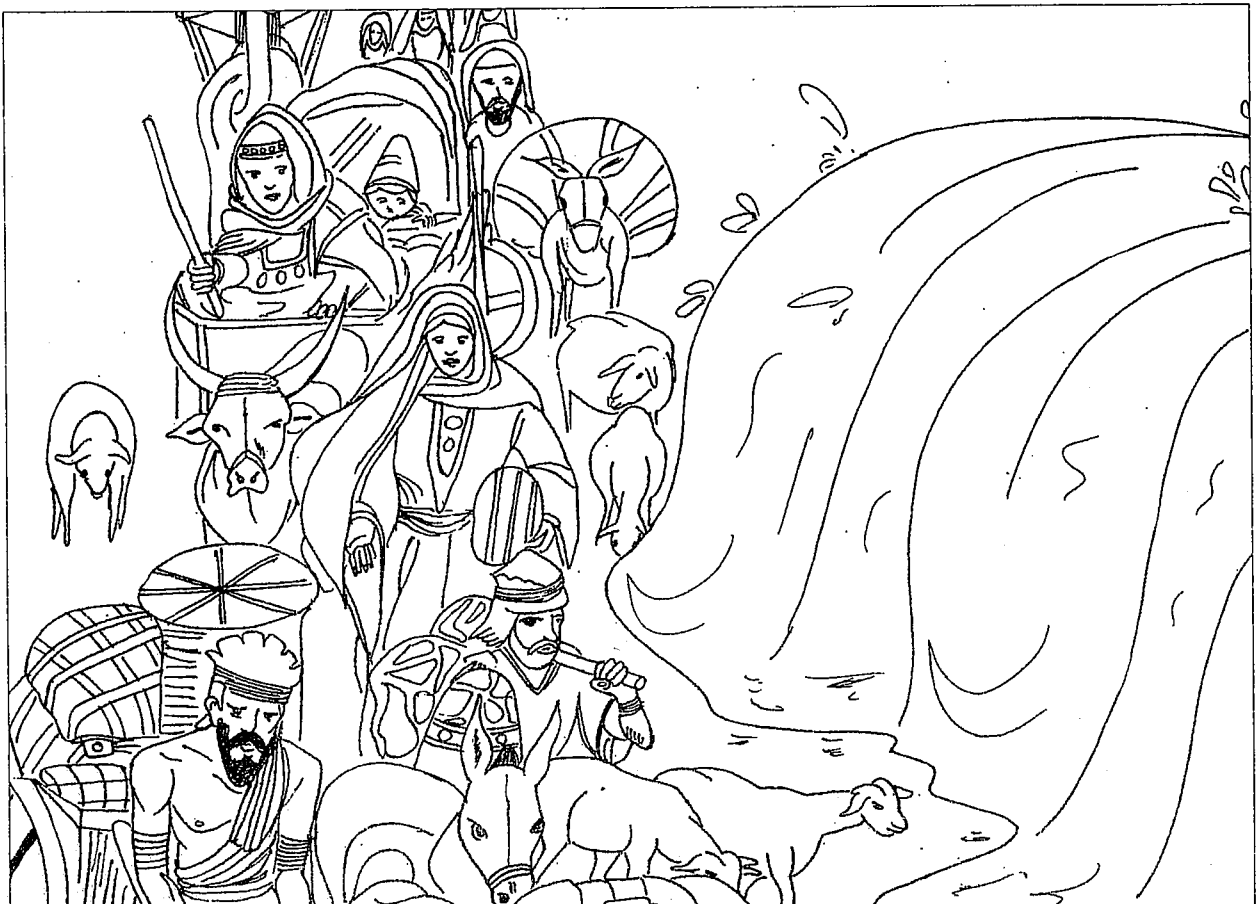
1. How many days Israelites took for preparation before starting their journey under the leadership of Joshua?
2. Who carried the ark of covenant?
3. How much distance that Israelites had to be kept between the Ark of the Covenant and the people?
4. The water in the upper portion river overflowed up to where?
5. Where did the Israelites set up 12 stones that collected from the river of Jordan?

In the picture given below draw 12 stones on the other side of the river then find and write down the names of 12 tribes of Israel from the Bible?



Practices

Colour The Picture



Lesson 3

The Jericho Wall Miracle

Reference: Joshua chapters 2, 5 and 6

Aim: To teach miraculous intervenes of God in the tuff situations of His people so that the children may have faith in God and His miracles.

Beginning: Friends, just imagine that you are going for a journey. And on the way there is a huge wall that stops you from going ahead. How do you manage the situation? And the leader asks you to pray and sing songs. Then what will be your response? Do you follow the instructions of your leader or you try to find some other better solution for the situation? Let us learn what Israelites did in a similar situation.

Background: Israelites crossed the Jordan river and reached city of Jericho.



This city was given to the Israelites by God. When people in the city heard that Israelites had crossed the red sea as well as the river of Jordan miraculously, they were frightened and they closed the city gate safely so that no one can enter into the city or go out from the city.

Explanation: Israelites began to stay on the side of Canaan outside the city by setting up temporary tents. It is the first time they were able to eat the fruits of the Promised Land. When they started using the grains of Canaan for food, 'the manna' which was the miraculous provision of God throughout the journey was stopped. From then onward they never received 'the manna'.

However their next task was to conquer the city of Jericho but there was no way to enter into it. One day, as Joshua was sitting beside Jericho he looked ahead and saw a man was standing with a sword in his hand. Thinking that he might be one the enemies, Joshua asked him "Are you for us or for our enemies?". "Neither" he replied "But as a commander of the army of the Lord I am here". Then Joshua fell face down to the ground bowing before him. Then God told Joshua "I have handed over Jericho, its king and all the people to you".

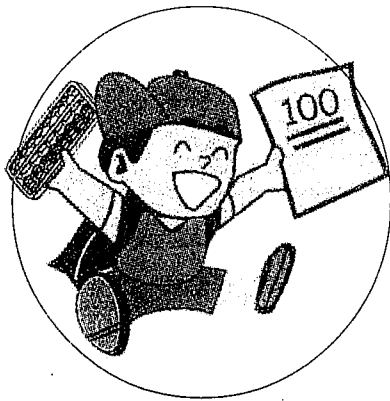
God explained some war strategies and tips which has to be done. Those instructions were nothing like others do. Do you know what was the plan? Listen carefully.

They were asked to march around the city once with all the armed men for six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day rotate around the city seven times, and all the people have to shout loudly while the priests shall blow the trumpets. Do you know what happened then? People obeyed what God asked them to do. For the first 6 days they marched around the wall silently and returned.

On the seventh day seventh time when the priests blew the trumpet, every one shouted loudly. Miracle! The wall of the city collapsed without falling the stones either any side. People entered the city and captured it. They destroyed every living thing in it including men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. They spared the whole family of Rahab only, because she had helped them before. They did not destroy the silver, gold and bronze vessels. They put the silver and gold and all the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. Thus they captured the entire Jericho city and shared the happiness with God almighty.

Practical Lesson:

God not only just give the promises but helps us in fulfilling them in our life. Sometimes it may feel like nothing is right, but still without doubting God wait for God to work. Hear his voice and work just as he says. Some of God's work might be natural and some others are supernatural miracle.

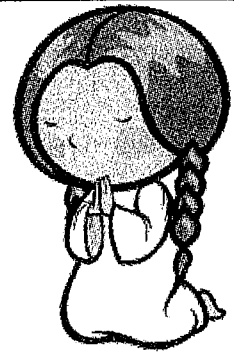


My Decision

If it is the will of God, I am ready to take any responsibilities that God may give to me.

My Prayer

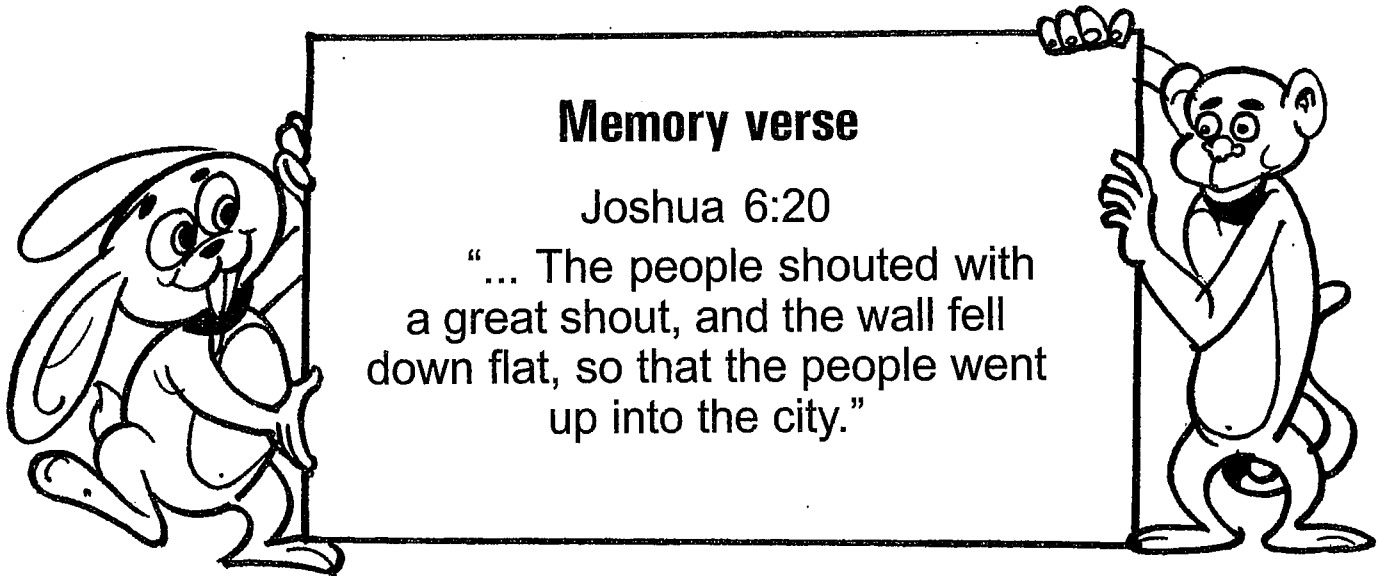
Oh God, give me the faith, wisdom and power to do things for you in a better way that seems to be impossible for me, Amen.



Memory verse

Joshua 6:20

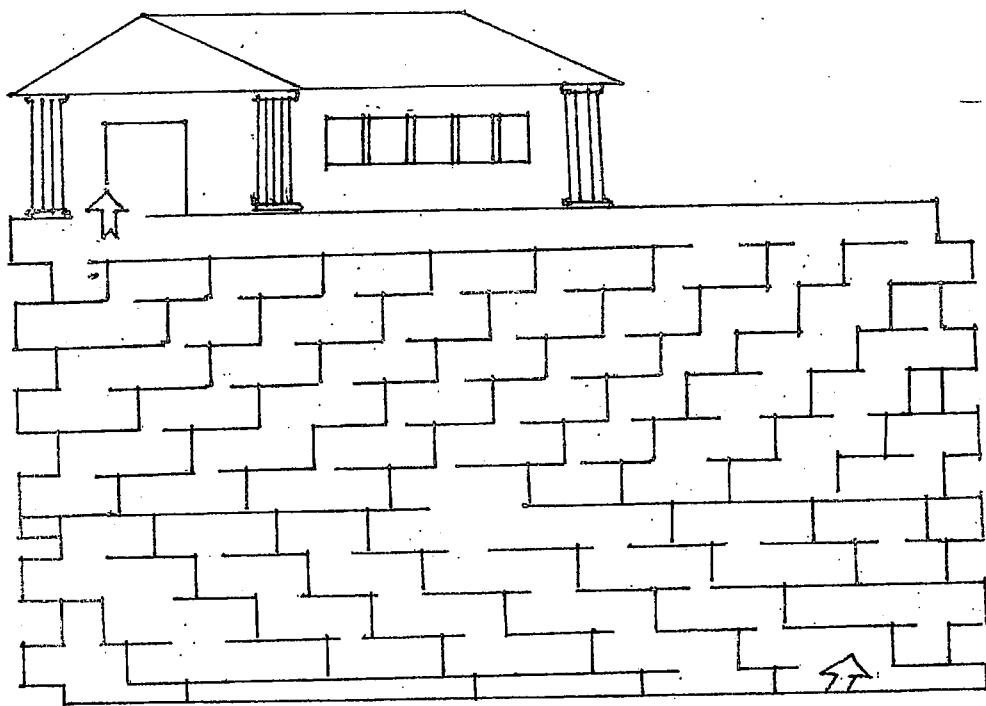
"... The people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city."



QUESTIONS

1. Which city was afraid of the Israelites and shut the city gates?
2. What did God ask Israelites to do to capture the city of Jericho?
4. Who was the person in Jericho spared by the Israelites?
5. What was the reason for Joshua to spare the women and her family in the city of Jericho?

Place a sign board to the house of Rahab which is situated on the Jericho wall.



Colour The Picture

Lesson 4

A Failure Due To Achan's Mischief

Reference: Joshua chapter 7

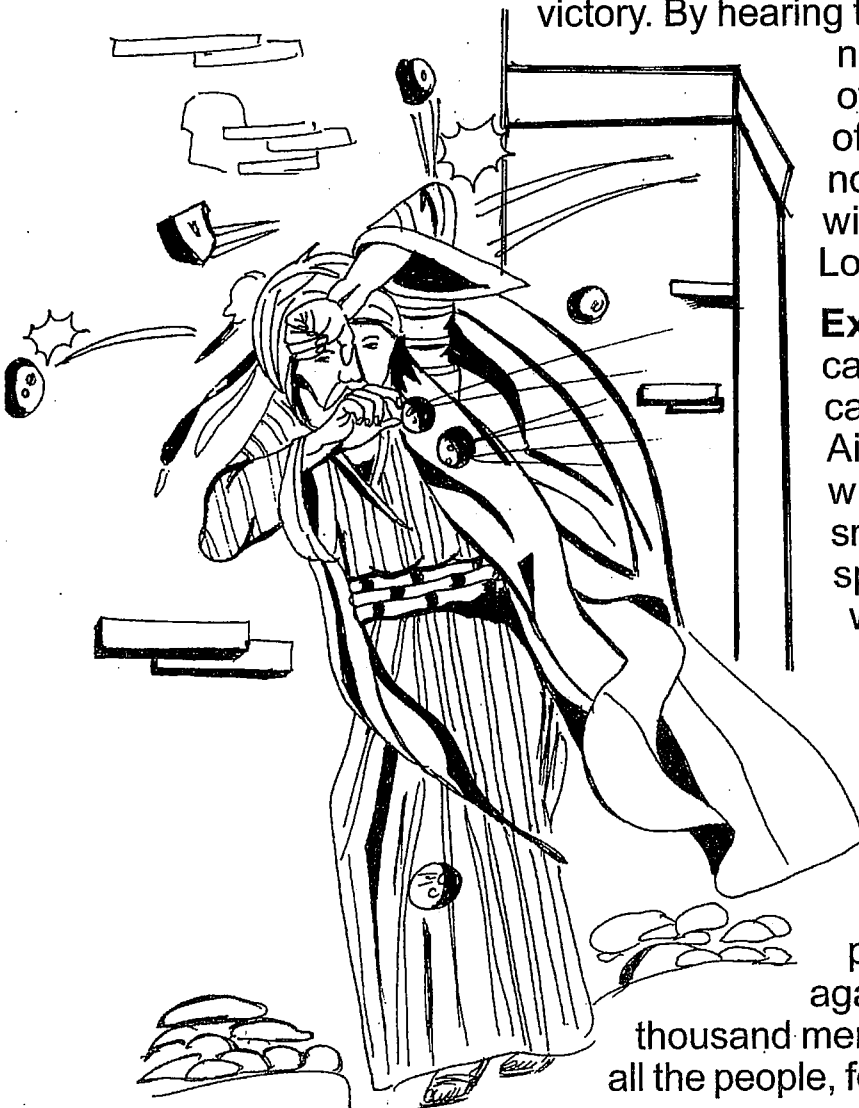
Aim:: To make children aware of sin and its consequences so that they may ready to get away from temptations.

Introduction: Can you imagine a match against a powerful team that you cannot beat? But at the end of the match your team wins without any hardships. Not only your happiness but your self confidence also will increase, isn't it? And the next day you have to compete with another weak team. Usually the match might begin with a lot of pride and self confidence. But at the end you lose in the match without even getting one point. What will be your condition? Israelites had a similar experience.

Background: In the last class we learned that how Israelites captured the city of Jericho and the celebration of their great victory. By hearing the news, other surrounding

nations also began to frighten of Israelites. They were afraid of Israelites because they are not powerful enough to fight with this mighty army of the Lord.

Explanation: Israelites who captured Jericho now had to capture one more city called Ai. Before capturing this city which was comparatively smaller than Jericho, they sent spies to spy on the land and wanted to know how large was the city, how strong were the enemies? Through which ways they could enter into the city and so on very confidentially. The spies came back and reported that "Not all the people will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary all the people, for only a few men are there."



And thus with over confidence they send just three thousand men and entered the city of Ai.

But things were not went as their plan. The people of Ai chased Israelites out of the city and even 36 of Israelites were killed in that incident.

Joshua and other Israelites tore their clothes, put dust upon their heads and fell facedown to the ground in front of the ark of the Lord. They often did this when they were immensely sad and also when they felt guilt. They asked God why he had sent them to be defeated and that it had brought a big shame to Israelites. Now if they go to capture any other cities, the people around them would find them as weak and they may try to attack the Israelites severely. Even now the cities who came to know about their failure may think that Israelites are worthless and might even come for a war. Israelites now feared that they might completely be destroyed. Then they cried to the Lord.

God explained the reason why they were defeated by the people of Ai. Israelites have sinned. They had violated God's covenant, they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That was the reason why the Israelites could not stand against their enemies.

If so they had to find the person who had sinned. In the morning, as per the command of the God, Joshua presented the Israelites tribe by tribe and the tribe of Judah was taken to be guilty. Joshua presented the families that belonged to the tribe of Judah and the family of Zerahites was found to be guilty. Then he presented the Zerahites men by men and Zabdi's family was chosen. Then he presented the members of Zabdi's family and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zera was caught guilty.

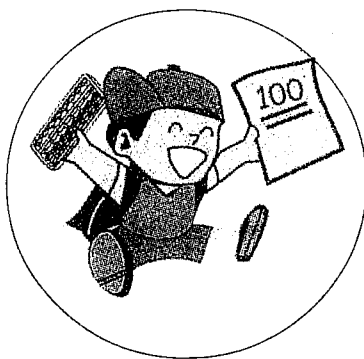
Joshua asked him to speak the truth. He confessed, " when I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with silver underneath." Joshua sent men to take the things from where it was hidden and surrendered it before the presence of God.

Achan was given severe punishment. They took Achan, and the silver, and the mantle, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them to the valley of Achor. And all the Israelites stoned and burned them. They raised over him a heap of stones. And the place was henceforth called the valley of Achor.

Then God calmed down from the anger that was due to the sin of the Israelites. Then God helped them to win the war and they captured the city.

Practical Lesson:

See, God is always ready to love us and help us to succeed in all what we do. But with sinful heart we can never be closer to God. When we sin God goes away from us. Then we will also have to suffer the punishment of the sins. That is what the life of Israelites teach us. But when we confess our sins and come back to God and rectify our mistakes, God will love you again.

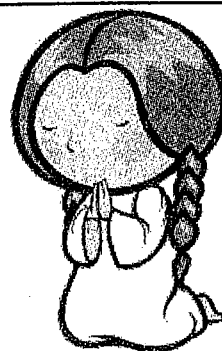


My Decision

I will never go for anything that is against the word of God. I will always try to keep the goodwill of the church and my family.

My Prayer

My loving God, never let me sin and slip away from your hands. Forgive the sins that I have committed unknowingly, and give me victory in my life.



g



Memory verse

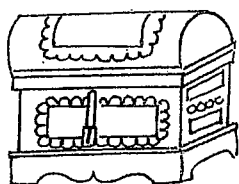
Joshua 7:12

Therefore the children of Israel cannot stand before their enemies; they turn their backs before their enemies, because they are become accursed: I will not be with you any more, except ye destroy the devoted thing from among you.

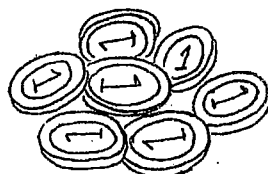
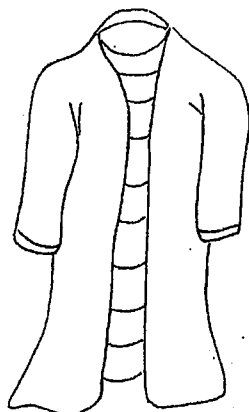
QUESTIONS

1. Why did Israelites lose in city of Ai?
2. How many men was sent to capture the city of Ai?
3. How many of the Israelites were killed in Ai?
4. What sin did Achan do?
5. How was Achan and his family were punished?

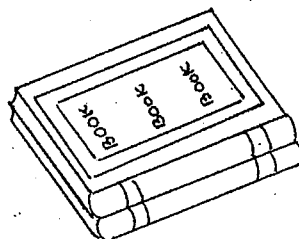
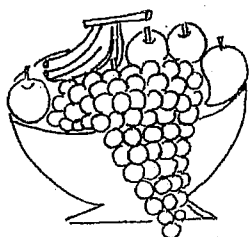
Circle and mark the articles which were stolen by Akhan



GOLD

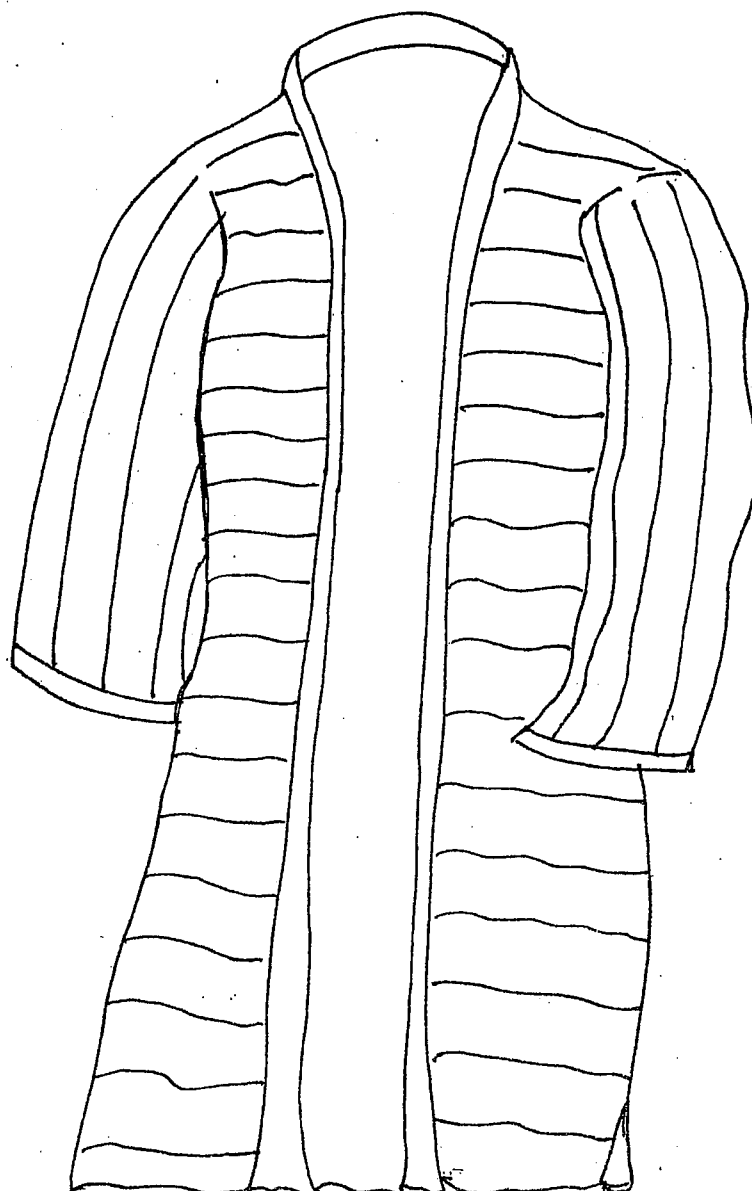


SILVER



Practices

Colour the beautiful robe



Lesson 5

The Cunningness Of Gibeonites That Trapped Israelites

Reference: Joshua chapter 9

Aim: The friendship that we have against the will of God may lead us to great failures.

Introduction: Have you ever been punished just because of your friends for something that you have never done . Many times because of our bad friends we might have to face many problems. Let us see what happened to Israelites.

Background: After capturing the promised land of Canaan, Israelites started experiencing the goodness of all the fruits and honey of the land. God said Israelites to destroy every living thing that exists in Canaan after capturing it. The reason was the people of that city were all wicked, ruthless and cruel. If these people stay along with Israelites, even their children would learn from those people and may go in the way of wickedness. That is why God wanted them to be destroyed. Gibeonites were one of such native groups whom have to be destroyed.



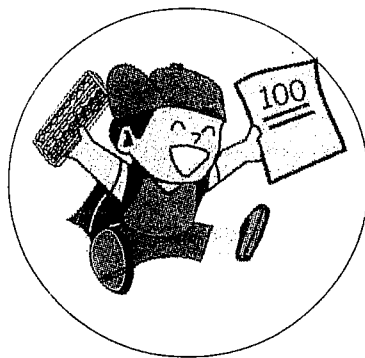
Explanation: The people of Gibeon knew that Israelites who captured both the cities of Jericho and Ai are going to attack them. So they started planning the ways to escape from the attack. They cunningly worked, they dressed themselves as if they had been from very far, and took old sacks upon their donkeys, old wine skins, old patched shoes, old garments and the dry bread and they approached Joshua and said “ We have come from very far for the cause of name of Jehovah the Lord your God, we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, and all that he did to the two kings of Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroath. And our elders and all those living in our country said to us, ‘ take provisions for your journey; go and meet them and say to them, “we are your servants; make a treaty with us” this bread of ours was warm when we packed it at home on the day we left to come to you. But now see how dry and mouldy it is. And these wineskins that we filled were new, but see how cracked they are. And our clothes and sandals are worn out by the very long journey.” “ Saying all these things they asked Joshua to sign a treaty of peace with them.

The Israelites who believed all these fake dramas without asking God, signed the treaty of peace with the travellers and let them live in that city. Joshua and his people ate with them and promised to shelter them from all harm.

After three days Israelites reached the city where Gibeonites stayed. Then they came to know that those people were not from far, but they were Gibeonites. Even though they were ready to attack the city, as people began to murmur about the treaty signed in the name of God that they would protect those men, Israelites had to spare them without attacking them. They were angry at the Gibeonites who cheated them. But they were also afraid of the punishment of God for breaking the oath that made in His name. So their lives were spared and kept them as woodcutters and water carriers for the entire community of Israel. However, Joshua called them and cursed them for defeating Israelites cunningly. The Gibeonites assured that they will never cease to serve as woodcutters and water carriers for the Israelites for ever. And so did it happen.

Practical Lesson:

Dear children, be careful of some friendships who try to put you into great problems. You should not have an enmity towards any one, but should always stay away from those who are wicked. Therefore even if some of them approach you with love and friendship, always keep it in your mind to ask God and your parents about such relationships. Otherwise you might fall into a great pit of cunningness and wickedness. So always be careful.

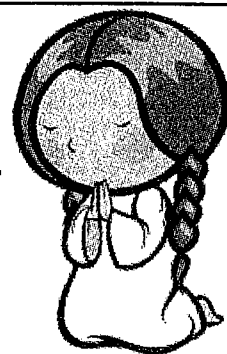


My Decision

I will choose my friends wisely and carefully. I will discuss with my parents about my friends and let them know who my friends are.

My Prayer

God, help me to avoid the bad friendships.
Help me to stay away from those wicked
people, who do not obey your words.
Amen.



Memory verse

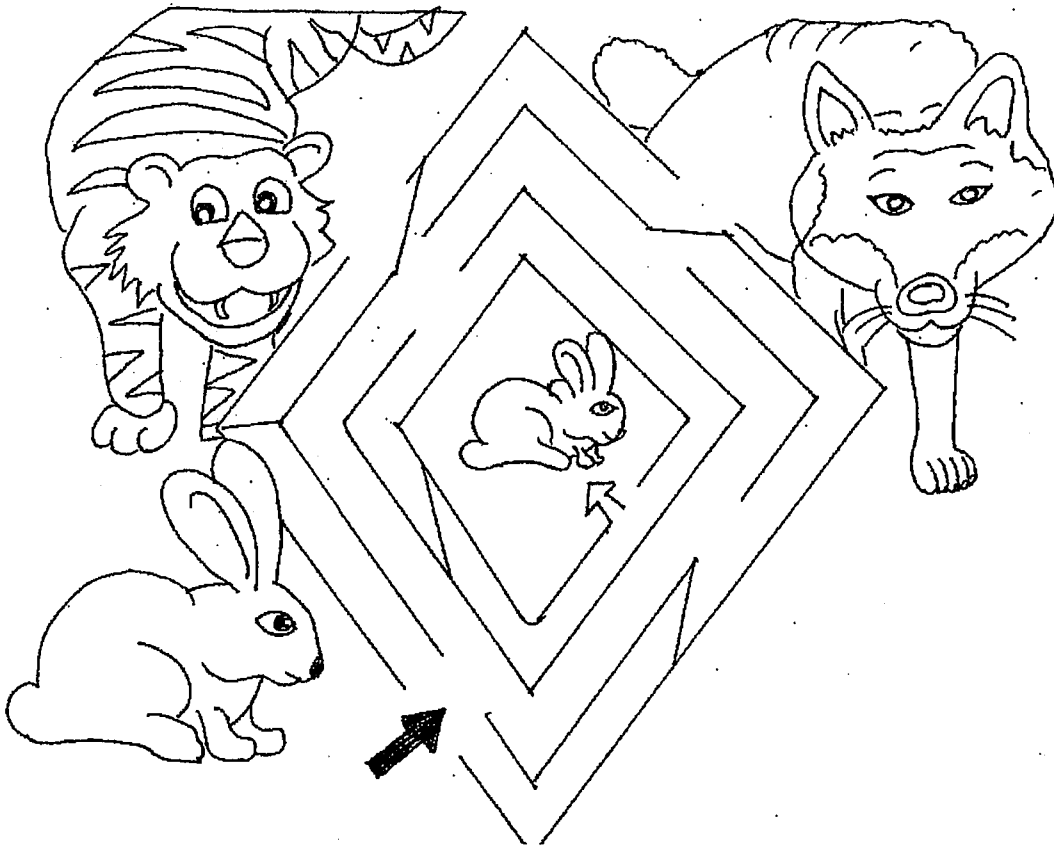
Joshua 9: 21

And the princes said unto
them, Let them live: so they
became hewers of wood and
drawers of water unto all the
congregation, as the princes
had spoken unto them.

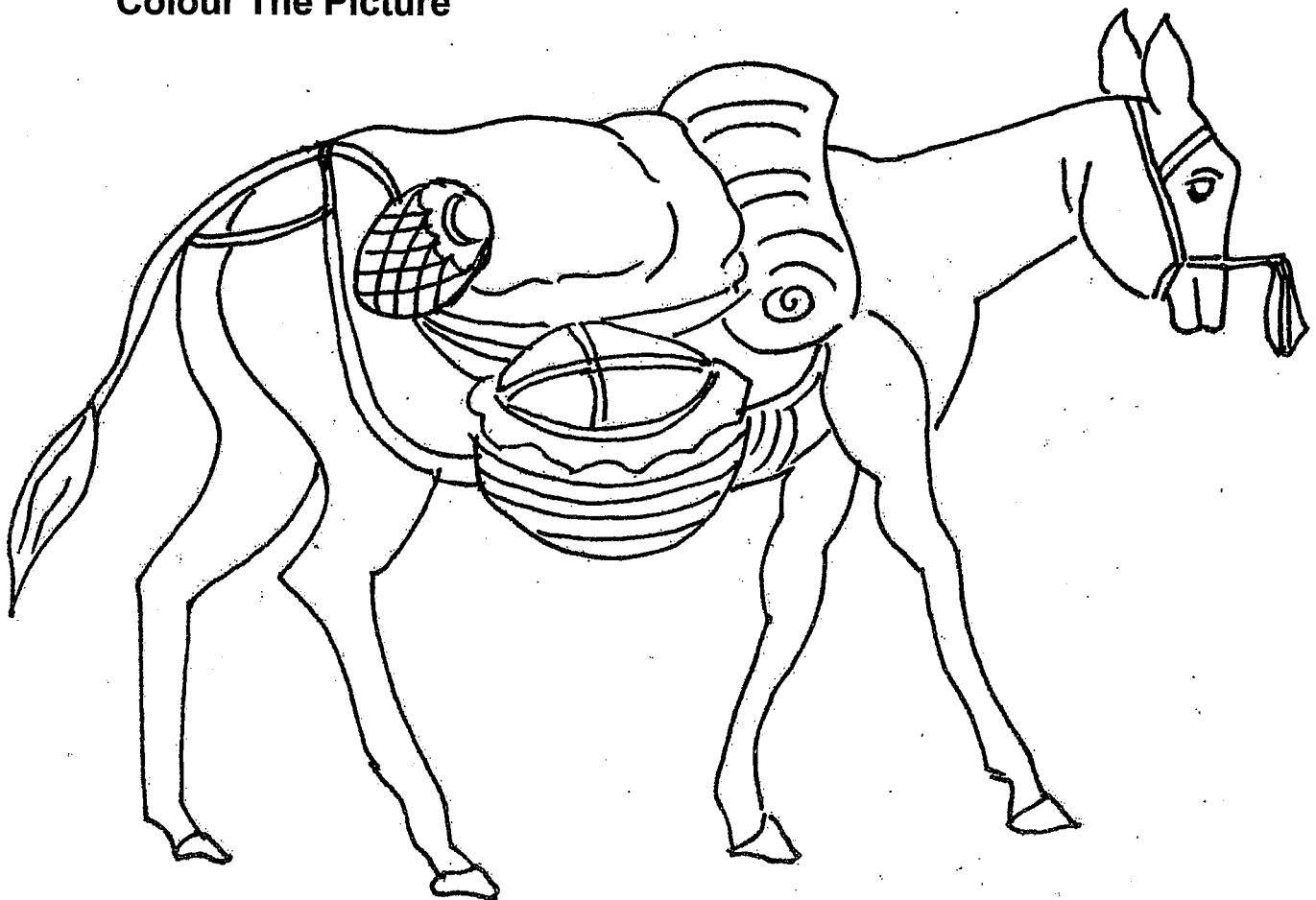
QUESTIONS

1. Who used cunningness against Israelites?
2. After how many days did Israelites come to know the truth?
3. What cunningness that the Gibeonites presented in front of Israelites?
4. How did Joshua curse the Gibeonites?

