

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
CLASS 4

LESSON 2

JUDGES

(Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Judges and I Samuel 1-7 Chapters)

Aim: To learn that God protects those who turn towards Him and punishes those who disobey his laws.

In modern times, judges are appointed to hear complaints in courts and ensure justice. However, judges of the Old Testament were not so. Most of them were warriors and they governed the people too.

The period of Judges was B.C. 11 and 12 centuries. Othniel to Samuel, there were 15 judges.

Moses led Israel from Egypt to Canaan. He could not enter the Promised Land. God showed him the land from a mountain top (the top of Pisgath on Mount Nebo). Joshua, the son of Noon and the minister of Moses were lucky to go there. Joshua lived for 110 years and governed the people.

After Joshua, prominent elders led Israel with the guidance of God.

Gradually, Israel forgot their God. They entered into matrimonial relations with the pagans and slipped into their ways of idol worship and other evil practices. As a consequence, God gave them up to their enemies. When Israel repented, God raised judges from the people. Let us learn about such judges.

Othniel (Judges 3: 7-11)

The king of Mesopotamia conquered Israel and made them slaves and ruled over them for eight years. The afflicted people cried unto their God. The Lord raised Othniel of the tribe of Judah to their rescue. The Spirit of God came upon him and he fought and defeated their enemies. Israel lived somewhat safely for forty years under Othniel.

Ehud (Judges 3:12-30)

After the death of Othniel, the people slowly turned to idol worship and other evil practices, and forgot their God. Eglon, the king of Moab conquered Israel and made them slaves. After 18 years, the people cried unto their God. God raised Ehud, a Benjamite to save Israel. Ehud killed Eglon and brought peace to the land.

Shamgar (Judges 3:31)

Israel forsook their God again. Philistines conquered Israel. By the power of God, a man called Shamgar defeated Philistines and freed the people.

Deborah (Judges 4 &5 Chapters)

Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord and turned away from Him. Sisera, the captain of Jabin the king of Canaan bitterly oppressed Israel and ruled them.

In those days a prophetess named Deborah who lived under the palm trees of Mount Ephraim, was the ruler of Israel. She called in Barak, the son of Abinoam and told him the secret of defeating Philistines. That strategy was successful and Sisera was defeated. Israel had peace under Deborah.

Gideon (Judges 6, 7 & 8 Chapters)

Again the people sinned against their God. The Midianites subdued Israel and made them slaves. The scattered Israelites lived hiding in jungles and dens. When they repented, God raised Gideon from the tribe of Manasseh. An angel of the Lord appeared before him and showed him the mighty power of the Lord. Some food was placed

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on a rock and the angel touched it with his rod. Fire arose from the rock and consumed the food. Gideon was convinced that he could defeat the Midianites. He started destroying the idols in Israel and made the people believe in the true God. By the signs Gideon showed, people understood that Gideon was a man of God.

He raised a big army of 32,000 people. God told him 300 were enough. Instead of arms, he put a trumpet in every man's hand with pitchers with lighted lamps within them. He divided the 300 people into three groups. These three groups surrounded the Midianites from three sides and broke the pitchers, raised the lamps and blew their trumpets all together. The confused and frightened enemies ran helter-skelter and killed each other. All the Midianite lords were killed. This is how Gideon destroyed the enemies.

All the people wanted Gideon to be their king. He said Jehovah was their King and he declared that neither he nor his son would be a king.

Abimelech (Judges 9th chapter)

After the death of Gideon, his son Abimelech, born to a servant maid, killed all other sons, save one, and became the judge. For three years he ruled. However, the people rejected him. He was killed by a deceitful woman.

Tola (Judges 10: 1-2)

After Abimelech, God raised Tola of Issachar to be judge over Israel. He ruled for 23 years.

Jair (Judges 10:3-5)

Jair was chosen by God to judge Israel after Tola. He led the people for 22 years.

Jephthah (Judges 11: 1-12:7)

Israel again sinned against their God. This time the people of Ammon subdued them. In their distress, they cried unto the Lord and the Lord freed them through Jephthah, a Gileadite. Jephthah was a truthful judge.

Before going to war, Jephthah made a vow unto God that after he successfully returns, whatever meets him first at his gate, he would offer it as a burnt offering to God.

His only daughter met him at his gate when he reached home after defeating the Ammonites. Suddenly, he burst out in tears. When his daughter knew of his vow, she asked her father to allow her two months to spend with her companions. The father allowed that. Returning from the mountains, she surrendered to her father.

Ibsan (Judges 12: 8-10)

Ibsan of Bethlehem was the next judge.

Elon (Judges 12: 11-12)

Elon, a Zebulunite, judged Israel for ten years.

Abdon (Judges 12: 13-15)

Abdon, a Pirathonite, judged Israel for eight years.

Samson (Judges 13-16 chapters)

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Amongst the judges, Samson was an unusual character. Israel again sinned against their God. God left them and the Philistines conquered and made them slaves.

In those days a man named Manoah, a Danite, lived with his wife. They were very sad that they had no children. In answer to their fervent prayer, God sent an angel to Manoah's wife and told her that she would bear a son and he would deliver Israel from the Philistines. After a few days, Manoah himself received the same message. As a thanks giving, Manoah offered a sacrifice to God on a rock. When the flames rose up, the angel went up through the flames.

A child was born to Manoah according to God's word, and he named him Samson.



Samson killing the young lion.

The young Samson decided to marry a Philistine girl with the consent of his parents. While he was going to the girl's home, he killed with his bare hands a young lion that attacked him. As planned, the engagement of the marriage was conducted.

As he was going with his parents for the marriage, he saw a bee hive in the skeleton of the lion. He took some honey from it and gave some to his parents and he also drank it. They reached the girl's home and conducted the marriage ceremony.

At the bride's residence, Samson told a riddle to the 30 young men who were his companions in the marriage. These men were not able to answer his riddle. They coaxed his wife to get the answer to the riddle and she managed to do so. When the young men answered him, Samson was obliged to give each of them a pair of garments. Samson went out and killed 30 young philistines and gave the garments to them. Samson returned home, but did not take his wife along. Though the young men got their garments, they were furious at the incident.

After some days Samson went to his wife's house. He was shocked at the news that her father had given her away as wife to somebody else. Her father had thought that Samson was not happy with her and that he would not accept her again. The anger of Samson knew no bounds.

To avenge his shame, Samson got hold of 300 foxes and tied the tails of two each and put a fireband between the two tails. He let the foxes go into the standing crop of the Philistines and burnt up the standing crops, along with the vineyards and olives. The angry Philistines killed Samson's wife and her father, who had caused them damage.

Now Samson's anger grew further at the killing and he smote all those Philistines. The tired Samson hid in a cave. The Israelites surrounded him, bound him with new cords and surrendered him to the Philistine army.

Samson was chained and put in a prison. The Spirit of God came upon him and all his bindings were broken and he came out of the prison. He found a new jawbone of an ass and with it he killed 1000 Philistines. He cast away the jawbone out of his hand and called that place Ramath-lehi. He was very thirsty and called on the Lord. God made a hollow place where the jawbone fell, and water came out from it, and Samson drank it and revived his spirit.

For about twenty years, Israel lived in peace. In the meanwhile, Samson loved a girl named Delilah. She was an evil-minded Philistine girl.

Philistines were waiting for a chance to kill Samson. They wanted to know the secret of his unusual power. They knew secretly from Delilah that his power was in his hair. The Philistine lords gave a large amount of money to Delilah. She cut his hair while he was fast asleep. She informed the Philistines and they



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seized him. They pierced his eyes to blind him. He was bound to a big pillar of their temple.

Still, Samson was not desperate. He entreated with God for a chance to avenge the Philistines. Gradually his hair grew back.

The temple complex where Samson was bound was very large, having big halls and other facilities. A huge crowd gathered in the temple for their festival. Samson prayed to God with a heavy heart and shook the main pillar of the temple. The whole complex fell down. Most of the people who had gathered for the festival were under the building and they all died, including Samson.

