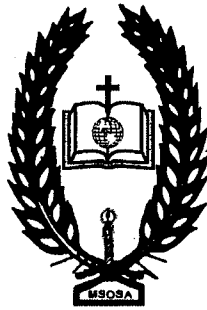


**MALANKARA SYRIAN  
ORTHODOX SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
NORTH AMERICA**



**TEXT BOOK CLASS - II**

**2003**

## PREFACE

We are thankful to our Lord Almighty in helping us and guiding us through the work of these Sunday school books. These books are the translations of the "Padamanjari" published by Malankara Jacobite Syrian Sunday School Association Head Quartered at Puthencruz, India.

These books are being published with the guidance of His Eminence Mor Ivanios Mathews, President M.S.O.S.A. and Archbishop of the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church of North America under the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas, the Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church.

A number of persons contributed to this noble cause. We take this opportunity to thank them all. Let God bless every person who contributed to make these books available to His children. We are happy to submit these books in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Syrian Orthodox Sunday School students all over the world.

Carteret, NJ  
07-11-2003

Director  
**M.S.O.S.A. North America**

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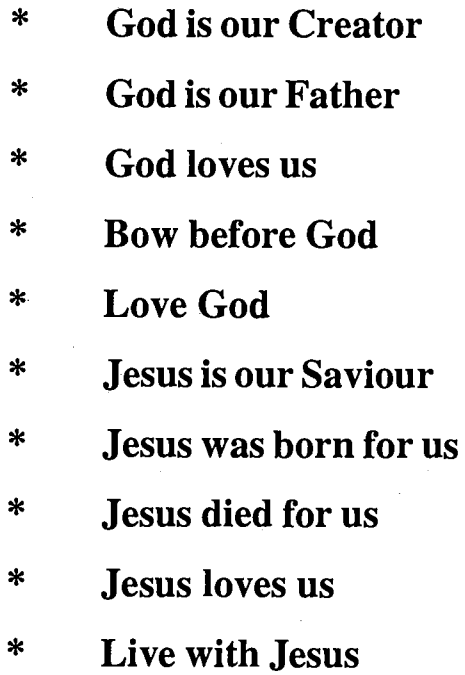


TEXT BOOK FOR CLASS II  
(English)

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- 
- \* **God is our Creator**
  - \* **God is our Father**
  - \* **God loves us**
  - \* **Bow before God**
  - \* **Love God**
  - \* **Jesus is our Saviour**
  - \* **Jesus was born for us**
  - \* **Jesus died for us**
  - \* **Jesus loves us**
  - \* **Live with Jesus**

## LESSON 1

### PRAYER

#### Repeat portions of Class I

- (1) How to kiss the ground while we pray before God?
- (2) Pray one Kauma.

#### KAUMA

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one true God:

Glory be to Him; and may His grace and mercy be upon us for ever. Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, by whose glory, the heaven and earth are filled, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, who has come, and is to come, in the name of the Lord God;  
Glory be to Him in the highest.

*Holy art Thou, O God!*

Holy art Thou, Almighty

Holy art Thou, Immortal

+ O Thou who was crucified for us, have mercy upon us.

*Holy art Thou, O God!*

Holy art Thou, Almighty

Holy art Thou, Immortal

+ O Thou who was crucified for us, have mercy upon us.

*Holy art Thou, O God!*

Holy art Thou, Almighty

Holy art Thou, Immortal

+ O Thou who was crucified for us, have mercy upon us.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Lord, be kind and have mercy upon us.

Lord, accept our workship and prayers, have mercy upon us.

***Glory be to Thee, O God***

Glory be to Thee, O Creator,

Glory be to Thee, O Christ, the King, who does pity sinners, Thy servants. Barekmor.

***Our Father, who art in heaven***, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts and sins as we have forgiven our debtors. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***Hail Mary, full of grace***, our Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, our Lord Jesus Christ. O Holy Virgin Saint Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, now and at all times, and at the hour of our death.

**Malayalam Version**

+ Pithaavum puthranum parisuddha roohayum-aaya sathyamulla eka daivathinte thirunaamathil thanikku sthuthi. Nammutemel thante karunayum manogunavum ennekkum undayirikkatte. Amen.

Aakaasavum bhoomiyum thante stuthikal kondu niranjirikkunna balavaanaaya daivam thampuraan parisuddhan, parisuddhan, parisuddhan uyarangalil sthuthi.

Daivamaya karthaavinte thirunamathil vannavanum varuvanirikkunnavanum aayavan vaazhthapettavanaakunnu. Uyarangalil sthuthi.

Daivame nee parisudhanaakunnu.

Balavaane nee parisudhanaakunnu.

Maranamillaathavane nee parisudhanaakunnu

Njangalkuvendi kurisikkapettavane +  
njangaludemel karunayuntaakaname.

Daivame nee parisudhanaakunnu.

Balavaane nee parisudhanaakunnu.

Maranamillaathavane nee parisudhanaakunnu

Njangalkuvendi kurisikkapettavane +  
njangaludemel karunayuntaakaname.

Daivame nee parisudhanaakunnu.

Balavaane nee parisudhanaakunnu.

Maranamillaathavane nee parisuddhanaakunnu

Njangalkuvendi kurisikkapettavane +  
njangaludemel karunayuntaakaname.

Njangalude karthaave! njangalodu karuna cheyyaname. Njangalude  
karthaave! krupayundaayi njangalodu karuna cheyyaname. Njangalude  
karthaave! njangalude susrooshayum praarthanakalum kaikkondu  
njangalodu karuna cheyyaname.

Daivame ninakku sthuthi. Srushtaave ninakku sthuthi. Paapikalaaya  
ninte adiyarodu krupa cheyyunna mashiha raajaave ninakku sthuthi.  
Baarekmore.

### **Karthru Praarthana**

**Swargasthanaaya njangalude pithaave**, Ninte thirunamaam  
parisuddhamaakka pedaname, Ninte rajyaam varaname, Ninte thiruvishitam  
swargathilepole bhoomiyilum aakaname, Njangalkku  
aavasyamaayirikkunna appam, innum njangalkku tharaname, Njangalude  
kadakkaarodu njangal kshamichathupole, Njangalude kadangalum  
papangalum njangalodu kshamikkaname, Pareekshayilekku njangale nee  
pravesippikkaruthe, Pinneyo dhushtanil ninnum njangale rakshichu  
kollaname, Enthukondennaal raajayavum sakthiyum mahathwavum  
ennekkum, Ninakkullathaakunnu. Amen.

**Krupa niranja Mariyame ninakku samadhanam**, Njangalude  
karthaavu ninnodu koode, Sthreekalil nee vaazhthappettavalaakunnu, Ninte  
udara phalamaya Njangalude karthaveshu mashiha  
vaazhthapettavanakunnu, Daivamaathaavaaya visudha kanyaka Martha  
Mariyame, ippozhum, eppozhum njangalude marana samayathum  
paapikalaaya njangalkku vendi apekshichu kollaname. Amen.

**1. Prayer that we should recite before entering the church.**

Make the sign of the cross and say : “With reverence will I enter Your house, and submit my offering before You My Lord.”

