

ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST



JERUSALEM DIVISION

Class VIII

(English)

Sunday School Central Office
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Preface

Education is a continuing and refreshing endeavour which attempts to train and equip kids and the young people for a spiritual, active and successful life; and hence it is an 'investment' for today and tomorrow. The myriad possibilities of education have encouraged religion, countries and ideologies to adapt it for furthering their objectives and long term aims. In the Christian tradition "Christian education" is a ministry of the Church.

Secular education programme in every situation and country has undergone enormous transformation through the years. More and more study and research is going into the philosophical base, content, techniques of teaching and learning, learners' participation, technique of evaluation etc. So it is only natural that 'revisions' happen from time to time.

"Christian Education", for which the Sunday School lays the foundation and prods nurture, is never intended to be a carbon copy of what happens in the world of secular education. Christian education has its unique aim and objectives, philosophy, ethics and vision. However, it is not irrelevant to learn from the relevant and successful 'techniques' available and adopted in the secular front. But we must be constantly careful, never to slip away from our firm Orthodox foundations!

It is highly commendable that the Orthodox Syrian Sundayschool Association has taken the bold step to completely revise the whole curriculum, trusting in God, who loves children. Every lesson and every detail is prepared after a pretty long stretch of study, discussion, correction and revisits by a team of people who have the interest and expertise to engage in this exacting and time-consuming exercise. Provisions are made to give proper guidelines and direction to teachers. All this study materials are being prepared in Malayalam and English simultaneously. The regional schools, especially, those outside India, shall adapt these basic materials to suit local situations, linguistic and cultural variances; and aptitudes of children but keeping the broad structure and basics intact.

These revised study materials are dedicated to the Church, with the fervent expectation that all those who love the Church, and our children who are dear to our Lord Jesus Christ, shall certainly welcome this venture.

Devalokam
01-05-2015

Yakob Mar Irenious Metropolitan
President, OSSAE



Preparation of lessons

Translated into English by

Introduction

I am happy to present before you the English version of the first part of the text book of Class X of Jerusalem section. The new curriculum developed by the OSSAE is designed as per the new innovations happened in the field of educational psychology as well as on the basis of a good analysis of our old text books. It gives more importance to the Bible, worship and faith matters of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. The lessons of the history of Christianity are drafted in a student friendly and easy to learn method. More importance is given to the Holy Qurbana and the Fathers of our Church in India. A value based life of a child is also envisioned in our new syllabus.

The present text may be a good example for the things mentioned above. I am grateful to the people who worked hard for producing this wonderful book in spite of their heavy schedule. I hope this will make our students learn much about our Church, its faith, its history and its traditions. We are extremely thankful to Prof. Jose K. Philip for preparing the English translation.

Devalokam
01-06-2015

Fr. Dr. Reji Mathew
Director General

Dear students,

We are undertaking a comprehensive revision of the Sunday School Curriculum. Relevant changes have been brought about in the content and structure of the lessons. We are preparing a teachers' Handbook along with the textbook for students. We expect that this arrangement will be more helpful to teachers and students alike.

The period of learning from Pre-School to Class XII is divided into 5 stages

1. Bethlahem	Preschool class	Upto Age 5
2. Nazreth	Class I to III	Age 5-7
3. Galilee	Class IV to VII	Age 8-11
4. Jerusalem	Class VIII to X	Age 12-14
5. Tabor	Class XI and XII	Age 15-16

This is the textbook for Class VIII in the Jerusalem category. Let us look into the structure of the lessons given in the textbook.

1. Theme: The central idea that should be sensitised through each lesson is given here. We should give special emphasis to this idea while transacting a lesson.

2. Verse to be memorized: A biblical verse related to the central theme of the lesson is given for memorizing. The teacher should read out this verse from the Holy Bible at the end of the class and the students should say it aloud several times. Prompt the students to learn the verse, including its reference, by heart.

3. Learning aids: Take care to provide pictures and books, connected to the central theme as well as the Holy Bible in the classroom.

4. Introduction: This section helps in making the presentation of the lesson attractive and enjoyable. Simple questions, anecdotes connected with the life-experience of children and the things we see around are given here.

A simple and enjoyable introduction alone ensures easy learning further. Hence read and present the ideas given here with diligence.

5. Reading Passage or text: This is the content of the lesson. We have tried our best to make it student-centred. The ideas should be presented in a participatory manner. There should be good student involvement. The teacher should take the Holy Bible to class. He should read out the biblical passages. The descriptions made should have the quality of a narration. The students should be encouraged through interaction questions. When important ideas come let the students recite them in Chorus. Questions given in the 'Pause and reflect' section must be posed before the students. Song or hymns, picture stories, short plays etc. are given in the lesson.

Students shall be made to sing songs and enact small plays. Stories should be read out to them. There are separate units of Prayer, Hymns of Worship, My Church, Good habits etc. The unit 'Prayer' aims at making the students say prayers in the evening and in the morning regularly. Students should be encouraged to do that. Directions for this are given in each lesson.

6. Let us think: These are evaluation questions given to examine how for the students have grasped the ideas in the text. The teacher should ask these questions in the class. Space for writing the answers are also provided. Either teacher or parents can write answers for the students.

7. Activities: Most of the tasks given in the section are for enacting, drawing, physical action or narration. Take care to make children do these tasks. The number of lessons have been reduced. Hence we think that there will be ample time for these activities as well.

8. Song or Hymns: A song or hymn connected with the lesson is given here. The teacher should sing it aloud and the students should recite it in chorus. Many songs are quite simple and familiar. So the students can sing them easily. Songs of OVBS classes are also included. So most of the songs will be familiar to students. The teacher seek the help of others who have musical aptitude. It will be better if the teacher can supplement suitable actions while reciting the songs.

9. Let us Pray: A simple prayer connected with the theme of the lesson is given here. The teacher and the students can say this prayer in the class

together. All should stand up and cross themselves before the prayer. The teacher can recite it aloud and the student can repeat the prayer.

10. Our Our Decision: An idea that can touch the students' mind like a Our Decision and that can be implemented in their lives is given in this section. Make the students say aloud this concept.

11. Further Reading: Various biblical passages connected with the lesson are given for reading in the evening and in the morning of all days of a week. If the students are unable to read them on their own, elders should read it aloud for them. The biblical passages are arranged in such a manner that a student can read it from one Sunday evening till the next Sunday morning. Parents should encourage their words to read the prescribed passages along with the prayers at home. We hope that this practice will prompt regular family prayers and meditation of biblical verses.

The service rendered by our Sunday School teachers in imparting spiritual training to the growing generation and confirming them in right faith and right worship is invaluable. Full co-operation of all students and teachers is essential for the successful implementation of the New Curriculum. Since the new system is different to a great extent from the old, teachers should handle the new curriculum and methods of learning carefully and diligently. Be kind enough to let your valuable suggestions and encouragement known to us. Let there be abundant blessings of the benevolent God on this righteous endeavour of Sunday School teachers and other authorities for the sake of the Holy Church.

Dr. Sam V. Daniel
Executive Editor
Ph. 9495300773

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UNIT I

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 1

EARLY PROPHETS (Nathan, Elijah, Elisha)

(2 Samuel 7, 12; 1 Kings 17-19; 2 Kings 1-2, 4-9)

Objectives of the lesson:

- To understand the prophetic mission of early prophets; Nathan, Elijah and Elisha.
- To understand the good works of prophets in relation with God
- To put efforts for leading a life by maintaining relation with God and make use of God's love for self and others
- To experience the power of prayer in life.

Verse to memorize: Now listen to this warning, you kings; learn this lesson, you rulers of the world. Serve the Lord with fear (Ps. 2:10-11).

Learning Tools: Chart showing the periods of reign of kings of Israel, The Holy Bible, Map of Palestine land, Prayer book (Pambakkuda) and the book of Holy Mass.

Introduction

We are going to learn about prophets in this lesson. Have you heard of prophets and can you say who were the prophets?. You may know about Abraham, Moses, Joshua and Samuel. In the previous classes you have studied about Saul, David and Solomon who were first Kings of Israel. There were many people during the period of these Kings and their successors who acted as the spokesmen of God. Some of them had prophesies written. They were known as 'the writing prophets'. But there is no written record of prophesies of many of the early prophets like Nathan, Elijah

and Elisha. We understand their works through the books of Kings in Bible. The kings who were supposed to be the ambassadors of God sometimes acted against the will of God. The prophets like them were delegated by God himself as his spokespersons in order to correct the kings. Today we shall learn about these three prophets.

Lesson

These prophets lived in Israel during 10th and 9th century B.C.

1. Prophet Nathan

The meaning of the word 'Nathan' is 'he has given'. Nathan was a prophet lived in Israel during the reign of King David. He entered the scene when King David was aspiring to build a temple for the God (2 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 17). No other reference about him is available except that he appeared before David with the message of God. Later, he became the loyal warden of the kingship of David and his successor Solomon.

A charming story told by the Prophet Nathan is found in the Bible. Here, he daringly pointed out a fault occurred in the life of King David in an appropriate manner (2 Samuel 14). It led King David to great compassion. The Psalm 51, which we read daily, is the remorseful prayer sung by the King at that time.

Again, the God acted through the Prophet Nathan. A best example for this can be seen in the steps initiated by the prophet to anoint Solomon in connivance with Bathsheba as successor to King David while Adonijah, another son of David, was conspiring to become king (1 Kings 1:11-45).

Even though, David had abandoned the construction of temple in accordance with the command of God, in 2 Chronicles 29:25, it is seen that he prepared hymns for worship under the inspiration of Prophet Nathan.

Prophet Nathan, who lived in the 10th century B.C., can be considered as foremost among the hierarchy of prophets who declared the messages of God with the firm conviction that the prophet is the messenger of God and should act without having fear of authorities on earth.

To reflect...

1. What is the meaning of the word 'Nathan'?
2. Which king the Prophet Nathan led to true remorse?
3. How did the Prophet Nathan anoint Solomon as king?
4. What is the greatest virtue of Prophet Nathan?

2. Prophet Elijah

The word 'Elijah' means 'Jehovah is my God'. Elijah was a prophet lived during the reign of King Ahab (9th century B.C.) who ruled the northern kingdom (Israel) that came into existence subsequent to the division of the earlier kingdom after King Solomon. The activities of the Prophet spread out through chapters 17 to 19 and 21 in 1 Kings and through chapters 1 and 2 in 2 Kings.

Prophet Elijah, the Tishbite had to confront King Ahab, one among the cruelest kings of Israel (1 Kings 17). He prophesied drought for a period of three years to Ahab who acted against the will of God. After that he dwelt by the brook Cherith and in the home of a widow in Zarephath and carried out some miracles.

After three years, the Prophet met King Ahab again. He offered sacrifice on Mount Carmel by challenging the prophets of Baal. He could prove that Jehovah is the only God and caused rain in the land (1 Kings 18).

In 1 Kings 19, it is described that Elijah climbs Mount Horeb out of fear of Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He fasted for forty days. God speaks to Elijah at Mount Horeb (Zeon), the same mountain on which God entered into covenant with Moses. On his return to Samaria he anoints Hazael as king of Syria and Jehu as king of Israel. He also appoints Elisha as his successor.

In 1 Kings 21, Elijah interfered once more when Ahab attempted to take over the vineyard of Naboth. Jezebel got Naboth killed and seized the vineyard. God informed Ahab the punishment for this wicked act. Over and above the sin of seizing Naboth's land, his action was against the command of Moses that one tribe should not claim the land belong to another tribe.

The last scene associated with Prophet Elijah is described in 2 Kings 2. The Prophet was taken up to heaven by God in a whirlwind at the opposite side of Jordan while he was with his successor, the Prophet Elisha. He is the one among the two in the history of Jews who escaped the clutches of death. It is said in Malachi 4:9 that the Prophet Elijah could be send before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

To reflect...

1. What is the meaning of the word 'Elijah'?
2. During the period of which king that Elijah lived?
3. Name the mountain to which Elijah climbed fearing Ahab?
4. Whom did Elijah appointed as his successor?

3. Prophet Elisha (B.C. 850-800)

The word 'Elisha' means 'God is saviour'. As we have seen, Prophet Elisha was the disciple and successor of Prophet Elijah. Elijah found Elisha plowing in the field of his father Shaphat and made him his disciple by throwing his (Elijah's) mantle upon him. Elisha who asked for double of his master's spirit received Elijah's mantle as the symbol of his status as a prophet (2 Kings 4:9). His activities covered the reigning periods of kings Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz and Joash of Israel. While his master Elijah lived in caves, Elisha preferred to live in sub-urban areas. Realizing the holiness of Elisha, a rich woman of Shunem prepared a home for him (2 Kings 4:8-10). However, it was his own home at Samaria was of paramount importance to him. Elisha, the wise and a man of miracles lived with his disciples. He used to visit the worship places at Bethel, Gilgal, Mount Carmel etc. (The activities of Elisha are detailed in 2 Kings chapters 2 to 9 and in chapter 13).

To reflect...

1. What is the meaning of the word 'Elisha'?
2. Where from Elijah initiated Elisha to become his disciple?
3. Who prepared a home for Elisha?
4. Which are the places of worship Elisha visited?

The activities of this prophet in Israel had many dimensions:

1. Personnel

By keeping himself approachable to common man, he interfered in their day to day problems and solved them. Let us look into a few incidents in this respect:

(All students may take the bible. Read about the following five incidents and present them as stories).

1. Purifies the harmful water in the spring in the city of Jericho by adding salt to it (2 Kings 2:19-22).
2. Resurrects the son of the woman of Shunem, who prepared a house for him (2 Kings 4: 18-37).
3. Nullifies the poisonous effect of the pottage served to the sons of the prophets at Gilgal (2 Kings 4:38-41).
4. Heals the leprosy of Naaman, commander of the King of Syria (2 Kings 5:1-9).
5. Finds the axe that had fallen in the river to the relief of the sons of prophet (2 Kings 6:1-7).

2. Social and Economic

1. Increases the quantity of oil in the vessel of the widow (2 Kings 4:1-7).
2. Increases the quantity of loaves of bread of barley (2 Kings 4:43-44).
3. Restores the field of the woman of Shunem to her (2 Kings 8:1-6).

3. Political

1. Anoints Jehu instead of Hazael as king of Israel (2 Kings 9: 1-7).
2. Provides enough water to the allied forces of Israel which set out for war against Moabites (2 Kings 3:4-20).
3. Reveals to the king of Israel the locations where the forces of Syria encamped (2 Kings 6:8-12).
4. Rescues Israel from the terror of Syria (2 Kings 6:13-7:20).
5. Prophecies, while in death bed, that King Joash would defeat the king of Syria (2 Kings 13:14-19).

The political interventions of Elisha in order to make Israel accept the supremacy of God can be considered as out of way actions with respect to his sphere of activities. The greed of Gehazi, the disciple of Elisha and the consequent punishment is a noteworthy incident. Similarly, the resurrection of the dead body which had fallen in the sepulcher of Elisha also is significant (2 Kings 13:20-21). The mention made in our Canons that the bones of saints have miraculous effect is based on this incident.

To reflect...

1. What was the influence Nathan, the prophet had in the rule of King David? Describe in the light of incidences.
2. What are the three important activities Prophet Nathan had carried out in his capacity as the messenger of God?
3. What was the prayer Elijah said while offering sacrifice to God? (1 Kings 18:35-37).
4. Which is the occasion in the Qurbana when the priest says this prayer?
5. What are the great deeds of Elijah as prophet?
6. Detail the experience of God as witnessed by Elijah at Mount Horeb.
7. Prove that even the bones of the demised saints possess miraculous effects by relating to Elisha.
8. Explain the various aspects of the ministries of a prophet based on the activities of Elisha.

Activities

1. 'Thou art the man.' Who said this statement and to whom? Find out from the Bible.
2. It is seen that Elijah is one among the two who had not faced death. Who is the other person? (Refer Hebrews 11:5).
3. Find out the references in our prayers where Moses and Elijah are associated.
4. Prepare a chart showing the wonders of Elisha in individual levels.

Song

Resolution

*We shall endeavour to speak daringly to others in accordance with the will of God and shall act accordingly.
We shall not ever discontinue the prayer.*

Prayer

Lord, enable us to continue in the faith of our forefathers who taught and led us in true faith. Help us to propagate the true faith as our forefathers did. Make us to continue in lent, prayers and other practices of faith which are advised by them and useful for our souls.

For further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	2 Sam. 7
Monday	2 Sam. 12	1 Kgs. 1
Tuesday	1 Kgs. 17	1 Kgs. 10
Wednesday	Ps. 51	1 Chr. 17
Thursday	2 Chr. 29	1 Kgs. 19
Friday	2 Kgs. 1	2 Kgs. 2
Saturday	1 Kgs. 21	2 Kgs. 3-9
Sunday	2 Kgs. 3	-

LESSON 2
KINGDOM OF ISRAEL DIVIDED
(1 Kgs. 11 and 12)

Objective of lesson:

- To understand that God shall punish those who act against his will and He shall remove them from their positions. God's intention is not to destroy such people eternally but to give them an opportunity for improvement.
- To internalize the above mentioned fact and make an analysis of their own life.

Verse to Memorize: If you obey me completely, live by my laws, and win my approval by doing what I command, as my servant David did, I will always be with you (1 Kgs. 11:38)

Learning Tools: the map of Israel during the time of David and Solomon, The Holy Bible, Prayer book (Pambakkuda) and the book of Holy Mass.

Introduction

We learnt about the covenant made by God with King David. The Kingdom of Israel faced disaster as King Solomon could not continue to rule by following this covenant. This lesson explains the bifurcation of 'Israel' which was a powerful nation under the leadership of Solomon.

Lesson

Solomon ruled Israel from 961 B.C to 922 B.C. He was powerful, rich and wise. The period of King Solomon can be termed as the best period for Israel. But Solomon acted against the commands of God. He accepted wives from other tribes from neighboring countries (2 Kg.11: 1-4). He turned away from the paths of David and concentrated on foreign gods. He acted against the commands of God. Because of this some people stood against Solomon. Hadad from the royal family of Edom turned against Solomon. He was living in Egypt after escaping from David while David conquered Edom (I Kgs 11: 14-22).

God also caused Rezon, King of Zobah to turn against Solomon (1 Kgs 11:23-25). Another man who turned against King Solomon was one of the officials Jerobeam (1 Kgs 11:26-40). However none of these people could win over King Solomon. The country was divided as God gave up Solomon and internal problems were started. Prophet Ahijah says this was as per the will of God (1 Kgs 11:29-35).

To reflect...

The leaders who stood against Solomon were.....

The prophet who met Jerobeam on the way was

After the death of King Solomon the people assembled at Shekhem to elect Rehobeam, the son of Solomon as the King. Jerobeam also went there along with a group of people. They demanded to reduce the tax as the people are facing difficulties because of the economic policies in the country. Rehobeam asked three days time for taking a decision. He discussed the matter with elderly people who were advisors of his father and friends who were his new advisors. His young advisors were of the opinion to reject the demand of Jerobeam and his group. After three days the King conveyed his decision to Jerobeam's people in harsh words.(1 Kgs 12:1-15). The people became angry and dispersed by shouting against David and his family and saying David's family has not done anything good to them. Then King Rehobeam sent Adoniram as in charge of the Israelites, but they stoned him to death (1 Kgs 12:16-20). The tribes of Judah and Benjamin has made Rehobeam their king and the remaining 10 tribes have made Rehobeam their king. Thus the kingdom of Israel was divided into two.

To reflect...

Whose advice Rehobeam had taken on the demand put up by Jerobeam and his people?

Name the tribes accepted Rehobeam as the king. Which tribes accepted Jerobeam as their king?

When Rehobeam reached Jerusalem, he planned a war with Israelites. But God stopped this move through Semariah telling them not to fight with own brothers (1 Kgs 12:21-24). Jerobeam's Kingdom came to be known as Israel (the Northern country) and Rehobeam's kingdom was known as Judah (northern country). The capital of Israel was initially Thirsa which was later shifted to Samaria. The capital of Judah was Jerusalem.

We can understand that the wrong economic policies King Solomon and the omissions in his has led to the division of the country.

Let us think

1. The specialties of Solomon the king of Israel
2. The sin committed by King Solomon in front of God
3. The punishment given by God for the sins committed by Solomon
4. The result of punishments
5. The style of rule by King Solomon

Activities

1. Lord said to Solomon “because you have deliberately and disobeyed my commands, I promise that I willand give it one of your officials. However, for the sake ofI will not do this in your lifetime, but during the reign of your son, and I; instead, I will leave him one tribe for the sake of, the city I have made my own.

2. Find the answer for the following questions from 1 Kgs Ch.11 an 12 of the holy Bible.

- (i) Why did Solomon worshipped foreign Gods?
- (ii) Who were the people stood against Solomon at will of God?
- (iii) What was the advice given to Rehebeam by his young advisors?
- (iv) How God conveyed his message to Yerobeam through prophet Ahia?

Fill up the Cross words

To right

1. The first King of Israel
2. The king who made a covenant with God

Down

3. The first capital of Northern country
4. One of the tribes who made Rehebeam their king
5. The historical book in New testament

1				4
			3	
2	5			

Resolution

We shall never deviate from the will of God.
We shall not forget the blessings of God and live a life
praising God.

Prayer

Merciful Lord, enlighten us with your wisdom. Make worthy of the eternal happiness. Purify us. Make us to praise you always and remember your wonderful activities. Help us to always stand before you enjoy your presence. Tie our hearts with love towards you and help us to praise you always.