The archenemies of Israel, the Philistines, had a pitiable end and the Israelites obtained freedom. Samson is known as a valorous judge in Israel.

Eli - judge and Priest (1 Samuel 1-4 chapters)

After the eventful days of Samson, God chose Eli, a priest, to judge Israel. Though the Philistines were not fully destroyed, they did not trouble Israel. Eli was a pious man. The tabernacle of the Lord was at Shilo.

Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas were disobedient, lewd, arrogant and led a sinful life. They assaulted people who came to offer sacrifices before the tabernacle and used to take away forcefully things brought as sacrifice.

Eli was very sad because of his sons but could not control them. At that time, the Philistines came to attack Israel. Israel was defeated on the first day. On the second day, Israel came to the battlefield with the Tabernacle. Israel was defeated again. The two sons of Eli were killed. The Philistines took away the Tabernacle. When Eli heard all these, he fell down. His neck was broken and he died.

Samuel - the judge and prophet

(1 Samuel 7:15 to end of Chapter 8)

At the time of Eli, there lived a man named Elkanah at Ramah near Bethlehem. He had two wives - Hannah and Peninnah. Hanna had no children and Phinnah had children. Hannah was sad. She prayed to God incessantly and God was pleased to give her a son. She named him Samuel, saying that she obtained him by praying to God. When the child was sufficiently old, he was taken to the house of the Lord and was entrusted to Eli, the priest. The child ministered unto the Lord before Eli.

Once when Samuel was asleep, he heard someone calling him by name. He went to Eli and asked him why he had called him. It was not Eli who called him. It happened thrice. Eli told Samuel that if he heard a voice calling him again, to say, "Speak Lord, for Thy servant hears." The child heard the call again and said as was told by Eli. Then he heard God tell him about the punishment that would befall the house of Eli. When Eli heard it, he consoled himself, saying, "It is Lord's will. Let Him do as He pleases".

Samuel, who had received the gift of prophecy from his childhood, became the Judge of Israel. Israel subdued the Philistines after a fierce battle with the power of God. To commemorate this victory, Samuel took a stone and laid it between Mizpeh and Shen and named it 'Ebenezer', saying, "Hitherto God has helped us."

Samuel made his two sons Joel and Abiah judges to succeed him. Both of them were corrupt and irresponsible men. The people rejected them. Samuel was very sad about this.

Samuel anointed Saul as king, and later David. With the death of Samuel, the era of the judges ended.

Memory Verse: Obey the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. Remember the great things he has done for you. (1 Sam. 12-24).

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Questions:

1. Name the following: -

- a) The first judge.
- b) Father of Samson.
- c) The commemoration stone set by Samuel.
- d) The judge who was killed by a deceitful woman.
- e) The judge who confused the enemies by lighting torches and blowing trumpets.

2. How was Deborah included in the group of judges?

3. What were the common causes for which God raised judges from time to time?

4. Why were the last days of Eli and Samuel sad for them?

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LESSON 3

THE BEGINNING OF KINGS

(The first king Saul - B.C. 1050 -1017): (Read 1 Samuel chapter 9 onwards)

Aim: Know The Lord and His will. Be prepared to live surrendering ourselves fully to the Lord's will.

The people who were unhappy with the two judges - Samuel's sons, requested God for a king. The will of God also was favourable to this request.

God chose Saul, the son of Kish, a rich man of the tribe of Benjamin.

Once some donkeys of Kish were missing. Many of his servants went in search of them in different directions. His father sent Saul also in search of them. On the way, his servants told Saul to meet Samuel and tell him about the missing asses. God had told Samuel about Saul. Samuel felt a special affinity to Saul who was handsome, very tall and courageous. The prophet told Saul that the missing donkeys were found. He asked him to stay with him a few days. Saul stayed with Samuel for a day. Samuel anointed him as King of Israel. Samuel called the people of Israel to an assembly.

In this assembly of people, they took lot to see who would become the king. The lot fell on Saul and he was made King over Israel. Saul became king when he was 30 years old.

Samuel wrote the rules and obligations of a king and gave them to Saul.

Saul raised an army of 3, 30,000 people and conquered the Philistines. The enmity between Israel and the Philistines increased and the Philistines prepared for another war. Samuel had told Saul to wait until a sacrifice was offered to the Lord on the seventh day. Only then Saul should start the fighting. On the seventh day, as Samuel did not turn up, Saul became impatient and offered the sacrifice himself. Just as he finished, Samuel came and told Saul that what he had done was disobedience. As Saul had rejected the commandment of the Lord, the kingdom was to be taken away from his family. However, Israel won the war. The displeasure of Samuel towards Saul continued.



Samuel wanted Saul to destroy the Amalekites completely because they had attacked Israel on their way from Egypt. Saul conquered the Amalekites, but did not do as Samuel told him. He took some good animals from them. When Samuel was sad about this, Saul told him that he took the animals for sacrificing to the Lord.

Samuel told Saul that to obey the Lord was better than burnt offerings and sacrifices. "To obey is better than sacrifices and to listen to Him is better than the fat of rams." (1Sam. 15:22).

Samuel ordered the King to kill Agag, the king of the Amalekites. Saul killed him in the presence of Samuel.

Samuel returned to Ramah very sad at the disobedience of Saul. Saul returned to his palace at Gibeah. They did not meet each other thereafter.

Saul subdued all the nearby tribes such as the Amalekites, Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, etc. It was the policy of Saul to recruit to his army valorous and courageous men.

Again Saul had to fight the Philistines. His might began to wither. The anger of the Lord came upon him. In the war at Gilboa, the three sons of Saul were killed. Saul committed suicide. Saul had a sad end for disobeying the Lord.

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Memory Verse: To obey is better than sacrifices and to listen is better than the fat of rams. (1 Sam 15:22)

Questions:

1. What was the tribe of Saul?
2. Which king did Samuel Kill?
3. How did Saul become king?
4. What is the moral that you understand from this lesson?

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LESSON 4

THE SHEPHERD BOY WHO REACHED THE THRONE - DAVID

(B.C. 1017 to 977)

Read: 1 Samuel 16 to 31 chapters. 2 Samuel 1- 24 chapters.

Aim: To learn that God will look after those who trust and depend upon Him.

Samuel was very sad after he departed from Saul. He was also anxious. One day he got a message from God that he need not be sad about Saul who was removed by God from the kingship. God further asked him to go to Bethlehem with the anointing oil. There He had found one of the sons of Jesse to be the King of Israel. (1 Sam 16:17).

Samuel reached the house of Jesse. Jesse called his seven sons one by one from the eldest before Samuel. But none of them was chosen by God. At last the eighth son who had been looking after the sheep was also called in. The prophet saw that the Spirit of the Lord was present in him. Immediately, Samuel poured the oil on his head and anointed him.

David was very God fearing, handsome and an expert in playing the harp.

An evil spirit afflicted Saul. When he heard music from the harp, he got some comfort. So David was brought in to play the harp before Saul quite often. David became a regular resident in the palace. Saul was very pleased with David. He had not known that David was the anointed one.

In those days, a champion of the Philistine army, whose name was Goliath, a giant, challenged Israelites for a single combat. He went on abusing Israel for about forty days. Nobody dared to fight with him.

King Saul made a declaration that to whoever fought with Goliath and killed him, the king would give him his daughter in marriage. Still nobody came forward.

On hearing the challenges of Goliath, the young David boiled in wrath. He told the king that he would kill Goliath. The king could not believe him. David said his God would make him strong.

David somehow got the consent and blessings of the king to fight Goliath. David went to Goliath with his sling and five small round stones. On seeing this shepherd boy, Goliath mocked him. But the moment the stone from David's sling hit Goliath on his forehead, he fell down. Immediately, David cut his head using Goliath's own sword. Thus, David killed the Philistine champion.

Saul was very pleased with David. He got more freedom at the palace. All the people praised him and David got a high position in Israel.

According to his declaration, Saul was obliged to give his daughter to David in marriage. He did not do it, but gave her to another young man.

