

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
CLASS 3**

LESSON 3

JOSEPH IN EGYPT

(Genesis 37, 39-46 chapters)

Aim: To understand how God preserves His loved ones.

Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob, the patriarch of the tribe. His mother was Rachel. Joseph means 'Let God add'.

Jacob was fonder of Joseph, than his other children as he was born in his old age. His brothers hated him, as Joseph was his father's darling. Once Joseph went alone in search of his brothers at the request of his father. He met them at Dothan. They stripped him of his coat of many colours and put him in a pit in the wilderness. Later, they sold him as slave for twenty pieces of silver to Ishmaelites. His brothers showed the torn pieces of his coat dipped in a kid's blood to their father. Jacob believed an evil beast had rent Joseph to pieces. He was sad and he could not be consoled.

The traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. His wife caused much misery to Joseph. Believing her lies, Potiphar sent Joseph to prison. The Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. Joseph was accepted as a steward of the prison.

During this time two senior officers of Pharaoh were imprisoned, as they had offended the king. One was the baker and the other was the butler. One night they dreamed a dream each and in the morning they were sad, as they did not know the meaning of their dreams. Joseph prayed to God and told them the meaning of their dreams. It so happened as Joseph had interpreted them. The baker was hanged and the butler was reinstated. After about two years, Pharaoh, the king saw two similar dreams in one night. His spirit was troubled and he called in all magicians and wise men of Egypt and told them his dreams. None could interpret them. Then the chief butler told Pharaoh about Joseph. Immediately, Joseph was brought in before him. Joseph prayed to God and began to interpret the dreams. Both the dreams had the same meaning. The ensuing seven years would be of great plenty throughout the land of Egypt and afterwards there would be seven years of grievous famine. Joseph also told the king that it would be wise to gather all the corn of the good years against the seven years of famine. Pharaoh was greatly impressed with the knowledge and wisdom of Joseph. Pharaoh gave him the position next to king with full powers to do whatever he wanted. Because of the able administration of Joseph, Egypt and the surrounding places survived the famine.

Moral: God lifts one from imprisonment to throne.

Memory Verse: But You, O Lord, are always my shield from danger; you give me victory and restore my courage. (Psalms 3:3)

Model Questions:

1. Why were his brothers jealous of Joseph?
2. What did his brothers do to Joseph at Dothan?
3. What happened when he was in the prison?
4. Pharaoh was troubled in spirit. Why?
5. What was the interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams?
6. How did Pharaoh honour Joseph?

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LESSON 4

FLEEING OF MOSES

(Exodus 2: 1-6, 20)

Aim: To learn that God's protection surpasses all troubles.

We have learned that Joseph was the ruler in Egypt. He brought his father and all his brothers and their families to Egypt and made them dwell at the most fertile place in Egypt. The children of Jacob increased. They are known as Israelites.

There arose a new Pharaoh who did not know Joseph. He was astonished at the fast growth of Israelites. He feared that in course of time they would possess the country. So he began to afflict them in several ways. He declared them slaves. The Egyptians made them serve with rigour. They set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. They were paid scanty and the taskmaster beat them cruelly. Their lives were miserable. In spite of all these the Israelites increased in number. So Pharaoh made a bestial decree that all male children of Israelites should be thrown in river when they were born. He charged his soldiers to see that decree complied with.

During this time a son was born to a man named Amram of the Levi tribe. They hid the child for three months. As they could no longer hide him, they took a basket of reeds and covered it with tar to make it watertight, and placed it at the edge of the river. Pharaoh's daughter came down to wash herself at the river. She saw the child in the basket. She took the child and brought him up as her son. He was named Moses meaning, "drawn from water". Moses grew up in the palace of Pharaoh and acquired all manner of knowledge of the Egyptians. When he grew up, he understood that he was one of the Israelites. He used to watch the rigorous burden of his brethren. One day he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. He killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. When it became known, he feared punishment of Pharaoh; and fled to Midian.

Moral: God is a refuge in the midst of suffering to those who trust Him.

Memory Verse: The Lord protects his people; he defends and saves his chosen king. (Psalms 28:8)

Model Question:

1. The Children of Jacob are known as
2. Pharaoh declared Israelites
3. Why did Pharaoh afflict Israelites?
4. What was the bestial decree of Pharaoh?
5. What is the meaning of the name Moses?
6. How did Moses happen to grow at the palace of Pharaoh?
7. Why did Moses flee to Midian?