For further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	1 Kgs. 11: 1-8
Monday	1 Kgs. 11: 9-22	1 Kgs. 11:23-25
Tuesday	1 Kgs. 11:26-30	1 Kgs. 11:31-40
Wednesday	1 Kgs. 1:41- 43	1 Kgs. 12:1-15
Thursday	1 Kgs. 12:6-10	1 Kgs. 12:11-20
Friday	1 Kgs. 12: 21-28	1 Kgs. 12:29-33
Saturday	Deut.7: 1-4	2 Kgs. 12:1-15
Sunday	2 Sam.7	-

LESSON 3

PROPHET JOSIAH: CLEANSES TEMPLE AND LIVE AS PER THE LAW OF GOD

(2 Kgs. 22: 1 – 23:30)

Objectives of the Lesson:

- To understand that God will save extricate those who obey his commandments from the eternal death.
- To make the students to live according to God's commands

Verse to memorize: Obey me and do everything that I have commanded, If they obeyed they would be my people and I will be their God. Jer.11:4

Teaching aids: The map of Israel, Prayer book and the book of Holy mass.

Introduction

Let's reflect

The period of reign of Josiah

The women prophet helped Josiah to understand God's message

The chief priest during the period

The book of law that was recovered from temple

Josiah was a King who did what was pleasing God. He became king of Judah at the age of 8. Josiah ruled for 31 years (BC 640-609). He was the son of Amon and Jedidah. The chief priest during the time was Hilkiah and the principal secretary (court secretary) was Shaphan. In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent Shaphanto to Hilkiah the chief priest with an order to repair the temple. During the work Hilkiah found the book of law in the temple and handed it over to Shaphan. Shaphan read the book to Josiah. The king understood that the words in the book

are from God. He humbled himself and repented before God. He sent people to prophet Hulda to know God's message through the book. The prophet informed that God will punish Jerusalem, but this happen after his death only.

After listening to the book of law, Josiah destroyed all the idols and worship places of foreign Gods in Judah and burned them. He destroyed the place of worship at Bethel and the tools used for worship there. He took out the born of the dead from the tombs and burned them on the places of sacrifice to make it impure. However, Josiah kept one of the tombs safe which belonged to the unknown prophet who prophesied against the places of sacrifice in Bethel (1 Kgs. 13: 2-32).

Then Josiah asked the people to observe Passover as instructed in the book of law. In the 18th year of his rule, the King and all the people observed Passover in such a way that the Passover has not been observed so perfectly since the time of judges (2 Kgs.13: 2-32). He removed all wickedness from the country (2 Kgs. 23:24). There had never been a king like him before, who served the Lord with all his heart, mind and strength, obeying all the laws of Moses; nor has there been a king like him since (2 Kgs.23: 25).

Let's reflect

The year in which all the people together observed the Passover
Josiah's initiatives to fulfill the commands of God in the book of law
(2 Deut.23:24)

Josiah lived according to the book of law. But Jerusalem was destroyed because of the sins committed by Manasse his ancestor. God said that he will destroy Judah also as he has done with Israel.

When Faravonekho, the king of Egypt (Misraem) came to fight with Asur, Josiah fought with him. He was killed by Faravonekho at Meridho. His servants brought his body to Jerusalem and buried it there. Josiah's son Jehovahas became the King (2 Deut. 35: 20-27)

Let's Reflect

1. What are the specialties observed in the rule of Josiah?
2. What are the specialties of observance of Passover during the time of Josiah?
3. Though Josiah lived according to the book of law, Jerusalem was destroyed. Why?
4. How Josiah died?

Activities

1. Read Deut.15:19- 18:22 and summarize the rules given there.
2. Read Holy Bible and understand the relation between Bethel and the unknown prophet (1 Kgs. 13 onwards).
3. Compare Josiah's reforms with that of your answer for question 1.

Resolution

We shall live in accordance with the laws of God and whole heartedly participate in the worship and rites of the Church.

Let's Pray

Our Lord Jesus, help us and be a dwelling place for us, strengthen us and protect us. Jesus, do not allow the wicked to come near to us, forgive our sins and offences. Jesus, have mercy on us at the time of your judgment. Lord have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.

For Further Reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	1 Deut. 15
Monday	2 Kgs. 22	1 Deut. 16
Tuesday	2 Kgs. 23:1-20	1 Deut. 17
Wednesday	2 Kgs. 23:21-27	1 Deut. 18
Thursday	1 Kgs. 12	Jer. 11
Friday	1 Chr. 35	1 Kgs. 13
Saturday	1 Kgs. 14	

Lesson 4

THE FALL OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

Objectives of Lesson:

- To understand that the realm in Israel was installed by God, hence the faith in God for a King is important equally as his responsibility to the people of God.
- To understand that it is unfaithful to God and His call if any one join with alien Gods. This will lead the country to fall and meltdown. Live a life that is faithful to God.

Verse to Memorize: The lord was kind and merciful to them. He would not let them be destroyed, but helped them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has never forgotten his people (2 Kgs.13:23)

Introduction: We learnt that the Israel was divided after the period of Solomon and the five tribes have formed a country namely 'Israel' under the leadership of Jeroboam with Samaria as capital. Let us learn about important rulers in Israel from the period B.C.E 922 to B.C.E 721 when Samaria was defeated by King of Asur.

Lesson

Israel was ruled by 19 kings from Jeroboam (B.C E 922 -901) to Hoshea (B.C.E 732-721). All of them belonged to nine different clan/families (refer 1 Kgs.12 to 2 Kgs 17:41). We shall learn about few of these kings in this lesson.

Jeroboam (B.C E 922 -901) (1 Kgs.12:25 – 14:20)

He was the first King of Israel. He did not succeed in the attempt to oust King Solomon, and escaped to King Shishak of Egypt (1 Kgs 11: 26-40). When Solomon died, Jeroboam initiated a talk for peace with Rehebeam, son of Solomon but failed. He became the King of Israel with the support of ten tribes. He ruled Israel for 22 years.

The people of Israel used to go to Jerusalem which was in Judah the southern country to offer sacrifice at the temple there. Jeroboam thought that this movement of people to Jerusalem will create problem for him and the security of his country. He made two bull calves of gold and placed them one at Dan and the other at Bethel and asked the people to worship them. Thus he made the people to deviate from the book of law. He appointed priests from families who were not from the tribe of Levi. He himself offered sacrifice on the altar. As Jeroboam stood at the altar to offer sacrifice, a prophet from Judah reached there and denounced the altar. He said, "A child, whose name will be Josiah, will be born to the family of David and destroy this altar". Hearing this Jeroboam wanted to contain the prophet but his arms became paralysed so that he couldn't pull it back. The altar fell apart and ashes spilt to the ground fulfilling the prophet's prediction.

Prophet Ahija told Jeroboam's wife about the death of Abijah, Jeroboam's son and disaster going to happen with the family (1 Kgs 14:9). He told that Lord had abandoned Israel because of the sins of Jeroboam. Abijah, son of Jeroboam died because of the sins of his father. Jeroboam came to be known in the history as the son of Nebath who led the people of Israel into sin.

Let's reflect..

1. The reason for the fall of Jeroboam
2. Why did Jeroboam's wife went to the prophet Ahija?
3. What was the message given by prophet?

2. Ahab (BCE 860-850) (1 Kgs.16: 29-22-40)

Ahab does not belong to the family of Jeroboam. Elija, the famous and efficient prophet lived during the time of Ahab. Ahab ruled for 22 years. He sinned against the Lord more than his predecessor Jeroboam. It was not enough for him to sin like Jeroboam. He married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon and worshipped Baal. He built a temple to Baal in Samaria, made an altar for Baal. He sinned against the Lord more than any of his predecessors. (1 Kgs.16:31-34). Prophet Elijah tried to correct and warned Ahab many times. There was drought in Israel for three years when Ahab said 'There will not be no dew or rain for the next two or three years until I say so'.

450 prophets of Baal were killed after the worship at Carmel (1 Kgs.19: 1-3). Ezebel gave order to kill Elijah but could not succeed. This became a reason for removing Ahab's family from the Kingship. When King Benhadad of Syria came

to attack Israel, Ahab acted as per words of a prophet and defeated him (1 Kgs. 20: 1-34).

Ahab attempted to take over the vineyard of Naboth. Jezebel got Naboth killed and seized the vineyard. The Lord became very angry on Ahab on this incident (1 Kgs. 21: 1-24). Later, after three years, Ahab died in a war with Aram. This was predicted by Prophet Micaiah (1 Kgs.22:1-40). Dogs licked up his blood (1 Kgs. 22:37) according to the prophecy of Elijah (1 Kgs.21: 19).

Lets Reflect:

1. Name two prophets lived during the reign of Ahab
2. Ahab wanted a vine yard near his palace. Whose vine vineyard was it? Why did he want it?
3. What was the crime committed by Ahab?

Jehu (B.C.E 842-815) (2 Kgs. 8: 1-10:36)

When Prophet Elijah returned from Mount Horeb, Lord asked him to do three duties and one among them was to anoint Jehu as the king of Israel (1 Kgs. 19:16). As God's will Elisha the disciple of Elijah has send a young prophet to Jehu and anointed him as the King of Israel (2 Kgs.9:1-10). Jehu ruled Israel for 28 years. The destruction of the family of Ahab was one of the assignments given to Jehu. He killed Joram (also known as Jehoram) the king of Israel who was the son of Ahab and went to Samaria (2 Kgs.9:14-26). When Jehu reached Jezreel, Jezebel tried to attract him with her beauty. She was thrown down from the window by her own officials. Her body was eaten by Dogs fulfilling the word of God. (2 Kgs. 9: 30-37). Then Jehu killed all the descendants of Ahab (2 Kgs. 10:1-17). He killed all the prophets of Baal and wiped out the idol worship in Israel. But Jehu retained the golden bull calves at Bethel ad Dan set up by Jerobeam. So the Lord gave him the rights to be King to his descendants up to the fourth generation (2 Kgs. 10: 18-36).

Lets Reflect..

1. Who anointed Jehu as the King?
2. How many generations, the descendants of Jehu will continue to be the King?
3. Why the right to become King was restricted to few generations?

Hoshea (B.C.E 732-723) (2 Kgs. 17)

Hoshea was the 19th and last king of Israel. He ruled for 9 years. He sinned against the Lord. When emperor Shalmaneser of Assyria made war against him; Hoshea surrendered and paid him tribute every year. Later Hoshea sought the help of King of Egypt and stopped paying annual tribute to Assyria. When Shalmanesaer learnt this, he arrested Hoshea and put him in prison.

In BC 721, the Assyrian emperor captured Samaria and took Israelites to Assyria as prisoners and settled them in different places (2 Kgs. 17:6).

Samaria fell because the Israelites sinned against the Lord by disobeying his commandments, put up pagan Gods and worshipped them (2 Kgs. 17: 7-18).

The emperor of Assyria took people from the cities of Babylon, Cuth, Ivvah, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and settled them in cities of Samaria in place of the exiled Israelites (2 Kgs. 17:24).

Israel, the northern country was totally destroyed for ever by B.C 721. The Israelites even lost their racial purity.

Let's think..and do..

1. Prepare brief essays on the reign and specialties of Jerobeam, Ahab, Jehu and Hoshea
2. Which bad experiences Jerobeam faced in his life and what was the reason for them?
3. Explain how the behaviour and nature of his spouse influenced the rule of Ahab?
4. What are the lessons learnt from the history of the above mentioned Kings?
5. What was the reason for the destruction of Kingdom of Israel?
6. Who anointed Jehu as the King? Explain the situation that led to this.
7. Who was the last King of Israel? How his became a reason for the destruction of Israel?

Activities

1. Read 1 Kgs 12:1- 2 Kgs.17:41 and find out the 19 Kings who ruled Israel.
2. Who out of the above mentioned Kings had family descendants?
3. How many different families are found in this series?
4. Read 1 Kgs.18 and prepare a short story (for children) on the worship at Carmel

Resolution

We shall protect the faith and practices of
Orthodox Church which that keeps the true faith.
We shall lead a life faithful to Lord.

Let us Pray

Lord, teach us your commandments. Help us to follow them and live in your mercy. Help us to protect your blessing in us and not allow them to be taken away. Holy Lord, praised by the saints, purify our thoughts so that we shall praise you as the angels do.

For further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	1 Kgs. 15,16
Monday	2 Kgs. 1, 2	1 Kgs. 17,18
Tuesday	2 Kgs. 3, 4	1 Kgs. 18, 19
Wednesday	2 Kgs. 5, 6	1 Kgs. 20, 21
Thursday	2 Kgs. 7, 8	1 Kgs. 22
Friday	2 Kgs. 9, 10	2 Kgs. 13,14
Saturday	2 Kgs. 11, 12	2 Kgs. 17
Sunday	2 Kgs. 13, 14	-

LESSON 5
**THE FALL OF JUDAH, THE SOUTHERN
KINGDOM**

(Babylonian exile)

(2 Kgs15, 18 23 and 25)

Objective of the lesson:

- To understand the depth of covenant made by David with God
- To analyse the factors led to fall of Judah and Babylonean exile
- To evaluate the after effects of fall in faith on God in the context of House of David and Kingdom of Judah
- To help children to practice the messages from this lesson in their life

Introduction

Let's recollect the story of Israel we learnt in the previous classes. The first King of Israel was Saul. King David was Solomon's successor. There after David's son Solomon became King of Israel. When Israel was divided, only two tribes; Judah and Benyamin stood with the house of David and ruled the country with Jerusalem as capital. Judah was ruled by the house of David. 20 kings have ruled Judah till the king of Babel has captured Jerusalem(586 B.C). Lets learn about some of these Kings, the fall of Judah and the situation that led to exile in Babylon.

Lesson

Jeroboam the son of Solomon was the first King of Judah. He ruled for 17 years with capital as Jerusalem. We shall learn about few of his successors.

Uzziah (BC 783-742) (2 Kgs. 15: 1-7, 2 Chr.26:3-23)

Uzziah (also known as Assariah) became the king of Judah at the age of 16 and ruled for 52 years. Prophet Isaiah lived during the time of Uzziah (Is.1:1, 6:1). Initially Uzziah ruled the country as per advices of Zachariah the chief priest but later when he became powerful he disobeyed God and tried to burn incense in the temple. The Lord struck Uzziah with a dreaded skin disease (leprosy). When Azariah the chief priest and other priests observed this, they forced the king to leave the temple. He lived in a separate house for the rest of his life, while his son governed the country for him.

Uzziah was the king who enjoyed protection and prosperity when he lived in accordance with God's commandment and faced isolation and skin disease when he forgot the Lord.

Let's reflect

1. The first King of Judah
2. Other name for Uzziah
3. The lesson we learn from the rule of Uzziah

Hezekiah (B.C 715-687) (2 Kgs. 18: 1-20:21)

Hezekiah was the thirteenth king of Judah who ruled for 29 years. He ruled according to the will of God. The last 15 years out of the 29 years of his rule, was extension of his given by God. Hezekiah was caught with a vital disease and was about to die (2 Kgs.20:1, 2 Chr. 32:24, Is.38:1). The Lord sent prophet Isaiah to him and informed him to put everything in order (get ready to die). But Hezekiah cried bitterly and prayed to God. As a result Lord informed him through prophet Isaiah that his life has been extended for 15 years. As a sign for the God's word Isaiah had made the shadow on the stairway to 10 steps backward. Isaiah cured his illness by putting a paste made of figs.

Manasse son of Hezekiah became king at the age of 12. This shows that if God wouldn't have extended the life of Hezekiah there would not have been successor to Hezekiah from the house of David. Manasse ruled Judah for 55 years. This was the longest reign in Judah.

Lets reflect..

1. Who cured Hezekiah?
2. Son of Hezekiah
3. Who is king ruled Judah for the longest period?
4. How Hezekiah responded when he faced illness and difficulties in life.

Josiah

We have already learnt about Josiah in the previous lesson

The last Kings in Judah (B.C 609-578) 2 Kgs. 23:31-25:7

The last kings in Judah were Joahas, Jehoiachin, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah. Joahas and Jehoiachin ruled only for 3 three months each; and both Jehoiakim and Zedekiah ruled for 11 years. During their time Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem two times. The king of Babel attacked Jerusalem in B.C 598 but destroyed it completely. 2 Kgs 24:3 says that this is because of the sin committed by Manasse. Later all the instruments of the temple along with lots of skilled people were taken to Babel during the time of Jehoachin. Zedekiah sinned against the Lord. Nebuchadnezzar came with all his army and captured Jerusalem and destroyed it. They looted the temple and the treasury and took them away along with holy articles and instruments of the temple. They captured all the remaining skilled and intelligent people to Babel. This incident has been termed as the Babylonian exile in the history of Judah. The kingdom of Judah was completely destroyed. The temple was destroyed and they were denied the facilities for offering sacrifices to Lord. The sins of the people and the sacrilegious acts of the leaders are shown as the reasons for this fall. The God's own people who were chosen by covenant thus entered into a new era in their politico-religious life.

Let's think..

1. What are the specialties of King Uzziah?
2. What was the reason for the fall of Uzziah?
3. How did the life of Hezekiah get extended?
4. How Hezekiah got cured?
5. What was the reason for exile of Judah?
6. Who were the last kings of Judah?
7. What was the reason for the fall of Judah?

Activities

1. Read 2 Kgs. 24 and find out how many times the King of Babel attacked Judah?
2. Prepare a chart giving the names of all kings of Judah and Israel (read the book of Kings)

3. Read 2 Kgs 18 and fill in the blanks for the following questions along with the references:

Bible text	Answer	Reference
(a) In the third year became the King
(b) Samaria fell in the ninth year of.
(c) In the fourteenth year of the reign of King Hezekiah.....the emperor of Assyria attacked the fortified cities of Judah and conquered them
(d) This is what theof Egypt is like When anyone relies on him.

Let's sing

(a song after reading from the Holy Gospel)

Akhilam njanaranjeedum
 Deiva bhayathe mikachonnum
 Njan darshichilla..thal snehathale
 Darmikanam yousepharnnu
 Meserem Rajathuam
 Mahithan Moosa Vibahgichan
 Vadiyal varidhiye
 Hananiya adhyanma rathinal
 Agniyil ninum rakshitharai
 Thankathekkalathukamyam
 Madhuvilumathu mathuram param
 Deiva-ra-dhanaye sne hi ppon dhanyan

Meaning (Prov:2:5)

I scrutinized everything in the world. But I could not find anything better than the fear of Lord. Because he loved God, Joseph the just became the king of Egypt. (Gen.41:38-40. The great Moses divided the sea by his staff (Ex 14:21). The Hananiah brothers escaped from the fire (Dan.3:25-26). It is better than fine gold, much sweeter than honey in the combs. Blessed are those who worship god (Ps.19:9-11.

Resolution

We understood the situations led to the exile from Judah to Babylon.
We shall live according to the advices of fathers of our Church.
We shall not move away from the faith of God.

Prayer

Lord God, help us to learn from previous experiences. Do not make us forget the good things you did in our life. Help us live as per your will. Help us to correct our mistakes and come closer to you and praise you always.

For Further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	1 Kgs.14: 21-31
Monday	Chr. 26:3-23	Is.1: 1-4, 6: 1-3
Tuesday	Is.7: 1-17	2 Kgs.15:1-7
Wednesday	Ps 19: 9-11	2 Kgs.15:8-22
Thursday	2 Kgs.18	2 Kgs.19
Friday	2 Kgs.20	2 Kgs.21
Saturday	2 Kgs.23	2 Kgs.24
Sunday	2 Kgs.25	-

LESSON 6
THE ELECTION OF MATHIAS
(Acts 1: 15-26)

Objectives of the lesson:

- Try to understand the situation where St.Mathias was elected into the Group of Apostles and the specialty of the election process.
- When we face such situations try to face it and accept them according to God's will.

Verse to Memorize: So then, someone must join us as a witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. He must be one of the men who were in our group during the whole time that the Lord Jesus traveled about with us, beginning from the time John preached his message of Baptism until the day Jesus was taken up from us to heaven. (Acts 1:21)

Learning tools:

1. The twelve disciples and their pictures
2. The Holy Bible
3. Pampakkuda Prayer book
4. The order of Holy mass
5. The book of 'sheema' Namaskaram

Introduction

Do you know how many Apostles were there? Can you name them? We learnt a song to remember the names the names of God's Apostles:

The Apostles were twelve
Peter the eldest
His brother Andrew

James, John

Mathew, Barthelme, Thomas

Philip, Simon

Jacob, Jude and Jude Iscariot were the disciples of Jesus

Do you know why did God choose the disciples? Wasn't it for preaching the word of God, and to be with him in heaven? Were all the twelve disciples present during the ascension of God? Read and discuss Mathew. 27: 3-10. Was the act done by guilty Judas right? Judas who betrayed Jesus was removed from the group of disciples. Wasn't it necessary that someone had to be chosen in his place? We learn about Mathias who has chosen for that.

Lesson

After the ascension of Christ , the eleven Apostles of Christ and other disciples were in Jarusalem spending time in prayers. Mary the mother of Jesus was also among them. During such a meeting of faithful where 120 people have assembled, Peter rose as per the decision of Apostolic group and conveyed a decision. The decision was that one person has to be elected in place of Judas Iscariot who was a member in the Apostolic Ministry. Read Acts 1:23-26 and understand how this election was done. (one student may read the content and listen to teacher's explanation)

Let's Reflect...

