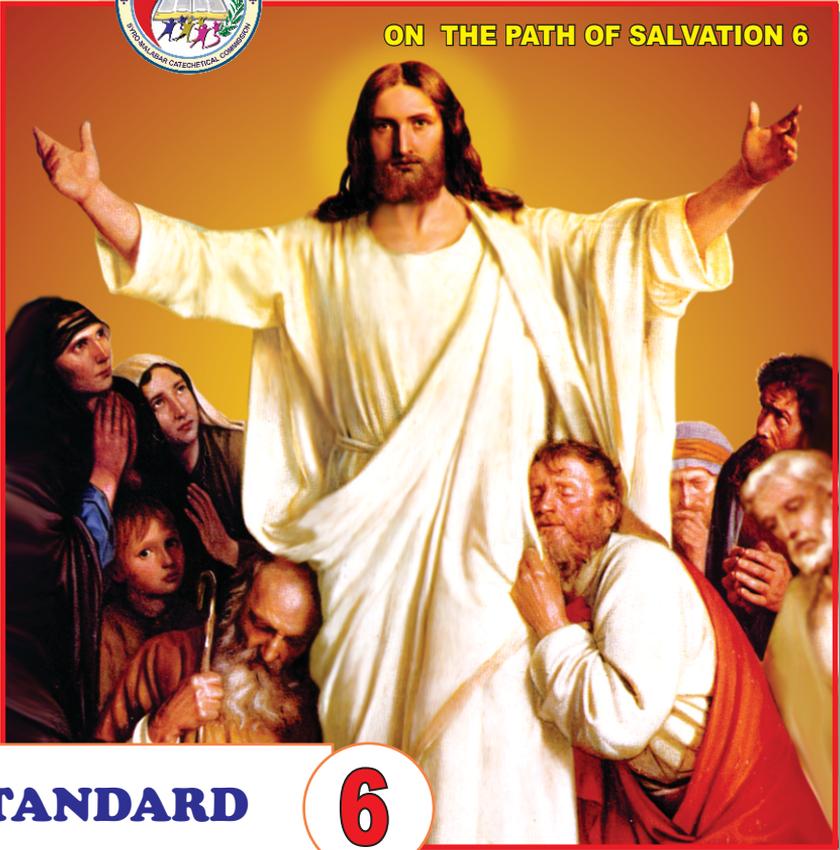


CATECHETICAL TEXT BOOK SERIES OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH

PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCED JESUS



ON THE PATH OF SALVATION 6



STANDARD

6

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK

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ON THE PATH OF SALVATION-6

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Standard - 6

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PREFACE

Do you recollect the days of your Catechism classes during your childhood? What were the striking features of those classes? Shouldn't these children you are teaching now also get all that you have received then? Don't you still remember the joyful experiences you had during Sunday school days? Shouldn't such experiences be given to today's generation as well?

Do you remember what you disliked about the Catechism classes of your childhood? Was there any experience that had diminished your interest in Sunday Classes? In that case isn't it necessary for us to take care not to have such unpleasant experiences for our children? In your attempt to impart faith formation to the sixth standard students sitting before you, the above-mentioned points have to be taken very seriously.

It is also important to bear in mind that the times are changing. Tremendous changes have taken place in the circumstances in which today's children live, not only in their aptitude but also in experiences. These have to be taken into account. At the same time, the very aim of faith formation is to concretize in children the unchanging God and the unchanging Christian truths in a world which is under the sway of perennial change. The text which you are going to teach will help you achieve this goal. What you have in your hand now is the Teachers' handbook specially prepared for your reference. This will undoubtedly help you become an able and efficient teacher by developing children's innate talents and at the same time solving their difficulties.

WHAT IS A TEACHER'S HANDBOOK? WHAT IS IT FOR?

A teacher's hand book is

- A supplement to text book.
- A pointer to teacher.
- An interpretation of the lessons.

A teacher's hand book is an aid to a teacher in many ways.

- To understand the lessons better.
- To teach the lessons correctly.
- To clear doubts regarding the text by one's own self.
- To give a satisfactory clarification to children's doubts.
- To organize classroom programmes efficiently.
- To identify answers to the questions.
- To make the optimum use of the text.
- To gather more information.
- To improve one's way of teaching.
- To introduce and implement the novel approach of the new text book.

Three questions arise with regard to teaching:

1. What is to be taught? What is the aim while teaching?
2. Whom to teach?
3. How to teach?

All teachers engaged in the process of imparting faith formation must seek answers to these questions.

1. Must know what faith formation is.

The basic purpose of faith formation is to help those who received the sacrament of baptism to grow in Christ by leading them to a perfect Christian faith and a mature Christian living. In order to achieve this, a true faith formation process will blaze the trail towards knowledge, experience and life of faith. The passionate words of St. Paul- 'the labour pain is experienced, till Christ is formed in you'

should be the source of inspiration for our faith formation. The initial years of faith formation focus on the basic lessons to be imparted to children in the fundamental faith of the church, in the Holy Trinity and in the knowledge about sacraments. In this way we must grasp the essence of the question what is to be taught.

2. Necessary to know children :

It is to children that we give faith formation. Therefore, we must have an idea of their age, nature, talents, drawbacks, interests and potential. Let us just think what abilities they have. What all can they do?

- Laugh
- Cry
- think
- see
- hear
- Run
- Jump
- play
- speak - and many more abilities like these. Now if we consider just one aspect , for example , their ability to speak- What are their possibilities that can be explored and expressed in class? Children will be able to do many things through spoken words. Let us jot them down.
- To tell stories
- To sing a song
- To ask a question
- To give answer

- To share a news with others
- To explain to others what they know
- To speak imaginatively
- To narrate an incident
- To complain
- To give instructions
- To narrate looking at a picture and so on.

Now the children who love to play can do many things through that activity. What are they?