When Saul and David returned after celebrating their victory over the Philistines, the women from all cities of Israel sang that Saul killed thousands and David killed ten thousands. The king became jealous on hearing this. He thereafter sought ways to destroy David.



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Saul told David that he would give him his daughter Michal provided he killed a hundred Philistines. Saul believed that David would be killed in this attempt. David always depended on his God. He went out and killed two hundred Philistines instead of hundred.

This time Saul could not find an excuse. So he gave his daughter, Michal to David. A shepherd boy became the son-in-law of the king. All the people loved David, but Saul was jealous of his popularity, and wanted to kill him.

David escaped from him and ran to Samuel, his respected well-wisher and guide, and told him everything that Saul did to him. They went to Naioth and stayed there.

Saul wanted to kill David and sent an army unit to Naioth. The Spirit of God came upon them and they forgot for which purpose they came. Saul sent another unit in vain and again another unit. Saul was startled by these events.

Jonathan, the son of Saul, did not like the treacherous ways of his father. He became friendlier with David. In fact, Jonathan had been informing secretly to David of the Aims of his father.

One day, David and his friends went to the priest Ahimelech at Nob. They were very hungry and requested him for food. There was nothing except holy bread that was not given to anyone except priests. David took the holy bread with the consent of the priest and gave it to his friends. David returned taking the sword of Goliath which was kept there. In the meantime, Saul died.

After the death of Saul, David shifted his residence to Hebron. The tribe of Judah first accepted David as king. After about seven and a half years, all the other tribes of Israel accepted him as king. David conquered the city of Jerusalem and built his capital there.

David ruled Israel for about forty years. He was able to do something peaceful only at the end of his reign. He united all the tribes of Israel as one nation. David brought the tabernacle of the Lord to Jerusalem and set it in a special tent. David wanted to build a temple for the Lord. God did not allow David to do it

Memory Verse: God is our refuge and strength; always ready to help in times of trouble. (Ps 46:1).

Questions:

I Name of the following:

a) Father of David

b) Who anointed David?

c) David's first wife.

d) The place where David built his capital.

II When did David get more freedom at the palace of Saul?

III "God will make me strong."- When did David say this?

IV How did David get his first wife?

V How did David get the sword of Goliath?

VI When did David shift his residence to Hebron?

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VII What were the two very important things David did?

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LESSON 5

VALUE OF LOVE

(Read 1 Samuel 18: 18; -20; Samuel 4-9 chapters)

Aim: Without surrendering to evil, win over it by goodness.

We have seen that David and Jonathan, Saul's son, were bosom friends. Jonathan did not approve of the treacherous ways of Saul. He tried his best to persuade Saul not to harm David. He did not succeed in it. An evil spirit often afflicted Saul because of his wrong doings. Jonathan was careful not to cause any harm to David.

Jonathan loved David as his own soul and they came to an agreement. Jonathan promised to save David from the evil designs of his father. (1 Sam. 18: 34). He kept his promise by helping David to live in hiding, sometimes warning about the plans of his father, and sometimes pleading with his father, the king, to spare David. (1 Sam. 19,20 chapters)

David had an eventful life. His belief in God helped him to escape from all dangers. David got many chances to kill Saul. He would not do it, as he thought it was against the will of God.

The Philistines often made war with Israel. David had to come out into the open to fight them. The Hand of God was with David and the love of Jonathan was very helpful.

In a fierce battle with the Philistines, Jonathan and two other sons of Saul were killed. Saul himself fell upon a sword and died. The danger from Saul was over with his death. But the death of Jonathan caused unbearable sorrow to David.

David brought peace to the land. He enquired about the family of Jonathan. Jonathan had a son, Mephiboseth, and he was lame. David brought him to his palace. He redeemed all the belongings of Saul and gave them to Mephiboseth, who himself was eating from the king's table. David did all this for the love of Jonathan.

Even though Saul was his father, Jonathan did not approve of his evil ways, and helped David. No doubt, Jonathan was a true friend of David.

Memory Verse: The whole law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself' (Gal. 5-14)

Questions:

1. How did Jonathan help David?
2. How was the end of Jonathan?
3. How was the end of Saul's life?
4. How did David reciprocate his friend's love? And when?
5. What is the moral of this lesson?

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LESSON 6

ISRAEL BECOMES A NATION

(From B.C. 1050) (1 Samuel 16 to 2 Samuel 11th chapters)

Aim: To know that God will give victory, in spite of many hindrances, to those who depend on Him and fulfill their duties, with the power of the Spirit of God.

Among the sons of Saul, only Ishboseth survived. With the help of Abner, the chief of army, he became king of a portion of Israel. He was chief only for two years, as Joab, chief of the army of David, killed Abner. At the death of Abner, Ishboseth became helpless. Then two of his soldiers killed him. These men went to see David with the severed head of Ishboseth, hoping that David would be pleased and reward them well. Because of their heinous crime, abominable to God, David punished them immediately.

David had suffered a lot to escape from Saul. Once, David sought help from Ahimelech, a priest. For helping David, Saul killed the priest. Amongst the priest's sons, only Abiathar could escape. He came to David and stayed with him. (1 Sam. 22:16-20).

David conquered Jubus and took it from the Jebusites. David later built his capital here. This city, Jerusalem, is known as the city of David. (2 Sam. 5-6-13, 1 Chronicles 11, 4).

When David had established his kingdom, he wanted to bring the Ark of God (Covenant Box) to Jerusalem. A multitude of 30,000 Israelites went to bring the Ark from the house of Abinadab. The Ark was put on a new cart driven by oxen. On the way, the cart was shaken and the Ark tilted. On seeing it, Uzzah, one of the persons who guided the oxen, caught it with his hand. He died immediately for nobody except the priests of the Lord was allowed to touch the Ark of God. David was frightened by this and put the Ark at the house of Obed Edom.

Later, David took the Ark to his city, carried by priests only. He built a beautiful tabernacle for the Ark. He celebrated this event to express his gratitude to his God with a grand feast for all the people.

He subdued all the enemies of Israel. David made Israel a nation and reigned over it without fear of any enemy. David reigned over all Israel. Joab was chief of army, Jehoshaphat was keeper of records and Zadok and Ahimelech, sons of Abiathar, were priests. (2 Sam. 8:16-17)

Jesus was born to the tribe of David, who was great in all fields. He was a singer of God's praises in the sweet Psalms, a great fighter, a prophet of God, and the greatest king of Israel.

David reigned over Israel for forty years. He lived for 70 years. David wrote most of the Psalms in the Bible.

Memory Verse: There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (Isaiah 11:1).

Questions:

1. Describe the outstanding qualities of David.
2. What was the tribe of David?
3. Write an essay on how Israel became a nation.

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LESSON 7

SOLOMON - THE WISE KING

(I Kings: 1-12 chapters)

Aim: Man often thinks that all his ways are straight. But only the way shown by the Lord who weighs the hearts of all men, will be right.

King David became old. He had been praying to God to show him a successor. Adonijah, one of the sons of David tried to make himself king with the help of Joab, the chief of army, and Abiathar, the priest. On hearing this, Nathan the prophet told Bathsheba, mother of Solomon, to inform the king what was happening. On command from David, Nathan and Zadok, the priest took Solomon on the mule used only by David, to Gihon, followed by a great multitude of people and anointed him king. They blew the trumpet and declared that Solomon was the king of Israel. Adonijah was afraid and withdrew from the scene.

David knew that his end was near. He advised Solomon everything concerning governance of the people. In the Levite tribe there were more than 38,000 people. They were divided into special groups of singers in the house of the Lord, helpers, judges of people, and rulers. Priests were appointed to serve every week. Necessary rules concerning all these were written.

Solomon raised a huge army and conquered all the enemies that remained. Israel had peace all over. He married the daughter of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and earned his goodwill.