In how many persons gathering did Peter speak up?

Peter said, 'Someone predicted Judas would lead those who will apprehend Jesus'. Whom was Peter referring as predicted this?

Explain how St.Mathias was chosen?

This appointment was not an ordinary one. Resurrection of Jesus is the base of Church. The virtue of the Apostles is to remain without fear as a witness of this resurrection. For this they keep certain conditions and criteria for this position. The criteria was that; the person should be one who was with other 11 Apostles in the period of incarnation of Christ from the time of His Baptism by John up to the time of ascension. This means that a person who firmly believes that God has incarnated and lived as a human being only can become a witness for His resurrection.

Let's Reflect.....

1. Name the land Judas bought by the wage he earned by betraying Jesus
2. As the condition for getting elected as an Apostle, from which time the person should have been following Jesus?
3. It is said that 'If someone has been a witness to Jesus's life on earth, he should become a witness toalso'

There were two people who fulfilled the criteria set for the election of new Apostle. One was Joseph. He was also known as Justus or Barsabbas. The second one was Mathias. Lot was taken from this two by submitting prayers to God. The Apostles were confident that this election was not humanly and they believed that whoever elected by lot would be a person elected by God. The lot fell to Mathias. Therefore Mathias was included in the Apostolic Ministry.

Let's Reflect.....

1. Which are the other names of Joseph?
2. To which position did the believers pray that one should be shown?
3. What did the believers do when the lot fell to Mathias ?
(the head of the Church has been selected in the same process in the contemporary world also)

What did we understand?

1. The discipleship of Jesus is to those who lead a life of His witness
2. The election in Church should be based on prayer
3. The elections should be accepted in one accord once a person is Godly elected.
4. The church considered it as its shortfall, when there was one person less in the number of 12 Apostles. This points towards the significance of a group of priests in the church who should come up through Godly election.
5. Do we submit to such conditions as mentioned earlier in the elections we confront? If we are not elected, do we accept it wholeheartedly?
6. This election in the early church is a model to the modern world who tries for obtaining power by any means.

Let's Think.

1. Who are God's disciples? Why they were elected
2. Which Apostle was elected in place of Judas? Explain the process this election.
3. Compare the election held in the early church with the elections in the contemporary church and explain the specialty of election in the early church.
4. Prepare an essay on the ministry of St. Mathias

Activities

1. Find out the places mission work of St. Mathias and when he died?
2. Find out the elections took place in the early church?

Resolutions

We believe that it was through the 12 disciples
Jesus had transferred the power to us.
We shall behave fairly in all types of elections in our life.
We shall never forget God just by
thinking about power and positions.

Prayer

Lord, enable us to hold the true faith that you have handed over to the disciples. Help us to be in that faith till our death. Make us worthy of praising you along with the disciples.

Further Reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	Acts. 12:26
Monday	Jn.6:23-40	Mt.8:16-27
Tuesday	Eph. 5: 1-14	Tit.3:1-14
Wednesday	1 Pet. 1:1-16	Mt.11:16-29
Thursday	2 Cor.5:11-21	Rom.14:1-8
Friday	1 Jn. 2:1-10	Jn.13:47
Saturday	Lk.12:1-12	Ps.109
Sunday	Lk.9:1-27	

LESSON 7

AWAITING AND PENTACOST

(Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-47)

Objectives of the lesson:

Verse to memorize: Create a pure heart in me, Oh Lord, and put a new and loyal spirit in me

Learning Tools: Chart showing the periods of reign of kings of Israel, The Holy Bible, Map of Palestine land, Prayer book (Pambakkuda) and the book of Holy Mass.

Introduction

Do you act anytime without preparation, let it be an examination, a sports competition, a cultural program, don't you prepare before the event takes place?

Jesus entrusted his disciples the responsibility to spread the word of God all over the world. He promised that the Holy Spirit will descend upon them and that they will be strengthened to spread the word of God. They waited to receive the word of God with preparation. They were powered with the Holy Spirit for they waited in prayer and preparation.

The word Pentecost means 50th day. This is actually the harvesting festival of Jews. It was also known as Shavoroth (Levi. 23:15-21, Deu.16:9-12, Num.29:26-31). This day comes after fifty days from Maundy Thursday. This day was also commemorated as the day on which the Israelites received the ten commandments through Moses from God. God has asked them to live in Jerusalem until they received the power from the most high. So they with the believers lived in Jerusalem in prayer and meditation. On the day of Pentecost, suddenly they heard a sound like the blowing of a violent wind at the place where they gathered.

Let's reflect...

1. What was the other name of the Jewish festival of Pentecost?
2. What is the meaning of the word Pentecost?
3. What did the Jews celebrate on Pentecost ?

The disciples saw what seemed to be tongues in fire that separated and came to rest on them. There were people from different nations who spoke different languages living in Jerusalem. When they heard the sound, they came together and were utterly amazed at what they saw. They were perplexed because the disciples who were illiterate spoke in languages they were not familiar with. Now a day a translator (linguist) is appointed to make the languages understandable. But that day every one gathered there has understood the speech in their own languages.

To reflect

1. In which form the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples?
2. What the people gathered there asked about those who talked in different languages?

When people started talking in other languages some people from the crowd ridiculed them saying they are drunk. Peter stood up as a representative for the disciples and talked to them. He insisted two important points in his speech:

1. The prophets in the old testament has already talked about the arrival of Holy Spirit (Joel: 2:28, 29, Zech. 12:10)
2. The Holy Spirit was sent after Jesus has risen and ascends into heaven. Hence he pleaded the people to born again and baptize in the name of Jesus Christ.

It was the first day of the growth of Church. It was also the day on which the disciples became courageous who were otherwise remained afraid after the death of Jesus. About 3000 people were baptized on that single day.

To reflect..

1. Whose prophecy it says, 'I will pour out my spirit on everyone''
2. How many people baptized on the day of Pentecost?

The Church considers Pentecost as a day on which the fullness of Holy Trinity was revealed. We should utilize the feast of Pentecost as a day for reviving the Holy

Spirit which we received through our Baptism and also to remember the incidence happened on the day of Pentecost.

What we have understood from this lesson:

1. It was the Holy Spirit, who is the third in the Holy Trinity came upon the disciples.
2. It was power that the disciples received on the day of Pentecost made them to spread the gospel all over the world
3. The presence of Holy Spirit is essential in our personal and spiritual life
4. Talking in other tongues does not mean to talk in a language which no one else understands. The new churches teach like that. The disciples talked on the day of Pentecost different languages, which probably have scripts and understood by others. It is important that whatever the disciples talked, the people understood in their own language.
5. The day of Pentecost observed confirmation of the Church not any foulness any quaver

To reflect..

1. Explain the incidents took place on the day of Pentecost
2. What are the specialties of Holy Spirit?
3. What is the summary of speech made by St.Peter?
4. What was the change happened in the disciples because of Pentecost?
6. The day of Pentecost observed confirmation of the Church not any foulness any quaver. Examine this statement.

Activities

1. Find out from Holy Bible the portions that says 'the Holy Spirit has descended upon'
2. Which are the blessings we pray for during the worship on the feast of Pentecost in our Church?
3. Find our other names used for Holy Spirit?
4. Compare the incident happened during the construction of Babel tower with Pentecost

5. Recite the third paragraph of Nicene creed in the class which admits the faith on Holy spirit
6. Understand the version of St.Paul regarding usage of other languages (1 Cor.14)

Resolution

**We have understood the greatness of Holy Spirit.
We shall participate in the service of Pentecost in full faith
and revive the Holy which we have already received.**

Prayer

Lord God, we praise you for sending Holy Spirit to the disciples. Lord make worthy to receive your Holy Spirit and spread the gospel around us.

For further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	1 Cor. 13: 1-13
Monday	Gal.5: 1-24	Phil 2: 1-18
Tuesday	Lk. 11:1-13	Rom. 7: 1-10
Wednesday	1 Cor. 14: 26-39	2 Pet. 1: 1-21
Thursday	Jn. 1: 1-18	Acts. 8: 9-25
Friday	1 Cor. 12: 1-31	1 Cor. 14: 1-19
Saturday	Lk. 12: 1-12	Ps. 109
Sunday	Acts. 2: 1-47	-

LESSON 8
LIFE IN EARLY CHURCH
(Acts. 4:32 -35, 2:42-47)

Objectives of the lesson:

- To understand that we have the responsibility to live in world by keeping the value and purity in life without being influenced by worldly affairs.
- To understand the life style followed by early church in the above context
- To follow the good aspects of life style of early church in our life

Verse to memorize: The group of believers was one in mind and heart. No one said that any of his belongings was his own (Acts. 4:32).

Learning Tools: The Holy Bible

Introduction

We are familiar with people from different places and cultures. The people in our neighboring states have their own life style and culture. Each group has their own style of living. The early church too had their own style of living. The church started to grow after Pentecost and the special style has made it different from other people in the society. We shall learn about it today.

Lesson

We learn from the Holy Bible that 3000 people joined the Church on the day of Pentecost. Acts Ch.5 states that another 5000 people also have joined the Church. Thus the Church observed a faster growth. Jesus Christ and the disciples were from Jewish background. Hence the early church had to follow some of the life style and pattern of the Jews. However they have created a life style based on the teachings of Jesus. They concentrated mainly in four aspects (i) devoted themselves to the teachings of Apostles (ii) took part in fellowship (iii) took part in breaking of bread (iv) spent time in prayers.

Let's reflect...

5. Whose life style the early Christians followed up to an extent?
6. Which are the four things the early Christians strictly followed in their life?

The believers in the early listened to the words of Apostles. The Apostles strictly followed whatever they learnt and observed from the life of Jesus. The believers respected the powers received by the Apostles from our Lord Jesus. The Apostles did many miracles as Jesus did. The powers of Apostles were the first and foremost symbol of the Church. The second symbol could be indentified was the unity among them. They were of one mind, one heart and one soul. They assembled in the temple of Jerusalem with this unity. They decided not to have any discrimination among them based on wealth. They treated all their private properties as common for all; sold them out and brought the money to the Apostles. The Apostles distributed it for the needy among them.

To reflect...

5. What was the life style of early Church
6. How did they treated the private properties

Jesus established the Holy Qurbana (Luke. 22:19, 1 Cor. 11:24)). He said to do it in his memory. The disciples never avoided breaking of bread in their services. They assembled on the day of Christ, the day on which Jesus had risen from the dead and spent time in prayers and breaking bread. During that time, there were no Churches as we have now. The believers gathered in certain houses for the prayer and breaking of bread. It was known as house churches. (Acts. 2:46). They also had love feasts together at homes. The first Christian community believed to be one in Christ through the breaking of bread.

The first Christian community gave importance in prayers and praising God. They have arranged the services in the pattern of prayers in Jewish synagogue. The early church had to face lot of difficulties and persecutions, but they could overcome them with the power of prayers. They followed a life based on worship which was distinguished them from others. The early church can be considered as a model to Christian society.

What we should understand and learn from the Lesson...

5. We should be able to follow the specialties of early church
6. We should be able to share and care for others individually and as a Church
7. The life style of Christians were Christ centered
8. They had a clear understanding about the powers of Apostles. This power is continued in our Church through the priesthood.
9. A model Christian life is based on worshipping God. The church is called for praising God and to lead a life towards the Kingdom of God.
10. The church should be fulfilled with justice, peace and love which are the specialties of God.

1. What are the four things the early Christians followed in their life style?
2. Explain the relevance of the life style of early Christian in the contemporary church
3. What is meant by house churches?
4. Why the early church is considered as a model church?

Activities

1. Prepare a chart showing the activities of early church. Mark against each specialty whether we follow it our church now.
2. Find out the other names used for 'breaking of bread' at different times in the history of Church.

Resolution

*We shall follow the life of early Church in our life.
We shall respect the priesthood inherited in our Church.
We shall help those who are weak economically and socially,
and encourage others for the same.*

Prayer

Oh, Triune God, teach us to lead a life similar to the early church by listening to the fathers of the church, observing fellowship and sharing. Make us live in the clear understanding that we are all part of the same body and Jesus Christ is the head. Amen.

For further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	Eph. 4: 1-16
Monday	Mt. 16:13-28	1 Cor. 3:10-23
Tuesday	Eph. 2:1-16	Eph. 4: 17-32
Wednesday	Mt. 5: 1-16	Rev. 22: 1-9
Thursday	1 Tim. 2:1-15	Acts. 6: 1-7
Friday	Eph. 6: 10-20	1 Jn. 3: 1-12
Saturday	1 Jn. 3:13-24	Acts 3
Sunday	Acts 4	-

LESSON 9
STEPHEN AND PHILIP
(Acts 6,7, 8)

Objective of the lesson:

- To familiarize Stephen and Philip, the deacons in early Church
- To follow their good models in life
- To introduce Christ to others through our life

Verse to memorize: Sine you are God's dear children, you must try to be like him. Your life must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave his life of us as a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice that praises God. (Eph. 5: 1-2)

Introduction

Hove you met any deacons in Church? Have you noticed the 'Oorara' they wear above their dress. The responsibility of deacons is to help in the worship. We shall learn about few deacons elected in the early church. These deacons who were elected and placed for the service of Church have served Christ through great sufferings.

Lesson

The early Church was grown under the leadership of Apostles. There was a complaint by the Greek speaking Jews their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of funds. So the Apostles decide to elect a group of people to do this job. They were the deacons in early Church. The Syriac word for deacon is 'msamsono' which means 'one who serves'.

They chose seven people who were full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. They were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolaus. The Apostles prayed and placed their hands on them.

Let's reflect

1. What is the meaning of the word 'deacon'? Who were the seven deacons of early Church?
2. Which place Nicolaus belonged to?
3. What was the eligibility of deacons?

Saint Stephen

Stephen and Philip were the most important among the seven deacons. We are familiar with the reading in fourth diptychs (Thubden) about St. Stephen as Illustrious saint Stephen, chief of the deacons, and the first of the martyrs.

Stephen became a great propagator of Jesus and performed great miracles and wonders among the people. Many people believed in Jesus by seeing the life and words of Stephen. His style of functioning was one filled with wisdom and Spirit. So no one could resist his words.

The Jewish leaders became afraid of the works of Stephen and suborned against him. They accused him with the charge of blasphemy against the law of Moses. The Jewish leaders seized Stephen and brought him before the council. Stephen made a speech and revealed that it was Jewish leaders doing blasphemy by derogating the prophets sent by God. The members of the council became furious against Stephen. Stephen remained calm as Jesus stood in trial. He said, " I see heaven opened and the son of man standing at the right-hand side of God".

They took Stephen out and stoned him to death. Stephen kept on praying not to remember this sin against them. The martyrdom of Stephen has given a new direction to the Church. The church faced more persecutions but it spread to different areas. He was the first martyr in the name of Christ. We commemorate his memory on January 8.

To reflect:

1. Stephen was accused blasphemy against whose teaching ?
2. Read Acts 6:15 and find how Stephen's face looked like when council members looked at him?
3. What was Stephen's prayer when he was stoned?

St.Philip

Philip also was called as a deacon along with Stephen. Stephen spread the gospel of God after the death of Stephen in the city of Samaria. He did many miracles and brought a lot of people to Christ. People like Simon who was a miscreant and witch-doctor also became Christian.

One day an angel of the Lord said to Philip to go to the road that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. During those days there used be eunuchs serving in the palaces. That day an Ethiopian eunuch , who was in charge of the treasury of queen of Ethiopia was on his way home. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God and going back home in his carriage. Philip went near to the carriage and stayed close to it. The eunuch was reading from the book of prophet Isaiah without understanding what was written the book (Is. 53:7,8). Philip explained that what mentioned in the text was about Jesus Christ and all the prophesies has been fulfilled in Jesus. Hearing the good news about Jesus the eunuch got baptized from Philip. Even now the Church baptize even the elders belong to other religions who believe in Jesus and wish to join the Church. Philip went on to Caesarea and spread the gospel in all the villages on the way. He attracted many people to Jesus including Jews, people from other religions including servants from palaces. He had four daughters and all of them proclaimed God's message (Acts 21:7,8)

To reflect

1. In which city did Philip spread the gospel first?
2. Which was the road where Philip met the eunuch?
3. Who wanted to have the holy spirit by paying money?

Learning

1. We should face the losses related to spreading gospel
2. Martyrs helped the Church to grow
3. Stephen's life followed Jesus. He followed Jesus in death also
4. We too have a meaning for our life as the deacons of the early church had. We should find it out
5. We must remain filled in the Holy Spirit even in pain
6. It shows the divinity in us when we pray for those who oppose us

Let's think

1. Name the deacons of early Church. What was the criteria for becoming deacon?
2. Prepare a brief note on St.Stephen
3. Find out the specialty mentioned for St. Stephen in 4th intercessional prayers in Holy Qurbana
4. Explain the speech of St.Stephen
5. Prepare a note on the life and mission work of St.Philip
6. What are the lessons you internalize from the lives of these two deacons?

Activities

Prepare a skit including the speech made by St.Stephen, his trial and the judgment

Let us Pray

Oh God, help us to live like St.Stephen. Help us to face all difficulties even death in your name. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and empower us.

For Further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	Mt.10: 16-33
Monday	2 Cor.12:1-10	Heb.5:1-4
Tuesday	Lk.9:1-22	1 Cor. 15:1-19
Wednesday	Mt.6:19-34	Heb.12:1-13
Thursday	Phil.4:1-9	1 Cor.1:4-25
Friday	Jas.3:1-18	Mt.18:1-14
Saturday	2 Tim.4:1-18	Acts.6,7
Sunday	Acts.8	

LESSON 10
THE MISSION WORK OF SAINT PETER
(Acts 3,5,9)

Objectives of the lesson

- To understand the mission work of St.Peter
- To volunteer for spreading gospel of Christ
- To transfer the gifts of God to others

Verse to memorize: I have no money at all, but I give you what I have: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I order you to get up and walk.

Learning Tools: The Holy Bible and the book of Holy Mass.

Introduction

You may remember St.Peter who denounced Jesus. Peter who was coward became most courageous leader of the Church. His mission work is incomparable.

Lesson

Peter was the eldest among disciples of Jesus. Peter received special respect from others after the ascension of Jesus as the eldest in the Church. Peter delivered speeches as a representative of all disciples during the election of Mathias and on the day of Pentecost. The initial chapters of the book of Acts give the mission work in early church under the leadership of Peter. Peter did many miracles, cured the diseased and gave life to a woman (Acts 9:36-40).

Peter made a speech on the day of Pentecost and 3000 people joined the Church. Lot of people joined the Church thereafter. In the first miracle performed by Peter; a lame beggar asked for money; Peter told him he had none, but in the name of Jesus the Nazarene bade him arise and walk. The beggar did as he was bidden, cured of his lameness (Acts 3: 1-10). The miracles of miracles attracted many people to Christ. But Peter never took the credit of it.

To reflect...

7. Where the lame person was begging in the Church?
8. How many people joined the Church on the day of Pentecost?

Peter acted as the head of the group of Apostles. The Jewish leaders put him in prison when saw people are attracted to Christianity by hearing the speeches of Peter. But every time God rescued him miraculously (Acts 12). All such occasions resulted as a reason for people to join Christianity. Sick people were carried out into streets and placed on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by (Acts 5: 12-16).

There are many other miracles performed by Peter. He healed a man who was paralyzed for seven years (Acts 9:32), raised Tabitha, who was a strong believer from death are some of them. In the early Church there was a practice of sharing everything the believers had. They sold their belongings and brought the money to the disciples. When Ananias and Sapphira acted against this and told lie, they were punished by God. This was in the presence of Peter.

To reflect...

7. Who was the lame person Peter healed?
8. Which was the place where Peter raised a woman from death?
9. What is the meaning of the word 'Tabitha'?

During the early days only Jews have joined the Church. It was the work of Peter that brought gentiles also to the Church. He baptized the first Gentile, a man named Cornelius and won the support from Gentiles, Peter helped to shape the early policy towards them. Peter's act initially invited opposition from those Christians who were converted from Jews. But Peter was firm in his action. Thus lots of gentiles joined the Church.

Peter denied Jesus for three times (Jn.8:15-19). But he became a powerful person after receiving the Holy Spirit. He stood as the lone spokes person of early church. Let us make the transformation and earnest desire for mission work of Peter a model in our life. According to Christian tradition, Peter was crucified in Rome under Emperor Nero Augustus Caesar. It is traditionally held that he was crucified upside down at his own request, since he saw himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus. The church commemorate the memory of Peter on 29 June.

What we have understood...?

1. We have also received the Holy Spirit and we should stand strong as Peter.
2. The Lord will not give us up in our difficulties
3. The miracles and healing in Christian life should not aim at personal gain, it should be for the glorification of God's name only.
4. We would be able to take good decisions when we stand firm on Christ

Let's think

1. What was the specialty Peter had as the Chief among the disciples?
2. Explain the speech made by Peter
3. Describe the event in which Peter healed the lame person
4. Who has paved way for the gentiles to join Church? Explain the event related to this.
5. Compare Peter's behavior before and after he denied Jesus
6. How St. Peter died? What is your opinion about his death?
7. What are the lessons you learnt from the life of St. Peter?