- To understand instructions
- To obey the rules and regulations
- To react when the rules are broken
- To correct errors
- To express joy
- To express emotions
- To work in a team
- To participate in activities with enthusiasm.

There are many things like these to know about children .If teachers are aware of these teaching will be more meaningful.

There are many ways by which teachers can come to know of children –

- Interaction with children
- Keen observation
- Knowledge in child psychology
- Reading such books.

3. Necessary to Know New Methods of Learning :

Times have changed. As we face a new environment today, a new set of children and a new text, we need to introduce new methods of learning. Novel ways of teaching need to be adopted.

As discussed earlier, many different abilities are there in every child. New methods of learning must be used to explore these abilities in children appropriately. Opportunities have to be made available to children who are keen on playing as well as doing work. The new text books are prepared with these thoughts in mind.

This book gives scope for numerous activities such as speaking, viewing, drawing, writing and playing besides listening. None of these is insignificant. Though they appear simple, each activity in some degree contributes to the growth of our children's faith. It is necessary to use all the possible methods in our attempt to give our children Jesus and lead them to salvation He offers. Therefore faith formation teachers must constantly endeavour to grasp novel teaching methods. This teacher's handbook may help teachers to a certain extent to achieve this goal. A teacher must try to gain knowledge and experience with regard to teaching methods from all possible quarters.

The Special Features of the Activities:

If the activities that are introduced in faith formation class have to be successful, they must be different. Only then it will be fruitful. What are those special aspects? The activity that is introduced to facilitate learning should

- Arouse interest in children
- Suit the nature of the children
- Give freedom to children
- Be with a specific aim
- Be connected with the subject
- Be a time bound activity
- Be suitable for the standard of the children

- Be a challenging activity for the children
- Be an activity that can be evaluated by the teacher

Be it an activity given to children from the text or from teacher's handbook or an activity introduced by the teacher himself/herself, the above mentioned aspects have to be borne in mind.

A teacher may pay attention to the following :

1. Make sure that every child has a text book with him/her. Instruct them in the beginning itself to buy it.
2. There are many opportunities for first and second standard children to draw and colour; therefore, all children must have sketch pens of different colours, colour pencils or crayons with them. Along with their text, children should bring these as well.
3. Drawing and writing in the text have to be done only in class. This instruction has to be given to children well in advance. Children should use the text only as per the instruction of the teacher.
4. More activities, if necessary, can be given to children as home work. Instructions towards this have to be given to them very clearly. It is good to have a special notebook for children to draw, write and stick pictures. Considering situations and the interest of a teacher, these can be done.

As the lessons are introduced

Now that we have already thought about faith formation, children and new methods of learning, our attempt now is to analyze each lesson specifically. Special format is adopted for this purpose. It is as follows:

1. What children need to acquire

Through a lesson what a child is expected to grasp is mentioned here. They are categorized into three and presented. A teacher thus becomes very clear as to what the child should have grasped through that lesson. Besides answering questions and participating in activities, the following have to be acquired by children for their faith formation.

- Concepts
- Attitudes
- Habits.

All other activities done in class aim at acquiring these aspects by children.

2. The tools and techniques to enhance awareness that a teacher must use in class :

In order to present each lesson effectively various teaching tools have to be used. For first/second/third/fourth standards a teacher can carry to class items like pictures, charts and things that can be collected easily. Apart from the items listed in teachers' handbook, if other items are used, that are appropriate, it will be more beneficial to the students. Therefore, the indications given here may be taken only as a guideline.

Songs, stories, games, skits and so on may be needed to teach a lesson properly. At least a mental preparation to this effect has to be there before going to class. These are also teaching tools.

3. Presentation of a lesson :

How to present a lesson, how to begin, what details are to be included etc are explained in this section.

In any case, the method of presenting a lesson by reading it from one end to another should be strictly avoided. A teacher should be able to start, continue and end a lesson in a way that appeals to children. Some indications to this effect are given in the section dealing with presentation of a lesson. Still if you come across a more attractive method, you may use it. Remember that maximum preparation is required for the presentation of a lesson.

Story telling, cartoons, dramatics, role play, songs, conversation, team work or any such method can be used for presenting a lesson. Still if the teacher can use some tools for which he /she has the talent or aptitude to use the class may be more interesting and more efficient. The lesson can also be presented by involving children in these activities.

4. Activities related to the lessons :

The instructions regarding all activities given in the lesson are incorporated in this section. Answers to the questions are also given. Let the children find out the answers to these questions on their own and also the answers to the personal response questions and write them. Teachers may assist them. Do not insist that the answers written by children should contain the exact words / sentences as seen in the teachers' handbook. Treat the answers given in the teachers' handbook as mere references for teachers to help the students in finding the answers. Teachers can refer to the handbook and help them with the answers that are difficult for them to find out. It is mandatory to complete all activities given in each lesson.

5. Correlated Activities :

These are activities that are not given in the lesson but can be introduced as per the wish of the teacher. It is appropriate to give, according to the situation, maximum number of related activities. Some other activities which are not there in handbook too can be used in class if available. More questions from the lesson are prepared and added. It would be a good practice to keep these answers ready with the teacher. Remember that all the correlated activities are to be done in class as per the wish and the creative approach of the teacher.

The factors to be borne in mind for each lesson:

1. It is assumed that two days (Sundays) may be needed to cover one lesson. Therefore, it may be appropriate to divide the lesson into two parts and prepare properly for each day. If possible it would be better to include lesson as well as activities on both days.
2. Children are expected to do all the activities in class and two days might be sufficient to do all these. Instructions for each activity need to be given very clearly and correctly. In case there is something which they have to do at home with the help of parents, it should be assigned to them on the first day so that they can complete it and bring it on the second day.
3. What is given under the title 'My Decision' is the attitude and practice that have to be formed in a child. 'My Decision' in each lesson has to be explained to the child. It has to be impressed

upon them. It is also necessary to find out how much of this decision they have implemented in that week.