**2. Prayer of 9<sup>th</sup> Hour [Prayer Qolo]**

Praise be to You O God, who gives life to the dead. Praise be to You O God, who grants resurrection to the entombed. Praise be to You and glory to Your Father who did send you, and the Holy Spirit. Barekmore.

O Lord, one of Trinity, who by Your own will stayed in the tomb for three days, give resurrection to our departed, for they were saved by Your precious blood. Moriyo rahemelain noo adarain

**Supplication (Bovooso)**

O Thou, full of mercy, renew Thy creation at the resurrection.

O Lord, comfort and absolve our departed ones, who died with hope in Thee, and await Thy coming.

O Lord make them dwell in the bosom of Abraham, and of Isaac and of Jacob.

May the living and the departed together cry out: “Blessed is He, who has come, and is to come, and give life to the dead.” Amen.

**3. Prayer before food**

O Lord! Make us worthy to praise and glorify You for the food and drink You have provided to us, and for Your mercy. Amen.

**4. Prayer after food**

O God! We praise You for Your grace and blessings. We praise you for You fed and satisfied us. Praise be to You for Your mercy, for we live by the food and drinks, that are Yours. O Lord! make us worthy to praise You and to do Your will. Amen



## LESSON 2

### HOLY QURBONO SONGS

1. Bhakthar pukazhchaa bhaajaname!    Thou whose praise the church doth sing.  
Ninniludicchorekasuthan                    Intercession for us bring  
Thrikkaral njangalilalivaan than            Unto Him, Thine only Son.  
Pakkalapekshayanaikkenam                That we may not mercy shun.  
Sthoumen kalos, kurielaison                Sthoumen kalos, kurielaison
  
- 2 Orupolingum (Mor Thoma Sleeha) (O! St Thomas,) as in heav'n,  
Untemelum ninnormma                        Keep we here thy memory;  
Uthakaname nin praarthana nin            Hear us as we honor thee,  
Ormmaye bahumaani chorkkaai            Thy entreaties be our aid.  
Sthoumen kalos, kurielaison                Sthoumen kalos, kurielaison
  
- 3 Sharanathaale nin krupayil                They who served and died in hope,  
Maranamadanjoru daasare nin            Trusting in Thy mercy, Lord,  
Jeeva swaramathunarthaname            May Thy living voice them raise  
kabareennudyaan atthinaai                From their graves to paradise  
Sthoumen kalos, kurielaison.                Sthoumen kalos, kurielaison
  
- 4 Maramathinuyare karthaave!              May departed ones receive-  
kallanu kittiya ninte varam                Who confessed the Trinity-  
thrithwathe kondaadi mari-                What was Promised to the theif-  
chorum kaikkondeedenam.                Paradise with Thee O Lord
  
- 5 Naathaa krupa cheyyanamalivaal        Lord, have mercy upon us.  
krupa cheyyana mutharamaruli            Lord be kind and have mercy,  
krupa cheyyaname ninakku sthuthi        Answer Lord, and have mercy;  
krupa njangalilundaakatte.                Praise to Thee, on us be grace.
  
- 6 Sthuthiyuyarangalil naathannum        Glory be to God on high.  
bahumathi than maathaavinnum            To His Mother honour be,  
pukazhum mudi sahadenmaarkkum        To the martyrs crowns of praise,  
krupa mrutharilumundaakatte.            Grace and mercy to the dead.  
Haleliuah.                                        Haleliuah.

# OLD TESTAMENT

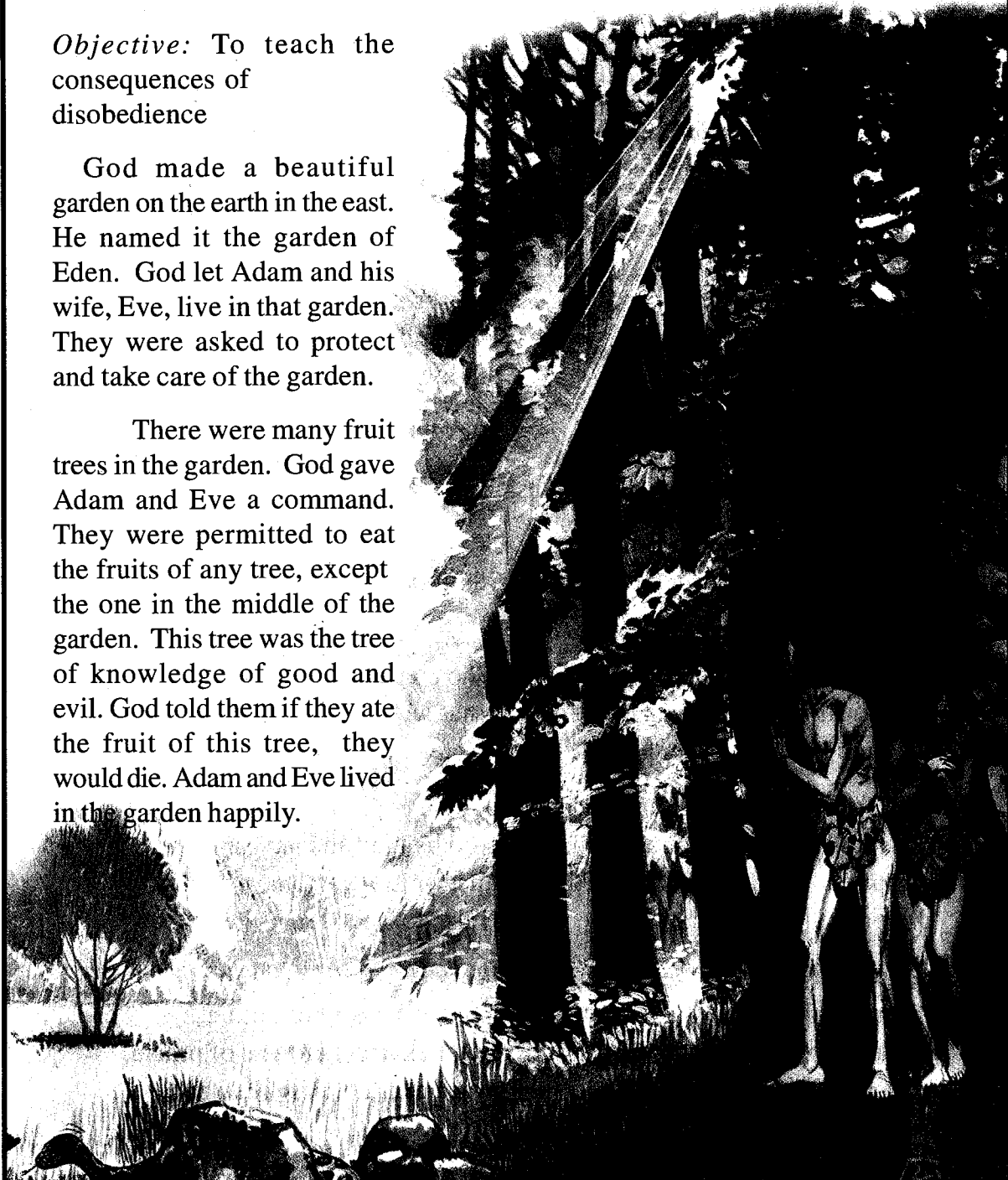
## LESSON 3

### MAN STRAYS AWAY FROM GOD

*Objective:* To teach the consequences of disobedience

God made a beautiful garden on the earth in the east. He named it the garden of Eden. God let Adam and his wife, Eve, live in that garden. They were asked to protect and take care of the garden.

