



CATEGORY | PREPARATORY

God Loves Me
Pre - KG

ORTHODOX SYRIAN
SUNDAY SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION

Diocese of UK, Europe and Africa



ORTHODOX SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF THE EAST



God Loves Me

Pre-KG Story Book

Category
Preparatory

2024

OSSAE : DIOCESE OF UK, EUROPE & AFRICA

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SERIES - KG

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FOREWORD



**MALANKARA ORTHODOX
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FOREWORD

As we embrace the dawning of a new era in the Sunday School of our Diocese, it is with profound gratitude and joy that we introduce the newly launched textbooks. This milestone is not merely a culmination of efforts but a new beginning, charting a course for faith-filled learning.

Special recognition is due to the Director and the team of dedicated authors of the Diocese of Southwest America of our Church who have tirelessly woven this tapestry of knowledge and devotion. Their commitment to creating a curriculum that speaks to the heart of our tradition is truly commendable.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos and His Grace Thomas Mar Ivanios, our Metropolitans, whose blessings and guidance have been the bedrock of this endeavor. Their spiritual leadership has been a guiding light throughout this year-long journey of preparation and transition.

Our teachers, those steadfast beacons of knowledge, deserve a resounding acknowledgment for their adaptability and perseverance, ensuring a smooth transition to this new curriculum. Their dedication to the spiritual growth of our youth is a testament to their faith and love for the church.

In line with the Apostle Paul's exhortation in Titus 1:9 (NRSV), "He must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it," we recognize the pivotal role of sound teaching in nurturing faith. This verse echoes the mission of our Sunday School to steadfastly impart the truth of the Gospel, fostering a resilient and enlightened community of faith.

To the teachers and students embarking on this sacred educational journey, may you be filled with enthusiasm and wisdom. May your hearts and minds be fertile grounds for the seeds of divine knowledge to flourish.

The significance of the Sunday School in our community cannot be overstated. It is here that the foundations of faith are laid, where the stories and teachings of our church come to life, and where the future guardians of Orthodoxy begin their spiritual journey.

A special word of gratitude is extended to Fr. Anoop M. Abraham, Vice President of the Sunday School for the Diocese. His leadership, along with the director, curriculum coordinator, secretary & joint secretary, reviewers, trainers, and all team members, has been instrumental in bringing this vision to fruition.

As we conclude, let us move forward in the spirit of Orthodox tradition, with hope and prayer that these textbooks serve not only as vessels of knowledge but also as lanterns lighting the path towards spiritual maturity and devotion.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Glory to the Triune God!

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed towards the development of this Orthodox Sunday school textbook for the new curriculum. It has been a long and challenging journey but with the help and support of many individuals and organizations, we have finally reached this milestone.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our Diocesan Metropolitan H G Abraham Mar Stephanos for His Grace's tireless effort to reform our Sunday School to meet the needs of our future generation by implementing the new curriculum and heartfelt gratitude to all the officials and key personalities of Northeast and Southwest American Diocesan Sunday Schools who are the backbone of this new curriculum and Talmido.

Great appreciation to all the curriculum development committee members of our diocese for their selfless efforts in editing a comprehensive and relevant textbook that caters to the spiritual needs of our Sunday School students. Your dedication, expertise, and commitment to the project were crucial in bringing this book to fruition. Special thanks to the clergy members of our diocese who generously shared their knowledge, wisdom, and experiences in shaping the lessons and activities in this book. Your input has helped to create a well-rounded curriculum that reflects the teachings and traditions of our Orthodox Faith.

I am also grateful to the head teachers and teachers who took the time to review and provide valuable feedback on the content and structure of the textbook. Your insights and suggestions have greatly enhanced the quality of the material and have made it more engaging and accessible to our young learners.

I would also like to acknowledge the role of Holy Episcopal Synod and OSSAE officials for their unwavering support and encouragement towards this new curriculum. It is with their guidance and vision that we were able to compile a textbook that aligns with the goals and objectives of our Holy Church and Diocesan Sunday School education.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the students who will be using this textbook. Your enthusiasm and eagerness to learn about our faith is what motivates us to continue improving and developing resources for your spiritual growth.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone who has been a part of this journey and has contributed in any way towards the creation of this Orthodox Sunday school textbook. May it serve as a valuable resource for many generations to come and may it inspire and nurture the faith of our young Orthodox students. Thank you all for your support and dedication.

Fr Anoop Abraham Malayil
Vice-President OSSAE – UK Europe and Africa

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God's House

Bible Verse

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

St. Matthew 19:14 OSB



The **Church** is **God's house**. In our church, we **see, smell, taste, hear** and **touch** so many different things using our five senses.

What do you **SEE** when you are in church? We see icons, candles, crosses and many other items on the altar. What else do you **SEE** in church?



The Altar



An icon of Parumala Thirumeni

What do you **SMELL** when you are in church? We smell the sweet fragrance of incense coming from the censer (dhoopakutti). What else do you **SMELL** in church?



The censer

What do you **TASTE** when you are in church? We taste the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. What else do you **TASTE** in church?



Chalice and Paten

What do you **HEAR** when you are in church? We hear the ringing of bells, the sound of the mar'vasas, and people singing and reading in the church. What else do you **HEAR** in church?