4. In most of the lessons there are opportunities for story telling. Teachers must try their best to say stories in most of the situations. Sometimes children should also be given a chance to say stories. Stories should be presented in such a lively manner that it arouses their interest and develops their curiosity and they get the main idea. In order to do this following points are to be taken care of :

- Narrate the story with all the minute details.
- Describe the characters and events in a picturesque manner.
- Use words and styles that are appropriate for children.
- Ask some questions during the narration.
- Complete the story with the help of children if possible.

Instead of saying some story, it is necessary to find out stories with certain concepts that will enhance faith formation.

5. There are many opportunities in the text for conducting games. Do not miss these opportunities. It is good to find out more games for children. While introducing games in faith formation class following points have to be borne in mind :

- Games that are appropriate for the class atmosphere are to be chosen.
- Instructions to be given correctly and clearly.
- Children should be told to follow the rules of the game strictly.
- Stress to be given more to 'playing a game together' than winning or losing.
- Involvement of every child to be ensured.
- It should be observed whether the goal is achieved through the game.
- The games to be used as opportunities to evaluate the attitudes and habits of children and to correct them if necessary.

Three more points to remember:

1. Teachers' handbook has to be read carefully and completely. Analysis of each lesson has to be comprehended clearly. Reading the text books of Std 1, 2, 3, 4 and the analysis given for a lesson will definitely make the teaching exhaustive and efficient.
2. Thorough preparation of the lesson has to be done with the help of analysis given for each lesson. With proper lesson plan, teaching becomes much easier and focused. Lesson plan means deciding in advance what is to be given to children and in what way as well as what activities are to be done in class by children and so on.
3. It would be a good practice to write the lesson plan in a note book so that class can be conducted referring to it. It can be prepared as per each teacher's convenience and aptitude. Preparing teaching notes will help prepare better. Additional information and activities collected from various sources can be written in this book.

LESSON 1

Prophecies Are Fulfilled

I. Preface:

This lesson introduces Annunciation and birth of Jesus. Detailed narration on Christmas and the attitude that we should have towards Christmas are included in it. This lesson would enable the children to consider Christmas as an occasion to welcome our Saviour Jesus rather than an occasion for meaningless celebration.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Jesus is the Saviour who is revealed through prophecies.
- The spirit of the season of Annunciation and the season of nativity inspires us to live accordingly.

2. Attitude

- I should recognize Jesus born in the manger as my Saviour and Lord.
- I should always worship Jesus.

3. Habit

- I would seek the intercession of the guardian angels.
- I will keep my soul pure for the child Jesus to come and dwell in me.

III. Teaching Aids:

The Bible, Faith Formation Text Book, Mass Book, Christmas Cards, Pictures related to the birth of Jesus, Flash Cards, Pictures of Angels, and Picture of Mother Mary.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

The lesson could be introduced with a 'picture-reading'. Form groups among the students and show the picture of Annunciation to all groups and ask each group to write down what is seen in the picture. Then ask them to locate the scene in the Bible. Congratulate the group that does the work first.

Through this picture-reading you may start the lesson. Some activities that help to introduce the main idea of the lesson are listed below:

a. 'Word-sun':

Make a word-sun with words associated with Christmas.

b. Role play:

Read from the Bible the passage about the visit of the Wise Men and organize a role play based on it.

c. Pictures of the mysteries of the Rosary:

Ask the students to find out the joyful mysteries in the Rosary with the help of pictures.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us pray:

Lead the children to pray devoutly joining their hands. Encourage them to pray on their own.

b. Let us sing:

Translate the theme of the lesson into a song and ask the children to compose it and sing individually or in small groups. The teacher may help them if required.

c. Let us read the Word of God:

The first day's home work shall be a reading from a specified portion of the Bible. On the next day, conduct a quiz based on the passage. Give points for the correct answers.

d. A Verse to show the way:

Give a verse from the Bible to the students and ask them to write down on a chart paper with sketch pen or colours. This could be shown to the class and the best one may be put up on the wall. When the class room thus becomes beautiful, the verse will stick to the students' mind.

e. Let us do:

A very simple activity has been given in the text book. Ask the student to do it. If they find it difficult the teacher may help them.

F. My decision:

The habit that the students have to develop has been given in the text book as their decision. Motivate them to follow the same and check whether they are observing it.

G. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 10
2. Page 11
3. Page 12
4. Page 13
5. Page 13
6. Page 13

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Do you know the answers?

Allow the students to open the text book. Ask a few questions the answers of which are some words in the lesson. Award points to those who give correct answers.

b. Carol Song:

Make children into small groups and ask them to sing some familiar carol songs.

c. Let's pray with ejaculatory prayer:

Let's pray the following prayers for Baby Jesus. Let each group write down certain number of prayers.

"Baby Jesus, come down to my heart".

"Baby Jesus, fill my heart with your love".

d. Collect Pictures;

Pictures of Infant Jesus of different places and with different features may be collected and shown in the class.

LESSON 2

The Lamb of God Who Takes away the Sins of the World

I. Preface:

Jesus receiving Baptism from John the Baptist at the beginning of His public life is the main theme of this lesson. John revealed Jesus to the world. The Lesson will help to invite the students' mind to Jesus who came to take away the sins of the world and he would take away our sins as well.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit
- Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- Jesus is the Son of God and as the light of the world.

2. Attitude

- Just as John the Baptist is introducing Jesus to the world I must introduce Jesus to others.
- I must tread my path everyday looking at Jesus who is the light of the world.
- I must love Jesus who came to take away my sins.

3. Habit

- I will be witnessing Jesus at home and at school.
- I will pray to the Holy Trinity the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – every morning and evening.

III. Teaching Aids:

Picture of Jesus receiving Baptism, Picture of the Holy Trinity, Picture of the Holy Eucharist, the Bible, Chart and Mass Book.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

The lesson may be introduced through the activities of 'Picture-reading' and 'Arranging the verses in the proper order'.