Once, Solomon offered 1,000 burnt offerings to the Lord at the altar in Gibeon. The Lord was pleased with Solomon. He appeared to Solomon and asked him to pray for any boon. But Solomon very humbly requested the Lord to give him wisdom to distinguish between good and bad, so that he might rule Israel, the people chosen by the Lord, properly. God was very pleased at this and gave him a wise and noble heart that no man had had before, and, in addition, riches and honour in abundance. (1K 3:5-15)

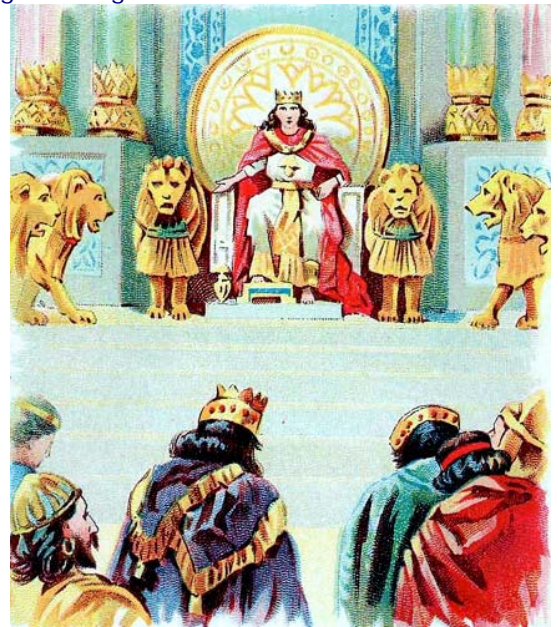
The blessed Solomon offered more sacrifices at the tabernacle and gave a big feast to all with him.

These are the important people with Solomon in his reign. Jehosaphath was the Chief Minister. Benaiah was Chief of Army, Zadok and Abiathar were the priests, Azariah was chief of officers, Zabud was the principal officer and the king's friend, Ahishas was the chief housekeeper, Adonirah was chief of labourers. Solomon had a very mighty army with powerful weapons.

Solomon the wise, ruled for forty years with might and prosperity, and lived for sixty years.

Solomon lived in great grandeur and for expenses, he had to impose heavy taxes on his people. As he had many wives from the heathen, he was compelled to worship their gods. This resulted in the anger of the Lord.

Even though he was a very wise man, he had to live against the laws of the Lord. He could not serve the Lord with the same devotion as his father. Consequently, the anger of the Lord came upon him. The Lord informed him that his country will be divided and a portion would be given to his servant. Later, it happened.



Memory Verse: The blessing of the Lord, it makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it. (Proverbs 10:22)

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Questions:

I Name the following:

- 1. The Son of David who tried to usurp power from David.
- 2. The Place where Solomon was anointed king.
- 3. Name of Solomon's mother.
- 4. Chief Minister of Solomon.
- 5. Chief housekeeper.

II Short answer:

- 1. Explain the part played by Nathan to make Solomon king.
- 2. What was the boon Solomon asked from the Lord?
- 3. At the end of his life, what did David do for Solomon?
- 4. How did Solomon get a wise heart?
- 5. What are the reasons for the downfall of Solomon?

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LESSON 8

THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

(Read 1 Kings 6 & 7 chapters; 2 Chronicle 3-7 chapters)

Aim: Man desires many things and the Lord gives him what is essential.

David brought peace to the land and built his beautiful capital at Jerusalem. He desired to build a beautiful temple for the Lord. The Lord did not want a temple to be built by David who had shed too much blood in subduing his enemies. His successor, Solomon was the blessed one to build the temple.

David had gathered everything required for the construction of the temple. He had prepared the ground, the master plan and all the construction materials. As the place was sacred, most of the fabrications were done elsewhere so that there would not be any sound of hand tools. David had also collected much gold and jewels and many other precious things which could not be measured in value. Hiram, king of Tyre, supplied all the wood required.

Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem using all these items collected and dedicated for the work by David. In the 480th year of the Exodus of Israel from Egypt, Solomon began the construction work. One Lakh, Fifty-three Thousand and Six Hundred people worked for the building of the temple. It took seven years to complete the work.

The temple had three portions - Most Holy Place, The Oracle and the Porch. At the most holy place, the ark of God was placed.

The dedication festival of the temple continued for seven days. All the Israelites were invited for this. For the thanksgiving offering 20,000 oxen and 1, 26,000 sheep were sacrificed. At the end of the sacrifice, Solomon prayed to God with a heart full of gratitude for the temple and for Israel. Fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house. (1 K 8:21, 2 Chron. 6, 7 chapters). All the people departed with joy and peace in their hearts.

After the temple, Solomon built a beautiful palace for himself. He also built great walls around the city.

Solomon had the unique opportunity to build the first temple in the world. However his last days were unpleasant and he deviated from the path of God.



Memory Verse: Unless the Lord builds the house those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Ps. 127:1)

Questions

1. Which place was selected by Solomon for building the temple?
2. Which king helped Solomon by giving necessary wood for the temple?
- II How many people participated in the temple construction?
- III How long did it take to complete building the temple?
- IV What had David done for the construction of the temple?

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V What did Solomon do to render the Temple in Jerusalem and the city safe and secure?

VI What was the programme for the dedication of the temple?

VII What were the arrangements inside the temple?

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LESSON -9

THE DOWNFALL OF ISRAEL

(Read 1 Kings 12: 31 to 22: 40)

Aim: Whatever be the gains, they last only if we live according to the Will of God, depend upon God and realize His will.

Solomon reigned in a pompous way. However, having difficulty for money, he had to take taxes from people to sustain himself. He had to sell 20 cities to the king of Hiram for money. He also had to encourage idol worship, as he had many wives from the heathen who forced him to do so. This caused anger from the Lord. The Lord informed him that the kingdom would be rent from him and would be given to his servant, as he had not kept the Lord's covenants and statutes. However, a tribe would be given to him for the sake of David and for the sake of Jerusalem, which the Lord had chosen. (1 K. 11:11-13)

Solomon came to know that his servant Jeroboam would get the kingship. Solomon tried to kill him. Jeroboam fled to Egypt. Solomon's son, Rehoboam succeeded him to the throne of Israel.

The people requested him to reduce the taxes which Solomon imposed. Rehoboam did not listen to the request of the people. He, in fact, tried to, increase them further. As a result of this, he lost the support of the people. Only the tribes of Judah and Benjamin were on the king's side.

Other tribes called Jeroboam from Egypt and made him their king. Thus the kingdom was divided. Jeroboam built his capital at Shechem and ruled from there and Rehoboam from Jerusalem.

Memory Verse: "Obey my voice, and I will be your God and you shall be my people." (Jeremiah 7:23)

Questions:

1. Describe the sad end of Solomon's life.
2. Why did Jeroboam flee to Egypt?
3. Why did the majority of people reject Rehoboam?

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LESSON - 10

ELIJAH AND AHAB

(Read 1 Kings Chapter 17 onwards)

Aim: Learn to obey and follow those who have received the grace of the Lord and the power of His Spirit.

Ahab was the son of Omri, the king of Israel. His reign was full of idol worship and other abominable rites, not acceptable to the Lord. Ahab reigned for 22 years.

In those days, there were prophets who knew the Will of the Lord and who could foresee things to happen. Evil rulers persecuted them and even killed some of them.

Ahab desired to kill those prophets who questioned his evil deeds. He was timid to do so. His wife Jezebel, daughter of the King of Zidonians, was very evil. She killed many prophets. Obadiah who was the governor of the house of Ahab was perturbed. He hid 100 prophets in two groups in two caves and fed them with water and bread.

During those days, Elijah, the Tishbite, an inhabitant of Gilead, was chosen by the Lord. (1 K. 17:1) He was hiding at the brook of Cherith and the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the evening and morning.

Later the word of God came to Elijah to go to Zarephath and stay there with a widow. Because of draught no food was available. The woman had a little flour in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse. Elijah told her that the flour and oil would not end until the Lord sent rain upon the earth. The widow made food for them out of her flour and oil until the famine was over. Elijah lived there for some days.