Activities

1. Present a skit based on the event where St. Peter raised Tabitha from death.
2. Prepare a chart based on the important events in Peter's life
3. Find out when is the Golden Friday ("Swarna Velliyazhcha")

Resolution

We have understood the mission work of
St. Peter. we shall also stand strongly for the gospel of Christ.
We shall not deny Christ even if it cost our life.
We shall share the blessings of God with others.

Prayer

Our loving God who taught the truth to the Church through your disciples who were fishermen, do not make us to commit sin with the influence of Satan. Protect us from attraction of the world which make us to do sin against you.

For further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	Acts. 3:1-9
Monday	Mt.16:15-19	1 Cor.3:10-23
Tuesday	Acts. 4:13-22	1 Peter. 3:18-22
Wednesday	Lk.13:18-30	Acts 9:32-35
Thursday	Jn.6:50-60	2 Peter 3:1-10
Friday	Acts. 9:36-43	Mt.17:1-13
Saturday	Acts.10:1-8	Jn.8: 15-19
Sunday	Acts. 9	-

LESSON 11

ANGELIC HYMN

Objective:

- Understand the meaning and importance of the prayer 'angelic hymn' which is used in night time prayer.
- Use this prayer every day with full devotion.

Verse to Memorize: "Holy, holy, holy! The Lord Almighty is holy! His glory fills the world" Is.6:3

Learning Tools: Holy Bible, Prayer Book, Church Encyclopedia, The order of Holy mass, The book of 'sheema' Namaskaram

Introduction

Do you know the meaning of the word 'angel'. Angel means messenger, emissary or ambassador. Church fathers teach us that there are nine groups of angels who obey the word of God and act accordingly. While reading Bible, we can see the presence of angels at many instances. The nine types of angels are:

Seraphim (Is.6), Cherubim (Ezek 10:3,5), Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels (Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael), Angels (Gen.21:17)

The roles of angels can be summarized as follows:

- (i) Praising God in heaven
- (ii) Always remain ready to obey the will of God
- (iii) Conveys the will of God to human
- (iv) Protect people

In Isaiah Chapter 6, verses 1-4 we read about the vision of Isaiah. Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled with temple. Above him were Seraphs each with six wings praising God. Read Isaiah Chapter 6 and understand how the Seraphs praise God. Our Church fathers have

arranged this prayer for us so that we would also praise God as the angels praise God in heaven. This prayer is a part of night time prayer which we use along with the morning prayer. Lets study the meaning and importance of this prayer.

Angelic hymns are the hymns written for praising almighty God. When we participate in the service on Christmas night the faithful put the incense in to the fire by saying the angelic hymn. The hymn is also used in the funeral service. This prayer is based on the eastern tradition of church that the angels stands in a row and praise God. So the prayer is written on a pattern in which the leader and others chant the verses in it alternately. Let us chant the prayer like that.

Angelic hymn

Teacher: Like the heavenly angels who praise You up in the heights, we who are frail and sinful offer praise.

Students: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth, tranquility and good will among men at all times and in all seasons.

Teacher: We praise You, we bless You, we adore You. We sing to You a hymn of praise.

Students: We give thanks to You because of Your great glory, Lord, our creator, king of heaven, God the Father almighty; we praise You, Jesus Christ, Lord God, God's only Son, along with the Holy Spirit.

Teacher: Lord God, Lamb of God and word of the Father, who takes away the sin of the world, be gracious to all.

Students: You, who take away the sin of the world, incline your ear to us and receive our prayers.

Teacher: You, who sit in glory at the right hand of Your Father, have compassion on us and be gracious to all.

Students: Because You only are holy. Lord Jesus Christ, You deserve the great glory of God, the Father along with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Teacher: At all times and on all the days of our lives we bless You and praise Your holy and eternal name.

Students: Blessed are You, Lord, Upholder of all, God of our fathers, Your name is blessed and glorified with praises, for ever and ever.

Teacher: To you belongs glory, to you belongs praise, to you belongs honor, God of all, Father of truth; we praise You, Your only Son and the living holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Lets Reflect:

1. Angelic hymn is a part of which prayer?
2. Why this prayer is known as angelic hymn?
3. Which are the occasions where angelic hymn is used in our services?

The important themes included in Angelic hymns are:

1. Praise to Holy Trinity

In eastern orthodox vision, angels keep praising God. The purpose of human life is to praise God similar to what angels do. The word 'Orthodox' means 'true faith or true praise'. The true praise is the Trinitarian praise. All the prayers in Orthodox church start with praises to triune God. The content of angelic hymn also is praises to Trinity. In this prayer different attributes are given to Holy Trinity. When we praise God in the true manner, the sanctity of God fills in us and we get purified and transformed.

2. Peace on Earth

The prayer has special appeals for peace on earth and submission of people before God.

Let's look into the occasions in which the angelic hymn is used.

1. During the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas) (while putting incense in the fire)
2. Funeral service
3. Feast of Epiphany, Hosanna (Palm Sunday), Good Friday and Easter during the exaltation of the cross facing four sides (Haud Malache..)

We use the angelic hymn during the service on Christmas to remember praises of angels at the time of the birth of Jesus. The prayer is used in the funeral service symbolizing the soul of the dead person is given in the hands of angels.

Group work

1. The children identify the adjectives (qualifiers) for Jesus in angelic hymn (find out from the prayer book). Teacher should make it meaningful sentences.
 - (i) Lord the God, the only son

- (ii) Son of the father
- (iii) Word
- (iv) One who carry the sins of the world
- (v) Lamb of God
- (vi) Sat on the right hand of the father in great glory
- (vii) Saint
- (viii) Responsibility for the glory of God

2. Find out the adjectives used for 'God the father' in this prayer.

Let's reflect

1. Explain the important thoughts in the prayer- 'angelic hymn'
2. Which are words used for trinity in this prayer?
3. Find out the usages showing the humbleness of the person using this prayer.
4. What are the specialties given for the holy name of Jesus?
5. Prove that the important theme of this prayer is praises to the triune God.

Activities

1. Prepare a chart showing different adjectives used for Jesus Christ in different types of prayer books (prayer book, family prayer book etc.)
2. Make the habit of prayer in the morning and learn the angelic hymn
3. Write the angelic hymn in your diary

Let's Sing

(This is used in place of Harken gracious Lord we pray..)

Seraphin of Fiery line
 Hale-luyyah ou Haleluyyah
 Saw Isaiah in the Shrine
 Kurie-la-ison
 Each six winged, round the throne
 Hale-luyyah ou Haleluyyah
 Ever serving God alone
 Kurie-la-ison
 Holy art thou, Lord of hosts
 Hale-luyyah ou Haleluyyah

Praise to thee be, all our boast
Kurie-la-ison
(Sing the complete song in class)

Prayer

We have understood that the angelic hymn is a superior prayer. We shall use this prayer everyday with full devotion.

Let us Pray

(Use angelic hymn)

For further reading

Day	Morning	Evening
Sunday	-	Is.8
Monday	Ps.104	Is.9
Tuesday	Is.10	Is.11
Wednesday	Rev.1:10-20	1 Tim. 6:11-19
Thursday	Heb.1: 5-14	Ps.96
Friday	Ps.97	Ps.98
Saturday	Ps.99	Ps.100
Sunday	Rom.8	Ps.18-30

Lesson 12

Prayers of the Lent

Learning objectives: To learn the order of prayers during the lent and to pray accordingly during the lent season.

Verse to be memorized:

Deuteronomy 9:9

When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant that the Lord made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

Teaching aids: Prayers of the great Lent, *Susrushasamvidhanasahai*

Introduction

Orthodox Church gives much importance to worship and fasting. Church insists that all members of the Church shall observe five canonical fasts. Fasting, avoiding certain food materials, being continuously in contact with God through Bible reading and praying etc. are some of the observations of fasting. Through such external observations the relation with God shall become strong and growth of the faithful towards deification shall become faster. Jesus said 'This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting'(St.Mark 9:29). This reveals the importance of fasting in overcoming the temptations of devil. Jesus himself defeated satan through the power of fasting . Even though the observations of all fasts are the same, the Church has prescribed specific liturgical observations during Nineve fasting (three days) and the great lent (fifty days). Our present lesson deals with the liturgical observations of these two fasts.

Lesson

In our common prayer the subjects of the prayers vary with days and with canonical hours; but during lent no such subject variations exist. During lent prayers

of sutoro and lilyo (night) consist of prayers of repentance. Prayers of other hours consist of teachings containing petitions and descriptions of fasting.

The prayers of fasting days begin at the evening after Sunday. On ordinary days canonical prayers of seven hours is done in two times. But during lent days seven hours' canonical prayers are done in three times. Evening prayer and sutoro are done in the evening, lilyo and morning prayers are done in the morning; the third hour prayer, noon prayer and ninth hour prayer are done together at noon.

To reflect

- Which are the seven canonical hours of prayers?
- Have you ever attended canonical prayers in the church during lent days?

Let us continue

When prayers are conducted in churches during fast days, lengthy services are used. Psalms, hymns, promion-sedro etc. are included in the prayers so that the participants can experience a real spiritual growth. We shall look in to certain prayers as examples.

1. Great lent, Tuesday evening prayer: 'This is the pure fast', cries out the prophet and he preaches to us its manners as to how we should keep it: 'Loose the knots of wickedness from your mind; cut off the bundles of deceit from your heart, dividing your bread to the needy and welcoming strangers to your house'. (Is. 58:6-7)
2. Great lent, Wednesday evening: If anyone fasts from bread and sins by word, what profit is there? He builds up and pulls down and looses his reward. If he fasts and was justified and speaks boastfully, he damages his justice, his stomach is empty and his fasting is not accepted.
3. Great lent, Wednesday morning: By his fasting, the prophet Moses brought down tablets for the people of Israel. Elijah was lifted up. Daniel conquered the beasts. Brethren, let us fast and pray in order to inherit the kingdom.

Activity

- Read the reference of the first prayer from the Bible.
- Which all sins are referred in the second prayer?
- Discuss the incidents referred in the third prayer.

Genuflection (bowing down)

Genuflection is an important activity of Orthodox worship. In fasting days there are more occasions for genuflection. At the time of kaumo we use to bow down. In church worship, we bow down several times during sedro. Bowing down forty times after noon prayer is part of prayer during fasting. The following each response shall be repeated ten times followed by bowing down.

Kyrie elaison, Lord have mercy upon us, Lord have pity and mercy upon us, Lord, answer and have pity on us.

According to the teaching of the Church, we shall not bow down on the following days.

Maranaya festivals , Sundays and on the days from Easter to Pentecost.

Saturdays and Sundays

We know that Lent days are fasting days. In the lent days there is no fasting on Saturdays and Sundays. The special prayers for great lent is not applicable on Saturdays and Sundays. We use common prayers on these two days.

Prayers of the lent start with the prayer at Monday evening (evening after Sunday); so the Monday evening prayer shall be conducted only after the prayer of the ninth hour of Sunday.

To reflect

- What is the subject of the ninth hour of common prayer?
- Which are the Maranaya festivals which may come during Nineve fast and great lent?
- Learn , how the date of Easter is decided.
- What is the peculiarity of the Sundays that come in between Nineve fast and great lent?

Activities

- Find out how you can use the money you have invested out of fasting.
- Discuss the benefits obtained to body, mind and spirit from fasting.
- Fasting has a social aspect also: discuss.

Resolution

We will observe the fasts prescribed by the Church and say the prayers promptly.

Let us pray

My Lord who heard the prayer of the prophet in the belly of the fish, kindly accept my fasts and prayers also

For further reading

Morning	Evening	Sunday
Monday	Deuteronomy 9:9-17	Isaiah 58: 3-8
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 9:18-21	Isaiah 58:9-14
Wednesday	Daniel 1:1-15	1 kings 19:1-9
Thursday	Hebrews 8:21-23	Jonah 2:1-10
Friday	Mathew 4:1-11	Jonah 3:1-10
Saturday	Mark 1:9-13	Luke 4:1-11
		Mark 9:19-29

Lesson 13

Prayer at Sutoro

(4th Psalm)

Learning objectives: To learn the meaning and significance of the 4th Psalm included in Sutoro.

Verse to be memorized:

Psalm 121:5,6

The lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Teaching aids: Holy Bible, Book of the Holy Qurbana, Book of the commonprayer, Prayers of the Great Lent.

Introduction

The prayer before going to bed is called sutoro. Sutoro means protection. Sutoro is the prayer through which we seek God's protection . Let us learn the 4th psalm which is included in the prayer at Sutoro. The book of common prayer does not include this prayer for sutoro . But this prayer has been included in the sutoro' of the lent days.

Lesson

4th Psalm is king David's prayer of complain. Let us learn this prayer by heart.

4th Psalm (Peshitta)

When I called you have answered me, my God, the salvation of my righteousness.

In my affliction You have comforted me; have mercy upon me and hear my prayer.

O, men how long will you hide my honour? And will you love vanity and seek after lies?

Know that the Lord has set apart the chosen one by miracle.

The Lord will hear when I call to Him.

Be angry, but do not sin. Say in your hearts and meditate in your beds.

Offer sacrifices of justice and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many who say: 'Who will show the good one and extend the light of His face upon us?'

O, Lord, You have given your joy in my heart, more than the time when their grain and wine and oil abounded together in peace.

I will lie down and sleep. For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in tranquility. To You befits glory, O God.

Now, let us have a detailed study of this Psalm. This Psalm can influence any one who recites this with devotion. This reveals many spiritual lessons to the faithful who reads it.

1. In times of affliction we shall find comfort in the Lord.

King David was a man who had faced many problems in the life. On all such occasions, he was in the habit of depending on God and finding comfort there. Similarly at times of afflictions we shall come to our Lord Jesus Christ and find more time to spend in prayer. This will comfort us.

2. The chosen one will be set apart by God

A true believer will always have special consideration and protection from the Lord. He will use his devotees to accomplish His will. His ear will be always open towards His dear ones.

3. A devotion on the bed is very important

When we go to bed in the night take some time to recall our day's activities. This will help us to praise the Lord for the blessings received and to repent on the sins done in the day. This will really inspire our spiritual life.

4. False love and flattering will not stand for ever.

True love alone shall withstand for ever. Pretensions shall come out today or tomorrow. We can see true love in the Lord. He shall give deserving respects at the suitable time.

Let us recapitulate

- What is the meaning of 'sutoro'?
- How did king David obtained comfort in afflictions?
- What are the peculiarities of true devotees?
- What is the harm of false love?
- Where can we get true love?

5. Happiness shall come from God

Happiness obtained through worldly treasures is not lasting. Actual happiness shall come from God. Joy given into the hearts by our Lord is better than the joy from any amount of grains or wine.

6. Lord gives the light of His face to his devotees.

In the 34th Psalm, verse 5 we read like this, 'look to him and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed'. Radiant face is the symbol of love of God.

7. Peaceful sleep is a blessing from God.

The spiritual blessing given by God helps us to lead a peaceful life. Peaceful sleep is a gift of God.

Activities

- Compare different translations of the 4th Psalm.
- Make it a habit to read 4th psalm daily.
- Learn the 4th Psalm by heart
- Practice the spiritual lessons learned from the 4th Psalm in daily life.

Resolution

We shall read and meditate the 4th Psalm daily before we go to bed.

Let us pray

(Recite this Psalm together)

For further reading

Morning	Evening	Sunday
Monday	2 Timothy 2:14-26	Psalms 4
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:25-32	Ephesians 4:17-24
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-10	Numbers 6:22-26
Thursday	Psalms 2	Psalms 3
Friday	Psalms 6	Psalms 5
Saturday	Psalms 8	Psalms 7
		Psalms 9

UNIT 3

Liturgical Hymns

Lesson 14

Kukilion for the departed clergy

Lesson objectives: This lesson is to study in detail the kukilion for the departed clergy and hence to attend the worship sessions very attentively.

Verse to be memorized:

Psalm 132:9

Let your priests be clothed in righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy.

Teaching aids: Holy Bible, Kurbanakremam, Common Prayerbook.

Introduction

We have studied about kukilions in class 7. It is a cycle of prayers which consists of psalms, ekbo, Kolos and bovootho. We have learned kukilions for Mother of God and Saints in detail. The next kukilion given in the Kurbanakremam is the kukilion for the departed clergy. In this lesson we are studying that kukilion in detail.

Lesson

The first hymn in the kukilion for the departed clergy is the following.

(chaarthum neethiye....)

In righteousness Thy priests be clothed- Halle- vu-halle..
Thy righteous ones in-glorious garb
For David's sake, Thy servant true-Halle-vu-halle..
The face of thee anointed heed

This hymn is based on Psalms 132: 9&10. We read the corresponding passage in the Bible as follows.

‘Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy. For your servant David’s sake do not turn away the face of your anointed one’.

Here the ‘anointed one’ is the priest.

Ekbo (meaning ‘step’ because this is a step from Psalms to Kolo)

Next hymn in the cycle is an ekbo. The ekbo in the kukilion for the departed clergy is given below.

(suchiyodu sudhya...)

May those feet that cleanly trod,
Keeping pure Thy holy place
Tread the courts of paradise
And with angel’s e’er abide

Meaning

Lord, let the feet of the priests which have touched the Holy places be allowed to enter the doors of paradise so that they live along with the holy angels for ever.

This is a prayer for the departed clergy.

Take a short break to sing this hymn together.

Kolos (meaning hymns)

The next part of the kukilion is the hymn called kolo. Various kolos are given in the Holy Qurbanakremam so that we can select according to our choice.

(Deivam srishttichaadathe.....)

After God had Adam made,
Rested He and looked on him,
And beheld him beautiful-
His creators imagethere
When the earth- born moved and passed
Through the trees of paradise,
Angels wond’ring gazed,
Seeing man exalted thus, Barekmor.
When the priesthood passed on down
Moses got it, Aaron too:
Moses passed it to Skariah

Passed Skariah it on to John
John did pass it to our Lord,
Christ ordained apostles twelve;
They sent forth by Him
Passed it on throughout the world.

Meaning

God created Adam in His own image. God saw that His creation is beautiful. Human began to walk through the paradise. Angels were astonished to see the high position attained by man who is made out of dust from the earth.

The second hymn is intended to bring out the continuity of priesthood. The writer likes to make clear that the New Testament priesthood is the fulfillment of Old Testament priesthood. At first Moses and Aaron obtained priesthood from God. Moses transferred it to Skariah, Skariah gave it to his son John and John gave the priesthood to Christ. Christ gave it to His disciples and the disciples gave the priesthood to the whole mankind.

Here we shall note that Christ is a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:6)

But in the hymn it is said that Christ got the priesthood from John the Baptist, only to show the continuity of priesthood.

Another Kolo (Nirmala madbaha.....)

Blest the priests whose love for Christ
Mark'd their sacred altar's task;
Watching angels haste to come,
Leading them to courts of joy. Barekmor
Son of God, forget them not-
Priests of thine who served thee right;
Grant them pleasantness of face
On Thy advent day sublime

Meaning

The priests had been serving in the altars of Christ due to their love of Christ; So the angels of heaven shall hastily come to receive them to heaven.

Son of God, when you come again do remember the priests who had served you sincerely during their lifetime and bless them with pleasantness of face.

The first stanza is a statement and second is a petition.

Pray pardon, Lord- those priests
Thy mysteries who served.

Meaning

O Christ, who is the Lord of priests and chief of clergy, give absolution to the priests who have served your holy mysteries.

Activity

1. In between two kolos, the priest says a sentence of praise. What is it?
2. Kolos end with a supplication, usually, in Syriac. What is it? Find out the meaning of it.
3. Find out the meaning of 'barekmor'.
4. Which is the day on which we pray for all the departed clergy.

Resolution

We will pray for the departed priests
at the time of the office of the clergy.

Let us Pray

O Lord, let all the priests who have served you on the altar partake your kingdom at the time of judgment.

For further reading

	Morning	Evening
Sunday		Psalms 132
Monday	2Sam 7:12-16	Psalms 89
Tuesday	Exodus 28	Exodus 30
Wednesday	john 1:19-34	Luke 3:7-22
Thursday	Mathew 3:1-12	Mathew 3;13-17
Friday	Mark 1:1-8	Mark 1:9-11
Saturday	Palms 84	Psalms 85

Lesson 15

Office of the dead

Lesson objectives: To learn the kukilion used in the office for the dead and hence to attend the Holy Qurbana and other services in a meaningful way.

Verse to be memorized:

Psalms 103:13

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him.

Teaching aids: Holy Bible, Book of the Holy Qurbana, Common Prayerbook.

Introduction

Prayer for the departed is part and parcel of Orthodox worship. In the Holy Qurbana there are various occasions to remember our departed. Just before the commencement of the holy Qurbana, we sing the hymn 'Lord grant good remembrance to all the faithful dead.....'. This is one occasion to remember the dead. Another occasion is the sixth Thubden. Office of the dead is another important occasion to pray for the departed. This office also is in the form of Kukilion and we shall study that in this lesson.

The Lesson

In the last lesson we have studied the kukilion for the departed clergy. We know that kukilion always starts with a Psalm. In the kukilion for the departed faithful, we sing Psalms 103:13&15. The hymn is as follows.

'As doth a father his children love- halleluiah
So doth the Lord love those who fear His name
The days of man are but as grass- Halle...
He springs up like the herbs that grow in fields.'

Let us study the meaning of this hymn

The Lord loves His children exactly like the love of a father towards his children. The days of man are like grass in the fields. He flourishes like a flower in the fields. The last line shows the mortality of man. As the flower goes in a wind so is a human.