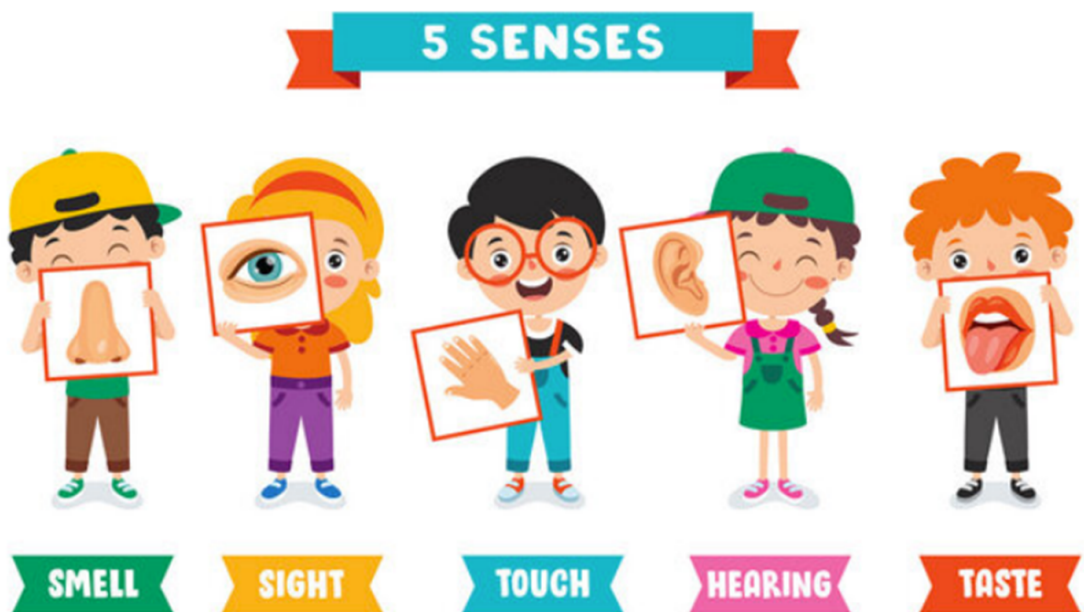
Mar'vasa



What do you **TOUCH** when you are in church? We touch other people's hands when giving them the kiss of peace, and Achen touches our foreheads when he prays for us. When else do we use **TOUCH** in our church?



Next time you are at church, think about all the things you can see, smell, taste, hear and touch. It's so beautiful that we get to experience our church through all 5 of our senses.



Concluding Prayer

“

God, help me to experience you through my five senses (sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing) and feel your love around me.

Amen

”

In the Beginning...

Bible Verse

In the beginning, God made heaven and earth.

Genesis 1:1 OSB



Today, we are going to start from the very beginning – the beginning of creation, that is. God spoke, and EVERYTHING became real - the things we see and also the things we don't see. The Holy Bible begins with the story of creation. The first book of the Bible is called Genesis, which helps us learn about how God spoke and created everything. So, let's start all the way at the beginning. Before there was anything, there was God. God made the world because God wanted to share his love with us.



On Day 1, there was no shape to **God's** creation, and darkness was everywhere. (Close your eyes and you can try to see what it was like in the beginning.) Then **God** spoke, "Let there be light", and there was light. (Open your eyes.) **God** saw the light, and it was good. **God** called the light "Day" and the darkness "Night". This was the end of Day One.



On Day 2, **God** spoke and placed the Heavens and Water into their own places. **God** placed the Heavens above the Waters, and he saw that it was **good**. This was the end of Day Two.



On Day 3, **God** spoke, gathered all the waters into one place, and made dry land appear. He called the waters “Seas” and the dry land “Earth”. **God** also made all kinds of plants, grass, and trees to grow on Earth. **God** saw that it was **good**. This was the end of Day Three.



On Day 4, **God** spoke and created great lights that appeared in the sky. **God** created the sun, moon, and stars. The sun rules over the day, and Moon rules over the Night. **God** saw that it was good. This was the end of Day Four.



On Day 5, **God** spoke and created all sorts of creatures in the water and birds that fly. The waters and sky were filled with all kinds of living things, and **God** saw that it was **good**. This was the end of Day 5.



On Day 6, **God** spoke and created all animals on earth. He made wild animals (lions), cattle (cows) and creeping crawling creatures (snakes). Then **God** made man in His image; He made them boy and girl. **God** made man and woman in charge of all the animals. **God** saw that it was very **good**. This was the end of Day Six.



On Day 7, God rested. He had finished the work He had made, and so he blessed the seventh day and made it holy. The seventh day is holy because **God** rested.

Concluding Prayer

“

Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for creating this beautiful world. Thank you for light, heavens, waters, earth, all the plants, the great lights in the sky, the animals in the air, water, land, and also for creating us. We thank you for sharing your Love with us and making each of us special.

Amen

”

Adam And Eve in the Garden of Eden

Bible Verse

We love Him because He first loved us
1 John 4:19 OSB



Everything God created was out of love. God wanted to create a lovely garden on the earth.

God created a garden in Eden in the east where all kinds of trees and plants grew, and a river flowed to water the garden.



In the middle of the garden were planted the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God put Adam in the garden to care for it. God told Adam he could eat from any tree

in the garden except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

God brought all the animals and birds of the earth for Adam to name them. Then God said, "It is not good for Adam to be alone, so I will make a partner for him." And God made Adam fall into a deep sleep and created Eve using a bone from the side of his chest.



The serpent was the smartest of all the animals that God made. The serpent asked Eve, "Did God say you could not eat the fruit from any tree in the garden?" Eve answered, "God said we can eat from all the trees in the garden, but from the tree in the middle of the garden, we cannot touch it or eat it." The serpent told Eve that if she ate the fruit, she would become wise like God and know what was evil and what was good.