There were many fruit trees in the garden. God gave Adam and Eve a command. They were permitted to eat the fruits of any tree, except the one in the middle of the garden. This tree was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God told them if they ate the fruit of this tree, they would die. Adam and Eve lived in the garden happily.



One day the snake, the most cunning among creatures, approached Eve. It asked whether God had forbidden them from eating any fruit in the garden. Eve replied that they were not allowed to eat, or even touch the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil at the center of the garden; if they did eat it, they would certainly die. The snake said, "You will never die by eating that fruit; instead you will become equal to God".

She thought, "The fruit is very beautiful, and is worth eating if we can gain knowledge of good and evil." She took one and ate . She also gave some to her husband, and he ate it too. They never became like God. They realized that the snake deceived them. They felt sad because they violated God's command. They lost the divine grace. They then understood that they were naked. They wore aprons made of fig leaves. They felt that they had sinned against God and hid themselves among the trees.

God came to the garden and asked, "*Adam, where are you?*" Adam replied, "*I heard your voice, but since I am naked I was afraid and so I am hiding.*" "*Have you eaten the fruit of the forbidden tree?*" God asked. Adam replied, "*The woman whom you have given me as companion gave me the fruit of that tree and I ate it.*"

Turning to the woman God asked, "*What have you done?*". The woman answered, "*The snake deceived me and I ate it.*"

Both of them did not accept that it was their fault. God cursed the snake, saying, "*You will crawl on your belly and will eat dust throughout your life*".

Because of their disobedience, God drove them out of the garden of Eden. God said to Adam that he would have to find his living by sweat and hardship throughout his life. God punished Eve by greatly increasing the pains of childbearing. Still God had sympathy for them. Therefore, He made clothes out of animal skins for them and clothed them.

God loves man. When he sins, God will punish him. However, the love of God never diminishes.

## **I Fill in the blanks**

1. Adam and Eve were entrusted to look after the garden and to .....
2. You should not eat from..... in the middle of the garden.

## **II. Answer the following**

1. "Where are you?" Who asked this to whom?
2. What is the command, which God gave to Adam?
3. How did the snake cheat Eve?
4. What was the mistake committed by Adam and Eve?
5. What was the punishment, God gave to Adam and Eve?
6. What was the curse given to the snake that cheated Adam and Eve?
7. What is the moral of this lesson?

### **LESSON 4**

## **THE FLOOD**

(Genesis 6:13 - 8:22)

**Objective:** To show that God protects the righteous.

The children of Adam multiplied in number throughout the world. But they also became very evil and wicked. Because the people of that time were so evil, God decided to destroy everything by a great flood. However, God decided to save Noah and his family, since Noah was a righteous man. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

God told Noah to build an ark, 300 cubits (450 feet) long, 50 cubits (75 feet) wide and 30 cubits (45 feet) in height using gopher (cypress) wood. God also commanded that the ark should have a window in the side. God said to Noah to go into the ark with his wife, three sons and their wives. He also ordered Noah to take with him seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, and two of every kind of unclean animal - male and female. Noah obeyed the Lord, and loaded the animals and enough food for all of them into the ark.

For forty days and forty nights, there was heavy rain. This rain caused the water level on earth to rise, until all the land was covered with water. The ark began to float on the water. All living beings on earth were destroyed, except for Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark. After 150 days, the level of the water receded steadily. The ark came to rest on the Mountains of Ararat. To see whether the water had gone down, Noah sent out a raven. It flew around looking for a place to sit, but returned to the ark because the water was still very high. The next time Noah sent out a dove, it also returned to the ark.

After 7 days, Noah again sent out the dove, but this time it returned with a green olive leaf. This was a sign that the water had dried up from the earth. After seven days, as God commanded, Noah and his family and all creatures came out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed burnt offerings. God blessed Noah and his children. Noah's children multiplied and filled the earth. God promised that He would never destroy the earth by flood again. This story shows that God always protects the righteous.

**I. Fill in the blanks**

1. The length of the ark was ..... cubits.
2. It was raining continuously for ..... days and nights.

**II. Answer the following**

1. The name of the mountain on which the ark came to rest?
2. Why did God flood the earth?
3. Whom did God rescue from the flood?
4. How did Noah and his family escape from the flood?
5. What was the size of the ark?
6. What is the moral of this lesson?
7. What promise did God make after the flood?

**LESSON 5**

**THE TOWER OF BABEL  
(HUMAN EFFORT WITHOUT GOD)**

(Genesis 11:1-20)

*Objective:* To show that God's help is essential for success.

The children of Noah increased in number in the world. Everyone throughout the world spoke one language at that time. The people came and settled in a plain in Shinar. They decided to build a town with a tower reaching to the sky, which would prevent them from scattering around the earth. They were arrogantly proud of their decision. They decided to build a very tall tower, using baked bricks and clay. They thought very high of themselves and said, "We will soon build a city with a tower that reaches to the Heavens."

They began the work without God's directives. Therefore, God decided to scatter the people over all the earth, and confused their languages. Now they

could not understand each other, since everyone spoke different languages. The people were all scattered around the world, before the tower could ever be finished. That is why the site was called Babel – because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world.

Without God's support human efforts will be futile.

### **I. Fill in the blanks**

1. The children of Noah lived in a plain in the land of .....
2. The place where the children of Noah began to speak different languages was named .....

### **II. Answer the following**

1. What did the children of Noah do to prevent themselves from being scattered?
2. What character of Noah's children is revealed by their decision to build a tower that touches the sky?
3. How did God scatter the people throughout the world?
4. What is the moral of this lesson?

## **LESSON 6**

### **BROTHERLY LOVE OF ABRAHAM (ABRAHAM AND LOT)**

(Genesis : 12, 13 & 14)

*Objective:* To show the greatness of brotherly love

There was a town called Ur in the land of Chaldea in present-day Iraq. There lived a man named Abram who was faithful to God. His father was Terah. Later Terah and his family moved to Haran. Terah died in Haran.

God called Abram and commanded, "*Go to the place which I am going to show you.*" Abram did not know anything about the place. Abram trusted God. Therefore, Abram, along with his wife Sarai and nephew Lot left everything they owned - their house and land behind and began their journey. In the middle of the journey, they stayed in Bethel for a short time. God revealed himself to Abram and told him that his children would be given that place in the future. Abram then built an altar there and they worshipped God.

Abram and Lot were immensely rich. Their wealth was in the form of cattle. They lived a very rich and comfortable life by raising cattle in a very vast pasture. Some time later, the herdsmen of both men began to argue since there was not enough space for the cattle owned by both Abram and Lot. Because of this, Abram and Lot decided to separate.

Lot was allowed to select whichever place he wanted. *“If you are to the left I will go to the right. Or else if you are to right I will select the left,”*

Abram suggested. Lot selected the more fertile land in the plain of Jordan. Therefore, Abram lived in the land of Canaan. Lot’s new neighbors, who were plunderers, soon took Lot as a prisoner. Hearing about this, Abram followed these robbers with 318 trained warriors with him. He defeated them and regained the wealth and released Lot and his family.