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LESSON 5

GOD CALLS MOSES

(Exodus 3, 4 chapters)

Aim: To learn that we have to accept and perform humbly the work that God entrusts us.

Moses reached the house of Jethro, a priest of Midian and he kept his flock. Jethro gave Moses, Zipporah his daughter as wife. One day Moses led the flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Sinai, Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. Moses saw and wondered that the bush was burning, but it was not consumed. He went near the bush to see that marvelous sight. God called him, 'Moses, Moses', from the midst of the burning bush. God told him to put off his shoes, as the ground where he stood was holy. Moses was afraid. He hid his face and stood there.

The Lord God told Moses that He had seen the affliction of the children of Israel. He would send Moses to Pharaoh so that he might bring them forth out of Egypt. Moses told God that he was not an able person to fulfill this bidding. God did not accept the excuses put forth by Moses. God strengthened him and also told him that He would send Aaron, his brother to help him. God gave Moses power to do wonders before the Egyptians, and told him to go to Pharaoh and demand him to send away the children of Israel. Moses accepted the commandment of God. He bid farewell to Jethro and returned to Egypt.

Moral: When we surrender ourselves to the Will of God, He will enable us to do great things for Him.

Memory Verse: Happy are whom you choose, whom you bring to live in your sanctuary. (Psalm 65:4)

Model Questions:

1. What was Moses doing at Midian?
2. What did Moses see at Mount Horeb?
3. What was the commandment of God to Moses?
4. What is the name of Moses' wife?

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LESSON 6

DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL

(Exodus 5 - 13 chapters)

Aim: To learn that one should not offend God.

According to the commandment of God, Moses reached Egypt. His brother Aaron welcomed him. They both stood before Pharaoh and wanted him to send away the children of Israel. Moses did wonders before Pharaoh to convince that the Lord God had sent them.

Moses told Aaron to put down his staff. He did so. Immediately, it became a serpent. Pharaoh called in his sorcerers. They also showed a similar miracle. But the rod of Moses swallowed the rod of the sorcerers. Pharaoh was not moved. He did not allow the Israelites to go. Instead, he made their lives more miserable. God decided to punish Pharaoh and his people. They had ten pestilences one after another. In each pestilence, Egyptians suffered miserably. Then Pharaoh would call Moses and Aaron and tell them that he would send away the people. Moses would pray to God to remove the pest. Again, it happened nine times. All these nine times, there was no pestilence amongst the Israelites. The Lord God protected them. The tenth time, all the firstborn of Egyptians from Pharaoh to all his people and the firstborns of their beasts were dead. The Israelites were safe. There was a great cry in Egypt. Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in the night itself and told them to go out of the country with the people immediately. The children of Israel departed soon. Thus the Lord God delivered His people out of the bondage of Egypt with a mighty hand. In the ensuing lessons we shall learn how the Lord led the children of Israel to the Promised Land.

Moral: God delivers his people from all difficulties.

Memory Verse: Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. (Psalms 23:4)

Model Questions:

1. Why did Moses do miracles before Pharaoh?
2. Why did God punish Pharaoh?
3. How did God punish Pharaoh and the Egyptians?
4. What did Pharaoh do, when they had the pestilence?
5. The rod of Moses swallowed the of the sorcerers.
6. God delivered Israel from bondage of Egypt by His

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LESSON 7

GOD CARES FOR HIS PEOPLE

(Exodus 14, 16 chapters)

Aim: To learn how God cares for His people.

As God commanded, Moses led the people to the shore of the Red Sea. The Lord God went ahead of them on a Pillar of Cloud during days and on a Pillar of Fire during night.

When Pharaoh saw that the people had gone, his mind changed. He pursued them with all his men on chariots and horses to bring them back. When the people saw the horses and chariots coming after them, they were very afraid. God commanded Moses to stretch his rod upon the sea. The water of Red Sea was divided and dry land was seen in between. The children of Israel went on dry land and reached the other side of the sea. The soldiers of Pharaoh followed them into the sea. Until the last man of Israel passed, the water stood divided. Then Moses stretched his rod again on the sea, as commanded by God. The water on both sides came back in full force and drowned all the men of Pharaoh with their chariots and horses.