Show the pictures of Jesus receiving Baptism. The children who are formed into groups observe the picture and find out its meaning. Then make a chart on which the following verses are shown to them:

- Why do you come to me?
- They were baptised by John in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
- Let it be so now.
- Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan.
- Suddenly the heaven was opened.
- And a voice from heaven said.
- Jesus came up from the water.

Each group will arrange these verses in proper sequence and show to the class. Finally they would be asked to check their arrangement using the Bible.

The following activities may be used for presenting the main ideas of the lesson:

a. Find out a prayer:

Find prayers to the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit from the Mass Book.

b. Hymns associated with Light

Some hymns in which there are words or ideas that refer to the light may be presented to the class. Then you may ask the

students to find out other such hymns and to sing it to the class. Explain their meaning of the hymns.

V. Lesson-based activities:

Please refer the suggestions such as let us pray, let us sing, let us read the word of God, a Bible verse to show the way, my decision etc. as given in the first lesson.

a. Let us do:

Ask the students to read a Bible passage and find out names and write them down. Encourage them while checking out what they have written.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 17
2. Page 17
3. Page 17
4. Page 19
5. Page 18

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Find Bible Verse:

There are many verses about 'Light' in the Bible. Let the children be formed into groups and find out about 'Light' the Bible verses. They may be asked to make a chart of such verses and the chart could be hung in the class.

b. Note making:

Write a note of John the Baptist based on the Bible. The teacher may help the students to do it.

LESSON 3

Jesus Who Overcame Temptations

I. Preface:

This lesson explains how Jesus overcame the temptations of satan and helps the students to realize that a life rooted in the word of God, penance fasting, prayer life, charitable activities etc. would help us to overcome temptations.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Jesus overcame temptations.
- Temptations could be overcome with the help of penance, prayer, fasting and the Word of God.
- If the Word of God is learnt by heart it could be used in our life situations.

2. Attitude

- It is quite likely that we will have temptations in our life and we must be prepared to face them.
- We must face temptations through prayer and by constant reading of the Word of God.

3. Habit

- I will read the Word of God every day.
- I will share the most tasty food stuffs with others.
- I shall mortify my desires.

III. Teaching Aids:

The Bible, Hymn Book, Picture of charitable activities and charts.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

The lesson could be presented with a story. There are many animal stories narrating situations in which they are tempted. The story of the lamb who ignored its mother's advice and went away to distant places is one such example. You may narrate how the missing lamb was attacked by a wolf and how the shepherd saved the lamb. You may describe with much pathos how the lamb that defied the words of its mother and followed the tempting words of the wolf and was in danger. Lead the students towards Jesus who successfully resisted Satan's temptations.

Some other activities for presenting the main theme are given below:

a. Share an experience:

Let the students have an experience of penance. Let them share their joyous experiences of observing penance. The teacher may explain the messages.

b. A game of hymns on the Word of God:

Ask the students to collect hymns that could be sung before the Bible reading. Form groups and conduct a game of singing the first four lines of those hymns.

c. Collect pictures:

Ask the students to cut out pictures of charitable activities as found in the news papers and magazines or those activities in your parish churches. Also make them write relevant caption for the pictures.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

Discuss and make a list of acts of self-denial. Assign one such act to each student respecting their aptitude and motivate them to follow it up.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 22 (Mt 4:4)
2. Page 23
3. Page 24
4. Page 25
5. Page 25

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Make a chart:

Prepare and set up a big chart of acts that the students decide to do in the season of penance. Ensure that they are observing it. Ask them to encourage one another.

b. Verse casket:

Students may be asked to maintain a small diary for writing down Bible verses. Also ask them to transfer some of those verses into their own heart. The teacher should observe the casket and make them recite some of those verses.

LESSON 4

Jesus Who Proclaimed the Good News of the Kingdom of God

I. Preface:

The content of this lesson is the words and deeds of Jesus who begins to preach the Good News. Get introduced to Jesus who is our redeemer. This lesson will help the students to realize that we are obliged to receive the Good News that Jesus proclaimed and share the Good News with others.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

a. Conviction

- Jesus came to free us from all bondages
- The central idea of Jesus' good news is the Word of God.
- The characteristic features of the Kingdom of God have been explained in the Good News.

b. Attitude

- We should be prepared to witness the message of the Gospel.
- We should receive the message of the Gospel and try to live accordingly.

c. Habit

- I will speak about Jesus to my friends.
- I will share my talents with others.

III. Teaching Aids:

The Bible, Different pictures, Hymn Book, Charts, and Flash cards.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

The lesson could be presented through a story:

'A carpenter was doing repairing works on the top of a house. His chisel fell from his hand. He dropped a small coin in front of a man who was passing that way. The man took a small coin and went away without looking up, to find out who dropped it.

Then the carpenter dropped a five rupee coin in front of the second person who passed by and he also did just as other man. When the next man was passing by, the Carpenter dropped a small piece of wood which hit him. As he was hurt he looked up. The Carpenter apologized and explained why he had done it. The man looked up to him picked up the chisel and gave it to the Carpenter.'

The painful experiences of our life make us to look towards God. You may begin the lesson with a message that Jesus came to this world and proclaimed the Good News so that we could know the true God.

