

**MALANKARA JACOBITE SYRIAN
SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**



TEXT BOOK CLASS – III

2009



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PREFACE

We are thankful to our Lord Almighty in helping us and guiding us through the work of these Sunday school books. These books are the translations of the “Padamanjari” published by Malankara Jacobite Syrian Sunday School Association.

Children of our community, unable to read and write Malayalam were finding it very difficult to study and understand the faith of our church taught in Malayalam. Even in Kerala, children studying in CBSE and English Medium schools are not able to assimilate Malayalam. Circumstances forced us to have English version for the text books. Now the syllabus has changed that caused the second edition of the text books.

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

We are also grateful to St.Peters Jacobite Syrian Church Baharin who helped us for publishing these text Books in English.

**Puthencruz
17.08.2009**

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



TEXT BOOK FOR CLASS III
(English)

Prepared by :
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MALANKARA JACOBITE SYRIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Malankara Syrian Sunday School Association was formed in December 27, 1920 at a meeting held at Piravom seminary presided over by St. Paulose Athanasious Metropolitan, known as the "Protector of the True Faith". In 1964 when peace was established in the church M.S.S.A. joined the Sunday School Association of the catholicos faction and continued functioning in the name O.S.S.A.E. But the Catholicos ordained by H.H. the Patriarch in 1964, put forward the claim of a new throne in the church contrary to the true faith and canons of the Church which resulted in the split in the Sunday Association also.

In 1973 a meeting of the Sunday school teachers held in connection with the Patriarchal day decided to reorganize the Sunday Schools which owed allegiance to the Holy Throne of Antioch and All the East. Thus Malankara Jacobite Syrian Sunday school Association was formed in the meeting held at St. Peter's Church, Ernakulam on February 20, 1974. The association byelaw was passed in the meeting held at Baker Memorial School, Kottayam on October 2, 1974. The Association is governed by the byelaws amended and approved by the General Body from time to time and subsequently got registered under the Charitable Societies Act.

H.H. the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East is the Supreme Patron and H.B. the Catholicos is the patron of the Association.

The "Atma Deepam" magazine, an organ of the Association enlightens the souls as the name itself implies. There is an examination wing which controls and conducts the examination from Class I to XII including JSSLC. The JSVBS wing prepares study materials and conducts training camps for teachers for the Vacation Bible School all over India. There is a wing which conducts "Balakalolsavam" at Sunday school, District, Diocese and Association level. Another wing conducts camps for teachers and students. All these wings are functioning from the headquarters. Thus the headquarters at Puthencruz is the nerve centre of various activities of the MJSSA.

M.J.S.S.A. has also started a charity scheme in the name "Mor Baselios Paulose II Catholicos charitable Fund" for the poor and backward.

Plus two course was started for those who passed JSSLC. Syriac language is also taught in Sunday School classes. Several counselling centres are functioning under MJSSA. These were introduced as a Millennium Programme. Spread over in 74 districts there are 600 Sunday Schools, more than 8000 teachers and 60,000 students under MJSSA. No doubt MJSSA has a very important place in the Jacobite Syrian Christian Church in India.

PART 1
LESSON 1
PRAYER

MARICHAVARE JEEVIPPICKUNNAVANE ! NINACKU STHUTHI. KABARADAKKA
PPETTAVARE UYARPICKUNNAVANE NINAKKU STHUTHI! NINACKU STHUTHIYUM NINNE
AYACHA PITHAVINUM PARISUNDHA RUHAYICKUM PUKAZHACHAYUM UNDAYIRI
CKATTE. BARACKMOR

THIRUHIDATHAL MOONNUDIVASAM KABARIL AAYIRUNNA JEEVANULLA
PUTHRA NINTE VILAYERIYA REKTHATHAL NEE VILACKU VANGIYAVARAYA NJAGALUDE
VANGIPOYAVARE NEE UYARPPICHU JEEVIPPICKANAME. MORIYORAHEAM MELAYE
NUADHARAIEN.

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

O! Lord, one of Trinity, who by Your own will stayed in the tomb for
three days, give resurrection to our departed ones, for they were saved by Your
precious blood. Moriyo rahae melaye nu-adaraien.