Eve saw that the fruit looked good, and she wanted to be wise, so she took some fruit and ate it.



She gave some to Adam, and he also ate it. At once, their eyes were opened, they felt shy and they made clothes out of fig leaves.

In the afternoon, God came to visit Adam in the garden, and God called, "Adam, where are you?" Adam said to God, "I heard your voice, but I was afraid, so I ran to hide from You." God asked Adam, "Did you eat from the tree I asked you not to touch?" Adam said to God, "The woman gave me to eat, and I ate it." God

asked the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent told me to eat, and I ate the fruit.



God said to Adam, "Because you ate from the tree I asked you not to touch, you must leave the Garden of Eden. You have to work hard to make food from the ground. God put garments made of animal skin on them and made them leave the garden and live on the other side of the garden. God also put an angel (Cherubim) with a fiery sword to protect the garden from anyone entering it.



Concluding Prayer

“

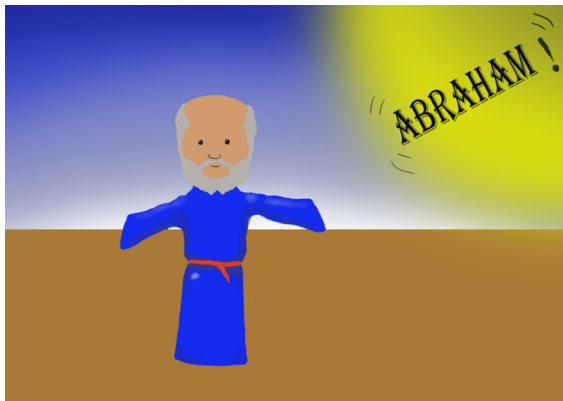
Dear God, thank you for loving me just like you loved Adam and Eve. I know You will always love and care for me. I love you!

Amen ”

God's Promise

Bible Verse

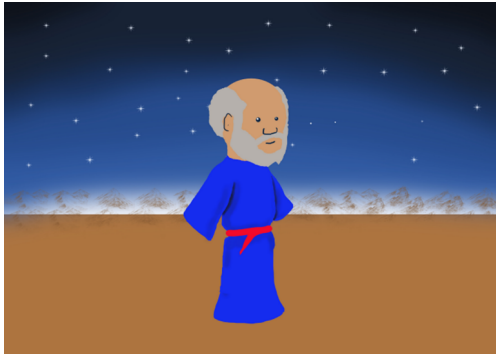
Trust in God with all your heart
Proverbs 3:5 OSB



Long ago, in the land of Haran, Abram lived with his wife Sarai. Abram and Sarai were good people and were faithful to God. One day, the Lord said to Abram. “Get out of your country, from your father’s house to a land I will show you. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you.”



Abram obeyed God. He took his wife, Sarai, and all his belongings and left for the promised land of Canaan. Abram had a lot of difficulties during his travels. But God helped him in all his troubles.



God was happy with Abram. One day God told Abram, “Look towards heaven and count the stars if you are able to number them. So shall your children be.”

“Abram, you will be named Abraham - Father of Nations. Sarai, you will be called Sarah”. Abraham and Sarah did not have any children. But God’s promise made them hopeful.



A long time had passed. Abraham and Sarah did not have a baby yet. One day, three visitors came to their home. Abraham welcomed them. He gave them water and bread. He told Sarah to make a fine meal of butter, milk and meat. The visitors were pleased.



The visitors told Sarah she would have a son soon. Sarah laughed when she heard this, as she was very old and had passed the age of having a baby. But, with God, all things are possible.



Time passed by. Abraham was 100 years old. A baby was born to Sarah. Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, for I have borne a child in my old age”. Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac. Isaac means ‘laughter’.

Concluding Prayer

“

God, help me to trust in you. Teach me to wait with faith.

.

Amen ”

Leader for the Israelites

Bible Verse

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth
Psalm 120:2 OSB



Long ago, the people of Israel, called Hebrews, were slaves in Egypt under King Pharaoh.



Pharaoh made an order to kill all Hebrew newborn boys.



One mother wanted to save her baby boy and hid him. When the baby became big, the mother put him in a basket, placed the basket in the River Nile, and prayed to God to keep him safe. The baby's sister, Miriam, followed the floating basket.



At the time, the princess of Egypt came to the Nile to take a bath. She saw the baby in a basket and decided to take care of him. She named the baby 'Moses'.

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace. He was sad about other Hebrew people who had to work as slaves.



He ran away from the palace to a desert. Moses became a shepherd. One day, when Moses was taking care of his sheep on a mountain, God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. God commanded Moses to go back to Egypt and ask Pharaoh to free the people of Israel.



Moses obeyed God and went back to Egypt. Pharaoh did not agree to free the Hebrew people. God punished Pharaoh by bringing 10 plagues to Egypt. The plagues were water turning to blood, frogs, lice, flies, livestock pestilence, boils, hail, locusts,



darkness and the killing of firstborn children. Pharaoh allowed Moses to lead the Hebrew people to the promised land. God sent a cloud to guide them during the day and fire to guide them during the night.



When they reached the Red Sea, Moses took his staff and parted the sea for people to cross the waters and escape from Egypt.

Moses led the people through the desert. When people were hungry, God provided manna, bread from heaven. When people were thirsty, God gave them water from a rock.



God gave Moses 10 commandments for the people to live by. The commandments were rules to love God and to love people around you. If we live by obeying the ten commandments, God will be happy. God had a plan. He chose Moses to be the leader of the Israelites.



