CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Class Five

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Preface

For improving the existing quality of Primary Education in Bangladesh, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) in collaboration with PEDP-2 initiated an extensive program for development of curriculum and teaching learning materials in 2002. In the light of this program the curriculum, textbooks and other teaching learning materials of Primary levels have been prepared, revised and evaluated.

The textbook entitled, 'Christian Religious Studies' has been prepared on the basis of attainable competencies for the students of Class Five. The subject matter of the textbook is derived from the basic issues of the religion familiar to the children through their family practices. This will facilitate our young learners to know how they can make best use of this religious knowledge & values in their day-to-day life.

The contents of the book are analyzed and explained in such a manner with practical examples, illustrations and system of planned activities, that students are inspired to study the subject with a keen interest.

This book is originally published in Bangla. From this year NCTB is publishing the English version of the textbook. English is the language of choice in today's globalized world. To facilitate the verbal and written communication skills of our future citizens and suitably prepare them for international competition, we decided to translate the original Bangla textbooks into English. It's pleasant to note that the number of English medium schools in Bangladesh is increasing very fast. In this context NCTB decided to publish all the textbooks of Primary level in English. This was a big endeavour for us. Despite our all efforts the first edition may not be totally error free. However, in the future editions we shall try to remove all errors and discrepancies.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to those who have made their valuable contributions in writing, editing, evaluating and translating this book. I sincerely hope that the book will be useful to those for whom it has been prepared.

Prof. Md. Mostofa Kamal
Chairman
National Curriculum and Textbook Board
Dhaka
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>God's Creation and the Day of Rest</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>God Heard the Cry of the Israelites</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>God Loves and Protects the People of Nineveh</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>Submission of Jesus to the will of God</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>Respect and Care for Man</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>The main divisions of the Old testament and introduction to the Prophets</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>Ten Commandments: Second Part</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>Jesus Forgives Sin</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>Jesus heals the Ten Lepers</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>Paul's call and his Mission</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleven</td>
<td>Mother Teresa -- A Disciple of Jesus</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twelve</td>
<td>The story of Esther</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thirteen</td>
<td>The Pentecost</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourteen</td>
<td>The Lord's Prayer</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifteen</td>
<td>The Sacrament of Confirmation</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixteen</td>
<td>Global family</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventeen</td>
<td>Bangladeshi Christians and the Country</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter One

God's creation and the day of Rest

God created everything. Earlier we learned many things about His creation. Here we will learn about what God created on the Fifth and the Sixth Day. God rested after He finished His works of creation in six days. Here we will learn about that too. We will not only learn about His works of creation but also about God Himself through our knowledge of these things. The more we come to know God, the more we shall learn to love Him. We will praise and adore the Almighty God for His entire creation.

Narration of Creation on Day 5 and on day 6

God said: Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings. Then and there great sea-monsters appeared in the water. Also there appeared different kinds of fish. Then God said: Let the air be filled with birds. And let them fly in the sky. Just then different kinds of birds appeared. God was pleased with all His creation. God blessed all those
creatures saying: "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the water of the sea. Let the birds multiply on the earth." God created these on the fifth day.

Then God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small" -- and it was done. So God made them all, and He was pleased with what He saw.

Then God said: "Let us make human beings in our own image. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small."

Then God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it. Then He breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live. But God saw that man was lonely. He felt no joy. So God said, "It is not good for the man to live alone. He needs a companion." So God created a woman to be a companion to the man. The man was very delighted to get the woman as his companion.

Thus God created man in His own image. He made them male and female. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." Then God saw everything that He had made and these pleased Him. Thus passed the sixth day.

Now we will consider in brief the works of God on the fifth and the sixth day:
**God's creation on the fifth day**

1. On the fifth day God created all kinds of creatures which live in water, such as, different kinds of fish, sea-monsters, etc.

2. Then He created the birds that fly in the sky.

**God's creation on the sixth day**

1. On the sixth day God created all kinds of domestic animals, such as cows, buffaloes, goats, lambs, etc.

2. He created the reptiles. Among these were snakes and similar types of animals that walk on their chest and belly.

3. Then God created wild animals, such as tigers, lions, elephants, bears, monkeys, etc.

4. At last God created man.

Now let us write the names of God's creatures made on the fifth and the sixth day in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creatures made on the fifth day</th>
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Species of Animals

God created living beings according to their own species. He created the animals that live in the water and all the animals that live on the land according to their respective species. We know that there different kinds of fish. Similarly domestic animals also belong to certain species. In the same way all reptiles and wild animals have their respective species. All the creatures have their respective species. Thus we see that all kinds of animals protect their own species.

Why did God Create all These?

a) He has created them in order to increase and to be fruitful. From the beginning of creation, all kinds of animals have been increasing their respective families. Thus they have been productive too. All these prove that God is the giver of life and He is the only Creator of all. He is all powerful. He has created all these living beings in such a way that His works of creation will continue.

b) God created these living beings so that they can praise Him. They will praise God in their own language. They will lead their lives in the way that God has them and they will praise Him.

c) All the other creation is for the good of man. Man is the crown of creation. All the other animals will be subjected to man. Man will make use of most of them for his own good. Man will eat the meat and drink the milk of certain animals.
**God is all Powerful**

God commanded, "Let the waters be filled with living beings." Then and there the seas, rivers, canals and marshes were filled with different kinds of fish. Thus we get plenty of fish. Then God said, "Let there be gigantic monsters in the waters of the sea." And so there were gigantic sea-monsters. Then he said, "Let the sky be filled with birds." And so there appeared birds in the sky. He only commanded and all domestic animals, reptiles and wild animals were created. He is all powerful. Everything comes into existence by His order. As everything can be created by His order and everything can be destroyed at His order. So they all continue to obey His order. Nothing can move without His order. So we praise God. We thank Him for all His creation.

**God blessed the day of Rest**

God completed His works of creating everything in the sky and the earth within six days. After this on the seventh day He rested. God blessed and sanctified that day.

The story of God's rest is described in the Bible. God wants us to learn the importance of rest from this story. There are three kinds of rest that we should take. The rest is for the body, for the mind, and for the soul.

**The Rest of the body**

All of us are in need of taking physical rest. When we take physical rest, we are refreshed. We can work more nicely when our body is sound. It helps us to praise God.
The Rest of the Mind

Physical rest alone is not sufficient. The rest of the mind is also necessary. Different kinds of recreation give rest to our mind. For example, we become cheerful when we play, watch television, listen to the radio and chat with friends.

The Rest of the Soul

Prayer, meditation and thinking of God are like food for our soul. By doing these, we can give rest to our souls as well. Our soul becomes peaceful when we unite ourselves with God by these practices.

The Day of Rest

God blessed the Day of rest and made it holy. Just as God rested on the Day of rest, so should we human beings observe the day as holy.

We human beings are the best among his creatures. Moreover, He created us in His own image. The observance of the Day of rest means spending time in prayer and meditation and thinking of God. Because rest is so useful, He blessed it and made it holy. He has also commanded us to observe the Day of rest. The observance of the Day of rest does not mean only sleeping or sitting idle. Nor
does it mean Praying all day long in the Church. It means that
we join the other faithful and attend the services in the church in
the morning or in the evening. We must pray in the evening with
all the members of our family. All day long we will remember
that God lives among us. Moreover we will remember that God
is holy. He has commanded us to live holy lives.

**Prayer:** O Lord, bless us so that we may not waste our time in
laziness. Let us not forget to take rest when we are tired,
because we nurse ourselves by taking rest. It is You Who has
created us. By nursing ourselves we ultimately nurse Your
creatures. Let us keep in good health so that we can attend to
and take care of all Your creatures in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

**Exercise**

1. **Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:**

   a) Which day of the week has God blessed as the Day of rest?
      i) the sixth day (ii) the seventh day (iii) the fifth day.

   b) In what manner has God created the domestic animals?
      (i) in one species (ii) in different species (iii) in respective species
c) What did God command man to do?
(i) to multiply (ii) to destroy (iii) to limit

d) Where did God breathe when making man a living being?
(i) in the nose (ii) in the mouth (iii) in the ear

e) How did God make the Day of rest?
(i) harmful (ii) sorrowful (iii) holy

2. Write 'C' against the correct and 'IC' against the incorrect answer:

a) The observance of the Day of rest means to spend the day sleeping.

b) God rested on the seventh day.

c) God created man in His own image.

d) God made man out of flesh.

e) God made man as male only.

