

CATECHETICAL TEXT BOOK SERIES OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH

CHURCH: THE PEOPLE OF GOD



ON THE PATH OF SALVATION 8



STANDARD

8

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK

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ON THE PATH OF SALVATION-8

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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 eighth 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. That which is meant for by hearting as far as possible, need to be done in class itself. It can be read out to them once or twice. Instructions can be given to study it individually or in a group. A small gift or a gesture of appreciation or applause may be offered to those who complete the task with focus and on time . It may be good to motivate them to study it with slight competition spirit and say it in class.
4. 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.
5. The activities such as Bible Reading and 'My Bible verse' are meant for encouraging them in the Bible study and Bible reading. On the first day instructions have to be given to the children to read the Bible , write Bible verses and bring them to the class. It has to be checked in class by the teacher on the second day. While teaching the first lesson, the teacher has to carry the Bible(the complete one) to the class and read out to the students Genesis 1:26-31. Each student then will be asked to write one verse which they liked from this portion in their note book. They will do similar exercise in other lessons at home with the help of the parents after reading the Bible.

Three more points to remember :

1. Teachers' handbook has to be read carefully and completely. Analysis of each lesson has to be comprehended clearly.
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

Church: The People Chosen by God

I. Preface:

By calling Abraham, God chooses Israel as his own people. Similarly in the New Testament church is the community of people which God formed and made His own. Just as our forefathers responded to God's call through their faith and obedience, we being the children of the church, also must respond to this call. This lesson should be presented in such a way as the students would get this message.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- By calling Abraham, God chooses Israel.
- Through the covenant on the Mount Sinai God made them His own people. In spite of their unfaithfulness God kept His promises.
- Church is the chosen people of the New Testament.
- Church is the assembly of people specially chosen by God in order to complete his salvific mission.
- In the last supper Jesus established the new covenant by transforming bread and wine into His own body and blood.
- Jesus sealed the covenant with His sacrificial death and resurrection.

2. Attitude

- Having received the call to the status of God's children through Jesus, we should realize His salvation and sonship in our lives.
- We should be proud that we have become the members of the church.

3. Resolution

- I will try to live in love, purity and innocence in the presence of God.
- I will actively participate in the activities of the church.

III. Teaching Aids:

The enlarged pictures given in the text book comparing the covenant in the Old Testament and the covenant in the New Testament, The Bible, The Documents of the Vatican Council, and 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam)

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Introduce the lesson through an activity of 'Find and Read':

The teacher announces the verse numbers related to the choosing of Israel (Gen. 12: 1-2, 7, 8 & 15:6). The student who locates those verses first is asked to read out. Ask a few questions based on the passage and begin with the lesson.

a. Tell a story:

Narrate in the form of a story the history of Israel from the call of Abraham till the covenant on the Mount Sinai.

b. Explain the chart:

The Old Covenant & Israel	The New Covenant & the Church
1. Liberation through Moses	Liberation through Jesus
2. From the slavery of Egypt	From the slavery of sin
3. Old Passover	New Passover
4. The Blood of the Lamb	The Blood of Jesus
5. To Canaan	To the heavenly Jerusalem
6. Covenant on Mount Sinai	Covenant at the Last Supper
7. People led by law	People led by the Holy Spirit

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Meditate up on the word of God:

Read Eph. 1:3-14 and meditate on it for a few moments.

b. Memorise a Verse:

By-heart Eph. 1:4 and write it on a chart paper to display in the class.

c. Let us pray:

Pray all together.

d. My Resolution:

After reading silently speakout the resolution loud.

e. Think with the church:

The objective of this section is to introduce the decree of the second Vatican Council. As far as possible try to read out excerpts from the decree itself.

f. Know the Mother Church:

This section is added to this lesson in order to make up for our inability to accommodate the history of the church. You may present this part by adding more details from 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha, chapter 4.

g. Answers

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

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Write a poem or draw a picture expressing your sense of pride in being a member of the church.
2. Summarise the redemptive history of Israel.