(Read the Psalm)

Ekbo

After the Psalm, we sing an 'ekbo'
(saranathaale nin..)
'They who served and died in hope
Trusting in thy mercy Lord;
May thy living voice them raise
From their graves to paradise'.

The meaning of this hymn is as follows.. Lord, let your lifegiving voice raise those who served you, from the graves, so that they may enter the paradise. Please note that we are praying for only those who lived in hope and served God in their lifetime.

On special occasions of remembering the departed, Promion- Sedro is read after 'Stoumenkalos'. Sthoumenkalos means 'let us stand well', and kurielaison means 'Lord have mercy on me'.

After Ekbo, we sing hymns called 'Kolos'. Various kolos are given in the 'Kurbanakremam' so that we can opt any one pair.

Kolo (rakshakane nin...)

Grant, O savior, that the dead who ate your flesh
Who drank thy blood, the chalice of salvation
May be raised up from their graves Yea, incorrupt,
Clothed in glory full and bright, Lo they wait for thee. Barekmor
Borne aloft in state upon – clouds of glory
Comes the prince who give up life to the dead ones
Righteous ones the trumpet hear of His angels;
They proceed in glorious stoles in His presence.

Meaning

O savior, let the faithful who have eaten your flesh and drank your blood be risen from the graves. Let them be clothed in glory. They are waiting for you Lord.

The prince who gives life to the dead comes in glory in clouds. The righteous hears the sound of the trumpets of angels who accompany him and proceeds to welcome Him in a glorious attire. (the incident which shall happen at the second coming of Christ is dramatically presented here.)

Let us stop and think

1. Which Psalm is recited at the beginning of the kukilion for the departed laity?
2. Who is the prince who comes in clouds to give life to the dead?
3. What is the meaning of the word 'sthoumenkalos'?

Other kolos (uyirekunnoon...)

Comes the prince of life
From His glorious throne above
Raising those who- in their graves take rest
From their graves they'll rise
With them our departed ones,
Praising Him who- giveth life to all Barekmor
Praise be Jesus' words
In His gospel giv'n to us
Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood
Them I will not leave
Bound in hell – for-them- died
Giving all the everlasting life

Meaning

Lord who gives life to all comes down from heaven and gives life to all in the graves. Those who are in graves rise up from there and praise you who is the giver of life.

Lord says, ' Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood will not be sent to hell. I descended to earth and died on the cross so that they shall live for ever'. Lord, we praise you for this statement.

Another Kolo. (naatha thavaka.....)

Thine, o Lord are both the worlds
Here and there thy pow'r extends
Keep the living by the cross

By thy grace absolve the dead Barekmor
Praise we thee who giveth life
To those lying in the tombs
Praise the Father, Thee who send
Praise the Holy spirit too.

Meaning

Lord, Heaven and earth are yours . Those are all under your reign. You protects the living by the cross and absolves the dead by your grace.

We praise you who gives life to the dead, your Father who had sent you and the Holy Spirit.

Bovootho (Petition)

Kukilion usually ends with a bovootho. Two bovoothos are given in the Kukilion for the dead. We can use any one of them.

1. May departed ones receive-
Who confessed the Trinity
What was promised to the thief
Paradise with thee o lord.

Meaning

Lord, You have promised paradise to the thief when you were on the cross. Kindly give the same promise to the departed ones who have confessed the Trinity. The words of Jesus to the thief on the right are recalled here.

2. Son of God who by thy death
Quick'neth mortal men,
Give us life that from the dust
We may cry aloud,
Paise to thee , O lord.

Meaning

Son of God, You have made us immortal by your death. Give us life from the dust so that we may cry aloud 'praise to thee O Lord'. This petition is applicable to the dead as well as the living.

Activity

Now we have studied the kukilions for the Mother of God, saints and the departed. In the morning worship in church we use a common kukilion were we remember mother of God, Saints and the departed. Find it out and understand.

(Page 49 in 'A Handbook of Orthodox Prayers and Holy Qurbanakramam')
Sing together, all the hymns studied in this lesson.

Resolution

**We shall sing all the kukilions with firm attention
and we shall remember all the departed during
the kukilion for the dead.**

Let us pray

O Lord, bless all the departed to enjoy in your kingdom along with your saints.

For further reading

	Morning	Evening
Sunday		Psalms 103
Monday	Romans6:1-14	Cor 15: 1-19
Tuesday	Romans 7:4-13	1 Cor 15:20-34
Wednesday	Romans 8:8-13	1 Cor 15:35-49
Thursday	2 Cor 4:10-15	1 Cor 15:50-58
Friday	2Cor 5:1-15	Hebrews 2:1-18
Saturday	John 6:47-59	John 8:51-59

UNIT 4

MY CHURCH

Lesson 16

The Holy Church during the I and II centuries

Objectives of the lesson: To understand the general conditions which prevailed in the early Church and to identify the social factors behind it.

To memorize: 'And God hath set some in the Church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues' (I Corinthians 12:28).

Learning aids: The Holy Bible, The Service book of Holy Qurbana, The Book of Common Prayer, The Service book of Sacraments.

Introduction

A written constitution and a fixed system of governance help a country to stay united and develop. Similarly, several factors helped the growth of the early Church. Let us learn more about those factors in this lesson.

Lesson

The Synod held in Jerusalem played an important role in the stabilization of the Church. Here we shall study about the early administrative system in the Church, life of the Church, development of liturgical texts etc.

Synod of Jerusalem

With the advent of pagans into the Church a variety of problems cropped up. Is it necessary to circumcise the gentiles who join the Church? (Circumcision was a

Jewish custom) Should they lead a life according to Jewish customs? Such problems were there waiting to be addressed by the Church. In order to consider these problems an Apostolic Council (Synod) was held in Jerusalem in A.D. 49 with James in the chair and it came to be known as the Synod or Council of Jerusalem (Acts of the Apostles Chapter 15). The Synod convened in the presence of the disciples decided not to compel the pagans who became Christians to strictly follow the Jewish customs.

The administrative system

It was in the second century that a proper administrative system came into existence in the Church. The head of this administrative system was a bishop. Presbyters (Priests) and deacons were appointed to assist the bishop. There was also the order of 'Feba' mentioned in Romans 16:1 who was also there in the Church was an instance of this. It was St. Ignatius who first made a mention of the 'Three-fold Ministry.'

Church Life

The life in the Church was centered chiefly on worship and prayer. Church offered utmost preference to the aid of the poor and the sick and widows. A system of life based on Christian morality was instituted. The Christians adopted an attitude that countered the pagan mode of worship and immorality. However, it respected the political authorities and the law. The Christian Church followed the synagogue mode of worship and chose Sunday as the Sabbath, the day of Resurrection of our Lord.

To Reflect

1. What was the issue that was discussed and solved in the Synod of Jerusalem?
2. Explain the "Three-fold Ministry."
3. How did the Christian life and worship differ from those of Jews?

Texts of the Church

There were two chief sources which give a detailed account of the Church as it existed in the first and second centuries, namely, Apostolic Fathers and Apologists.

Apostolic Fathers

The disciples of the apostles or their contemporaries are called Apostolic Fathers. The texts written by them during the period between A.D. 95 and 150 throw light in to the history of the early Church. The text writings of St. Clement of Rome, the

Didache (teachings of the twelve Apostles), the Book of Barnabas, the seven letters of St. Ignatius of Antioch, the writings of Hermas are considered as the writings of the Apostolic Fathers. The important themes dealt with in the writings of Apostolic Fathers include teachings of Christian principles; regulations for worship; exhortation for Christians to remain courageous against persecutions, and how to resist the injustice of the Jews etc.

Apologists

The Apologists tried to respond to the criticism faced by the Church, counter the accusations against Christians and to teach true faith in place of faithlessness. They, who were scholars and philosophers, through their writings, explained the Faith and the Christian way of life, pattern of worship, and the attitude of Christians towards pagans and rulers. Aristides of Athens, Quadratus, Tertullian, Miltiades, Justin the Martyr, Iraeneus, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Athenagoras of Athens, Tatian, Hippolytus, Cyprian, Milithios, Tatian of Syria were the chief Apologists during the early Christian times.

To Reflect

1. Which were the earlier Church records that give information about the history of the Church?
2. What was the role played by the Council of Jerusalem in the formation of the Church?
3. Name the Apostolic fathers.
4. What were the important issues dealt with by the Apologists?

Activities

1. Collect more information about the administrative procedures of the Church from Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11 etc. and note down in the diary.
2. Compare Christian life in the early Church and that exists in the present day Church.
3. Make a comparison between the Apostolic Fathers and the Apologists.

To Memorise

‘Your fasts should not be with the hypocrites, for they fast on Mondays and Thursdays. You should fast on Wednesdays and Fridays’ (Didache 8:1).

Song

(to be added from the book of Sacraments)

Resolution

We will not alien faiths.
We will stand firmly in the true faith of the Church

Prayer

(to be added from page 57 of the book of common worship)

Oh Lord, let thy love and peace prevail in thy Church. Eliminate rebellions, quarrels and arguments from it. Lord, enlighten the priests as well as the authorities to lead and rule the sheep which you saved with Thy sacred.

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	The Acts 15:6-21
Monday	Matthew 18:19-20	The Acts 10:17-23
Tuesday	Matthew 16:18-20	1 Timothy 3:1-16
Wednesday	Philippians 3:1-6	Romans 12:6-81
Thursday	Ephesians 4:1-11	Corinthians 12
Friday	Galatians 1	Galatians 2
Saturday	Galatians 3	Galatians 4
Sunday	Galatians 5, 6	-

Lesson 17

The Holy Church (Up to 5th Century) Persecutions, Synods

Objectives of the lesson: To learn how the earlier Church had grown in spite of the persecutions and heterodox beliefs. To keep away from Un-Orthodox movements and keep the true faith of the Church.

To learn by heart: ‘Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them’ (Roman 16:17).

Learning aids: The Holy Bible, the book of Holy Qurbana, the Book of Common Worship.

Introduction

Christianity spread to places outside Jerusalem; following the martyrdom of St. Stephen, when Christians fled to many places. The Church had to face lots of persecutions and oppositions to the faith; we are going to learn about these in this lesson.

Lesson

The Church had to face very hard and difficult situations during the first five centuries. Almost everywhere there were oppositions and persecutions. A few of the Universal Councils or ‘Synod’s were organized during this period. Let us examine them.

Persecutions

The Christian Church had to face persecutions from the very beginning itself, which continued unabated till the beginning of the 4th century. The faithful were subjected to persecutions from two quarters, namely Jews and Roman emperors.

1. The Jews

It was the Jews themselves who began to persecute the Christians initially. When they came to know that the Christian Church was different from that of their own they started persecuting Christians. These persecutions caused the martyrdom of many Christians, including the disciples.

2. The Roman Emperors

The Roman emperors not persecute the Christians during the early days. However, they began to in persecute the faithful later and it turned to be the most severe persecution the Christians were subjected to. The following were the reasons which provoked the Roman emperors:

- a) the suspicion that Christians were not obedient to the Roman Gods and the emperor.
- b) the reluctance shown by the Christians to offer sacrifice to the Roman Gods;
- c) the unwillingness shows by Christians for military service; and
- d) the misunderstandings about the worship followed by the Christians.

Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius, Septimius Severus, Maximus, Valerian, Diocletian etc. were the emperors who persecuted the Christians the most. The Milan proclamation by emperor Constantine stopped the persecution Christians However, the persecution helped in strengthening the faith and unity of the Church. Further,

To reflect

1. Explain the persecutions Christians suffered in the early Church?
2. What were the reasons for the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperors?
3. Name the emperors who persecuted Christians.

Oppositions to the faith and the Divisions in the Church

The Christian Church met with lot of opposition to the faith from the very beginning. When Church gained freedom, there arose other kinds of enemies. As a consequence, many of the followers deviated from the path of true faith. The main challenges to the faith were the following:

Gnosticism - salvation is possible through acquiring knowledge.

Montanism – the argument that montanus was the Holy Spirit (montanus).

Schism of those who allegedly betrayed the faith during the persecution.

Manichianism – body and the activities of the body are completely evil.

Monarchianism – taught that God was unipersonal rather than Trinitarian.

These diverse teachings caused divisions in the Church which were partly solved in the Universal Church Council.

Universal Synods

The divisions in the Church caused disturbances within and outside the Roman Empire. As a result of this, emperors and political authorities began to meddle in the affairs of the Church. Finally, as a remedial measure to this, universal Synods were convened. The Oriental Orthodox Churches have accepted the first three universal Synods only.

The Synod of Nicea (A.D. 325)

The Synod of Nicea convened by the emperor Constantine in A.D.325 was the first universal Synod. 318 church fathers participated in it and discussed and rejected the heterodox teachings of Arius, an expert monk-priest.

The heterodox teachings of Arians

The arguments put forward by Arians were:

- a) the Son is not equal to the Father;
- b) the Son and the Holy Spirit are not absolutely perfect;
- c) the Son who was created is not eternal;
- d) there was a period when the Son was non-existent;
- e) the Father is the only real God and hence the Son is neither complete God nor complete Man.

The Council rejected the arguments of Arians and formulated the first two paragraphs of the proclamation of faith (creed) and a few canons as well.

The Synod of Constantinople (A.D. 381)

The purpose of the Synod of Constantinople convened in A.D.381 was to confirm the resolutions formulated in the Synod of Nicea and to reject the heretic teachings by Appolinarius, the bishop of Laodicea and Macdonias, the bishop of Constantinople (Macedonianism). This Council convened by the Emperor Theodosius had the participation of 150 Church fathers, and the resolutions were authenticated by 148

of them. The Synod modified the proclamation of faith formulated in the Synod of Nicea and confirmed it. A few cannons laws were also passed in the Council.

Appollinarianism

It was argued by Apollinaris of Laodicea that Jesus could not have had a human mind; rather, that Jesus had a human body and lower soul but a divine mind. It was also argued that Christ was a complete God.

Macedonianism

According to this heresy, the Holy Spirit is not God and subordinate to the Father and the Son.

Synod of Ephesus (A.D. 431)

In this Synod convened by the Roman Emperor Theodosius II in A.D. 431, 198 Church fathers participated. The purpose of the Synod was to reject the heretic teachings of Nestorius, the Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council rejected the argument of Nestorius and categorically declared Virgin Mary as the Theotokos (Mother of God).

Nestorianism

This doctrine emphasized the distinction between the human and divine natures of Jesus. It argued that Virgin Mary shall not be addressed as Theotokos (Mother of God), but as “mother of Christ” only.

To reflect

1. What were the heretical teachings the earlier Church had to confront?
2. Which were the first three Universal Councils?
3. What were the reasons for convening the universal Synods?
4. What were the issues of discussion and resolutions in the universal Synods?

Activities

1. Compare the persecutions suffered by the earlier Church with the problems the Church faces at present (discuss with a Church scholar and collect information).
2. Evaluate the heretical teachings which plagued the Church in the context of the current scenario.

3. If you were living during the persecutions and heresies, how you would have responded to them?

To Memorise

“Four score and six years have I been serving him (Christ), and he hath done me no wrong; how then can I blaspheme my king who saved me?” – *Polycarp of Smyrna*.

Song

Resolution

We will work for the upkeep and progress of the Church by protecting it from and the external and internal challenges that weaken it.

Prayer

(to be added from page 99 of book of common worship)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	The Acts 1
Monday	The Acts 2	The Acts 3
Tuesday	The Acts 4	The Acts 5
Wednesday	The Acts 6	The Acts 7
Thursday	The Acts 8	The Acts 9
Friday	The Acts 10	The Acts 11
Saturday	The Acts 12	The Acts 13
Sunday	The Acts 14	-

Lesson 18

The Malankara Church up to 9th Century (Christian migrations to South India)

Objectives of the lesson: To understand about the early Christian migrations to South India and how the migrants became part of Indian Christianity.

To learn by heart: And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place (Deuteronomy 1:31).

Learning aids: The Holy Bible, the book of Holy Qurbana, the Book of Common Prayer.

Introduction

We know that India had been subjected to a number of foreign invasions, mostly by those who came as traders. The cultural influences of the invaders still exist among us. Along with it, there two important Persian migrations to South India. We are going to learn about these migrations and how they integrated themselves with the St. Thomas Christians of India.

Lesson

The main Christian migrations to South India occurred in 4th and 9th centuries. The first migration of A.D. 345 was under the leadership of *Knai* Thomman and the second of A.D. 825 was under the leadership of Sabore Easow (Sabrisho). The trade links which existed between Persia and India and the Christian traditions which existed in both the countries were the factors that motivated the immigrations.

1. The First Persian Migration (A.D. 345)

In 4th century, during the reign of Shapur II, the Christians in Persia had been subjected to severe persecutions. In order to escape from this, a group of Christians,

under the leadership of *Knai* Thomman (Cana Thoma) migrated to South India which was connected to Persia through trade. The group consisted of 400 people from 72 families which included one bishop called Mar Ouseph, two priests, two deacons besides women and children.

The migrants reached Kodungallur and accepted the patronage of the ruler Cheraman Perumal. Their interest in trade helped them in acquiring enough freedom and rights. The local ruler granted them several civil rights which have been inscribed on the copper plates. They are called '*Knai* Thomman *Chepped*'. As they resided in the southern side of Kodungallur they are known as the Southists ('*Thekkumbhagakkar*'). The present-day *Knanaites* claim to be the successors of these Southists.

To Reflect

1. Which were the chief Christian migrations to Kerala?
2. What were the reasons and significance of the migration under *Knai* Thomman?
3. Explain the original of the name '*Thekkumbhagakkar*'?

2. The Second Persian Immigration (A.D. 825)

Led by the merchant called Sabrisho a group of Christians with two bishops Mar Sabore and Mar Proth landed in Kollam in A. D. 825 and this is considered as the second Persian migration. (It is said that the Kollam era (Malayalam era) was started in commemoration of this migration). Out of the two bishops, Mar Sabore settled in Udaympoor and Mar Proth settled in Kollam. However, the second migration comprised less people than the first. The Tarisappally Copper Plates document the rights given to the migrant Christians by the local ruler. In A.D. 925, the bishops were canonized and churches were dedicated in their name. But, in later times, the Portuguese Roman Catholics banned the canonization and renamed the churches '*Kadisha*' churches (E.g.: *Kadisha* churches in Kollam and Kayamkulam).

The importance of Persian migrations

- Corroborated the traditions of St. Thomas in Malankara (the Persian Church also was established by St. Thomas).
- Enhanced the social status of the Christians in India.
- Starting of Kollam era.
- Broadened the influence of Christianity.
- Deepened the trade connection between Persia and India.

To reflect

1. Describe the second Persian immigration.
2. Note the significance of the start of “Kollam Era.”
3. What was the earlier status of the present-day ‘*Kadisha*’ churches?
4. Detail the importance of Persian migrations to South India.

Activities

1. Note the position of Persia in map of Asia and trace the route by which migrants reached South India.
2. Present a skit based on Persian immigrations.
3. Visit the ‘*Kadisha*’ churches and collect more information regarding their history.

To Memorise

‘The church stood firmly on the declaration of faith by St. Thomas ever since. The persecutions suffered in different periods did not weaken the Church, but it aided in enhancing the faith of the laity’– H. H. Catholicose Baselios Marthoma Mathews I.

Song

(to be added from page 260 of book of Holy Qurbana)

(The church said to Christ: I have sinned and deviated from the path of virtue. Oh, Holy Son, make me your friend and purify. The Lord replied: Immerse yourself in the water of baptism and be purified to become my bride).

Resolution

Persecutions shall not deter us from following Christ.
We are migrants travelling to the Promised Land.

Prayer

(to be taken from page 57 of book of common worship)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	The Acts 15
Monday	The Acts 16	The Acts 17
Tuesday	The Acts 18	The Acts 19
Wednesday	The Acts 20	The Acts 21
Thursday	The Acts 22	The Acts 23
Friday	The Acts 24	The Acts 25
Saturday	The Acts 26	The Acts 27
Sunday	The Acts 18	-

Lesson 19

The Malankara Church up to 10th Century (Copper Plates)

Objectives of the lesson: To learn about the high social status enjoyed by the early Christians in Kerala. To understand that the integrity of Nazranis had earned them good name and states in society.

To learn by heart: Psalm 115.

Learning aids: The Holy Bible, the Book of Holy Qurbana, the bookd of Common Prayer; Xerox copy of “Cheppeds” (of available).

Introduction

In modern times, we use paper for writing. However, certain important are inscribed on wood, stone or metal. The early Christians in Kerala received four copper plates on which were inscribed their special rights granted by Royal Authority. Let us learn about them.

Lesson

The early Christians received four plates, namely *Knai* Thomman plate, Tarisappalli plate 1 and 2, and Iravikorthan plate, from the then rulers.

Knai Thomman Plate

This plate is believed to be issued to *Knai* Thomman who migrated from Persia by Kochera Koran Perumal. The actual year of the plate is a matter of dispute among historians. However, years A.D. 345, 774 and 882 are attributed to this plate. The original plate is missing, but an English translation (by the Portuguese) is kept in the British museum. By this plate, Mahadevan town (Kodungallur) and the church in it were bestowed to *Knai* Thomman and successors besides some titles. Relatives and religious followers of *Knai* Thomman are provided with some special rights and royal privileges also by virtue of this plate.