3. Short answer question:

a) What animals did God create on the fifth day?

b) What did God say after creating the animals?

c) What animals did God create on the sixth day?

d) Which animals did God create according to their respective species?
f) After creating human beings as male and female, what did God say to them?

g) What did God do on the seventh day?

h) How many kinds of rest are there and what are those?

4. Essay type question:

a) Write the names of the animals which God created on the fifth and the sixth day.

b) Write how man was created by God.

c) Why has God created them?

d) Discuss what the rest of the body, the mind and the soul mean.

e) What does the observance of the Day of rest mean?
Chapter Two

God heard the cry of the Israelites

We know that God is omnipresent; He is everywhere. He knows the name of each and every person. He knows about the sufferings and joys of all people. He wishes to liberate mankind from all suffering. From the history of salvation in the holy Bible we know that God knew about the sufferings and pains of the Israelites. He took steps to liberate them from their bondage.

In this chapter we will learn about the sufferings of the Israelites in Egypt and how God freed them from their slavery.

As we read this chapter we will remember that God knows about our sufferings too. He wants to free us from all our pain and suffering. He wants us to be really happy.

The Slavery of the Israelites in Egypt

God called Abraham and through him He called the Israelites. God promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation and they would be His own People. So God blessed him with a son. The name of his son was Isaac. Isaac had two sons - Esau and Jacob. Another name of Jacob was Israel. He had twelve sons. Joseph was his most favorite among them. So, his brothers were very jealous of him. They wanted to kill him. But later they sold Joseph to the Egyptians. Joseph was a very
wise man. So the King of Egypt appointed him to a high rank among his ministers. However, his brothers did not know that.

At that time a great famine broke out in different countries of the world except Egypt. Many people died of hunger. But there was no famine in Egypt. Plenty of food stuff was available there. Joseph's father and his sons and their families were starving. They heard that food was available in Egypt. So Joseph's brothers went to Egypt in search of food. Incidentally they met their brother Joseph there. Joseph made arrangements for them to settle down in Egypt. They were called Israelites in Egypt because they were the descendants of Jacob.

**The Suffering and miseries of the Israelites**

Joseph and his brothers died in Egypt. Then a new King ascended the throne of Egypt. The number of the Israelites began to increase day by day. They became countless in number. At that the King of Egypt became very worried. He started to treat them as slaves. He engaged them in hard work. Then he told the people of Egypt: "These Israelites are many in number. One day they will become a threat to us. If a war breaks out, they will join our enemy. They will win the war against us and this country will go under their domination. So we need to be careful and control their number." Then the Egyptians treated them very harshly and imposed very hard labor on them. At the same time they kept oppressing them. As a result, the fear of the Egyptians increased day by day even though the number of the Israelites kept growing. So the Egyptians continued to inflict more pain and torture the Israelites. So the Israelites cried out to God and prayed to Him. They prayed to God deliver them.
God knew about the sufferings of the Israelites

God knows everything. Even before the Israelites prayed to God, He already knew their pain and suffering. However, He wished that they would pray to Him. Thus He could test their faith. When they prayed to God, He planned to liberate them.

Remember: God is Almighty. He knows all about the joys and sufferings of all people. He wants to free mankind from all kinds of suffering. He wants to see us really happy because He loves us.

God called moses and gave him a Mission

God summoned Moses to liberate the Israelites. Moses became a great leader of the Israelites. He worked hard for their religious, social, political and cultural freedom. God gave the Ten Commandments and many other important teachings through Moses. Now we will learn about how God summoned Moses and how he responded.

God in the burning Bush

Moses married a woman in the country of Mid'i-an. The name of his father-in-law was Jeth'ro. Jeth'ro had many sheep. Moses used to pasture them by the side of the mountain Ho'reb. The place was very calm and quiet. One day when he was tending the sheep, suddenly he saw fire by the side of the mountain but it was not burning the bush. He wondered why the bush did not burn to ashes though it was blazing! So he got near the bush. Standing on one side he wanted to see that unusual sight. When God saw that Moses was approaching near the bush to look at it, from the bush He called, “Moses, Moses”. He
Moses met God in the burning bush. He replied, "Here I am." God said, "Do not move ahead; put off your shoes because the place on which you stand is a holy ground. I am the God of your fathers, of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob." Hearing this, Moses covered his face with his cloak because he was afraid to look at God. But God told him: "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I heard their cries. I know about their sufferings. I wish to free them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them to a better and vast country. A land filled with milk and honey. I wish to send you to the King of Egypt to free my People. You will lead my people out of Egypt."

Moses knew the King of Egypt. Moses knew that the King was very arrogant and he would not pay heed to anybody. So Moses said to God: "How can I liberate the Israelites? I am a little man. The King will not listen to me." God said: "I
will be with you." Then Moses said: "Let me rather tell the sons of Israel that the God of your fathers sent me to you. But if they want to know your name what will I tell them?" God told Moses: I AM WHO I AM. You will tell them that "I AM" has sent me to you. The God of your ancestors knows about the sufferings inflicted upon you by the Egyptians. He has come to save you.

**God gave two 'signs' to Moses**

Then Moses told Him: "I beg you to listen to me. They will never believe me and they will never pay any heed to my words. They will rather say that God cannot appear to you." God asked him: "What is it in your hand?" Moses replied: "It is a stick." God told him, "Drop it on the ground." No sooner had Moses dropped it on the ground than the stick turned into a snake. Moses jumped off from there. God told Moses: "Extend your hand and catch its tail." As soon as Moses touched the tail of the snake, it turned into a stick.

Then God told Moses: "Put your hands on your bosom under your cloak." He did so. And then he pulled his hands out. He saw that his hands turned as white as snow. God told him: "Put your hands on your bosom under your cloak again." Moses did that. And it was seen that his hands turned completely normal and fresh.

After giving him these two 'signs' God told him: "If they do not believe you, you will show the first sign. If they do not believe in the first sign, show them the second one. If, even then, they do not believe, you bring a little water from the river and it drop
on the dry ground. The water will turn into blood."

**God appointed Aaron as a companion of Moses**

Moses said to God again: "Lord God, I do not know how to speak. I am tongue-tied." But God told him: "I myself will help you speak. And I will tell you what to say." Even then Moses refused to go. He said: "My Lord! I beg your pardon. Please send someone else." God was disappointed at his continual refusal. He told Moses: "Your brother Aaron is an eloquent speaker. He will speak to the people on your behalf." This is how God summoned Moses to liberate the Israelites.

**The liberation of the Israelites through Moses**

Sometimes we are in a crisis. We wish to be free from the crisis. For example, when we are sick, we want to be cured. Sometimes there are problems in our family. For example, in an emergency our parents borrow much money from a money lender. But sometimes they not able to pay the money back on time. Then all the members think together how to solve the problem. Sometimes as a nation we face serious crises. For example, the Pakistanis once kept our nation under their control. Then we all tried together to be free. If we fail to overcome a problem by ourselves, we seek help from others.

The Israelites were in bondage under the Egyptians. They suffered a great deal of oppression. They cried out to God to free them from their miseries. So God planned to free them from bondage. He chose Moses as their leader. Now we will try to learn how the Israelites got liberated from Egypt.
Moses went to the king of Egypt

Moses went to the King of Egypt with his brother Aaron. He told the King that the God of Israel wanted His people to be set free. They are to go to the desert to offer a sacrifice to God. But the King asked: "Who is this God? Why should I obey His order and let these people go?" So the King did not allow them to go. Rather he imposed more and more heavy burden on the Israelites. So their sufferings increased more and more.

God sent ten plagues on Egypt

The heart of the King was hardened; he refused to let the Israelites go. So God sent ten plagues on Egypt one after another.

God struck the water in the Nile and all the water turned to blood.

Struck by the second plague, the country became filled with frogs.

When the third plague struck, there came gnats on man and beast throughout the country.

Then God sent swarms of flies on the people and the houses of the Egyptians.

The fifth plague struck the country and an epidemic killed man and beast of the land.

The sixth plague struck, and the Egyptians got infected with painful boils.
On the seventh blow, there were massive thunderbolts along with the showering of hails.

On the eighth blow, the country was covered with locusts.