With a great miracle God saved His people. The people sang unto God and praised Him. They traveled through the wilderness of Sin.

On their journey forward, they forgot the mighty powers of God and murmured against God, Moses and Aaron. They feared they would not have anything to eat. Moses prayed continuously for the people. God heard his prayer and gave them manna from heaven. In the morning, manna was found around their tents. People would gather manna for that day. For flesh, God gave them quails to eat. For forty years until the people reached and inhabited the land of Canaan, God fed them this way. When there was shortage of water, the people again complained against their God. God told Moses to strike the rock in Sinai Horeb with his rod. Water gushed out of the rock abundantly for all the people and their cattle. Thus the Lord God looked after His people without any problems either for food or water.

Moral: God hears the prayers of His people who put their trust in Him.

Memory Verse: Bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! (Luke 11:13)

Model Questions:

1. How did God lead His people?
2. How did the Israelites pass through the Red Sea?
3. How did God feed His people?
4. What did Moses do when there was scarcity of water?

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LESSON 8

THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

(Exodus 20, 30 chapters)

Aim: To learn to worship the true God.

The children of Israel reached the wilderness of Sinai after the third month of their departure from Egypt. They encamped at the foot of the Mount Sinai. There the people sanctified themselves. They were told not to touch the bounds of the mountain or set their foot thereon. The Lord God descended on the mountain in fire. There were thunders and lightning and a thick cloud. Mount Sinai altogether was in smoke. There, Moses spoke and the Lord answered by a voice.

When the people heard the voice of God, they were greatly afraid. They said that they would die if they continue to hear the words of God. They wanted only Moses to speak to them. God called Moses and he went up to the top of the mount. He stayed there with the Lord for forty days. God gave Moses the Law to be observed by the people. God gave Moses two tablets of stone on which He (oral) wrote the Ten Commandments. Mount Sinai is also called Mount Horeb.

When Moses was with God at the mountain, the people were committing a grave sin. They did not know what had happened to Moses. They wanted a god and they compelled Aaron to make them a calf of gold. They said the molten calf was their god and offered sacrifices to it. There were songs and dances before the idol. There was a loud noise of the celebrations.

God told Moses what was happening. Moses saw the people in great excitement before the idol. His anger knew no bounds. He threw the tablets of testimony received from God. They broke beneath the mount. Moses burnt the calf of gold in fire and ground it to powder. He strewed it upon the water and he made the children of Israel drink it.



God's anger waxed hot against the people as they quickly turned away from the Lord God who had brought them out of Egypt and turned to worship an idol made by them. Moses fell upon his face before the Lord and prayed forty days for the people. God accepted his prayer. God again gave Moses two tablets of stone on which the Law was written. God said that the names of those who sinned would be blotted out of the book of life.

Moral: He who does not keep the commandment of God will be punished.

Memory Verse: If an evil man stops sinning and keeps my laws, if he does what is right and good, he will not die; he will certainly live. (Ezekiel 18:21)

Model Questions:

1. How did God appear at Mount Sinai?
2. At the mountain what did God give Moses?
3. When Moses saw the people committing sin, what did he do?
4. What was the sin committed by the people at the camp?
5. What did Moses do to pacify God?

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LESSON 9

SERPENT OF BRASS

(Numbers 20, 21 chapters)

Aim: Never belittle the gifts of God.

Moses led the people through the wilderness of Zin. They had to circumvent the country of Edom to avoid their borders, as they would not allow Israel to pass through their country. Thus they reached Mount Hor. There, Aaron passed away. His son Eleazar became the priest. From Hor, the people traveled towards the Red Sea. This zigzag journey through the wilderness made the people unhappy. They murmured against Moses and God. They said they were happy in Egypt. They felt they would die in the wilderness without water and food. All through their journey to the Promised Land, they had been murmuring incessantly for one thing or another. They said the manna, the heavenly food given by God, was loathsome. Then the wrath of God waxed hot against the people. He sent fiery serpents to their midst. These snakes are deadly poisonous and are seen plenty in the wilderness. When they bite, the victim would feel great pain as if he had been burned. So they are known as fiery serpents.