ANUGRAHANGAL NIRANJIRIKKUNNAVANE ANUKOOLATHINTE DIVASATHIL NINTE
SRISHTIPPINE NEE PUTHANAKKI ANUKOOLAMAKKENAME. KARTHAVE! NINTE
ASHRAYATHE KURICHU MARICHU NINTE VARAVINAYI NOKKI PARTHIRIKKUNNA
NJANGALUDE MARICHU POYAVARE NEE PUNYAMAKKANAME. ABRAHIMINTEYUM,
ISAHAKINTEYUM, YACOBINTEYUM MADIYIL AVERE NEE PARPPIKKANAME.
VANNAVANUM, VARUNNAVANUM MARICHAVARE ANUKOOLAMAKUNNANANUM
AYAVAN VAZHTHAPETTAVANAKUNNU ENNU SAREERANGALUM, AATHMAKKALUM
SARIYAYITTU NILAVILICHU PARAYUMARAKANAME, AMEN.

O! merciful Lord, renew Your creation on the day of resurrection. O!
Lord, grant rest and comfort to our beloved departed ones who have lived and
died with hope in You.

O! Lord grant rest to our faithful departed in the bosom of Abraham,
Issac and Jacob.

May the souls and bodies together cry aloud and say: glory be to the
one who has come and is to come to resurrect the departed. Amen.

PART II
LESSON 2
QURBONO SONGS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Paulose Sleeha
Dhanyan cholkatte nithevam
Ningale njangalareechavayee-
nnethirayaranum chonnal
Vaanavanenkilu maadhoothan
Thaanelkkum sabhayin shaapam
Palathara mupadeshangalaho
Paaril mulachu parakkunnu
Daivathinnupadesham tho-
tavasaanippippon dhanyan</p> | <p>Paul the Blessed
Saint, the Lord's Apostle, said
If one come to preach to you
Other doctrine than we knew,
Be he man or angel bright,
Curs'd be he in Church's sight;
Doctrines all diverse arise,
Shooting up with many lies;
Blest is he who first and last
Trusts God's truth and holds it fast.</p> |
| <p>2. Yajamaanan varumannera
thunarvulloraai than
Munthiri thoppil paniyaayi
Kaanmore dhanyaraam
Pakalellaam than
Koodeppanithor-
Kkavanara ketti
Parikarmmicheedum
Thaathaniruthum meshaykkaai
Parikarmmikkum suthan
Rooh kudshaa paarakaleetha
Mudayunnoro mudi
Haaleluyyaa Choodum makudathil</p> | <p>Blessed are those servants good
Whom their Lord shall find
Wakeful, working when He comes
To His Vine-yard good
Girding up His-loins He serves them all-
They who worked with-
Him from morn till eve,
God the Father makes them sit,
And the Son serves them
Lo, the Holy Paraclete
Plaits them victor's crowns-
Haleluiah-setting on their heads.</p> |
| <p>3 Orupolingum (Mor Thoma Sleeha)
Untemelum ninnormma
Uthakaname nin praarthana nin
Ormmaye bahumaani chorkkaai
Sthoumen kalos, kurielaison</p> | <p>(O! St Thomas,) as in heav'n,
Keep we here thy memory;
Hear us as we honor thee,
Thy entreaties be our aid.
Sthoumen kalos, kurielaison</p> |
| <p>4 Maramathinuyare karthaave!
kallanu kittiya ninte varam
Thrithwathe kondaadi mari-
chorum kaikkondeenam.</p> | <p>May departed ones receive-
Who confessed the Trinity-
What was Promised to the theif-
Paradise with Thee O Lord</p> |

PART III
OLD TESTAMENT
LESSON 3
JOSEPH
(Genesis: 37, 39-46)

Objective: To understand how God safeguards His loved ones.

Jacob had 12 sons and a daughter. Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob. He was the eldest of the two sons of Jacob from Rachel. Joseph means ‘May He add’.

Jacob was fond of Joseph more than others because he was his son of old age. Jacob also gave a special coat of many colors to Joseph. His brothers were jealous of him as Joseph was the darling of his father.