On the ninth blow, the whole of Egypt was shrouded with darkness.

At last, on the tenth blow, the first-born offspring of man and animal in Egypt died.

Thus God sent ten plagues on Egypt one after another.

The last plague, i.e., the tenth was the most serious. The King of Egypt called Moses and Aaron, and told them to take the Israelites out of Egypt. So all the Israelites along with Moses and Aaron left Egypt.

**God delivered the Israelites from danger**

After leaving Egypt the Israelites came near the Red Sea. They were now in great danger. How can they cross the Sea? So they cried aloud to God. God told Moses: "Extend your stick over the sea." He did that. Then the water of the sea was divided into two parts. Moses and his people walked on dry ground through
the sea.

But the soldiers of the King came running after them to bring them back to Egypt. No sooner had they entered the sea than all the waters of the sea returned and drowned them. They all drowned in the sea. In this way, God saved the Israelites from danger.

**The people in prison now also cry for Liberation**

Many people our time also live in captivity. For example, many poor people are enslaved by the rich people. Many good people are made slaves by the bad people. All these people want to be free. In their helplessness they pray to God. God is kind and merciful. He wants to set all captives free. In order to carry out this mission He looks for people who want to help others. All of us can participate in this saving 'mission' of God and liberate people from their bondage.

**Prayer:** O My Lord, the Creator, You are always eager to relieve mankind of their suffering. I humbly ask you to purify me and bless me, so that with your help I can endure all the sufferings of my life. Your mercy and kindness are a source of power, a source of strength and knowledge. Let me not be careless in proclaiming the good news of salvation and doing Your work for the well-being of mankind. Be with me at all times with Your mercy, power and knowledge. This I pray in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.
Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks:
   a) Through Abraham God called the _________.
   b) Isaac had two sons: ___________ and ______________.
   c) They were called _____ in Egypt.
   d) The King of Egypt treated the Israelites as ______.
   e) They ______ God so that He _______ then.

2. Match the phrases of the right column with those of the left:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jacob had</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Israelites are</td>
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<td>Joseph was</td>
<td>3. rescued.</td>
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<td>All men belong to</td>
<td>4. test their faith.</td>
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<td>5. twelve sons.</td>
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<td>6. the great A lmighty</td>
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3. Short answer question:
   a) What promise did God make to Abraham?
   b) Where was Israel?
   c) Who was the most favorite son to Jacob?
   d) What were the names of the two sons of Isaac?
e) Through whom did God summon the Israelite nation?

f) Under which people were the Israelites in bondage?

g) Who went to the King of Egypt?

h) Which was the most serious plague?

4. Essay type question:

a) Why were the brothers of Joseph jealous of him?

b) Why did the King of Egypt appoint Joseph to a high post?

c) What did the father and brothers of Joseph do at the end of the famine? Why?

d) What comments did the King of Egypt make about the Israelites?

e) Whom did God call to liberate the Israelites? How?

f) Why did Moses not want to respond to the call of God?

g) How many signs did God give to Moses? What were those signs?

h) How many plagues were sent by God on Egypt? What were those plagues?

i) How did Moses and his people cross the Red Sea?
Chapter Three

God loves and protects the people of Nineveh

God loves all people equally. Even though we know this, many times we think and say that God loves only the people of our own religion. This attitude is not a good one. The Jews of old had this sort of attitude. They used to think that God loved them only. So they used to neglect people of other religions. God desired to change this attitude of the Jews. Hence this story of Nineveh and Jonah. God wanted to make them understand that He loved the people of Nineveh also. The people of the city of Nineveh were not Jews. They committed many sins. Yet God protected and cared for them. But He wanted them to repent and be converted.

The sin of the people of the city of Nineveh

Nineveh was the name of the capital city of Assyria. Assyria was situated in the present-day Iraq. The people of Nineveh did not live a life according to God's laws. They were busy day and night with worldly pleasures, luxurious living, amusements, wealth and property and with disgraceful conduct. Malice and hatred, fighting and quarrelling with one another were the main characteristics of the people of Nineveh. They forgot their
obligation to pray to God because they were gradually losing their faith in God. They loved themselves more than they loved God. In this way they moved very far away from God.

**God still loves the people of Nineveh**

Even though the people of Nineveh committed many sins against God, still He loved them. He did not destroy them. They forgot God, but He did not forget them. They disregarded God, but He did not hate them because He Himself created them. God hated their sinful habits. God knew that if they were given a chance to be converted, they could begin anew. So He decided to give the people of Nineveh an opportunity to repent and be converted. Thus God proved His love for the people of Nineveh even though they were not Jews.

**We too are in need of Conversion**

The Jews used to hate the people of Nineveh because they were living sinful lives. The Jews wished that God would destroy the people of Nineveh. But God told the Jews to change their attitude. He wanted to teach the Jews with the story of Nineveh and Jonah. Like the Jews many times we also think that we are the only people loved by God. We also wish that God should destroy our enemies. But God tells us that He loves all human beings. God forgives everyone who repents and is converted because out of love He created all.

**The prophet Jonah**

There was a prophet named Jonah in Israel. The name of his father was A-mit'ta-i. God called Jonah to preach His message
Jonah found asleep during the storm while others are frightened and worried

**God sends Jonah to the city of Nineveh**

One day God said to Jonah: "Go to the great city of Nineveh. There declare that I am aware of their sinful conduct." Since the people of Nineveh were very ungodly, Jonah wished to run away. Jonah did not want that the people of Nineveh should get the opportunity to repent. For if the people of Nineveh repent, God would forgive them. In fact Jonah wished that all the Ninevites should be destroyed. Therefore, instead of calling them to repentance he decided to run away to a distant place. In obedience to the command of the Lord he did started for Nineveh, but on the way he got off the ship at the port of Joppa. Then he boarded on another ship and headed towards Spain. This way Jonah wanted to run away from the Lord. God observed this act of Jonah. He decided to bring Jonah back and make him go to Nineveh. Therefore God caused a violent storm and the ship was about to sink. The sailors were terrified and
began pray to their gods. At the same time they started to throw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. Meanwhile, Jonah was fast asleep in the ship's hold. The captain found him there and said to him: "Hey, what's the matter? How can you sleep so soundly at this state of danger? Get up and pray to your god. Perhaps he will have pity on us and save us."

**Jonah thrown into the Sea**

The sailors began to talk to each other: "Come, let us draw lots to find out who is to blame for getting us into this danger." They did so and Jonah's name was drawn. The sailors wanted to know the identity of Jonah. They wanted to know about where he was from and where he was going. They came to know that he was running away from the Lord. So they asked Jonah: "Tell us what we should do to you to stop the storm." He said to them: "The storm is due to my fault. So, you throw me into the sea and the storm will calm down." The sailors wanted to take the ship to the shore, but the storm became more violent. So, they threw Jonah into the sea and for this they begged God's forgiveness. Then and there the storm stopped and the sea calmed down.
The lord rescued Jonah

God decided in advance that He would rescue Jonah. So He sent a very large fish. The fish came and swallowed up Jonah. He was inside the fish for three days and three nights. But no harm was done to him.

He stayed there and prayed to God. After three days and three nights the fish spewed Jonah up on the beach. Jonah thanked God for rescuing him. He now realized that he must carry out the mission that God had entrusted to him.

The Ninevites repented for their Sins

Jonah did not succeed in running away from God. God brought him back. He reminded Jonah of his mission. He told Jonah: "Go to that great city of Nineveh and proclaim to the people the message I have given you." As instructed by God, Jonah set out for the city of Nineveh. The city was very large. It took three days to travel from one end of the city to other.

Jonah entered the city and after walking a whole day he proclaimed: "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed." The Ninevites believed this message to have come from God. They decided to keep fast and repent for their sins. Irrespective of
their social status, all of them welcomed this decision. They put off their luxurious cloths and put on sackcloth.

When the king of Nineveh heard about it, he got up from his throne, took off his robe, put on sackcloth and sat down in ashes. He sent out a proclamation to the people of Nineveh that all of them would have to keep fast and wear sackcloth. Not only humans but also animals must not eat or drink anything. Everyone shall pray to God with all his mind and heart. Everyone must give up his wicked behavior and his evil actions. Perhaps God will change his mind. Perhaps He will stop being angry at us and show us His mercy.