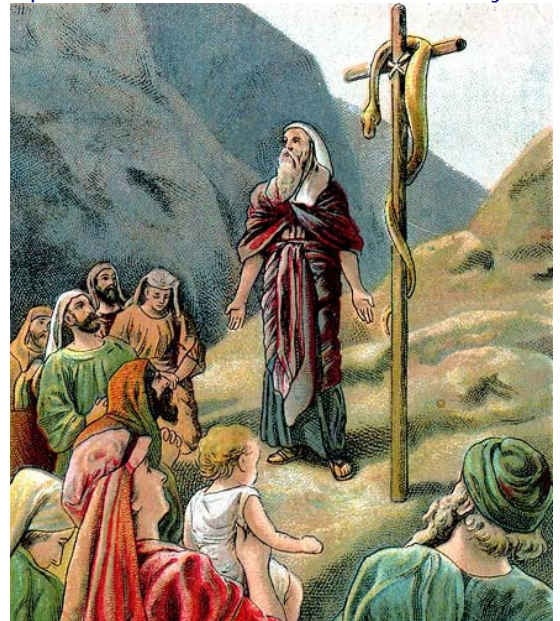
Many people were bitten by the fiery serpents. They had a pitiable end. The people understood their sin and repented. They cried unto the Lord. Moses prayed for the people. As commanded by God, Moses made a serpent of brass and hung it on a pillar at the centre of their camp. God told them to look upon the brass serpent if they were bitten by the fiery serpents. Those who looked upon it saved their lives.

Moral: When in great trouble, find solace in God.

Memory Verse: As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up. (John 3:14)

Model questions:

1. At the mount Hor passed away.
2. The people started murmuring against God and Moses. Why?
3. God was angry with the children of Israel. Why?
4. How did God punish the people?
5. For saving lives of people bitten by fiery serpent, what did God tell Moses?



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LESSON 10

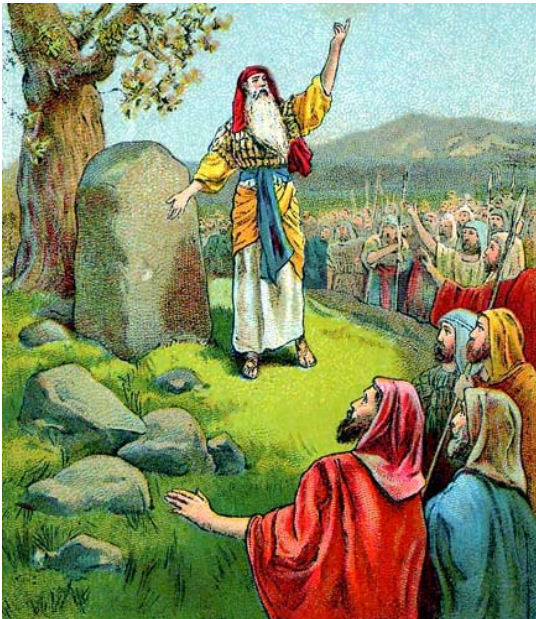
THE DEATH OF MOSES

JOSHUA BECOMES THE LEADER

(Deuteronomy chapter 34)

Aim: To learn that only those who are faithful to the last can inherit the Promised Land.

The Children of Israel traveled through the desert and reached the land of Moab, near the river of Jordan. Beyond this river was the promised land of Canaan. God told Moses that he would die at Moab and that Joshua was chosen to lead the people. Moses was sad that he was not fortunate enough to set his foot on the Promised Land. God was compassionate and told him to go to the top of mount Nebo. The Lord showed him all the lands promised to Israel. Moses died there. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, but no man knew where his sepulcher was. Moses died when he was 120 years old. His eyesight was not dim, nor his natural force abated even at that age. He led the Israelites through the deserts for forty years.



Joshua became the leader of the people. He was the captain of the men of Israel in all the battles fought in the deserts. God gave Joshua wisdom and strength, and gave him charge to fight for the Promised Land and possess it.

Of the grown up men who started from Egypt, only Joshua of the Ephraim and Caleb of the Judah tribes were alive to possess the Promised Land. All other men had died in their journey in deserts, which lasted for forty years. They were also rebellious against God and had committed grievous sins. God did not allow even Moses to set his foot on the Promised Land because of their sins. Joshua and Caleb were always faithful to the Lord and they did not waver at any time. So God chose them to enter the Promised Land.