Concluding Prayer

“

Lord, help me accept your plan for my life.

Amen

”

Daniel and the Roaring Lions

Bible Verse

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Psalm 150:6 OSB



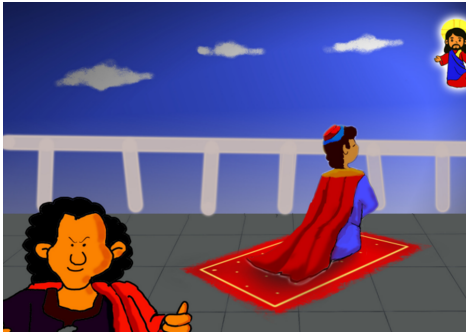
Now Darius the Mede was King over all the land and he was 62 years old. He was happy to choose 120 governors to help him take care of his kingdom. He was very happy to choose 3 administrators to help the governors and give a report to the King. Daniel was one of the administrators. Daniel was the best administrator among all of them.

King Darius loved Daniel the most because he was honest and did what was right. The King made Daniel look after his entire kingdom. This made all the other governors and administrators jealous of Daniel, and they became his enemies. They tried hard to catch Daniel and make a mistake. Daniel had an excellent spirit and worked very hard to do a good job.

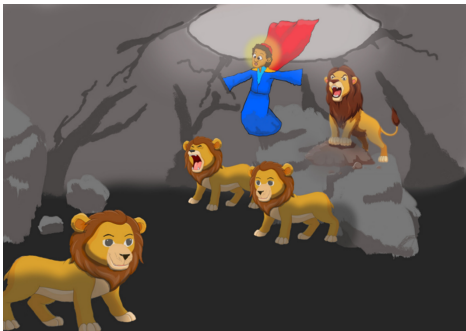


They could not find any mistakes because Daniel was faithful. Then the administrators and governors got together to think of a way to get Daniel into trouble. One administrator said, "I have a plan. There is only one way we can catch Daniel making a mistake! We have to find something in the rules of his **God**".

Daniel's enemies went to see King Darius. They told the king to make a new rule that whoever asks anything from any **God** or man for 30 days except from the king will be thrown into the den of lions! They made the King sign it, so this rule could never be changed.



Now, when Daniel heard about this new rule, he was not afraid. He went to his house, knelt down on his knees in front of the window facing Jerusalem, and prayed 3 times. The enemies ran to the king and complained about Daniel. They told the king that Daniel broke the rule and must be thrown to the lions.



The King was very upset because he liked Daniel and he tried hard all day to find a way to change the rule. The enemies reminded the king that the rule cannot be changed. The king gave the command and they brought Daniel to be thrown into the lion's den.

The king told Daniel that the **God** whom you pray to continually will save you. The soldiers threw Daniel into the dark den and rolled a big stone to cover the entrance, and the king sealed it with his ring so no one would open the door.



King Darius felt terrible. He did not eat anything and worried about Daniel all night. As soon as the sun came up the king ran to the lion's den and shouted out, Daniel!!! Did the **God** to whom you prayed save you? Daniel said to the king, "My **God** sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions"!



The king rejoiced greatly and gave orders to bring Daniel out of the den and punish the enemies. The soldiers put them, their children, and their wives into the den of lions. The King made a new rule that everyone must worship Daniel's **God** for He is the Living God!

Concluding Prayer

“

Dear God, teach me to pray like Daniel that I may be saved from all evil. Daniel's God is my God too, and He will watch over me and you.

Amen

”

Prayer

Bible Verse

Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17 OSB



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name



Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.



Give us this day our daily bread,



And forgive us our debts and sins



as we have also forgiven our debtors.



And forgive us our debts and sins



As we have also forgiven our debtors.



Amen

Concluding Prayer

“

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner.

Amen

”

A King is Born

Bible Verse

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
St. Luke 2:11 (OSB)



A long time ago, there was a woman named Mary. She was a very special woman who completely believed and trusted in God. God chose her to be Jesus' mom.



One day, an angel visited Mary and told her she was going to have a very special baby. The angel told her that He would be the Son of God and to name him JESUS. Mary trusted God and obeyed.



Mary was going to marry a man named Joseph. The angel visited Joseph too and told him about Mary.

Mary and Joseph travelled to a town called Bethlehem. The town was full of people.

Mary and Joseph couldn't find a place to stay, so they spent the night where the animals were kept. That night, baby Jesus was born!



There were some shepherds taking care of sheep in a field nearby. Angels came to them and told them that the Saviour had been born. The shepherds went to find baby Jesus and worship Him.



There were also some wise men who saw a bright star in the night sky. The star meant that the Saviour was born, so they followed the star until they found Jesus. They gave him presents of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Concluding Prayer

“

Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Let us remember the true meaning of Christmas, which is to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Help us to seek and worship you just like the shepherds and wise men did.

Amen

”

A Little Boy versus a Giant

Bible Verse

Trust in God with all your heart, and do not exalt your own wisdom.

Proverbs 3:5 OSB



David, the youngest son of Jesse, was an Israelite shepherd boy. He was chosen by God because of what he had in his heart, not because of what he looked like. David had faith and trusted in God.



The Philistines were at war with the Israelites. They had a giant named Goliath who was really big, tall and mean. He wore heavy armour and carried a sword, spear, and large shield. Everyone was scared to fight him.



David heard Goliath dishonouring God and his people. He wanted to stop the giant from talking badly about God. David asked King Saul if he could fight the giant because he knew the Lord was on his side. David trusted God.