LESSON 2

Church: The Community of the Redeemed

I. Preface:

God redeemed His own people, the Israelites from the slavery of the Pharaoh through Moses. We, who are the New Israel, have also been redeemed. Jesus is our only savior. The words of God and the Sacraments help us to attain salvation. It is through the church that we enjoy the fruits. The students should get this message from this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- All have been called to salvation.
- Keeping the Commandments is an essential requisite for salvation.
- Jesus is the only savior.
- We too partake in the Salvation when we live in the church which has been redeemed by Jesus and when we receive the Word of God and the Sacraments.

2. Attitude

- Enthusiasm to obey the Commandments
- Desire to read the word of God regularly.
- Desire to receive the Sacraments.

3. Resolution

- I will take care to obey the Commandments of God and the precepts of the church.
- I will read the Bible daily and meditate on what I read.
- I will receive the sacraments frequently.

III. Teaching Aids:

Paper-cuttings, Chart of the Commandments, Word-cards, Picture of St. Mary holding the Bible in one hand and a card on which the word 'Sacraments' is written in the other hand, The Bible, Documents of the Vatican Council 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' by Rev. Dr Xavier Koodapuzha (Malayalam).

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Read out from a paper-cutting about an incident in someone's life who has been saved from a misfortune and discuss on it. Also ask the students to share what they have heard about similar incidents. Continue with the story of Israelites who have been saved by Moses from their slavery in Egypt. Make children solve jumbled words of Bible Verses.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read: 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' Ch. 4 P. 119-142.

b. Answers

1. Page 17
2. Page 18
3. Page 18
4. Page 18
5. Page 20

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Sing together a song stating that Jesus is the only Savior.
2. Ask the students to share any of their experiences in which they felt that Jesus is the Savior

LESSON 3

Church: The Community of Believers

I. Preface:

Church is the community of believers in Jesus, who proclaim Him as the Lord and the Savior. It is a community that comes to repentance by accepting the Word of God. Having admitted into the community of the church by Baptism, we should be led by the Word of God and by the Sacraments.

This lesson may be introduced in such a way as to give out this message.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Faith is the response of man to the call of God.
- Evangelization leads to faith.
- Listening to the Word of God must lead one to repentance and renewal of life.
- We became the children of God through Baptism.
- Sacraments nourish our life in faith.

2. Attitude

- The joy of proclaiming our faith in Jesus
- The interest in reading and sharing the word of God.
- The determination to be with the church in all circumstances.

3. Resolution

- I will by-heart at least one Bible Verse daily and share it with my friends.
- I will avoid all situations and friendships that tempt me to do evil.

III. Teaching Aids:

The Bible, Chart of the Verses, Biography of Saints, Paper-cuttings, The Documents of the Vatican Council, Bharatha Sabha Charithram.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the class by asking 'Who is Jesus to you?' Note down the students' responses on the board and discuss. Later, introduce the question that Jesus asked His disciples in Caesarea Philippi and the reply of the disciples.

a. Role-Play:

Present Peter's preaching and the peoples' response.

b. Find a Verse:

Give the group-activity of making a word card of Bible Verses and talk about Faith.

c. Share:

Narrate episodes from the life of Saints who defended faith when they encountered tormenting situations. Also share with the students the biography of martyrs.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read: 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam) by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha Chapter 5.

b. Answers

1. Page 23
2. Page 23
3. Page 24
4. Page 24, 25
5. Page 26

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Give a speech proclaiming Faith in Jesus.
2. Share an experience of witnessing Jesus.

LESSON 4

Church: The Community Led by the Spirit

I. Preface:

The Church, inaugurated on Pentecost, is a community led by the Holy Spirit. By giving various gifts and fruits the Holy Spirit builds up the church. Being the children of the church, we also should be led by the spirit. We become filled with the Holy Spirit through the Sacraments. This is the message to be conveyed through this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- The church was formally inaugurated on the day of Pentecost by the descend of the Holy Spirit.
- It was the Holy Spirit that led who lead the apostles and the early church.
- By giving its gifts and fruits, the Holy Spirit is leading the church even today.
- We receive the Holy Spirit through the Sacraments.
- Holy Spirit leads the church in crises and persecutions.

2. Attitude

- Interest in responding to the inspiration from the Holy Spirit.
- Interest in receiving the Sacraments.

3. Resolution

- I will consult the Holy Spirit in all matters.
- I will receive the Sacraments with interest.