Once Jacob sent Joseph alone to his brothers who were tending the sheep at the hills. They put him in a dry well in the desert. Later, when they sat down to eat they saw a company of Ishmaelite merchants on their way to Egypt. At Judah’s suggestion, they pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him as slave for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites. His brothers showed the torn pieces of his coat dipped in a goat’s blood to their father. Jacob believed that a wild beast had devoured him. He was grief stricken and could not be consoled (Genesis 37: 19 – 35).

The traders sold Joseph to Potipher, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

Memory Verse: The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honour and life. (Proverbs 22:4)

Answer the following

1. Name the mother of Joseph ?
2. The brothers felt jealous against Joseph, why ?
3. Where did Joseph stay when he was a slave ?
4. What is the present name of Mesrane ?

Lesson - 4

JOSEPH - FROM PRISON TO MINISTRY

Wife of Potipher caused much misery to Joseph. Believing her lies, Potipher sent Joseph to prison. The Lord was with him and showed him mercy and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. Joseph was assigned 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 both had dreams 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 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 on the same night. Joseph told the meaning with the blessing of God. The ensuing seven years would be of great plenty throughout the land of Egypt and afterwards there would be seven years of famine. Joseph told the King that it would be wise to collect all the food grains of the years of plenty against the seven years of famine. Pharaoh was greatly impressed in the knowledge and wisdom of Joseph. Pharaoh gave him the position next to him and made him minister over the land of Egypt. Because of the able administration of Joseph, Egypt and the surrounding places survived the famine.

Joseph brought his father and brothers to Mesrine (Egypt) they stayed in Rameses. Though seventy persons were brought they grew in to large numbers and Known as Isrelites.

Moral: God is capable of raising His servants from prison to the royal throne.

Memory Verse: "Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you"
(James 4:10)

I. Answer the following

1. What happened when Joseph was in the prison?
2. What was the interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams?
3. Who are known as Isrelites?

LESSON 5
GOD CALL MOSES
(Exodus: Chapter 3 & 4)

Objective: To learn that we are obliged to humbly accept and perform the work that God entrust us.

Moses reached the house of Jethro, a priest of Midian. Jethro gave Moses Zipporah, his daughter, in marriage. Moses tended his father-in-law's flock. One day Moses led the flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to 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 was astonished that the bush was burning, but that it was not consumed. He went near the bush to see that marvelous sight. God then called 'Moses, Moses' from the midst of the burning bush. Moses replied, "God here I am".

God told him to take off his shoes, as the ground where he stood was holy. (This is why we remove our shoes when we enter the church) Moses was afraid to look and stood there hiding his face. The Lord God told Moses that He had seen the affliction of the children of Israel. God told Moses that He would send him to Pharaoh so that he might bring them forth out of Egypt

Moses expressed his limitations to God that he was not an able person to fulfill this order. Moses again told God that the people of Israel may not believe him and may say that God has not appeared to him. God did not accept the excuses put forth by Moses. God gave him three signs to make the people of Israel believe him. 1. God told him to put his staff on ground, and it became a serpent. 2. God told him to put his hand into his bosom and when he took it out it was leprous. He put his hand again into his bosom and it became normal. 3. Still if they do not believe him, Moses was to take some water out of the river and pour it on the dry land and the water will become blood. Upon this Moses said to the Lord "I am not eloquent, I am slow of speech, and have a slow tongue". God strengthened him and commanded him to go, saying that He would send his brother Aaron to help him. God gave Moses power to do wonders before the Egyptians, and told him to go to Pharaoh and demand him to release the Israelites. Although hesitant, Moses accepted the command of God. He bid farewell to Jethro and returned to Egypt.

Moral: When we submit ourselves to the will of God, He will enable us to do greater things for Him.

Memory Verse: Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.
(Mathew 5:8)

I. Answer the following

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

LESSON 6
DELIVERANCE OF ISRAEL
(Exodus 7-12)

Objective: To learn that one should not challenge the power of God.