King Saul thought David was too young to fight. David explained that when he was looking after his sheep, he kept them safe from lions and bears. The Lord had protected him then, and David knew the Lord would protect him now. King Saul agreed and put his armour on David, but it didn't fit. So, David took it off. He decided to fight without any armour.



David collected five smooth stones and put them in a bag. He took his sling, the shepherd's staff, and went to face Goliath.



When Goliath saw David, he shouted, made fun of him, and said a shepherd boy could not beat him. David shouted back that he trusted the Lord to protect him! David said he would beat Goliath to show God's greatness.



David ran towards Goliath, put his hand in his bag, and took out one stone. He slung it with his sling and hit the giant on the forehead. Goliath fell to the ground on his face. The Lord helped David defeat Goliath without a sword or armour.



When the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they ran away in fear. The Israelites won the battle. David trusted the Lord, and the Lord protected Israel.

Concluding Prayer



“

Heavenly Father, we thank you for using us regardless of our size and abilities. We trust you to guide us through the giant problems we face in life. We place all of our fears in your hands, for yours is the battle, and you will deliver us from them.

Amen ”

Baptism of Jesus

Bible Verse

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

St. Matthew 3:17 (OSB)



John the Baptist lived in the wilderness. People came to him to be baptised in the River Jordan so that their sins could be forgiven.



One day, Jesus came to be baptised by John.



John was very surprised to see Jesus. He knew that Jesus is the Son of God and that he had never sinned. Jesus said that John must baptise him because that is what God wanted.



John obeyed and baptised Jesus.



After Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove. Suddenly a voice came from heaven and said, “ This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Concluding Prayer



“

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me the gift of baptism. Through my baptism, help me to become closer to you and become more like you. Just as God the Father encourages Jesus, help me to be a good person and encourage others.

Amen ”

Jonah and the Sea Creature

Bible Verse

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God - forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32 (OSB)



There once was a man named Jonah who was a prophet. A prophet is someone who preaches about God's love. One day God told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh because the people of the city were disobeying God and God was not happy with them.



But Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh because he did not like the people. He decided not to go to Nineveh like God told him to. Instead, he got on a ship going to a different city.



God was not happy that Jonah disobeyed him, so God sent a storm into the sea. The captain and the sailors of the boat were very scared. They told Jonah to start praying to God for help.

Jonah told the captain that the storm was his fault because he disobeyed God. Jonah instructed the captain to throw him off the boat so that God would stop the storm.





The captain and the sailors threw Jonah out of the boat. As soon as they did, the sea calmed down, and the storm went away. Suddenly, a sea creature came and swallowed Jonah.



Jonah was inside the belly of the sea creature for three days and three nights. Inside the belly, Jonah prayed to God to forgive him for not listening. He prayed and asked God to show mercy and that he would go to Nineveh as he was told to do so.



God heard Jonah's prayers and told the sea creature to spit him out on dry land. Jonah was very happy to be out of the belly of the sea creature.



Jonah went straight to Nineveh, like God had told him to do. Jonah told them - that God was very sad about all the bad things they were doing. They were sad when they heard that God was upset with them. They decided that they would stop doing bad things and start obeying God.

The people of Nineveh turned away from doing bad things and started to obey God. God was so happy to see the change in their hearts that he forgave them and did not destroy the city.

Concluding Prayer



“

Lord, please forgive me if I have not listened to you. Allow me to follow Your ways and do what You want in my life.

Amen

”

The Good Shepherd

Bible Verse

Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep, which was lost!
St. Luke 15:6 (OSB)



Jesus told the story of the shepherd and his sheep that was lost. This shepherd had 100 sheep that he took care of. He took them out to the field, gave them water and plenty of food. When it was time to go back to the barn, he would count them to make sure that he had all 100 sheep.



One day, when the shepherd took his flock to the field, one of the sheep wandered off on his own.

As the sheep walked and walked, he was no longer near the rest of the flock. He was lost!





When it was time to go back to the barn, the shepherd started to count his sheep like he always does. He noticed that he was missing a sheep.

The shepherd left his ninety-nine other sheep safely and went looking for his lost sheep



Finally, the shepherd after searching long and hard, found his lost sheep.

The shepherd took the sheep in his arms and was so happy to see him.





The sheep was happy to see the shepherd, and he followed him back home

The shepherd picked the lost sheep over his shoulders and said, “ Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep, which was lost!”



Concluding Prayer



“

*Lord, as my shepherd, guide me so I do not wander off like the lost sheep.
Guide me so that I may walk in your ways.*

Amen

”

Jesus performs miracles

Bible Verse

What is impossible with man is possible with God.
St. Luke 18:27 (OSB)



A Special Feast

One day, Jesus and His disciples and His mom, Mary, were invited to a wedding at Cana. What a grand celebration! There was plenty of food. But the master of the feast was in panic. The wine is over! What a shame.



Mother Mary felt bad. She asked Jesus to help. Mary told others. “Do as Jesus says.” Jesus saw six water pots. He asked the servants to fill them with water. They did so.

He told them to take some water from the pot and give it to the master of the feast. He tasted it. It was not water any more. The water had turned into a very tasty wine. The guests said, “You have kept the best wine for the end.” Everyone ate, drank and enjoyed themselves.



Thus, Jesus did his first miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana.

A Healing from Afar

One day , when Jesus was travelling, a noble man came to see him . He was very worried, as his son was very sick.