III. Teaching Aids:

The Bible, Picture of the Pentecost, a chart of maxims from martyrs inspired by the Holy Spirit, Picture of the Pentecost, A

chart of Verses, The Documents of the Vatican Council, 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Show the picture of Pentecost, have a discussion on it and then introduce the lesson.

a. Role-Play:

You may arrange a role-play with scenes of persecution that some of the martyrs suffered and the brave words they spoke.

b. Find Verses:

Give the activity of finding out verses from the Holy Bible that show how the Holy Spirit led the apostles and the early church.

c. Make a chart:

Let the students make a chart showing each Sacrament and the grace that the Holy Spirit gives through the same.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam) by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha Chapter 7 pages: 227-228. 'Marthoma Nasranigalude Valarchayum Thalarchayum - Nammude Reeth' by Rev. Dr. Placid J. Podipara.

b. Answers

1. Page 29
2. Page 30
3. Page 30
4. Page 31
5. Page 31

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Present a public narration (Katha Prasangam) of the incidents of Pentecost with the accompaniment of music.
2. Sing together a song of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON 5

Church: The Body of Christ

I. Preface:

Church is the body of Jesus. Jesus is continuing his mission through his body, the church. Jesus is nurturing the church through various services and blessings. As members of the church, we have to fulfill certain responsibilities. This is the message that the students should get from this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Christ is the Head of the church and we all are its limbs.
- When a member of the church is persecuted it is Jesus who is being persecuted.
- The gifts that we have received as the children of the church should be utilized for the growth of the church.
- One who loves Jesus loves the church as well.

2. Attitude

- All members of the church community must be treated as brothers.
- The talents that each of us has received must be utilized for the growth of the church as per its need.

3. Resolution

- The poor, the suffering and the orphans will be treated lovingly.
- I will be active in the activities of the parish.

III. Teaching Aids:

A picture depicting Jesus as the head and we as the limbs of his body, a chart showing the various missionary activities of the church, The Bible, A Collage, the documents of the Vatican Council, 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

We may introduce the lesson by using a picture portraying the conversion of Saul.

Make a Collage:

Collect pictures of persons engaged in various services of the church and of the sick, the suffering and the afflicted people. Make an outline of Jesus on a chart paper and affix the collected pictures within the outline.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam) by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha Chapter 5 pages: 197-200.

Answers

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

VI. Supplementary activities:

Interview a few persons who are serving in various different fields of the church and make a report.

LESSON 6

Church: The Priestly People

I. Preface:

Israel was the priestly people. God revealed this in the Covenant at Sinai. However, with the sacrifice that Jesus offered at Calvary, the priesthood of the Old Testament came to an end. Through Baptism we are also made to share in the priesthood of the eternal priest, Jesus. From the children of the church who have received common priesthood God specially chooses some persons and raises them to the ministerial priesthood. They are the priests of the New Testament. They perform the Holy sacrifice of Mass and other sacraments. The students should get this message from this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Just like the people of the Old Testament, the church, which is the New Israel, is also a priestly people.
- Jesus who became the eternal priest through the sacrifice at Calvary set the beginning of the New Testament priesthood.
- Through Baptism we are sharing in the common priesthood of Jesus.
- The priests anointed for ministerial priesthood are those who have been specially chosen by God in order to offer Holy Mass which is the highest form of worship.

2. Attitude

- Offer to God all the difficulties I face in my life.
- Respect priesthood and show interest in sharing in the ministerial priesthood.

3. Resolution

- I will accept the difficulties of my life as if they are sacrifices.
- I will pray for the Church to get more vocations to priesthood.

III. Teaching Aids:

A chart showing the difference in Priesthood between the Old Testament and New Testament, The Bible, Cards of Verses, Pictures of Ordination to ministerial priesthood, Prayers on such occasions, Documents of the Vatican Council, 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the class by showing pictures of ordination to ministerial priesthood. Explain the greatness of ministerial priesthood by referring to the prayers said on such occasions. Also explain the difference between the priest hood in the Old Testament and the priesthood in New Testament with the help of Charts.

V. Lesson-based activities (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam) by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha Chapter 5 page: 195.

b. Answers

1. Page 39
2. Page 40
3. Page 41
4. Page 42
5. Page 41

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Make cards of Verses about priesthood in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.
2. Enquire with your parish priest about the experience of his priesthood.