Show the way for Tinu rabbit to reach his good friend.



Colour The Picture



Lesson 6

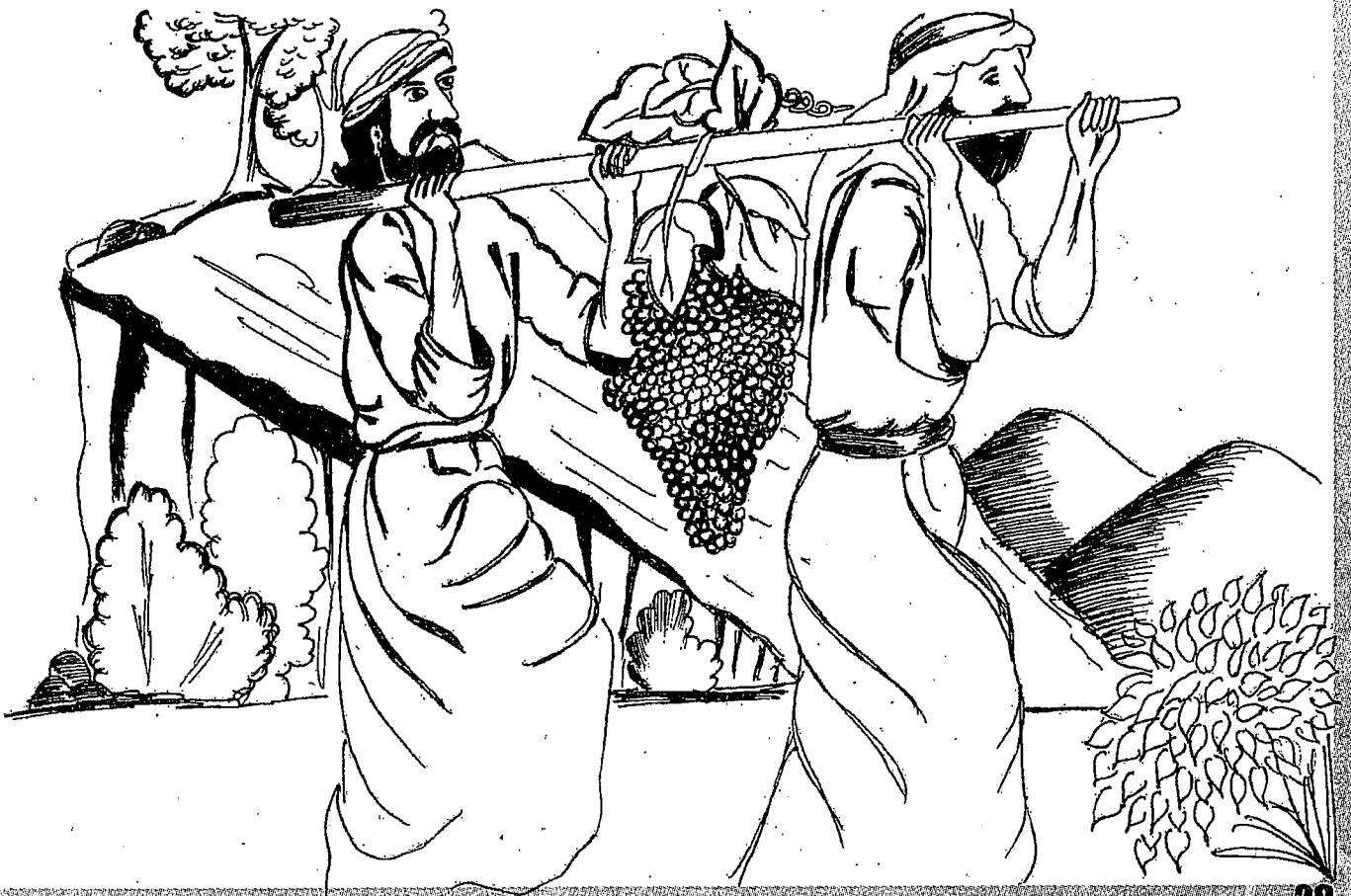
Courage of Caleb

Reference: Numbers chapters 13 and 14

Aim: To make awareness in children to Love God sincerely and courageously with their whole heart so that they also can be a part in the future plan of God.

Introduction: Think of a situation when your parents promised you an expensive gift, you are asked to visit the shop where it is sold and to enquire about the price and other details about it. After your search, what would be your report to your parents? Will you discourage your parents saying that it is so expensive therefore we cannot afford it or its colour and quality is not good and so on? On the other hand, won't you encourage your parents to own it immediately by explaining all the benefits of the same?

Background: Israelites were continuing their victorious journey. Even though they had made many mistakes during the travel, they always tried to rectify their mistakes and confess before God. Throughout the journey, God used different people to encourage them. One of such persons was Caleb.



Explanation: Before entering into the promised land of Canaan, Moses chose 12 people, each of them from 12 different tribes and sent them to spy the land. One of them was Caleb, the son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah. Another one was Hoshea the son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim who was called as Joshua by Moses.

When they reached Canaan, everyone was excited to capture the Promised Land very quickly. But it was not an easy job, because strong wrestlers were there in that land. And they realised that only after defeating them the Israelites would be able to enter the Land of Canaan. Therefore, the people who saw their very powerful enemies there thought that it may not be possible to capture the land of Canaan.

Majority of members in the spy team came back and reported that 'the people of Canaan are strong wrestlers. While they compared them with themselves they felt just like grasshoppers. Therefore, they said that it is impossible to capture the land of Canaan. Hearing this every Israelite became scared but Joshua and Caleb stepped forward and said them something different. Caleb said "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." He also showed the large cluster of grapes that they got from the land. But hearing the stories of the strong wrestlers, most of the Israelites tried to back up and wanted to go back to Egypt. They all started murmuring and complaining out of fear. Caleb tried to convince people by saying that "God will surely surrender Canaan into our hands". Caleb gave more importance to the promise of God than listening to the power of enemies.

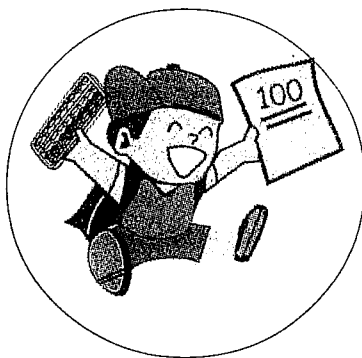
Israelites were not ready to listen to the words of Joshua and Caleb. They murmured against God, Moses and Aaron. For this reason God decided to punish them. God didn't allow any one of them to enter the land of Canaan. God wanted to punish them with a plague but hearing the prayer of Moses he delivered them from the same.

Do you know what happened to the spies who scared the Israelites? They all died of a plague. However, for Caleb who completely believed in the promises of God could enter into the land of Canaan.

Afterwards when they captured Canaan, they started to divide the land to each tribe. Caleb was the one who was chosen from the tribe of Judah as a representative. After inheriting the land, Caleb defeated all the strong wrestlers in it and lived there happily.

Practical Lesson:

You all should give more importance to God's promises than looking into the hard situations because there will be a day for fulfilment of promise .

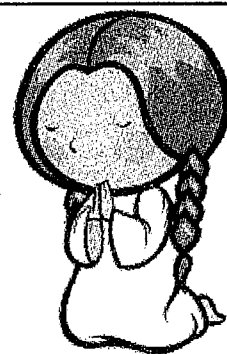


My Decision

I will never be scared or turn back by the tough situations but will make use of the opportunities that are given by God.

My Prayer

Oh! God, help me to overcome all the dangerous situations by faith and to achieve all the promises that you have given me by faith.



Memory verse

Numbers 14: 24
But my servant Caleb,
because he had another spirit
with him...

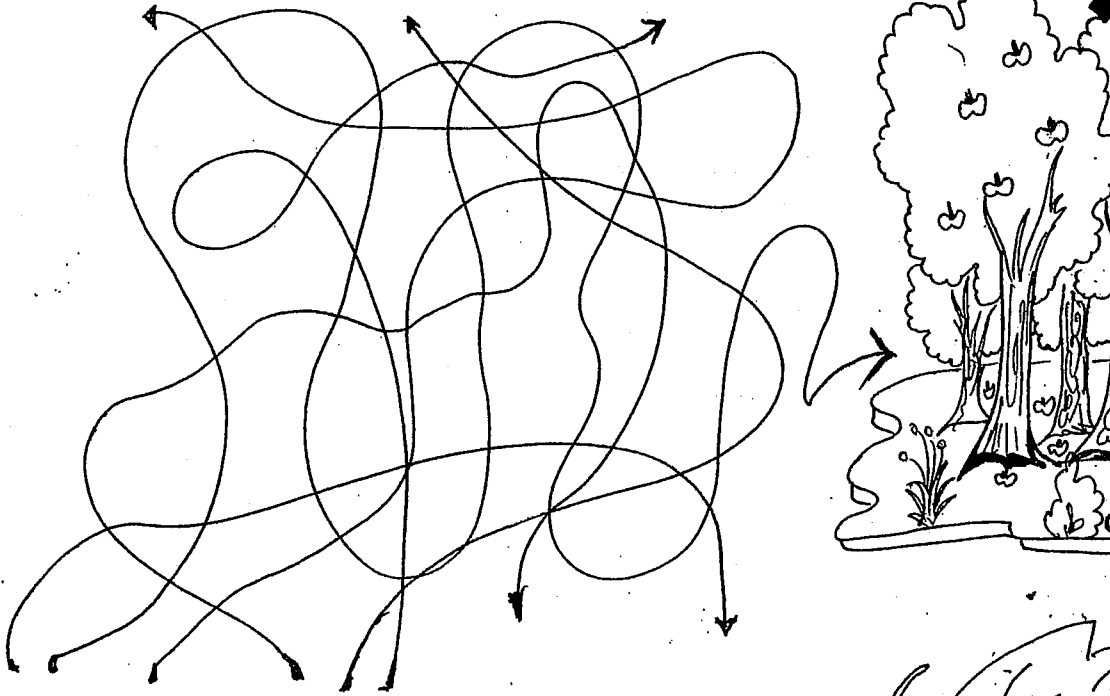
QUESTIONS

1. What was Joshua's old name?
2. Who is the father of Caleb?
3. What happened to the spies whose reports scared Israelites?

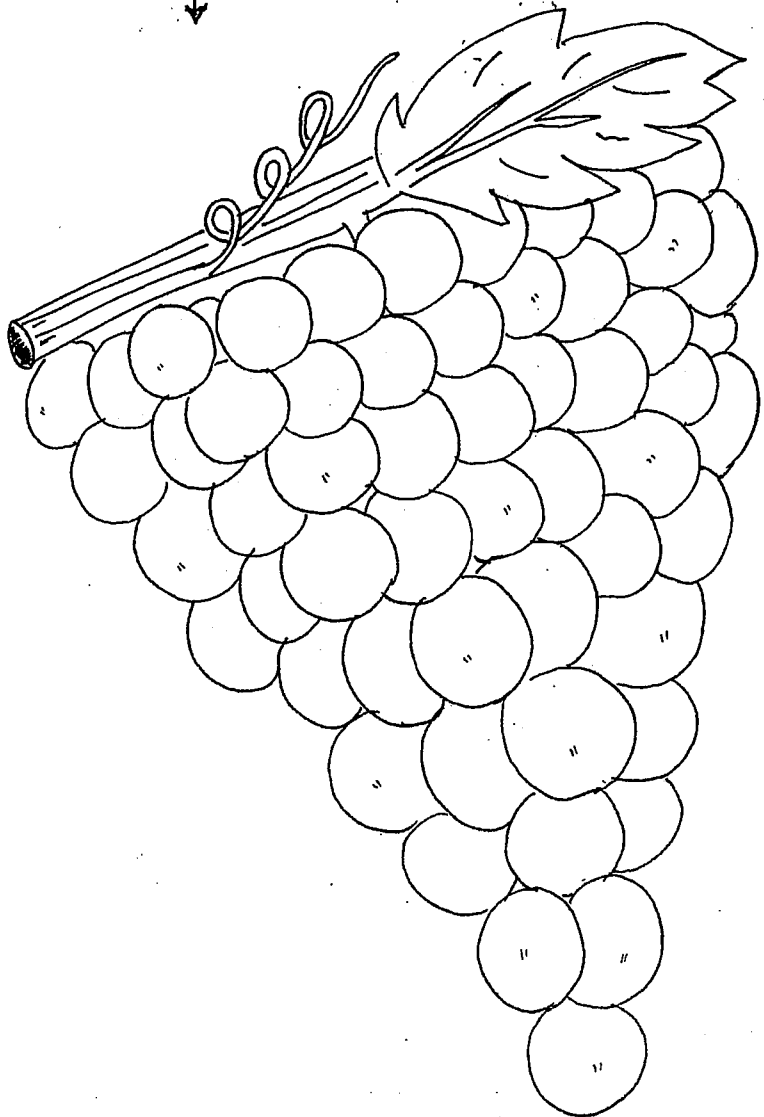
Find out the way to Canaan?



Practices

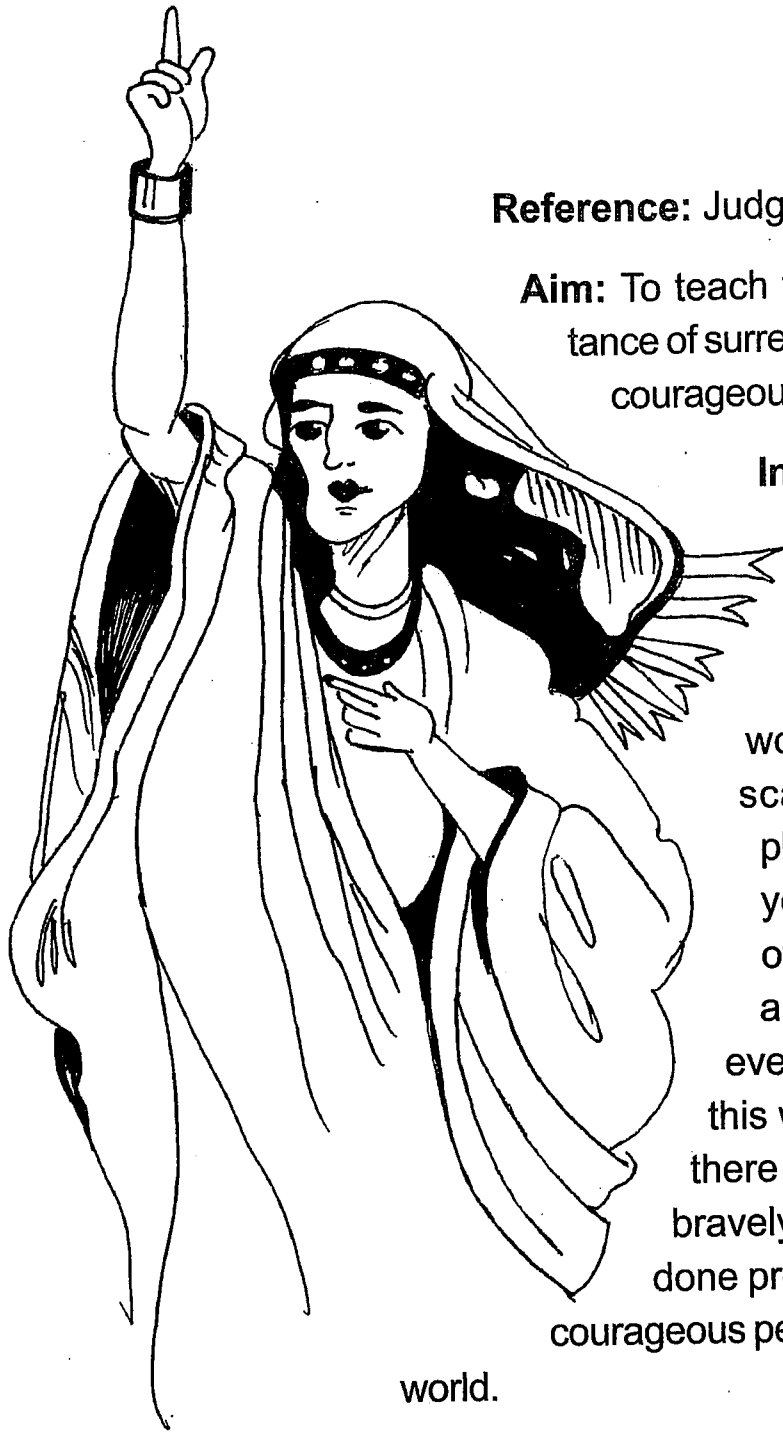


Colour The Picture



Lesson 7

Deborah



Reference: Judges chapters 4 and 5

Aim: To teach the students about the importance of surrendering themselves before God courageously.

Introduction: Many times, we all are afraid of something, isn't it? For example, if we ask kids to go outside of the house and bring something in the night they would probably say "Dad I am scared to go out at this time, please do get it yourself." Haven't you seen such friends? Some others may say "I am a girl so I am afraid of going out." If everyone in the family behave like this what would happen? However, there should be someone to move bravely then only everything can be done properly. God requires brave and courageous people to carry out his plans in this

world.

Background: In the early days of nation formation, there were no kings to rule over Israelites but they were guided by God. God used prophets and judges to lead the people according to His will. One of such leaders was Deborah, wife of Lappidoth. Israelites approached her for a solution in case of any problems.

Explanation: Once she came to know about an army, who always oppress the Israelites. Jabin was their king and Sisera was the captain of his army. He

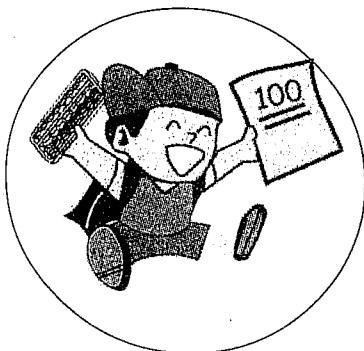
had nine hundred of Iron chariots and thousands of soldiers. Using this power he tried to persecute and oppress the people of Israel.

One day, Sisera and his army reached at the banks of Kishon river to fight against Israelites. Deborah who came to know about this started praying to the almighty God for a solution. God allowed her to choose Barak, son of Abinom as a helper to her. And God instructed her to convey the message from God, that is "Go take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them to the way to mount Tabor. God will deliver your enemies to your hands." But Barak replied her, "If you come with me, I will go; but if you don't come with me I will not go."

Therefore, Barak and Deborah set off to a place called Kedesh. They brought out ten thousand soldiers from Israel, and got ready to fight with Sisera. Sisera on the other hand who came to know about their plan marched forward with his army to attack Israel. Even Barak got scared but he was encouraged by Deborah. The war started between both the armies and the army of Israelites attacked the army of Sisera severely. Sisera ran away to save his own life and tried to hide in the house of a woman named Jael. Later Sisera was killed by this Jael.

Deborah continued as a Judge to Israelites. During the reign of her, God gave peace and prosperity to Israel. Deborah was not only a ruler but also was a good prophetess and a great singer. She composed a beautiful song and sang it to commemorate the victory and gave praise to God (This song was recorded in the book of Judges Chapter 5).

Practical Lesson: Always be ready to take up the responsibilities entrusted upon us at any circumstance - at home, church, School or in the society. Do not run away from the responsibilities. Be ready to do anything if it is the will of God. God will empower you and strengthen you to complete the task.

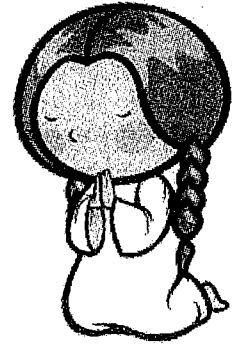


My Decision

Without any hesitation I would like to take responsibilities that God may give to me, and I will complete it by relying upon God with prayer.

My Prayer

My loving father, bless me with the quality of courage so that I may be able to carry on all the responsibilities that God may give to me.
Amen!



Memory verse

Judges 5:2

...For that the people offered
themselves willingly.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was the husband of Deborah?
2. Who was the king Jabel's army captain?
3. Who accompanied Deborah for the war?
4. How many soldiers accompanied Deborah from Israel tribes for the war?
5. Who killed Sisera?

Find out two specialities that helped Deborah to win?



Practices

Colour The Picture



Lesson 8

Gideon

Reference: Judges Chapters 6 - 8

Aim: To encourage the children to cooperate with God in taking responsibilities even from their childhood so that they may commit themselves into a right path of obedience and faithfulness.

Introduction: Have you ever taken any responsibilities that entrusted by your school principal or class teacher for the goodness of your class or for the

entire school? Persons will be selected into a position mostly based on their character and well behaviour. For example, some of you might have appointed as school leaders, class leaders etc. God also chooses individuals and entrusts responsibilities to whom he pleases.

Background: Israel became a nation and started its political dealings accordingly. God gave them houses to live and land to cultivate. Within a short time they prospered by the products of their farms and cattle. When they became wealthy, they started to forget God and went astray from God. They wanted to live according to their own ambitions but not by the will of God. For the same reason they were punished by allowing them to be slaves to Midianites, Amalites and Philistines. The Israelites worked very hard in



their fields but when the fields were ready for harvest, the Midianites, Amalikites and Philistines will come and they will take all the crops. Now the Israelites may confess before God and God will forgive their iniquities and may rise someone to save them from enemies.

Explanation: One day an angel of the Lord came and sat down under an oak tree in Ophrah that belonged to Joash. There Gideon, son of Joash was threshing wheat in a winepress to protect it from the Midianites. An angel of the Lord appeared and said to him "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midianites' hand". But Gideon humbly replied that "But Lord, how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh and I am the least in my family." God answered him by saying, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all Midianites together."

God asked him to perform two things .

1. Throw down his father's altar to Baal and cut down the image of Asherah that is by it.
2. Build an altar unto God and offer a burnt-offering with the second younger bullock of his father.

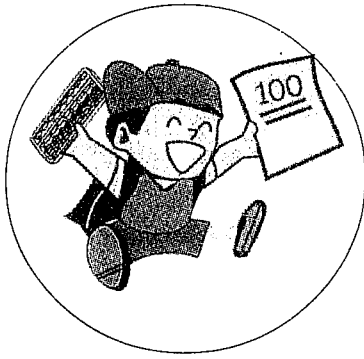
Gideon completed the task in that night itself. People were not happy on breaking the altar of Baal and demolishing the image of Asherah. They became very angry and rushed to Gideon's house and planned to kill him. Then his father Joash replied them "If Baal be a god, let him do revenge for himself, because someone has broken down his altar". Then they called Gideon 'Jerubbaal' saying, Let Baal contend against him.

In the meantime Gideon got ready to complete the mission given to him by God. He chose only 300 warriors to fight with Midianites. The entire strategy was given by God himself. It was very interesting.

He categorised the 300 warriors into 3 groups, he gave trumpets and empty earthen jars with a torch inside to the hands of all of them. Gideon asked all of them to do exactly what he did. When they reach the border of the enemy camp they all smashed the jars, flash the torches, and blew the trumpets. Then they shouted "A sword for the Lord and Gideon!". By seeing the light and hearing the voice all of them in the enemy camp tried to run away. But suddenly there was a confusion among them and they started to kill each other with their own swords thinking that a huge army has come to attack them. Gideon took advantage of this situation he and his friends chased them and defeated all. Thus Israelites got freedom from the enemies.

Practical lesson:

Even today God is ready to do many things for His own people. To accomplish God's plan on earth He needs your help. Are you ready to cooperate with God as Gideon did? If so God will use you definitely.

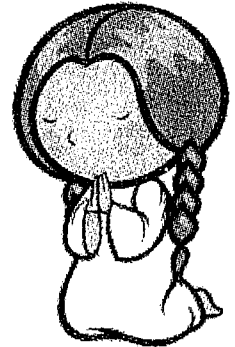


My Decision

I will not waste my opportunities to serve God. I will make use of my knowledge, wisdom and talents wherever it is needed.

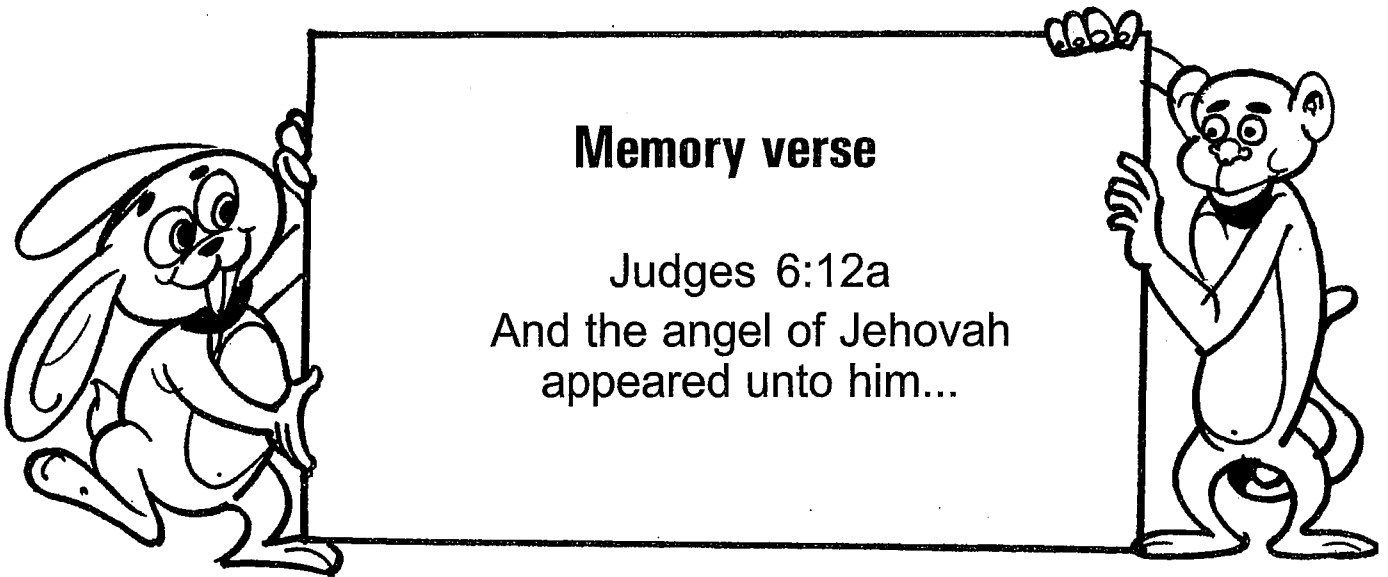
My Prayer

My heavenly father, use me to do your will and deliver those who are in grievance and suffering so that they may enjoy peace and freedom.



Memory verse

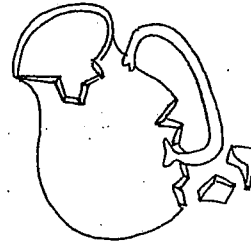
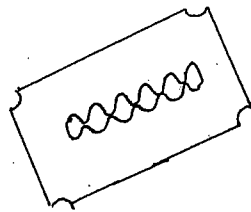
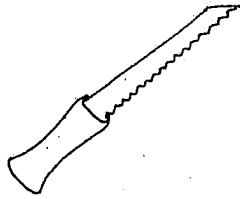
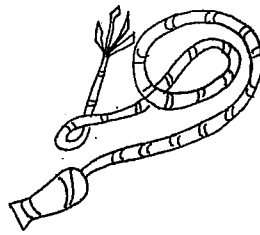
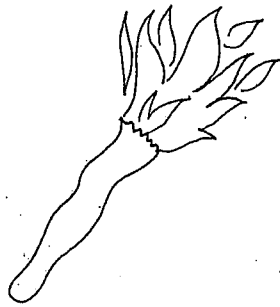
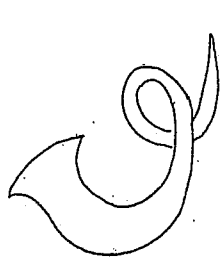
Judges 6:12a
And the angel of Jehovah
appeared unto him...



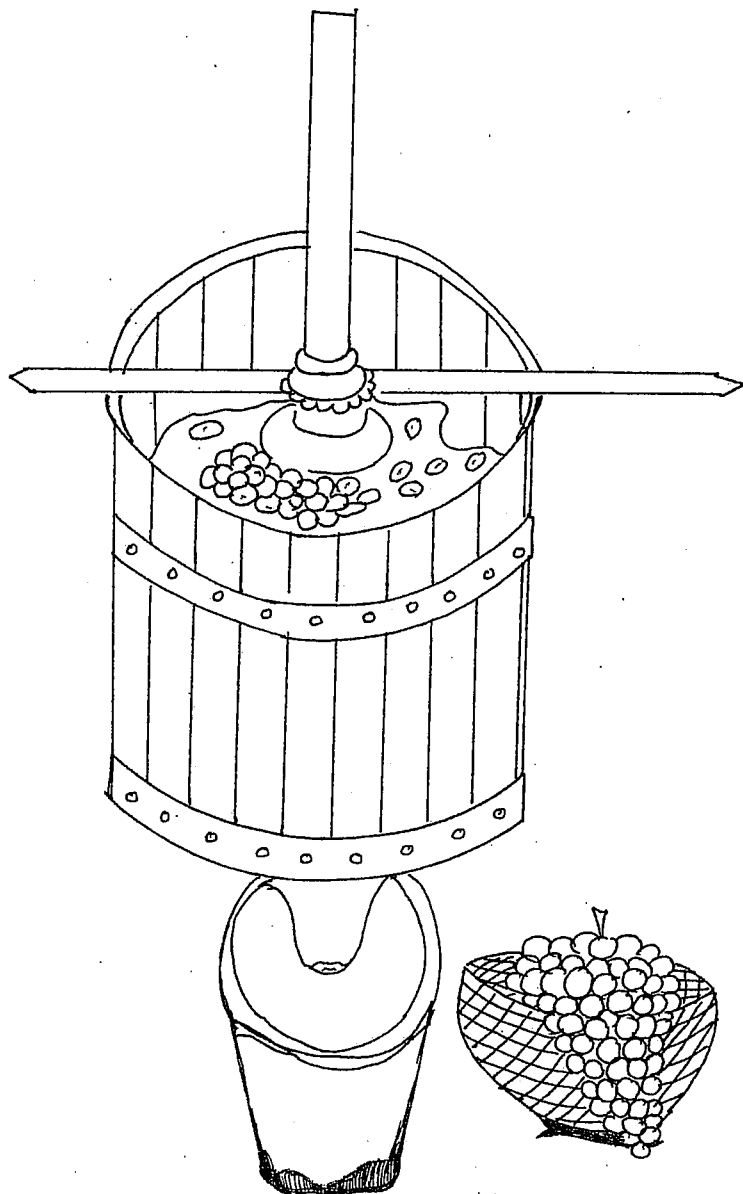
QUESTIONS

1. What did the angel of God say to Gideon?
2. What are the two tasks that Gideon accomplished in one night?
3. What was the strategy of Gideon and his warriors in war?

Colour The weapons which were Gideon used for war.



Colour The Picture



Lesson 9

Samson

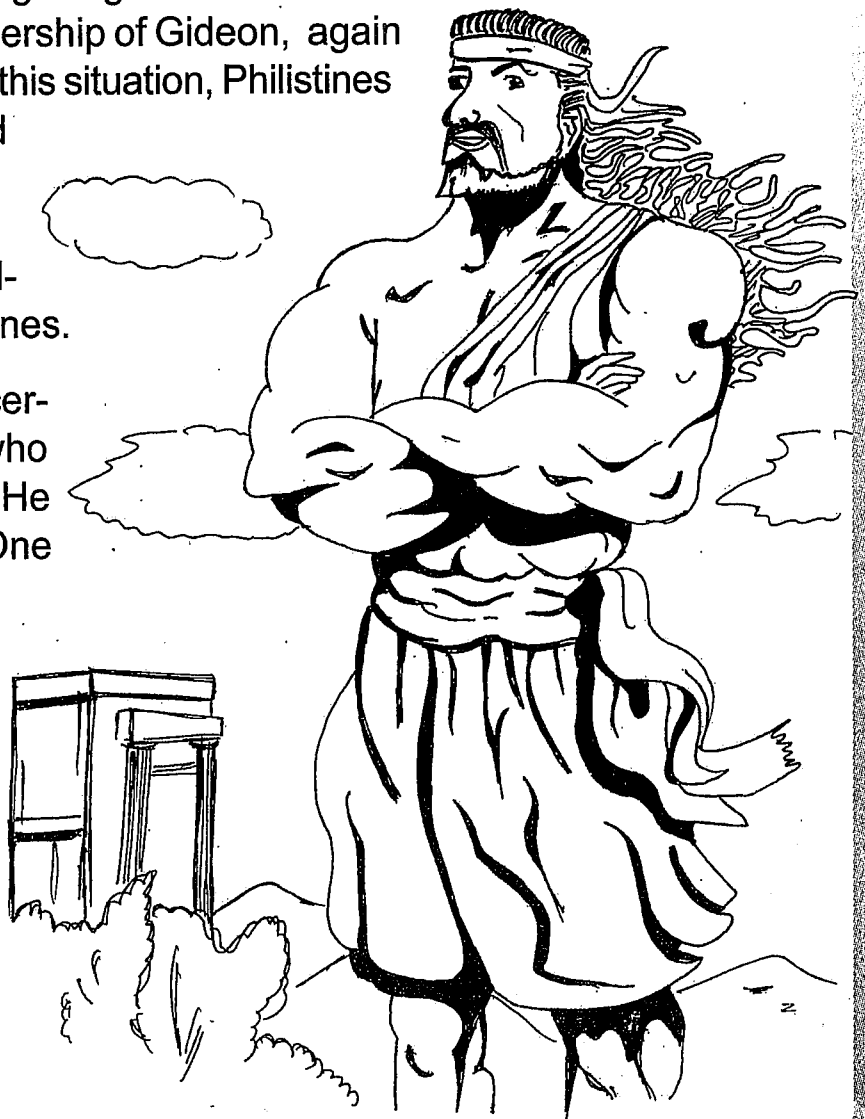
Reference: Judges Chapters 13 and 14

Aim: To teach the children though they all live, study and work in the society with other people but their life patterns should be different from others based on the word of God.