Everyone of the city heard the king's order and put on sackcloth and sat on ashes, and all spent the day in fasting and prayer.

**The fruits of penance, fasting and prayer**

Beautiful and costly dresses are signs of luxury. They manifest a person's vanity. On the other hand, politeness and simplicity are expressed by ordinary clothes. The Ninevites became so humble and simple that they all put on sackcloth. As a result of wearing sackcloth the Ninevites lost the feeling comfort and ease. This reminded them of their sins of the past. So they were repentant.

Excessive and costly food used to cause physical stimulation. So they used to do many misdeeds. But through fasting they were able to control their physical excitement.

When their bodies were excessively stimulated, they engaged in bad thoughts and evil deeds. As a result they had totally forgotten God. The thought of God was absent from their mind.
As a result of fasting their inclination towards evil thoughts and deeds became less, and there was no distraction during prayer. They could concentrate while praying. At the time of prayer their mind did not wander. They were able to fix their mind on God and pray wholeheartedly.

**God forgave the Ninevites**

God was pleased to see the repentance and conversion of the Ninevites. He saw that the people of Nineveh realized their fault. They abandoned their sinful ways and returned to the right path. So God's anger was abated. God forgave the Ninevites and did not destroy them.

**God loves and protects all**

No child is negligible to a father. He loves all his children. He keeps on loving them even though they commit sins repeatedly. This was also the case with the city of Ninevites. The people of that city were about to forget God while they were living in sin. God knew that they would be ruined if He did not bring them to the right path. So He wanted to warn them. He sent Jonah as His messenger. If the Ninevites would pay no heed to the call of Jonah and come back to the right path, even then God would have respected their free will. God's love is so deep that He did not wish the extermination of the Ninevites. God told Jonah repeatedly to go to Nineveh so that the Jews could understand God's intention of not destroying the Ninevites. God sent Jonah to Nineveh even though he was at first unwilling and did not wanted to go there. So this was a lesson for Jonah as well.
Jonah's complaints and the Lord's response

Jonah was unhappy because God forgave the people of Nineveh. In his prayer he said to the Lord: "O God, I knew for sure that you would act this way. I knew already that you would forgive the sinners. Because You are kind and compassionate. Your anger does not last long. You forgive anyone who asks for Your forgiveness. When someone is in distress you feel pain. For this reason I was unwilling to go to Nineveh. I wanted to run away to Tarshish. Now I feel awfully unhappy to see your acts of kindness. Let me die and not live any more. I am better off dead than alive."

God said to Jonah: "Is it right for you to express such displeasure?" But Jonah paid no heed to God's words. Sad and angry, he went to the east of the city. There he built a shelter for himself and sat in its shade. He was waiting to see what would happen to Nineveh. Then the Lord God made a plant grow up over Johan to give him some shade, so that he would be more comfortable. Jonah was pleased with the tree as it provided shade during the day. However, on the next day at God's order a worm ate up the trunk of the plant and the plant withered. At God's command the
heat of the sun became intense. The breeze of the east became very hot and Jonah began to suffer from the intolerable heat of the sun. He became tired and disappointed. Jonah prayed to God saying: "It is better for me to die than to endure this suffering." God said to Jonah: "What right do you have to be angry about the plant?" Jonah replied: "I have every right to be angry - angry enough to die." Then God said to him: "You didn't do anything for the plant; you didn't make it grow. The plant grew up in one night and died the next. Yet you feel sorry for it. Therefore, can you imagine, how much more pity I should feel for the thousands of innocent children and birds and animals of the city of Nineveh?"

**Keep in mind:**

**The usefulness of prayer at The time of Fasting**

1. Fasting makes us humble. Jonah proclaimed fast to make the people of Nineveh 'humble'.

2. Fasting can increase our desire to see the works of God. Spiritual hunger and fasting mutually strengthen each other.

3. Fasting helps us concentrate in prayer. It increases our spiritual power and helps restrain our unbridled mind.
4. Fasting makes our promises firm.

5. Fasting makes our faith strong and pure.

6. Fasting helps us open our hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit.

7. Fast increases our desire to pray in the Holy Spirit.

8. Fasting helps us prepare our hearts to welcome God.

9. Fasting and prayer work miracles.

**Prayer:** Almighty Creator, fill my heart and mind with humility, honesty and holiness. Give me the necessary strength to overcome all my bad habits. Use me as an ordinary servant so that I can manifest Your glory and feel Your compassion in my heart. Amen.

**Exercise**

1. **Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:**

   a) Where is Nineveh?

   i) In Assyria (ii) In Egypt (iii) In Arabia
b) Even though the Ninevites disregarded God, what did He not do?
   i) Abuse (ii) Neglect (iii) Hate

c) Why does God forgive all?
   i) Out of sadness (ii) for Conversion (iii) to refresh His mind

d) In how many days Jonah crossed the city of Nineveh?
   i) In one day (ii) In two days (iii) In three days

e) What did the Ninevites wear as a sign of repentance?
   i) Rags (ii) dirty clothes (iii) sackcloth

f) Where did the king sit after he put on the sackcloth?
   i) On the ground (ii) On the hill (iii) On ashes

g) How did all the Ninevites spend the day?
   i) fasting (ii) praying (iii) fasting and praying.

h) Ordinary clothes are a sign of what?
   i) Pride and arrogance (ii) Humility and simplicity (iii) Luxury

2. Fill in the blanks:

   a) The people of the city of Nineveh were _____________.

   b) They (the sailors) started to throw the ____________ into
      the sea to lighten the ship.

   c) The sailors wanted to take the ship to the _____________.
d) God's is deep as He is our Father.

e) Jonah wanted to run away towards ____________.

f) With grief and anger Jonah went to the __________ of the city.

g) At the command of God the ______of the sun increased very much.

3. Short answer question:

a) What sort of life did Jonah choose?

b) In what port did Jonah change the ship?

c) Whom did the frightened sailors address in prayer?

d) What was the condition of the sea after Jonah was thrown into the sea?

e) What did God send to rescue Jonah?

f) How many days did Jonah stay inside the fish?

g) Where did Jonah go with God's instruction?

h) How many days did it take Jonah to go from one side of Nineveh to the other?

i) Within how many days did Jonah declare the city of Nineveh to be destroyed?

j) What was God's reaction when the Ninevites repented?
4. **Essay type question:**

a) How did the Ninevites live before their conversion?

b) Why did God show His love to the people of Nineveh?

c) Who was Jonah? Why and where did God want to send him?

d) How did Jonah want to flee from God?

e) What action did God take to bring Jonah back to the city of Nineveh?

f) Why was Jonah thrown into the sea?

g) How did God rescue Jonah?

h) What did the king do after hearing the proclamation of Jonah?

i) What was the cause of Jonah's sadness? What was God's answer to him?
Chapter Four

Submission of Jesus to the will of God

All of us want to be happy. We want happiness not only in this world but also beyond this life. We believe that happiness in the life after death is real happiness because it is eternal. We observe religious practices in order to attain eternal happiness. If we want perfect happiness we have to know the will of God. We have to fulfill our duties according to the will of God. If we disobey God even when we know His will, then it is a sin. In this way suffering and pain befall upon us. Jesus is our great teacher. We learn from him. He obeyed and fulfilled the will of God. Following his ideal, we will also be able to fulfill the will of God. In this chapter we will come to know how Jesus fulfilled the will of God. He had to endure pain and suffering in fulfilling the will of God. Nevertheless, we know that after enduring suffering Jesus attained real happiness. In this chapter we will also learn how we will be able to obey the will of God.

The prayer of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane

Jesus, our Savior gave the most importance to obeying the will of God. In obedience to the will of God He accepted all the pains and death inflicted by his enemies without any complaint. From his prayer to God we can understand Jesus' intention of following the will of the Father. He prayed that prayer in the night before his death. With his disciples he went to the Garden
of Gethsemane. Once there, he said to his disciples: "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." Then he went off from them a little distance and knelt down and prayed:

"Father, if you will, take this cup of suffering away from me. Not my will, however, but your will be done."

Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. In great anguish he prayed even more fervently; his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. Rising from his prayer, he went back to the disciples and found them asleep, worn out by their grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you will not fall into temptation." (Luke 22: 39-46). The Father willed that the whole of mankind would be saved. For this the Father sent his Son, Jesus. So Jesus always remembered that his main task was to carry out the will of his Father. He said that to his disciples many times. He told them that mission was to carry out the will of the Father. For example, once His disciples bought some food from a market for lunch and gave it Jesus. Jesus said, "My food is to obey the will of the one who sent me." (John 4: 34)
Happy are those who do the will of the Father

Jesus wants us to fulfill the Father's will just as He did. Those who faithfully do the will of the heavenly Father are truly happy. Therefore, in the "Lord's Prayer", Jesus taught us to obey the will of the Father. In the Lord's Prayer we say: "Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: "Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do." (Matthew 7:21). It means that if we do the Father's will, then when we die He will let us enter heaven. There we will be united with the Father and we will be happy.

Those who are meek, holy and innocent, they follow Jesus. They obey the will of the Father. The heavenly Father does not allow them go astray. Jesus said: "Your Father in heaven does not want any of these little ones to be lost." (Matthew 18:14)

Throughout his life Jesus tried to obey the will of his Father. What was the will of the heavenly Father for Jesus? The Father wanted that Jesus would be the Savior of the whole of mankind. That is why the Father sent him to this world.

On the eve of his death Jesus realized that his hour of death had come very near. He was to die in order to obey the will of the Father. He must not be afraid of death. He should not run away like Jonah. So single-mindedly he prayed to his Father. He said, 'Father, if You will, take this cup of suffering away from me. Not my will, however, but your will be done." 'The cup of
suffering' means the pain and suffering and death on the cross. The Father told Jesus, "You must drink this cup of suffering." That is, he must go through this suffering and pain till the end of his life. So Jesus endured all the disgrace and pain inflicted by his enemies without any complaints. The soldiers spat on him and slapped him on his face. They placed a heavy Cross on his shoulder but he did not protest. This proved that he was an obedient Son of his Father.

What reward did Jesus get by obeying the will of his Father? The Father raised him back to life. Upon entering heaven Jesus received the honor of sitting at the right hand of his Father. He has been given all the powers of heaven and earth. It is Jesus who will come on the last day of final judgment to judge the world.

**We will obey the will of God**

Our parents, teachers and other guardians want us to be happy. They know well what can bring us well-being and what can cause us harm. Sometimes they tell us to do something. If we follow their advice, normally we benefit. That is to say, it brings us well-being. Throughout our life we will enjoy God's blessings if we follow His divine will. Our well-being lies in obeying His will.

How can we know the will of God? We can know it in the following ways:

1. From the Holy Bible,
2. From the good advice of our parents, teachers and other
The ways to know the will of God in the Bible: We have to read the holy Bible everyday. Then we have to remain silent for sometime. We have to listen attentively to the inspiration that comes from the message of the holy Bible. In this way, in the light of the Word we gain insight into God's will.

The ways to know the will of God through the advices of parents, teachers and other guardians: We should remember that whatever they say is for our well-being. Therefore, we should always be obedient to them.

The ways to know the will of God through special events: Our life is full of events. In school I may find one of my friends came to school without taking any food. I have my snacks with me. I may share it with him. It is small thing. But if we reflect later on, we may realize that it was Jesus with whom you shared your snacks. It was Jesus who spoke to you today through that friend. Now consider another situation: Shuva is a student of class nine. His father promised to buy him a bicycle. It would be
a matter of much delight to him to go to school riding on a bicycle. When they were ready to buy a bicycle, there were heavy rains and storm. The water level began to rise very quickly. Within two weeks almost the whole of the country got flooded. Thousands of people became homeless. The helpless people took shelter in different schools and on the high lands. Many people took shelter in Shuva's school. The headmaster, other teachers, and the students of Shuva's school and the people there were working together to help the affected people. What a distressing situation it was for all! There was no food, no drinking water and no medicine. Shuva's father was upset to see all that. He talked to Shuva about the sufferings of the people. He suggested that Shuva should not to buy the bicycle. He then advised him to contribute that sum of money to help the flood affected people. Shuva immediately agreed with his father. The next day Shuva, along with his father, went to the headmaster and handed the money to him. The headmaster pat on Shuva's back and told him: "I bless you, Shuva. I wish you every success in life." It was really a great sacrifice for Shuva.

To know the will of God from the deep recesses of our heart in times of prayer: Everyday we pray in the church and at home as well. Sometimes we cannot hold our attention during our prayer. The mind tends to wander hither and thither. So when we sit down to pray we should remember that God is always with us. It may happen that suddenly He will arouse a feeling in our heart. He speaks through our heart. We have to listen to that. But if we fail to be attentive at the time of prayer, we will miss hearing the voice of God.
The Angelina's submission to the will of God

One of the hills of Bandarban is Joitun Hill. One of the girls in that hill village was Angelina Tripura. She was a student of class five. The economic condition of her family was not good. Her parents were involved in Jhum cultivation and their harvest was very little. One day her father had an attack of deadly malaria. The catechist of the village came and told Angelina: "Go to the market now. Show this letter to the doctor and he will give you some medicine. Come back quickly with the medicine." The market was 3 miles away on a hill track. Angelina thought to herself that if she did not take the trouble of getting the medicine from the market, her father would not get cured. So, with the letter of the catechist she went running to the market. She got back with the medicine and the catechist started giving it to her father. Within five days her father got cured. If Angelina had not taken the trouble that day, her father would not be alive today. Later on she realized that all those troubles were the will of God for her.

Prayer: Dear God, give me the ability to listen to you, so that I may hear what you are saying to me. Help me to know and obey your will. Let me never forget that only by obeying your will I may find true fulfillment. Amen.
Exercise

1. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

a) What did Jesus say in the "Lord's Prayer"?
   i) Let our will be done
   ii) Let my will be done
   iii) Let your will be done

b) Who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
   i) Those who say "Lord, Lord"
   ii) Those who pray always
   iii) Those who do the will of the Father.

c) Angelina's father was suffering from----?
   i) Malaria
   ii) Typhoid
   iii) Cholera

d) Those who obey the will of God are: -
   i) Sinner
   ii) Unhappy
   iii) Happy

e) To whom does God speak in silence?
   i) To His friends
   ii) In everyone's heart
   iii) To our neighbors.

2. Short answer question:

a) What did Jesus say in His prayer at the Garden of Gethsemane?

b) What was the purpose of Jesus' coming into this world?
c) What did Jesus say when his disciples offered him some food?

d) Who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

e) What does "The Cup of Suffering" mean?

3. Essay type question:

a) In how many ways can we know the will of the Father?

b) How can we know the will of God through reading the Bible?

c) How can we know the will of God through special events?

d) How and what did Jesus say in his prayer at the Garden of Gethsemane?

e) How do you obey the will of God?
Chapter Five

Respect and care for Man

Man is the crown of God's creation

We know that the Almighty God has created everything of this earth out of nothingness. He created many things in five days. Everything He created seemed good. But in spite of this He was not satisfied. There was none to look after this creation. It was not possible for any birds or beasts to do that. He wished to create something in His own image. So He created man. He created them as male and female.

Man may be superior in two ways. Firstly Man is superior for their special characteristics given by God. Secondly, Man can be superior day by day with labor and practice. The second can't be accomplished without the first.

Through his work a farmer can develop his good qualities.
Man can be considered superior because of the following characteristics ordained by God:

1. Man is created in the image of God.

2. In the whole of creation only man enjoys the gift of free will.

3. Only man can speak in words to express his inner thoughts to someone else.

4. God has given man the power of reasoning, judgment, wisdom and conscience.

5. God has given man the right to use His creation for his benefit.

6. God has given man the responsibility to look after the rest of His creation.

7. God has created man in order to enter into a covenantal relationship with Him.

8. God has created man with body, mind and soul.

9. Man can obtain forgiveness from God if he repents after committing sin.

There is no need of any proof that man is superior to the rest of creation. However, the more he develops his human qualities, the greater will be his superiority. The good qualities or virtues of man are based on the habitual and firm determination to live and work for others. The four main qualities or virtues are: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.
a) With prudence we can discern what is good and what is bad.

b) Justice consists in constant and firm will to give a person what is due to him/her.

c) Fortitude strengthens the resolve to resist temptation and to overcome obstacles.

d) By temperance we can suppress our attraction to pleasures and luxury. We can improve ourselves by practicing these virtues.