LESSON 7

Church: The Community of People who share

I. Preface:

The early church surprised all the others in the way its members shared whatever they had. There are verses which state that there was nobody among them who suffered from poverty. Their love for the others was so deep. Even today the church continues this sharing through its charitable activities. When those who are opposed to the church falsify what the church is doing our children should not be misled by them. Rather, they should be proud to belong to the church and join in its charitable activities.

This is the message that the children should get from this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- The early Christians were enthusiastic in imbibing the teachings and examples of Jesus and also sharing the same with others.
- Since everything was considered as common property and was shared according to each one's needs, there was none among them who suffered from poverty.
- The Holy Mass and our belief in resurrection motivate us to share.
- The church continues its sharing through its deeds of charity.

2. Attitude

- Share one's riches, talents and time
- Take pride in the deeds of charity that the church is doing, join in such activities.

3. Resolution

- I will make full use of the opportunities to share my wealth, talent and knowledge.
- I will participate in the deeds of charity that the church undertakes.

III. Teaching Aids:

Pictures of the charitable activities of the church, The Bible, Biography of St. Damian, St. Vincent De Paul and St. Mother Teresa, Pictures of the activities in the mission centers, Paper cuttings, Verse-cards, Documents of the Vatican Council, 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the class by showing the pictures of charitable activities of the church followed by a discussion. Tell the students about the examples set by the early church. Ask them to find out and write down verses that motivate us to share. Discuss about the biographies of St. Damian, St. Vincent De Paul and Bl. Mother Teresa.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam) by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha Chapter 5 pages: 196 & 197.

b. Answers

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

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Find out through discussion what the children can share with others and make a chart.
2. Visit an institution of the church which is engaged in charitable activities.

LESSON 8

Church: The Prophetic People

I. Preface:

A prophet is one who conveys to the people the will of God and bears witness to God by fulfilling God's will in his own life. All the children of the church who are anointed by the Holy Spirit in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation also become prophets. We are called to become the salt of the Earth and the light of the World. We must fulfill our prophetic mission by empowering ourselves through the reception of sacraments and by living our faith life for spreading the Good News through our own example.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- We have been transformed into a prophetic people through Baptism.
- We should work to eliminate evil from the society and to add taste to life.
- We must fulfill this responsibility by empowering ourselves through sacraments and by leading our faith life as an example for others.
- We have been called to live as witness to Truth and Love.

2. Attitude

- Readiness to fight against social evils.
- Courage to witness for truth and love at any cost.

3. Resolution

- I will always stay away from evils.
- I will fight against social evils.

III. Teaching Aids:

The Bible, Verse-Cards, Paper-cuttings, Documents of the Vatican Council, 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the lesson by staging a role play of any incident in the life of prophet Jeremiah. Discuss the peculiarities of the prophet. Find out through discussion what we, who have received the prophetic mission can do in today's world in order to fulfill our mission. Make a chart of the same. Also find out from newspapers what the church leadership has declared and taught against evils and present it in the class.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam) by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha Chapter 7 pages: 238 & 281.

b. Answers

1. Page 51
2. Page 51
3. Page 52
4. Page 52, 53
5. Page 53

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Find out the major evils that prevail in the world today and discuss how to eliminate them.
2. Take a pledge to strive unyieldingly against the social evils like Liquor, Drugs, Tobacco, Bribery, Corruption, etc.

LESSON 9

The Missionary Church

I. Preface:

The Church is missionary in character. Missionary activity is the responsibility that Jesus has entrusted to the church. It is the duty of every Christian to proclaim to the people all over the world that Jesus is the Savior of mankind. After receiving the Holy Spirit on the day of the Pentecost St. Thomas came to this distant land of India with the light of the Gospel. The Syro-Malabar Church which inherited the missionary zeal of its patron continues to march forward in its missionary activities. Let us grow as staunch missionaries by imbibing the vigor of the mother church. This should be the message that the students should get from this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Jesus is the first missionary. He is the only Saviour
- Our father St. Thomas faced a lot of sufferings and reached India to do missionary work.
- The church has been entrusted with the responsibility of proclaiming to the whole world that Jesus is the only Saviour of the world and to invite everyone to Salvation.
- Today the Syro-Malabar church has many mission dioceses.
- Whichever Vocation one may choose, one has to do missionary work.