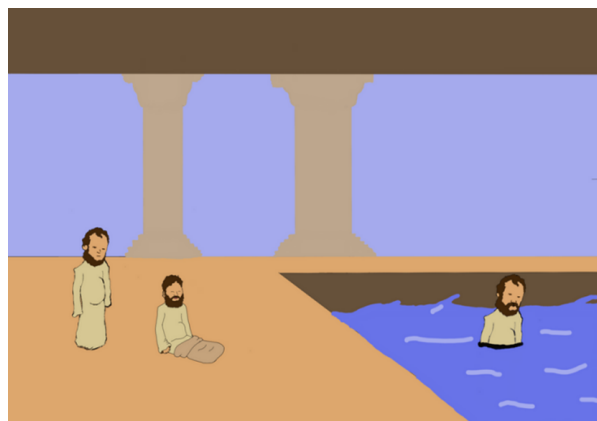
But he knew Jesus was very busy. So he said, “Master, I know you can heal my son without even coming to my home. You just have to say a word”. Jesus was happy to see his faith. Jesus told him, “Your son will live. Go home in peace.” It was the 7th hour.

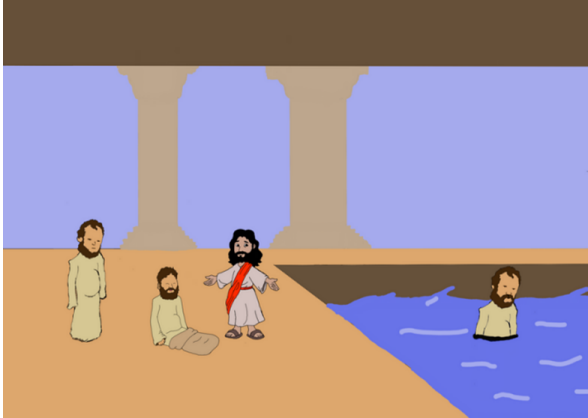
The noble man returned home. His family greeted him with happiness. The son was not sick any more. They said, On the 7th hour, the son’s sickness left him. What a miracle! One word from Jesus, and the sickness was gone. Faith works wonders.



A walk with a bed

One day Jesus was going by the pool of Bethesda. This pool was somewhat special. Every day, two angels from heaven came down and stirred the water in the pool. The first person to enter the pool after that will get healed of any sickness. What an easy way to get cured. I just need a dip in the pool.





However, there was a man lying on the porch beside the pool for 38 years. He was paralysed. He couldn't move his hands or legs. The man was lying near the pool all alone. Jesus asked him, "Do you wish to be healed?" The man said, "Sir, I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

Jesus told him, "Take your bed and walk." How can a man who cannot walk take his bed? But everything is possible with Jesus. Jesus's words healed the man. He jumped up, took his bed and walked. His long wait of 38 years has stopped with one visit from Jesus. What a miracle!



A feast for thousands

One day Jesus left in a boat for a quiet place in a mountain. But people found Jesus and gathered around Him. Jesus loved the people. He began teaching them.



Days passed. Jesus told his disciples, "The people are getting hungry; we must get them some food". The disciples wondered, "How to find food for thousands of people in this faraway place?" They looked around to see if anyone had food.

One little boy had a basket of five small loaves of bread and two fish. The disciples gave it to Jesus. “This is all we have.” This is not enough for even one person.



Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass. He held up the five loaves of bread and two fish. He looked up to Heaven and gave thanks for the food. Then he broke the bread and fish into pieces and gave them to his disciples.

The disciples passed food to all the people. What a wonder! The food became more and more. Everyone ate to their fill. The leftovers were in twelve large baskets. Jesus had fed five thousand men, along with women and children, with just five loaves of bread and two fish.



Jesus is the bread of life. When Jesus is with us, we will not feel hunger.

Walking on water

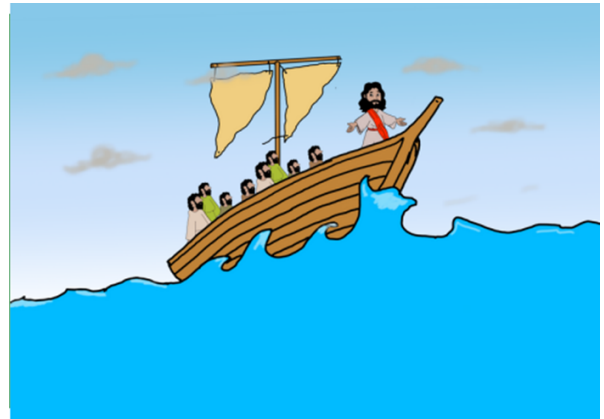
After the giant meal, the disciples left on a boat for Capernaum. Hours went by, and the boat was a long way from shore. A strong wind was blowing, and the boat was being tossed around on the waves.





The disciples started to get worried. Just then , they saw someone walking on the water to-wards them. Who can walk on water? It was Jesus. Jesus reached the boat and got inside. Right away, the wind died down.

The disciples worshipped Jesus. They said, “You are truly the Son of God”. No one else can perform these miracles.



I can see



One day, Jesus and his disciples were walking along a road in Jerusalem. They saw a man who had been blind since he was born. The man had never seen any flowers, the sun, or the stars. How sad!

The disciples asked Jesus,“ Was this man born blind as a punishment?” Jesus said,“ No, he is blind, so that you will see God’s miracle for him. Jesus said, I am the light of the world.”