According to the commandment of God, Moses reached Egypt. His brother Aaron welcomed him. They both stood before Pharaoh and insisted that he liberate the Israelites. 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 turned their staffs into serpents. But the staff of Aaron swallowed the rods of the sorcerers. Still Pharaoh did not change his mind. He did not allow the Israelites to go. Instead, he made their lives more miserable.

So God decided to punish Pharaoh and his people. They had ten pestilences one after the other.

In each pestilence, the 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 pestilence. It happened nine times. All these nine times, there was no pestilence amongst the Israelites. The Lord God

protected them. The tenth pestilence was very serious. All the first-born of Egyptians, from Pharaoh to all his people, and the first born of their beasts died. But, all first-born of the Israelites were safe. There was a great cry in Egypt. Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron in the night, and ordered them to go out of the country with their people immediately. The children of Israel departed soon. Thus the Lord God delivered His people out of the bondage of Egypt with his mighty hand.

Moral: God delivers His people from all difficulties. God is close to us. He is in front, behind, right, left, in us and he will lead us.

Memory Verse: The Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

Answer the following

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 ?

LESSON 7

WATER RUSHED OUT OF THE ROCK

(Exodus : 14 & 16)

Objective: 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 in a pillar of cloud during the day and in a pillar of fire during the night.

When Pharaoh saw that the people had gone, his mind changed. He pursued them with all his army on chariots and horses to bring them back. When the people saw the horses and chariots coming after them, they were horrified. God commanded Moses to stretch his staff upon the sea. The waters of the Red Sea divided, and dry land appeared. The Israelites went on dry land and reached the other side of the sea. The soldiers of Pharaoh fol-

lowed them into the sea. Until all Israel passed, the waters, stood divided. Then Moses stretched his staff again on the sea, as commanded by God. The waters came back in full force and drowned the army 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 desert of Shur

On their journey forward, they forgot the mighty powers of God and murmured against God, Moses and Aaron. They feared that 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 meat, God gave them quails. For forty years until the people reached and inhabited the land of Canaan, God fed them likewise. When there was shortage of water, the people again blamed their God. God told Moses to strike the rock in Horeb with his staff. Water rushed 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: I will sing to the Lord, because he has delt bountifully with me (Psalms 13:6)

I. Answer the following

1. How did God lead His people through the wilderness?
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?

LESSON 8

THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

(Exodus 18, 19, 20, 24 and 32)

Objective: To learn that we should worship only the true God.

The Israelites reached the wilderness of Sinai after three months from their departure from Egypt. They encamped at the foot of the Mount Sinai. There the people sanctified themselves at the directive of Moses. They were told not to touch the boundary of the mountain nor set their foot thereon. The Lord God descended on the mountain in a fire. When the people heard the voice of God, they were greatly afraid. They said that they would die if they continued to hear the voice 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. There God gave Moses the Law to be observed by the people. God gave Moses two stone tablets of Ten Commandments written with the finger of God. 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 with gold that they could worship. They worshipped the golden calf as their god and offered sacrifices to it. They sang and danced before the idol. There was big noise at the celebration.

God told Moses what was happening and he descended from the mountain. Moses saw the people in great exhilaration before the idol. His anger knew no bounds. He threw down the two stone tablets with the 10 commandments written on them, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. Moses burnt the gold calf in fire and ground it to powder. He strewed it upon the water and made the children of Israel drink it.

God's anger burned against the people. God decided to punish the people for their ungratefulness. Moses fell upon his face before the Lord and pleaded, forty days for the people. God accepted his prayer and gave him two tablets of stone on which the Law was written.

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

Memory Verse : The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and his ears toward their cry (Psalms 34:15)

I. Answer the Following

1. How did God appear at Mount Sinai?
2. At the mountain what did God give to 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?