Elijah met Ahab. They agreed to call all Israel to Mount Carmel to make sacrifices - one to Baal by his priests and another to the Lord God by Elijah. Nothing happened to the offering to Baal. No god came to consume it. When Elijah made the sacrifice, fire of the Lord fell and consumed the sacrifice. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is God." Also there was a downpour of rain. The baked land received enough water to grow plants in plenty. The famine disappeared. Most of the people believed in the Lord God.

When Jezebel heard all this, she was determined to kill Elijah. Elijah fled to Mount Horeb. The Lord said to Elijah to go to Damascus on the way and anoint Hazael to be king over Syria and Jehu king over Israel and anoint Elisha to be prophet to succeed Elijah (1 Kings 19:15, 16)

The Vineyard of Naboth: (1 Kings: 21: 1-17) Naboth, the Jazreelite had a vineyard near the palace of Ahab. Ahab told Naboth to sell him his vineyard so that Ahab could make it a garden of herbs. Naboth insisted that he would not part with the inheritance of his fathers. Ahab felt very unhappy and dejected at this. Then Jezebel, his wife the venomous woman pacified Ahab.

Jezebel sent letters to the chiefs of the city of Naboth under the seal of Ahab, proclaiming a fast and set Naboth on high place among the people. As planned earlier, two people came and witnessed that Naboth blasphemed against God and the king. There was nobody to say a word against it. Punishment for blasphemy against the king was stoning to death. Naboth was taken outside the city and was stoned to death. Jezebel kept her word and Ahab got the vineyard of Naboth.

As commanded by the Lord, Elijah met Ahab and told him, "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, shall dogs lick your blood and the dogs shall eat Jezebel by the walls of Jezreel." (1 K 21:18-29)

In the war with the Syrians, Ahab was fatally wounded. His blood spread in his chariot and dogs licked it. He died.

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After 14 years, Jehu killed Jehoram, son of Ahab and he entered the palace. On his command, the eunuchs threw down Jezebel from the tower and there dogs ate her flesh.

The prophesy of Elijah was thus fulfilled. Elijah, the faithful servant of the Lord was taken to heaven in his own flesh. Elijah reached God's presence as representative of the living.

Memory Verse: Whoever sins is guilty of breaking God's Law because he is breaking a law.

Questions:

I. Name the following:

- a) Ahab's father .
- b) Woman who caused the death of many prophets.
- c) The man who kept prophets in caves and sustained them.
- d) The mountain to where Elijah fled.

II. How did Elijah prove to Ahab that the true god is the Lord God?

III. How did the widow of Zarepheth sustain Elijah many days?

IV How did Ahab get the vineyard of Naboth?

V Why is Elijah called the representative of the living?

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LESSON 11

THE APOSTLES OF JESUS

Read: Mathew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:35-51

Aim: To understand the need to surrender oneself to become a disciple of Jesus.



Jesus received baptism from John the Baptist, his forerunner, and as preparation for his public service, Jesus spent forty days in the desert in prayer and fasting. At the end of this Satan tempted him in many ways. But Jesus defeated Satan by the power of the Word of God.

Jesus was passing through the bank of River Jordan. On seeing him, John the Baptist declared, "Behold the Lamb of God who bears the sins of the world."

Once, two of John's disciples went to the abode of Jesus and talked to him. They understood that He was the One who was to come. One of those disciples, Andrew, brought Simon Peter, his brother, to Jesus. When Jesus saw Simon, He said Simon's name would become 'Cephas', which means, a stone. Andrew, John and Peter were the first three disciples of Jesus.

The next day on their way to Galilee, Jesus saw Philip of Bethsaida and told him to follow him. Philip left everything behind and followed Jesus. Philip was the fourth disciple.

One of Philip's friends, Nathaniel (He was also called Bartholomew) approached Jesus. On seeing him, Jesus said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no slyness." Nathaniel cried out that Jesus was the Son of God and the King of Israel. Jesus told him that he would see greater things than those, and took him to the fold of his disciples.

Jesus took another seven more to the fold of the disciples and had thus 12 disciples. They were the ones entrusted with the task of propagating the good tidings to the whole world.

The twelve disciples

(Mathew 10:2-4; Luke 6:14-16)

1. St. Peter

Jesus called Simon, who approached Jesus through Andrew his brother. Simon was renamed Peter. Peter was a fisherman and Jesus made him a fisherman of people. Peter could convert 3000 people by his one sermon at

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Pentecost. He is known as the leader of the disciples. He established churches at Rome and at Antioch. In AD 37, the Church of Antioch was established. He also participated at the Synod at Jerusalem in AD 51. He was crucified in AD 67, by the order of Nero, the Roman emperor. On his request, Peter was crucified head down, so that he could kiss the feet of Jesus. He has written two epistles. It is believed that Peter has helped Mark in writing his Gospel.

The Patriarchs of Antioch are the successors to the throne established by St. Peter.

2. St. Andrew

Formerly, Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. Andrew brought Peter, his brother before Christ. At the city of Patra, the king of the city ordered to crucify Andrew. Later, the king freed him. However, his end was by crucifixion. At that time, on seeing the radiance on his face, the queen of that country believed in Jesus. On her request, he was buried at the royal court. His cross was in the shape of and is known as St. Andrew's Cross.

3. St. James (James the Elder)

He was one of the sons of Zebedee of Bethsaida. It is believed that one of the women who saw the resurrected Christ first was James' mother. One of the trio who moved closely with Jesus quite often was James. James was the one who wanted to destroy Samaria by fire from heaven. His mother was the one who requested Jesus to allow him to sit by his right hand and John his brother to sit on his left hand in His glory. King Herod (also called Agrippa) sentenced James to death. It is seen in history that the person who took him to kill, repented. So he was also executed. The First Apostle Martyr was James. An angel of the Lord smote Agrippa who sentenced James to death.

4. St. John

He was a disciple of John the Baptist. John followed Jesus along with Andrew. Most of the historians say that he was a son of Zebedee. It is believed that Jesus loved him the most. On the cross, Jesus entrusted his mother to John. He lived up to 90 years and had a natural death.

5. St. Philip

Jesus called Philip of Bethsaida to the fold of his disciples. He was a learned man, having studied all the prophetic books. Philip requested Jesus to show him the Father (John 14:8). He spoke about Christ in many countries. The idol worshippers of Heropolis arrested him and crucified him. At the time of his crucifixion, there was an earthquake. On seeing this, his afflictors wanted to bring him down from the cross. They could not do it because of Philip's prayer. He became a martyr.

6. St. Bartholomew (Nathaniel)

He was from Cana of Galilee. He was amongst those who saw the resurrected Jesus at the shore of the sea of Tiberias. He has established a few churches. He had once escaped crucifixion because of an earthquake. It is believed that the pagan priests at Lycaonia skinned him alive and crucified him head down.

7. St. Thomas

He was from Galilee. He was also known as Juda. He was particular that he would not believe anything until he had seen it. Once he was convinced, he would not budge an inch. He came to India in AD 52 and propagated the gospel. He is known as the Apostle of the East. He has established many churches. In AD 75, at Mylapore, the Apostle was thrust with a spear. On the third day he died (December 21). In AD 396, July 3rd, his mortal remains were taken to Uraha and were buried in a church. July 3rd is the commemoration day of St. Thomas. A small part of his mortal remains was brought to Malankara by the Patriarch, Elias the III.

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8. St. Matthew

He was from Nazareth. He was also known as Levy. He was a tax collector. Jesus called him to be a disciple. While propagating the gospel, he performed many wonders. He resurrected a prince of Afjaniya. On seeing this, the king and many of his lords became believers. As desired by the believers, he had written the gospel in Syrian language. The princess who was resurrected wanted to remain a spinster. But the person who became king next, wanted to marry her. The king told Mathew to persuade her to be his wife. As Mathew did not obey the king, it is believed that the king killed him.

9. St. Judas

He was called Thaddeus and also Labi. He is that Judas mentioned in St. John as the Judas other than Iscariot. He preached the gospel in many countries. In an island called Yervad, it is believed that he was stoned to death.