Introduction: Dear children, you all go to school with others, play with them, shopping with them and work with many people who belonged to different socio political and religious background. But have you ever felt any difference between you and others in the society? How do you differ? If you don't live differently what would happen? Here is the life story of Samson and it will answer all these questions.

Background: Israelites, after getting deliverance from their enemies under the leadership of Gideon, again they went away from God. At this situation, Philistines started to oppress them. And when Israelites started to cry and pray to the Lord He raised another leader to save Israelites from the hands of Philistines.

Explanation: There was a certain man named Manoah who was from the Danites family. He did not have any children. One day, an angel of the Lord appeared to his wife and said "You are going to conceive and have a son. The boy is to be a Nazirite -set apart for God from birth, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines." (A Nazirite is a person who should not eat or drink or even live like oth-



ers. Those who follow this rule should not drink wine, should not go near dead bodies and should not cut his hair).

When the child was born to them, they named him Samson. They brought him up just as God asked them to do. They advised him throughout his growth and thus God blessed him with good health. He grew up as a young man matured enough to get married. One day Samson went down to a place called Timnah and saw a woman, daughter of a Philistine. He wished to marry her, but his parents were not willing to give her to him.

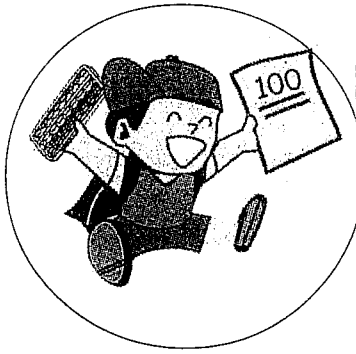
One day again he went to Timnah with his father and mother. When he reached at the vineyards of Timnah a young lion roared against him. The spirit of Jehovah came mightily upon him so that he tore the lion with his bare hands just like killing a little lamb.

After some days when Samson visited the same area, he wished to see the dead body of the lion that he killed earlier. There he found many bees and some honey in it. He took the honey with his hands and ate it on the way. Thus he started to violate the laws. Then he joined his parents and went to the woman he wished to marry and married her. And there at the wedding ceremony he was accompanied by 30 companions. To them Samson asked a riddle and if they find an answer or it in seven days of the feast, then he promised to give them thirty linen garments and thirty sets of clothes. And if they couldn't answer the riddle they had to give him all the things enlisted above. His riddle was, "Out of the eater, something to eat; out of the strong, something sweet" (and its answer was "what is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a Lion?") Samson planned not to let out the answer to any of the philistines. But his wife who was a part of Philistines was threatened by the guest and she was asked to coax her husband into explaining the riddle for them.

His wife coaxed him and made him explain the riddle and she passed on the answer to the philistines. And in that way, on the seventh day they told the answer to Samson and defeated him. Then the spirit of the Lord came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them off their belongings and gave their clothes to those who have explained the riddle. Still the defeat because of his wife made him angry and thus he left and went up to his father's house.

Practical Lesson:

Samson who had to follow the rituals of Nazirites, went up to the vineyard and also went to the lion's dead body and also touched it to take honey from it. He married a girl from Philistines who was rejected by his parents. All these led to a great fall in Samson's life. As for us, the children of God should always be careful, we should only walk according to the scripture, or else whatever power we may possess we will have a great fall.

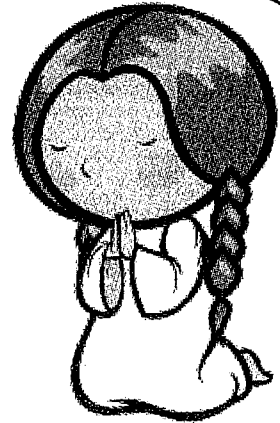


My Decision

As a child of God, I will never involve in any activities that is against my parent's, Church's or God's will.

My Prayer

God, help me not to involve any worldly pleasures but help me to stay away from it with your power and grace. Amen.



Memory verse

Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto
my feet, And light unto my
path.

QUESTIONS

1. What was Samson's father's name?
2. To which clan did Samson belong?
3. Where did Samson meet the woman?
4. At which place did Samson killed 30 philistines?
5. What it means by Nazirites?
6. What was Samson's riddle?

Mark the things which a Nazrite should not do.



Practices

☐

Don't eat egg

☐

Don't drink milk

☐

Don't drink wine

☐

Don't eat fish

☐

Don't drink

☐

Don't eat meat

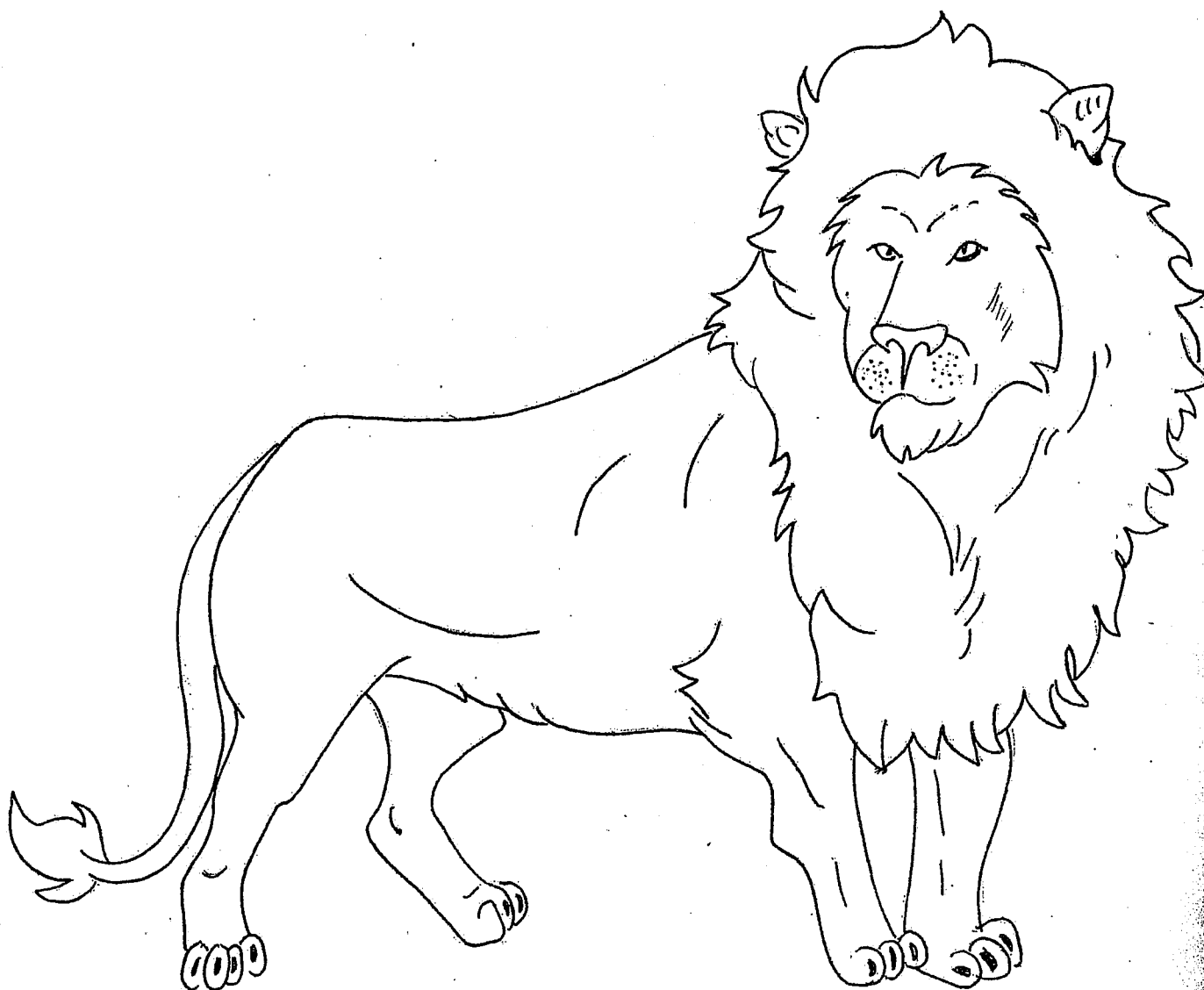
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Don't touch dead body

☐

Don't read books

Colour The Picture.



Lesson 10

Samson's Revenge

Reference: Judges chapters 15 and 16

Aim: To make an awareness that the talents and power that has given by God to us is not to misuse but to help others those who are in need. Instead, if we use it in a wrong way we will be punished.

Introduction: Suppose once a security guard got a tool to protect the garden of his master. But he used it to attack all the neighbours and finally to kill himself. If he behave such a manner what benefit it make for others? Listen to this lesson carefully.

Background: Even though God chose Samson to be a Nazirite, to defeat the philistines; he lived according to his own wishes and went away from Gods plan about him. Samson got angry with his wife, left her for a while, and stayed with his father. There was an attitude of anger and revenge has been increasing in his mind day by day.

Explanation: After staying at home he returned to his wife house again. But at that time her father said him that she has already married another man. With the revengeful mind Samson caught three hundred foxes and took firebrands and tied all the foxes tail to tail



and put a firebrand in the midst between every two tails. When he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing grain of the Philistines and burnt up all the grains and the olive yards.

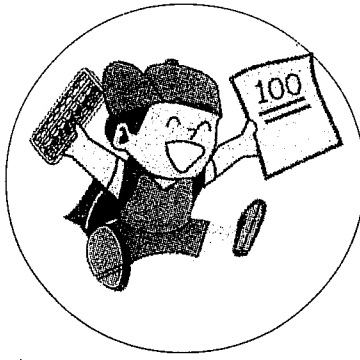
When Philistine knew it they came up and burnt his wife and her father. Samson with more bitterness and revengeful mind did many mischief to the Philistines. Then the Philistines also wanted to make some thing against him. So three thousand men of Judah went to the rock of Etam and said to Samson that they came to deliver him into the hands of Philistines. They bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock. When he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the ropes that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire and he was escaped. He found a fresh jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and killed a thousand men with that jawbone.

When he became tired, God opened a stream for him and he drunk from it satisfied himself. Then Samson went to Gaza to marry another girl. But people of Gaza waited to catch and kill him. But Samson shake and plucked the doors of the gage of the city with the two door posts and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of the mountain that is before Hebron.

And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. And the Philistians came to her and asked her to enquire him about the secret of his strength. At the end Samson revealed that his power is on his hair. And while Samson was sleeping Delilah cut his hair. Philistines came and caught him in custody. And put out his eyes after that they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with fetters of brass and he did grind in the prison house. There were more than three thousand people gathered in the temple of Dagon to mock at him. Samson once again prayed to God asking to strengthen him once again. The power came upon him once again then he said let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might and the house fell upon the people who were gathered there. And all of them were killed as well as he himself. So that the number of persons he killed was more than that of he killed while he was alive.

Practical Lesson:

Even though Samson was called by God given special power to him, and used to destroy Philistines, he was not faithful to God. The result was he himself put into death. We should remember that God may call us for a certain purpose and all the talents and power given to us is for the use of fulfilling God's will. If we behave against it we may not able to succeed in our life.

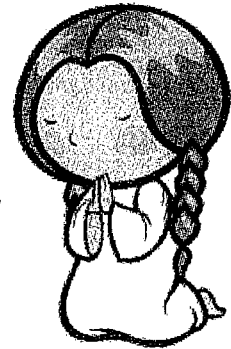


My Decision

I will keep my ways according to the will of God based on the scripture without falling into sin.

My Prayer

Oh! God, by obeying your words let me live according to your instructions and make use of the power and talents that given to me only for your glory.



Memory verse

Judges 15:20

And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

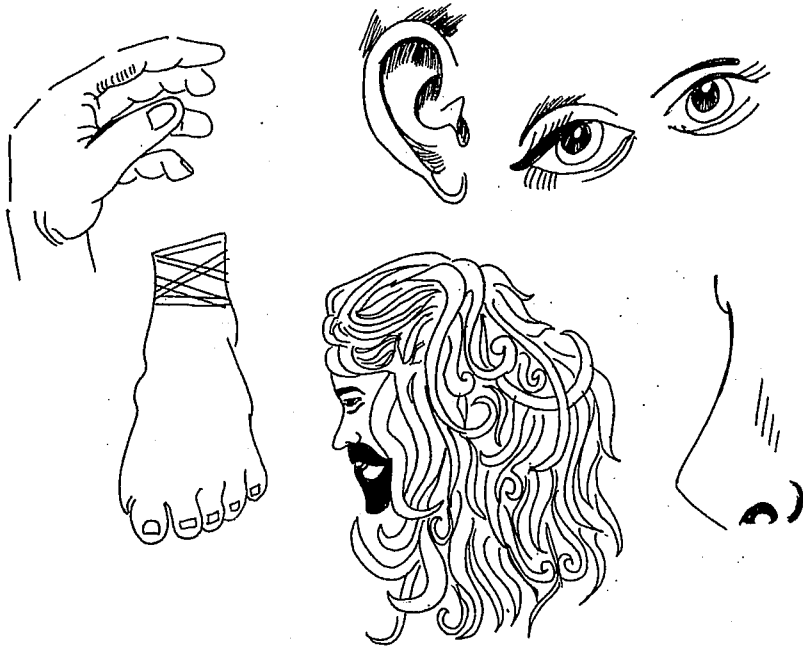
QUESTIONS

1. What was Samson's response while he was informed that his wife has married another man?
2. What Samson did at Lehi?
3. How Samson did his revenge at the Dagon's temple?
4. How many years Samson served Israelites as a judge?

Find out where the power of Samson was kept.



Practices



Colour The Picture



Lesson 11

Ruth

Reference: Ruth chapter -1

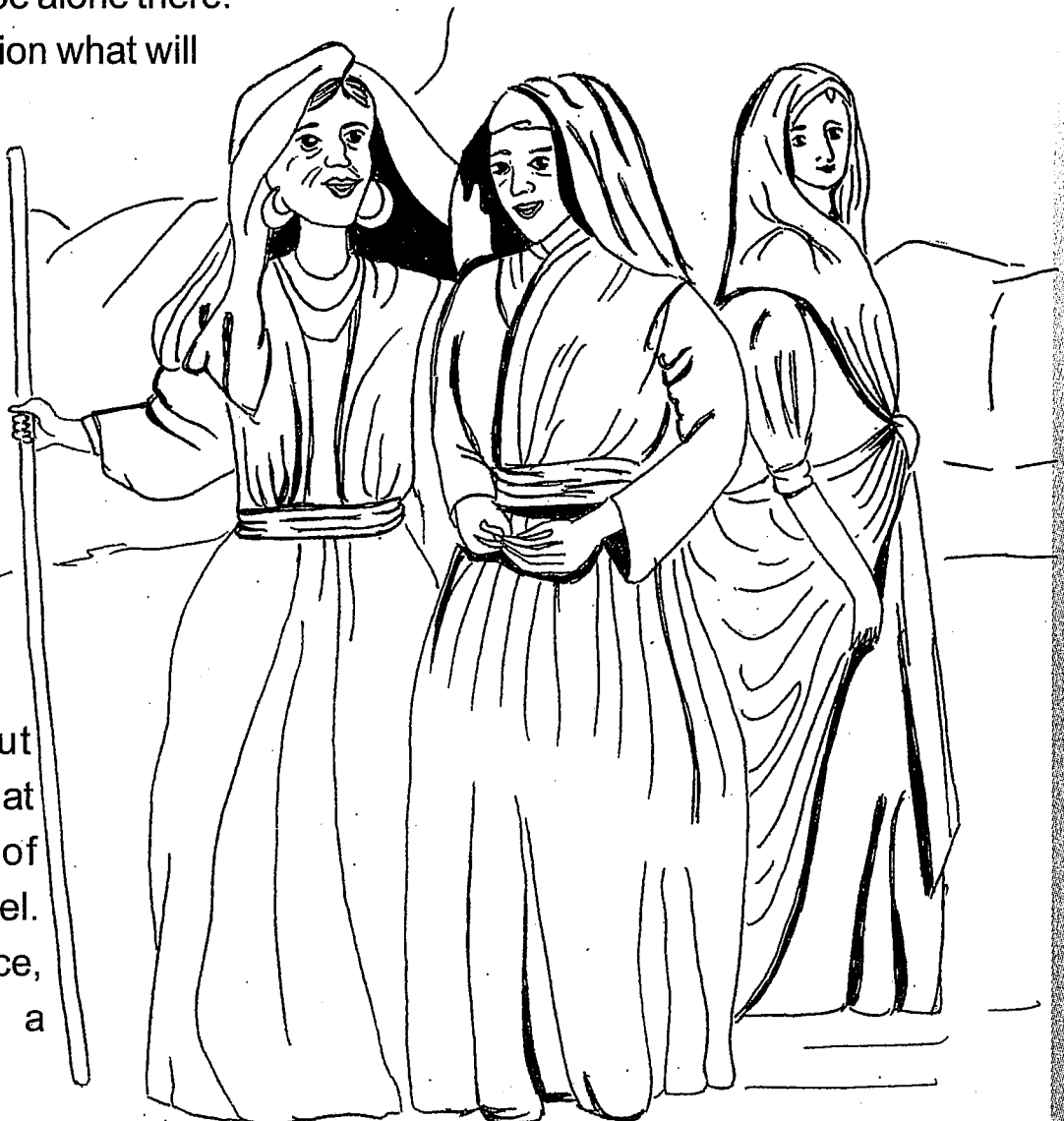
Aim: To teach the students that God's grace and provisions will be there always with every right desires and decisions. In addition, to make an awareness of caring aged parents.

Introduction: Imagine an old person who loves you very much is going to be left out alone in a certain situation. You are the last person who is with him and if you also leave from there, that old person will be alone there.

In such a situation what will be your decision? Do leave him alone and go? Listen to today's lesson.

Background:

We have been learning the lessons about what happened at the times of Judges in Israel. Those days once, there was a



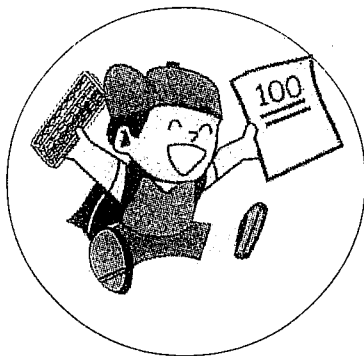
famine. People left their own cities, moved to other places for their lively hood and tried to escape from the effect of famine. Among them a certain man called Elimelech from Bethlehem in Judah, his wife Naomi with their two sons Mahlon and Chilion were staying together happily. Because of the famine they shifted to Moab and settled there. But unfortunately one day Naomi's husband died. Their two sons took wives from Moab their names are Orpah and Ruth. They continued in Moab for ten more years. However their happiness did not continued that two sons Mahlon and Chilion also died. Now Naomi and two daughters in law were left. Naomi got desperate because of the sad incidents in her life. Now she become very old and was not able to make livelihood for the three. So she decided to return to her home town Bethlehem. She shared his decision to Orpah and Ruth and said "I am not able to look after you both but you are very young so go back to your own families and stay their happily with your parents".

Then even with sadness, Orpah kissed Naomi and left. But Ruth did not want to leave her Mother in law. Once again Naomi advised her "Look, your sister Orpah has gone you also do the same". But Ruth replied her "Please do not ask me leave you, and to return from following after you, to wherever you go, I will follow; and where you stay, I will stay; your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God." And Ruth also followed Naomi to Bethlehem. They reached there in a harvest season. All of her old neighbours and friends came to see her and they asked themselves "Is it Naomi?". She said to them sadly "You do not Call me Naomi, call me Mara (means bitter); for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me".

Again, it was very hard times to both of them because nothing was there for their livelihood. They are about to starve but Ruth firmly along with Naomi and encouraged her. She was God fearing and faithful to her mother in law even in the midst of all kinds of miseries. Moreover, she trusted in the Lord one who is able to deliver the people who ever believe and live accordingly. They stayed together by trusting God and looking forward to see that what God is going to do for them with prayer.

Practical lesson:

Many people try to leave their old parents for their own interests and happiness but God wishes us to look after our dear parents even at the hard situations.

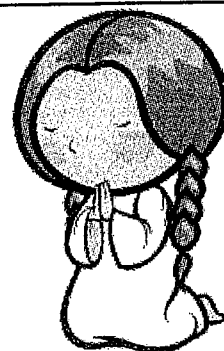


My Decision

I will never leave my dear ones for my selfish desires. But will take care all those who deserve it.

My Prayer

Oh! Lord, help me to be continued in your love and to love my parents to look after them while they need my presence and support.



Memory verse

Ruth 1:17

So they two went until they came to Bethlehem.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the names of Naomi's daughters in law?
2. What were the names of Naomi's husband and sons?
3. What were the different attitudes of Orpah and Ruth towards Naomi?
4. What is the meaning of the word 'Mara'?

List the names given below in their order.



Practices

Emelelich =

miNao =

hloman =

chinlio =

bosva =

lebethhem =

Colour The Picture



Lesson 12

God Blesses Ruth

Reference: Ruth chapters 2- 4.

Aim: To teach the students that God will bless those who serve others sacrificially.

Introduction: Suppose you are trying to help a poor person so you asked a rich man to support with some money. Instead of giving a small amount, that rich man gives you the total wealth that he had. If it happens such a way you may wonder, isn't it? Today we are going to learn a similar story.

Background: Ruth who came along with Naomi learned how to adjust with unfortunate conditions with love and care for her mother in law.

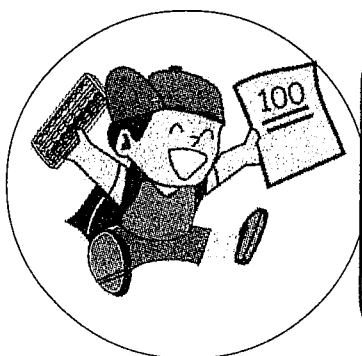


Explanation: That was a harvest season in Bethlehem. There was a custom that the poor labours were permitted to collect the left out grains from the field after the harvest for their daily bread. Because of the bad financial condition at home Ruth asked Naomi "Let me now go to the field and pick up among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favour." Naomi replied "God my daughter". That day Ruth found a place as safe to glean it was belonging unto Boaz. He shown favour to her after enquiring about the details of her and ordered to other labourers that no one should disturb her. This Boaz was a close relative to Naomi's husband Elimelech.

There was custom to redeeming the widows by any one of their closed relatives. Even without knowledge the field where Ruth reached was belonged to Boaz who is to redeem her by law. Because Boaz was a noble man he searched about any other person who is more eligible to redeem her. After finding none of such persons are there he announced his willingness to marry Ruth publicly. With the permission of their family members Boaz married Ruth. Now Ruth who came along with Naomi and went to collect left out grains in the field for daily bread became the owner of that whole field. God blessed them with a son named Obed. Later David the great king of Israel also born in this family. The most important thing is Ruth's name has put in the genealogy list of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

Practical Lesson:

This story is talking about Ruth, the noble woman who was ready to leave her loved ones and accompanied with her mother in law Naomi without any hesitation, and lived a devoted life in a foreign land. So how God blessed her with a great blessing. The lesson we learn from her life is if we also continue a sacrificial life for other with godly love then God also loves and blesses us definitely.

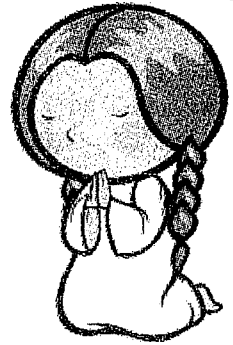


My Decision

I will love and help those who are in need without any hesitation. I also will take the responsibility to care and counsel the aged parents.

My Prayer

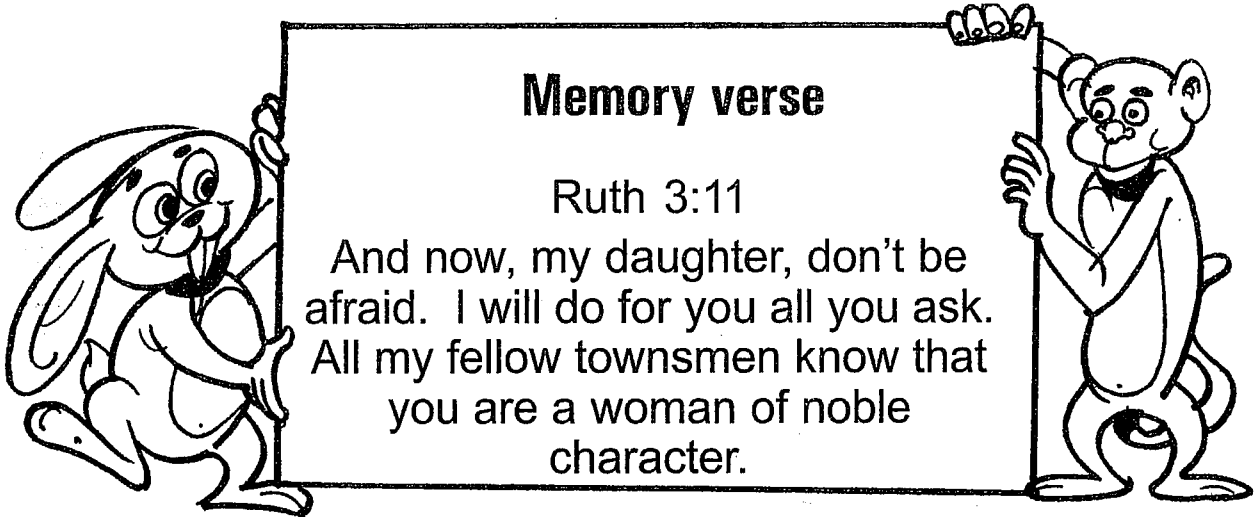
My Lord, give me an interest to help,
honour and serve others without any
hesitation but with a pure heart and love.



Memory verse

Ruth 3:11

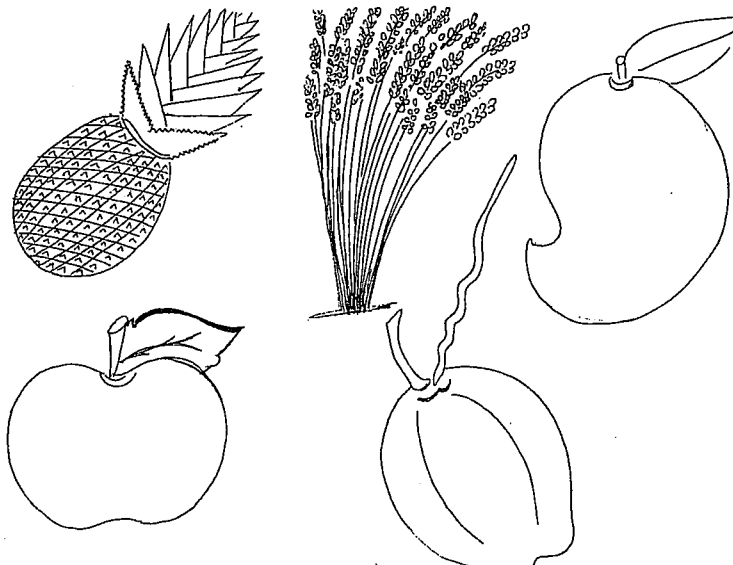
And now, my daughter, don't be
afraid. I will do for you all you ask.
All my fellow townsmen know that
you are a woman of noble
character.



QUESTIONS

1. In whose field that Ruth went to collect the grains?
2. What it mean by gleaning the grains?
3. What it mean by redemption?
4. What was the name of Boaz and Ruth's child?

From the things given below find out which one that Ruth picked for living.



Colour The Picture



Practices



Lesson 13

Hannah Gets Samuel

Reference: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

Aim: To develop an attitude of submitting the blessings that given by God for His glory.

Introduction: Suppose you did not have a bicycle so you have been waiting and praying for the same and finally someone presented a bicycle for you. How much happy you will be, won't you? But the next day do you like to give back that bicycle forever to the same person who presented it for you?



Background: There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah, who had two wives named Hannah and Peninnah. Those days there was a practice of having more than one wife. Peninnah had children but Hannah had none. She was very sad about this. Moreover Peninnah used to tease her for the same.

Explanation: Year after year Elkanah and Hannah went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord almighty at Shiloh. Hannah was very sad and even denied to have food. Thus they reached the temple that year too.

This time Hannah was more broken about the fact that she did not have children. In the temple she prayed earnestly with tears and made a vow saying "Oh Lord almighty, if you will only look up on your servants misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life".

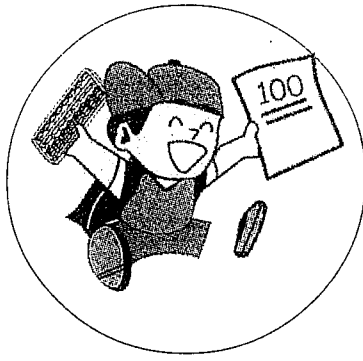
The priest Eli observed her mouth, her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her "how long you keep on getting drunk? get rid of your wine. Hannah replied "not so my Lord, I am a women who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord". Eli answered, "Go in peace and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked".

After one year she got a son as an answer to her prayers. She named him Samuel saying "because I asked the Lord for him". For the next few years Hannah did not visit the temple as usual. She said her husband after the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always." Because she had made a vow to the Lord saying that she would offer her child to the Lord if she got one for herself.

And thus after a few years, Hannah took the boy with her to the temple. She took the boy to Eli and said, "As surely as you live, my Lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped and continued serving the Lord in the temple.

Practical Lesson:

As Hannah submitted the child given to her by God, to God himself, we too should submit our talents to God as He is the provider of them.

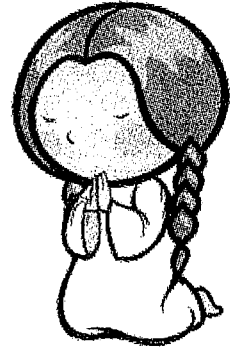


My Decision

I am always ready to submit my talents and blessings to the Lord who is the provider of them.

My Prayer

Oh Lord, help me to use my talents happily for you.



Memory verse

I Samuel 1:10
In bitterness of soul
Hannah wept much and
prayed to the Lord.

QUESTIONS

1. What was Hannah's prayer and vow to God?
2. Who used to tease Hannah always?
3. Who is Hannah's husband?
4. Native land of Elkanah?

What was Hannah's prayer for

- ☐ For a job
- ☐ For making lot of money
- ☐ For a good marriage
- ☐ For getting a child
- ☐ For a good house



Practices

Colour The Picture



Lesson 14

Little Samuel in the temple

Reference: 1 Samuel Chapter 3

Aim: To understand that God chooses certain persons for particular ministries. If they completely submit themselves for the duties that God assigned for them then God may use them in different capacities.

Introduction: There are varieties of professionals around us. Doctors, Engineers, Nurses, Teachers and so on. They are appointed by the government of any private companies. They all are trained for the professions that they are appointed. But there is a small group of people who are called only for the ministry of God. Our today's lesson is about one of the boys who is called for such a ministry.



Background: In the last previous class we learned the story of Hanna and her son, whom God has given to her as a result of an earnest prayer. She called him the name Samuel and submitted him to the temple for lifetime ministry over there.

Lesson detail: Samuel, who has been living and serving the Lord along with the aged priest Eli whose eyes had begun to dim, so that he could not see. Now he has grown up enough to think and take decisions. Those days many people including Priest's children have been began to get away from God and walk in wicked ways.

The priest who has the responsibility to lead the people in a right way now is very old for not to see properly. At that time Samuel had many duties to do in the temple. To help Eli the priest in ministry, look after the temple lamps, clean the temple tools, arrange them orderly for the service. Samuel did all these duties faithfully at the same age as you are now. He lived and slept inside the temple only. Because, he himself has dedicated completely for the full time ministry of the Lord.

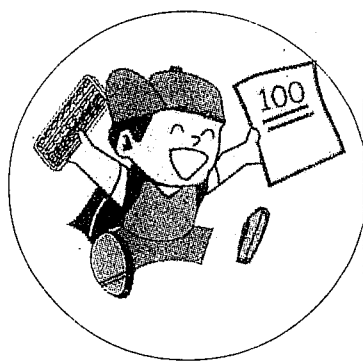
One day as usual he laid down to sleep in the temple of God, where the ark of God was. He heard Samuel... Samuel... Samuel... as someone is calling him. He thought that it might be the priest Eli. Samuel approached him and enquired about the call. But he replied that I did not call your so go and lie down again and he went and lay down. And God called yet again, Samuel.... Now Samuel arose and went to Eli again, and he said I did not call you go and lie down. And God called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said Here am I for you called me. Now Eli realized that God had called the child. There for Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down and if he call you again then you should say, Speak God; for your servant hears. So Samuel went and laid down in his place again. And God came and called him again Samuel... Samuel... Then Samuel did not go to Eli instead he said, "Speak for your servant is hearing."

God started to speak to him. God spoke all the things that what is going to happen to Eli's family as well as to the whole Israelites in the coming days. He explained all these thing to the priest Eli.

Samuel continued happily there in the ministry. God loved him more and cared for him.

Practical lesson:

There are many who dedicate themselves for the ministry. But most of them fail in fulfilling that decision. Hanna made a vow before God and did it on time Samuel also dedicated himself before the Lord forever without any objection towards his mother. Even today, God is seeking such faithful boys and girls for His ministry.