Moral: We should submit ourselves to God even when His Will is not pleasing to us. Then God will be compassionate to us.

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LESSON 11

GOD'S PEOPLE POSSESS THE PROMISED LAND

(Joshua 6 and following chapters)

Aim: To learn that God is capable of fulfilling His promises.

The Children of Israel passed through Jordan River under the leadership of Joshua. When the priests carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord set their feet in the brim of the water, the flow of the river stopped. All the people passed over, while the priests stood in the midst of the river bearing the ark of the covenant of the Lord.

The first city to be subdued by Israel after crossing Jordan was Jericho. Jericho was surrounded by a very strong wall. On seeing the Israelites, the king of Jericho fortified the wall further. They were prepared to face any assault by anyone. But the Lord God fought for His people. As commanded by God, the priests bearing the ark of God, Joshua and his armed men went round the wall of Jericho once a day. They did so six days. On the seventh day, they went round the wall seven times and when the priests blew the trumpets, the people shouted a great shout. The wall fell down before them. Every man went straight into the city and captured it. Thus the Lord God gave them the city. With this event, the people definitely knew that their God was with them. This strengthened their faith and courage. All the cities near about were in great fear of the Israelites.

Joshua took a great part of Canaan after fighting with many inhabitants. The land wherein milk and honey flew, the land of Canaan, the land promised by God, was divided among the children of Israel. He entrusted the leaders to subdue the heathen and destroy them. The men of the tribe of Levy were chosen as priests and for them no particular division of land was allotted. The people of the Lord God reached the Promised Land and possessed it. Joshua called in all leaders of the people and repeatedly taught them the laws of God. He made them promise that they would serve the true God only. Joshua died at the age of 110.

Moral: We succeed in our lives not by our efforts, but by the power of God.

Memory Verse: Your God, the Lord himself, will be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Model Questions:

1. How did the children of Israel cross the Jordan River?
2. The strong city of Jericho was subdued without a fight. How?
3. Why was the Levy tribe not given any possession of land?
4. Before his death, what did Joshua do?

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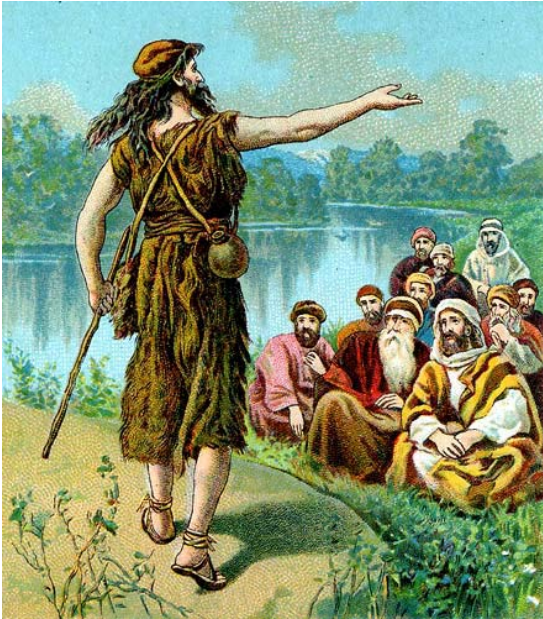
LESSON 12

JOHN THE BAPTIST

(Luke 1:8-25, 57, 66-80; 3:1-22; 9:9)

Aim: To understand that to become a witness to Jesus Christ is a blessing.

The old priest Zechariah and his aged wife Elizabeth were without children. They were very sad because of this. God heard their prayers and gave them a son. As told by the angel of the Lord, he was named John. He was brought up in strict abstinence. In his early life itself, he went into the wilderness and lived in meditation. He ate only fruits and roots and wild honey, and lived as a recluse. As inspired by God, he came to the banks of River Jordan and began to preach remission of sin and baptism of repentance. A great crowd came to hear him. He urged the people to turn away from injustice and to confess their sins. He rebuked the sinners and evildoers. He warned them that the unjust would be severely punished. Many people came to him and confessed their sins. He baptized them in River Jordan. As he baptized people, he was called John the Baptist. He was considered a great prophet.