Other activities:

a. Picture-reading:

You may show to the students different pictures portraying five aspects of Jesus' mission and ask them to speak about these missions.

b. Play and learn:

In the Bible we see many people who are saved by Jesus. Form groups and ask them to name such people. Let them speak a couple of sentences about those people.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

It would be interesting to present a skit based on the Bible passages. Plan a skit on the first Sunday and present it on the second Sunday. Dialogues and actions should be planned and decided in advance.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. The book of Prophet Isaiah
2. Page 29
3. Page 30
4. Page 31
5. Page 32
6. Page 32

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Write a letter:

All that Jesus spoke was recorded in the Gospels and we should be obliged to the Gospel writers (Evangelists). Let the students write letters thanking them.

b. Find Bible Verses:

Show the picture of a blind man in the class. Ask the students to find out a verse that could be used as a caption for the picture. Show some other pictures also for caption.

c. Pick up from the bag of words and fill in the table:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| The paralytic | |
| The pharisees and the authorities | |
| The man with an unclean spirit | |
| The sinful woman | |

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| A man blind from birth | |
| Injustice and exploitation | |

Bag of words:

Freedom

Spiritual Blindness

Healing

Release to the captives

God's deeds

Moral darkness

Freedom for the oppressed

LESSON 5

Jesus Who Revealed the Glory of God

I. Preface:

This lesson deals with the miracles that Jesus has performed. Here we see Jesus who reveals the Glory of God in Himself. He performed miracles keeping in mind the needs of the people. The teacher should explain the miracles that Jesus performed for the salvation of mankind and for the Glory of God in such a way that it would promote the development of faith.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Jesus performed many miracles during His public life.
- Jesus' miracles were meant for the glory of God and for the salvation of mankind.
- Glory of God dwells in Jesus who performed miracles.

2. Attitude

- We must believe in Jesus and profess His glory.
- We should be thankful to Jesus for the salvation that He bought to us.
- We must nurture the awareness about the presence of God in all walks of our life.

3. Habit

- I will participate diligently in the religious observances both at home and in Church.
- I will pray for the needy.
- I will try to bring relief to those who suffer.

III. Teaching Aids:

Picture of miracles performed by Jesus, the map of Palestine, The Holy Bible, charts.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

Introduce the lesson by asking the students to make a 'word-sun' with words related to marriage. Then let them speak in detail about a wedding feast. You may then lead them to the wedding house at Cana. Sing a song that has reference to the miracles in that house.

Then let the students narrate the incident of Jesus changing water into wine. This may be followed by reading of the passage from the Bible. Let the students know if they have omitted any details.

Other activities:

a. Share an experience:

Ask the students to narrate their experience of a boat journey. Tell them about a boat accident that was reported in the newspaper. Then present Jesus who calmed the sea.

b. Sickness and healing:

We often see photos and testimonies of persons who received healings. Ask students to collect such photos. Form groups and let each group make a collage using it.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

This is an activity that helps the students to grasp the miracles of Jesus in detail. Encourage them to find answers by reading the Bible individually.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 35
2. Page 36
3. Page 36
4. Page 37
5. Page 37

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. A song in the class:

Ask the students to compose a poem about any miracle performed by Jesus and present it in the class. If possible make a booklet of all such poems.

b. Quiz:

Conduct a quiz based on any miracles narrated in the Gospels. There can be questions to the groups and to the individuals. Congratulate those who score well.

c. Powerful verses:

There are certain very powerful verses in some miracles. For example,

“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home”.

“Peace! Be still!”

Ask students to find out such verses and write them on cards for displaying in the class.

LESSON 6

Jesus Who Came in Search of Sinners

I. Preface:

This lesson tells the story of the prodigal son who came back to his father. It will help the children to know Jesus who came in search of sinners and the heavenly father who shows kindness to sinners. From this lesson, the children would realize the truth that even today Jesus is eager to find who is lost and redeem the sinners.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Jesus is the Lord who comes in search of sinners
- Jesus wants us to stay away from sin and repent immediately if we fall into sin.
- We shall not judge anyone.

2. Attitude

- Jesus loves me even though I have sinned against Him.
- If by any chance I fall into sin I must repent and return to Jesus.

3. Habit

- Even if I fall into sin, I will confess at the earliest.
- I won't speak ill of others.

III. Teaching Aids:

The picture of the Parable of the lost sheep and of the Lost Coin, the Bible, Charts, News paper.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

You may introduce the lesson by reading out the news of: 'Son Missing'. After reading the news ask the children to imagine and tell what could have happened in the house, if the child went missing. Explain the tension, anxiety, wailings, phone calls, sending people to search, advertisements in news paper etc. Also discuss the reactions of all concerned when they finally find the child. Having done it, you may start the story of the prodigal son.

Other activities:

a. Skit:

Present the Parable of the Prodigal Son through a skit. Help the students to prepare the dialogues. After the skit then start with the lesson.

b. Sing together:

Find out hymns about the good shepherd and sing together. Explain the meaning of the hymns.

c. They were like this:

Tell the stories of saint Don Bosco and saint Maria Goretti who lived their life avoiding and overcoming sinful situations.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is quite appropriate to be staged in the form of a drama. It would be good to stage on special occasion.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 40
2. Page 41

3. Page 41
4. Page 42
5. Page 43

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Songs of repentance:

Let the children find out and sing hymns that help in confession and repentance.

b. Let us have a story:

The teacher may introduce stories having themes similar to the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the Lost Coin and the Lost Sheep. Also let the children tell stories that they know.

LESSON 7

Jesus Who Took upon Himself Our Wounds

I. Preface:

This lesson speaks on Jesus who suffered pain and was wounded for our sins. It helps us to understand Jesus who was persecuted and reminds us that we are the disciples of Jesus and it is our duty to comfort and bring relief to those who are suffering in our community and society.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- What is written in the Old Testament about 'suffering servant' has been fulfilled.
- It was for the atonement of our sins that Jesus suffered persecution.

2. Attitude

- I must love Jesus who suffered persecution for my sake.
- I have a duty to comfort those who suffer pain.

3. Habit

- I will trust in Jesus when I am passing through difficulties.

I must be prepared to do sacrifices for the sake of others.

III. Teaching Aids:

Rosary, pictures of agony, charts and the Bible.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

We shall present the lesson through an activity of the 'Rosary of Bible Verses'

Let the children say the sorrowful Mysteries. Give one mystery to each group. Let them write that mystery in a chart paper and stick pictures relevant to the same. Ask each group to find out a Bible verse which is suitable for the mystery. Let them write that in the chart paper. When the rosary of Bible Verses is completed, display the same in the class.