The responsibility and duty of man towards fellow men

God has given man the responsibility to look after His creation. This responsibility is one of the reasons for which man is considered to be superior. God has created everything on this earth for the well-being of man. It is man's duty to look after one another. And there is none other than him to do this.

This old woman needs love and care

The need for taking care of others

a) We feel happy when someone takes care of us. Then we feel that our life is meaningful.
b) It is easier for us to bear our pain and suffering when we receive loving care from others. It heals our pain.

c) It is easy for us to move forward if we get help from others.

d) Many good works can be accomplished easily in a short time with the cooperation of others.

e) When we can help others in their work, we feel happy.

f) In serving others we serve Jesus Christ.

**How we can fulfill our duties towards others**

a) By showing our respect to them and giving them importance.

b) By paying back or returning what we owe to others.

c) By listening sympathetically and sharing the pain of our friends.

d) By nursing the sick persons and praying for them.

e) By helping our parents, teachers and superiors in their work.

f) By helping the little children in their studies and taking care of them.

g) By buying books for the poor students and sharing our snacks with them.

h) By praying with our friends when their relatives die.
Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks:
   a) With _____ we can discern what is good and what is bad.
   b) God has given man ____________, mind and ____________.
   c) ______consists in constant and firm will to give what is due to others.
   d) With __________ we can resist ________.

2. Short answer question:
   a) How is man superior to the rest of creation?
   b) What are the characteristics of the human beings created by God?
   C) What are the main qualities or virtues of man?

3. Essay type Question:
   a) Why should we take care of others?
   b) What are some of the duties that we can perform for the members of our family and how?
Chapter Six

The main divisions of the Old testament and introduction to the Prophets

The main divisions of the Old testament

The holy Bible is the Word of God. It contains divine message in human language. The word 'Bible' means book. The holy Bible consists of 73 (66) books. Now the question is, why do we not call it 'books'? The reason is that the word 'Bible' was taken from the Greek word 'Biblia'. It is a collective noun. 'Biblia' means 'books'. So the 73 (66) books of the Bible can be called a library.

Previously we learned that there were two main divisions in the Bible: The Old Testament and the New Testament. We learned something about the New Testament in the previous class. Now we will learn about the Old Testament.

Catholic Christians count a total of 46 books in the Old Testament of the holy Bible. But the Protestant communities count a total of 39 books. The books of the Old Testament can be divided into some main parts. They are as follows:

1. Pentateuch (It is also called the book of laws or the five books of Moses)
2. Historical books

3. Wisdom Books

4. Prophetic books

**The divisions and main books are shown here:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pentateuch</th>
<th>Historical books</th>
<th>Wisdom Books</th>
<th>Prophetic books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Deuteronomy</td>
<td>5. II Samuel</td>
<td>5. Song of Songs</td>
<td>5. Hosea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. I Chronicles</td>
<td>8. Obadiah</td>
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<td>10. Ezra</td>
<td>10. Micah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12. Lamentations</td>
<td>12. Habakkuk</td>
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<td>15. Esther</td>
<td>15. Zechariah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17. II Maccabees *</td>
<td>17. Baruch</td>
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*These books are accepted by the Catholic Community.

**The names of the prophets:**

The word 'prophet' may have two meanings: First, a prophet is one who knows what will happen in the future. Second, a prophet is one he who reads the Word of God keeping in mind
all the events of the past. He can understand what God is saying now.

The messengers of God are also called 'God's spokesmen'. At first the prophets try to know the will of God. They proclaim the will of God to the people. Moreover they try to know the future plan of God and announce them to people. The prophets have to have great courage because very often they have to speak against the injustice. The prophets take the side of the oppressed, the persecuted, the helpless and the poor. They struggle on their behalf for their rights.

The prophets keep a close relation with God. Prayer is a great source of power in their lives.

The prophets are always ready to respond to the call of God. Through the prophets God directs man to the right way.

Four prophets are called 'The Major Prophets' and the other thirteen are called 'The Minor Prophets'.

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<th>The Major Prophets</th>
<th>The Minor Prophets</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Isaiah</td>
<td>1. Amos</td>
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<td>2. Jeremiah</td>
<td>2. Baruch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Daniel</td>
<td>3. Haggai</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Ezekiel</td>
<td>4. Hosea</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Zephaniah</td>
<td>6. Joel</td>
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<td>7. Micah</td>
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<td>8. Jonah</td>
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<td>9. Nahum</td>
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<td>10. Malachi</td>
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<td>11. Obadiah</td>
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<td>12. Habakkuk</td>
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<td>13. Zechariah</td>
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From our studies on the lives of the two of the Prophets we can learn how they were called by god for a mission.

**a) Isaiah:** One day Isaiah had a vision of God. He saw God seated on a high throne. He was wearing a long robe. There
were some angels over His head. Each of them had six wings. They were saying: "Holy, holy, holy! The Lord Almighty is holy! His glory fills the world." They were praising God so loudly that the doors were trembling. The house was filled with the smoke of incense. Suddenly the prophet felt he was worthless, unholy and sinful. But the angels brought a burning coal from the altar with the tongs and touched his lips. Instantly he was purified. Then he heard the Lord say: "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?" Isaiah replied: "Here am I! Send me."

b) **Jeremiah:** One day the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. He said: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah made an excuse saying: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But God said to him: "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you."

**Now let us look at the prophets' lives and learn about their works:**

a) Prophet Amos criticized the different types of social evils. Especially he criticized injustice in the society, worship of idols, ostentatious prayers and so on.

b) Prophet Micah spoke against injustice in the society. He foretold the birth of the Savior in the city of Bethlehem.

c) Prophet Ezekiel criticized the Israelites for their apostasy and disobedience. He declared that everybody would be
responsible for his own sin. He announced that God was the real shepherd.

d) Isaiah prophesied about the birth of Emmanuel. He foretold that the Savior would be born in the family of David. That the Savior would bring about Justice; He would be a wonderful counselor and powerful God.

e) Prophet Joel called the people to repentance. He invited them to true conversion. For the day of salvation was near. God would come and shower His divine Spirit on all.

f) Prophet Daniel proclaimed the resurrection of the dead. On the day of resurrection every one will reap the harvest of their virtuous or sinful deeds.

Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks:

   a) A prophet is one who_________ or one who __________.

   b) _________ is a great source of power in the lives of the Prophets.

   c) The Prophet __________ announced that God is the real shepherd.
d) Daniel proclaimed the ___________ of the dead.

2. Short answer question:

a) What is 'Bible'? Why is it called a library?
b) How many books does the Bible consist of?
c) How many divisions are in the Bible? What are they?
d) How many books of the Old Testament do the Catholics and protestant communities have in their Bible?
e) What will the Israelites get in the promised land?
f) How many kinds of prophets are there? What are they?
g) Who is a prophet?
h) What is the main message of prophet Micah?
i) Who was prophet Isaiah?
j) What are the problems that we wish to be set free from?

3. Essay type question:

a) How did Isaiah get the call from God?
b) How did Jeremiah get the call from God?
c) Into how many divisions can the books of the Old Testament be divided? What are the main divisions?
d) How many Major and Minor prophets are there? Write down their names.
e) How did prophet Amos carry out his mission?
Chapter Seven

Ten Commandments: Second Part

We have learned that the main teaching of the Ten Commandments is 'love'. The Ten Commandments are divided into two parts. In the first part we discussed about how we can express our love for God. From the commandments in the second part we will learn about how we can express our love for man.

Let us do it Ourselves

Let us recall and write the first part of the Ten Commandments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catholic Community</th>
<th>Other Christian Communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him alone.</td>
<td>1. I am the Lord your God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.</td>
<td>2. You shall not have strange gods before me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. You shall observe Sunday as the day of rest and keep it holy.</td>
<td>3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Part of Ten Commandments of God

The following commandments are included in the second part of the Ten Commandments of God:
Let us learn the meaning of the Commandments

Honor your Parents

Our parents have given us birth. Our mother suffered much at the time of delivery. Our mother has nurtured us by breastfeeding. It is hard to explain how much work our parents do for us. They provide us with food, clothes, shelter, education etc. We are raised by their love, care and nursing.

In this way we grow up physically and mentally. Therefore, in
return we should honor our parents and show our love and respect for them. We should know what our parents want and what they don't want. We should do what they tell us to do. We should not do what they forbid us to do. We should always be obedient to them. We should attend to them at the time of their illness and in their old age and in their problems and loneliness. We must look after them when they face hard times.