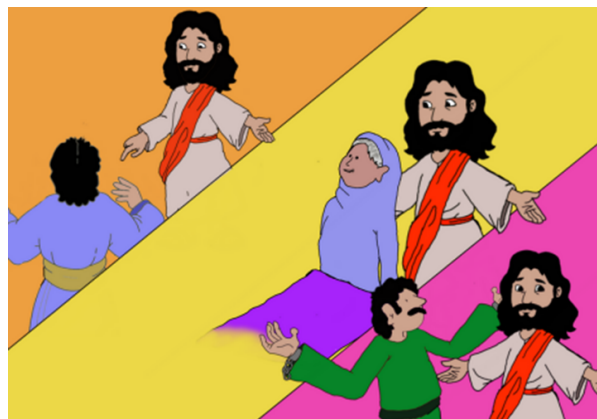
Then Jesus spit to the ground. He made a ball of mud and rubbed it on the eyes of the blind man. He told him, “Go wash your eyes in the pool of Siloam”. The man washed his eyes. When he opened his eyes, he could see. He could see everyone. He jumped in joy.



The blind man went around praising and thanking Jesus for the gift of sight. He could see the sky, the trees, and the flowers. What an amazing gift from Jesus!

The Gift of Life

Jesus did many miracles. He healed the sick. The blind could see, the lame could walk, and the dumb could talk. Jesus helped the needy in any way he could.



One day, as Jesus was travelling, he received sad news. His beloved friend, Lazarus, has died. Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary were friends of Jesus. Mary and Martha had always welcomed Jesus into their home.

Jesus immediately went to Bethany, the home town of Lazarus. Jesus took four days to reach Bethany. When Jesus came, Martha and Mary started crying. They said, “If you were here, this would not have happened”.



Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life”. Jesus went to the tomb. Everyone said, “It has been four days. The body would start smelling bad now.” But Jesus called, “Lazarus, come out.”



How can a dead man come out? What is Jesus saying? But to everyone’s surprise, Lazarus came out alive. Jesus can give life to the dead. Everyone was amazed.

Jesus is God. All things are possible for him. Glory to God!

Concluding Prayer



“

Thank you, Lord, for teaching us that nothing is impossible for you. Help us to have faith and hope in you, Lord.

Amen

”

The road to Easter

Bible Verse

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

St. John 3:16: (OSB)



Palm Sunday



It was the day of the big festival of Passover in Jerusalem. “Look, Jesus is coming. He is riding on a donkey.” All the people put clothes on the way. They waved palm leaves and sang. “Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”. What a wonderful greeting for Jesus! We remember this day as **PALM SUNDAY**.

Passover



On Thursday evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples sat together for supper for the **PASSOVER** feast. Jesus said, “Let me wash your feet. You should do for one another as I have done for you. If you love each other, you serve each other”.



The last supper

Jesus took bread and wine and blessed it. He gave it to his disciples. “This bread and wine are part of me. Take them as a way of remembering me.” We remember and partake in Jesus’s body and blood in the **HOLY QURBANA**.



Jesus Prays

After supper, Jesus and His disciples went into a garden on the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed, “Father, let it happen as per your will.” When He came back, He saw the disciples were asleep. He woke them up and said, “The time has come.”



The last supper

Just then, they heard footsteps. The Jewish leaders and men came with swords and weapons to catch Jesus. Judas Iscariot, who was one of the disciples of Jesus, went and kissed Jesus to point him out. Jesus was arrested.

Good Friday

On Friday morning, the high priest Caiphas took Jesus before the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate. Jewish leaders blamed Jesus. “He calls himself King of Jews. Put him to death”. Jesus did not say anything. They put a red robe and a crown of thorns on Jesus. They made Jesus carry his cross to a place called Golgotha. Jesus was nailed to the cross between two thieves.



At noon, the earth shook, and the sky became dark. Jesus cried - “Father, I put myself in your hands. Forgive these people”. Jesus died on the cross. We remember this day as **GOOD FRIDAY**. Jesus died on the cross for us. We remember this every time we make the sign of the cross.

Jesus is Buried

Joseph, a follower of Jesus, took His body and placed it inside a tomb. Guards stood outside His tomb. How sad! Saturday passed.



A Joyful Sunday

On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene and her friends went to the tomb. They saw that the tomb was open. They started crying. Just then, angels appeared and said, “Do not be afraid; Jesus Christ is risen from dead”. Mary ran and told this news to the disciples of Jesus.



Christ is risen from the dead. What joyful news!
We remember this day as **EASTER SUNDAY**.

The church remembers PALM SUNDAY to EASTER in the Holy Week. ‘

Concluding Prayer



“

Thank you, God, for your love for us. Help us to remember all the sacrifices you have made for us.

Amen

”

Apostle to India

Bible Verse

My Lord and my God!
St. John 20:28 (OSB)



St. Thomas was one of the twelve disciples that Jesus chose to follow Him. After receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost, all of Jesus' disciples were able to speak in different languages.



After receiving their gift, the apostles all went to different parts of the world to preach about Jesus and his teachings. In AD 52, St. Thomas travelled to India.



St. Thomas landed in modern-day Kerala to preach Jesus's teaching to the people of India. St. Thomas established seven churches in Kerala and baptised several families. St. Thomas died in AD 72. Our church celebrates St. Thomas' feast day on December 21.



Concluding Prayer



“

Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing St. Thomas to India to teach all of us more about You. Like St. Thomas, who lived a life to bring others to Christ, help me so that I may be able to teach others about my faith.

Amen ”

You are a special child to God

Bible Verse

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...

Psalms 138 (139):14 (OSB)



We met a lot of special people in the Bible that God has worked through to spread His Love. Today's lesson is about another important person God has in His plan, and it's YOU!