2. Attitude

- Appreciation for the missionary activities of the church.
- Readiness to help mission dioceses and their activities.

3. Resolution

- I will speak about Jesus to the children of other religions.
- I will pray for the mission and offer help by doing sacrifices.

III. Teaching Aids:

Map showing all the mission dioceses of Syro-Malabar Church, Experience of missionaries, Pictures of St. Thomas and St. Francis Xavier. Map showing the 'Seven and a half churches', The Bible, Paper-cuttings, Verse-cards, Documents of the Vatican Council, 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the class by showing the pictures of St. Thomas and St. Francis Xavier. Discuss about their missionary activities. Stage a role play presenting the scene of Jesus entrusting the missionary work to the apostles. If possible invite a missionary and ask to share his/her experience. Also find out some news about the hardships of the missions and present the same in the class.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam) by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha Chapter 8.

b. Answers

1. Page 55
2. Page 56
3. Page 59
4. Page 58, 59
5. Page 59

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Interview a missionary.
2. Tell Bible stories to the friends who belong to other religions.

LESSON 10

The Pilgrim Church

I. Preface:

Christian life is a pilgrimage, its destination being Heaven. Just as the Israel who journeyed to Canaan like pilgrims, the church, having been liberated from the bondage of sin, is also on a pilgrimage to Heaven. Death is the door to eternity. An Individual judgment and a Final Judgment await us after our death. On the basis of that we get either heaven, hell or purgatory. We should endeavour to reach heaven by doing good deeds founded on faith and love. This is the idea that the students should imbibe from this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- Church is a congregation of pilgrims whose destination is Heaven.
- This pilgrimage should be undertaken after getting freed from the bondage of sin.
- The Christian life in this world gives a foretaste of the life in heaven.
- It has been decided by God that we should die one day and subject ourselves to the Judgment.
- The virtuous will inherit heaven
- Those who remain in mortal sin and do not repent even at death will get hell.
- Those who repent at least at the time of death but die without attaining the perfection of God's love, will undergo purification in purgatory.
- We must pray for those who are in purgatory.

2. Attitude

- The desire to reach heaven by living a virtuous life.
- The zeal to pray for the dead.

3. Resolution

- I will quit sin and sinful situations
- I will grow in virtue by performing all my duties well.
- I will pray daily for the souls in purgatory.

III. Teaching Aids:

The picture of any pilgrimage. The Picture of the Last Judgment, The picture of souls being saved from purgatory, the Holy Bible, The documents of the Vatican Council 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Show the picture of a pilgrimage to any place, have a discussion and begin the lesson. Tell the story of the pilgrimage of the Israelites. Read from the Bible the passage about the Last Judgement and draw a picture based on it. Also discuss about the need for praying for the dead.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam) by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha Chapter 10 pages: 362 to 374.

b. Answers

1. Page 62
2. Page 62, 63
3. Page 65
4. Page 63, 64
5. Page 65

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Write down five things that the others are likely to say about you after your death.
2. Discuss how the children can help those who are in purgatory.

LESSON 11

The Church Is One

I. Preface:

The Church which is the fellowship of the believers maintains its uniformity in respect of faith, Sacraments and Apostolic Unity. However, there are diversities in Liturgy, Theology, Spirituality and Discipline. These diversities do not weaken the fellowship among the churches; rather they nurture the fellowship. Now there are 22 individual Churches in the Holy Catholic Church and Syro-Malabar Church is one among them. Each individual church has the responsibility of keeping up its traditions and individuality. This is the message that should be conveyed through this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- The church that Jesus established is one and that exists as a fellowship of individual churches.
- These individual churches maintain their unity in faith, Sacraments and Apostleship. At the same time they maintain their diversity in Liturgy, Theology, Spirituality, Discipline, etc.
- All the churches enjoy equal status.
- Syro-Malabar Church is one of the 22 individual churches.
- The Syro-Malabar Church follows the Oriental Syrian liturgical traditions with some adaptations to Indian Culture. Both the Syro-Malabar and the Chaldean church follow the Oriental Syrian Liturgical Traditions.
- The believers of every individual church have the responsibility of keeping up the tradition and spirit of the church they belong to.