Other activities:

a. Share an experience:

Ask the students to recollect some difficult situations they faced and what they did then. Let them share their experiences.

b. Tell a story:

The teacher may give a detailed account of how Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole.

Then you shall begin the lesson.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

The teacher should help the students to find out examples from the Bible. Then it is to be written on a chart paper and displayed in the class.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 45
2. Page 46
3. Page 46
4. Page 46
5. Page 47

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Sing songs:

Let the students find out songs based on the theme of this lesson and sing it in the class.

b. What we can do for others:

There may be persons who suffer in many ways with in our own parish. Make a plan to find out such persons and help them. The teacher shall help the students in this. Even if a small gesture it may be, it will develop the habit of giving help to those who suffer.

LESSON 8

Jesus Who Died for Us

I. Preface:

This lesson introduces Jesus who died on the cross for the redemption of the mankind. It describes his sufferings, pains and agony of the final moments. This lesson also enables us to explain to the students that whenever we commit sins we are hurting Jesus who suffered and died for us.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- We received forgiveness of our sins and salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross:
- In the Holy Qurbana we celebrate Jesus' mystery of salvation.

2. Attitude

- We must participate in Holy Qurbana with gratitude and love.
- We should behave respectfully in the church.

3. Habit

- I will say the prayers of the Holy Mass with devotion.
- I will forgive those who humiliate me.

III. Teaching Aids:

Pictures of the Passion of Jesus, Pictures of the scenes on the Way of the Cross, Mass Book, the Bible.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

We may begin by introducing the Way of the Cross. Students may prepare in advance the prayers and songs of the way of the Cross and present them in the class. Discussion is held on the events that take place at various stations of the cross and then we start with the lesson.

Ask the students to relate the events mentioned in the lesson with the incidents on the way of the cross. Explaining these events students will understand the theme of the lesson.

Other activities:

a. Word-sun

Ask the students to complete the word-sun in a chart and display it in the class.

b. Identify the person:

With the help of the clues given by the teacher the students identify the Biblical characters.

Eg. 1. The moneybag is with him. He came to Jesus accompanied by a group of soldiers.

2. He is the authority. He took water and washed his hands in front of the people.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

The words that Jesus spoke while hanging on the cross are very important. Help the students in finding those words and to write them down. Chart paper could be used to write and display them.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 50

2. Page 50
3. Page 51
4. Page 51
5. Page 53
6. Page 53

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Bible verses:

Ask the students to find out and write down verses that comfort us in our sorrows.

b. Letter:

Write a letter thanking Jesus who died for us on the cross. This will help the children to nurture love and respect to Jesus in the mind of the students.

LESSON 9

Jesus Who Taught Us Forgiveness

I. Preface:

This lesson introduces us Jesus, who gave the example of love and the commandment of love. Jesus taught us about boundless forgiveness. This lesson will help one understand the new Commandment of love that has to be observed by all those who follow Jesus. It should be introduced in such a way that the children would develop intimacy with Jesus who demonstrated love and forgiveness even when He was crucified.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Even when Jesus was suffering in pain of death on the cross He exhibited the noble example of forgiveness.
- Jesus taught us to love our enemies.
- We must participate in the Holy Mass with a forgiving heart.

2. Attitude

- We are duty-bound to forgive those who harm us.
- We have a duty to encourage those who do good.

3. Habit

- When there is an occasion for getting angry I would remember Jesus who died on the cross.
- As far as possible, I would look at and speak about the virtues of others.

III. Teaching Aids:

Pictures of Jesus hanging on the cross, Pictures of great

people who showed the example of forgiveness, Testimonies about forgiveness, Paper News, Biographies of Saints.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

Explain the incident of St. John Paul II who forgave the Turkish national Ali agka who had fired at him. The Pope visited Ali in the Jail and told that he forgave him. Show a paper-cutting of this picture and talk to the students in detail.

Or else we may introduce other similar incidents from the stories of saints. Thereafter we may present Jesus who forgave and loved the enemies and then begin with the lesson.

Other activities:

a. Sing and Pray:

Find out suitable hymns on forgiveness, God's love etc and sing them in the class.

b. Collect Verses:

Ask the students to collect verses about 'Loving the enemies' from the Bible. Let them show to the class what they have collected.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

Let the students recall their own experiences of forgiving insult or harm and share it with others in the class. Then ask all of them to write down those experiences and make a journal collectively.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 56
2. Page 57

3. Page 58
4. Page 59
5. Page 59

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Prepare cards for Verses:

Write verses on cards and learn them by heart. Display the cards in the class.

b. Write stories:

Let the students write stories based on 'Forgiving Love', Read out those stories. Make a journal of all stories.

c. Self-examination:

Do you hate anyone? Is there anyone whom you have not forgiven? Ask the students to offer such persons to Jesus and pray for them. This will be a good training for the students to practice the virtue of forgiveness.

LESSON 10

Jesus Who Triumphed over Death

I. Preface:

This lesson gives the details of Jesus who triumphed over death and rose from the dead. It is a lesson that describes how the prophecies are fulfilled. Also it explains how important is Easter which is the feast of feasts as far as Christians are concerned. This lesson should be handled in such a way that it would motivate the children to love the risen Jesus and to live in Jesus.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Jesus triumphed over death and rose from the dead.
- The resurrection of Jesus is the basis of our faith.
- The resurrection of Jesus was prophesied long back.

2. Attitude

- It is in the risen Jesus that we need to seek refuge.
- We have been called to share in the glory of the risen Jesus.

3. Habit

- Avoiding the occasions of sin I will remain close to the risen Jesus.
- During the Lenten season I will participate in the Holy mass on all days.