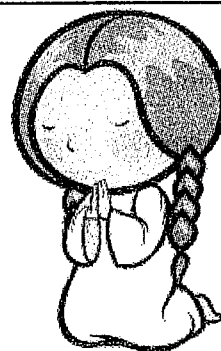


My Decision

I will accomplish all the decisions that I take before God.

My Prayer

My loving God, empower me to accomplish all the promises that I made before you, Amen.



Memory verse

1 Samuel 3:1

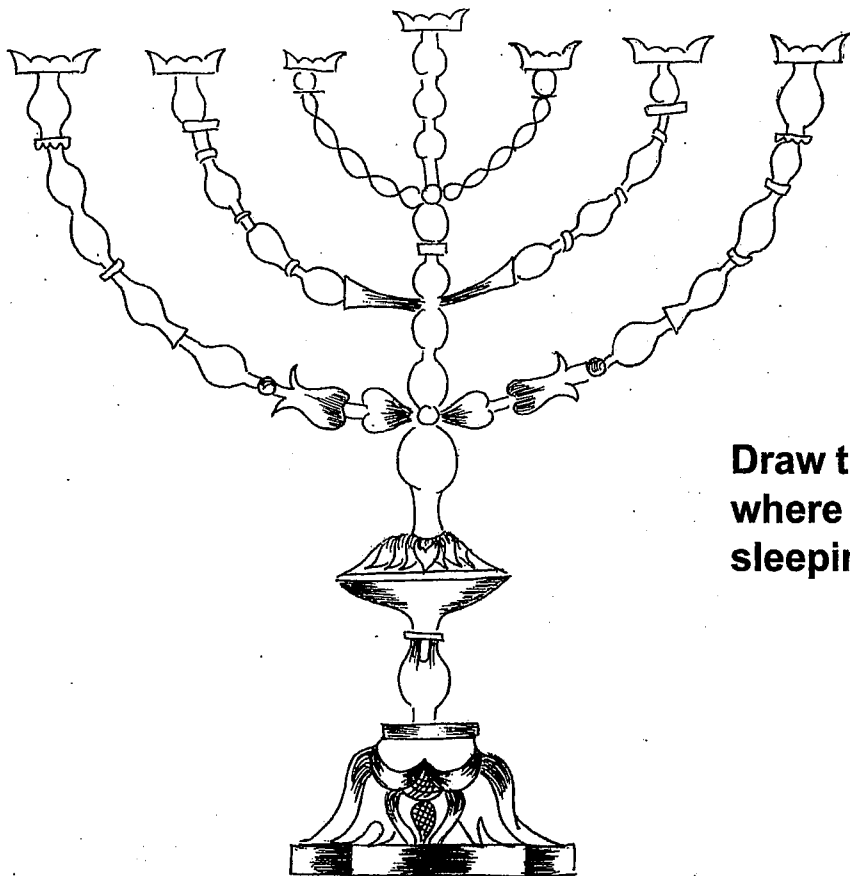
The boy Samuel Served the Lord under the direction of Eli.

QUESTIONS

1. With whom that Samuel stayed for the ministry in the temple?
2. What was the condition of priest Eli when Samuel was there in the temple?
3. How was the spiritual condition of the people at the lasttime of Eli?
4. Who called Samuel again and again?
5. What was the message that God gave to Samuel?

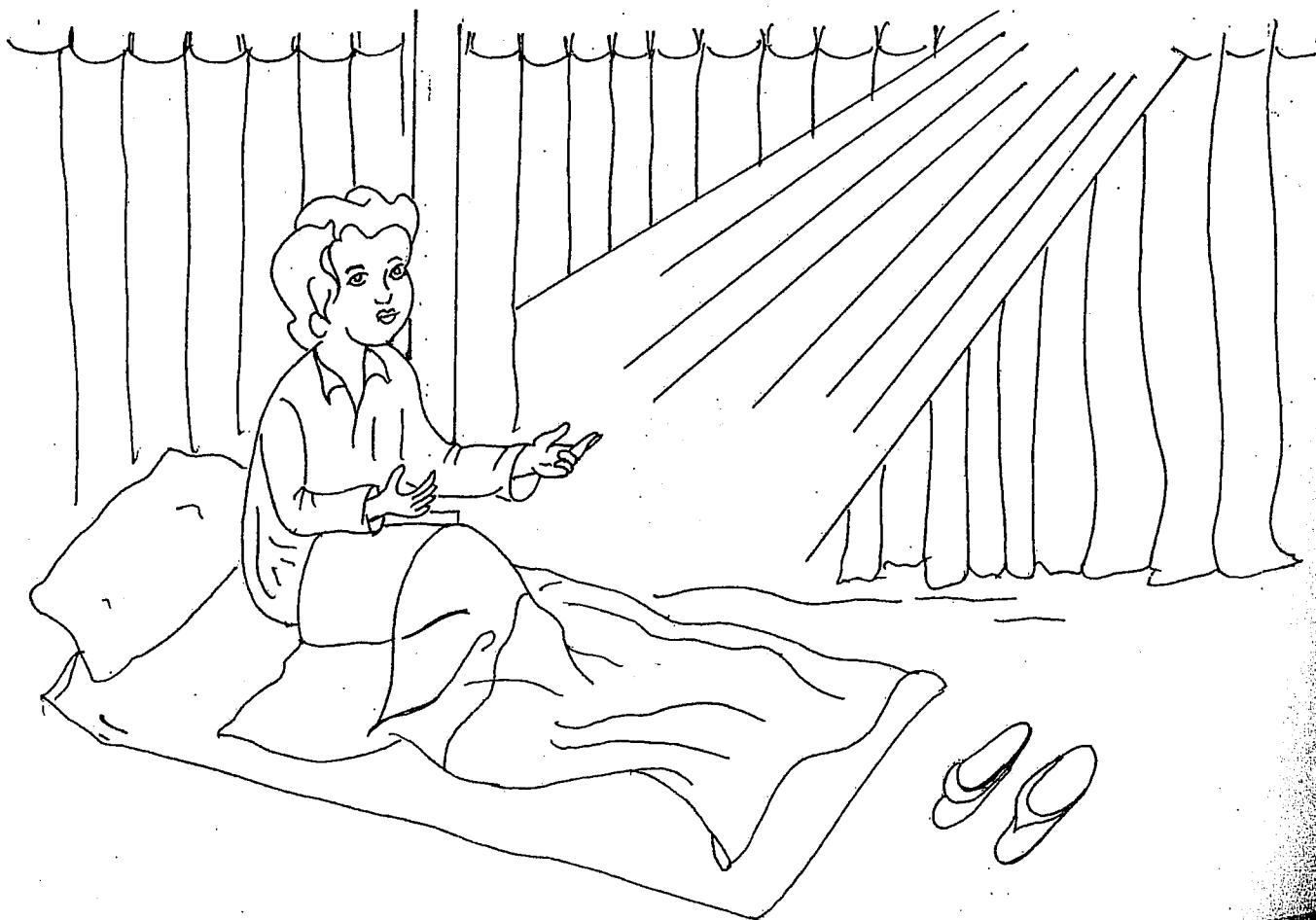


Practices



Draw the flames in the lamp at where child Samuel was sleeping.

Colour The Picture



Lesson 15

The death of Priest Eli



Reference: 1 Samuel 2,4 Chapters

Aim: To realize that there will be a serious punishment if we do not complete the task that God set for us to accomplish because of laziness and neglecting them without any seriousness.

Introduction: Don't people frightened by hearing the news of accidents? If a father hears sad and painful news about his children how much sad he would be? This lesson is about the heartbreaking end that happened to the priest Eli with whom the child Samuel has been serving.

Background: The condition of the relationship between Israelites and God became worse. The priest Eli became 98 years old and could not see. His

two children Hophni and Phinehas went astray from God and did all kinds of wickedness. They used to take and cook and ate the animals that people bring for sacrifice in the temple. They enjoyed their life in doing sins against God. In such a situation, that God told about all the miserable things that are going to happen in Eli's house as well as to the Israelites. All those things have started to happen as Samuel shared it to Eli.

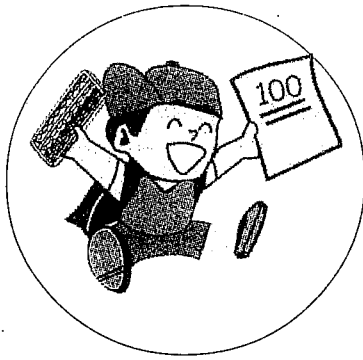
Explanation: This time Israelites went to fight with Philistines without seeking the will of God. They failed in that war. The leaders of Israel thought that it is because of the absence of the ark of God. Therefore, along with two sons of Eli people went with the ark of God to fight with Philistines again. Even though Philistines were afraid of God and scared in the beginning but they retrieved their courage and fought with Israelites and won. They also caught the ark of God and took it with them. Eli's two children were also died in the war. One of the persons from the war field rushed to Eli and reported about the things that happened in the war.

When they heard that the ark of God has caught all people began to cry and the noise of their cry came out in the city. When Eli heard this sad news about the ark of God, he fell from off his seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck has broken and he died.

At this time his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife was near to be delivered a child. when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken and that her father in law and her husband were died she bowed herself and her pains came upon her and gave birth to a child. And she named the child Ichabod, saying the glory is departed from Israel. Thus they realized that the glory of God is departed from Israel because the ark of God was taken.

Practical lesson:

As the glory of God has taken from the midst of the people, who went away from God. And the death of Hophni and Phinehas who did not live according to the will of God. Moreover, the miserable death of Eli who did not lead their children and people of Israel in to a right path. It teaches us that even how great you are but forget the laws of God, surely there will be a serious punishment.

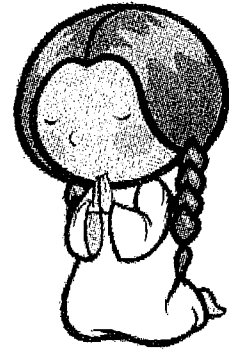


My Decision

I will try my level best to live without neglecting the commandments and responsibilities that God has given to me.

My Prayer

Oh! My God, do not allow me to move away from your will and path, Amen.



Memory verse

1 Samuel 2:7

The Lord makes people poor.
He also makes people rich.

QUESTIONS

1. Who were the children of Eli?
2. Who defeated Israel and the ark of God had taken away?
3. What were the incidents that lead to the death of Eli?
4. How was the death of Eli?
5. What is the meaning of 'Ichabod'?

Find out two similar altars.



Colour The Picture

Lesson 16

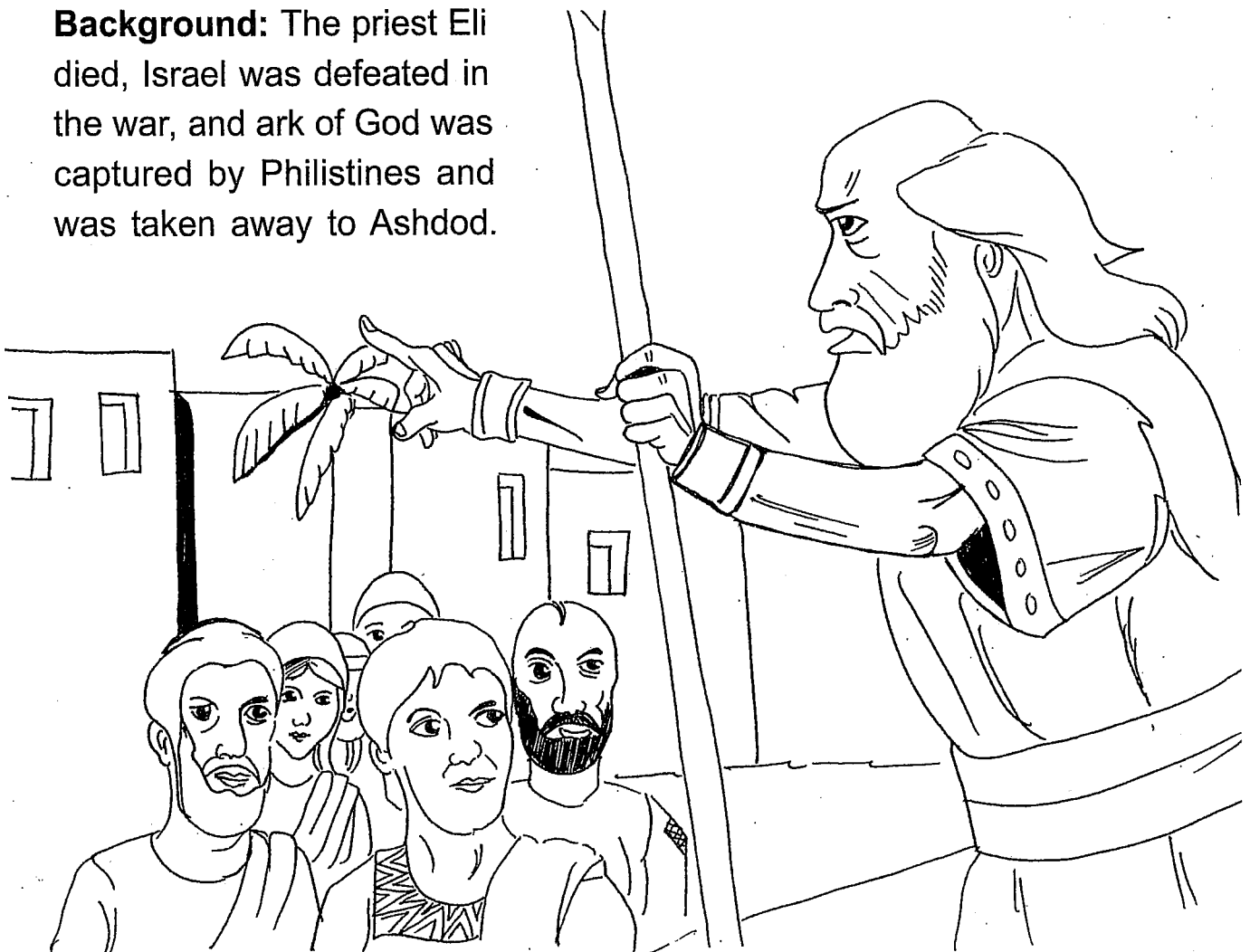
Samuel the Judge

Reference: 1 Samuel 6, 7 chapters

Aim: To learn that those who dedicated to the Lord for different kinds of responsibilities can be used lifelong in the hands of God to serve the people in various capacities.

Introduction: Normally employees who are appointed by the government or companies have to continue in the same kind of job until the contract ends, isn't it? However, don't you want to know how those who are dedicated for the divine ministry are different from others? Let us see how God used Samuel in different ways.

Background: The priest Eli died, Israel was defeated in the war, and ark of God was captured by Philistines and was taken away to Ashdod.



There it was set by Dagon. Then many interesting things happened there. Next morning Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of God. And they took Dagon and set him in his place again. Next morning same thing happened again and both the palms of his hands cut off upon the doorstep. Not only that, God destroyed the people of Ashdod with tumors. Therefore, they took the ark of God to Gath. But the plague spread even there. Then they shifted ark of God to Ekron but same thing happened there too.

Explanation: At the end, Philistine leaders met together and decided to send the ark back to Israel. They made a new cart and took two cows, and tied them to the cart. The cows went along the highway at last it reached at the borders of Israel and brought it into the house of Abinadab. Twenty long years it was kept there. People of Israel started to cry out because the ark of God was supposed to be kept only in the temple of God. The presence of God's glory left them because of keeping the ark in wrong places.

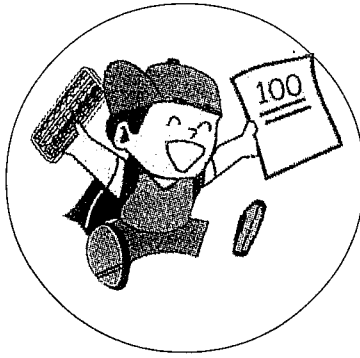
At this time, Samuel called all Israelites to leave their wickedness and worshipping other gods and idols. They all gathered in Mizpah. There they fasted and prayed to God and repented and said "we have sinned against God". Then Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpah (Judges were the rulers who lead the Israelites before the time of kings).

When the Philistines heard that the children of Israel have gathered together to Mizpah, the Philistines went up to fight with them. Then the Israelites were afraid and cried to God. God made a great thunder so that all the Philistines were scared and ran away. Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and named it Eben-ezer, saying "The Lord has helped us every step of the way".

Then Samuel continued as the best judge of Israel. He stood with the people in all their troubles. He was a good prophet too. Thus he did his responsibilities faithfully and served God throughout his life.

Practical lesson

Dear children, It was the desire and commitment of a mother and sincere dedication of Samuel helped the Israelites to win over all kinds of miseries and the name of God has glorified. Even today, God needs such persons to accomplish His will. Are you ready to dedicate yourself for the same?

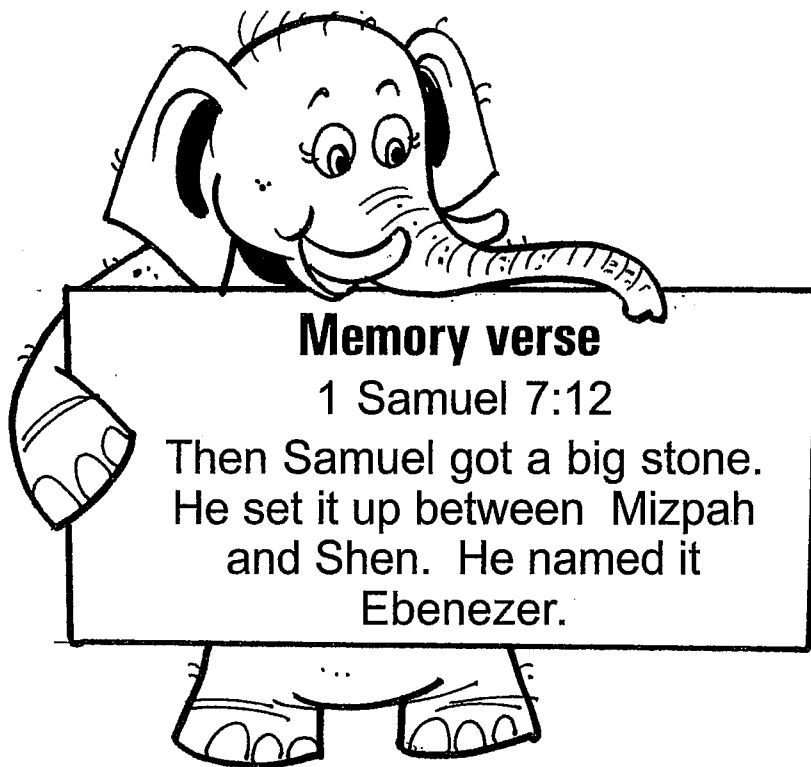
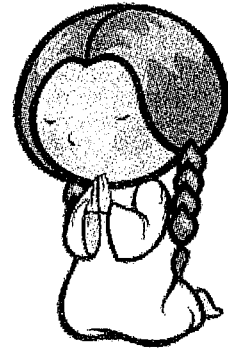


My Decision

I would like to dedicate myself to move according to the will of God.

My Prayer

Oh! Lord, I would like to dedicate myself according to your will. Convince me how I should work of you, Amen.



Memory verse

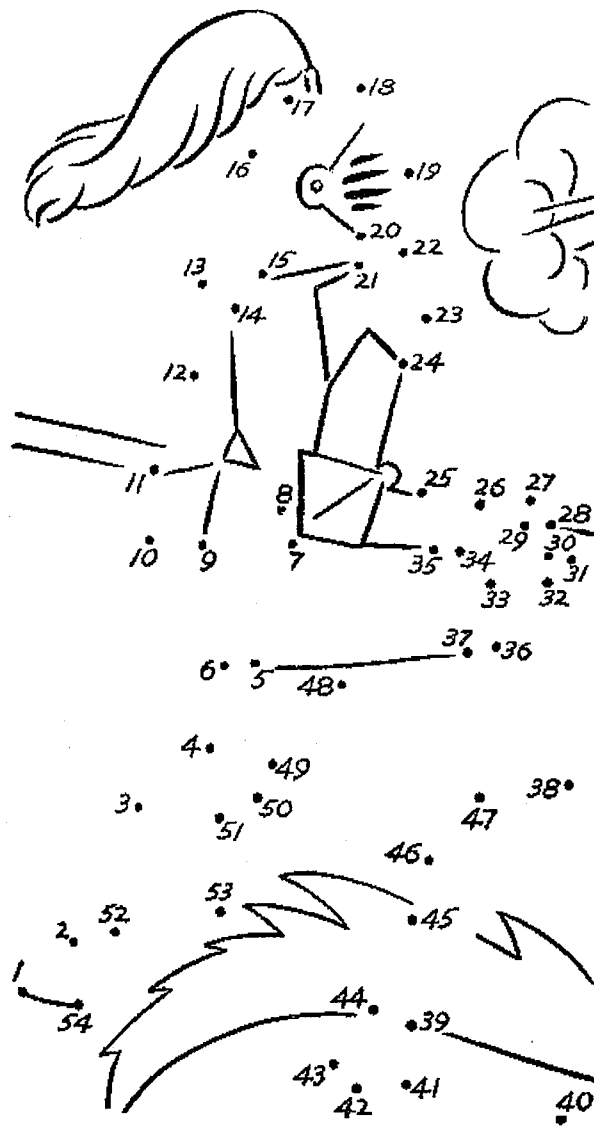
1 Samuel 7:12

Then Samuel got a big stone.
He set it up between Mizpah
and Shen. He named it
Ebenezer.

QUESTIONS

1. Name the different places where the ark of God was put up.
2. What happened to the idol of Dagon?
3. Name of the place from where Samuel told his people to come back to God.
4. What is the meaning of the word Ebenezer?

Join the dots



പ്രവരത്തനം

Colour The Picture



Lesson 17

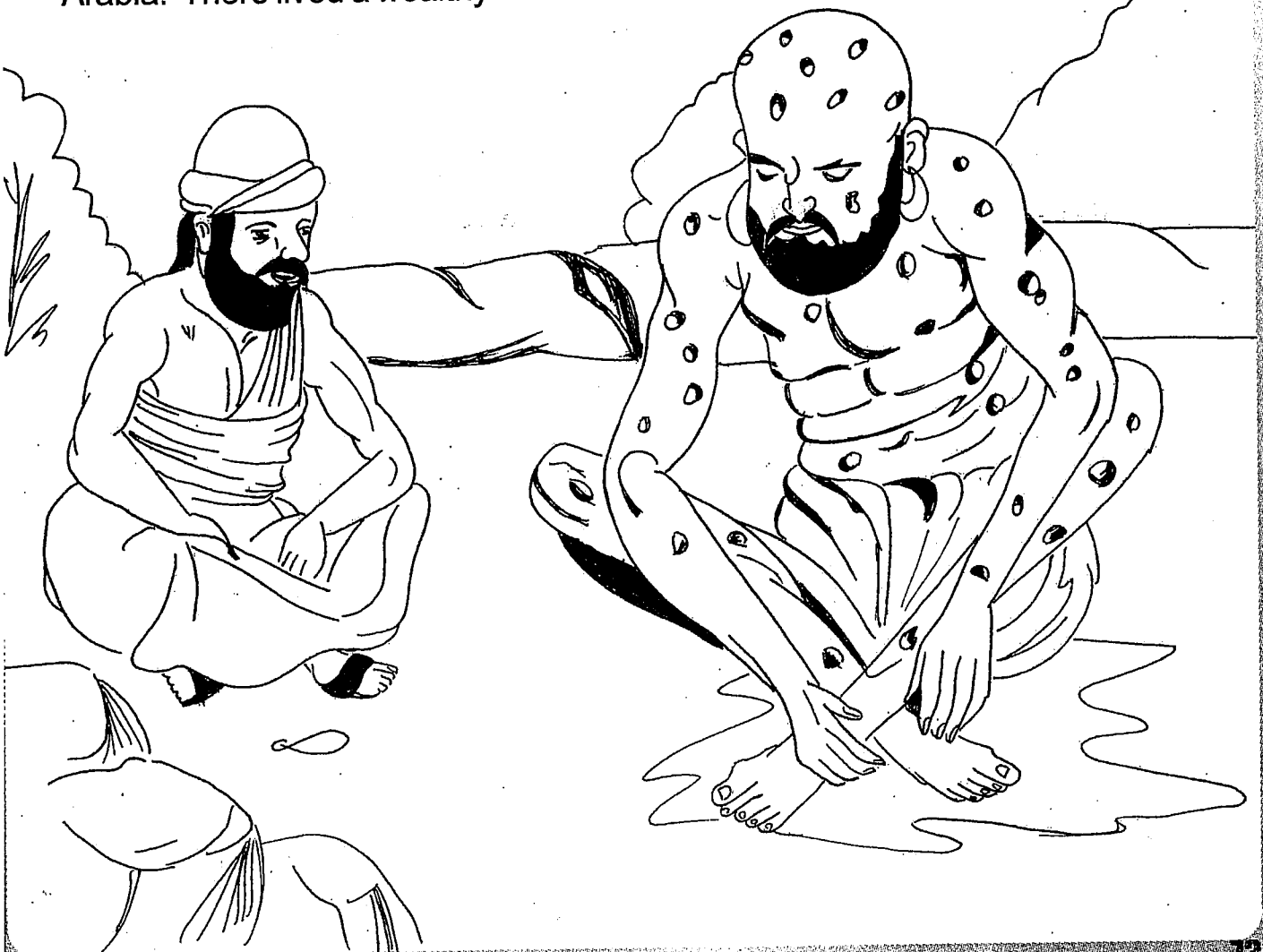
The story of Job

Reference: Job chapters 1 and 2

Aim: To teach the students that even those who worship and depend upon on God faithfully will have to suffer a lot in life.

Introduction: Have you ever suffered from any of the diseases? Have you ever cried out of pain? Have you noticed any of your friends suffering in the same way? How did you react for that situation? (Let the students share their experiences). Today, our lesson is also based on a person who suffered a lot of pain.

Background: Uz was a place situated below Eastern Edom in Northern Arabia. There lived a wealthy man in Uz. His name was Job. He was not only



wealthy, but also very righteous, justice, God fearing, innocent and did no harm to others. He had seven sons and three daughters. In addition, he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels; he owned 500 pairs of Oxen and 500 donkeys and had a large number of servants.

Explanation: His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes. When the time of feast had finished Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning, he would sacrifice a burned offering for each of them, thinking, "perhaps my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts".

One day Satan came to present himself before the Lord. The Lord asked Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?" and said "there is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and avoid the evil. However, Satan was not ready to give up, he said, "Have you not put a fence around him and his household and everything he has?" Satan also, challenged God saying "stretch out your hands and strike everything he has, and he will; surely curse you to your face." Therefore, God allowed Satan to test Job's faith.

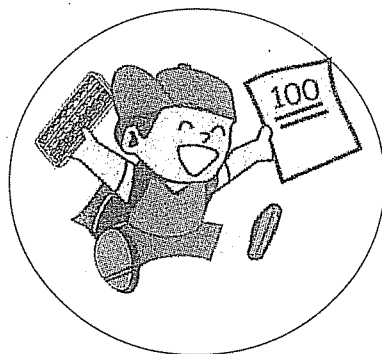
One day, a servant came and said, "The Sabeans attacked and carried away all the Oxen and killed all the servants". Then another servant came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants". Another one came and said, "The Chaldeans, swept down on your camels and carried them off and killed the servants". Again another servant came and said, "A mighty windswept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on your sons and daughters and they are dead."

After hearing all this, Job responded, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised".

After all these incidents, Job's body afflicted with painful sores, from the feet to the top of his head. He suffered pain and itching and could not do anything. His wife said to him, "Curse God, and die". However, Job replied, "shall we accept good from God and not trouble?" In all these, Job did not sin in what he said.

Practical Lesson

It is natural for human to suffer from pain and loss. They might be put forward to test our faith. It does not mean that God has forsaken you or that he does not Love you.

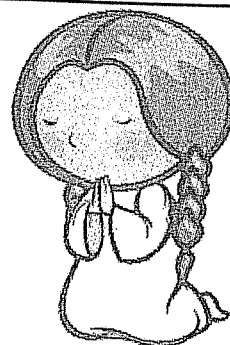


My Decision

Even though there is pain, sickness and suffering, I will not forsake, deny, doubt or murmur against God.

My Prayer

Oh God, give me strength for not to deny you in my hardships, Amen.



Memory verse

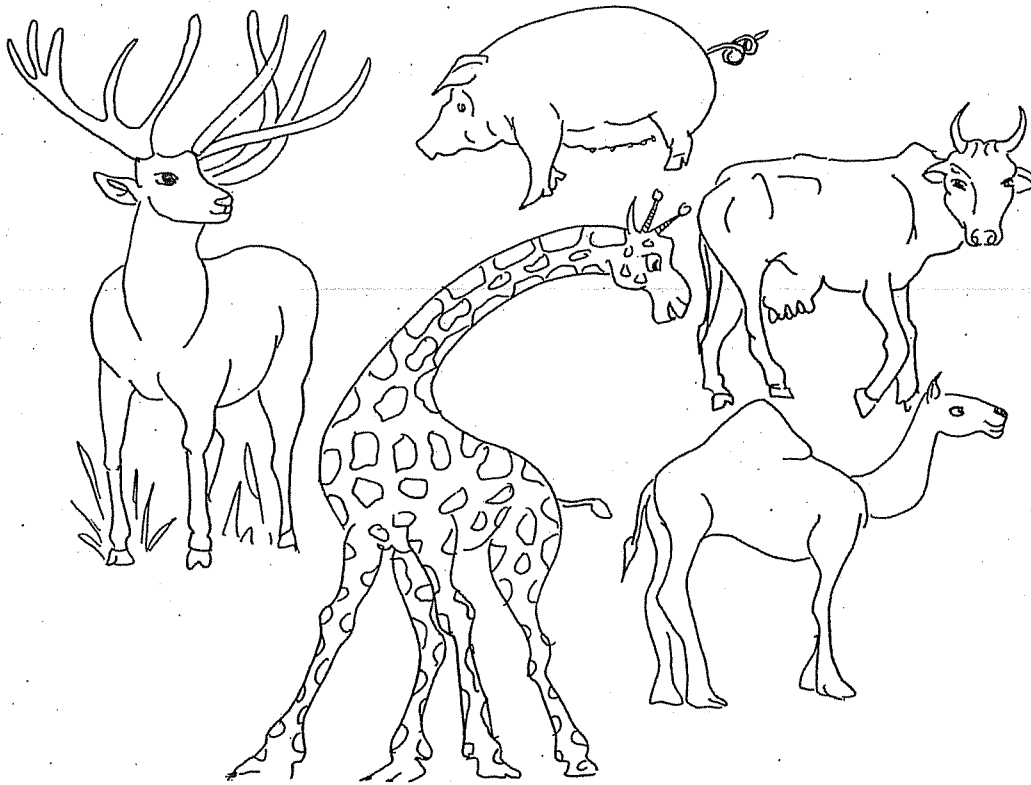
Job 1:8

Then the Lord said to Satan,
"Have you considered my
servant Job?"

QUESTIONS

1. What are the qualities of Job?
2. What all did Job loose?
3. Who asked Job to curse God?
4. Which was Job's native place?

Mark the only animals that included in Job's wealth



Colour the Picture.



Lesson 18

God helps Job

Reference: Job chapters 1, 2 and 42

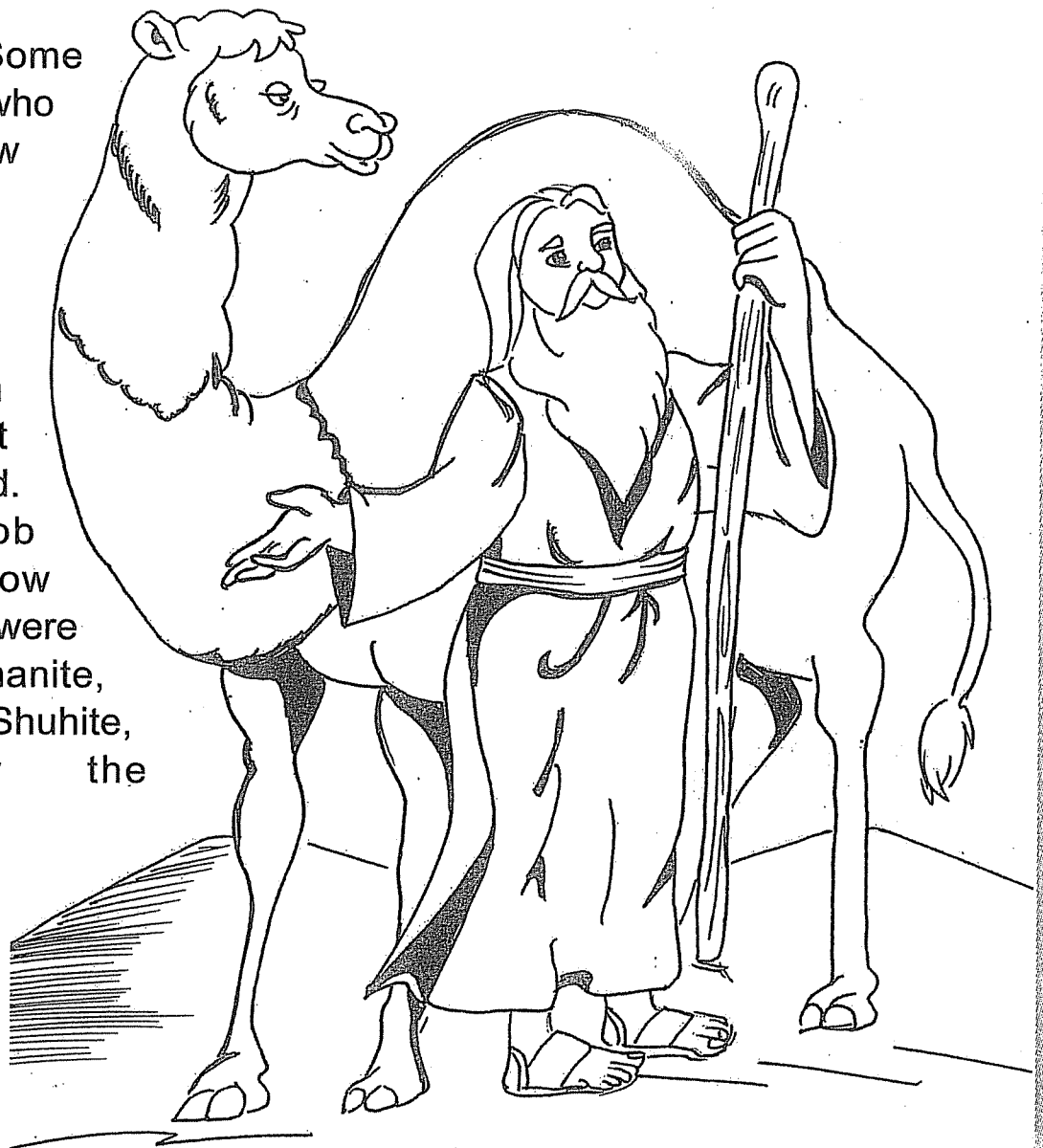
Aim: To learn that God helps those faithfully love and serve God even at the time of miseries.