Tarisappalli Plates

These are two copper plates issued by the then ruler of Kollam Ayyanadikal Thiruvadikal. The first one was issued in A.D. 849 to the St. Thomas Christians in Kollam and the second one was issued in A.D. 883 to the Jewish Christians, it is believed. Some plates are missing at present; the rest are with the Malankara Orthodox Church and the Marthomite Church.

The language of the inscriptions on the plates is 'Vattezhuth', a form of ancient Tamil script which was prevalent in Tamizhakam from 6th-14th centuries. These plates throw light on the social status of the Christians of the time. Christians were bestowed with many rights and privileges like the control over the lower castes, protection of land and churches, tax collection, military powers, 72 feudal powers etc.

To reflect

1. Identify the copper plates issued to the Christians in Kerala?
2. What are the evidences for *Knai* Thomman plate?
3. What are the rights and privileges obtained through *Knai* Thomman plate?
4. What is 'Vattezhuth'?
5. Give an account about Tarisappalli copper plates.

Iravikorthan Copper Plate

This was issued to Iravikorthan by the king Veeraraghava and hence it is called as 'Veeraraghava Pattayam'. The year of issue of the plates in 'Vattezhuth' script is not clear the years A.D. 230, 680, 775 and 1320 are attributed to this. At present, this plate is under the custody of Malankara Orthodox Church. According to this, Christians were entitled to enjoy esteemed social status on par high caste the Hindus. The plate granted many rights and powers to Iravikorthan like the leadership (Perumchetty) at 'Manigramam', trade rights, power to collect taxes, authority over slaves etc.

Importance of Copper Plates

- Indicates the status and esteemed position enjoyed by the Christians.
- Indicates the social status of Christians.
- Proves the loyalty of Christians.
- Throws light on the trade efficiency and integrity of Christians.
- Indicates that the kings considered Christians as than asset to the economy of the State.

To reflect

1. Prepare a note about Iravikorthan plates.
2. Who was Iravikorthan?
3. Describe the importance of copper plates.

Activities

1. Collect more information about other royal proclamations similar to copper plates.
2. Collect more information about copper plates.
3. Arrange a discussion in the class to compare the earlier status and the current status of Christians.
4. Interact with the historians in the Church and note down the details about copper plates.
5. Attempt translation of the plate-inscriptions into modern Malayalam.

To Memorise

‘Arunoottuvar, Anchuvannam and Mangigramam are authorised to protect the land and the church. Anchuvannam and Manigramam are directed to act as instructed in the copper plate until the earth, sun and the moon exist’ - *second Tarisappalli plate*.

Song

(to be added from the book of Holy Qurbana)

(The sacred body and blood and the holy Mooron are the three critical reasons for the purity of the Church. The Satan trembled on seeing the holiness of the Church and said that as long as the Lord protects the Church I would be ashamed or failed in my struggle.)

Resolution

We will toil to maintain the integrity and moral status the Christians enjoyed in earlier times.

Prayer

(to be added from page 58 of book of Common Prayer)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	Romans 1
Monday	Romans 2	Romans 3
Tuesday	Romans 4	Romans 5
Wednesday	Romans 6	Romans 7
Thursday	Romans 8	Romans 9
Friday	Romans 10	Romans 11
Saturday	Romans 12	Romans 13, 14
Sunday	Romans 15, 16	-

UNIT 5

THE HOLY QURBANA - A STUDY

Lesson 20

Prototypes of the Holy Qurbana in the Old Testament

Objectives of the lesson: To understand the Biblical background of the service of the Holy Qurbana. To learn that the Holy Qurbana is completely based on the Holy Bible and the Holy Traditions. To receive the mercy of God by participating in the Holy Qurbana with devotion and to become conscious of the presence of God in this sacrament.

To learn by heart: 'Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually' (Hebrews 7:3).

Learning aids: The Holy Bible, the book of the Holy Qurbana, the Book of Common Prayer.

Introduction

Dear children... Do you know that Holy Qurbana is the crown and perfection of all other sacraments and worship services? By participating in the Holy Qurbana regularly and by receiving the body and blood of the Lord we are incorporated into the body of Christ. Do you remember the interpretations of the Holy Qurbana we learned in lower classes? Do you think our Holy Qurbana is based on the Holy Bible?

The hymns, prayers and responses of the congregation in the Holy Qurbana are based on the Holy Bible. For this, we need to understand the related Bible passages and establish connection between them. Once we understand it our participation in the Holy Qurbana would become more meaningful; and we will be more interested in participating in it. Now, we are going to learn some biblical background knowledge for the Holy Qurbana.

Lesson

The consecration of the bread and wine is one of the most important moments in the Holy Qurbana. Here we remember the blessing of bread and wine by our Lord during the last supper before giving it to his disciples. All the important events in the life of our Lord Jesus had been indicated in the Old Testament history of the Israel. The writers of New Testament indicate it on various occasions (E.g.: Matthew 1:21-22, Luke 24:25-27). It is true of the last supper also. The act of Jesus in blessing bread and wine by saying 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood which is poured out for the new covenant' had already been through several events which happened during the time of Old foreshadowed Testament. The most important of them are detailed below:

1. The fruit of Paradise

The fruit from the tree of life which was forbidden to Adam and Eve at the dawn of creation (Genesis 2:9-17) was the first symbol of the Holy Qurbana. It was not meant to be forbidden to man forever. Since man ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil against the will of God, the Almighty considered that he might also eat the fruit from the tree of life and live in sin forever and hence the Lord drove Adam and Eve from the garden (Genesis 3: 22-24). After baptism, the baptized is given the Holy Qurbana. The hymn sung at that time says:

“The fruit that Adam did not taste in paradise
It is happily placed in your mouth today.”

2. The Offering of Abel

Humans who are created by God is shall to offer the fruit of their toil to God as sacrifice. When the first brothers, Cain and Abel, made offerings to God, Abel offered the firstling of his flock as a perfect sacrifice (Genesis 4:4). It was a great gift in the context of his toil and wealth as it was a valuable offering at that time. He had shown that he placed God higher than everything else and God accepted his offering.

To reflect

1. Give an example to show that all the important events in the life of Jesus had been indicated in Old Testament.
2. What we can observe in the Garden of Eden as pointing to the Holy Qurbana?
3. Why is the offering of Abel considered as a symbol of the Holy Qurbana?

3. Offering made by Melchizedek

Melchizedek brought bread and wine when he welcomed Abraham, the Father of the Faithful (Genesis 14:18-20). Melchizedek (meaning 'my king is just') was the Priest of God and the king of Salem (meaning 'peace'). There is no mention about his parents in the Bible. The promise in Psalm 110, 'Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek' (Psalm 110:4) had been fulfilled by our Lord. It is discussed in detail in the epistle to the Hebrews (Hebrews 7:1-10).

4. Lamb in the thicket seen by Abraham

The most striking foreshadow of the sacrifice of our Lord is seen in the sacrifice of Abraham when he offered his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-17). When God commanded Abraham to offer his only son as sacrifice he was all willing to do so. But, seeing the faith and obedience of Abraham God arranged a lamb in the thicket for Abraham to offer as sacrifice. Lord Jesus, offered himself as sacrifice in our place.

5. 'Manna' given to Israelites in the desert

The 'Exodus' of Israelites to the land of Canaan under the guidance of Moses after a prolonged period of slavery in Egypt is a golden chapter in the annals of the history of Israel. Israelites, after crossing the Red sea continued their journey for forty years through the desert confronting natural disasters and enemies. When they reached the desert of Sin between Elim and Sinai the Israelites became desperate with hunger and God rained 'Manna' from heaven. When they found 'Manna' scattered on the ground, the people were surprised, and Moses said, 'this is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat'. Though the command of the God was only to collect the manna needed for each day some of them collected more manna and it decayed by the next morning. They were supplied with enough manna each day. Jesus who came down from heaven is the real 'Manna' (John 6:32-33). Jesus said that those who eat his flesh and drink his blood would gain eternal life and he would resurrect them on the last day (John 6: 53-54).

To reflect

1. What does the Bible say about Melchizedek?
2. What is the meaning of the word 'Salem'?
3. Why is the sacrifice of Abraham regarded as a 'shadow' of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ?
4. What was the food God had given to Israelites in the desert? What was special about it?

6. The hallowed bread eaten by David

While fleeing from his enemies David (before becoming king) reached Nob and met Ahimelech, the priest. He was very tired and asked Ahimelech for food. To this Ahimelech answered that he had no common bread with him but only hallowed bread which was reserved for priests (1 Samuel 21:1-6). During the period when the Israelites were worshipped in tabernacles, God had commanded them to bake twelve cakes (one each for each of the twelve tribes) and set them in two rows upon the table (Leviticus 24:5-9). Jesus also referred Ahimelech giving the hallowed bread to David (Matthew 12:3-4).

7. Bread supplied to Elijah by ravens

Elijah the Tishbite was a major prophet in Israel. While the whole country was suffering from famine God arranged ravens to supply bread and meat to Elijah (1 Kings 17:2-6). The God who gave food to this people miraculously gives us his flesh and blood through the Holy Qurbana.

To reflect

1. What was background in which David was given the sacred bread?
2. Why the bread supplied to Elijah by ravens is regarded as symbol of the Holy Qurbana?

8. The sacrifice at Mount Carmel

Jezebel, wife of King Ahab was highly influential in the affairs of the country. As Jezebel was a devotee of Baal, the worshippers of Yahweh had to suffer a lot. Further, the authorities also started to murder the prophets of Yahweh. There was drought in the country; and people believed that it was a punishment from Yahweh. Ahab and Jezebel had declared that the pagan god 'Baal' was mightier than Yahweh. In order to prove the greatness of Jehovah before the people, Elijah arranged for a sacrifice on Mount Carmel. At the same time, the 450 prophets of Baal also offered sacrifice to Baal. Jehovah accepted the sacrifice of Elijah and consumed it with fire. Yahweh saved the people from famine by providing with enough rain (1 Kings 18:16-46).

9. The fire that purified the tongue of Isaiah

It is said in the book of Isaiah that God intervened to purify the prophet who was once impure. When he cried that he was man with unclean lips one of the seraphs flew towards him carrying a live coal taken with the hot tong from the altar

and touched his lips with it. Soon his sins were eliminated (Isaiah 6:1-7). Similarly, the Holy Qurbana is the fire that eliminates our sins.

In short, it can be observed that a lot of events pointing to the Holy Qurbana are seen in the Old Testament. Even though none of them contained the complete reality of the Holy Qurbana, all of them served as indicators of it in one or other way.

To Reflect

1. What are the pointers to and symbols of the Holy Qurbana in the Old Testament? Comment briefly on each of them.

2. Match the following:

Idea	Related person
1. Sacrifice on Mount Carmel	King David
2. Hallowed Bread	Abel
3. Hot tong	Isaac
4. The eternal priest	Elijah
5. The tree which provided lamb	Melchizedek
6. The lamb offered to God as sacrifice	Isaiah

Activities

1. Make a study on the symbols of the Holy Qurbana with the aid of Holy Bible and other texts and interaction with learned people. Discuss the information collected in the class and note them down.

2. Participate in the Holy Qurbana regularly with devotion and awareness of the presence of God.

Song

(From the text of the Holy Qurbana)

(The singers may be divided into two groups and each group may sing alternate stanza)

Resolution

We learned about many persons and incidents in the Old Testament which point to the reality of the Holy Qurbana.

We are now more conscious of the greatness of our Holy Qurbana. We shall participate in the Holy Qurbana with utmost devotion and consciousness of the presence of God from now on.

Prayer

(To be added from page 198 of book of common worship)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	Hebrews 1
Monday	Matthew 1	Hebrews 2
Tuesday	Luke 24	Isaiah 61
Wednesday	Genesis 2	Kings 17
Thursday	Genesis 4	1 Samuel 21
Friday	Genesis 14	1 Kings 18
Saturday	Genesis 22	Matthew 1
Sunday	Leviticus 24	-

Lesson 21

The 'Diptychs' in the Holy Qurbana

Objectives of the lesson: To understand the significance and meaning of the 'Diptychs' in the Holy Qurbana. To learn more about the persons we remember in the Diptychs.

To learn by heart: 'Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversion' (Hebrews 13:7).

Learning aids: The Holy Bible, the book of Holy Qurbana and the Book of Common Prayer.

Introduction

We learned about the symbols of the Holy Qurbana in the previous chapter. We also came to know that the Holy Qurbana is a worship based on the Holy Bible. Another characteristic of the Holy Qurbana is that it also contains intercessory prayers. We pray not only for ourselves but also for all others. We should as Christians pray for others also. Today, let us learn about the intercessory prayers in the Diptychs in the Holy Qurbana.

Lesson

Intercessions have important place in the Holy Qurbana. They are intended for the well-being of the living and for the peace of the departed. Mainly, there are five occasions in the Holy Qurbana for this. Of these, the first two are silent prayers and the other three are public prayers said during Diptychs, during the reading of litanies and also during singing the 'kukkilion'.

The prayers called 'Diptychs' consist of altogether eighteen mediation prayers. During each Diptych, the priest says appropriate mediation prayers first in silence and after the Diptychs in public. The portion read by the altar assistant is called

Diptychs. In Syriac it is called ‘Tubden’ because each of these six prayers starts with ‘Tubden’ meaning ‘but again’. (In the early Church, the six prayers were written on two plates which could have folded together called diptychs and thus derived the term ‘Diptychs’ for this in English. Out of the six Diptychs, the first three prayers are for the living and the rest for the departed. Let us study about each Diptych in detail.

1. The first Diptych

In this prayer, the rulers and leaders of the church are remembered. The heads of the Church like Ignatius of Antioch, Catholicos of the east Mar Baselios (at present the Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II), Patriarch of Jerusalem Mar Gregarious are remembered. Then the bishops of the respective dioceses and all the spiritual fathers are remembered. If the Holy Qurbana is celebrated by a bishop, he is also remembered by citing his name. It is advisable to remember all the Fathers who are related to the Church in this occasion.

2. The Second Diptychs

The faithful who are participating in the Holy Qurbana, those who have requested for remembrance in the Holy Qurbana and those who are suffered are being remembered through the second Diptych. Since those who are celebrating birthday and wedding anniversary also are remembered in this Diptychs the birthday/wedding anniversary prayers after the Holy Qurbana is against the procedure of worship followed in the Orthodox Church. As those who are in need and in poverty, those who are undergoing hard trials and sufferings, the destitute, bonded, slaves, widows, orphans etc. and those who are helping the poor and the sick are being remembered by the priest in the open prayer it may be considered that the Holy Qurbana is dedicated for all.

To Reflect

1. What is the meaning of the word ‘Tubden’ (Diptychs)?
2. How many Intercessory prayers are there in the Diptychs?
3. Who are the Church Fathers that are being remembered in the first Diptych?
4. Who are being remembered in the second Diptych?

3. The Third Diptych

In the Diptych, prayers are offered for the protection of the Church in peace and also for the rulers. In the early Church, as the Holy Qurbana was formulated in monasteries, the leaders of the monasteries are remembered. The faithful under the

patronage of Christian kings used to remember 'the faithful and truly Christian rulers, who have established and confirmed in the true faith'. The Church established in India remembers the political rulers of the land as well. As the unity and harmony of the Church is of paramount importance, the prayer is intended for 'the whole Christian community, the clergy and the faithful people, that they may continue in virtue'.

4. The Fourth Diptych

The departed souls are remembered from the fourth Diptych onwards. All the saints, both men and women along with Virgin Mary are remembered in this. We remember the Prophets and the Apostles, the Preachers and the Evangelists, the Martyrs and the Confessors. Among them, we also remember St. John the Baptist, St. Stephen, St. Peter, St. Paul and our Father St. Thomas. The patron saint of the particular church also is remembered here.

5. The Fifth Diptych

Our forefathers who laid the foundation for the faith of the Orthodox Church and protected the faith are remembered during the fifth Diptych. We also acknowledge our holy fathers who proclaimed the true faith in the first three Synods, who fought for the faith in the Synod of Chalcedon, who led the Church thereafter by suffering persecutions, the ascetics and the Holy Fathers of the Malankara Church. (We shall learn about the holy fathers mentioned in the fifth Diptych in detail next year).

To Reflect

1. Who are remembered the prayer in the third Diptychs?
2. Name a few important departed Holy Fathers we remember during the fourth and fifth Diptychs.

6. The Sixth Diptych

During the sixth Diptychs we remember all the faithful departed who kept the true faith and lived according to the commandments of God. Here we pray for the remission of their debts, forgiveness of their sins and their eternal life in heaven.

Let us bear in mind three details while participating in the Holy Qurbana. We should pay full attention during these prayers and should not consider the occasion of Diptychs as the time for rest. We should entrust with the altar the names of our faithful departed so that they would be remembered in all the Diptych prayers during

the Holy Qurbana. Thirdly, we also should pray, along with the priest and the altar assistants, for those who are in need of our prayers.

To Reflect

1. Who are the important Holy Fathers we remembered during the fifth Diptych?
2. Explain that intercessory prayers have an important place in the Holy Qurbana.
3. Which are the occasions of necessary prayers during the Holy Qurbana?

Activities

1. Prepare a chart showing the names of Holy Fathers who are remembered in the Diptychs. See the model given below.

Serial No.	Diptychs	The remembered
1	First Diptychs	The Church Leaders
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

2. Pray specially for the Church, for the sick and for the departed and the living Holy Fathers.
3. Visit the sick and the suffering with elders and pray for them.

Song

(to be added from page 338 of the book of the Holy Qurbana)

Resolution

We shall pray for those who are being remembered in the Diptychs during the Holy Qurbana.

Prayer

(to be added from page 237 of the book of common worship)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	Hebrews 3
Monday	Hebrews 4	Hebrews 5
Tuesday	Hebrews 6	Hebrews 7
Wednesday	Hebrews 8	Hebrews 9
Thursday	Hebrews 10	Hebrews 11
Friday	Hebrews 12	Hebrews 13
Saturday	James 1	James 3, 4
Sunday	2James 5	-

UNIT 6

ELEMENTS OF FAITH

Lesson 22

The Holy Baptism

Objectives of the lesson: To understand the procedures of service of the holy baptism and their true meaning. To understand the importance of the holy baptism.

To learn by heart: ‘Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee...’ (Jeremiah 1:5).

Learning aids: The Holy Bible, the service book of Holy Baptism, the Book of Common Prayer and the service book for Holy Qurbana.

Introduction

Which is the first sacrament we receive in the Church? What are the sacraments which we receive along with baptism? They are the Holy Mooron (anointing oil) and the Holy Qurbana. Here, we are going to learn the different aspects of Holy Baptism in detail.

Lesson

What is baptism? It is administered for leading a life rooted in Christ. Prayers of Baptism are said, and the baptized is washed in the consecrated water in the name of the Holy Trinity. The Baptized is also anointed with the Holy Chrism. The sacrament is based on the command of our Lord (Matthew 28:19). ‘Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’ According to St. Paul, one who is baptized shares in the death of our Lord and be buried with him and will be raised up from the dead with him (Romans 6:4).

Following are the graces we receive in baptism:

1. Rebirth

The child who was born from the parents biologically is born again from the Mother, i.e. the Holy Church through the womb of baptismal font, a the child of God.

2. Adoption

The one who is baptised is becomes the son/daughter of God by adoption . He/she has the freedom to say 'Abba, Father'. (Romans 8:15).

3. Spiritual gift

The Mooron administered to us after baptism transforms each of us to become the temple of the Holy Spirit. We 'put on' the Holy Spirit.

4. Redemption from sin

Anyone born in to this world inherits the 'Academic Sin.' Through baptism he is redeemed from Satan and sin. 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away...' (1 Corinthians 5:17).

To reflect

1. What did our Lord tell to Nicodemus regarding baptism?
2. What are the graces we receive in baptism?
3. How does one gain 'eternal life' through baptism?

5. Eternal Life

The person who has received baptism acquires the virtues of the Holy Spirit by being anointed with Holy Mooron and becomes part of the Body and blood of the Lord through the Holy Qurbana. He is enabled to the eternal life promised by the Lord (John 6: 56-58).

The Service of Baptism

Infants born to Christian parents and adults who join the Church from other religion are baptized in the Church. According to Canon Law, male infants are baptized after 40 days and female infants are baptized after 56 days.

The procedure of the service of Baptism is as follows:

1. Preparation for baptism

The parents and the God father of the infant to be baptized have to undertake fasting and prayers and receive the Holy Qurbana after confession. If the person to be baptised is an adult he should be prepare for baptism by undertaking fasting and prayers and receive the Holy Qurbana after baptism and Holy Confession.

2. Dedication

The infant who is a gift of the God is dedicated in the church and this is a ritual existing since the time of our Lord. The idea of dedication is incorporated in the initial prayers of baptism service itself.

3. Christening

According to tradition, the baptizand is called by a Christian name.

4. Exorcism

Prayers to redeem the baptized from the bondage of Satan and sin are incorporated in to the baptism service.

5. Proclamation of faith

The faith in Christ is declared by the person who is receiving baptism (in the case of adults) or the mediator (in the case of infants). After that the congregation of the faithful repeats Nicean Creed.

6. Act of sealing

The baptizand in sealed three times on the forehead in the Name of the Holy Trinity; first without oil, second with the blessed oil, and third with the Holy Chrism.

7. Washing the consecrated water

Water is poured into the baptismal font, and after prayers and the blessing of water, Holy Mooron is poured into it. Then the batizand is wailed or sprinkled with the consecrated water, which symbolized the water in river Jordan, in which Jesus was baptized.