10. St. James (Son of Alphaeus)

He was a tax collector. He preached the gospel in many countries. It is believed that enemies hanged him in Egypt.

11. St. Simon

He is called 'zealot'. He also preached the gospel in many countries. It is believed that enemies hanged him.

12. St. Matthias

The twelfth disciple, Jesus chose was Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus and hanged himself. In his place, Matthias was chosen as the twelfth disciple at the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He was from Bethlehem. He also preached the gospel in many places. There are two opinions about his death. One says he became a martyr in the city of "Hicansmas" and the other that he was stoned to death at Jerusalem.

13. St. Paul

Though not included in the twelve, Jesus called him also. He repented and became a preacher with zeal and determination. He was a very learned person and became one of the greatest preachers. All over Christendom, Peter and Paul are accepted as the greatest leading Apostles. In AD 67, Emperor Nero beheaded him. Paul has written many epistles in the New Testament.

Memory Verse: Remember your former leaders, who spoke to you the Word of God; think back on how they lived and died and practiced their faith (Hebrew 13:7)

Questions:

1. Write the names:

- a) They only disciple who had a natural death.
- b) Who was skinned and killed?
- c) The place where the mortal remains of St. Thomas is buried.

2. Write Short Notes on:

- a) St. James, the Elder

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b) St. Peter

3. What are the morals a Christian should learn from the lives of Apostles?

4. Write the names of the disciples of Jesus.

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LESSON 12

JESUS IN HIS VILLAGE SYNAGOGUE

Aim: To understand that to make man godlike, God came like a man. He is Jesus Christ.

Joseph along with Mary and the infant Jesus went to Egypt to escape from Herod, as guided by God. After the death of that king, Joseph brought them back to Nazareth. It caused Jesus to be called a Nazarene. The child grew up and strengthened in Spirit.

From his childhood, Jesus used to go to the Synagogue with Mary, his mother and Joseph. He used to read and discuss the Old Testament with elders in the synagogue.

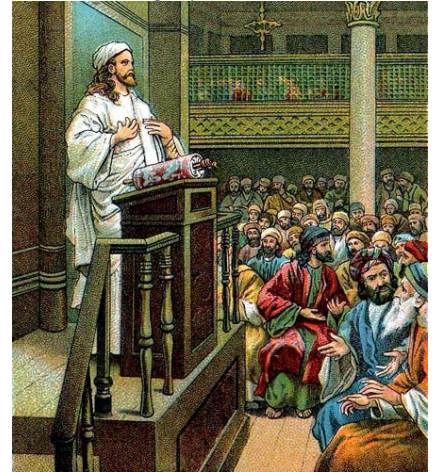
In the beginning of his mission Jesus went to his own village, Nazareth. He came to the synagogue. There he was given the book of Isaiah to read. He read Isaiah, 61: 1-3. Jesus said, "As it is written, I have come to preach good tidings to the meek, and the Spirit of the Lord God is upon me." He continued, "Today as you have heard me, this scripture is fulfilled."

All the people were astonished at the gracious words that proceeded from his mouth. They spoke to each other, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "No prophet is accepted in his own country."

When they heard the powerful words of Jesus, the elders of the people were filled with wrath. They rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon that city was built, so that they might cast him headlong. But he, passing through the midst of them, went his way.

Jesus had said that the widow of Sarapta, and Naaman, the Syrian were pagans and they received God's blessings. But His own people were not worthy to receive such blessings. Such preaching irritated them and they sought to kill him.



The Spirit of the Lord saved him from all perils. And he continued to preach in the fullness of the Spirit.

Memory Verse: You will seek me; when you seek with your whole heart, you will find me.

Questions: (Write in two or three sentences)

1. Why was Jesus called a Nazarene?
2. Why did the elders in the synagogue wonder at his words?
3. How did Jesus criticize the elders of the synagogue?
4. How did they try to destroy Jesus? How did he escape?

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LESSON 13

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

(Read Matthew chapters 5, 6&7 and Luke chapter 6:20-49)

Aim: To understand the substance of the famous Sermon on the Mount by Jesus.

A huge multitude of people always followed Jesus to hear his words, to get healed of their sickness and to attain redemption. One day he stood at a high place and spoke to thousands of people, how to attain the Kingdom of God. This is known as the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount contains Jesus Christ's advices and instructions that a Christian must obey in his life. The main points are as follows.

The Sermon begins with a list of blessed people (Mathew 5:1-12)

The declaration that you are the salt of the earth indicates the importance of sacrifice. Then He speaks of the fulfillment of the scripture.

Jesus teaches us about love for each other, importance of determination and winning over evil by good deeds.

The other subjects are real fear of God, how to pray, the need for fasting, offering of alms, and so on. Other prominent subjects include how to give ourselves up for getting grace of God, how to treat others; benefits of prayer, how to attain the Kingdom of God, deceits of false prophets, etc.



He concludes his sermon pointing out the important traits a real disciple of Jesus should have.

Memory Verse: "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

Questions:

1. Write an essay on the main points Christ preached on the mount.
2. What are the traits of a true disciple of Christ?
3. "You are the salt of the earth," what does this statement indicate?

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LESSON 14

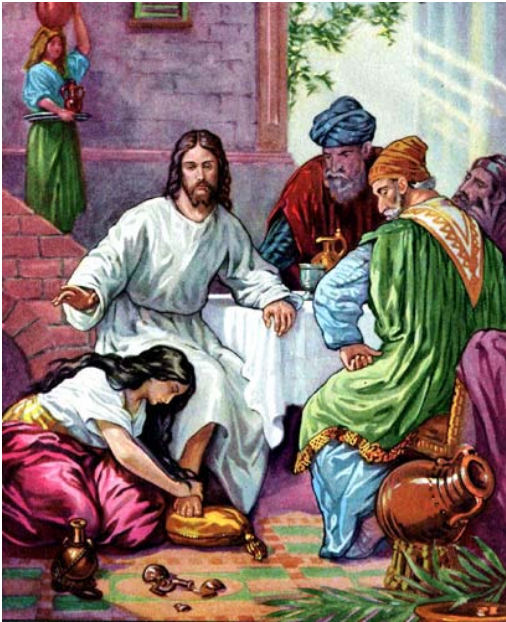
JESUS AND THE SINNER WOMAN

(Read Luke chapter 7. 36-50)

Aim: To understand that those who attain redemption from sin through true repentance get real mental peace and salvation.

Once a prominent Pharisee, Simon, invited Jesus to his house for a dinner. When Jesus came to his house, Simon did not receive him properly. He did not receive him with the customary kiss. He did not give water to wash his feet, nor oil to anoint his head. Possibly, Simon considered Jesus an ordinary man.

A sinful woman of that city knew that Jesus had come to Simon's house. Though the people hated her, she was preparing for a change. She knew that Jesus could forgive all her sins. So, she reached Simon's house with an alabaster jar filled with an expensive perfume.



When she saw Jesus, she went to him and sat at his feet. She washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair, and anointed his feet with the perfume.

When Simon observed what that woman was doing, he said to himself that Jesus was not a prophet at all. If so, he would have known what kind of a woman was touching him.

Reading his thoughts, Jesus asked him, "Simon, I have something to say to you. There was a man who had two debtors; one owed him five hundred pence and the other fifty. When they could not pay, the creditor mercifully forgave them both. Tell me, therefore, which of them will love him most?" Simon answered without hesitation that to whom most was forgiven, he would love most.

Jesus told him that what he said was right. Turning to the woman, Jesus said to Simon, "See this woman, I entered your house and you gave me no water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave me no kiss, but this woman, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but this woman

has anointed my feet with perfume. Wherefore, I say unto you, her sins which are many are forgiven; for she loved much". Simon could not say anything.

Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace." The woman went away in peace and happiness.

Memory Verse: Repent, then, and turn to God, so that he will forgive your sins " (Acts: 3:19)

Questions:

1. What was the way of receiving guests at the time of Christ?
2. What sort of indifference did Simon show to Christ?
3. What did the sinner woman do, approaching Christ?
4. What did Jesus say to the woman?