Because of Abram’s dedication to God, the Lord God entered into a covenant with Abram and blessed him that his progeny will fill the earth. God gave him a new name, Abraham, which means ‘father of many’ (nations). Also, the Lord God blessed Sarai and gave her a new name, Sarah, which means ‘mother of nations’ (and kings).

Remember: Brotherly love is truly great!!.

### **I. Fill in the blank**

1. The birthplace of Abram was .....

### **II. Answer the following**

1. What did God command Abram to do?
2. What is the name of the place where Abram stayed in the middle of his journey, which God promised would one day belong to Abram’s children?
3. Why did Abram and Lot decide to live separately?
4. What did Abram say to Lot in the selection of land?
5. Who rescued Lot from the plunderers?
6. What is the moral of this lesson?
7. What are the new names God gave to Abram and Sarai?
8. What is the name of Abram’s Father?

## LESSON 7

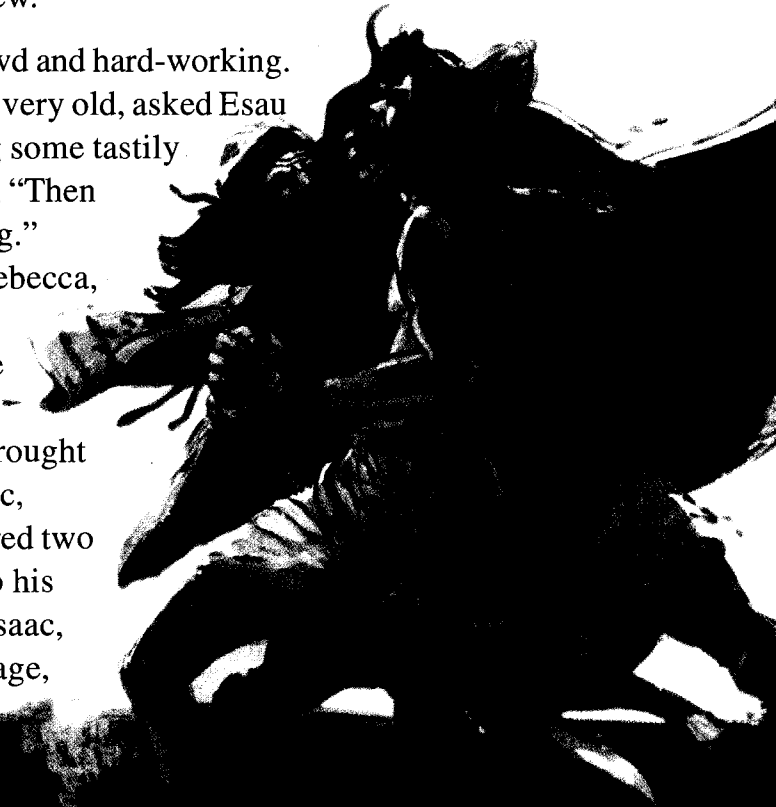
# JACOB AND ESAU

(Genesis 27,28, 29, 30)

*Objective:* God will greatly bless those who know God and work hard.

Isaac was the promised son of Abraham. Isaac's wife Rebecca delivered twins. Esau was the elder son and Jacob was the younger. Esau's body was very hairy, but Jacob's skin was smooth. Esau was irresponsible. One day when he was hungry, he sold his birth right as the first-born son to Jacob in exchange for a bowl of stew.

Jacob was very shrewd and hard-working. Once Isaac, who was then very old, asked Esau to go hunting and to bring some tastily prepared meat. Isaac said, "Then I will give you my blessing." However, their mother, Rebecca, wanted Jacob to have this blessing from Isaac, since she loved Jacob more than Esau. Before Esau brought his meat to his father Isaac, Rebecca killed and prepared two lambs for Jacob to give to his father. In order to make Isaac, who was blind due to old age,





believe that Jacob was really Esau, Rebecca made Jacob wear Esau's clothes. She also put animal skin on Jacob's arms and neck to make his body as hairy as Esau's. This was done to mislead Isaac, so that he would give his blessing to Jacob instead of Esau.

Pretending to be Esau, Jacob approached his father with the cooked meat. Because of the animal hair on his arms and neck, and because he was wearing Esau's clothes, Isaac believed that this was his older son, Esau. Thinking that it was the game Esau caught while hunting, Isaac ate the tasty meat and was very pleased. Therefore, Isaac gave all of his blessings to Jacob. Isaac said that Jacob would be the chief between the two brothers.

After a short while, Esau came back with the game that he had caught. He prepared some tasty food and brought it to his father. Then Isaac and Esau realized that Jacob had cheated Esau by receiving all of Isaac's blessings. This made Esau very angry with Jacob. Because of this, Rebecca sent Jacob to the house of her brother Laban.

Jacob stayed at Laban's house, where he took care of Laban's sheep. The sheep increased in number so much that Laban gave his elder daughter Leah, and later his younger daughter Rachel, in marriage to Jacob. After 20 years, Jacob returned home with his wives and cattle wealth. However, Jacob was still afraid that Esau would try to get revenge. To his surprise, Esau gave Jacob a very warm welcome, and Jacob continued on his way to Canaan.

One night during his journey to Canaan, an angel of God wrestled with Jacob. They fought until the morning, and then the man was going to leave. However, Jacob said, "I will not let you go until you bless me." God gave him the name Israel, which means, 'the man who struggled with God'. God blessed Jacob. From this time on, that place was known as Peniel, which means 'saw God face to face'.

**I. Fill in the blanks**

1. The wife of Isaac was .....
2. Jacob served Laban for .....years.

**II. Answer the following**

1. Name the place at which Jacob was named Israel?
2. Who was the first one among the twins born to Isaac?
3. To whom did Jacob run, in fear of his brother Esau?
4. Why did Esau sell his birthright as the elder brother to Jacob?
5. How did Jacob get the blessings from his father Isaac?
6. What is the moral behind this lesson?

## LESSON 8

# GOD WITH HIS PROPHET (THE PROPHET ELIJAH)

(1 Kings: 18:20-40)

*Objective:* To show that God will reveal himself to those who serve God faithfully.

During the reign of King Ahab, both the king and the people of Israel violated the commandments of God by worshipping the idol of Baal. God's wrath fell on them. No rain fell on their land, resulting in crop destruction.



There was severe famine. The animals also perished due to severe draught. God asked his prophet Elijah to go to Israel and convince the king and his subjects that the Lord God is their only God.

King Ahab met Elijah. Elijah told Ahab that the famine was due to the idol worship and that the people forgot the true God and abandoned His commandments. Elijah asked Ahab to summon all Israelites and the priests and prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel to test and see whether Baal or the Lord God is the true God. 450 prophets of Baal and several Israelites assembled on Mount Carmel. The Prophet Elijah asked the people to bring two bulls to offer as sacrifice. One was to be sacrificed by the prophets of Baal, and the other by Elijah the prophet to the Lord God. Whichever sacrifice was burned by fire from heaven would be considered as the sacrifice for true God.