2. Attitude

- Taking pride in belonging to the catholic church

- Respect for all individual churches
- Interest in knowing and keeping up the traditions of Syro-Malabar Church

3. Resolution

- I will live in the liveliness of the Syro-Malabar Church.
- I will love and respect all catholics.

III. Teaching Aids:

A Chart of the 24 individual churches along with the number of families in each church, Verse-cards, The Bible, Documents of the Vatican Council. 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the lesson with a song about the parable of true vine and its branches. (Jn. 15: 1-5) Show the picture of a Vine plant. Discuss about the non-catholic churches we have in our country. Show the 24 churches with the help of the chart.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read: 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' Ch. 11 page 426-430.

b. Answers

1. Page 70
2. Page 69
3. Page 70
4. Page 70, 71
5. Page 70

VI. Supplementary activities:

Introduce 'Varthamana Pusthakam' by Paremmakal Thomma Kathanar.

LESSON 12
The Church Is Holy

I. Preface:

The Church of the holy God is also holy. At the same time the members of the church are sinners and weak mortals. So the church has to be sanctified. We are sanctified by the sacred blood of Jesus, the word of God, Sacraments and Sacramentals. Prayer, fasting and abstinence etc. are also means for sanctification. This lesson is meant for giving these ideas to the students.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- As the Catholic Church is God's own church it is holy.
- Since the members of the church are sinners and weak mortals, the church has to be sanctified.
- As we the members of the church grow in purity the church gets sanctified.
- We have been sanctified by Jesus through His sacrifice on the cross. We should acquire this holiness through the sacraments, the Word of God and sacramentals.
- Prayer, fasting and abstinence are also means of sanctification.
- We achieve holiness when we attain perfection by fulfill faithfully the duties pertaining to each one's state of life.

2. Attitude

- Desire to cooperate with the means of sanctification that the church provides.
- Eagerness to observe purity in life.

2. Resolution

- I will meditate over the words of God and receive sacraments religiously.
- I will fulfill the duties of my life faithfully.

III. Teaching Aids:

Two collages in the form of human bodies, one with pictures of saints and the other with news paper-cuttings about the members of the church who have been caught for misdeeds. (The head of both the collages should be made of the pictures of Jesus), Charts of Verses about the purity of the church, Verse-cards, The Bible, Documents of the Vatican Council, 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Have a discussion on both the collages and begin with the lesson. Explain that when we become holy the body of the church also becomes holy and when we do evil the face of the church becomes distorted. Let the children quote verses that speak about our responsibility of observing holiness.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read: 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' Ch. 11 page 431-460.

b. Answers

1. Page 73
2. Page 74
3. Page 77
4. Page 77
5. Page 76, 77

VI. Supplementary activities:

Find out Bible verses that ask us to become holy.

LESSON 13

The Church Is Apostolic

I. Preface:

The Catholic Church is built up on the foundation of the Apostles. It was as a result of the preachings of the apostles that Christian communities were formed at different places. Founded by the apostle St. Thomas, the Syro-Malabar church also has its apostolic tradition. Today the apostolic presence of the church is the Bishop. This lesson should enable the students to take pride in belonging to the church founded on the apostolic foundation and to discern the false churches.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- The church is founded on the foundation of apostles; Jesus is its corner stone.
- The witnessing and preaching of the apostles facilitated the growth of the church.
- The Bishops are the successors of the apostles.
- The Bishops teach, lead and sanctify the people.
- It is the fellowship of the Bishops that lead the church; the head of the Bishops is the Pope.
- Syro-Malabar church is a Major Archiepiscopal church.

2. Attitude

- Pride in being a member of the Apostolic Church.
- Respect towards the Bishops and the priests.

3. Resolution

- I will keep myself away from the Pentecostal communities.
- I will follow the teachings of the church enthusiastically.