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5. Write in a paragraph:

- a) The character of Simon
- b) Forgiveness of sins of the woman
- c) The moral of this story.

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LESSON - 17

CONVERSION OF ZACCHAEUS

Read Luke 19: 1-12

Aim: To learn that if one so desires, he can repent at any time and that Christ is the protector of our home.

Jericho, a city situated at the western side of river Jordan, was a business centre. The government appointed tax collectors to levy tax according to the value of goods brought to the market. Zacchaeus was one of the leaders of the tax collectors. Often, they levied more tax on goods and the excess amount collected they kept for themselves. People were unhappy at this unjust practice. The general people hated tax collectors. They did not like to mingle with tax collectors or to sit to eat with them.

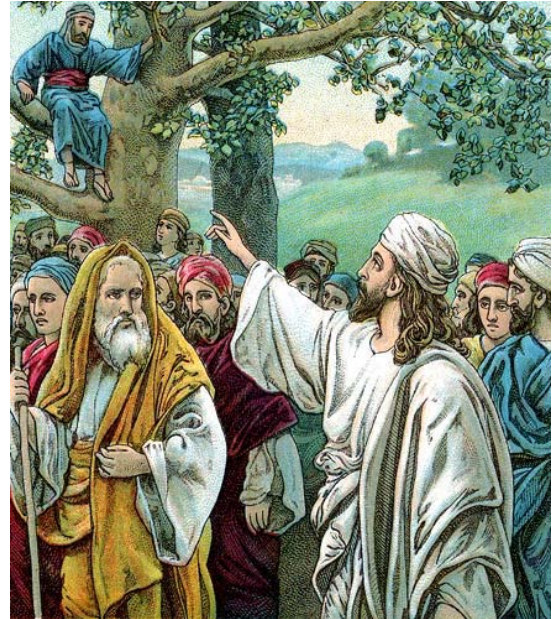
Zacchaeus had heard of Christ and he longed to see how Jesus looked. One day Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was passing through the city. He came to the road to see him. Zacchaeus was short, and it was difficult for him to see Jesus. So he ran ahead and climbed up on a sycamore tree so that he could see Jesus in the crowd.

When Jesus reached below the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly for today I must abide at your house." Zacchaeus was surprised and hastily came down and led Jesus to his house. He received him most reverently. Many of the people were not happy as Jesus had gone to the house of a tax collector as a guest.

In the meantime Zacchaeus thought to himself what sort of man he was and what he would be. Real repentance took place in his heart. He stood before Jesus and announced that he would give half of his wealth to the poor. And he would restore fourfold if he had taken anything unjustly. It was his new decision.

On knowing the change in Zacchaeus, Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost." Zacchaeus repented and received Jesus as his saviour. He got real peace in his life.

This is the Bible portion which is read by priests when blessing a house.



Memory Verse: He heals the broken hearted, and binds up their wounds. (Psalms 147:3)

Questions:

1 Write reasons why:

- a) People disliked the tax collectors.
- b) Zacchaeus climbed up on a tree.
- c) People were unhappy when Jesus went to the house of Zacchaeus.
- d) Zacchaeus announced that he would give half of his wealth to the poor.
- e) Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house."

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II Write an essay comparing the character of Zacchaeus before seeing Jesus and after.

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LESSON 18

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Aim: To learn that conversion of one will cause repentance and salvation of many. (John 4:5-42)

Jesus and his disciples reached a Samaritan city called Sychar. Jesus was weary of the long journey and he sat near a well. His disciples went to the city to buy food.

It was noontime. A Samaritan woman came there to draw water. The tired Jesus asked her for some water to drink.

Jews considered Samaritans untouchables. So she asked him, being a Jew, how could he ask her for water.

Jesus replied that if she had known who was asking for water, she would have asked him for living water.

The woman said the well was very deep and Jesus had no way of drawing water.

Jesus said that whosoever drank that water, would thirst again. The woman requested him for such living water so that she might not thirst again and might not go again to draw water.

Jesus told her to bring her husband. The woman said she had no husband. Jesus replied that what she said was right. She had five husbands, whereas, the present man was not her husband. The woman was startled and addressed Jesus 'Master', and said that her forefathers worshipped at that mountain, but Jews said that the place of prayer was Jerusalem.

Jesus told her that the place of true worship was not that mountain or Jerusalem but to worship God in Spirit. Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

The woman told Jesus that she was aware that Christ was to come. And when he would come, he would tell all the things. Jesus told her that He was the Messiah.

By this time his disciples reached there with food. The woman left her vessel there and ran to the city. She told one and all to come and see a man who might be Messiah. People from that city came and saw Jesus and heard him. They were convinced that He was the Christ and believed in Him.

Through the conversion of one Samaritan woman, many were converted and believed in Christ.



Memory Verse: "My food is to obey the will of the one who sent me, and to finish the work he gave me to do." (John 4:34)

Questions:

1. Why did the Samaritan woman hesitate to give water to Jesus?
2. "He who drinks the water I give, will not thirst again." What is the hidden meaning of this sentence?

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3. What was the belief of Samaritans about the coming of Messiah?
4. What did the Samaritan woman tell the people of the city?
5. What did the people of the city do when they heard the woman?

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LESSON - 19

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

(Read: Matthew: 17:1-18; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36; 2 Peter 1:16-18)

Aim: To understand that the transfiguration helps to stabilize men who are weak by nature, and to prove that God strengthens His Son who is incarnated.

Once Jesus took Peter, James and John to a mountain to pray. They were all engrossed in prayer. All of a sudden a big bright light spread around them. The face of Jesus shone like the sun. Moses and Elijah appeared there and were talking with Jesus. All this the disciples saw.

Peter was filled with heavenly joy and told Jesus that it was good for them to stay there. He would build three tabernacles, one for Jesus, another for Moses and the third one for Elijah. While he was still talking, a bright cloud overshadowed them and there came a voice out of the cloud, which said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, you hear Him."

The disciples became very afraid and they fell down on their faces and they were not able to say a thing. Jesus came to them and touched them. They woke up and looked around. They saw only Jesus there.

Moses (the representative of the departed) and Elijah (the representative of the living) appeared in glory and spoke to Jesus about his death on the cross.

God, the Father had spoken twice before about the Son.

1. At the time of his baptism. (Mathew 3;17)
2. While he was talking with the Jews (John 12:28)

Memory Verse: "This is my beloved Son, hear ye him." (Luke 9:35)

Questions:

1. Who were the disciples with Jesus at his transfiguration?
2. Who all appeared at the Transfiguration? Whom did they represent? What do we learn about the dead from this incident?
3. What did the voice from the cloud say?
4. How many times did the Father above testify His Son? When were they?



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LESSON - 20

HOSANNA

(Read: Mathew 21:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; Mark 11:1-10; John 12:12-19)

Aim: To learn that Jesus is the Prince who was born for the salvation of the world and that humility is the foundation of greatness.

So far Jesus continued his public service without revealing that He was the Messiah to come. Jesus allowed this procession to Jerusalem possibly to convince the people that He was the Son of Man with royal powers.

At the last stage of his public service, five days before Passover as Jesus was traveling from Jericho to Jerusalem and when they were near the Mount of Olives, he told two of his disciples, "Go to the village over beyond you; at the entrance you will find a colt tied, on whom no man has sat, bring the colt here. If any man asks you why you untie the colt, tell him that the Lord has need of it."