John the Baptist came to go before the Lord to prepare His ways and to be a witness to Him. When John saw Jesus, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Jesus came to John and was baptized by him. At the time of His baptism, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. There came a voice from heaven, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." John also testified this event.

John rebuked King Herod for his wicked deeds. The king became angry and put him in prison. Later John was beheaded in prison.

Moral: We have to faithfully carry out our duties without fearing persecution.

Memory Verse: "Whoever tries to gain his own life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will gain it." (Mathew 10:39)

Questions:

1. Who were the parents of John the Baptist?
2. When he grew up, what did he do?
3. Why John is called "John the Baptist"?
4. What was the purpose of John the Baptist's coming?
5. At the time of Jesus' baptism, what happened?
6. How did John the Baptist die?

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LESSON 13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS CHRIST

(Mathew: 4: 1-11)

Aim: To learn how to overcome temptation.

After being baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus went into the wilderness. He spent forty days there in meditation and fasting. After that Jesus was hungry. Then Satan came to tempt Jesus. He told Jesus, "If you are God's Son, order these stones to turn into bread." Jesus was very hungry. He knew that He was the Son of God. Still, he did not fall into temptation. Jesus replied, "Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks."

Then the devil took Him into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says, "He shall give His angels charge over you; In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." This was quoted from Psalm 91:11, 12. The devil thought Jesus would take this opportunity to show a big sign before the people. Jesus did not fall into this trap either. He replied, "You shall not tempt the Lord, your God."

Again, the devil took Him on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You fall down and worship me." It is very difficult for men to hold back their desire for money, power and high offices. They will be willing to bow down before anybody to get them.

But Jesus succeeded in this temptation also. Jesus told the devil, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" The devil left Him. Angels came and ministered to Him. The temptation of Jesus shows us how to face temptations without giving into them. Jesus used only the Word of God to overcome temptation.

Moral: We should use the powerful weapon of the Word of God to overcome temptation.

Memory Verse: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalms 109:105)

Questions:

1. What did Jesus do in the wilderness?
2. When did the devil come to Jesus? Why did he come?
3. How many temptations did Jesus face?
4. What was the weapon used by Jesus to overcome temptation?
5. Who ministered to Jesus when he overcame the temptation?

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LESSON 14

JESUS CALMS A STORM

(Mark: 4: 35-41)

Aim: To understand that Jesus is the Creator and the Lord.

Once Jesus was preaching at the bank of the Sea of Galilee. When the crowd increased, He sat in a boat and continued to preach. When evening came, He said to his disciples, "Let us cross over to the other side." Jesus sat in the stern and fell asleep while the disciples rowed the boat. After a while there arose a storm and strong waves were beating against the boat. The disciples feared that the boat would capsize. They could not control the boat. But Jesus was sleeping soundly. They woke Him up and said to Him, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?" Jesus woke up and rebuked the storm and the sea. The wind ceased and the sea stood still. There was a great calm. The disciples were wonderstruck. Jesus asked them why they were so fearful and had no faith.

The disciples should have known that Jesus was the creator of all things and He had all the powers, and therefore, when Jesus was with them, no harm would fall upon them. Had they known it, they would have been courageous. This so happened to convince them of His powers.

Moral: When Jesus is with us, we need fear nothing.

Memory Verse: You rule over the powerful sea; you calm its angry waves. (Psalms 89: 9)

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus sit in a boat to preach?
2. When it was evening, what did Jesus and the disciples do?
3. Why were the disciples afraid of the storm?
4. What was Jesus doing at that time?
5. What does this event teach us?



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LESSON 15

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM DEATH

(John 11: 1-44)

Aim: To understand that Jesus is the Lord of both life and death.

Lazarus was a dear friend of Jesus. His sisters, Martha and Mary were also dear to Him. They were staying in the village Bethany, very close to Jerusalem. He used to stay in their house when he came to Jerusalem.

Lazarus was very ill one day. Jesus was far away on the other side of River Jordan. His illness further worsened. Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus about it. Jesus stayed in that place for two more days. Then He started for Bethany with His disciples. When they reached there, Lazarus was already dead. He was in the tomb for four days. Martha and Mary came to Jesus. They lamented that had Jesus been there, their brother would not have died and that they believed that Jesus could do all things.