III. Teaching Aids:

Different pictures of the risen Jesus, the picture of Jesus appearing to Mary magdalene, the picture of the shrine at Malayattoor.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

We shall begin with a mime. Write down the following scenes on slips of paper and give them to the students. Each one will read out her/his slip and mime it.

- Joseph of Arimathea, mother Mary and a few women bury the body of Jesus.
- The Jewish leaders seal the tomb and ask the soldiers to guard it.
- Mary magdalene and a few other women go to the tomb to embalm the body of Jesus.
- The angel who comes from heaven, rolls back the stone and sits upon it.
- The angel speaks to the women.
- The women leave the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to the disciples.
- Peter enters the tomb and is surprised to find it empty.
- After mimings read Mt. 28: 2-6 and Jn. 20: 4-8. Then you may begin the lesson.

Other activities:

a. Let us sing:

Collect songs/hymns that glorify the risen Jesus and sing together in the class.

b. Let us find out and write:

What is the origin of the word 'Easter'? What is Easter Egg? Let the students find out and inform their findings to the class.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

The Resurrection of Jesus as described by St. Luke may be read and discussed in the class. Also it could be staged as a skit.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 61
2. Page 62
3. Page 63
4. Page 62
5. Page 63

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Speech competition:

Organize a speech competition that gives out the message of Easter. Limit the time of the speech to 2 or 3 minutes. Don't forget to congratulate those who perform well.

b. Puzzle:

Let the students make word-puzzles related to the Resurrection.

c. Verse-guide:

Ask the students to find out Bible verses related to Resurrection and to write them down on a chart paper to display in the class.

LESSON 11

The Emmaus Experience

I. Preface:

The risen Jesus appearing to the disciples on their way to Emmaus and revealing Himself to them is the Emmaus experience. He fulfilled His promise that He would be with us till the end of the world. We experience the presence of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. This fact is explained in this lesson. It will help one to experience closely the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- There is a living presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- The Holy Mass is the power centre in the life of a Christian.
- The Holy Eucharist is the fulfillment of the revelation.

2. Attitude

- We are obliged to accept Holy Qurbana as the power centre of our life.
- Through the Holy Mass we become closer to Jesus.

3. Habit

- I will behave properly in the Church.
- Whenever I participate in the Holy Mass, I will receive the Holy Communion worthily.

III. Teaching Aids:

Mass Book, the Encyclical on the Holy Mass, pictures of the Emmaus experience.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

The lesson may be introduced by staging a scene based on the Emmaus experience. Compose the dialogue and ask the students to perform. Then read the relevant portion from the text book and explain the incident in detail. Make them repeat the scene. They would do it with more clarity. Then you may explain the lesson.

Other activities:

a. Share experience:

Ask the students to speak about and write down their experience of God's interference when they were distressed. Also the teacher may describe a similar experience in her/his own life.

b. Holy sayings:

The children may be asked to collect what the saints have said about the Holy Qurbana. Let them write that in their diary. Also ask them to make a chart on those saintly words.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

The teacher shall help the students to locate what they are required to write down. Also give them books to read and find out.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 66
2. Page 67

3. Page 67
4. Page 68
5. Page 68

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Let us sing:

Ask the students to sing songs which says that the Holy Qurbana is a banquet.

b. Let us share:

Ask the students to share the memories of their First Holy Communion.

c. Quiz:

Conduct a quiz using objective questions about the Holy Qurbana. Congratulate and reward the winning team.

LESSON 12
My Lord and My God

I. Preface:

The proclamation of faith that St. Thomas made, is the theme of this lesson. It presents the strong faith that makes one firmly believe that Jesus is Lord. This lesson will sow the seeds of faith in the children's mind.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- St. Thomas proclaimed his faith.
- Jesus is our Lord and God.
- The risen Jesus is always with us

2. Attitude

- We should have the faith-experience of St. Thomas.
- We should proclaim Jesus as our Lord and God.

3. Habit

- I would find out and read about the God-experience of saints.
- I would enquire about and find out the details regarding missionaries and their activities.

III. Teaching-Aids:

The picture of Jesus as appeared to St. Thomas. The picture of the twelve disciples, Pictures of Saints. The picture and history of Shrine at Malayattoor.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

You may present the lesson by narrating our own experience of climbing the Malayatoor hills. Describe everything in full detail about your journey, the way of the cross and the Holy Mass. Then let the children narrate their experiences. Ask them to write down their experiences and read out the same in the next class. With this introduction you may begin the lesson.

Other activities:

a. Peace, Peace:

Form groups and ask the students to find out from the mass book how many times the word peace appears in it.

Explain to the students the significance of the greeting of peace from the risen Christ and the greeting of peace in the Holy Mass.

b. Interview:

Give the students an opportunity to conduct an imaginary interview with St. Thomas who proclaimed his faith. Let them prepare questions which would elicit detailed responses. The teacher shall help the student who would act as St. Thomas.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

There are many stories about St. Thomas. Let the students tell some of these stories in the class. Or else the teacher shall tell a story and ask the students to write it down and bring the same or any other story in the next class.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 71
2. Page 71

3. Page 71
4. Peace be with you
5. Page 72

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Sing and pray:

Let the children close their eyes and sing hymns expressing their desire to see, hear and touch Jesus.

b. Read out God-experience:

What to the saints says about God-experience? Find out from the biography of saints and let the children read it in the class.

LESSON 13

Ascension and the Mission of Evangelization

I. Preface:

This lesson deals with the Ascension of Jesus after entrusting the mission of evangelization to His disciples. It also discusses the mission of evangelization which is the duty of each Christian. It will enable us to explain to the children that everyone has a duty to proclaim through one's own life example that Jesus is the Lord.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Evangelization is the mission that Jesus has entrusted to the church.
- Jesus empowered His disciples to preach the Gospel by giving them the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
- A Christian has the duty to reach the Gospel up to the boundaries of the world.