**You shall not kill**

We are born from the womb of our mother. As living beings we can enjoy life; we eat, drink and study. Every day we can gather new experiences. But when God calls us, we have to go back to Him. God has given us this life. The master of our life is God, the Lord. God has not given us the right to kill anyone. Anyone who kills a man or a woman is a great sinner.

**Do not commit adultery**

God has created man as male and female. He has given both of them equal dignity as human persons. The meaning of this commandment is that we should not look at a boy or a girl with an evil desire. We should not watch indecent things and pictures. We should not use abusive language, entertain bad thoughts and read bad books and magazines. We should love other boys or girls as our friends. We should always put on elegant and decent dress. We should be sincere in talking, deeds and behavior.

**You shall not steal**

To take away someone's things or property without permission is called theft. We should not steal others' money or any other thing.
If we borrow a thing from anybody, we should return it to him. If we find anything lost by someone, we should return it to the owner. We should not use anything without the owner's knowledge. We should not deceive anybody. We should pay back everyone's dues. We should not squander away money or time. We should not adopt unfair means in the examinations because this is also same as stealing.

**You shall not bear false witness**

Words and deeds which cause damage or harm to anyone are considered false witness. Our words and deeds should be such that edify others. We should not make any false statements or tell any lies against others.

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife**

We are body, mind and soul. Sometimes our body and mind lead us to temptation. So we should be always careful about what we do or say. We will not look at others with bad intention, evil thought and evil eye. We will not do anything disgraceful to others or tempt them to do something shameful.

**You shall not covet your neighbor's property**

We should not desire anything that belongs to our neighbor: money, toys, watches, pens, pencils, fruits, crops, dresses, household things or any other thing. When we are greedy, we feel tempted to take it. Then we steal it or take it away illegally.
The consequences of breaking the Commandments of God

We have learned about the Ten Commandments of God. He has given us these commandments in order to help us to love God and human beings more sincerely. When we don't observe these commandments of God even when we know them that means we fail to love God and man. Then we do things that are against love, that is to say, we hurt others and hurt ourselves. We fail to give importance to God Who created us. Thus we commit sin. As a result we become unhappy and make others unhappy. And as a result of our sin, we are deprived of God's love. If we observe the commandments, we will be able to go to heaven, that is to say, to God after our death. In heaven we will spend our life with God in happiness. But if we commit sin, we cannot attain happiness. Those who die at the state of serious sin, will go to hell. There they will suffer for ever.
Let us prepare a chart showing how we can keep the Ten Commandments of God:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial No.</th>
<th>Commandments</th>
<th>How to Observe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Third</td>
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<td>Sixth</td>
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<td>Seventh</td>
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<td>Eighth</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ninth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prayer:** O God, teach not to be greedy, not to covet my neighbor's goods and property. Help me to be aware of the needs of others, especially of the poor. May I be inspired to help to the poor out of what I own.

**Exercise**

1. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

   a) In how many parts are the Ten Commandments divided?
      i) One  ii) Two  iii) Three
b) What do our parents do for us?
   i) Hard work   ii) Physical punishment   iii) Mental torture
c) Who is the master of our life?
   i) The devil   ii) The judge   iii) The teacher   iv) God, the Lord
d) What does one experience in hell?
   i) Suffering   ii) Happiness   iii) Joy
e) What does Jesus teach us?
   i) To love friends   ii) To love relatives   iii) To love enemies

2. Fill in the blanks:
   a) The fundamental teaching of the Ten Commandments is _________.
   b) We have divided _________ of God into __________ parts.
   c) Each of us was __________ from the womb of our __________.
   d) God has created man as __________ and ___________.
   e) If we _________ a thing from anybody we will _________ it to him.
   f) We have our __________, __________ and __________.
3. **Match the parts of the sentences of the right column with those of the left:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Parents</th>
<th>i) your neighbor's property.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b) False witness</td>
<td>ii) help man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Do not covet</td>
<td>iii) kill by body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) We can only</td>
<td>iv) attract us towards evil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Body and mind</td>
<td>v) encouragement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) We shall do</td>
<td>vi) should not be given.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vii) our duty properly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>viii) must be respected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Essay type question:**

a) Write the Commandments of the Second part of the Ten Commandments.

b) Explain in your own words the meaning of 'showing respect to the parents'.

c) How can we kill others?

d) Write the consequences of not keeping God's Commandments.
Chapter Eight

Jesus forgives Sin

Once upon a time Jesus went to Capernaum. The people came to know that he was there. So many people gathered there in the house that there was hardly any room. Jesus was telling them about God's love for man. Just at that time four persons brought a paralytic on a stretcher. But they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd. So they opened the roof of the house where he was sitting and let down the paralytic lying on the stretcher in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith he told the paralytic: "My son, your sins are forgiven."

At that time some teachers of religion were sitting there. They thought to themselves: "Why does Jesus tell such a thing? Does he decry God? Who can forgive sin except God?" As Jesus could read their mind, he replied: "Why do you think so? Which is easier to say to a paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven', or to say, 'Get up and walk around carrying your mat?' Alright! I did it only because I wanted to show you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." He told that paralyzed man: "I tell you, get up. Take up your mat and go home." The paralyzed man promptly got up, and taking up his mat went out walking in the sight of all. Everybody was astonished at seeing that. They glorified God saying, "We have never seen anything like this" (Mk 2:1-12).
Jesus can forgive sins

Jesus cured the paralyzed man. Those who were present there knew that only God could forgive sins. They were right. Except God nobody could forgive sin. However, they did not know that Jesus himself was God. They did not have the faith to believe that God had sent His own Son into this world. They could neither believe in Jesus' teaching nor in his works. But we know that Jesus was born in the form of man, even though he was God.

Jesus proclaimed that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins. So he cured the paralyzed man. Jesus can cure not only the physical diseases but also the spiritual ones. To be free from disease in a true sense one must healthy spiritually also. Jesus the Lord came into this world so that mankind could be saved from their sins. And in this way man can also attain new life by being cured spiritually.

All people do not have the same faith in Jesus. There are people who accept Jesus with complete faith and without doubt. They
think Jesus is the true God.

He can forgive the sins of man. But there are people who think that Jesus is just a man like us. So they think that Jesus is guilty of blasphemy against God because he said that he had the authority to forgive sins.

We know that Jesus is the Son of God. We believe that he can forgive our sins and those of others. We will ask for his forgiveness for our sins.

**Jesus is the son of God**

Jesus Christ is true God and true man. Even though He is God, he became man and took on himself our human nature. He became man in order to free us from our sin. He took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary (Mariam). The angel of God came to Mary with this message: "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God" (Lk 1:35). Even the demons or unclean spirits confessed that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus drove
out the evil spirits from many people. But while leaving their victims the evil spirits said loudly, "You are the son of God.' But Jesus sternly ordered the evil spirits not to tell who he was. Because they knew that he was the Christ. Once two people possessed by demons came out of the graveyard and moved towards Jesus. They were so fierce that nobody could go through that road. Suddenly they shouted aloud: "What do you want with us, you Son of God? Have you come to punish us before the right time?" (Mt 8:29).

Jesus himself addressed God as 'Father'. He revealed that he was the Son of God. He has been given all authority in heaven and on earth (cf. Mt 28:18). Jesus also said that no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him (Lk 10:22).

The interrelation between the body, the mind and the soul

The paralyzed man was physically sick. And yet Jesus told him: "Your sin has been forgiven." He knew that sin makes a man sick; sin makes the soul unholy. But sin not only affects the soul but it also enters the body and mind. Besides, when the soul of a sinner becomes unholy, he always condemns himself. In this way his mind and soul become sick. Jesus cured the sickness of the body and at the same time he also cured the spiritual sickness. Good health of the soul is very necessary for any man. The main purpose of the coming of Jesus is to free mankind from sin so that he can experience a new life.

A man who is mentally sick is not aware of himself; he does not
know what his body does. A mad man does not even know how to take care of his soul because he is sick mentally. But we call those people healthy whose body, mind and spirit are integrated.

There are five senses in our body. We call them 'the five sense-organs'. They are: the eye(s), the ear(s), the nose, the tongue and the skin. With these sense-organs we can do good works as well as bad works. We feel happy when we do good works. The soul then experiences peace. But if we do bad things then feel unhappy. Unhappiness is a condition of the soul. Our mind is capable of thinking good things as well as bad things. Therefore, we can say that our thinking can influence both our body and soul.