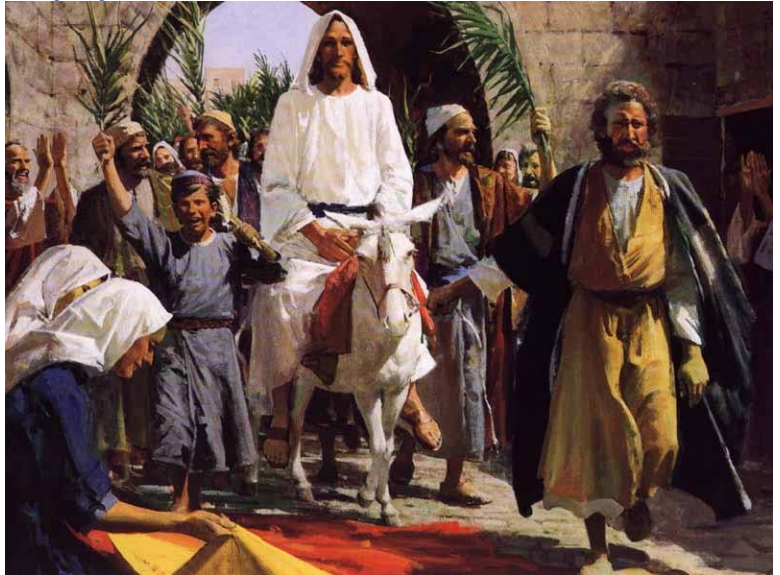
They brought the colt to him and they cast their garments on the colt. Jesus sat on it and started his journey to Jerusalem. The multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." They spread their clothes on the road, cut branches of trees and placed them on the way. They took tender palm leaves and held them high as they went and made that procession worthy of a king.

The prophecy as revealed in Zechariah 9:9 was thus fulfilled. The Jewish leaders did not like the procession. They came to Jesus and wanted him to tell the multitude to keep quiet. Then Jesus said, "I tell you that if these people hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

He continued his journey. At the mountain top, he saw Jerusalem and wept over it, remembering the terrible days ahead. Nobody else would have noticed it.

When Jesus reached the temple, he got down and went into it. As it was late evening, they all dispersed and Jesus went to Bethany. (Mark 11:11).

Next day he went to the temple again. It was Passover festival season. Many vendors were selling goods in the temple. Jesus sent all of them out of the temple. He said, "It is written that my house shall be called the house of prayer of all nations, but you have made it a den of thieves."



The scribes and chief priests who were getting a share of business in the temple were furious at it. They kept their anger in their minds. As all the people were with Jesus, they could not do any thing.

Memory Verse: *"My house shall be called the house of prayer of all nations. You have made it a den of thieves." (Mark 11:17)*

Questions:

1. When did Jesus go to Jerusalem in a procession?

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2. Why did Jesus agree to go to Jerusalem in procession?
3. Why did Jesus choose an ass as his conveyance?
4. What irritated the leaders of Jews in the procession? What did they want of Jesus?
5. What was the reply Jesus gave them?
6. Why did Jesus shed tears on seeing Jerusalem?
7. Why were the scribes and chief priests furious at Jesus for casting out the vendors from the temple?

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LESSON - 21

A MODEL OF HUMBLENESS

Read: Mathew 26:17-29; Luke 22:7-38; Mark 14:12-25; John 13:54-20.

Aim: Jesus did not come into the world to be served; but to serve and to show the world the need to serve and love one another.

The main three festivals of the Jews are (1) Passover, (2) the festival of the unleavened bread and (3) Pentecost.

After their royal procession to Jerusalem, the disciples asked Jesus where to prepare the Passover feast. Jesus called two of his disciples (Peter and John) and told, "You go into the city and there you shall meet a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him. And wheresoever he shall go in, you tell the goodman of the house, the Master says, where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the Passover with my disciples? And he will show you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make the feast ready for us."

They went and prepared Passover feast as told by Jesus. In the evening, Jesus and his disciples went there. They all sat down to eat. Jesus knew it was his last supper. Jesus blessed the bread and broke it and told them that it was his body. He blessed the cup of wine and told them that it was his blood. They took the bread and wine. He commanded them to observe this in remembrance of Him. Thus the Holy Qurbana was established at the upper room at Jerusalem.

After the supper, Jesus rose up. He removed his upper garment and took a towel and girded himself with it. He took some water in a vessel and began to wash the feet of his disciples. In those days, it was slaves who washed the feet of the guests. But Jesus washed their feet as a symbol of humility and as a mark of their mutual love and service.

Peter did not like Jesus washing his feet. Then Jesus said if his feet were not washed by him, Peter would not have any share with him. Then Peter requested not only his feet, but his hands and head also be washed. Jesus said those who had taken bath were clean and they need wash their feet only. He finished washing their feet and wiped them with the towel.

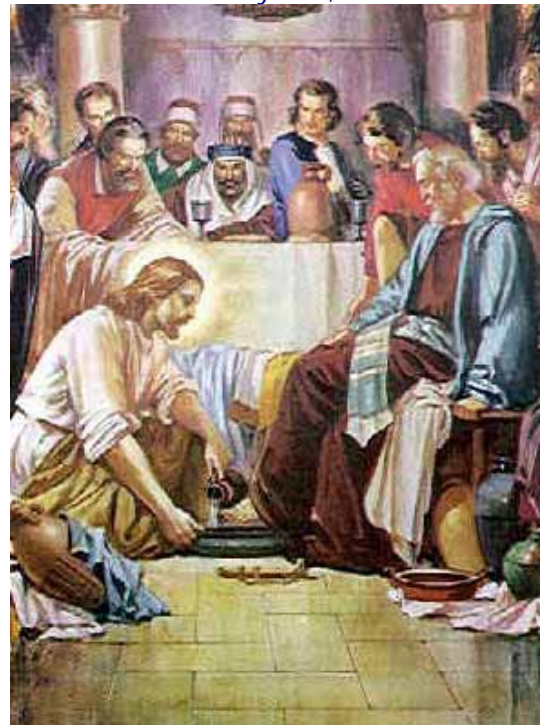
Jesus continued, "If your Lord and Master has washed your feet; you also ought to wash one another's feet. The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him." He told them many more things and finished the supper. Judas Iscariot left the place immediately after the supper.

Jesus went with his disciples over the brook Cedron to the garden Gethsemane. (Only John has explained about the washing of feet of the disciples).

Memory Verse: "Belittle yourself before the Lord; and He will extol you." (James 4:10)

Questions:

1. What are the important festivals of the Jews?
2. Who established the Holy Qurbana?
3. What is the hidden meaning in the washing of feet?



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4. Humility and love - How did Jesus express these qualities?

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LESSON-22

THE PRAYER AT GETHSEMANE

Read: Mathew 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46; Mark 14: 32-43.

Aim: In the most difficult situations in life, God will give whatever help necessary to those who pray to Him with a broken heart.

After his last supper, He spoke of many things to his disciples. They went to mount Olive.

As arranged with the chief priests and elders of the people, Judas Iscariot was waiting for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

Jesus told his disciples about his crucifixion and that they all would flee leaving him alone. Peter said that, he would never leave Jesus. Then Jesus said that before the cock crowed that night, he would deny Jesus thrice. Later it so happened.

Jesus told his disciples to stay at a place. He then went a little further with Peter, James and John and told them to pray. He went ahead a few yards, fell on his face and began to pray with a heavy sorrowful heart.



In his whole life in this world, this was the most sorrowful time for him. His sweat appeared like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. In his mental agony, he prayed, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done." At Gethsemane he was surrendering himself fully to the Father.

When he came back, he found the three disciples were asleep. With a compassionate heart, he woke them up. He asked Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch with me one hour"? He said to his disciples, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

Again he went away and prayed. When he returned, he found them asleep again. He went again to pray. On the third time also he found them sleeping.

By praying to his Father, he got strength in spirit. He told the disciples to take rest. They left that place. It was after midnight. The whole place was quiet. The moon shone as if it were going to witness the greatest event in human history.

Jesus was expecting the betrayer. Judas came and said, "Hail Master," and kissed him. Immediately the soldiers fell upon Jesus and bound him.

Memory Verse: "Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak." (Mathew 26:41)

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Questions:

1. Why did Jesus pray with a sorrowful heart?
2. Why was Jesus sad when he found them asleep?
3. What is the message that Jesus gives to the world through his prayer at Gethsemane?
4. Explain the context.
 - a) "Father, if thou willing, remove this cup from me."