At first, the prophets of Baal placed a bull cut into pieces on the altar on which firewood was well packed. They prayed to Baal from dawn until noon. They cried aloud to Baal, but nothing happened. Later Elijah packed firewood on his altar to the Lord and placed the other bull, cut into pieces, over it. The Prophet then knelt down and prayed to the Lord God, "Please answer me God." Suddenly fire from heaven came down and burned up the sacrifice, the firewood, and even the soil beneath the altar. When all the people saw this they fell prostrate and cried "The Lord is the true God."

We should worship the Lord our God only, as he is the true God. If we pray to Him with faith, God will hear us and answer our prayers.

**I. Fill in the blank**

1. At the time of King Ahab the idol of ..... was worshipped.

**II. Answer the following**

1. What was the name of the mount on which Elijah made the sacrifice to prove that Lord is the true God?
2. What was the reason for the sufferings of the people during the reign of Ahab?
3. What did Elijah do to prove that the Lord is the true God?
4. What did Elijah pray, for the fire to come down from heaven?
5. What is the moral of this lesson?

## LESSON 9

### A WISE REQUEST (SOLOMON'S PRAYER)

(1 Kings 3:3-14)

*Objective:* To illustrate that God accepts prudent prayers.

There was a king in Israel whose name was Solomon. David, the great king was Solomon's father. Just like King David, Solomon also loved God and lived according to the will of God. He prayed to God every day, and God blessed him.

Israel used to sacrifice on the altar at Gibeon. Solomon came to Gibeon and offered a thousand sacrifices of sweet incense. Seeing his love towards God and his humility, God was very pleased with Solomon.

Lord revealed himself to Solomon while he was sleeping at Gibeon. "Ask for whatever you want, and I will give it to you," God said to Solomon. "I am not able to reign over such a great people, which are too numerous to count. So to judge your people, please give me a heart of wisdom that is capable of discerning good and evil," Solomon prayed. God was pleased at the prayer of Solomon. God gave Solomon wisdom. God also gave him wealth and long life, even though he had not asked for these things. Solomon was very glad that God heard his prayer. Later he was known as Solomon, the wise.

We also should be capable of praying wisely before the Lord.

#### **I. Answer the following**

1. Who was the father of Solomon?
2. The place where Solomon offered a thousand sacrifices of sweet incense.
3. Why did God bless Solomon?
4. What did Solomon ask God to grant him?
5. What sort of prayer should we offer before God?

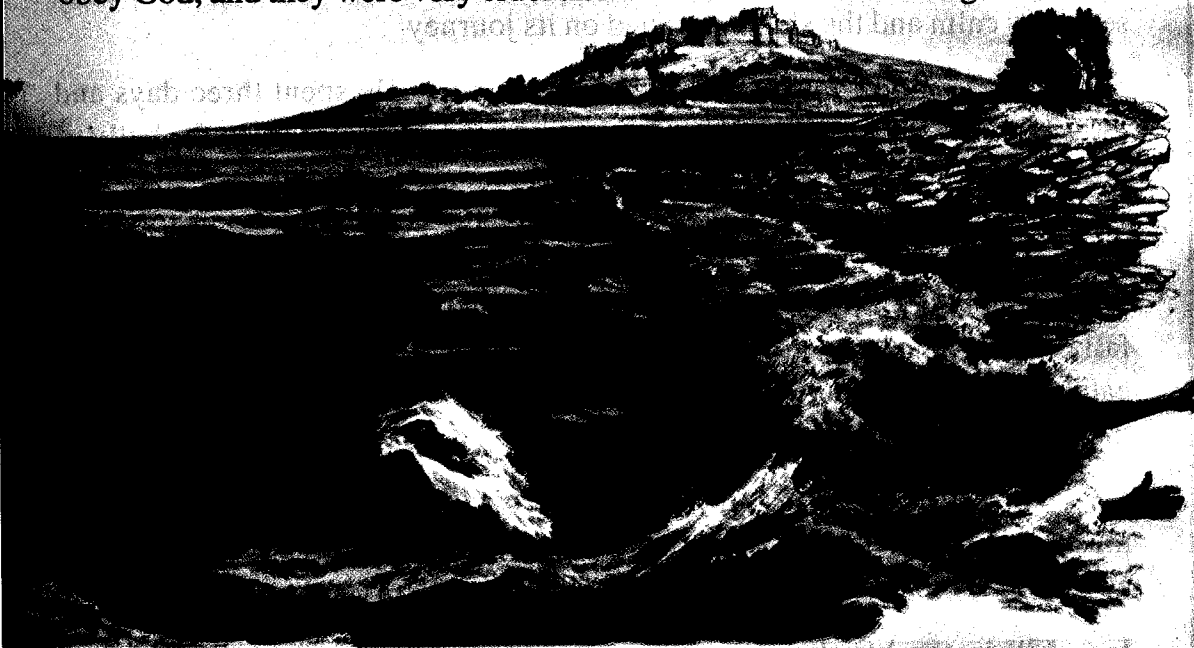
## LESSON 10

# THE RESCUE OF NINEVEH

(Jonah: 1, 2 & 3)

**Objective:** To illustrate that God will save those who pray with remorse.

Nineveh was a great city in ancient times. The people of Nineveh did not obey God, and they were very cruel and wicked. God was waiting to see them



repent and mend their evil ways, but this never happened. Therefore, God decided to punish them. However, God still wanted to give the Ninevites another chance to repent and change, since He is kind and merciful.

God asked Jonah, son of Amittai, a prophet of Israel, to go to Nineveh to preach repentance and to encourage them to stop sinning against God. Jonah, who was afraid of speaking about repentance in Nineveh, decided to run away and hide from God. Therefore, Jonah boarded a ship going to Tarshish instead of Nineveh.

God was not pleased with Jonah's decision. A great storm started to blow in the ocean. The people on the ship were afraid that they would die in the storm. They threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. They cried for

God's help. However, Jonah was sleeping in the lower deck. The people in the ship woke him up and told him to pray to God.

They thought that the storm came because of the sins of someone on the ship. So they cast lots to find out who this person was. The lot fell on Jonah. Jonah confessed his sin to them. He said that he had fled from the presence of God, disobeying his order to go and preach in Nineveh. He asked them to throw him overboard. The sailors threw him overboard. Suddenly the raging sea grew calm and the ship continued on its journey.

God provided a great fish to swallow Jonah. He spent three days and three nights inside the fish. He prayed to the Lord while he was in the belly of the fish. On the third day, the fish vomited him onto the beach. From there, he stood up and walked to the city of Nineveh. There he told the people to repent and to stop their sinful ways. He also revealed to them that the Lord would destroy them if they did not obey Him. Fearing that the wrath of God would fall on them, the king and the people fasted for 3 days without drinking and eating. They all repented for their sins. God heard their cry, and He forgave their sins.

God will forgive the sins of all those who repent. The only thing we must do is to be sorry about our sins and to try not to sin again. We should also be ready to forgive the people who have sinned against us as well.

### **I. Fill in the blanks**

1. Instead of going to Nineveh Jonah boarded a ship that was going to .....
2. Jonah stayed in the belly of the fish for .....days.

### **II. Answer the following**

1. What kind of people were the Ninevites?
2. How did Jonah reach Nineveh after he was thrown out of the ship?
3. What was God's command to Jonah?
4. What did the Ninevites do after hearing Jonah preach against Nineveh?
5. What is the moral behind this lesson?