Introduction:

Last class, when we learned about Job, some of you might have thought, why God did not help Job. In this lesson, we will be learning about how he was helped by God.

Background: Some of Job's friends who came to know about the tragedy that happened to him; visited Job. They mourned for seven days with him, without speaking a word. After that, Job shared his sorrow with them. They were Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite.

Explanation: Instead of comforting him, they accused, blamed, and hurt



him more. They told him that all these were the result of his sins.

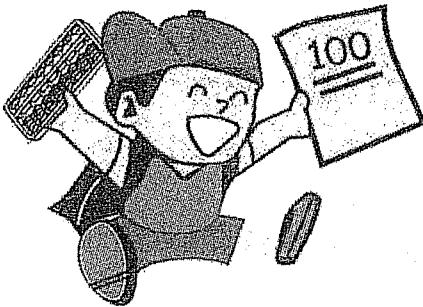
Nevertheless, Job only praised about God's power and said about the helplessness of man. Though they spoke for a long time, Job did not sin in what he said. Rather he showed interest in seeing the Lord.

When his friends stopped accusing and debating with him, God started to speak to him. God asked many wise questions regarding the creation, condition of the earth, light, sun, dew, lion, birds, etc. These questions pointed that God is capable of giving everything to his creations. At this point Job repented and prayed to God. When he also prayed for his friend, God started to change his conditions.

He was healed from the sickness and his friends came together and dined together. Then God gave everything he lost back to him in double portion. God blessed his future than his past. He was given sons and daughters. For 140 years, Job lived on earth. He saw his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren- he lived to see his fourth generation. He had a natural death.

Practical Lesson

Let us all wait for the work of the God in times of problems rather than denying and doubting in his power listening to the opinions of the others, just like Job who had a clear vision about himself and did not curse God because of the words of others.

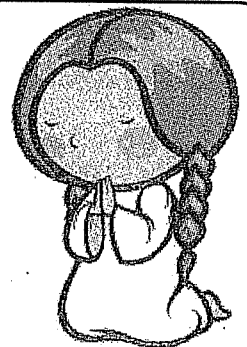


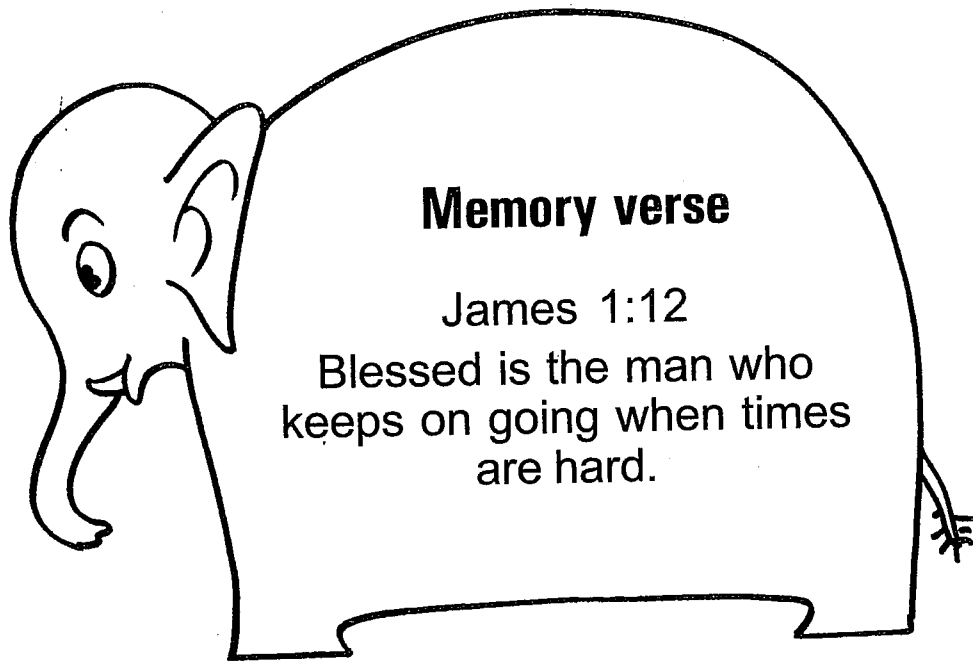
My Decision

Whoever tells anything, I will not change my strong devotion to God.

My Prayer

God, let only your will be done in my life,
Amen.





QUESTIONS

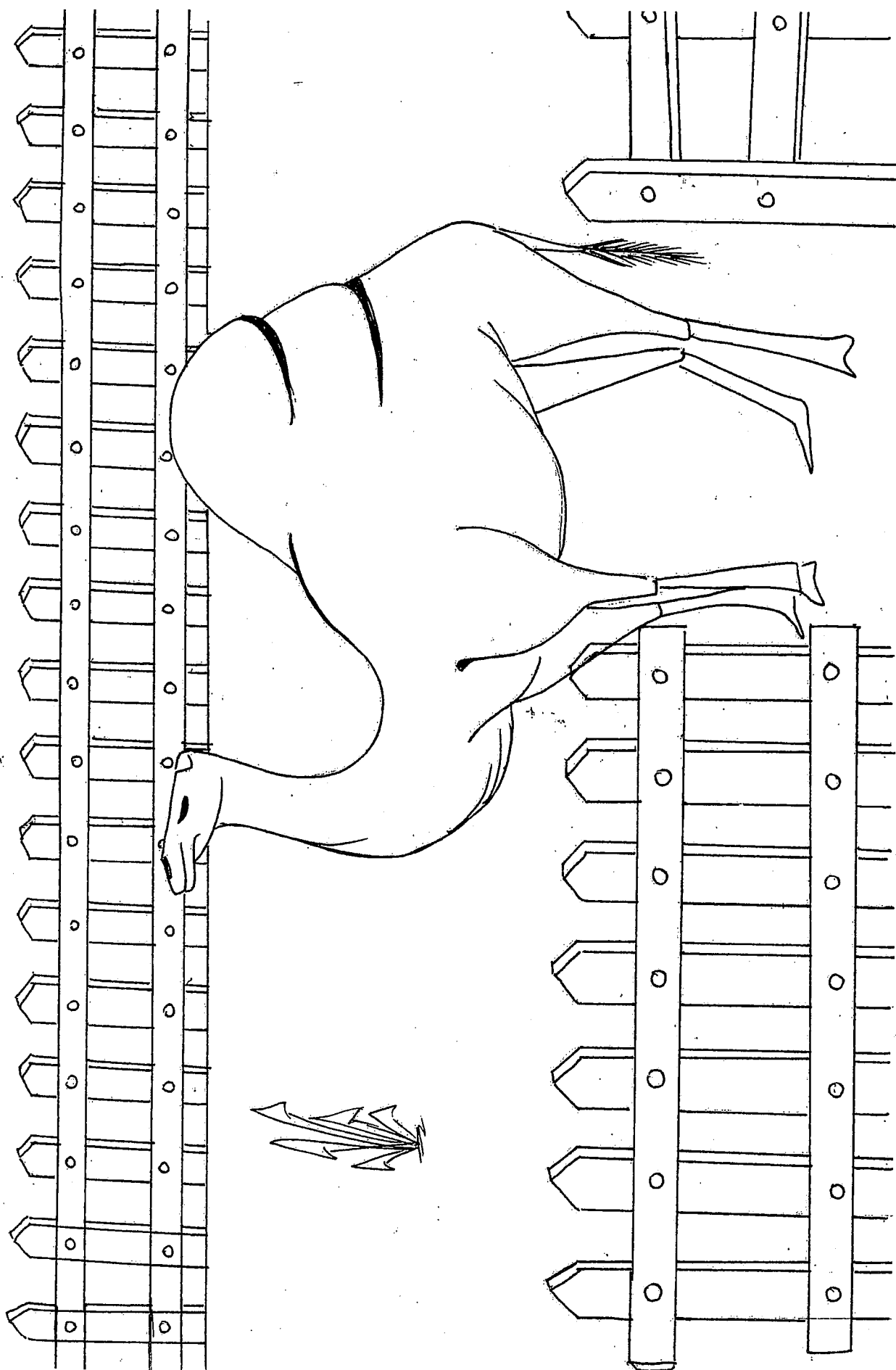
1. Who were Job's friends?
2. How many children did Job have?
3. How old was Job when he died?
4. What did you learn from Job's life?

Match The Following

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| 1. Boys | - | 3 |
| 2. Camels | - | 500 |
| 3. Donkeys | - | 3000 |
| 4. Goats | - | 500 pairs |
| 5. Ox | - | 7,000 |
| 6. Daughters | - | 7 |



Colour the Picture.



Lesson 19

Jonah

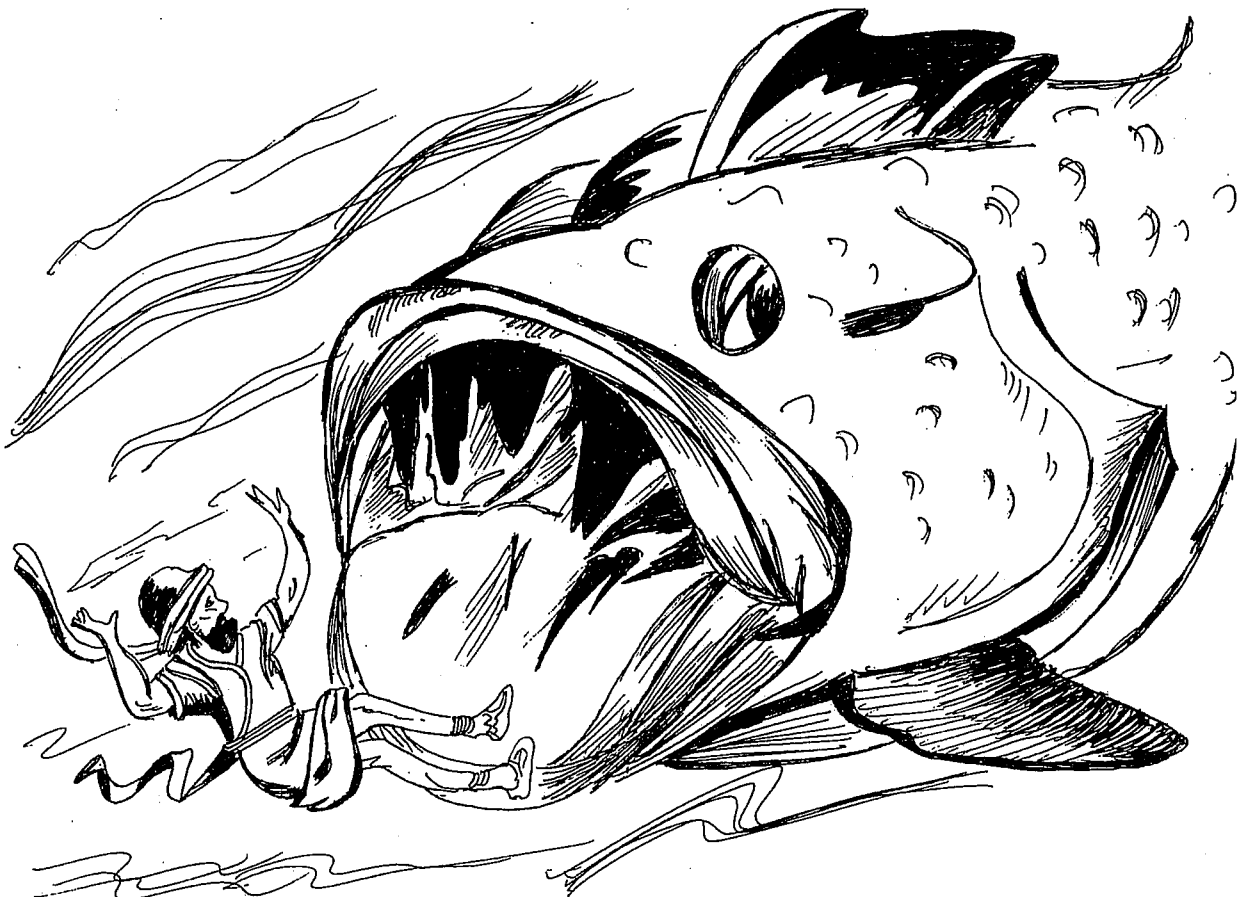
Reference: Jonah chapter 1 to 4

Aim: To understand that there are still many people who are ignorant of God. If you go and share about God, they too will believe in Him.

Introduction: Who taught you to pray to God? Will you have been able to pray if nobody taught you? Never, isn't it? Many people around the world have never even heard of the true God. If they get a chance to hear about him, they also might believe and pray to God. So that their prayers also would be answered. Today's lesson is about such a person, who went and preached God to a group of people who did not know who the True God was.

Background: Jonah was the son of Amittai, who lived in Galilee. The meaning of his name is 'Dove'. Once Jonah got a vision from God, "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me".

Explanation: Jonah, instead of going to Nineveh, he chose a ship towards



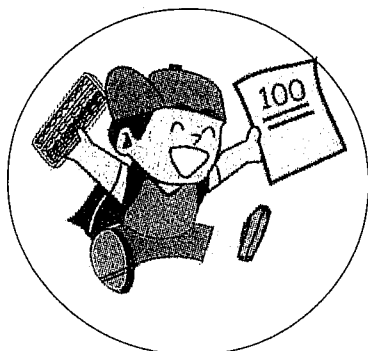
Tarshish. By doing so, he thought of escaping from God and the wicked and cruel people of Nineveh. But after some time, God sent a massive storm in the sea. The ship was about to sink. Everyone in ship started to cry and pray to all the known gods. They started throwing away their valuable belongings into the sea to reduce the weight of the ship. But as for Jonah, he was unaware of the thing that was happening as he was sleeping at the bottom of the ship's deck. Anyway, people woke him up and started questioning him as they sensed something wrong. Jonah had to say the truth to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear Jehovah, the God of heaven, who hath made the sea and the dry land. I am running away from the Lord".

So they threw him into the sea, suddenly the sea was calm. But the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights. All these days Jonah had been praying to God. On the third day, the fish vomited him at the shore. Again, God spoke to him, So that he went to the city of Nineveh and preached about God by sharing his own experience. People repented and they cried unto the Lord in prayer and fasting. Thus, God saved them from his wrath. As for Jonah, he waited to see Nineveh being destroyed. However, when he came to know that God forgave them and save them from the wrath, Jonah was angry with God. He made a tent on one side of the city and stayed there.

Then the Lord God sent a vine and made it grow up over Jonah. It gave him more shade for his head. It made him more comfortable. Jonah was happy he had the vine. But, before the sunrise the next day, God sent a worm. It chewed the vine that it dried up. Because of that reason, Jonah was again angry with God. God spoke to Jonah, "Do you have any right to be angry about the vine, and you have been concerned about this vine though you did not tend it or make it grow. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

Practical Lesson

Wow! How great is the Love of God towards man. God does not like anyone being lost. Still there are many cities and villages left out as unreached. How great it would be, going there and preaching about the living God.

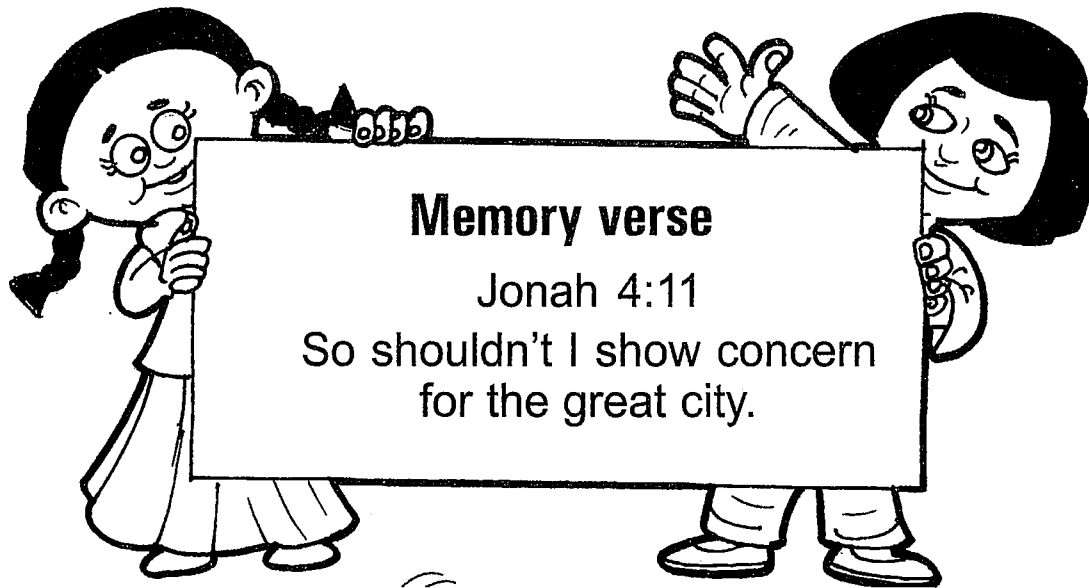
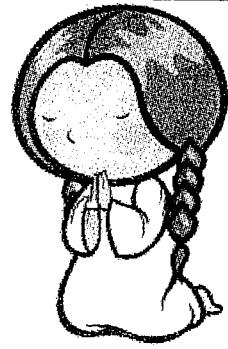


My Decision

If God gives me a chance, I will go and preach about the living God to many nations.

My Prayer

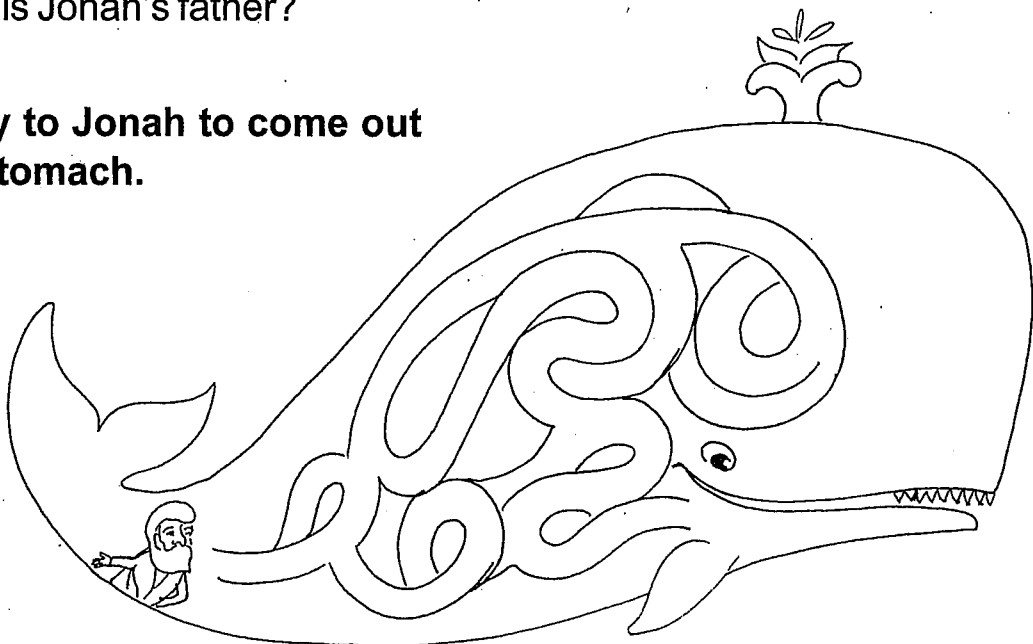
Oh God, if it is your will send me as you sent Jonah to the people who do not know you .



QUESTIONS

1. Where did God ask Jonah to go?
2. Where did Jonah try to go?
3. Meaning of the word Jonah?
4. Who is Jonah's father?

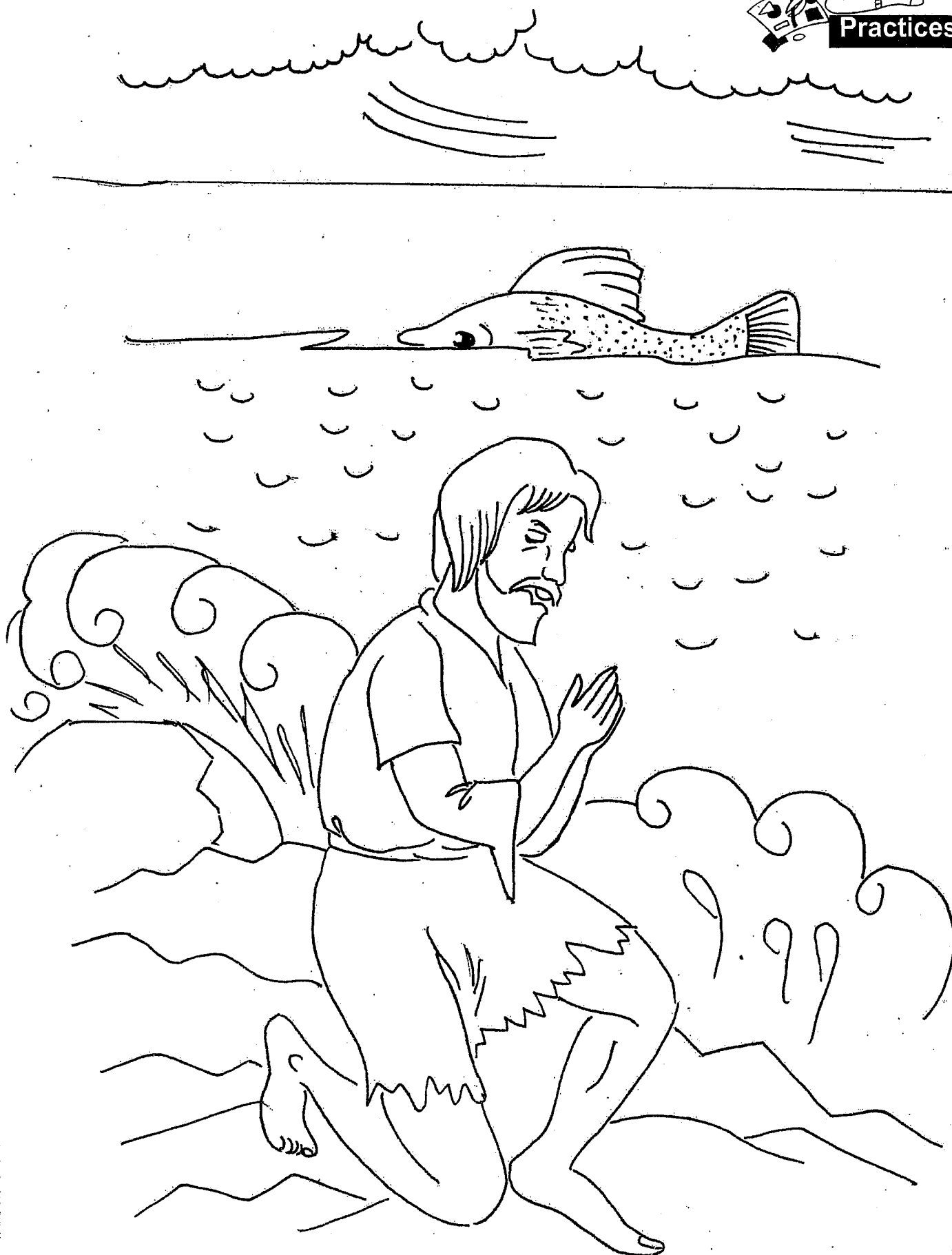
Show the way to Jonah to come out of the fish's stomach.



Colour The Picture.



Practices



Lesson 20

John the Baptist

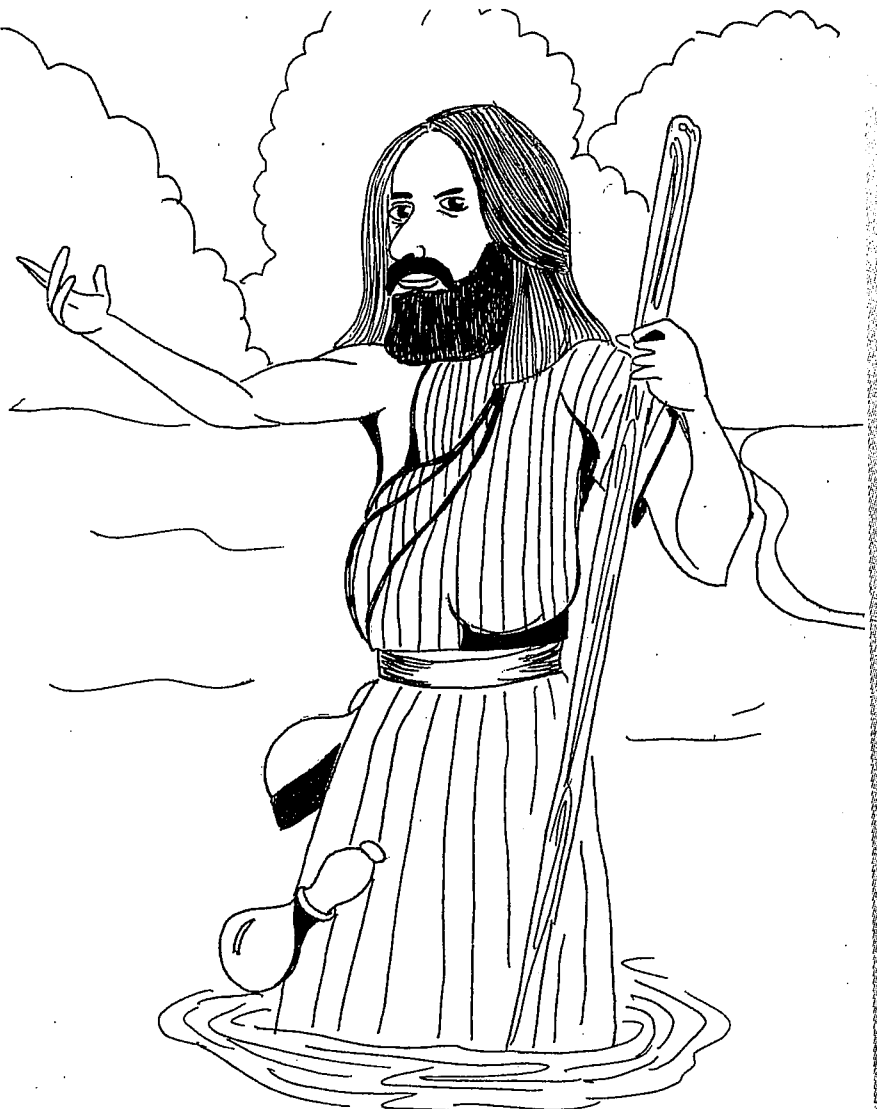
Reference: Luke 1: 5-25; 2:57-80

Aim: To learn that even now there are families set apart by God for a special task of God and they will be used for the will of God ahead of the thoughts of humankind.

Introduction: Have you ever wondered why you were born? Is there anyone here whose name was decided even before you were born? In certain circumstances God himself uses certain families for particular missions. Even the birth of such persons would be a miracle. Today we are going to learn about one of such persons.

Background: God elected Israelites and gave the land of Canaan, authorities, possessions, worship patterns, and the Law. Priesthood was a part of it. And God had a new plan for humanity, and to accomplish that plan he chose a family and a person from it. There lived a man named Zachariah and his wife Elizabeth at the time of Herod. Though God selected that family, they did not have any children.

Explanation: Those days not all the priests got a chance to minister in the temple. They were categorized into 24 groups. According to the Lord, whoever gets a chance, only that person was



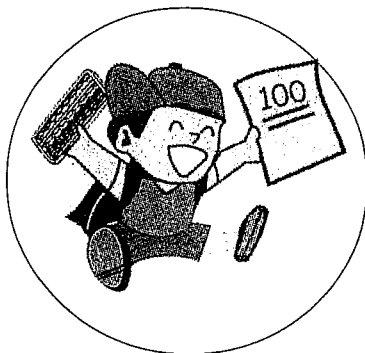
allowed to minister in the temple. As per the chronological order, that day priest Zechariah had his turn and was serving God in the temple. He was at the holy place where no others are permitted to come. People were praying outside. Suddenly an angel appeared to him. Zechariah got scared, as it was a new experience for him.

Then the angel started speaking to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you are to give the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth for he will be great in the sight of the lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drinks. And he will be filled with the Holy Spirit". By hearing, this Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." Angel replied, "I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak".

Zechariah who came out was not able to speak, but communicated with signs and symbols only. After the period of ministry, he returned to his home. Those days, Elizabeth got pregnant as the Angel promised it. They gave thanks to the lord, and said, "The Lord has done this for me. In these days he has shown his favour and taken away my disgrace among the people". Elizabeth gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives wanted to put the name Zechariah to the child. But Elizabeth said no to them and wanted to give the name John. Then they made signs to his father to find out what he would like name the child. He asked for a writing tablet and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John". Immediately his mouth opened. He began to praise and worship God. In such a way, because John was born according to the will of God, everyone was amazed about the things that happened. John from his childhood was brought up with different character and humility as per the will of God.

Practical Lesson

It was God's will to give a child to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Even though Zechariah did not believe it, God's plan did not change. It was God's plan to make the family a historical one. In the next Lesson, you will learn what that was.

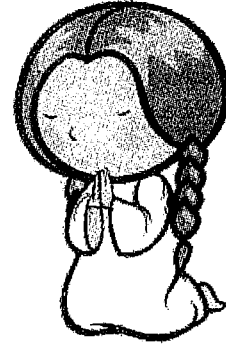


My Decision

When I come to know the will of God, I will submit myself without any doubt and will depend on God who can move the obstacles for me.

My Prayer

Oh Lord, let me participate with your plan
without doubting it, Amen.



Memory verse

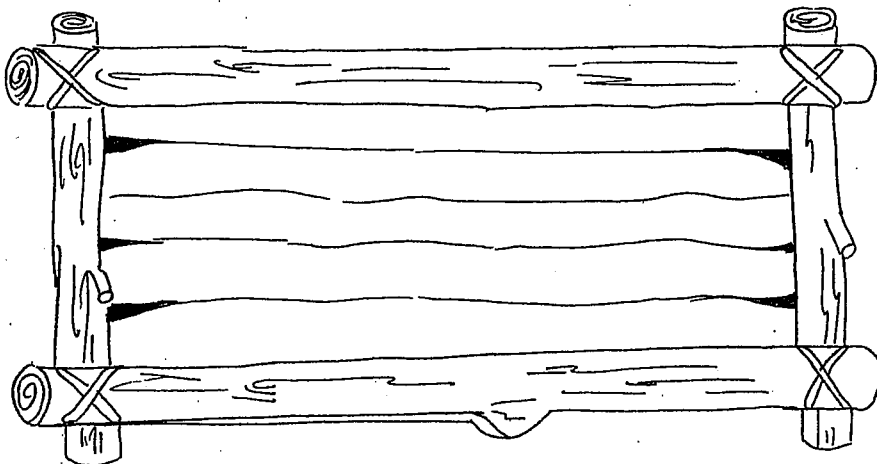
Luke 1:80

And the child grew and
became strong in spirit.

QUESTIONS

1. What were the names of John's parents?
2. What did Angel say about John?
3. What was the condition of Zechariah before and after the birth of John?

Write down the name below that which was written by Zechariah.





Lesson 21

Ministry of John the Baptist

Reference: Luke 3:1-18; Matthew 3:1-12.

Aim: To prepare the minds to teach and discipline people without fear when they go for the ministry according to the will of God.

Introduction: When you hear the term 'pastor' and 'servant of God' whose image that comes to your mind? Can say a few more such words? Will you explain what they do in the church and in the society? for whom they speak for? Our lesson for today is telling about John the Baptist and what he did for the society as well as for God in a different way.

Background: God gave a son to Zachariah and Elizabeth and they named



him John. After spending his childhood with parents he went to the wilderness. He continued there in prayer and meditation. The people of Israel have been expecting a Messiah would come to save them.

Explanation: One of those days, John got a special word from God and he moved to the banks of the river Jordan. There he began to preach about repentance and the baptism of repentance. His preached, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make you ready the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight." The main theme of his preaching was Jesus Christ who is going to come to save all humanity.

John's life style was very interesting. His cloth were made out of camel's hair. He had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts (some kind of fruit) and wild honey. Most of the time he spent time in the wilderness. He lived a life that different from other Jews.

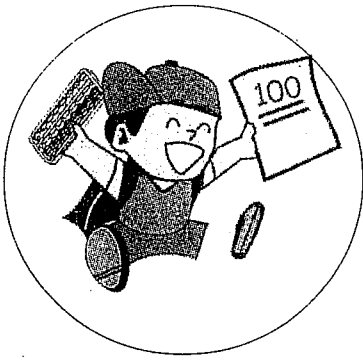
There were many people gathered to hear his preaching. To them he said unto them "You children of vipers, who warned you to flee from the anger to come? Bring forth therefore fruit worthy of repentance...And even now, the axe is lying at the root of the trees: every tree therefore that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire." Then peopled asked him "Then what should we do?" He answered them courageously, "If you have extra cloths, you should share with those who have none. And if you have extra food, you should do the same."