PART IV
NEW TESTAMENT
LESSON 9
JOHN, THE BAPTIST
(Luke 1:8-25 & 57-80; 3:1-22; 9:9)

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

The elderly priest Zechariah and his aged wife Elizabeth were without children. They were very sad for not having children. God heard their prayer 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, he went into the wilderness and stayed in meditation. He ate fruits, roots and wild honey, and lived as a hermit. As inspired by God, he came to the banks of Jordan and began to preach remission of sin and baptism of repentance. A great multitude came to listen to him. He exhorted the people to turn from injustice and to repent for their sins. He rebuked the sinners and evil-doers. He forewarned them that the unjust would be severely punished. Many people came to him and confessed their sins. He baptized them in the river Jordan. Since he baptized people, he was called John the Baptist. He was considered a great prophet.

John the Baptist is considered to be the forerunner of the Lord; John came to prepare His ways and to be a witness for Him. When John saw Jesus, he said, "*Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*"

Jesus also came to John and got baptized by him in river Jordan. At the time of His baptism, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. When Jesus was getting baptized, there came a voice from heaven, saying "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*"

John rebuked King Herod for the many wicked deeds that he committed. The king became angry and put him in prison. Later John was beheaded in the prison.

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

Memory Verse: "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loseth his life for my sake will find it" (Mathew 10:39).

I. Answer the following

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

LESSON 10

JESUS REBUKES THE WIND

(Mathew 8:23-27, Mark: 4: 35-41, Luke 8:22-25)

Objective: To understand that Jesus is the Creator and He has power over nature.

Once Jesus was preaching at the shores of the Sea of Galilee. When the crowd increased, He sat in a boat and continued to preach. When evening had come, He said to them, "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 tempest and strong waves were beating into the boat. The disciples feared that the boat would overturn. They were not able to control the boat. Jesus was sleeping soundly. They woke Him up and said to Him, "Lord, do you not care that we are perishing?" 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 surprised. Jesus asked them why they were so fearful and without faith.

The disciples should have known that Jesus is the creator of all things and that He has all the power. Therefore, when Jesus is with them, no harm would fall upon them. Had they known it, they would have been courageous. This happened to convince them of His power over nature as well.

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

Memory Verse: "O Lord God, You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, You still them" (Psalms 89:9).

I. Answer the following

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 in the sea ?
4. What was Jesus doing at that time ?
5. What did Jesus do after He woke up ?
6. What does this event teach us ?

LESSON 11

JESUS RESURRECTS LAZARUS

(John 11: 1-46)

Objective: 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 lived in the village of Bethany, very close to Jerusalem. He used to stay in their house when he comes to Jerusalem.

Lazarus became fatally ill. Jesus was far away on the other side of the Jordan. His illness further worsened. Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus about it. Jesus had to stay in that place for two more days. Then He started to 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. Jesus went along with them to the place where Lazarus was buried. Many Jews were also gathered there. When Jesus saw them weeping, He was troubled in His Spirit. Jesus wept (John 11:35). He told the people to remove the stone from the entrance of the tomb. Then Martha told Him that by that time there would be a stench, as he was dead for four days. Jesus told her if she believed, she would see the glory of God (John 11:40). They removed the stone. Jesus looked up and thanked the Holy Father. Then He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" Lazarus came out alive hand and foot bound with grave clothes and his face was also wrapped with cloth. All the people saw this 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 up at the last day” (John 6:54).

I. Answer the following

1. Who were 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 those sisters say, when they saw Jesus ?
5. Jesus wept. Why ?
6. When Jesus told the people to remove the stone from the tomb, what did Martha say ?
7. At the tomb, what did Jesus do ?
8. Why were the people astonished ?

LESSON 12

THE WISE VIRGINS

(Mathew : 25: 1-13)

Objective: To learn that we must always be prepared for the second coming of our Lord, for the hour is not known. Otherwise, we will not attain everlasting happiness with Him, and will be left behind.

The parable of the ten Virgins is one of the most beautiful parables that Jesus told His disciples. Jesus told parables so that the moral could be easily understood. This parable was told to forewarn that those who expect His second coming must prepare for it so that they will be able to enter His Kingdom while the unprepared are forsaken.

The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to receive the bridegroom. It was the custom in those days for young ladies to receive the bride and the bridegroom with lighted lamps. In this parable, five virgins were wise and the other five were foolish. The wise virgins took spare oil along with their lamps. The other five foolish virgins did not take oil with their lamps. The bridegroom was delayed in his arrival and all the virgins fell asleep.