## NEW TESTAMENT

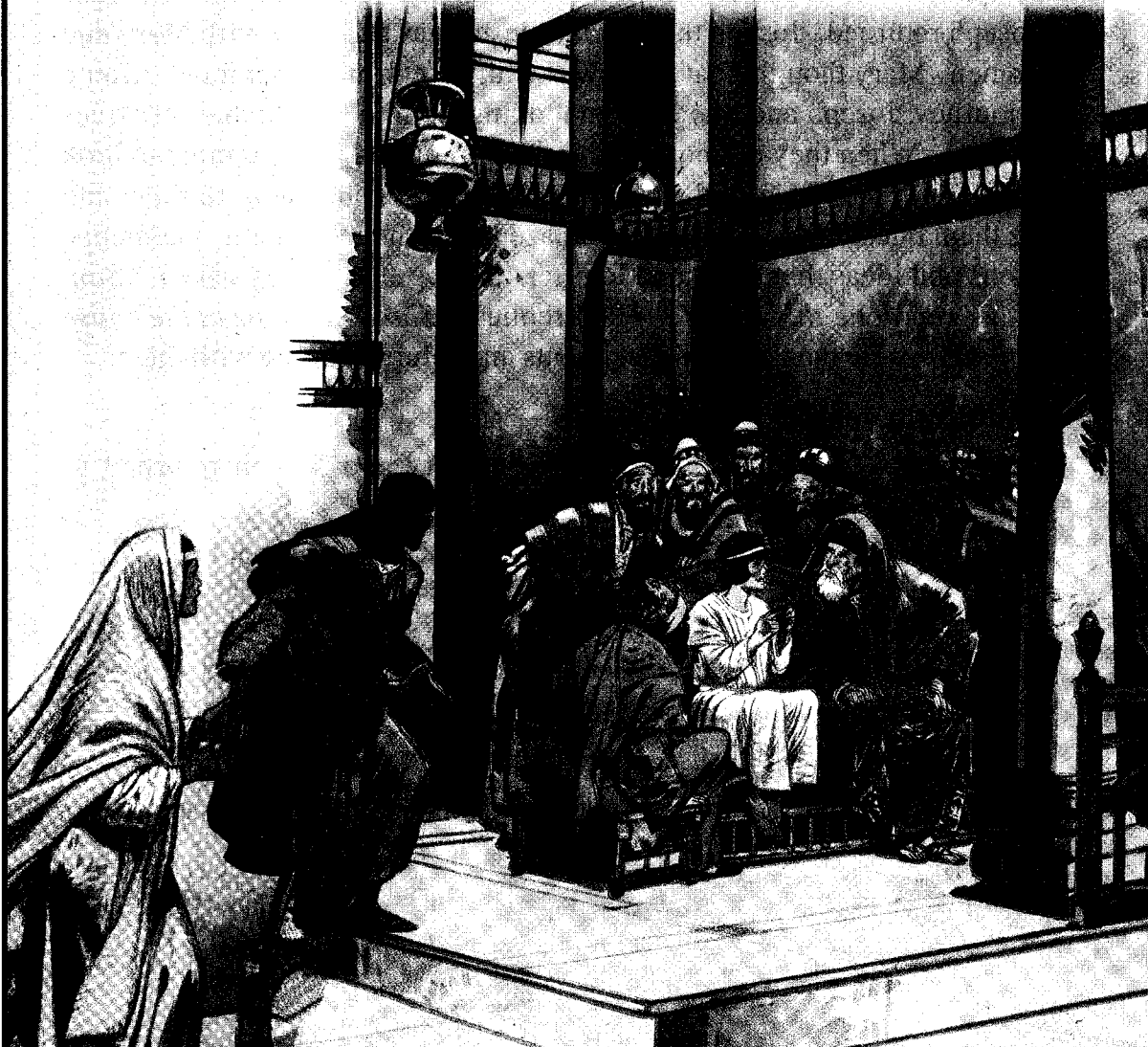
### LESSON 11

## THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

(Luke 2:41-52)

*Objective:* To illustrate that all must be brought up in obedience from early childhood.

In Nazareth, there lived a young girl named Mary. She was betrothed to a man named Joseph. According to the will of God, she became pregnant by the power of Holy Spirit. She delivered a son, whom the angel of God instructed



her to name Jesus. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, was a carpenter. Joseph's workshop was always active with the sound of work and with customers. The child Jesus obeyed the instructions of Joseph and helped him in his work.

The boy Jesus made small wooden articles using tools like the hammer, saw, plainer etc. He learned these things from Joseph. Mary rejoiced seeing the interest and ability of the boy at work. Joseph and Mary used to pray regularly. Therefore, Jesus also had the habit of praying from his early days.

When Jesus was 12 years old, He went with Joseph and Mary to the Temple at Jerusalem, to attend the passover festival. Jesus had the habit of traveling in the company of foster father and mother alternately. After the festival, Mary and Joseph returned. Joseph thought that Jesus was traveling with Mary and the women. Mary thought that Jesus was with Joseph and other men. After a day's journey, Joseph and Mary began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him they returned to the temple to look for Him. They saw Jesus sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. People were amazed with the intelligent statements, questions and ideas that Jesus had to offer. Seeing Jesus Mary asked, "*Son, why have you done this to us?*" Jesus replied "*Should I not be in the house of my father?*" He then obeyed his parents and returned home with them.

**I. Fill in the blanks**

1. After ..... days of journey, Mary and Joseph returned to Jerusalem to look for Jesus.
2. Jesus considered the temple of Jerusalem as the house of his .....

**II. Answer the following**

1. What was the profession of Joseph?
2. How did young Jesus behave toward his parents?
3. From whom did Jesus learn to pray?
4. "Should I not be in the house of my father?" Who said this to whom?



LESSON 12

**THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST**

(Mathew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, and Luke 3:21)

*Objective:* God reveals His Son, Jesus.



John the Baptist, who came as the forerunner of Jesus Christ encouraged people to repent. In the river Jordan, he baptized those who had repented. He advised people to save themselves from the wrath of God.

One day Jesus came to John along with the other people to be baptized. While Jesus was baptized, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, came down upon Jesus. *"You are my Dear Son. I am pleased with you,"* a sound echoed from heaven. At this moment the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - the Holy Trinity - appeared together.

The date that we remember as the day of Baptism of Jesus Christ is January 6. The Church celebrates January 6th as the festival of Denaho. The meaning of Denaho is to "Dawn."

### **I. Fill in the blanks**

1. .... is the forerunner of Jesus Christ.
2. John the Baptist baptized people in the river.....
3. The meaning of the word Denaho is .....

### **II. Answer the following**

1. What happened when Jesus was being baptized?
2. What was the first occasion when the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were witnessed together?
3. When does the Holy Church celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ?]

## **LESSON 13**

### **THE FASTING AND PREPARATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

(Mathew 4:1-11)

*Objective:* To stress the significance of fasting and prayer.

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert, after being baptized by John the Baptist. As a preparation for his public ministry, he fasted for forty days and forty nights continuously. After this, He was very hungry. Satan approached Jesus to tempt him. *"If you are the Son of God, order these stones to become bread,"*

Satan challenged Jesus. *"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God,"* Jesus replied.