Those days tax collectors were the most rejected people in the society because they took more than that of the government required them to collect. John said to them "Do not collect any more than you are required to." John also had the same spirit as it was in the prophet Elijah. He baptized them those who came and repent before him. So he was known as John the Baptist. Some people doubted him as the messiah. To them he replied "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I am will come. I not good enough to untie straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire".

One day he saw Jesus Christ, the Messiah is reaching him to be baptized. Then he pointed towards Jesus and said "Look the lamb of God! He takes away the sin of the world!". By hearing it many of his disciples followed Jesus Christ. Later John the Baptist said about Jesus "He must increase, but I must decrease." John the Baptist continued his ministry by correcting the society through his preaching and introducing Jesus Christ to the world.

Practical lesson

Look, how powerfully and righteously that John the Baptist did his ministry. The preaching that brought repentance. With the simple words, he introduced Jesus Christ beautifully. The world needs such kinds of ministry even today.

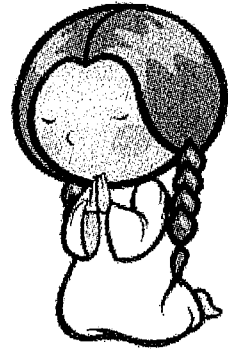


My Decision

If God calls me for His ministry, I will model John the Baptist and will be ministering in the society according to the will of God.

My Prayer

Oh God, if it is your will make me a mighty preacher in this generation.



Memory verse

Mathew 3:8

Bring forth therefore fruit
worthy of repentance.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the costume of John the Baptist?
2. What was the food of John the Baptist?
3. What baptism was that John the Baptist gave?
4. What John the Baptist said as seeing Jesus Christ?

From the items below point out and mark the food items of Jonah:

☐

milk

☐

honey

☐

fish

☐

egg

☐

locusts

☐

Chappathi



Practices

Colour The Picture



Lesson 22

Death of John the Baptist

Reference: Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29.

Aim: To prepare the children to stand for the truth and justice even up to death.



Introduction: What will you do when you notice someone doing things that annoy both the teachers and your friends? Especially if he is a son of a main teacher of the school. Will you keep quite because of fear? Or because of your friendship will you hide the truth? Or will you neglect it considering it as a silly matter? (let the students discuss their experience). Shall we listen to today's lesson.

Background:

John continued preaching powerfully without considering anyone. Not only towards the commoners but also against the wickedness of the rulers and religious leaders did John protest. He warned them, if they will not change their

wicked ways, they would have to face the judgement of God. Many of the higher officials did not like his approach.

Explanation: Herod; the ruler of those days, took his Brother Philip's wife to be his own wife. John told Herod that it was wrong. Herod, who was very angry on hearing this, imprisoned John. Herodias wanted to revenge upon John. However, Herod feared of John who was a Holy person. Therefore, Herod kept John in prison without killing him.

One day when the Herod celebrated his birthday, he served a feast to the people with high authorities in the country. Most attracting performance was the dance of daughter of Herodias. The guests and Herod enjoyed it very well. As usual, he told the dancer, "Ask of me whatsoever you wish, and I will give it you, even if it is the half of my kingdom". Instead of asking her wish, she ran to her mother for advice. Herodias who was waiting for a chance to revenge upon John, told her to ask the head of John the Baptist. Therefore, she went to the King and asked the head of John the Baptist on a plate.

Herod, who heard was upset, but considering the vow, which he had given to her before the subjects, he had to fulfill it. Even though it was not completely by his will, he had to order the Guards to behead John the Baptist and it was done.

Even though John was sure of his death, he did not compromise with any of the wickedness. Rather, he stood firmly for the justice and truth and continued his ministry, revealing Christ to the public and became a Martyr.

Practical Lesson :

The ministry of the men of God may differ from each other, but what God expects from every minister is to serve him faithfully and courageously. Even being ready to offer his life for the sake of God.

Let our mission be always for the glory of God according to his will only.

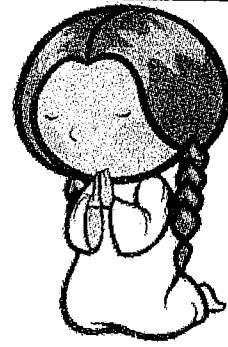


My Decision

If God chooses me for the ministry, not only in ministry, but wherever God appoints me, like John the Baptist, I will stand for justice until my death.

My Prayer

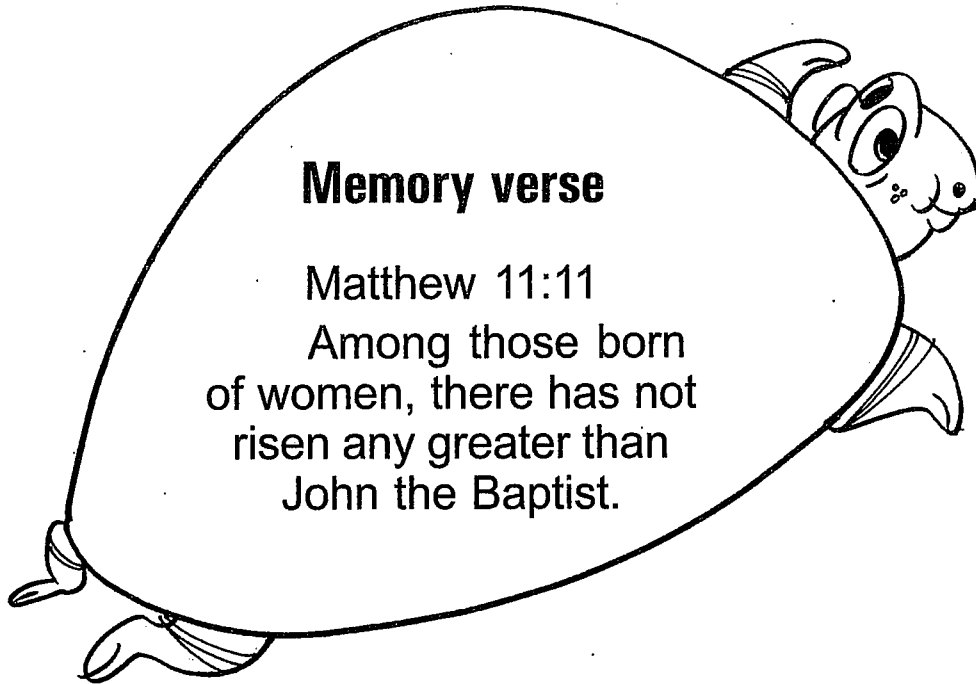
Oh Lord, let me stand for your justice, till
the day you allow me to live on this earth,
Amen.



Memory verse

Matthew 11:11

Among those born
of women, there has not
risen any greater than
John the Baptist.



QUESTIONS

1. What are the characteristics of John the Baptist?
2. How was John the Baptist killed?
3. Who asked for the head of John the Baptist to Herod?
4. Why was Herod afraid of John the Baptist?

Among the following what was lacking in John.

☐

love

☐

awareness of justice

☐

sincereness

☐

fear

☐

happiness

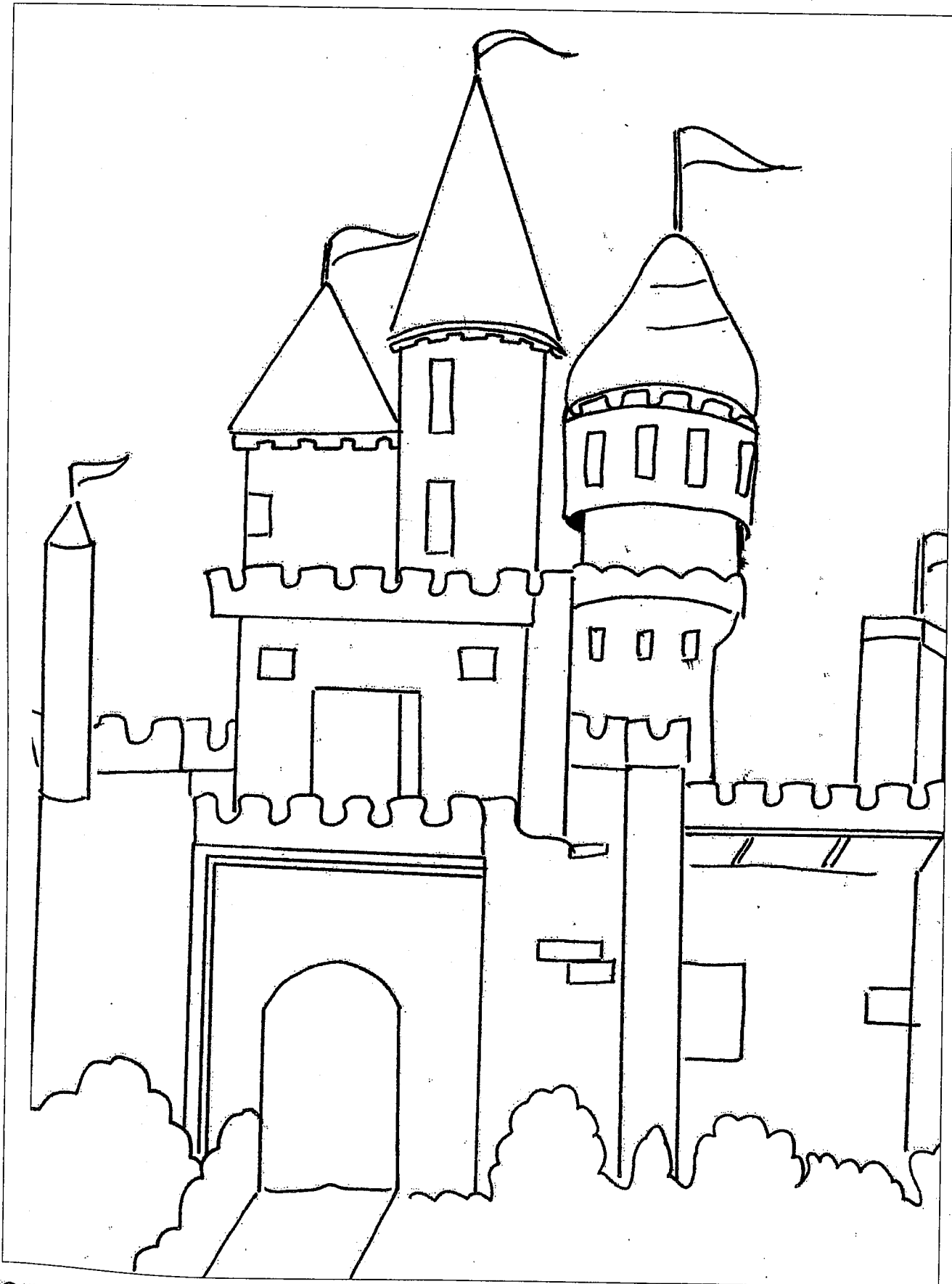
☐

respect

Colour The Picture



Practices



Lesson 23

Visit of Gabriel to Mary

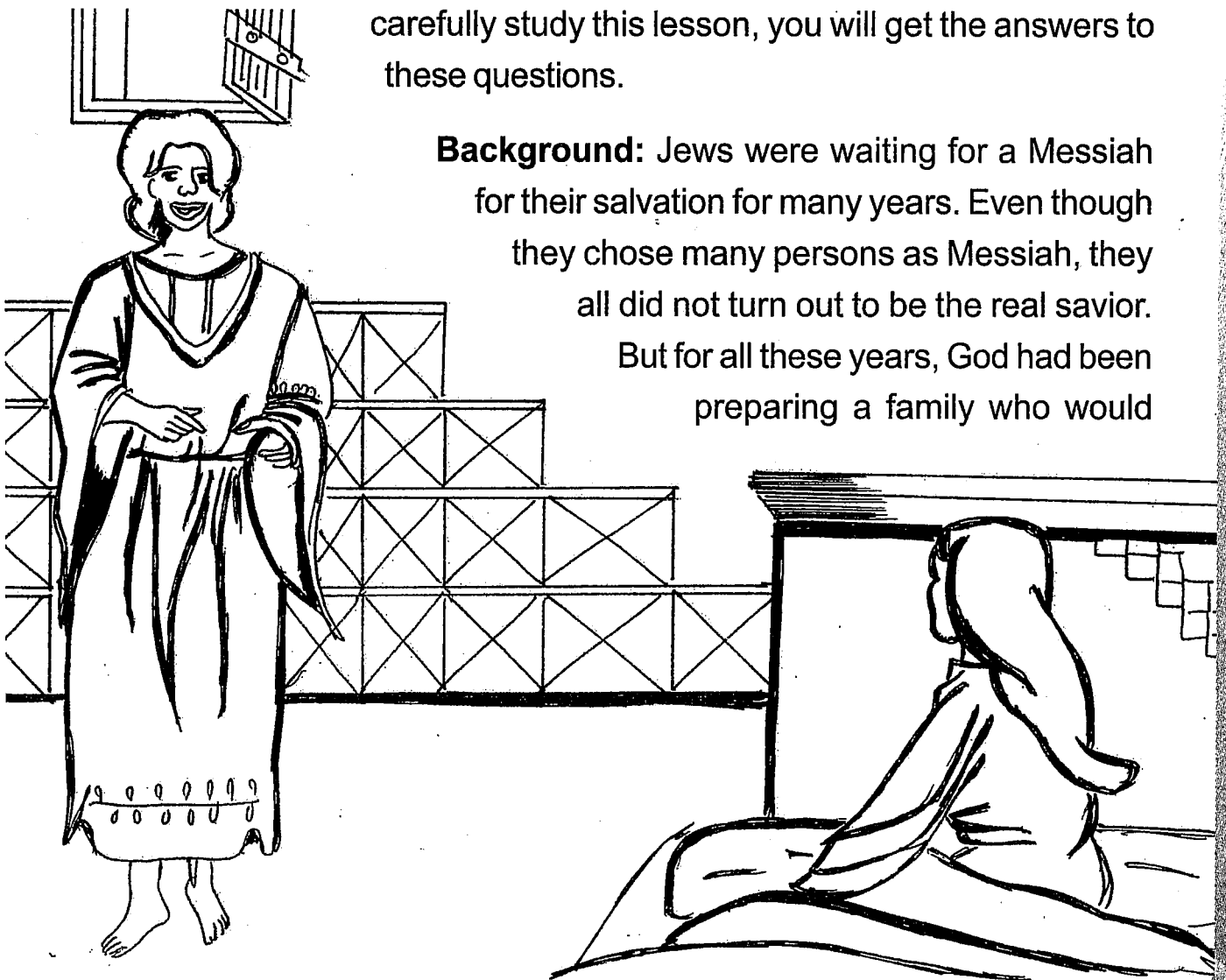
Reference: Luke 1: 26 -38

Lesson Objective: To understand that God requires certain persons to fulfill his works. And to those who are chosen for that God reveals everything that he has planned to do. Our response at that time is very important.

Aim: Have any one of you ever wished to know about what is going to happen in the future? However, God has not given man the power of seeing the future. But at some circumstances God shows his men what is going to happen for fulfilling his plans. If so, how will God show us the future? If you

carefully study this lesson, you will get the answers to these questions.

Background: Jews were waiting for a Messiah for their salvation for many years. Even though they chose many persons as Messiah, they all did not turn out to be the real savior. But for all these years, God had been preparing a family who would

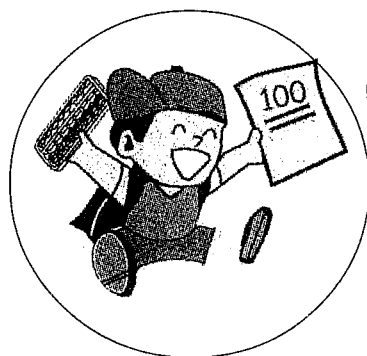


give God a chance to bring the Savior to earth.

Explanation: In the city of Nazareth, Joseph who was in the tribe of David was engaged to a lady named Mary. There was nothing unusual about it. But few days before the marriage, an Angel named Gabriel appeared before Mary and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at these words and wondered what kind of greetings this might be. But the Angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the son of the most high. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end". But Mary doubtfully asked the angel, "How can this happen? Since I am a virgin". The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you. So the Holy one to be born will be called the son of God". Mary fully believed the message of God given through the Angel and said, "I am the Lord's servant, May it be to me as you have said". Suddenly the Angel disappeared. Mary kept the things that happened in her mind and waited for the fulfillment of the word.

Practical Lesson

God speak to persons through different mediums; Through the Holy Bible, through prophets, through situations, through incidents, God can also send one of his angels to us. That may be something that is going to happen in the future, but that would be linked to the plan of God. Whichever way it may be, the response we give to God is of most importance. God will do great things through you, if you submit yourself for his will like Mary who surrendered herself before God's plan without thinking of further problems that she might face.



My Decision

I will submit myself for God's plan to be fulfilled through me without doubting his words and refusing it.

My Prayer

God, let me believe in the word you say
about the future without doubting in you and
help me to surrender myself and let it happen
in your way, Amen.



Memory verse

Luke 1:2

In the sixth month God, send
the angel Gabriel to Nazareth,
a town in Galilee.

QUESTIONS

1. Name of the Angel who appeared before Mary?
2. What did Angel say to Mary?
3. Who was engaged to Mary?
4. What was Mary's reply to the Angel?

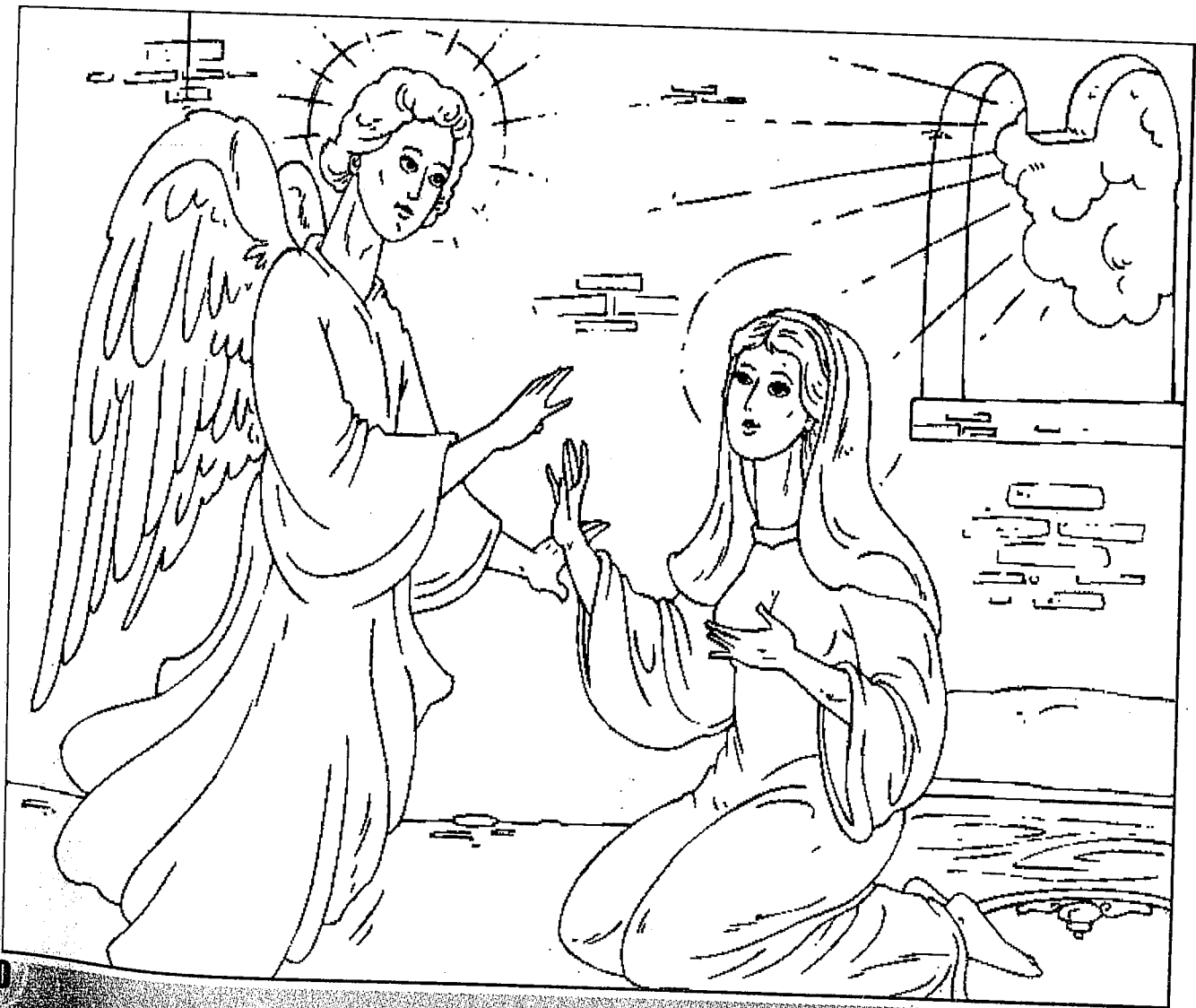
Mark the reaction when God talks to you?



Practices

- ☐ I may co-operate sometimes.
- ☐ No, I have other desires
- ☐ There is lot of time so we can react later
- ☐ Let it be according to your wish Lord.
- ☐ I have no idea about that
- ☐ It won't happen like that

Colour The Picture



Lesson 24

Birth of Jesus, the fulfillment of a promise

Reference: Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Aim: To increase the faith in God by explaining the birth of the world Savior, Jesus Christ.

Introduction: Have your parents or your friends promised you anything? Have they been able to fulfill all the promises given to you? Some of them have to be reminded many times in order to get it fulfilled. But in this lesson we will be learning about a different situation. About the fulfillment of God's promise precisely.

Background: Gabriel appeared before Mary and explained about the birth of Jesus and Mary submitted herself to god. But things were not easy after



that. Before the birth of Jesus, few things happened.

Explanation: After the visit of the Angel, as per the promise of God, she conceived a child in her womb by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, who came to know that the woman who was his future was pregnant, planned to reject her. But in a dream, God appeared to Joseph and said, "Do not hesitate to her as your wife, she is conceived by the Holy Spirit. It is the will of God, so accept her".

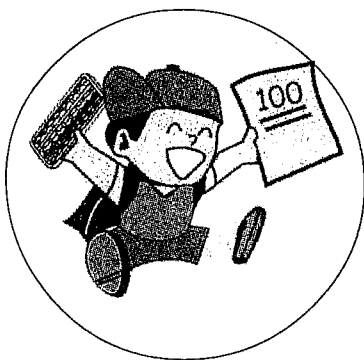
In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. So Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem because he belonged to the house and family line of David. He took Mary with him.

When they reached Bethlehem, the time came for the child to be born. They knocked at many inns and houses for a place to give birth to the baby. But nobody gave them a place. They were tired, both mentally and physically to go further. As for Mary, she was about to give birth.

At that very night, she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger because there was no room in the inn. For no one to say that they provided the shelter for the Savior of world, the king of kings was born poorest among the poor. The bible says, "who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death- even death on a cross.

Practical Lesson

You don't need to wait for the fulfillment of God's promise for very long as he would fulfill it in the right time itself. But we should submit our self and pay the price of complete faith.

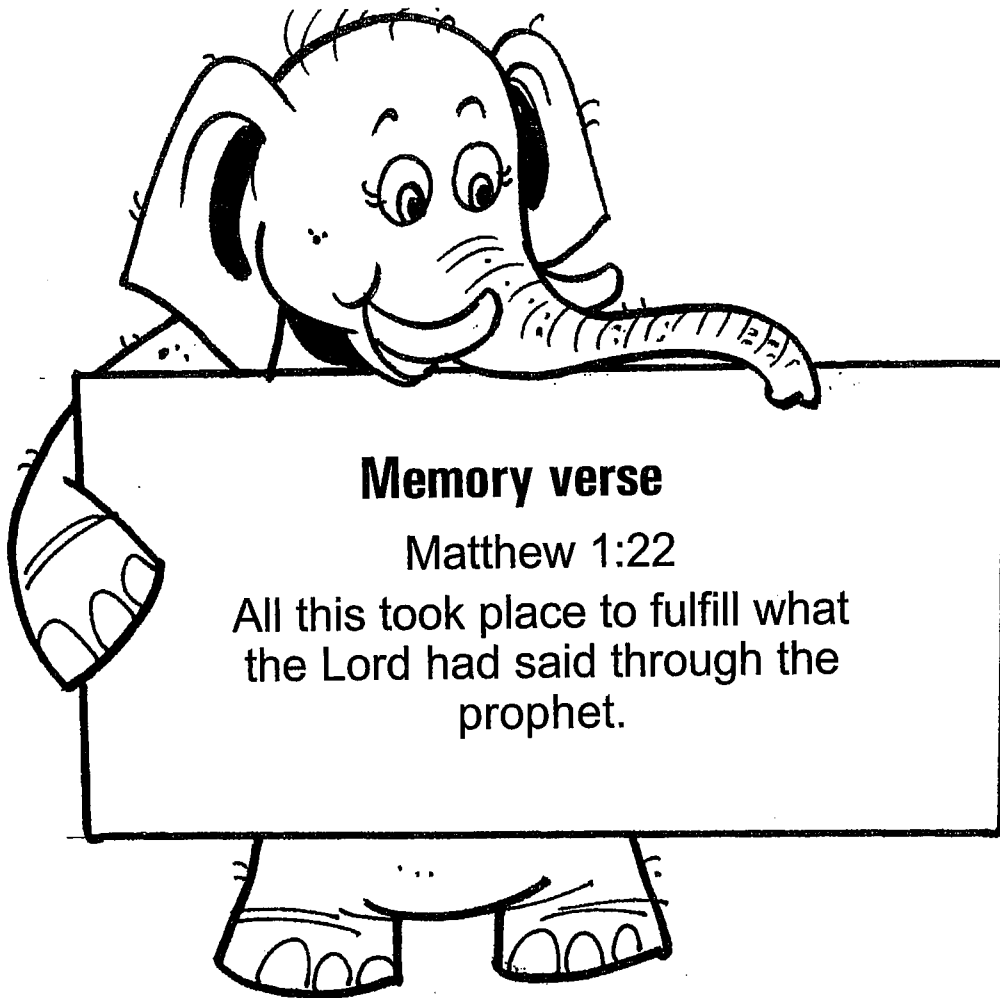
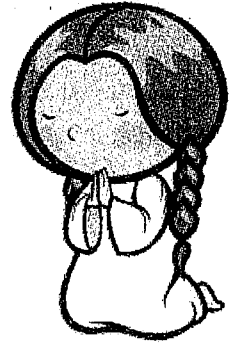


My Decision

I will wait and receive the promise given by the God with faith.

My Prayer

God, help me to receive and stand firm in the promise given by you and help me to believe in it and wait for its fulfillment, Amen.



Memory verse

Matthew 1:22

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet.

QUESTIONS

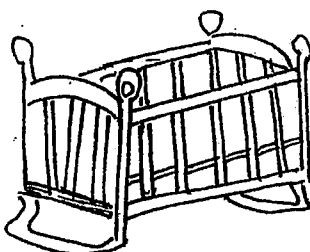
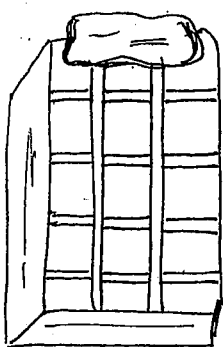
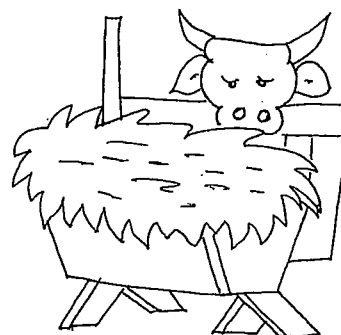
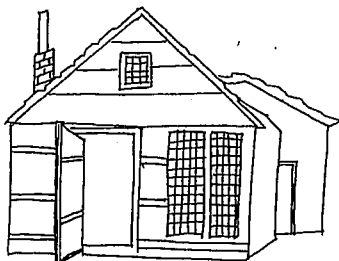
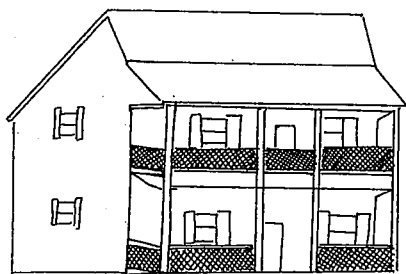
1. Who ordered to take the census of the people?
2. In which city was Jesus born?
3. Where did they lay Jesus?
4. To which family line did Joseph belong?
5. What is the meaning of the word 'Immanuel'?

Find out the place which Maria and Joseph kept Jesus Christ?

- ☐ in bed ☐ in cradle ☐ in manger
☐ in house ☐ in an inn.



Practices



Colour The Picture



Lesson 25

Visit of Magies: God's vision fulfilled

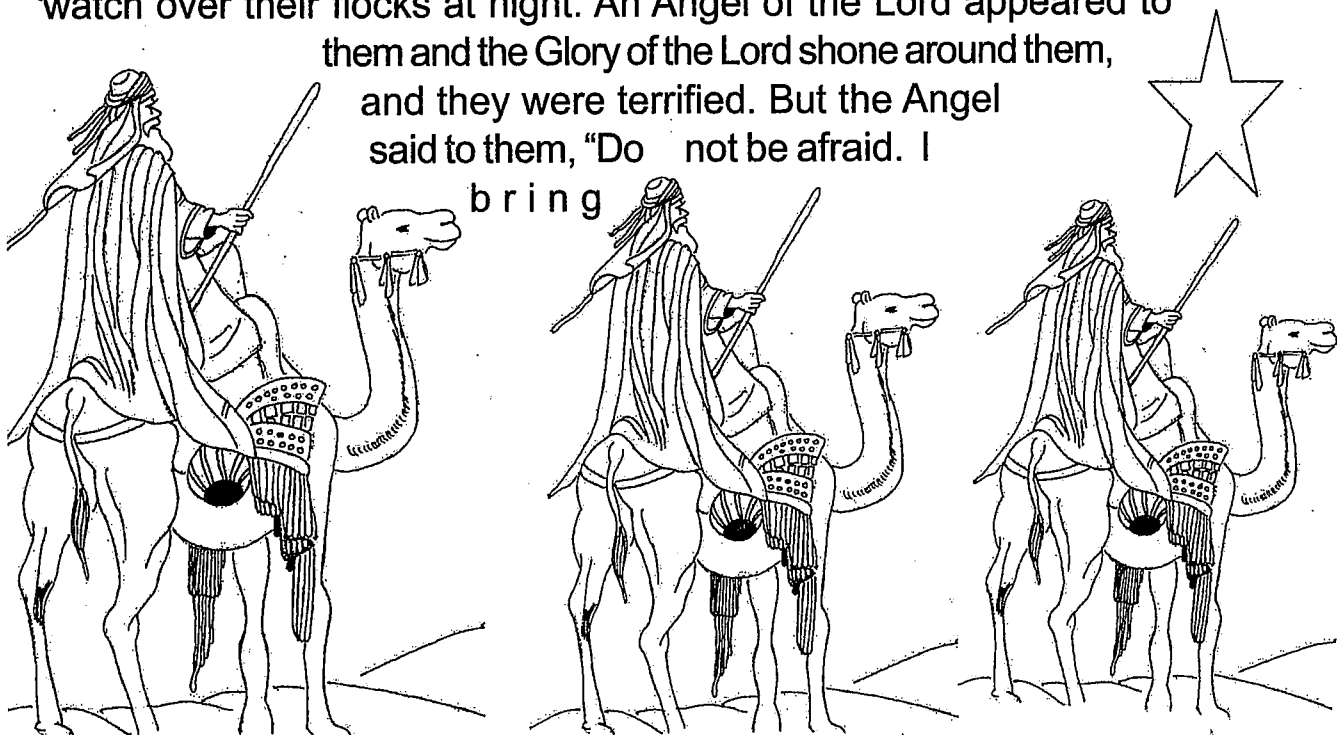
Reference: Luke 2: 8- 20; Matthew 2:1-12

Aim: To understand that though Jesus is called as son of man because he was born as a human child in reality he was not an ordinary human child. So that children would receive Jesus as real God instead of thinking that, he is an ordinary human child.

Introduction: Don't we visit our friends or relatives houses to see a newborn child? We do not go because of an assumption that a child might have born but somebody might have informed us that news. But it is rare that God directly inform to someone that one child has born and to visit him. Today's lesson is about one of such kind.

Background: There are through many persons in different places God foretold that one person would be born as a saviour to the world and he would be called as Jesus. Many years before his birth, God said through the prophets that He would be born in Bethlehem. As a fulfillment of that prophecy, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Explanation: There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An Angel of the Lord appeared to them and the Glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the Angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring



you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in the Manger". Suddenly a large group of Angels also appeared and sang a beautiful hymn, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests". Therefore, it was the poorest among poor who first came to know the birth of Jesus.

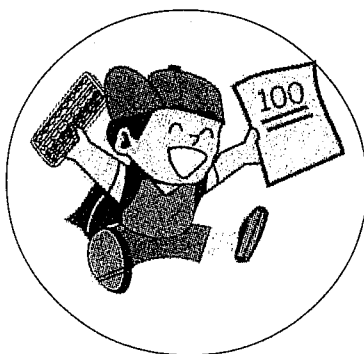
At the same time, Magi from east decided to go and visit the child. To show them the way to the manger, there appeared a star before them. They set off seeing the star. They thought that the child would be born in the palace and they went to Herod. They asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him". When Herod heard this, he was upset. Therefore, he called together all the people's chief priest and teachers of the law; he asked them where the Christ was to be born. They replied that he would be in Bethlehem in Judea. Herod secretly called the Magi and said, "Go and make careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him".