Jesus went along with them to the place where Lazarus was buried. Many Jews had also gathered there. When Jesus saw them weeping, He was troubled. Jesus wept. He told the people to remove the stone of the tomb. Then Martha told him that by that time there would be a stink, as he was dead for four days. Jesus told her that if she believed, she would see the glory of God. They removed the stone. Jesus looked up and thanked the Father. Then He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" Lazarus came out alive tied with grave clothes and his face wrapped with a cloth. All the people saw it and they marveled.

Moral: Bodily death is not the end of life. He who believes in Jesus shall live even after death.

Memory Verse: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him to life on the last day." (John 6:54)

Questions:

1. Name the sisters of Lazarus.
2. When Lazarus was sick, what did his sisters do?
3. When Jesus reached Bethany, what had happened?
4. What did the sisters say, when they saw Jesus?
5. Jesus wept. Why?
6. When Jesus told to remove the tombstone, what did Martha say?
7. At the tomb, what did Jesus do?
8. Why were the people astonished?



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LESSON 16

THE TEN VIRGINS

(Mathew 25: 1-13)

Aim: To learn that those who leave their work for tomorrow are fools.

The parable of the ten virgins is one of the most beautiful ones that Jesus told His disciples. Jesus told these parables so that the moral could be easily understood. This parable was told to forewarn that those who expect His second Coming and prepare for it will enter His Kingdom and others will be forsaken.

The ten virgins had come to receive the bridegroom. It was the custom in those days that young ladies received the bride and bridegroom with lighted lamps. In this parable, five virgins were wise and the other five were foolish. The wise virgins took oil also along with their lamps while the foolish virgins did not take oil with their lamps. The bridegroom was delayed and all the virgins felt sleepy.



At midnight there was an announcement that the bridegroom was coming. Immediately, the wise virgins put oil in their lamps and lighted them and were ready to receive the bridegroom. The foolish virgins could not light their lamps, as there was no oil. So they asked the wise virgins to give them some oil. They replied, "No, there will not be enough for both us and you, so go to those who sell, and buy for yourselves." The foolish virgins went out to buy oil. At that time, the bridegroom came and the wise virgins received him. They went in with Him to the wedding and the door was shut. Meanwhile, the foolish virgins came and knocked at the door and prayed to open the door for them. The bridegroom said, "Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you," and rejected them.

Moral: We should always be prepared to meet our Lord, as we do not know when He is coming.

Memory Verse: As you wait for the day of God, and do your best to make it come soon. (2 Peter 3:12).

Questions:

1. What moral did Jesus want to teach us by the parable of the ten virgins?
2. What did the wise virgins take with them in addition to the lamps?
3. When the bridegroom came, what did the wise virgins do?
4. The foolish virgins could not meet the bridegroom. Why?

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LESSON 17

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

(Acts 5: 1-11)

Aim :- To learn that we should have clean hearts.

In the early days of the church, the disciples of Jesus Christ preached the gospel of the kingdom of God in Jerusalem only. Many people believed and joined the church. Those who believed and received baptism and became members of the church were also called 'disciples'. These disciples used to sell their properties and give the whole money to the Apostles and they in turn spent the money for the common use of the church.

Ananias was a disciple. His wife was Sapphira. They also sold their property, but kept back a portion of the money. They gave the balance money to the Apostles as if it was the whole amount. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter knew their deceit and asked Ananias, "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." Ananias was terror stricken and fell down and breathed his last.

After sometime, Sapphira came in without knowing what had happened to Ananias. Peter asked her whether they had brought the full amount for which the property was sold. She replied it was the full amount. Then Peter asked her why they had decided to test the Spirit of the Lord. He continued that those who had buried her husband were nearby and that they would carry her away too. She was terrified and fell down and died. So great fear came upon all the church and on all who heard these things.

Moral: God sees everything and knows everything. Nothing is hidden from His eyes, nor can we hide anything from Him.

Memory Verse: May my words and thought be acceptable to you, O Lord, my refuge and my redeemer! (Psalms 19: 14)

Questions:

1. At the beginning of the church, how were the members known?
2. What was the custom of the early believers?
3. Ananias and Sapphira - what wrong did they do?
4. What punishment did they receive?
5. What do we learn from this incident?