Later Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple in the Holy City. Satan asked Jesus, *“If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘The angels of God will guard you from striking your feet against a stone’.*” Jesus said, *“It is also written that you should not put the Lord your God to the test”.*

In these two attempts to tempt Jesus, Satan was defeated. Then Satan took Jesus to the top of a mountain. Satan showed Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. Satan told Jesus that if Jesus knelt down and worshipped him, he would give all of these to Jesus. Jesus said to Satan, *“Satan, go away from me. For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’”* Suddenly the devil left him. The angels of God came and attended to him.

Thus Jesus Christ had victory over Satan through fasting and prayer. By sincere fasting and prayer, we also can win over the temptations of this world.

**I. Fill in the blanks**

1. Jesus fasted for .....
2. While fasting, Jesus stayed in the .....

**II. Answer the following**

1. What happened after Jesus finished fasting in the desert?
2. What was the first attempt of Satan to tempt Jesus? What was the reply of Jesus?
3. What was the second temptation? How did Jesus overcome it?
4. What was the third trial to tempt Jesus? How did Jesus win against Satan?
5. What is the moral behind this lesson?

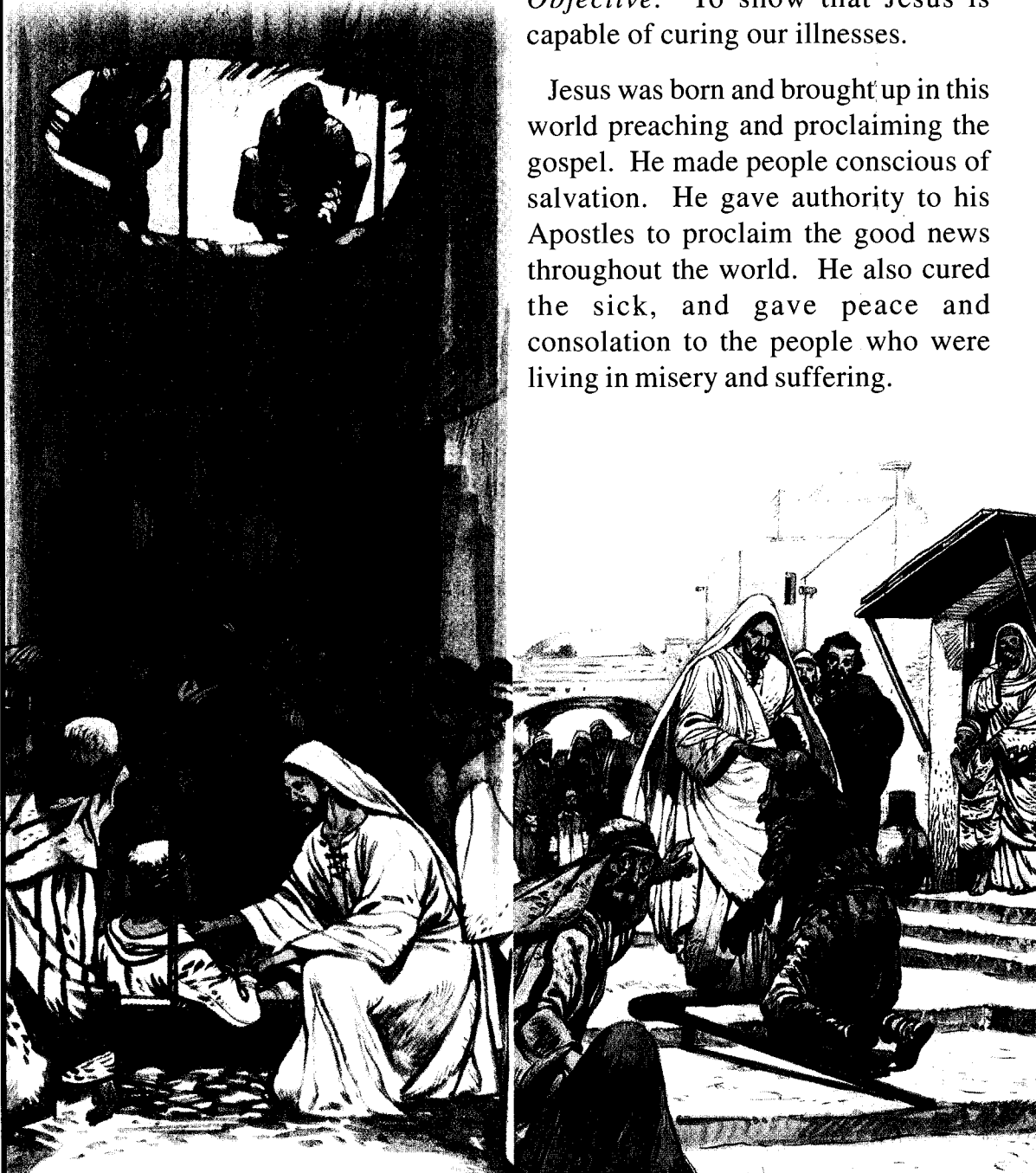
## LESSON 14

### JESUS HEALS THE SICK

(Mathew 15:22-28, Luke 5:18-26, Luke 17:11-19)

*Objective:* To show that Jesus is capable of curing our illnesses.

Jesus was born and brought up in this world preaching and proclaiming the gospel. He made people conscious of salvation. He gave authority to his Apostles to proclaim the good news throughout the world. He also cured the sick, and gave peace and consolation to the people who were living in misery and suffering.



One day a paralyzed man was brought to Jesus by four of his friends. Seeing their faith Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven". Jesus then ordered him, "take your bedding and walk home." The man was totally cured and he took his mat and went home.

One day a Canaanite woman approached Jesus. Crying out she told Jesus that her daughter was possessed by an evil spirit. Jesus had mercy on her. "Since you have great faith, your daughter is cured," Jesus said. From that minute onwards, her daughter was healed.

In those days, people did not like lepers. Lepers were considered as untouchables, and someone who touched a leper was considered unclean. Therefore, lepers were confined to isolated places. Today, there are leprosy hospitals where lepers can be cured by treatment. When Jesus went to a village, 10 lepers came to him. They cried aloud, "Jesus, have mercy on us." Jesus had mercy on them and they were healed.

Like this, Jesus cured the lame, the lepers, the demon-possessed, the blind, and many other sick persons. Jesus consoled many who suffered.

**I. Fill in the blanks**

1. Jesus cured the demon-possessed daughter of a ..... woman.
2. .... (number) lepers were cured by Jesus at one time.

**II. Answer the following**

1. What did Jesus command the lame person to do?
2. What were all the things that Jesus did for the people?
3. What is the moral behind this lesson?

**THE WIDOW'S OFFERING**

(Luke 21:1-4)

*Objective:* To show that we should give a reasonable share of our wealth to God, willingly.

Jesus used to go to the temple regularly. One day Jesus was preaching the Good News of the kingdom of God to the people. The Lord spoke to them in parables, so that the people would more easily understand. Jesus was watching the people while they were putting their offerings in the temple treasury.