2. Attitude

- I have a duty to proclaim Jesus through my life examples.
- We are the ones who have to make the world know about Jesus.

3. Habit

- I will read the Bible carefully in order to know more about Jesus.
- I will attend the Faith Formation class with enthusiasm.

III. Teaching Aids:

Picture of Ascension, Picture of Pentecost, the Bible, Charts, Map of Palestine.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

The lesson could be presented by asking the children to imagine a scene in Heaven: The angels are interviewing Jesus who reached heaven after His resurrection. Having enquired and evaluated the activities of Jesus for 33 years in the world, the angels ask, "Lord Jesus, what arrangements have you made to continue your mission and spread the message of love?"

Jesus, "I have chosen twelve people and trained them. They will do what is required."

"If they forget or if they are careless and lazy?"

"Then there would be no alternative", Jesus replies.

After affirming our duty to continue the work of evangelization we may begin with the lesson.

Other activities:

a. Locate and mark:

Let the students locate and mark the places in the map of Palestine where the apostles proclaimed the Gospel. The teacher may help the students in this work.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

Ask the students to read the 8th and 9th chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. Arrange a competition for narrating the story of Saul's conversion.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 74
2. Page 75
3. Page 75
4. Page 76
5. Page 77

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Let us discuss:

Let the students discuss and make a list of Evangelization activities that they would be able to do at home and in school. Motivate them to follow the same.

b. Speech Competition:

Let the students translate Jesus' Commandment of Love into a speech. Then conduct a speech competition and reward the winners.

LESSON 14

Pentecost and the Proclamation of Faith

I. Preface:

This lesson introduces the day of Pentecost, on which the Holy Spirit came upon and filled in the apostles, explains the intensity and ardour of proclaiming the Gospel. It also helps to introduce Pentecost in the liturgical year.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Immediately after receiving the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, St. Peter preached the word of God.
- St. Thomas constituted Christian communities at seven places in India.
- There are so many souls in the Church who sacrificed their life for protecting their faith.

2. Attitude

- I have a duty to protect my faith in all circumstances
- Everyone has the responsibility of contributing to the growth of the Church.

3. Habit

- I will join in the family prayers devoutly.
- Every morning I will pray for the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

III. Teaching Aids:

Picture of Pentecost, Hymn Book, the Bible, Map of Kerala, Picture of St. Thomas.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

Form groups and conduct a competition of Prayer songs. Two points may be given to each song. Do not give any instruction regarding the type of songs. The group that sings a song on the Holy Spirit may be given an additional point to show its importance. After discussing how we are guided by the Holy Spirit in every moment of our life, we may begin with the lesson on Pentecost.

Other activities:

a. Locate the Churches:

In the map of Kerala let the students mark the seven churches established by St. Thomas. Also ask them to find out in which districts those churches are.

b. Receive the tongues of fire:

Using paper cuttings and drawings make as many tongues of fire as there are students in the class. Write down one fruit and one gift of the Holy Spirit on each of the tongues. Give one tongue to each of the students prayerfully. The students receive them devoutly and read out what they have received.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

Let the students find out and write down the names of the seven churches with the help of the teacher or their parents.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 81
2. Page 81
3. Page 81
4. Page 82
5. Page 82

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Write a description:

Show the picture of the third Glorious Mystery. Say the decade. Let the children refer to the Bible and write down a description of the events.

b. Song of 'Margam Kali':

In the fourth part of 'Margam Kali' there is a reference to St. Thomas. Sing it in the class and explain the same.

LESSON 15

Glorified Christ

I. Preface:

Here the students encounter Jesus, the King of Kings who is seated at the right hand of God, the Father in heaven. Also this lesson which elucidates the picture of the Last Judgment explains what a real Christian has to do. It helps us to teach the children how all of us who belong to the pilgrim church that moves towards the destination of heaven, should live our life in order to realize the goal of our life.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Jesus would come again in His full glory.
- All of us will face the last judgment.
- The liturgical year helps us to live our life properly.

2. Attitude

- I have the responsibility of living my life in fraternal love and in a spirit of service.
- When I help others I am helping Jesus Himself.
- The saints are always our role models.

3. Habit

- I will help those who are backward in their studies and those who are financially poor.
- I will utilize the money that I save by my sacrifice, and do charity for others.
- I will try to offer food lovingly to those who are hungry.

II. Teaching Aids:

A chart of Saints' pictures, A picture of Christ the King, A picture of the Last Judgment, The Bible.

IV. Presentation of the lesson:

We shall present the lesson with the activity of "Can you identify them?" Give each group a chart of saints' pictures and ask them to identify and write down their names. Give them a time limit. Examine what they write and congratulate the group that writes the maximum number of correct names. Talk about some of the saints and begin with the lesson.

Other activities:

a. The Rich man and Lazarus:

Narrate the parable of 'The Rich Man and Lazarus' as in the Bible. Discuss about the last judgment of both. Also enquire about the children's comments on these two characters.

b. The New Heaven and the New Earth:

Read the Book of Revelation, Chapter 21 verses 1 to 8 in the class. Discuss it in groups and let the children make a report on the theme 'the New Heaven and the New Earth'.

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Let us do:

Let the students read and re-read about the last judgment as in the Bible and ask them to record it in a chart. It could also be written in a bigger chart and be displayed in the class.

b. Let us find out the answers

1. Page 86
2. Page 86
3. Page 86
4. Page 87
5. Page 87,88

VI. Supplementary activities:

a. Find out and sing:

Ask the students to find out and sing hymns on the Last Judgment in the class.

b. Write a letter:

Ask the children to write a letter to their most favourite saint. If the children want to get their doubts clarified (on the Last Judgment Life in Heaven etc.), let them put it in the letter to the saints.

c. Give thanks:

You may conclude the lesson with songs and spontaneous prayers of thanks giving. Tell the students for what all blessings they should offer their thanks.

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