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
CLASS 3

LESSON 18

STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

(Acts 6, 8, 7)

Aim: To learn how to be a witness to Jesus even if we have to give away our lives for it.

The church of the Lord grew. When the number of believers increased, there arose a need for more ministers. The apostles chose seven men with fullness of spirit, wisdom and good reputation to serve the church as ministers. The first among them was Stephen. They used to preach the gospel.

Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders among the people. He spoke with wisdom and fullness of the Spirit that the Jews could not oppose. So they hated him. They seized him and brought him to the council. They brought false witnesses against him saying that he spoke blasphemous words against Moses and God.

Stephen spoke before the council explaining the rebellious attitude of Israel as a whole. He accused them of crucifying their Lord and Saviour and persecuting the prophets who prophesied about the coming of the Lord. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart; and they gnashed their teeth. But, Stephen, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and declared that he was witnessing the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. When they heard it, the Jews cried out in a loud voice, and ran to him in great anger. They cast him out of the city and stoned him. Stephen knelt down and prayed, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit. Lord, do not charge them with this sin." When he had said this, he fell dead.



The first martyr of the church was Stephen. After his death, there was great persecution in the church. The apostles had to flee to different parts of the Roman Empire. They preached the gospel in all those places. Thus the martyrdom of Stephen caused further growth of the church.

Moral: When one is persecuted for witnessing Jesus, he is received in heaven by Him.

Memory Verse: Remember your former leaders, who spoke God's message to you. Think back on how they lived and died, and imitate their faith. (Hebrews 13:7)

Model questions:

1. How many ministers did the apostles choose? Why was it necessary?
2. What was the job of the ministers?
3. Why did the Jews hate Stephen?
4. What was the accusation the Jews had against Stephen?
5. When the Jews heard the speech of Stephen, they were furious. Why?
6. How did the Jews kill Stephen?
7. After the death of Stephen, the church grew further. How?

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
CLASS 3**

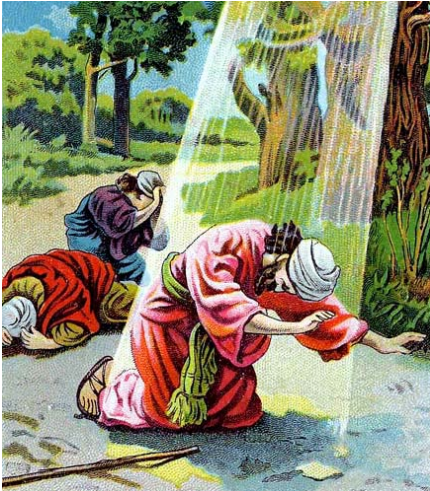
LESSON 19

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

(Acts 9: 1-16)

Aim: To learn how the Lord chooses men for His work.

The clothes of those who stoned Stephen were kept by a youngster named Saul. He was in favour of the murder. Afterwards, Saul threatened the disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem. He obtained letters from the high priests to the synagogues of Damascus to the effect that he could bring the believers to Jerusalem and jail them. He gathered his friends and went to Damascus. When he came near Damascus, a great light shone around him from heaven. Saul fell down and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?" Saul asked, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you persecute. Arise and go into the city, where you will be told what you must do." Those who were with him were puzzled as they heard a voice, but understood nothing. Saul got up from the ground. He had lost his sight. His friends led him to the city. Saul stayed there blind for three days, without eating or drinking anything. In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord said in a vision to Ananias to go and meet Saul. Ananias put his hand on Saul and prayed. Saul got his eyesight back. He believed in Jesus Christ, was baptized and ate food.



Then, Saul started preaching the gospel and later was known as Paul. Paul set apart the rest of his life for the gospel. He suffered many troubles and undertook most difficult tasks for the gospel and ultimately became a martyr at Rome. Paul is also included in the fold of Apostles. He is considered together with Peter, the leader of the Apostles.

Moral: The Lord calls whom He likes and entrusts them with His tasks.

Memory Verse: For the message of Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved, it is God's power. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

Model Questions:

1. Why did Saul go to Damascus?
2. What happened to Saul near Damascus?
3. Who prayed for Saul? Then what happened?
4. Saul later was known as
5. What has Paul done for the church?
6. Paul is considered along with whom?