Wise men, who came to know that Jesus was not in the palace, continued their journey. The star that went ahead of them appeared to them again and went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where Jesus was. Thus after seeing the child, they were happy. They bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

When the wise men were ready to return, they were warned not to go back to Herod, in their dream. Thus, they returned to their country by another route. God sent the wise men through a different way because he knew that Herod would consider the Child to be a threat to his throne and would try to kill the child.

Practical Lesson

Jesus was not any ordinary child. Prophets prophesied his birth even long before he was born, shepherds, and wise men came from long distances to bowed and worshipped him knowing about the birth of Christ. All these points out that Jesus is God.

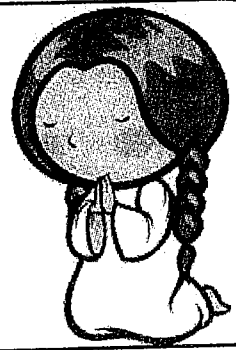


My Decision

Whoever opposes, I will believe that Jesus is the only real God and Savior.

My Prayer

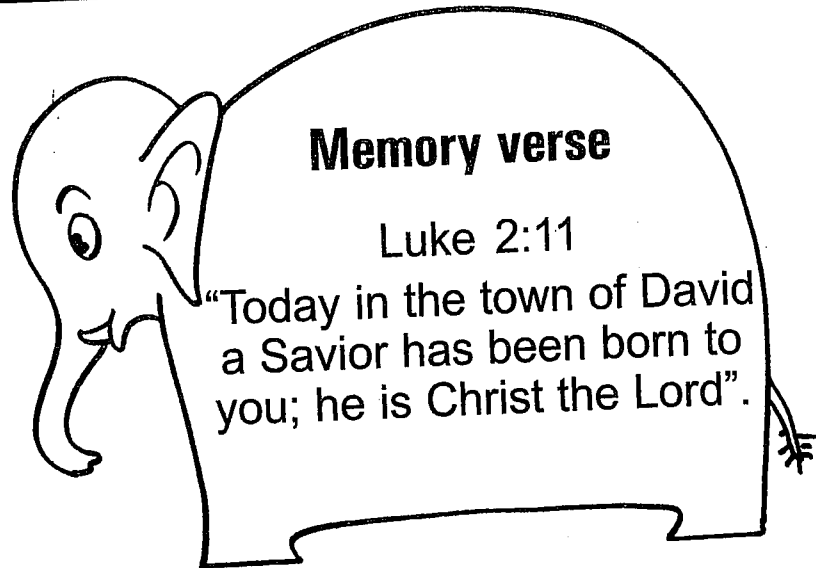
Lord, give me the strength and your grace
to have firm faith in Jesus Christ, Amen.



Memory verse

Luke 2:11

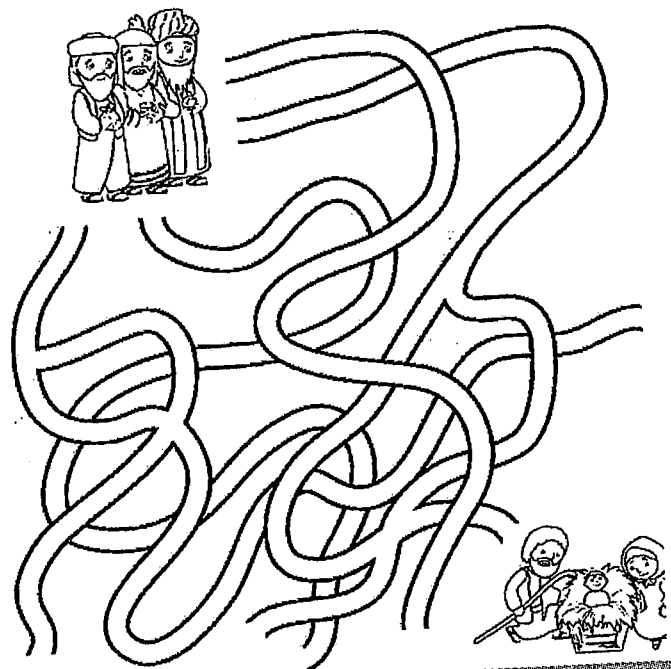
"Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to
you; he is Christ the Lord".



QUESTIONS

1. How did the wise men know about the birth of Jesus Christ?
2. What gifts did the wise men give to Jesus?
3. For whom was Jesus born?
4. Who came to know about the birth of Jesus first?

Show the way for wise men
to reach Jesus





Practices



Lesson 26

Simeon and Hannah: waited for the fulfillment of promise

Reference: Luke 2:22-28

Aim: We should be ready to wait for the fulfillment of the promise given by the God believing in the fact that if God promises, he will surely fulfill it.

Introduction: Some of you might have the nature of writing a diary. Every day they write down everything that happens in day so that they won't forget them. If someone has promised them something, they would write that down and they would turn over that very page everyday, read it, and wait for the person to fulfill that promise. Not only men, even God gives promises. Some promises may be fulfilled very soon and some may take time. In this lesson, let us learn about two persons who were waiting for such a promise to be fulfilled.

Background: According to law given to Israelites by God, every firstborn son should be cleansed in the Lord. For the same, they used



to dedicate the child bringing him to the church. Even though Jesus was born to earth as the son of God, as his earthly parents were Jews, they had to follow this custom.

Explanation: His parents brought Jesus to the Temple. At that time, two persons were present in the temple; Simeon and Hannah the prophetess. They lived a holy life. Simeon believed that one Savior would be born to comfort and save Israel. The Holy Spirit confirmed him that he would not die before he sees the Savior. He lived a long life.

God had informed Simeon about the visit about the visit of Jesus to the temple with his parents and the Holy Spirit guided him to the temple. According to the law, they brought the child to dedicate. Simeon entered the temple, took the child, praised God, and said, "Now let your servant leave, Lord, According to thy word, in peace". He continued, "For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all peoples; A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people of Israel". Jesus' parents were amazed because of what he said.

Another witness of the dedication of Jesus at the temple was Hannah the prophetess. She became a widow after living with her family for 7 years and then lived in the church for 84 years with prayer and fasting. Hannah too praised God with Simeon. For them who waited their whole life to see the Savior, God fulfilled the promise given to them. So they took Jesus in their hands and praised God aloud.

Practical Lesson

This experience can happen to all those who love and serve God earnestly. Wait for the promises of God. Sooner or later, your promise will be fulfilled.

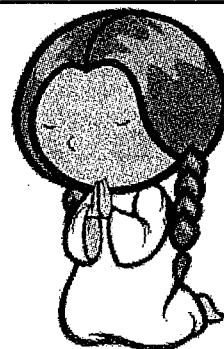


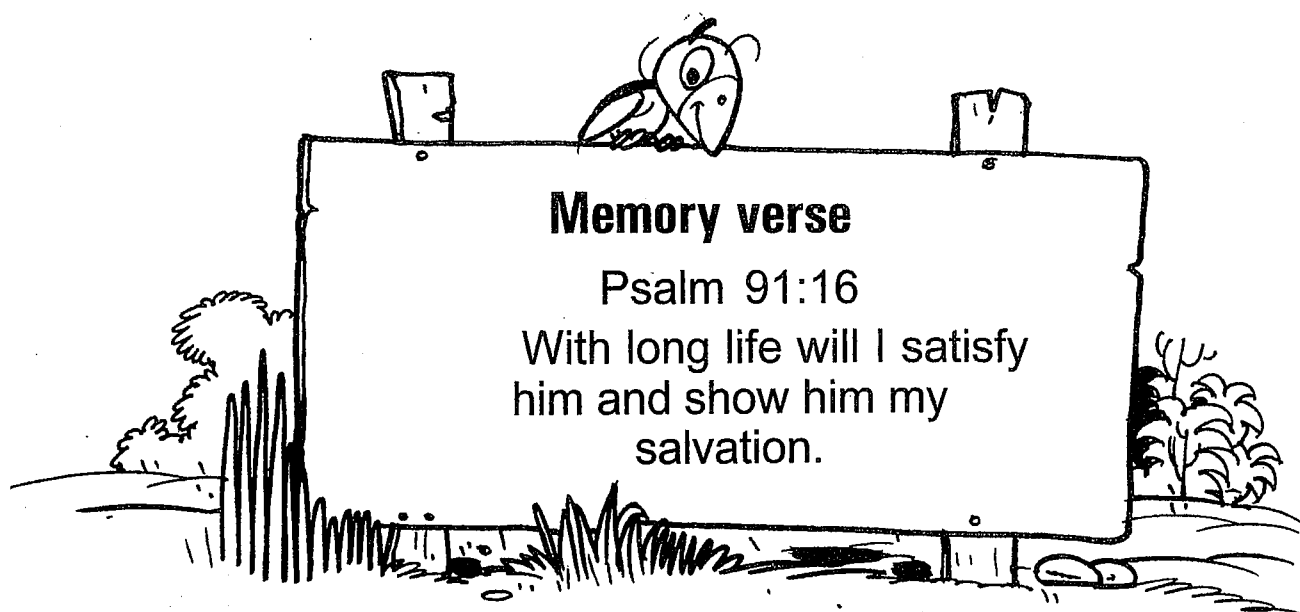
My Decision

I will remember, wait, and pray for the fulfillment of the promises given by the God, until they are fulfilled.

My Prayer

Lord, give me promises, and help me to wait for the fulfillment of it with prayer, Amen.

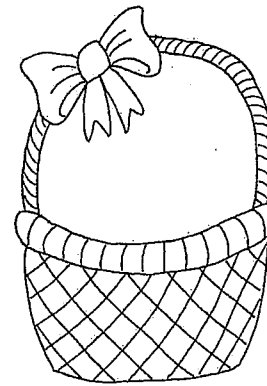
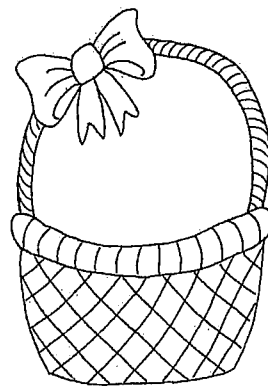
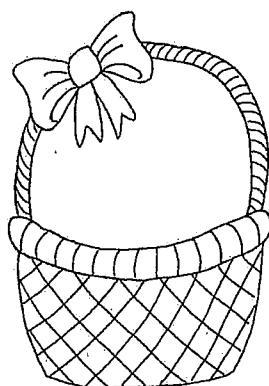
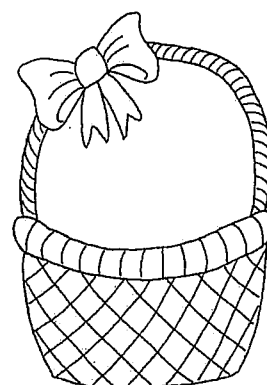
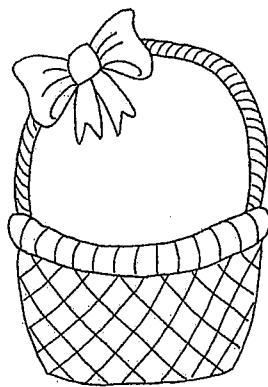
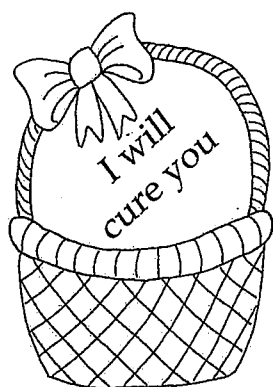




QUESTIONS

1. What does the law insist in the lesson?
2. Who were present in the temple when Jesus was brought?
3. How did Simeon live?
4. Describe Hannah.

Write down and paste the promises of God given in Bible in the baskets given below



Colour The Picture



Lesson 27

The child Jesus in the temple

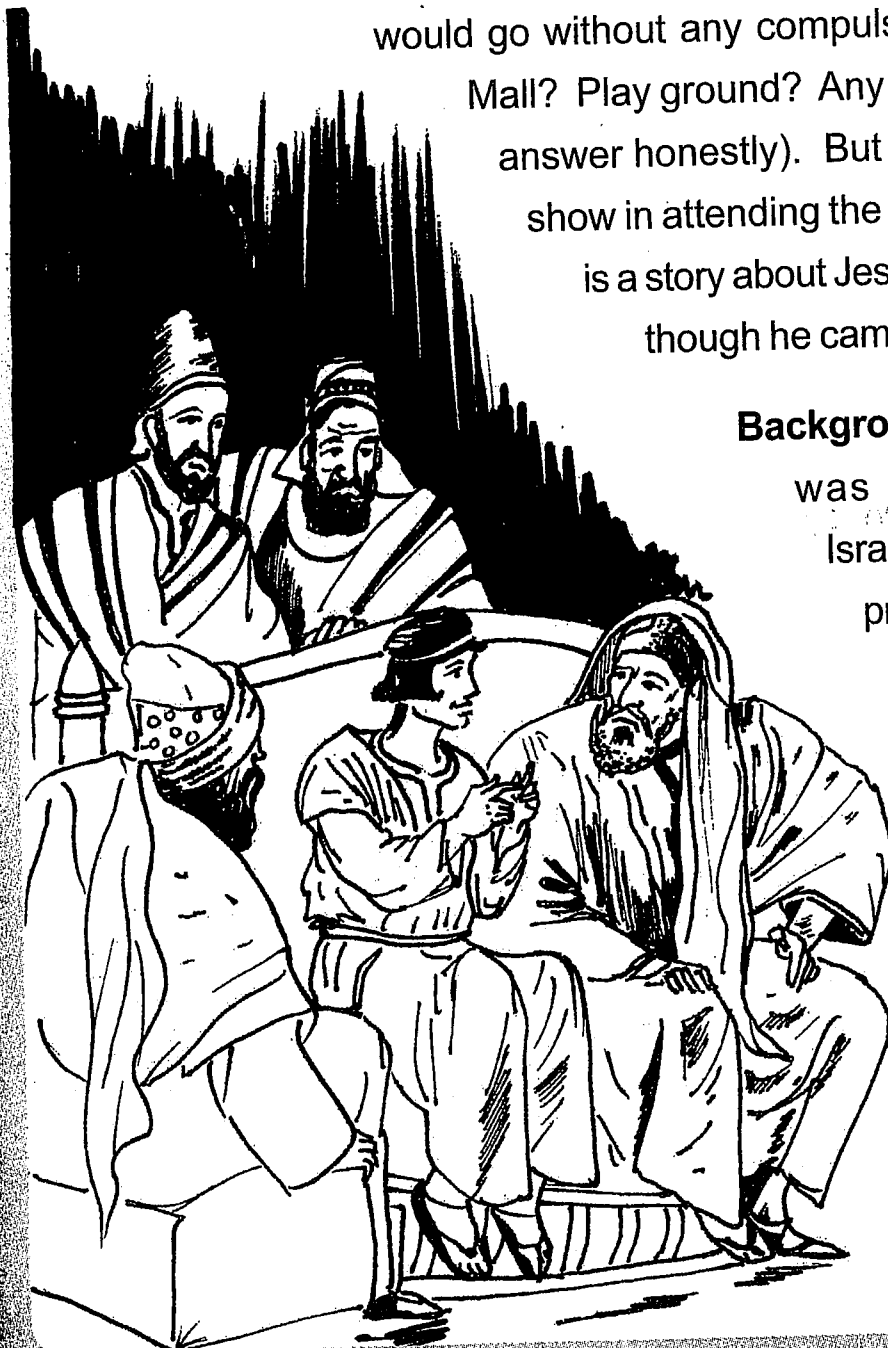
Reference: Luke 2:41-52

Aim: To make an interest in attending the church activities regularly, by knowing that it is very important even for the children.

Introduction: Which is your favorite place to visit, where you would go without any compulsion? School? Shopping Mall? Play ground? Any other place? (Let children answer honestly). But how much interest do you show in attending the church? Why is it so? Here is a story about Jesus, visiting the church, even though he came from Heaven.

Background: The feast of Passover was very important to the Israelites. At that time there was practice of going to the temple with the family to attend the feast.

Explanation: Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the Temple along with his other relatives. They had to travel for two days to reach the temple. After reaching, they attended the prayer and worship service. As this was the



festival where thousands gathered, the place was crowded. After the crowd calmed, Jesus' parents left the place with happiness. After traveling one day far. They realized that Jesus was missing.

Mary and Joseph who were worried travelled back to the Temple. When they reached the Temple, they saw Jesus, who was only 12 years, sitting with the scribes and scholars. They were astounded to see this because only scholars can debate with scribes and Priests in the temple. They were also amazed in the scholarly performance of Jesus.

Mary who reached the temple worried and tired said to Jesus, "Son why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been worried about you. We have been looking for you everywhere". Jesus replied, "Didn't you know I had to be in my father's house?" then he went back to Nazareth with them and was submissive unto them until he started his public ministry at the age of thirty.

Practical Lesson

Leaving the thoughts of his parents and his relatives behind, Jesus took time to meditate and discuss with teachers in the temple. Some people attend the church only after all their personal matters are over. But Jesus teaches us, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness'. From the very childhood itself may God give you an interest to participate in the church activities.

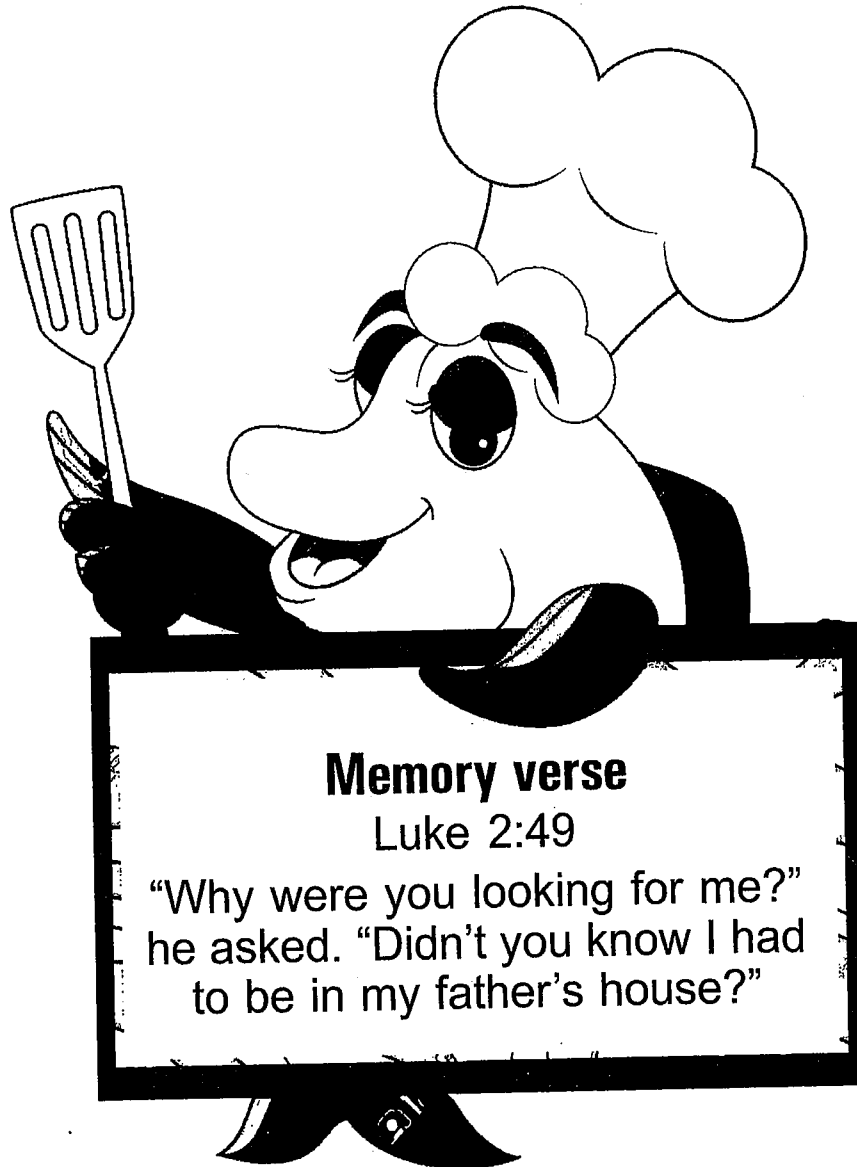
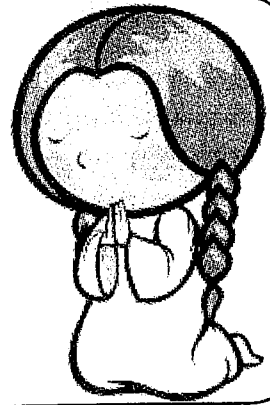


My Decision

I will give importance to the church activities than I give to any other things. And I will attend the worship and prayer meetings regularly.

My Prayer

Lord, help me to attend the regular activities of the church faithfully without neglecting it.



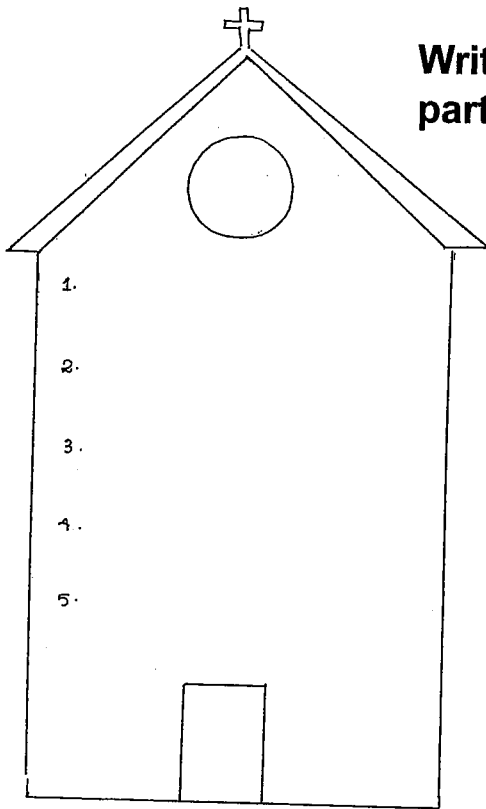
Memory verse

Luke 2:49

"Why were you looking for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my father's house?"

QUESTIONS

1. What was Jesus doing in the Temple?
2. How many days did they travel without Jesus?
3. Why were they amazed to hear Jesus talking with the Scholars in the temple?
4. For which feast did Jesus go to the temple with his parents?



Write down the Things in which you participate at church.



Practices

Colour The Picture



Lesson 28

Baptism of Jesus



Reference: Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21, 22

Aim: To teach the importance of Baptism and make them have interest in taking Baptism.

Introduction: What are the procedures to be completed in order to go to any other countries? Can you just simply go to another country? Never;

Passport, Visa, Ticket, and other documents are needed. In the same way to enter into the kingdom of God, there are certain procedures to be followed. Just like the rules of our country, this too is very important. Jesus, who came down to earth from heaven, is the one who showed us by becoming a model.

Background: John the Baptist has been preaching about baptism of repentance on the banks of Jordan River and many were baptized under him. One of those days, he introduced Jesus to the public and said, "He will baptize on fire and Holy Spirit".

Explanation: As the time for Jesus to begin his ministry arrived, he approached John the Baptist to be baptized. But John forbade Jesus by saying, "I need to be baptized by you and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now, it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness". Then John baptized Jesus in Jordan river. The place where John the Baptist had been baptizing is called Aenon where there deep water. Because for immerse baptism more water was required. Jesus was also baptized in the same way. When he came out of water, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a Dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my son, whom I love with you I am well pleased". Including John, everyone was amazed at this.

Practical Lesson

After his baptism, Jesus himself taught his disciples about the baptism. "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit". It is very important in baptism that the whole body should be brought under the water, and that it should be in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Later Christian churches gave a lot of importance to baptism and it continues even today. In baptism we identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and also it is a part of the requirement for us to be saved. The details about baptism is written in Romans 6:1-4.

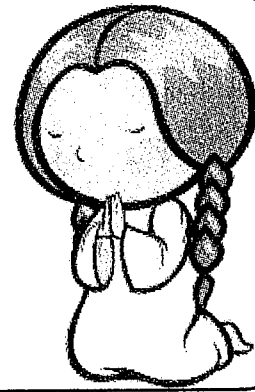


My Decision

I believe in baptism which was taught by John, showed by Jesus and followed by the apostles. I also want to be baptized.

My Prayer

Oh Lord Jesus, help me to be baptized
and to continue a real Christian life, Amen.



Memory verse

Matthew 3:16

As soon as Jesus was baptized,
he went up out of the water. At that,
moment heaven was open and he saw
the Spirit of God descending like dove
and lighting on him.

QUESTIONS

1. What did John say about Jesus?
2. What did John say to Jesus when he came to be baptized?
3. What did Jesus tell John?
4. What is the need of baptism?
5. What happened while Jesus was baptized?

What was the type of Baptism Jesus Christ adopted?

☐

pouring water through head

☐

by immersing in the river

☐

beneath the flag

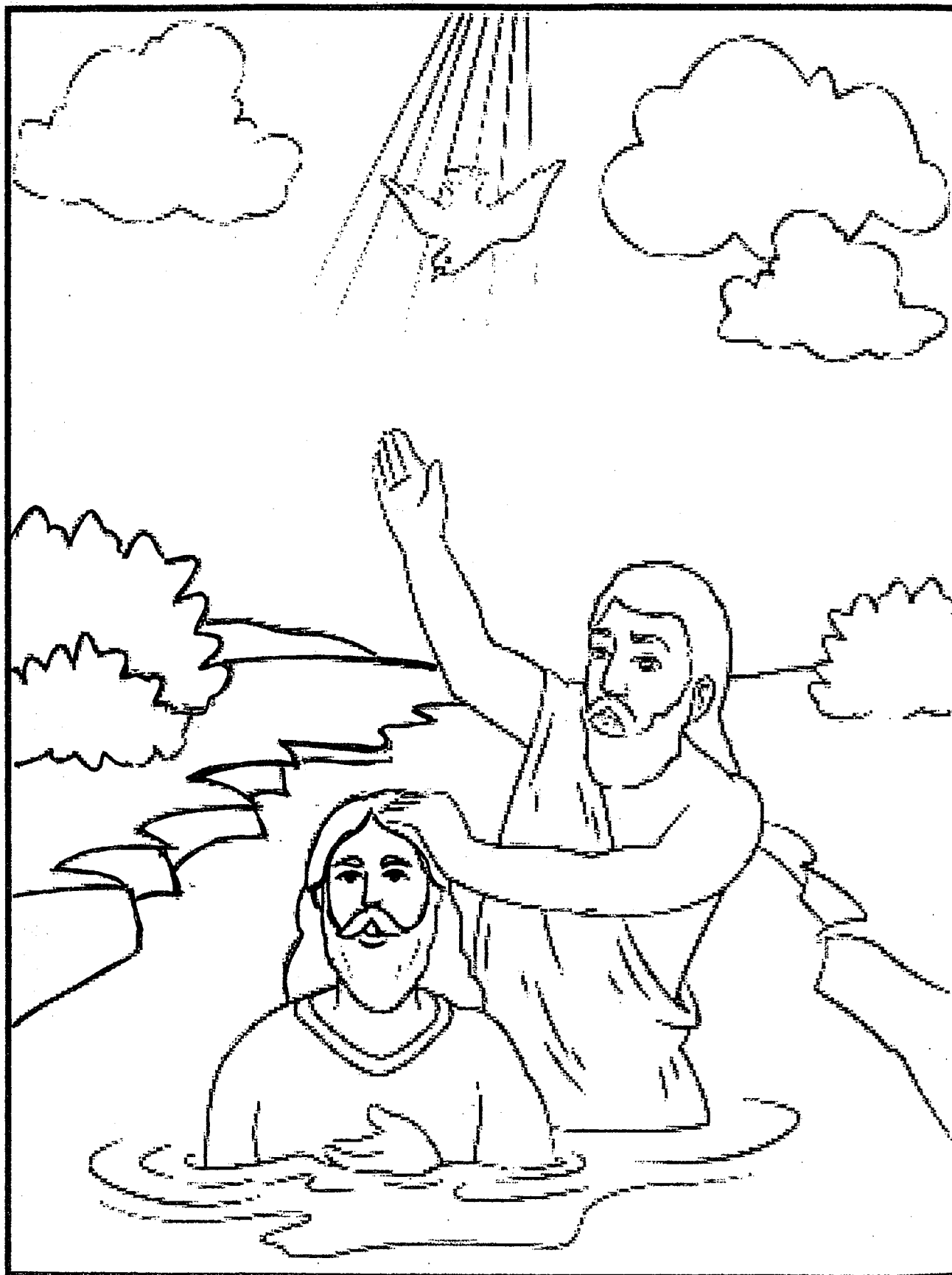
☐

when he was a baby

Colour The Picture



Practices



Lesson 29

The temptations of Jesus Christ

Reference: Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13

Aim: To enable the children to overcome the temptations that they might face in their Christian life.

Introduction: Imagine that you are participating in a athletic meet and you



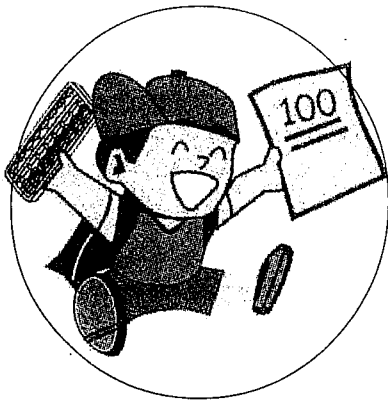
are running on the track, hoping for a prize. But your opponent is distracting you. What would they do to have your attention out of the track? Waving their hands, jumping before you, showing ice cream to attract you and thus divert you. In the same way to distract our Christian life, Satan may use many tricks, it can be called as temptations. Let us learn about how Jesus was tempted by Satan.

Background: After baptism, Jesus went to the wilderness. Wilderness is a silent place where there are no disturbances. Jesus spend 40 days in the wilderness without food.

Explanation: Being a complete human being, Jesus felt hunger after the fast of forty days. At this situation, Satan approached Jesus to tempt him. He showed a stone and said to Jesus, "If you are the son of God, tell these stones to become bread". Jesus replied, "It is written: man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God". Jesus did not obey the words of Satan. Seeing that his first attempt failed, Satan took Jesus to the Holy City and had him stand on the highest point of the temple and said, "If you are the son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written: 'he will command his Angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone'". Jesus replied, "It is also written: Do not put the Lord your God to the test". Again Satan took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their luxuries and said, "All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me". Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'worship the Lord your God, and serve him only'". Then Satan left him and the Angels came and served him.

Practical Lesson

Jesus is a complete God, but for our salvation, he came down as a complete human being. Even though Satan tried to tempt him, he could win over it. We might also face similar situations. Satan may not tempt us directly but might be through tempting us to take something that is not ours, may be by tempting us to copy in the exam to get higher marks. In these situations, like Jesus, we should win over the temptations by saying, "Satan, go away from me". If so your whole life will be a blessing. Instead if you work according to the wishes of Satan, it will be a failure for you in the future.

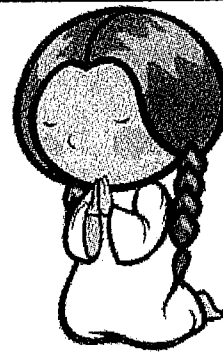


My Decision

Whatever temptations Satan bring to me, I will overcome them by the word and by the grace of God.

My Prayer

Oh Lord, help me to overcome the temptations of Satan in my day today life.



Memory verse

James 4:7

Submit yourself, then to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

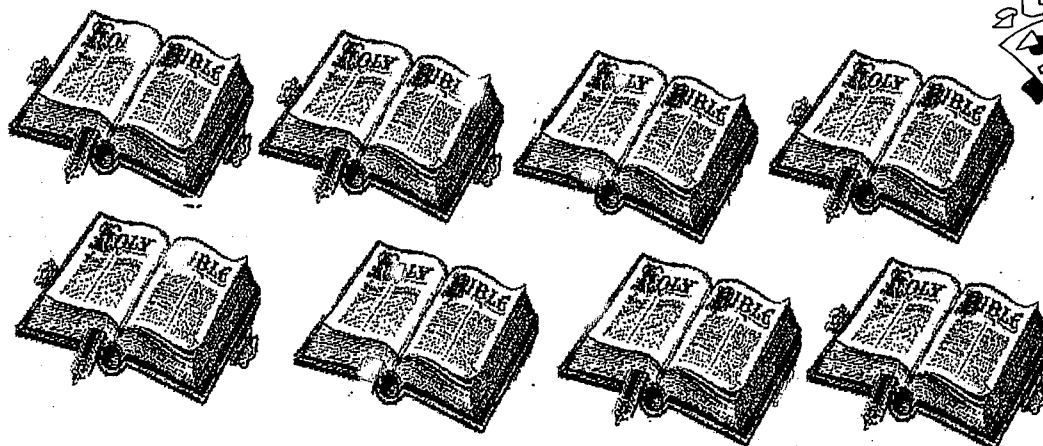
QUESTIONS

1. When did Satan approach Jesus?
2. What was the first temptation and how did Jesus win over it?
3. What was the second temptation of Jesus?
4. What was the third temptation and how did Jesus overcome it?
5. How many days did Jesus fast before the temptations occurred?