III. Teaching Aids:

Picture of the apostles listening to the words of Jesus, Picture of the disciples preaching the word of God, Pictures of St. Thomas, the Pope and the Synod of Bishops. Verse-cards, The Bible, Documents of the Vatican Council and 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the class by showing the pictures of the disciples listening to Jesus and of those preaching the Gospel. After stressing that the foundation of the church is the faith experience of the apostles, explain the triple mission which is being continued by the disciples and their successors who are the Bishops. Display the picture of St. Thomas and explain the relation between the Indian Church and St. Thomas. Also show the picture of the Pope. The Major Archbishop and the head of the diocese. Explain their position and responsibility in the body of the church.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read: 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' Ch. 12 page 534-548.

b. Answers

1. Page 80
2. Page 80
3. Page 81
4. Page 83
5. Page 82, 83

VI. Supplementary activities:

Make a list of Syro-Malabar dioceses and their Bishops. Try to include their pictures as well.

LESSON 14

The Church Is Universal

I. Preface:

The church has been appointed to be the path of salvation for the entire mankind by its presence all over the world. The children of the church also should display this character of the church. This lesson should be introduced with a view to express this theme.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- The church becomes a path of salvation for all. Remaining present in all parts of the world,
- She has been appointed to lead everyone to salvation, irrespective of one's caste, religion, community and colour.
- It is when the traditions of the West and the East are safeguarded, respected and accepted in the life of the faithful that the catholicity of the church is manifested.
- Twenty in order to interpret the doctrines of faith and to correct the false teachings that took place in the church from time to time, one Universal Councils have taken place so far.

2. Attitude

- A sense of responsibility that it is my duty to love all and to speak to them about Jesus.
- A sense of respect for the Western and the Eastern traditions.

3. Resolution

- I will share the word of God with all at every opportune moment.

- I will learn about the Eastern and the Western traditions.

III. Teaching Aids:

The picture of the mustard tree as in the Text book, the picture of people from different countries listening to the Word of God or offering the Holy Mass, Verse-cards showing the Universal nature of the church, the Bible, Documents of the Vatican Council, 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram'.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the lesson by showing the picture of the mustard tree and by explaining the parable of the mustard seed. Also show the picture of people from different countries offering Holy Mass and explain the Universal character of the church.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read: 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' Ch. 13 page 555-560.

b. Answers

1. Page 85, 86
2. Page 86
3. Page 86
4. Page 86, 87
5. Page 87

VI. Supplementary activities:

Pray for those countries and places where the church-tree is yet to take its root.

LESSON 15

Mary, the Mother and Model of the Church

I. Preface:

Jesus has entrusted each one of us to His mother while entrusting His beloved disciple John to His Mother. Therefore we are obliged to seek her intercession and follow her example. This is the message that the children should get from this lesson.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- While on the Cross, Jesus gave his Mother to us as our Mother.
- Mary is the Mother, symbol and model of the church.
- Just as Mary, we should grow in faith, charity and fidelity to our lord.
- Marian devotion can be expressed through the recitation of Rosary, Pilgrimage to Marian Shrines, Observance of fast and abstinence and celebration of Marian feasts.
- In our Oriental Church the 'Yama Prarthana' and the special devotion of Mary on Wednesdays reflect our devotion to St. Mary.

2. Attitude

- Love and dependence on Mary our mother .
- Desire to live according to the will of God, following the example of Mother Mary.

3. Resolution

- I will grow in devotion to Mary our mother
- I will recite the rosary daily.

III. Teaching Aids:

Picture of Mary our mother, Apostolic teachings about St. Mary, Chart showing the feast-days of Mary our mother, Verse-cards, Rosary, The Bible, Documents of the Vatican Council.

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Begin the lesson by showing the picture of Mary our mother standing at the foot of the Cross. Let the students recite verses which explain the qualities of Mary our mother. Make a chart of such Verses. Make the students aware of different ways to imbibe Marian devotion.

V. Lesson-based activities: (Same as in the 1st lesson)

a. Know the Mother Church:

Read: 'Synodal News' Volume 1-5.

b. Answers

1. Page 90
2. Page 91
3. Page 91, 92
4. Page 92
5. Page 93

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Introduce the Ecclesiastical Teachings named 'Rosary of Mary our mother.
2. Visit a church in the name of Mary our mother and pray.

Syro-Malabar Catechetical Centre Provides



ON THE PATH OF SALVATION 8

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