Rich people were putting large amounts as offering into the temple treasury. They were very proud when others heard the sound and noticed all the money that they had offered. Then a poor widow came near the treasury with what she had. She had only two small copper coins. She put in both her coins in the treasury. She gave all that she had to God. Jesus noticed this, and was pleased.

Jesus called his disciples and said, *"Truly I say unto you. This poor widow has put in more than all the others."* The disciples were astonished. *"How can a poor widow contribute more than all of the others,"* they thought. Jesus explained that all the others had only put in a share of the wealth that they had in abundance. However, the poor widow had given all that she had, so that what she gave was more than what all the others gave.

When we give money to charity to help the poor, and when we put offerings in the church, we should give wholeheartedly in accordance with our ability.

**I. Fill in the blanks**

1. Jesus spoke to the people in .....so that they would more easily understand his lessons.
2. The poor widow put ..... into the temple treasury.

**II. Answer the following**

1. Is it in accordance with the word of God that we give offerings to the temple of God? If so, why?
2. Why did Jesus say that the two coins that the widow put in were greater than the large amounts put in by the rich?
3. What is the moral of this lesson?

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

(Luke 10:30-37)

*Objective:* To understand who a true friend is.

One day a Jewish man was traveling alone from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They beat him, robbed him and went away, leaving him half dead. He was severely injured. Blood flowed from his wounds. The robbers took all the money he had and the clothes he was wearing. This poor man was then left lying by the side of the road.

After some time a Jewish priest walked through that road. Seeing this helpless injured man, the priest went away without helping him. Later on, a Levite came by on the road. The Levites were people who did services in the Jewish Synagogues. He also saw the injured man and his bleeding wounds. Without caring to help, the Levite ignored the man and proceeded to his destination. Later a Samaritan came through the road. The Jewish people considered Samaritans as outcasts, and had little to do with them. However, the Samaritan got down from his donkey, and felt sorry for the injured man.

He examined the injured man, washed his wounds and applied oil to the wounds. He then bandaged the wounds, and took the injured man on his donkey



to the nearest inn. The next day, the Samaritan gave two silver coins to the innkeeper to make necessary arrangements for the injured man to rest at the inn. He promised the inn-keeper that he would pay any additional expense that may have been incurred when he returned.

Among the priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan, only the Samaritan had compassion on the injured man. Only the Samaritan helped the man in danger, even though he was not even a member of his community. He alone showed the love of God. God expects this love from all of us. We should show compassion for and help those who are in need.

**I. Fill in the blanks**

1. The traveler was going from ..... to.....
2. Levites are people who do..... in the Jewish temple.

**II. Answer the following**

1. What happened to the traveler in the middle of his travel?
2. What did the priest do after seeing the injured man?
3. What did the Levite do for the injured man?
4. Who helped the injured man?
5. What did the Samaritan do for the injured man?
6. What is the moral behind this lesson?

**LESSON 17**

**THE CANAANITE WOMAN**

(Mathew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30)

*Objective:* To show how firm faith will redeem us.

One day Jesus Christ traveled from Galilee to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. Knowing this, a Canaanite woman came behind Jesus. Crying aloud, she explained that her daughter was possessed by an evil spirit. She fell at the feet of Jesus and begged Him to cure her possessed daughter. Jesus said, "*It is not proper to give the children's bread to the pups.*"

What Jesus meant was that he would help the Gentiles only after fulfilling His work among the Jews.



Yet the woman was not discouraged or disappointed. With full confidence in Jesus, she said, *“Even the dogs eat the crumbs that falls from the tables of their masters.”*

Seeing that her faith was firm, Jesus said to her *“Let it happen to you in accordance with your desire”*.

At that very moment, her daughter was cured. When the mother returned home, she saw that her daughter was cured. She rejoiced.

Even if we do not get a favorable answer to our prayers immediately, we should continue our prayer with firm faith, without doubt or disappointment. Then our prayers will be answered.

### **I. Fill in the blanks**

1. Jesus went to proclaim the gospel (Good news) from Galilee to the places called.....and.....
2. The daughter of the Canaanite woman was possessed by.....
3. “It is not proper to give the children’s bread to .....”

### **II. Answer the following**

1. What was the request of the Canaanite woman to Jesus Christ?
2. What did the Canaanite woman say when Jesus said that it was not proper to give the bread of the children to the dogs?
3. “Let it happen according to your desire”. Who said this to whom?
4. What is the moral of this lesson?

## **LESSON 18**

### **TRUE FAITH OF THE HOLY CHURCH**

1. Who is God?

God is the creator and protector of all. God loves man. God acts as the guardian and companion of man.

2. What do you mean by one God in trinity?

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make up the Holy Trinity. One God is the fellowship of the Trinity that is the same God.

3. What are our duties to God?

Our duties to God are to know God, to praise Him, to worship Him, to love others as we love ourselves, and to live for the glory of God's name.

4. What do you mean by loving God?

To love God means to live according to the will of God.

5. From where can we know what the will of God is?

We can know the will of God from the word of God found in the Bible, and from the teachings of the Holy Church.

6. What do you mean by attaining eternal salvation?

Eternal salvation is living in the presence of God through the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and to rejoice with God in heaven forever.

7. Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, who was incarnated as man for the salvation of the human race. Jesus Christ is perfect God and perfect man.

8. What is the meaning of the name Jesus the Messiah?

Jesus means "savior" and Messiah means "the Anointed One."

9. What is Jesus Christ doing now?

Now Jesus is sitting at the right hand side of the Father, and intercedes for us.

10. Will Messiah come again to this world?

Yes. He will come again in great glory to gather all those who live according to the will of God.

11. Is the Incarnate Son of God known by any other names?

Yes - The Word, Only Begotten Son, Jesus, Immanuel, Messiah, Christ, etc.

12. How can one become eligible to attain salvation?

One can attain salvation by believing in the incarnation of the Messiah and accepting Jesus as the Savior, receiving God's grace from the Holy Church and by living a holy life.

13. What is meant by the incarnation of the Holy Son?

The Son, the second Person in the Holy Trinity attained human form by the Holy Spirit through the Holy Virgin St. Mary.

14. Have the Father, Son and Holy Spirit incarnated in human form?

The Father and Holy Spirit have not incarnated. Only the Son has incarnated as man.

15. What is the purpose of the incarnation of the Holy Son?

The Holy Son, Jesus Christ, became a man for the redemption and salvation of humanity.

16. How did Jesus redeem us?

Jesus saved us by His passion, crucifixion, death, and resurrection.

17. Why does the Church insist that we face the east while praying?

In the second coming Jesus, the Sun of Justice will come from the east. Therefore, we pray looking to the east to watch and wait for his arrival.

18. Who are the ordained clergy in the church?

Metropolitans, Priests and Deacons are the ordained clergy in the Church.

19. What are the duties of the priests?

Under the supervision of the Bishops, the priests perform the sacraments and worship services for the spiritual upliftment of himself and his parishioners.

## HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

1. What is the name of our Church?  
The Holy Universal Syrian Orthodox Church.
2. Who is the supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church ?  
His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius, the Patriach of Antioch And All the East
3. Who is the present supreme head of our church?  
His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East.
4. Who is our Diocesan Metropolitan?  
(Teach the name of the concerned Metropolitan)
5. Where were the followers of Christ first called Christians?  
Antioch.