8. Anointing with Mooron

After getting washed in or sprinkled with the consecrated water the baptizand is sealed and anointed with the Holy Mycron.

9. The administration of the Holy Qurbana

According to our tradition, the baptized person, (be it an adult or an infant, receives the Holy Qurbana immediately. The words of our Lord, 'Abide in me, and I in you...' (John 15:4) could be recalled here.

10. Dispersal

The service is concluded by giving advice about the grooming of the baptized person. The priest prescribes the duties of the God father as well. The baptized person becomes part of the Church and the brother/sister of Jesus Christ.

Activities

1. Learn the hymn that is sung at the time of dedication of the infant.
2. Find out the Bible passages that are being mentioned during baptism service.
3. Prepare a report after participating in a Baptism service.
4. Collect information like the name of the priest who conducted your baptism, name of your God-father, name of the church where it was conducted and the date of baptism.
5. Find out the prayers that are to be said at dawn and dusk on the *feast* of Epiphany day from the book of common worship and try to learn them by heart.

Song

(to be added from page 12 of the books of sacramental rites)

Resolution

We shall keep in mind that, through Baptism we are born again,
in Christ and incorporated into the body of Christ.
We are clothed with the Holy Spirit and are accepted
as the children of God by adoption.

Prayer

(to be added from page 79 of the book of common worship book)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	Jeremiah 1
Monday	Matthew 28	Romans 6
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 3	Romans 8
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5	John 6
Thursday	John 15	Luke 3:7-22
Friday	Matthew 3:13-17	Mark 1:9-11
Saturday	John 1:29-34	Luke 5, 6
Sunday	Luke 9	-

Lesson 23

Baptism of the infant

Message of the lesson: To understand and appreciate that the baptism of the infant is conducted in accordance with the scriptures. To identify the Biblical basis of baptism. To find out the early Church tradition of the Sacrament of Baptism.

To learn by heart: ‘...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God’ (Mark 10: 14).

Learning aids: Picture showing mothers with infants before Jesus, the picture of baptism of an infant, the Holy Bible.

Introduction

Have you ever attended the Service of baptism of infants? What was the age of the infant who was baptized? Do you have any Christian friends who is not baptized? If so, what is the reason for it? They consider it as better to get baptized after attaining adulthood. The objective of the present lesson is to learn that baptism of the infant is conducted in accordance with the scriptures.

Lesson

1. Baptism of infant-Tradition of the early Church

Baptism of infants has been a practice which existed in the Church from very early days. In the descriptions relating to the adoption of Christ by adults it is clearly stated that their ‘families’ also were baptized (E.g.: The Acts 16:15, 16:33, 1 Corinthians 1:16). It can be assumed that infants also were given baptism along with the other members of the family (had the infants were exempted it would have been mentioned). Who could forbid children from joining Jesus Christ who had said, ‘...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God’. Instances of the baptism of infants also found mention in the texts of the early Church, like ‘The teaching of the Apostles’ (Third Century) and ‘Apostolic Tradition’ (Fourth Century).

2. Infants are blessed to have faith-Baptism in faith

The presumption that infants are too young to receive the faith is based on the misconception that 'faith' is a kind of logical awareness. But the Holy Bible defines faith as, 'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen' (Hebrews 11:1). It is observed that infants are more determined in things hoped for and more resolute in things unseen. For example, children regard their parents as most valuable in the world. Similarly, for a child of God, the Lord is the most precious thing. The blessing of God enables the child to have faith accordingly, as guaranteed by the Holy Bible itself: 'For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God' (Ephesians 2:8).

To Reflect

1. Which are the two early Christian in which the baptism of infants is mentioned?
2. '...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not...' Locate the context of these words of Jesus?
3. Why is the baptism of infants is regarded as baptism in faith?

3. Proofs for the baptism of infants in the Bible

1. Infants labelled as saints: Those who had received baptism are qualified as 'saints' in the New Testament. Since infants are also labelled similarly it can be considered that infants were also given baptism. '...but now are they holy.' (1 Corinthians 7:14).

2. Promise of the Holy Spirit to siblings: The baptized receives 'anointment of the Holy Spirit. St. Peter declared that, God calls children to attain Holy Spirit: 'For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call' (The Acts 2:39). The God who is capable to fill the infant with Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, acts in baptism also. It is the attainment of Holy Spirit through baptism and the awareness about the love of God that enabled St. John to say that, '...I write unto you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because you have known the Father' (1 John 2:13).

Activities

1. Find out the instance when one is seen filled with the Holy Spirit even while being in the mother's womb.

2. Find out three occasions in the New Testament where baptized people are qualified as “saints.”
3. ‘...the babe leaped in my womb for joy’ (Luke 1:44). Who was the baby? What was the reason for joy?
4. Find out the basis for “baptism of infants” in the Holy Bible.
5. Read the Service Book of the Holy Baptism and learn about the role of the mediator/God-Father.

Song

The song that is being sung after the reading of the Holy Bible on the day of the baptism of the Lord (January 5)

(to be added from page 277 of the book of Holy Qurbana)

Resolution

**We learned that the baptism of infants is done in accordance with the Holy Bible and we shall believe it as true and Biblical.
We shall keep the true faith of the Church.**

Prayer

Lord, enable us to understand that baptism of infants is in accordance with the scriptures and help us not to deviate from true faith.

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	Mark 10:13-16
Monday	The Acts 16	1 Corinthians 1
Tuesday	Hebrews 11	Matthew 19:3-15
Wednesday	Luke 18:5-17	Matthew 18:2-31
Thursday	1 Corinthians 14	Corinthians 7
Friday	The Acts 21	Luke 1:15
Saturday	John 2	Matthew 18:4-5
Sunday	Mark 9:33-37	-

Lesson 24

Communion with the Faithful Departed

Key Message: It may bear in mind that the departed also are alive in the abode of God. It is possible to have communion with them through prayers. Let us refuge in the prayers of the departed saints.

To learn by heart: ‘...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die ...’ (John 11: 25-26).

Learning aids: Pictures of saints. A picture of the Transfiguration of Christ and also of the “Rich Man and Lazarus and Abraham”

Introduction

We use to pray at the burial places of our beloved. It is also our practice to visit the tombs of the saints and take refuge in their mediatory prayers. Do you understand the significance of this? Let us study why we should pray for the departed and they in turn should pray for us, on the basis of the Holy Bible.

Lesson

By the word ‘departed’ it is meant that to take leave from one place or one state of existence. According to Christian faith, it is better to say ‘departed’ instead of ‘dead’.

1. The status of the departed

1. The departed are active they and continue in their faith in Christ.
‘...he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die ...’ (John 11: 25-26).
2. They are nearer Christ.
‘For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better’ (Philippians 1:23).

3. They are in a state which enables them to please the Christ.
'Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him' (2 Corinthians 5:9).
4. They worship continuously.
'Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple...' (Revelation 7:15).
5. They continue to enjoy the love of God.
'For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 8:38-39).
6. They could get transformed, on listening to the "Gospel" of Christ.
'For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit' (1 Peter 4:6).

2. Sleep, rest and judgment of the departed

While one is sleeping, though the external senses are inactive the internal organs are active. The same may be attributed to the departed also, ie., they have retired from worldly activities and hence they are considered as under 'sleep' and 'rest'. However, they are active in the spiritual state and they are capable to wax or wane. Hence, at the time of judgment the Lord considers all the activities undertaken by them till then. All except those who have confessed and relieved of sins will be noted.

3. Communion between the departed and the living

Communication between the departed and the living is not possible by physical means. But, as both the groups are part of the one body of Christ and active, though in two different states, it is possible to have communion in Christ in worship and prayers.

To Reflect

1. It is correct to say 'departed' rather than 'dead'. Why?
2. Identity a few referenced in the Holy Bible about the status of the departed?
3. Why is it that departed are said to have attained the state of 'sleep' and are in rest?
4. What is the nature of the communion that the living can have with the departed?

1. Jesus Christ is the sole mediator between the God and humans.

Jesus is the only mediator between God, the father and the world. 'For there is one God and one mediator between God and men' (1 Timothy 2:5). In the next sentence, it is said that Jesus Christ is the mediator. The New Testament repeatedly says that humans and God get reconciled through Jesus Christ (E.g.: Ephesians 2:13-18).

2. Jesus Christ himself entrusted men to have refuge in the sole mediator- Jesus Christ

When the faithful make mutual prayers and the priests and the saints pray for others it is the mediatory task entrusted by Jesus Christ itself is getting fulfilled. The mediatory task is to submit the prayers before Jesus. It is Jesus who takes the prayers to God, the father.

3. Three aspects of mediation

1. Mutual Prayer (Have mutual mediation).

'Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name: ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full' (John 16:24). '... and pray one for another, and pray one for another...' (James 5:16).

2. Priestly Meditation

'Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord' (James 5:14). 'Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20). '...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much' (James 5:16).

4. As the departed righteous ones are alive in Christ, we continue to pray

The saintly people had been praying for others during their lifespan on earth. Though they departed they are alive. '...he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die ...' (John 11: 25-26). According to this, the saintly people are alive and their only task is to pray for the world to Jesus Christ. They are worshipping God relentlessly (Revelation 7:13-15). The scriptures remind us that, 'we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1) and that while grouping together for worship we are closed to 'the spirits of just men made perfect' (Hebrews 12:23).

Activities

1. Discuss the difference between the mediation of men and that of Jesus Christ.
2. Find out the occasions where the saints are mentioned during the Holy Qurbana and worship services.
3. Try to understand the meaning of the hymns related to saints.

Song

(to be added from page 287 of the book of Holy Qurbana)

Resolution

We have learned that the departed are alive in the abode of God. So, we will pray for the departed and also will take refuge in their prayer.

Prayer

(to be added from page 110 of book of common worship)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	John 112
Monday	Philippians 1	Corinthians 5
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	Romans 8
Wednesday	1 Peter 4	1 Timothy 2
Thursday	James 5	John 16
Friday	Hebrews 121	2 Kings 13: 20-21
Saturday	Samuel 28: 11-20	Revelation 8
Sunday	Philippians 3	-

UNIT 7

ACQUINTANCE WITH GREAT PERSONALITIES

Lesson 25

St. Gregarious of Nazianzus

Objectives of the lesson: To learn about the qualities in the life of St. Gregarious of Nazianzus, one among the three ‘Cappadocia Fathers’ in history and to follow their virtues in our lives.

To learn by heart: ‘Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world’ (James 1:27).

Learning aids: The Holy Bible, the book of Holy Qurbana, the Book Common Prayer, Encyclopedia of the Orthodox Church and the Philoalia.

Introduction

Children, Have you heard about ‘Cappadocia’ Fathers? You have learned about two of them in lower classes (the children are supposed to say about St. Basil the Great and his younger brother Gregory of Nyssa and you get further information from the teacher). St. Gregory of Nazianzus was the friend of these two Holy Fathers and third among the ‘Cappadocia’ Fathers. He was also born in Cappadocia. The three Fathers were contemporaries and close to each other. They were great scholars and fought against the enemies of the Church. ‘Nyssa’ and ‘Nazianzus’ were the places where they were bishops and hence they were called after these places. Here, we are going to study about the third among the ‘Cappadocia’ Fathers, St. Gregory of Nazianzus.

Lesson

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God' (John 1:1). St. John, who taught this truth for the first time was called as theologian by the Eastern Churches. Similarly, the Eastern Churches consider St. Gregory of Nazianzus also as a great theologian. It was his contribution towards the study of Trinity, especially his teaching regarding the unity of Godhead and humanity in Christ are considered very important. In order to have comprehensive knowledge about the Cappadocian Fathers one has to know about St. Gregory of Nazianzus also. His theological treatises, letters, poems and speeches on special occasions shed more light on his holiness and theological acumen.

Birth and Early Life

Gregory was born to wealthy parents in Arianus, near Nazianzus, in A.D. 330. His mother who was an ardent believer converted his father to Christianity. Later he was ordained as bishop of Nazianzus in A.D. 372. In the epistle to Timothy, St. Paul clarifies that the bishop must be husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:1-2). In the early centuries it was not necessary for the bishops to remain unmarried. Gregory, after his primary education went to Alexandria and later to Athens for higher studies. On the way to Athens his ship encountered a violent storm, and the terrified Gregory prayed to Christ that if He would deliver him, he would dedicate his life to His service. On his survival, he concentrated on the service of the Church. He became proficient in Rhetoric and Philosophy.

To Reflect

1. Who are called 'Cappadocia' Fathers?
2. Give a brief description about his birth and childhood of Gregory of Nazianzus.

It was at Athens that he got acquainted with Basil and their friendship lasted throughout life. Julian, who became Emperor later, was also their fellow student. In A. D. 361 Gregory returned to Nazianzus and was ordained a priest by his father. Though his father wanted him to be active in parish ministry, young Gregory wished to lead a solitary life. Subsequently Gregory joined the monastery of St. Basil.

The opposition of Emperor Julian to Christianity provoked Gregory to compose the book, 'Invectives Against Julian' in which he asserts that Christianity will overcome

unjust rulers like Julian through love and patience. It was in this context that he explained the theory of 'Theosis' which became a major element in Orthodox spirituality.

To Reflect

1. Why was Gregory reluctant to enter ordained ministry?
2. Do you think Gregory was a success as a bishop?
3. Assess the contribution of Gregory to the Monastic movement.

He was ordained Bishop of Sasima in A. D. 372 by St. Basil. Though Gregory was unwilling, he was lovingly compelled by his father and St. Basil to accept the bishopric. He presided over the Council of Constantinople partly and played a pivotal role in formulating the third paragraph of the Creed. He served also as the bishop of Constantinople for sometime. He, as a defender of faith, was subjected to physical torture by the enemies. As he found it difficult to carry out his duties as bishop of Constantinople he returned to Sasima and later retired from active service in A. D. 383. After enjoying six peaceful years in retirement, he passed away on January 25 in A. D. 390.

This teachings about the Holy Trinity, the procession of the Holy Spirit, eternity etc. are famous. In consideration to his contributions to theology, the Synod of Chalcedon held in A. D. 451 designated him 'Theologos' or theologian.

To Reflect

1. Describe the childhood of Gregory of Nazianzus?
2. Is it true that married clergy were consecrated as bishops in the early Church?
3. Why was Gregory acclaimed as Theologos?
4. Write a note on the theological contributions of Gregory of Nazianzus.

Activities

1. Read the biography of St. Gregory. Collect information from the scholars and note down them.
2. Discuss the ascetic life and theological acumen of the Cappadocian Fathers, in the class. A common discussion incorporating the students of higher classes may also be conducted under the guidance of the vicar.

Song

(to be added from page 340 of the book of Holy Qurbana)

Resolution

We learned about Gregory of Nazianzus who was a pillar of the early Church. We shall follow the holy life of the Church fathers in our life.

Prayer

(to be added from page 236 of the book of common worship)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	1 Corinthians 1
Monday	1 Corinthians 2, 3	1 Corinthians 4, 5
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6	1 Corinthians 7
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 8	1 Corinthians 9
Thursday	1 Corinthians 10	1 Corinthians 11
Friday	1 Corinthians 12	1 Corinthians 13
Saturday	1 Corinthians 14	1 Corinthians 15
Sunday		1 Corinthians 16

Lesson 26

Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysious II (The founder of the Old Seminary)

Objectives of the lesson: To understand the great qualities of Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysious II who gave efficient leadership to the Malankara Orthodox Church, and to know about his great contributions by the Church. To follow the great examples given by the Holy Father.

To learn by heart: 'Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us' (Hebrews 12:1).

Learning aids: Encyclopedia of the Malankara Church, Picture of Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius II, the books 'Fathers in Malankara Church' (*Malankarasabha Pithakkanmar*), by Samuel Chandanappally and the 'Departed Father' (*Kalam Cheytha Achan*) by father P.M. Joseph, the Holy Bible, the book of Holy Qurbana and the book of common prayer.

Introduction

Do you know where our priests have their theological education? They study either in the Old Seminary Orthodox Theological Seminary Kottayam or in the St. Thomas Orthodox Theological Seminary, Nagpur. Do you know who established the Old Seminary? It was established by Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysious II, about whom we are going to learn today.

Lesson

There are some places in Kerala which have a concentration of Syrian Christians population. Kunnampulam is one among such places. (Our present Catholicos, Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II is also a native of the same area). He was born in the

Pulikkottil family in Kunnamkulam on 25th November, 1740. His parents were Chummar and Eliamma and his Christian name was Ittoop (or Joseph). Even though his native parish was Arthat he maintained close relation with the vicar and the church in Pazhanji which was the parish of his mother. He learned Syriac language, arithmetic and *Vasthusastra* from there and led a deep spiritual life. In due course he was ordained as deacon and later as priest. In the meantime, he started a Malpan school at the Chiralayam church in Kunnamkulam and started to teach candidates for priesthood. He came to be known as 'Ittoop Malpan.'

The invasion of Tippu Sultan to Kerala was a calamity occurred during the period. The Mysore army forcefully converted native people to Islam and murdered many. Many churches and seminaries which belonged to Christians were destroyed. The faithful were scattered to various places and it was Ittoop Malpan who motivated the Syrian Christians to remain firm in their faith. The knowhow the Malpan had in *Vasthusastra* made it possible for the renovation of the destroyed churches, including the church at Arthat which was gutted by fire.

To Reflect

1. What was the Christian name of Ittoop Malpan?
2. What made priest Ittoop to come to be designated as 'Malpan'?
3. Briefly narrate the devastation caused by Tippu's invasion.

The great and historical contribution of Joseph Mar Dionysius I

Father Joseph, who excelled as Malpan, was professed as Ramban (Monk Priest) in 1808. During this period the 'Arthat Padiyola' and 'Kandanad Padiyola' were officially issued by the St. Thomas Christians. 'Padiyola' means our official and agreed document of faith and practices. In addition to the Catholic missionaries, missionaries were also working in Kerala. They started translating the Holy Bible and order of worship to Malayalam. A need for systematic training and formation of candidates to priesthood was deeply felt at this time. Ittoop Ramban gave timely, impetus and leadership for this ecclesiastical urgency. He, together with Philippose Ramban of Kayamkulam, translated the Holy Bible from Syriac to Malayalam. However, only translations of the Gospels could be done; and they were printed at the Courier Press in Bombay.

In the meantime, the Ramban commenced efforts to establish a 'Study House' and his endeavours got the support of the British resident Colonel Munroe and the Queen of Travancore. Though there was a bishop for the Malankara Church at that time it was Joseph Ramban who guided the work of the 'Study House.' He had had

enough foresight about the future of the Malankara Church. He was very much particular that the education and skills of the priests in the Malankara Church should not be substandard, but on par with those of other Churches where modern system of education had been introduced. He felt the need of imparting education to common people also. Christians were not appointed in government jobs during that time. He helped many educated people to obtain government jobs. It was his efforts that led to the declaration of public holiday on Sundays.

To Reflect

1. What do you mean by 'Ramban'?
2. Which were the important ordinances or Malankara Church Edicts issued during the time of Ittoop Ramban?
3. What were the possible effects of the translation of the Bible and Liturgical texts into the mother tongue?

Consecration as Bishop

While undertaking all these developmental works, he was a Ramban. However, during the establishment of 'Study House' it became necessary for him to be a bishop in order to obtain due concessions from the government. Even though, he preferred to remain a monk, he agreed to become a bishop solely for the benefit of the Church. He was ordained as bishop by the bishop of Thozhiyoor Church, Geevarghese Mar Philexenos (Kidangan) on 21 March 1815 with the title Joseph Mar Dionysious I. The construction of the seminary which started in 1813 was completed by March 1815 and immediately started functioning. The *Nalukettu* (The style of constructing buildings on all four sides with a courtyard at the centre) of the seminary which is completing 200 years in 2015 is a testimony to the *Vasthusastra* expertise of the Mar Dionysius. Though Rev. Thomas Norton, an English priest was appointed as teacher in the seminary the bishop introduced a curriculum which included studies in Syriac, Orthodox Theology, prayer, fasting, solitude etc. also. But his reign as Metropolitan was very brief; he departed on 24 November, 1816 after a brief period of nine months as the primate head of Malankara Church. He was entombed in the chapel in the Kottayam Orthodox Seminary (Old Seminary), which was established by him. The practice of ordaining members of Pakalomattom family only as metropolitans also came to an end with his consecration as metropolitan. The Kottayam Orthodox Seminary and the Malankara Metropolitans who reigned from there became renowned in Malankara Church history. The establishment of the Old Seminary was a seminal and decisive event in the Church for several reasons. We shall learn more about it in future lessons.

Since the title 'Dionysious' was already given to the VI Marthoma, Joseph Ramban was considered as Dionysius II. Further, since he was the first bishop from the Pulikkottil family. Acknowledging his great contributions the Metropolitan was given the title as '*Sabha Jyothis*' (The light of the Church) **on 31 October, 1991.**

To Reflect

1. What are the major 'titles' of Pulikkottil Mar Dionysius II?
2. Which do you think was the greatest contribution of Mar Dionysius II to the Malankara Church?
3. Who are the other persons who helped the Metropolitan in the translation of the bible? Find out through additional reading.
4. Explain the need and significance of systematic theological education for candidates for priesthood.
5. Describe the great services rendered by the Metropolitan Mar Dionysius II to the Church and the society.