Find out the two bibles which are different from others



Practices



Colour The Picture



Lesson 30

Jesus chooses the disciples

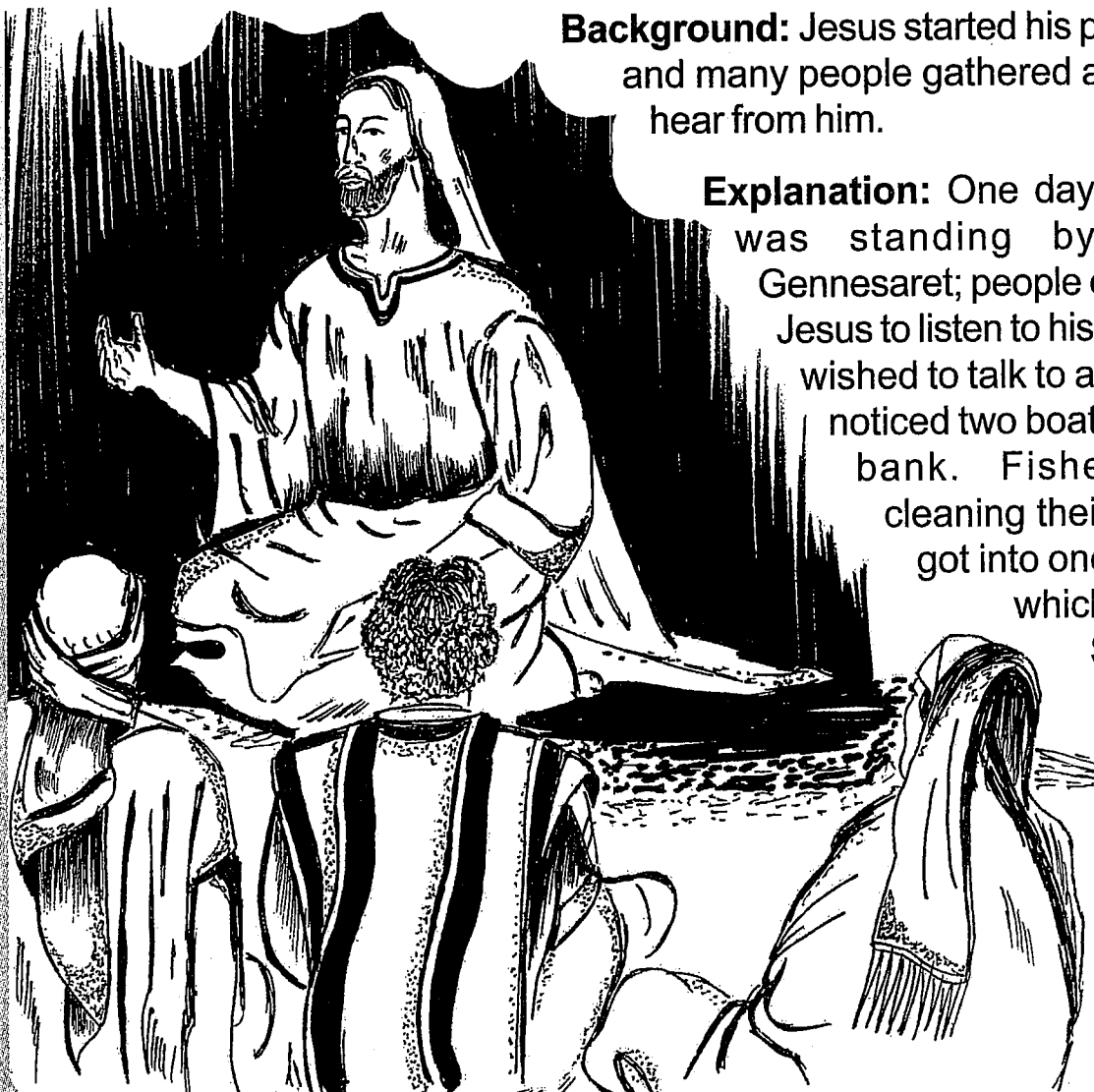
Reference: Luke 5:1-11; Mark 1: 16-20

Aim: To understand the importance of Discipleship through the story of Jesus and his disciples and thus to become his disciples.

Introduction: Have any one of you been selected for any sports team. It is not easy to be selected in the national and international sports teams. Only a handful of them are selected, because they are obliged to keep up the name and fame of their school. If you are selected, you will have to diet, practice, and exercise and do many things to prove their fitness. Today we will be learning the about how Jesus selected his disciples who were also known as the Apostles.

Background: Jesus started his public ministry and many people gathered around him to hear from him.

Explanation: One day while Jesus was standing by the lake Gennesaret; people crowded near Jesus to listen to his words. Jesus wished to talk to all of them. He noticed two boats lying on the bank. Fishermen were cleaning their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats which belonged to Simon. And he pleaded him to move a little into the lake. From the boat, Jesus addressed



the people. After that, Jesus said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch". Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night and haven't caught anything but because you say so, I will let down the nets."

Obedying the words of Jesus, they let down the net and caught a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they called friends of other boat to come and help them and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. Seeing this Simon fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful man". Because he and his friends were astonished at catch of fish. Friends of Simon, James, John, the sons of Zebedee were there. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid, from now on you will catch men".

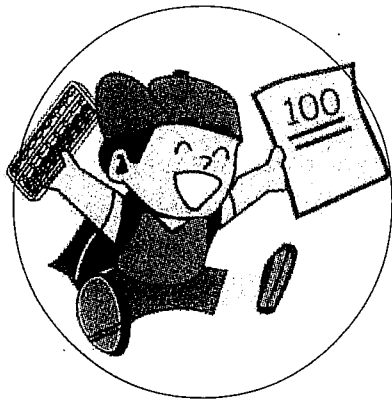
Without any delay, Simon and his friends drew the net to the shore, left everything, and followed Jesus. Thus, Jesus chose his first disciples who were Simon, James, and John. To be with him, and propagate his word to the world he selected nine more disciples and appointed them as Apostles.

The 12 Disciples of Jesus

1. Simon Peter
2. His brother Andrew
3. James the son of Zebedee
4. His brother John
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew
7. Thomas
8. Matthew
9. James the son of Alphaeus
10. Thaddaeus
11. Simon the Cananaean
12. Judas Iscariot

Practical Lesson:

These disciples of Jesus went around the world and preached about Jesus. They believed and obeyed Jesus fully and left everything they had. How much was their dedication. Do you want to become a good disciple of Jesus? He is waiting for your answer.

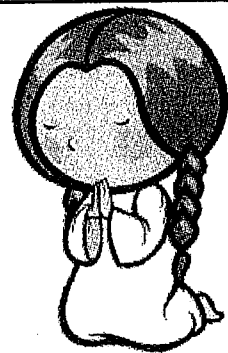


My Decision

I dedicate myself to become a disciple of Jesus.

My Prayer

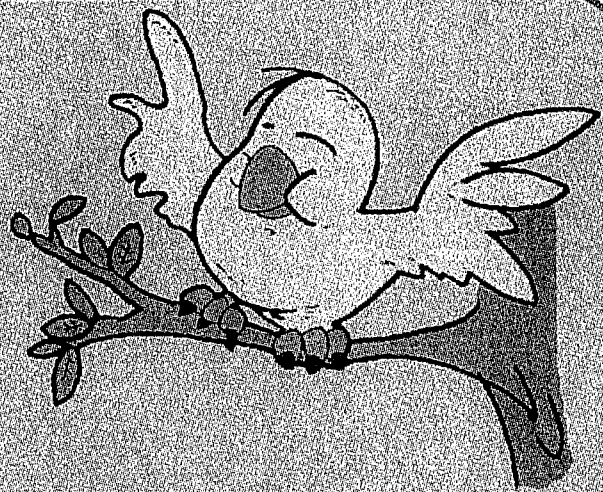
Oh Lord Jesus, accept me too as one of your disciples, Amen.



Memory verse

Matthew 4:19

Come follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men.



QUESTIONS

1. At the bank of which river did Jesus stand?
2. In whose boat did Jesus enter?
3. What happened when Simon obeyed the words of Jesus?
4. How many disciples did Jesus have? Who were they?
5. Who were the first disciple to be called.

Writ the
names of 12
disciples

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12



Colour The Picture



Lesson 31

Peter the disciple of Jesus

Reference: John 1:40-42; Mathew 14:24-28; 16:18; John 21:15-23.

Lesson Objective: To realize the cost of being the disciple of Jesus and to submit before God.

Aim: Is there anyone in your society who became famous because of changing his life style? Today we are going to learn about changes in the life of peter who was the disciple of Jesus.

Background: Jesus continued his ministry by choosing his disciples and travelled through different places, and had done many miracles.

Explanation: One day John the Baptist was standing near the Jordan River with his disciples. He saw Jesus and said, "Behold the lamb of God". The two disciples heard this and followed Jesus and they lived with him that day. One of them was Andrew. Andrew went home and told to his brother Simon that he saw the Messiah; means Christ. Since Andrew went with Peter to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said you are the son of Jonah; your name will be Cephas; meaning piece of rock.

This Peter, when he was cleaning his net gave his boat to Jesus for preaching. And he left all his things and



followed Jesus by seeing his miracles.

Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets". Elijah and Jeremiah were the prophets before Jesus lived. The people said so because the works of Jesus resembled the works of the prophets.

Then Jesus turned toward the disciples and asked, "Who do you say I am?" And Simon Peter answered and said, "You the Christ, you are the son of living God". Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my father in heaven". That means Peter got a holy revelation from God.

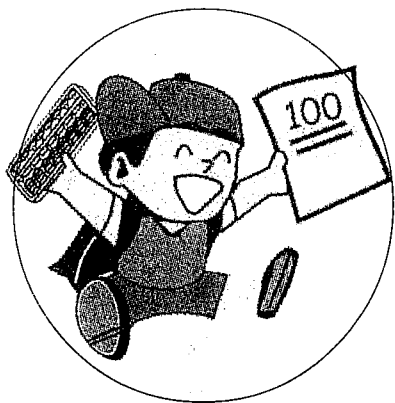
Another day, after he had sent the disciples away in a boat, he went up into the mountain apart to pray. The boat was already a considerable distance from the land, started sinking by the waves because the wind was against it. The boat was about to sink. They were trying to manage the boat. Meanwhile, Jesus was walking on the water to reach the disciples. By seeing this, the disciples were afraid because they thought it was a ghost. Jesus said to them, "don't be afraid, it is I". Peter replied, "If it is you tell me to come to you on water." "Come", Jesus said. By faith, he started walking above the water. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. Right away Jesus reached out his hands and caught him.

Peter became a good disciple of Jesus. But when Jesus was crucified Peter betrayed him by saying, "I don't know who Jesus is". After some time when Peter saw the face of Jesus, he wept because Peter loved Jesus very much. Jesus too loved him.

After the resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples many times. One such fine day, Peter and his friends went back for fishing in the sea of Tiberias. They couldn't catch a single fish even though they fished all night. When it was dawn, Jesus came to the shore and called them, "Children is there anything to eat". They replied sadly, "No". Then they cast their net as per the instruction of Jesus. To their surprise, they caught 153 big fishes. And when they came to the shore, when they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals. There were fishes on it. There was also some bread. After this Jesus asked Simon, "Do you really love me more than these others do?" and he replied, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you". Jesus asked the same question twice more to him. Peter replied with the same answer, but the third time, Peter answered with sadness, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you". Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep". From that day onwards, he became a new man and never went away from God. Not only was that, according to tradition Peter crucified upside down for Jesus.

Practical Lesson:

Peter who was a mere fisherman was transformed because of becoming the disciple of Jesus. Even though he had many flaws in relationship with Jesus, when he was convinced of Jesus in the right way, he offered himself completely. That much dedication is necessary for discipleship.

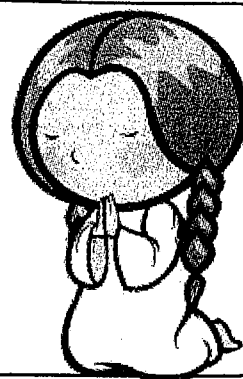


My Decision

I dedicate myself completely as a disciple of Jesus.

My Prayer

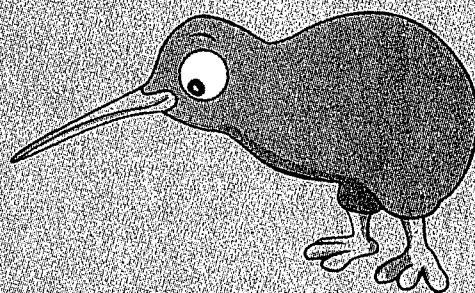
Jesus, make me a faithful disciple of you, Amen.



Memory verse

Deuteronomy 6:5

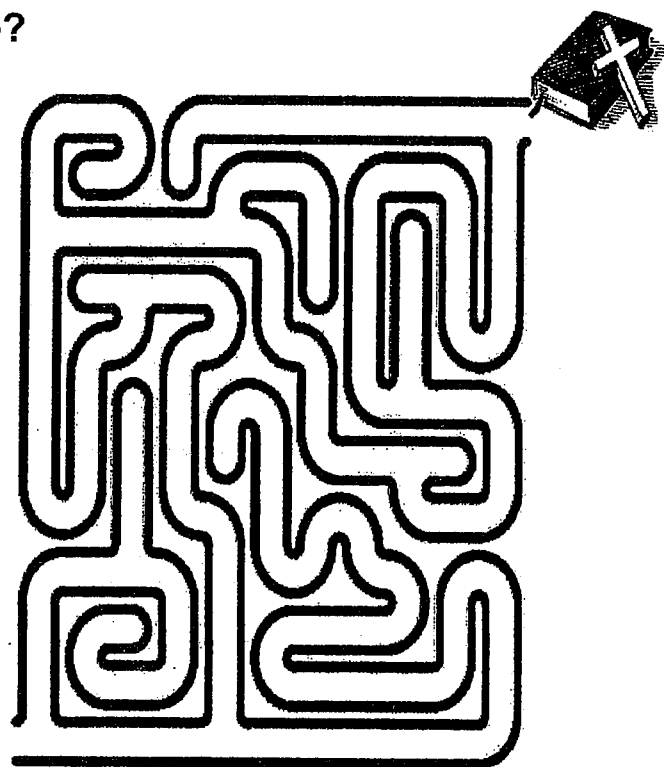
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.



QUESTIONS

1. Whose brother was Peter?
2. What did John the Baptist say about Jesus?
3. What depicted the faith of Peter?
4. What did Jesus ask Peter to test his Love?

Find the way to Bible?



Practices



Colour The Picture



Lesson 32

An Intimate disciple of Jesus

Reference: Mark 1: 16-20; 3:14-17; Matthew 4:21-22; Luke 5:10

Aim: To move more closer to Jesus by knowing that he had intimate disciples.

Introduction: How many friends do you have? Out of them to how many, do you share everything? Some of them may be just friends and may not be much intimate to us. Jesus too had an intimate disciple. Let us see who that was through this lesson.

Background: Jesus had twelve disciples, even though he loved everyone,



in certain situations Jesus took three among them separately; they were Peter, James, and John. Among them John was the most loved one. When Jesus went to rise the daughter of Jairus (mark 5:17), when he went to the mountain of transfiguration (Matthew 17:1), When he went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:37) only these three disciples accompanied him.

Explanation: John was the son of Zebedee and Salome from Bethsaida in Galilee. Fishing was his job. Jacob was his brother. Jesus called John to be his disciple while he was fishing.

John was known as the special disciple of Jesus. It was John's practice to ask questions to Jesus sitting closer to him. At the time of crucifixion, John was the only disciple present beside the cross. Before death, Jesus gave the responsibility of looking after his mother to John.

From the very day of Pentecost, John became the main minister of the church. Peter and John played an important role in the growth of 1st century church. John worked in Ephesus and Jerusalem. Among Apostles only John had a natural death at Ephesus, all other apostles became martyrs for the Lord.

Gospel according to John, three epistles, book of revelation were all written by John. He was also known as the Apostle of Love.

Practical Lesson

John was able to live as the intimate disciple of Jesus Christ. The main reason behind that was his love towards Jesus. It is possible for us to go far and love and worship Jesus like the others do, but being different is important. Shall we follow Jesus as his loving children?

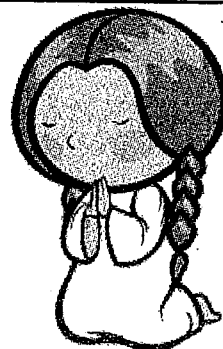


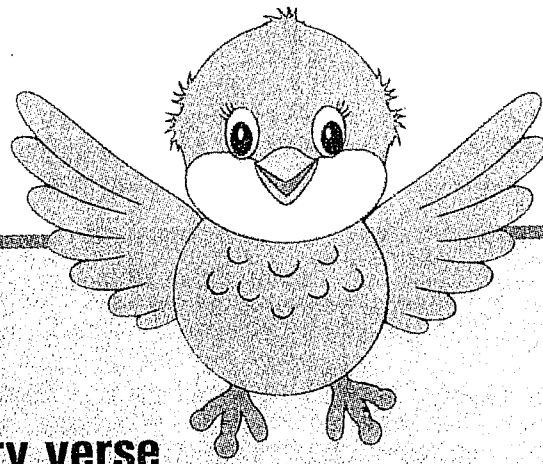
My Decision

I will love Jesus with my whole heart and
will be an intimate disciple of Him.

My Prayer

Jesus, make me an intimate
Disciple of you, Amen.





Memory verse

1 John 4:10

This is love: not that we
loved God, but that he loved
us.

QUESTIONS

1. Who were John's parents?
2. What was John's job?
3. What did John do when he was called for ministry?
4. Who all were selected among the disciple to accompany Jesus in special occasions?
5. Name the books, which were written by John the Apostle?

Write 4 reasons for Jesus to love you more.

1. I go to Sunday School regularly.

2.

3.

4.

5.



Lesson 33

Judas Iscariot

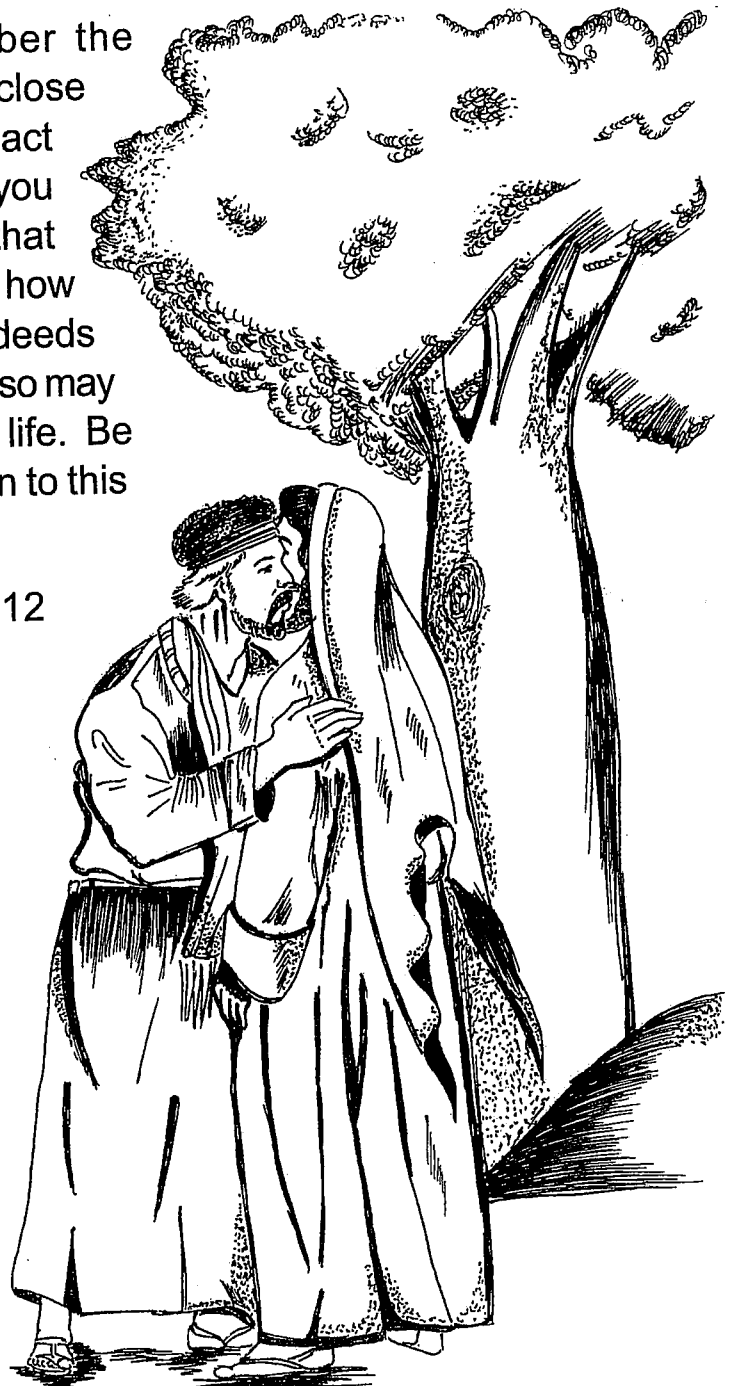
Reference: Matthew 6:15, 16 Acts 1:15-26

Aim: To get an awareness to keep the ways to spend cautiously by knowing that even though someone is selected for Jesus but do not live a life of caution there is a possibility of failure.

Introduction: Do you remember the situations in which one of your close friends who you loved more may act against your expectations? Didn't you hear people asking to somebody that is not you a Christian believer then how could you do such things? Your deeds demonstrate your character. You also may have some kind of failures in your life. Be careful! Do you know why? Listen to this lesson.

Background: Jesus selected 12 disciples. They have been given enough training too. All His disciples had different characteristics but Jesus did not hate anyone. Instead, he wanted to transform their life through the teachings about the kingdom of God. There was a disciple who did not follow Jesus' teaching but did everything as his own wish. He is none other than Judas. The meaning of his name was praise.

Explanation: Jesus chose



Judas to be his disciple and let him work with the other Apostles. He was mainly their treasurer. As time passed, he became a greedy man. Once Mary came to Jesus and washed his feet with costly cent to showed respect, and love towards Jesus. Getting to know about her deed, Judas complained saying that she could have sold the costly cent and gave the money to the poor. He said this not because of the love towards the poor but thinking that the money would have come to his hands. Judas was a part of a terrorist gang led by Barabbas, before Jesus called him.

At the same time the, looking at all the works and preaching of Jesus, and the multitude that followed him, the Pharisees and the higher official among Jews wanted to kill him out of jealousy. Moreover, they were waiting for a chance to do so. They needed someone among the disciples to execute their plans. Satan too accompanied them. Thus, Satan found Judas to be the apt person; working in his mind Satan made him promise the Pharisees to give away Jesus for thirty silver coins. And Judas was looking for chance to do so.

Finally, it happened. Soldiers reached the garden Gethsemane, were Jesus went for prayer usually, a place where there were not much people. Judas kissed Jesus to show the soldiers who Jesus was. After that Judas could not live on this earth for long. First of all he threw away the money he got by betraying Jesus in the church. Then he tried to hang himself to death on a rope. However, the rope broke and he blasted himself falling down and died. That was Judas' end.

In New Testament, one more Judas was Jesus' brother. He was the one who wrote the epistle of Judas.

Practical Lesson

Judah Iscariot who was selected and trained by Jesus betrayed him collaborating with his enemies and suicided without even giving justice to his name that meant Praise. It remains as a lesson to all. If you give a little space to the sin in your heart, it will grow and cause your total failure. Dear friends, live cautiously and faithfully.

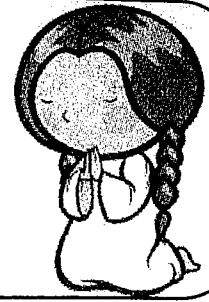


My Decision

Without giving Satan any space in my heart, I will take care of myself, and will live without causing any dishonour to the name of Jesus.

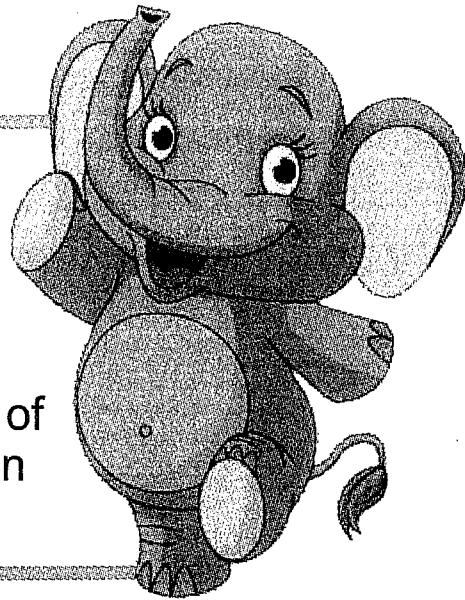
My Prayer

Lord, Let me not fall into the hands
and Satan and sin against you, Amen.



Memory verse

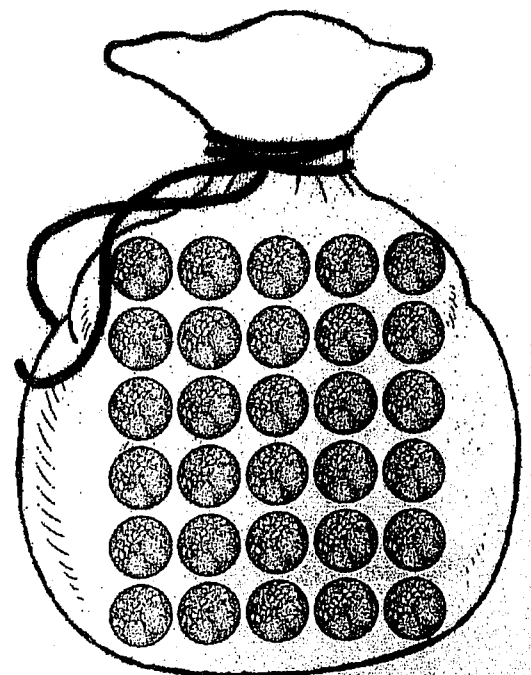
Psalms 119:30
I have chosen the way of
truth, I have set my heart on
your laws.



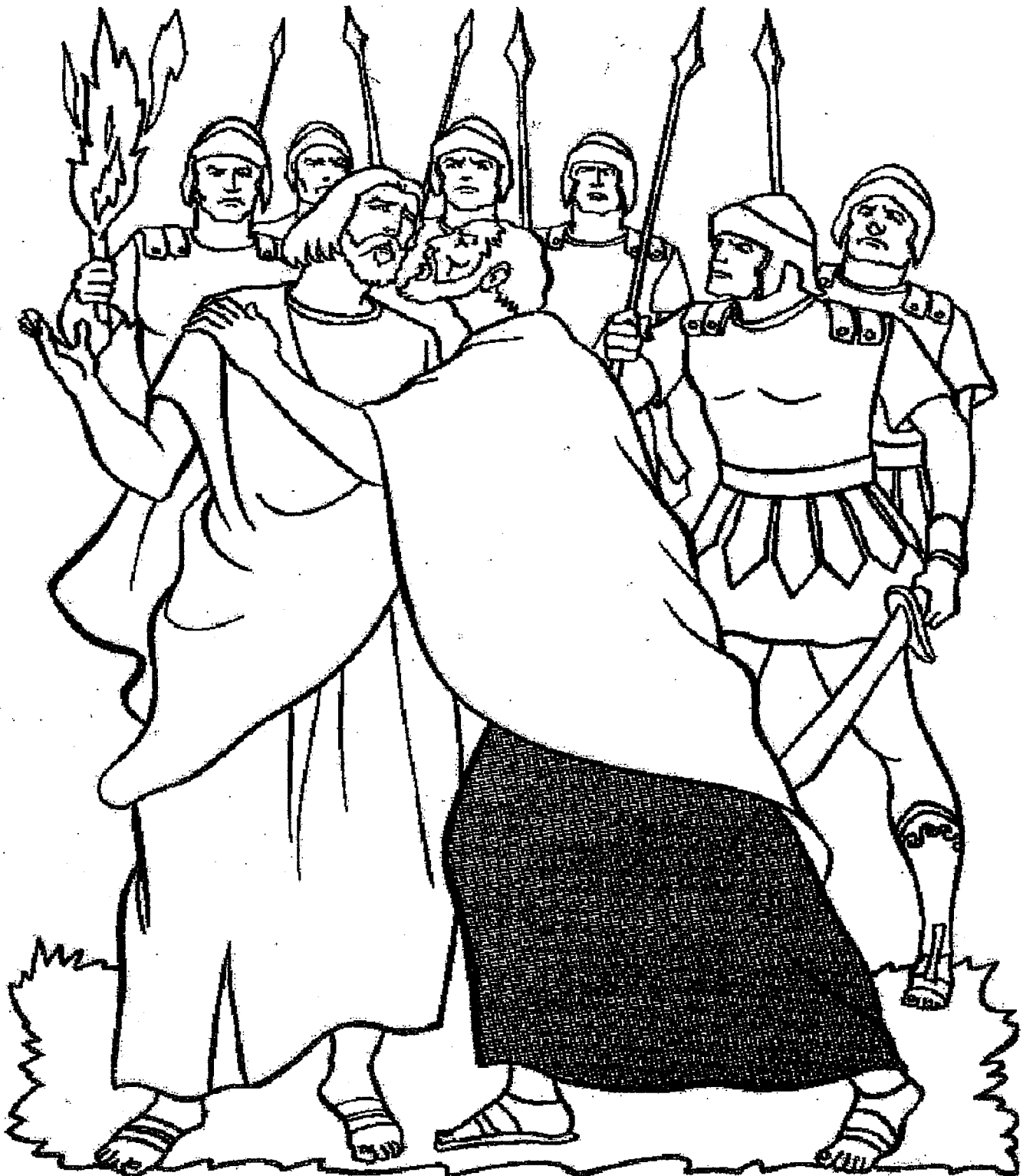
QUESTIONS

1. What does the name Judah mean?
2. Who was Judah before becoming a disciple of Jesus?
3. For what price did Judas betray Jesus?
4. How did Judah who betrayed Jesus die?
5. What is the relation between the author of epistle of Judah and Jesus?

**Count and write
the silver coins that Judah got.**



Colour the picture



Lesson 34

Born Again

Reference: John 3:1-21

Aim: to understand what is meant by 'born again' and to experience it.

Introduction: have you ever wished to get a second chance? After a tough exam, after failing in a game, losing the selection in a team and so on. But what if your life is a failure? Sure! God has given us a second chance. Shall we study about that?

Background: The main theme of Jesus' teaching was the kingdom of God. Jesus described the way to heaven to the people. Many people used to approach



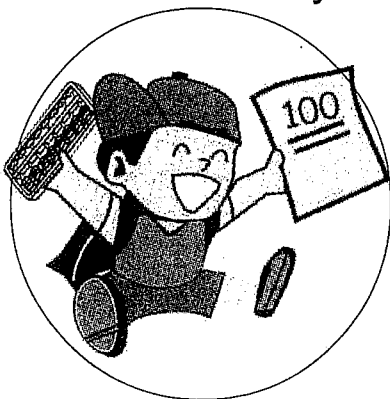
Jesus to get an answer to such questions.

Explanation: There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. One night he went to see Jesus. He wanted to know what he should do to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus answered, “no one can see God’s kingdom without being born again”. At first Nicodemus did not understand anything.

Until then Nicodemus thought that if you do some good deeds you could enter into the heaven. Jesus corrected him, “No one can enter God’s kingdom without being born through water and Holy Spirit”. When a man is born, he is born with the sin of generations. The sin of Adam will be dissolved in his blood. After birth every sin we do will be added to this. Due to that very reason, you cannot enter into the heaven. However, if you believe in Jesus who died and resurrected for our sins, you will be saved from the clutches of sin. That means we should attain a transformation from the old sinful life to a new life of goodness. That is called born again. It is through baptism and Holy Spirit that God makes us born again. This experience is also known as salvation. Man who sinned travels fast to the destruction called Hell. Before you reach to that horrible place. Let us believe in Jesus who died for our sins. And let us confess that belief before others. If so your name will be written in the book of Life in heaven. This experiences should happen only for once in your life. Just like our birthday, we should remember the day we were born again. After learning the whole lessons of this year, if you are ready to be born again, tell the matter to your pastor and he will guide you to it. Surrender and submit yourself to God. May God guide you to it.

Practical Lesson

Nicodemus was man who was accepted by the society and give leadership to spiritual rituals. But to enter heaven he too had to be born again. There are no shortcuts. The chance you get today may not be available in the future. So, take decision today itself.

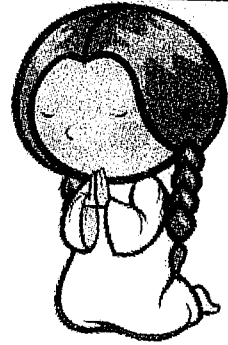


My Decision

I will believe in Jesus Christ, and confess all my sins to him, and I will experience the Salvation. Then will be ready for baptism in water and Holy Spirit to become an active member of the church and achieve heaven hereafter.

My Prayer

Jesus, I would like to accept you as my personal savior. Give me a born again experience, Amen.



Memory verse

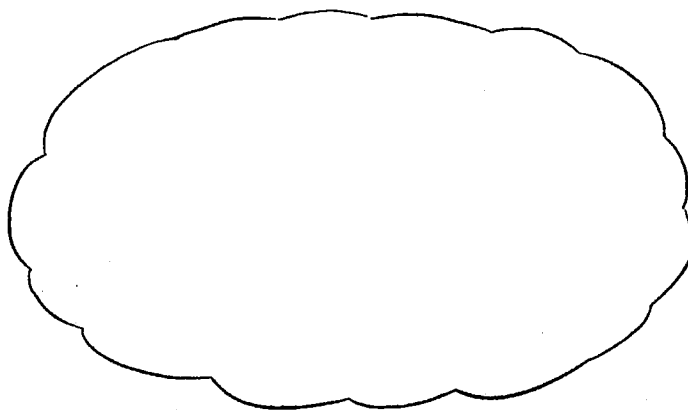
John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have an eternal life.

QUESTIONS

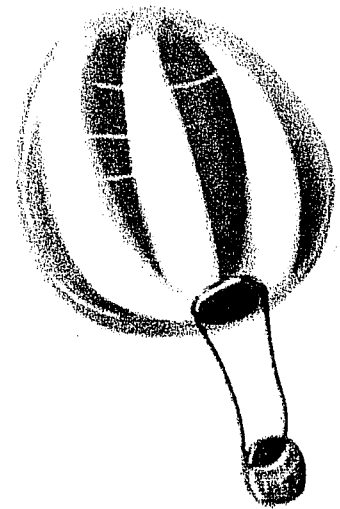
1. Who was Nicodemus?
2. What is important to enter in the heaven?
3. What was the doubt of Nicodemus?
4. How does born again experience happen in life?

Write down
your decision
and prayer
to Jesus



Colour The Picture





My Bible Lessons

Sunday School Text Book



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