You are so special to God; the Bible says you are fearfully and wonderfully made. It means that God created you on purpose, and you are special to Him.



Are little children important to God? Of course, they are! Did you know that when some people tried to stop little kids from coming to Him, Jesus told them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven"



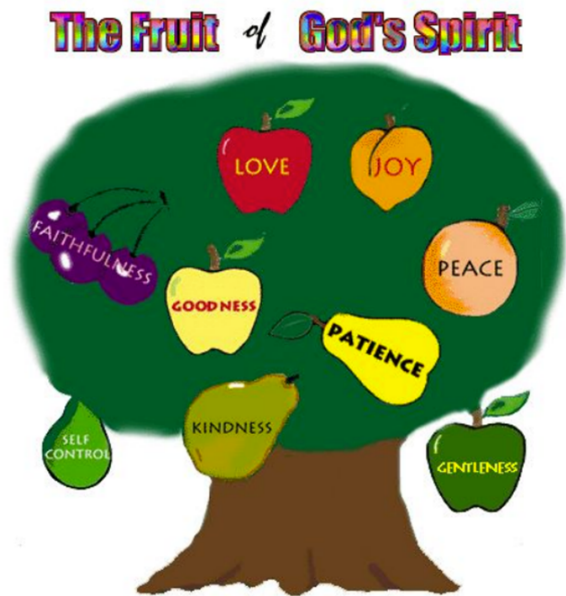
How can you be a good Christian child? The Bible teaches us that if we practice certain behaviours, we can be a good Christian. Our actions shape who we are. Did you know that the Spirit of God lives inside you? When we listen to the Spirit of God in us, we become good Christians.



Let us look at some trees and their fruits. A good and healthy tree would produce good fruits. But a bad and unhealthy tree will produce bad fruits. Just like we can tell a tree by its fruits, a Good Christian person can be seen by how they act.

The fruits of God's Spirit

The Bible says that the fruit of the Spirit of God is love, joy, peace, long-suffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)



Love

Love is putting the needs of others before our own.



Joy

Joy is not the same as being happy; joy is even better than happiness!



Peace

Peace is staying calm even when things are bad, scary or seem impossible.



Long-suffering (Patience)

Patience is when we make the choice to wait and not complain about it.



Kindness

Kindness is making the choice to be nice to everyone, even when it's not easy.



Goodness

Goodness is the quality of doing good, even when it isn't easy.



Faithfulness

Faithfulness is not giving up and trusting in God.



Gentleness

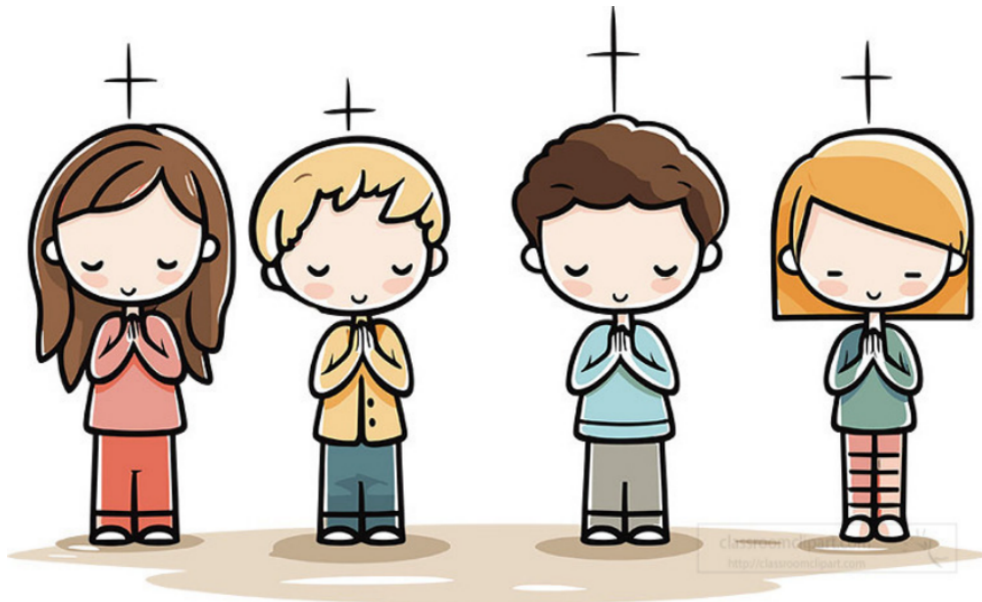
Gentleness is making the choice to care for and love others when they are in need.



Self-control

Self-control is thinking before you act or speak.

Is it easy to have these good qualities without any effort? Does a tree have fruit without any work ? The tree needs water, sunlight and daily care for it to grow healthy and bear good fruits.



Just like that, we need to put in some effort daily to practice these good qualities. Learning about God and spending time with God in prayer daily will help us nurture these qualities as good Christian children.

Concluding Prayer



“

Heavenly Father, we want to thank you for making each one of us special. Thank you for giving us the gift of your Holy Spirit. May we continue to grow your Spirit in us so we can have love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. God let us be more like You.

Amen

”

Gratitude

Reviewers : Pre-Kindergarten / Kindergarten

Miss. Anna Mary Daniel	St. George IOC Manchester
Mrs. Suby Varghese	St. George IOC Manchester
Miss. Jewel James	St. John The Baptist IOC Stoke on Trent



ST. THOMAS, THE APOSTLE OF INDIA
PRAY FOR US



O S S A E
Diocese of UK, Europe and Africa

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