Activities

1. Prepare a brief project on the theme "Contributions of Mar Dionysus II to the well being and progress of the Malankara Church."
2. Collect the pictures of the Metropolitan and the Orthodox Seminary established by him.
3. Note down the major events and the related dates with the title 'Key events in the life of Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius II.'

Song

(to be added from page 351 of the book of Holy Qurbana)

Resolution

We studied about the great services rendered to the Church by Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysious II. We shall work for the progress of Church and society at large.

Prayer

(to be added from page 237 of the book of common worship)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	1 Timothy 1:1-11
Monday	1 Timothy 1:12-20	1 Timothy 2
Tuesday	1 Timothy 3	1 Timothy 4
Wednesday	1 Timothy 5:1-16	1 Timothy 5:17-25
Thursday	1 Timothy 6:1-10	1 Timothy 6:11-22
Friday	1 Timothy 1:1-18	2 Timothy 2:1-13
Saturday	1 Timothy 2:14-26	2 Timothy 3
Sunday	1 Timothy 4	-

Lesson 27

Pulikkottil Joseph Mar Dionysius II or Dionysious V

Objectives of the lesson: To learn about the important Church Fathers who worked tirelessly for the progress of the Church. To try to emulate the qualities of their life.

To learn by heart: 'For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore' (Hebrews 7:28).

Learning Aids: Encyclopedia of Malankara Church, 'Fathers in Malankara Church' (*Malankarasabha Pithakkanmar*), by Samuel Chandanappally, Dionysious I – Biography- Fr. Joseph Cheeran.

Introduction

After Pulikkottil Mar Dionysius II (Joseph Mar Dionysius I) we are going to learn about Dionysious V. But, we need to learn the history between the reign of the two Metropolitans also. In the previous lesson we learned that Pulikkottil I was designated as Dionysious II. After him two more bishops adorned the throne of the Church as Malankara metropolitans, namely Punnathra Mar Dionysious III (1817-1825) and Cheppad Mar Dionysious IV (1825-1855). Here we are going to study about the bishop who became the Malankara metropolitan after them. Since he was the second bishop from the Pulikkottil family and the fifth among the Dionysious series he was designated as Pulikkottil II as well as Dionysious V. As the Church had only one Metropolitan at that tune, his works and decisions had great influence on the Church.

Lesson

He was the son of Tharu Kurian who was the son of the younger brother of Pulikkottil I. He was also christened as Joseph and as he was brought up in a spiritual atmosphere only it was natural that he was attracted towards priesthood. The parish

members of Arthat and Kunnamkulam churches also encouraged him. He was ordained as deacon by Cheppad Mar Dionysious at Kothamangalam church on 6 October, 1846 and on 18 August, 1853 ordained a priest by Metropolitan Yuyakim Mar Kurilos at Challiserry church. During the same period, Mathews Mar Athanasios who led the Reform movement was ordained as bishop by Antioch. He argued that the fact he was ordained by the Syrian Patriarch made him eligible for royal recognition. Hence in order to counter the claim, Pulikkottil II also travelled upto Ameer suffering a lot of hardship to get ordained by the Patriarch of Antioch. He and his fellow traveller Fr. Mattummal Geevarghese were infected with a serious illness and Fr. Geevarghese died. Fr. Joseph was ordained as Joseph Mar Dionysious by the Syrian Patriarch Yakub II.

To Reflect

1. Was Dionysius II related to Pulikkottil Dionysius I?
2. Name were the Metropolitans who adorned the throne of Malankara Church between the reigning periods of Pulikkottil I and Pulikkottil II?
3. Why did Fr. Joseph approach the Patriarch of Antioch for getting ordained as bishop?

When Pulikkottil II arrived after ordained as bishop another metropolitan was adorning the throne of the Malankara Church. That was Mathews Mar Athanasios ordained by Antioch. He tried to adopt protestant faith and leave the age old faith and traditions of the Malankara Church. However, Pulikkottil, Dionysius II was from against any deviation from the Orthodox Faith. He reversed the corrections made by the reformers in Liturgical Books. In the meanwhile, the Church petitioned the king to declare Mar Dionysius as the legitimate Metropolitan of Malankara. Finally, the judgment of the royal court came in 1989 which recognized Pulikkottil Dionysius II as the legitimate Malankara Metropolitan. However, it led to the formation of another Church in Malankara called the 'Marthoma Church.'

The Synod of Mulanthuruthy-1876

The Synod in Mulanthuruthy in the year 1876 was an important event during the reign of Pulikkottil II. Patriarch, Peter II arrived from Antioch took unlawful and undue interest in convening the Malankara Synod. He wanted to establish spiritual as well as temporal supremacy over the Malankara Church. The Metropolitan's deep faith in God and ardent prayers helped him overcome the crisis without causing much tension. The Malankara Church was divided into seven dioceses and six new bishops were ordained. Pulikkottil Metropolitan was neither

allowed to involve in these processes nor did he participate on his own. However, once the Patriarch left all the newly ordained bishops accepted the status of the Malankara Metropolitan and accepted his leadership as the Primate of the Church. Geevarghese Mar Gregorious of Parumala was one among the six bishops ordained by the Syrian Patriarch.

It several wasys the Synod of Mulanthuruthy was benefical to the development of the Church. It was this Synod that paved way for developing a democratic system in the administration of the Church like the formation of Malankara Syrian Christian Association, Managing Committee, Priest Trustee, Lay Trustee etc. The seven dioceses formed were Kandanad, Kochi, Angamaly, Kottayam, Niranam, Thumpamon and Kollam.

To Reflect

1. Explain the background of the formation of the 'Mar Thoma Church.'
2. What were the important decision at the Mulanthuruthy synod?

The developments effected by the Metropolitan in the Church during the 44 years of reign, that is from 1865 to 1909, helped the Church to progress a lot. The Parumala Seminary was established and the Mar Gregorious Parumala had his head quarters them. The activities of Pulikkottil II extended beyond the limits of the Malankara Church. The establishment of more than 250 schools helped the renaissance of the downtrodden all over Kerala through education. The printing presses, journalistic initiatives, Publication of Book etc. contributed immensely to the cultural progress of Kerala. The activities like Malayali Memorial, Malankara People's Movement (*Malankara Mahajanasabha*) helped in the entry of people other than Brahmins in government jobs.

Spiritual movements like Sunday School, Students' Movement, Evangelical Society etc. also started during the reign of this Metropolitan. Missionary works outside the Church like Brahmavar-Goa Mission etc. were also initiated by him. A priest from Roman Church (Old Catholics) ordained as bishop as Alvaris Mar Yoolios and a priest from Presbyterian Church too was ordained and designated as Rinivilati Mar Timotios and posted to Goa and America respectively. Towards the end of his life the Metropolitan appointed Vattasseril Mar Dionysious as his successor and transferred the responsibilities of the Church to him. He left the world on 12 July, 1909 and was entombed at the northern side of the Old Seminary.

The Pulikkottil II Metropolitan guided the Church during the strong incursion of reformists and the efforts of Antioch for establishing supremacy in Malankara. The fruits of the contributions of the Metropolitan who was known for deep faith

on God, acumen and wisdom, foresightedness, hard work, humanness, keenness in evangelism, social renaissance etc. are still visible in the body of the Malankara Church.

To Reflect

1. What are the 'titles' of Pulikkottil Joseph II?
2. What was the circumstance that led the Metropolitan to become ordained at Antioch? How did that influence the history of the Church? Discuss in groups.
3. Evaluate the merits and demerits of the Synod of Mulanthuruthy.
4. How do you evaluate contributions of the Metropolitan in the development of Parumala?
5. How do you understand the contributions of the Metropolitan to the society as a whole?

Activities

1. Note down the contributions of Bishop Pulikkottil Joseph II and the major incidents in his life.
2. Visit the tombs of this Church Father and other Church Fathers and pray.

Song

(to be added from page 351 of the book of Holy Qurbana)

Resolution

We have learned about the life and contributions of Joseph Mar Dionysius II to the Church and society. We will remember the Church Fathers ever and try to emulate them in our life.

Prayer

(to be added from page 237 of the book of common worship)

For further reading

Day	Dawn	Dusk
Sunday	-	Romans 1, 2
Monday	Romans 3	Romans 4
Tuesday	Romans 5	Romans 6
Wednesday	Romans 7	Romans 8
Thursday	Romans 9	Romans 10
Friday	Romans 11	Romans 12
Saturday	Romans 13	Romans 14, 15
Sunday	Romans 16	-

Lesson 28

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Objectives of the lesson: To understand that we have a responsibility to the whole humanity and not only to our own nation and society in which we live.

- to help the student to live by serving the society as an eminent citizen

Verse to Memorize: Rid yourselves, then, of all evil; no more lying or hypocrisy or jealousy or insulting language. Be like newborn babies, always thirsting for the pure spiritual milk so that by drinking it you may grow up and be saved. 1 Pet 2: 1,22

Tools: Holy Bible, Prayer Book, Book of Holy Mass

Lesson

Dear Children, you may spend some time for thinking about our own life. Who all have supported in your growth from the time you were born? It is the society that has brought up us. We have responsibility to our family, church, nature and to the whole world. We need to check whether we carry out this responsibility properly or not. Can we fulfill this responsibility just by paying tax and making offerings? The word civic responsibility covers spiritual life as well as the duties and responsibilities we have in our civic and social life.

What Bible says about Responsibility of Citizen?

The Holy Bible teaches us about the love of God towards the world (Jn.3:16). What we should understand from this passage is that the incarnation of God and redemption through it is for the whole world. A Christian cannot limit his responsibility to his country alone.

When the tax collector approached Peter and asked him whether Jesus pays tax or not; (Mt.17:24-27) Jesus does not come under the purview of tax being God, But he behaves as a model citizen there by paying tax. Roman officials wanted to accuse Jesus for not obeying Caesar. They asked Jesus whether it is right to give tax to Caesar or not. There also Jesus does not say anything about paying tax.

Teachings by St.Paul

The question whether we should obey wicked power or not is relevant here. It may be difficult to have an ideal just system in this world. The systems we are part of in this world may be good or bad. Till the time we experience the reality of Kingdom of God, our journey in this world may be through good as well as bad systems. There may be practices which seems bad to us in our home, parish, Church or in the society. But we should not take it as a reason for not fulfilling our responsibility to the society. We should not give up our responsibility to the society even while fighting injustice. Jesus reminds us this by paying tax to the Roman government. Citizen's responsibility is part of spirituality. This is the lesson we learn from words of Jesus and from the Holy Bible.

How can we fulfill citizen's responsibilities?

Obey rules: there are certain rules in every nation which are to be followed by all its citizen. Such rules are essential for the smooth functioning of a society. Rules though unwritten are applicable in homes as well. Each member in our house cannot act at their own convenience and likes. This will lead to chaos.

Obeying traffic rules are very important. Large number of people die in road accidents in India. Use of alcohol while driving, over speed and violation of traffic rules are the main reasons for road accidents. Nobody should drive without proper license. Driving carefully and obeying traffic rules are signs of rich culture in a society.

Ecology

The world is facing disaster because of not protecting the nature. Shortage of drinking water, different forms of diseases etc. are the result of spoiling nature. We should avoid misuse of energy sources (electricity, petrol, diesel etc.) and also adopt a culture of managing them properly.

Respect other culture and Religions

India is home for people belonging to different culture. We hold the message of unity in diversity. All individuals have the freedom to follow their own faith but with due respect to other religions.

Love your nation

Every citizen should love their own country and its culture; and respect other nations also. Some people like everything belong to other nations but hate the mother country. There are some others who hate other countries and like only whatever they have. Both these attitudes are not correct.

Serve the deprived

It's a general practice we observe in society to neglect the people like tribals, less educated, disabled, mentally challenged, poor, people with incurable diseases etc. Working for the welfare of such groups of people and putting efforts to bring them into the main stream of society is a symbol of rich culture of that society.

Do not think 'What I will get from society' instead, think 'What I can give to society'?

In his first speech to the country, Johan F Kennedy the President of America told Americans ' You think about not what America can do for you but what you can do for America.' In the present society, people always think what they receive from the society and not about what they can do for the society.

The Sabharathnam His Grace Geevarghese Mar Osthathios, used to say 'I could not serve the society at par with what society had given me'. He continued his work even at old age only because he maintained this attitude.

We can do many good things at spiritual and social levels for ourselves and society, only if we ask a question 'What can I do for Christ?'

Let us Think

1. Explain civic responsibility on the basis of Holy Bible
2. Explain the methods for carrying out civic responsibility
3. Give examples of few great men who are model in fulfilling their civic responsibility

Activities

1. Involve in the charity works of your own parish and Church as a whole
2. Participate in the prayers conducted at the houses of sick and dead
3. Save money by avoiding misuse of food and observing fast. Use this money for charity purpose
4. Celebrate your birthday at orphanages or old age homes by proving food there

Resolution

We shall lead a life conscious about our civic responsibility and contributing towards family, parish, church and society

Prayer

Oh Lord, help us and protect us. Be a dwelling place for us. Forgive our sins and offences. Have mercy upon us. Amen

Lesson 29

READING HABIT: BEST SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

Objective:

- Improve reading habit in children resulting in change in behavior
- improve their interest in reading Holy Bible
- inculcate habit of reading and improve knowledge

Verse to Memorize: 'I am wisdom, I am better than Jewels, nothing you want can compare with me' Prov.8:11

Learning Tools:

Holy Bible, Prayer Book, Few Good Books written by great personalities (e.g. Wings of Fire by Dr.A.P.J Abdul Kalam)

Introduction

Do you know the benefits of reading? There are many advantages for reading. The most important among them are acquiring knowledge, experience and maturity.

Our Lord Jesus Christ had good knowledge on laws and Holy Scriptures. You may remember the incident happened at the temple of Jerusalem when Jesus was only 12 years old. Jesus visited the temple with his parents and he stayed back there without informing his parents. After two days when his parents went back to the temple searching Jesus, they found Him interacting with the leaders. All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers (Lk.2:47).

When Satan tested Jesus, He defeated Satan by quoting from Holy Scriptures. Jesus used to quote from Holy Scriptures in His preaches and teachings. We observe a knowledge ful person in Jesus.

Reading improves Knowledge

Reading is essential for those who would like to improve their spectrum of knowledge. As the proverb says, 'Reading makes a man Perfect', reading is required to make a man complete and purify him. Different kinds of books such as: histories, evaluations, biographies, auto biographies, travelogues, stories, novels, dramas, poems are all collection of knowledge. Reading books whenever we get time and prepare notes will surely help to improve knowledge.

Reading help in value based growth

In early days only religious books were published. The objective was to inculcate values in human being. The books like Vedas, Quran, Geetha, Ramayana, Mahabharatha etc. were meant to lead man in the correct path.

Holy Bible comprise of verses of wisdom like 'To be wise you must first have reverence for the Lord' and fatherly advices like 'do what your father tells you, my son, and never forget what your mother taught you'. Bible helps us to live according to the will of God. Reading good books helps us choose good life. It will also help to think freely and lead a matured life.

Reading is a learning tool

Education leads a person from darkness to the light of knowledge. Good books produce the same effect. The good themes in books enrich our mind to reach a stage of extreme happiness. Reading helps to expand the boundary of knowledge of an individual beyond a curriculum and provide a delighting sensation to the reader.

Reading improves dignity of a person

Happiness, creativity etc. are the basis of dignity for an individual. Stability of a society depends on people who are selfless, well adjusted and magnanimous. An individual's happiness is decided on his relation to self and others and to God. Good books have great influence in this regard.

Reading even helps a person from committing crimes. It will make a person aware of the outcome of committing a crime.

Reading purifies the soul

Reading help an individual to distinguish between good and bad. There are lots of parables in Bible. Many of the characters in those parables provide us new insights.

(e.g parable of the prodigal son). Such parables and stories make us to think about our own life for making necessary changes.

Reading Habit – to be a routine in life

Reading should be a routine activity. Reading cost us less but provides more fruits. Reading is to be treated as an entertainment. It is always better to select good books for reading.

The evolution of electronic media has affected the reading habit of people. But reading is essential to inculcate good values in life. The Malayalam poet Kunjunnii says ‘People grow whether they read or don’t read. If people grow by reading, they bear fruits, if they grow without reading they will transverse’

The Sunday students should feel happy in their relation with Holy Bible. By reading Bible daily, we establish a strong relation with God and avoid other bad temptation. It will also help to take decisions as per the will of God, avoid worries in life, improve faith, keep up a Christian outlook and also enable us to give good advice to others.

Acts 8:26 narrates the change made in the life of a eunuch by reading Bible. He was an official in palace of Ethiopian queen. He was reading Bible during his journey in carriage. Angel of God told Philip to go near the carriage and ask the official whether he understands what he reads. The official replied that he don’t understand it without being explained by someone. Philip explained the Bible verse to him which lead to Baptism of the eunuch for joining Christ. While reading Bible we should try to understand the meaning of the verses we read. This will help us to continue our relation with God.

Let us Think

1. What are the benefits of reading?
2. How reading makes a man mature and experienced?
3. How reading purifies the soul?
4. What are the benefits of reading Bible daily?

Activities

1. Conduct a group discussion in the class to explain the benefits and flaws of reading habit.

2. Prepare a note after reading a good book
3. Prepare a chart of the books you have read.
(Name of author, title of book, date of reading , Price of book)
And new books which you read to this list.

Prayer

*Our Lord, Please send your Holy Spirit to us and improve our wisdom.
Make us worthy of praising you always. Amen*

Lesson 30

TIME MANAGEMENT

Objective: Understand the importance of utilizing time effectively

Verse to Memorize: ‘Make good use of every opportunity you have, because these are evil days’ Eph.5:16

Learning Tools: Holy Bible, Placards showing the importance of time, Prayer Book

Lesson

How do we spend the time we have. Sometimes we may be utilizing it effectively. Many people waste their time. We need to understand the importance of time and act accordingly.

Time is an invaluable, precious treasure which provides opportunity to improve and also get destroyed. Time also is the creation of God. Everyone in the world get same amount of time a day, but the people produce different output. Many people do not utilize the time effectively.

The concept time management means the principle and skills an individual should practice in order to produce more output from time he/she has. This is for the purpose of improving the life.

God the creator has kept all activities in the nature with a time schedule. Laws of nature teach us many important lessons regarding keeping the time. Perfect time is observed in the rotation of earth, climate changes, bearing of fruits by the trees, birds sing etc. All these systems in nature teach us that human being also is bound to keep time perfectly.

Let's reflect..

1. Give a definition for time
2. What is meant by time management
3. How the laws of nature help human being to keep time

Punctuality and diligence are the symbol of competence. These qualities show the sincerity, personality and self control of an individual. During the primitive period people had lot of time. There was no hurry for anything. Even the time was checked by looking at the Sun or at the length of shadow. But in the modern urban culture time is very precious. Every activity is time bound. Success and achievement depends on how you utilize time.

Benjamin Franklin says, “ If you love your life, don’t waste time”. The cream of life is made up of time. An individual starts managing his time when he takes a decision to change. This is easy if you are enthusiastic to become active.

It is important to see how much you have achieved within the time you had, no matter how much you worked hard. This means that managing time is related to the result of work.

When you withdraw money, the balance in your account becomes zero. When a day starts, 86400 seconds are deposited in your time account. It becomes zero by next day whether you use it properly or not, and you get a new time deposit for the same amount. It would be excellent if you become aware of the withdrawal of time from your time account. So we need to have a time budget similar to a finance budget.

Get Smart with Time

SMART stands for ‘Small Measures that Ascertain, Resourceful usage of Time’. Certain points are to be considered for effective time management:

1. Take responsibilities: you have to be responsible for using your time. If you don’t take the responsibility, somebody else will use your time. Give up the habit of postponing activities.
2. Pray for God’ guidance: we have activities to be done everyday. We should pray to God so that we identify these activities.
3. Prepare an action plan: there has to be a planning with details on What is to be done? How? Purpose ? etc.
4. Proper organization of the activities: look the creation done by God (see book of Genesis). Our activities also should be organized in the same way.
5. Learn to say ‘NO’: If you are struggling with more responsibilities than you can do, try to say ‘no’ to tasks which are not that much important.
6. Assign Priority: if you have a number jobs to do, then assign priority to your tasks. Start with activities which is most important . continue the same method and complete the all the tasks.

7. Write down the tasks: It is difficult to remember the tasks when there is more number of tasks to do. It will be better to write them for reference.
8. Analyse the strength and face the challenges: Analyze your strengths, opportunities and identify the problems, hurdles, challenges and weakness. Make changes wherever required.
9. Do not intervene in others matters: do not try to intervene in others activities and waste time. Instead, try to complete your own job. If the other person requires your help, then don't hesitate to provide help.
10. Reflect on the activities: reflect on the job on completion of a stage of work or on completion of an activity. This will help to identify the drawbacks and ensure that the job is progressing as per plan. This type of reflection will help to make changes in the activities if required.

Let's reflect

1. What is the importance of time?
2. Time and tide waits for none – explain this on the basis of present lesson
3. Mention the factors that helps for better time management
4. One of your friends is lazy. Prepare a letter to correct him

Activities

1. Discuss how effectively we manage time in our life
2. Prepare a chart showing all the activities you have to do for the next one month
Sl No. Activity to be done date of completion Priority number
3. Prepare similar chart for every month
4. Collect good captions on time management and hang them in your room.

Resolution

We shall utilize every moment of our life and do the works correctly and punctually.

Prayer

Lord God, we understand that every minute in our life is precious. Help us utilize time effectively. Amen