At midnight it was announced that the bridegroom was arriving. 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 spare them some oil. They replied, “*No, lest there should not be enough for us and you, but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves*” (Mathew 25:9).

The foolish virgins went out to procure 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. In the meanwhile, the foolish virgins came and knocked at the door and prayed that the door be opened for them. The bridegroom said, “*Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you*” (Mathew 25:12), and he rejected them.

Moral: We should always be prepared to meet our Lord, as we do not know when He is coming. Never wait for later in life to repent for your sins and to do the will of God. It may be too late.

Memory Verse: You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Mathew 24:44)

I. Answer the following

1. What is the moral that Jesus is teaching us by the parable of the 10 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 ?

LESSON 13
VALUABLE OFFERING
(Mark 12:41-44, Luck 21:1-4)

Objective: God accept the offering made whole heartedly.

Jesus was teaching the people in the church Jerusalem. He of teaching through parables. while he was sitting near the offering box he was looking the offering made by the people. The rich where putting plenty one poor widow is seen putting two mania the chepest coin available there. There was a direction from the priest not to put single mania. Jesus called his disciples and told that the poor widow has put more than any of the rich. They have offered from the excess available with them but she has put he whole she earned. Jesus explaind how her offering has become more presious and valuable than others.

Moral: While we are making offerings that should be to our full capacity and with full mind.

Memory Verse: “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse” (Malachi 3:10)

Answer the following

1. Why did Jesus tell parables to the people ?
2. How much offering the poor widow put ?
3. How the petty offering become more valuable ?

LESSON 14
ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR
(Acts 6:1-7:60)

Objective: 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 was steadily growing. 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 deacons. The first among them was Stephen. The others were Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas from Antioch. They served at the tables and preached the gospel.

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

Stephen spoke before the council explaining the rebellious attitude of the Israelite tribes as a whole. He accused them of crucifying their Lord and Savior and persecuting the prophets who prophesied about the coming of the Lord. When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him” (Acts 7:54). But, “Stephen, being filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God” (Acts 7:55). And said, “*Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the son of man standing on the right hand of God*”.

When they heard this, the Jews covered their ears and cried out at the top of their voices, and they all rushed at him. They cast him out of the city and stoned him. Stephen knelt down and prayed, “*Lord Jesus receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them.*” He said this and knelt down in front of them and fell dead (Acts 7:58-60).

Stephen was the first martyr of the Church. After his death, great persecution broke out against the Church. The disciples 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, the Lord receives him in heaven.

Memory Verse: “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mathew 5:10).

I. Answer the following

1. How many deacons did the Apostles choose? Why was it necessary?
2. What was the job of these deacons?
3. Why did the Jews hate Stephen?
4. What was the accusation the Jews put on Stephen?
5. When the Jews heard the speech of Stephen, they were furious at him. Why?

6. How did the Jews kill Stephen ?
7. After the death of Stephen, the Church grew further. How ?

LESSON 15
THE CONVERSION OF SAUL
(Acts 9: 1-16)

Objective: To learn the Lord chooses people for His assignments.

Saul was born in the tribe of Benjamin. He had his education in Tarsus and Jerusalem. He was a student of Gamaleal, the great teacher of that time. He became a disciple in AD 32-33. In Philippians 3:5-6, Saul gives his own background as “Circumcised on the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee. Concerning zeal, persecuting church; touching the righteousness which is the Law, blameless”. That is, according to the law of Jews he was blameless.

As a youngster, Saul watched the clothes of those who stoned Stephen. Saul had agreed with the killing of Stephen. Afterwards, Saul threatened the disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem. He obtained letters from the high priest for the synagogues in Damascus. These letters said that if he found any man or woman in Syria following the way of Jesus, then he could bring them bound to Jerusalem. He gathered his friends and went to Damascus. When he came near Damascus, he found a great light shining around him from heaven. Saul fell down and heard a voice asking him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” Saul asked, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Arise and go into the city and there you shall be told what to do” (Acts 9:4-6). The men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground. He had lost his sight. His friends led him to the city.

Saul stayed there without seeing anything, nor eating or drinking anything for three days. In Damascus there was a disciple, named Ananias. The Lord said in a vision to Ananias to go and meet Saul. When Ananias met Saul, he put his hand on Saul and prayed. Saul got his sight back. He believed in Jesus Christ and got baptized and ate food.

From that day onwards, Saul started preaching the gospel. Saul later came to be known as Paul. St.Paul set apart the rest of his life for the gospel. He suffered considerably and undertook most difficult tasks for the gospel, and ultimately became a martyr at Rome. St.Paul is also included in the fold of Apostles. He is considered along with Peter, the leader of Apostles.

Moral: The Lord calls him who He likes, and entrusts this person with His tasks.

Memory Verse: “ For many are called, but few are chosen ” (Mathew 22:14).

I. Fill in the blank

1. Saul later was known as

II. Answer the following

1. Why did Saul go to Damascus ?
2. What happened to Saul near Damascus ?
3. Who prayed for Saul? Then what happened ?
4. What has St.Paul done for the Church ?
5. St.Paul is considered along with whom ?

PART 5
HOLY FAITH
LESSON 16
THE HOLY SACRAMENTS

1. Define Holy sacraments ?
Sacraments are the visible acts of invisible means of grace, which our Lord ordered and instituted as essential for the salvation of the human race.
2. How many Holy sacraments are there in the Church ?
There are seven Holy sacraments in our Church.
3. Which are the sacraments
They are 1) Holy Baptism, 2) Holy Mooron (confirmation), 3) Holy Confession (Penance), 4) Holy Eucharist, 5) Holy Orders (priesthood) 6) Holy Matrimony 7) Holy Anointing of the Sick (Unction of the sick).
4. Which is the Holy sacrament giving admission to our Holy Church?
Holy Baptism.
5. What are the gifts getting by accepting Holy Mooron?
By accepting Holy Mooron one is getting Holy Spirit there by strengthening the spiritual life.
6. What is Holy confession?
Declaring one's past and current sins in the presence of God to an anointed priest with true remorse with a resolution not to sin after wards and getting remission is Holy confession.
7. What is repentance?
True remorse in the sins committed with a resolution not to sin afterwards is repentance.
8. What we are getting by holy communion?
Holy communion nourishes and supports life with heavenly food. A

remorseful sinner, by eating the flesh and drinking the Blood of Christ becomes united into His communion.

9. Which are the Holy sacraments not compulsory to follow?

Holy orders and Holy matrimony

10. Which are the Holy sacraments receivable one's?

Holy Baptism, Holy Mooron and Holy Orders

11. What is the meaning of the following Syriac words?

1. Evangalion - Gospel
2. Sthoumencalose - Stand correct
3. Habeebai - My beloved
4. Aahai - My Brothers

PART 6

LESSON 30

CHURCH HISTORY

1. How many apostles were there for Jesus Christ

There were twelve apostles

2. What is the meaning of apostles (Sleeho)?

The Sent.

3. Who are the apostles of Jesus Christ?

1) Peter 2) Andrew 3) James 4) John 5) Philip 6) Bartholomew
7) Thomas 8) Mathew 9) James 10) Thaddaeus 11) Simon
12) Judas Iscariot

4. Who was selected in place of Judas Iscariot?

Mathias.

5. Who was called to the cluster of apostles?

St. Paul

6. Why St. Peter is called head of Apostles ?
He is called the head apostle since he was entrusted to administer the church for Jesus Christ by Christ Himself.
7. Who preached Gospel in India ?
St. Thomas
8. Where and when St. Peter established the Holy throne with Apostolic succession ?
Antioch, A.D. 37.
9. By which title the successors of St. Peter known to the world ?
St. Ignatius Patriarch under the apostolic throne of St. Peter in Antioch and All the East
10. When do the Church Celebrates the establishment of the Holy throne in antioch by St. Peter ?
February 22.
11. Who is the supreme head of the Church ?
H.H. Ignatius Zakha I. I was Patriarch
12. Who is the present Catholicose ?
H.B. Dr. Baselius Thomas I Catholicose.