**Let us see what good or bad things are done by our five sense-organs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good work</th>
<th>Bad work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Serve others with our hands</td>
<td>1. To steal and hurt with our hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. To see natural beauty with eyes</td>
<td>2. To feel greedy seeing with eyes and commit sin by failing to control that greed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. To hear good words and good advice with our ears</td>
<td>3. To hear bad words and criticism etc. with ears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. To sympathize, advise, inspire, admire and console with our tongue</td>
<td>4. To abuse, quarrel, scold, express anger etc. with tongue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. To go to church and to other religious gatherings and meetings walking with legs</td>
<td>5. To go to bad places and bad company walking with legs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prayer:** O God! I confess that I am a sinner. Just now I remember my sins. O Jesus! You are my Savior. You can forgive me my sins. So I beg your forgiveness. Make me fresh and holy. Help me guard against all types of evil temptations. Amen.
Exercise

1. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

a) Where did Jesus meet the paralytic?
   i) Galilee ii) Bethlehem iii) Capernaum.

b) Why was Jesus born on this earth?
   i) To condemn us ii) To hate the sinner iii) To save us from sin.

c) What type of sickness did the paralyzed man have?
   i) Physical and spiritual ii) Mental iii) None.

d) At first what did Jesus tell the paralyzed man?
   i) Take up your mat ii) Your sin is forgiven iii) I say, get up

e) How many sense-organs are there in our body?
   i) Four ii) Five iii) Six

2. Fill in the blanks:

a) Jesus cured not only the sickness of _______________ but also the sickness of _______________.

b) Jesus Christ was truly ________ and truly ________.

c) Sin makes the ___________ unholy.

d) The five sense-organs are __________, __________, __________, __________, and the skin.
e) The evil spirits also confessed that Jesus was the Son of ______.

f) Jesus himself addressed God as ____________.

3. Short answer question:

a) Why did the four people carry the paralyzed man on a stretcher?

b) At first what did Jesus tell the paralyzed man?

c) What did the evil spirits tell Jesus?

d) Who has the authority to forgive sins except God?

4. Essay type question:

a) What did the teachers of religion think when Jesus forgave the sin of the paralytic?

b) Why did Jesus come into this world?

c) Why did Jesus tell the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven?

d) Why do we need to be spiritually healthy before bodily health?
Chapter Nine

Jesus heals the ten lepers

One day Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. He was going along the border of Samaria and Galilee (Province of Galilee). In that region ten lepers lived together. They had heard from many that there was a person named Jesus who could heal incurable diseases. Their faith in Jesus was very deep. They heard that Jesus and his disciples were entering a village along that path. To draw the attention of Jesus they cried aloud: "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us." (Lk 17:11-19).

Jesus was full of kindness. He could not remain unmoved at the cry of the lepers. He stopped there and then to listen to what they had to say. The lepers came near him. He took pity on them and said to them: "Go and let the priests examine you." That meant that the lepers had already been cured. They never thought that they would be cured so soon. They had been suffering for a long time. But they recovered in an instant. However it took them time to understand this. So following the instruction of Jesus they set out to go to the priests. On the way to the priests they realized that they were cured from the disease.

The lepers were freed from their bodily ailment. Impurity of
their soul was also removed. But the people recognize it till then. The official recognition had to be given by the priests. If the cure would be certified by the priests then they would be free to associate with the people. So they hurried to go to the priests.

One of the ten lepers cured by Jesus was a conscientious and grateful person. He was not selfish. He was reminded of Jesus again and again because he was healed by him. His heart was filled with gratitude. He felt he should go back and thank Jesus who healed him before showing himself to the priests. So he rushed to Jesus, the merciful one, singing praises to God in a loud voice. He prostrated at Jesus' feet. He had not words to express his gratitude to Jesus? He became utterly speechless. Most likely he burst out into tears that day, for he had no hope of being relieved from such an incurable disease. But now he was fully cured. How could he adequately thank such a wonderful
healer?

The man who came back to thank Jesus was a Samaritan. The others were Jews. Jesus was born in a Jewish family. Why did the others not come back except this Samaritan? Because they were ungrateful while the Samaritan was grateful. How ungrateful were Jesus' own people? So Jesus praised this Samaritan. He asked him: "Were not all ten made clean and cured? Where were the other nine?" The answer to this question was not known to this man who was so grateful. Actually Jesus did not expect any answer from him. Let those people answer this question who are ungrateful to Jesus. So Jesus said to this man: "Get up and go; your faith has made you well."

The incurable leprosy

Leprosy was an incurable and dangerous disease. On the parts of the body where it first appears looks like a sore; then slowly the sore spreads over the whole body. As a result of the spread of this sore, the flesh of the body begins to rot. Gradually the flesh disintegrates. And finally the patient dies.

Before Jesus came into this world and even during his life time, people were careful not to touch a person attacked by this disease. Lepers were considered unclean. Moreover they were thought to be hateful sinners.

Leprosy was thought of as punishment for sins. So the lepers were abandoned in lonely places away from the human society. No one was to touch them because he too would become unclean.
If a leper were cured, he had to present himself first to the priests for examination. If the priests found the patient cured, he declared him to be clean. A leper had no place in the society without the recognition of the priests even if he were cured from the disease.

Now-a-days there are hospitals for the treatment of leprosy. It is no longer an incurable disease. A patient recovers from leprosy if he gets proper treatment. But in the past death was inevitable for one who had leprosy.

**Sinfulness is sickness**

Jesus healed all those who came to him. 'To be cured' and 'to be healed' are different from each other. 'To be cured' means to recover from the sickness of the body only. But 'to be healed' means to recover from the sickness of the body, mind and soul. When we get sick we feel distressed. Our mind gets upset or we feel embarrassed. And the problems get more complicated. For example, when the head of a family goes on suffering for a long time, many other problems develop one after another. He may develop a high blood pressure. In this situation people become very much worried because it becomes difficult for them to solve the problems.

Similarly, if the soul is in sin, the mind also feels distressed. A person may begin to think that his sickness is due to sin. Thus he or she may get physically sick. When a person goes on sinning, his soul gets a sore like leprosy. A sore caused by sin develops day by day. Leprosy ruins a patient day by day. So the act of committing sin also destroys the soul soul of man.
His soul dies. Then he is alienated from God. So we can say that death is of two kinds: the death of the body and the death of the soul. Everyone will die physically. But everyone's soul will not die. Those whose souls will die shall go to hell.

Is it possible to cure the sickness of a soul? Certainly! Just as the soul of someone can get sick, so it can also be put under treatment. What is the treatment for a soul that is sick? The treatment for the sickness of a soul is forgiveness of sin. In order to be free from the sickness of the soul one has to leave the path of sin, to walk in the path of God and to restore good relationship with God and man.

To many of the sick people who came to him to be healed, Jesus said: "Your sins are forgiven." A paralytic was brought to Jesus on a cot to be cured. Jesus said to him: "Your sins are forgiven." (Mt 9:2; Mk 2:5; Lk 5:20). Once a leper came to Jesus. He solicited Jesus for his kindness to clean him. Jesus said: "Yes, I wish you to be clean" (Mt 8:2-3).

The following are necessary for healing

1. First of all one has to believe that Jesus has the power to forgive sins.
2. One has to be adequately aware of one's sins. One has to repent for one's sins.
3. One has to repent for his sins and confess it to Jesus and ask for forgiveness.
4. One has to approach a priest in the Sacrament of
Reconciliation or Confession. Jesus has given the responsibility of forgiving sins to the priests.

**The miraculous powers of Jesus**

Jesus Christ had two natures: the human nature and the divine nature. He was true God and true man. So he had in him the power of working miracles. In the Gospel we see him performing many wonderful miracles. Why did Jesus perform these wonderful miracles? He performed the miracles for the following reasons:

1. Jesus performed miracles in order proclaim his coming into this world and to generate faith in the human heart. The miracles proved that the promised Savior long awaited by the human race has come to this earth. Jesus is that Savior. Signs which were to be seen when the Savior comes are now clear in the miracles. The miracles are signs of his presence among us. They prove that the Savior has come on this earth, and Jesus Christ is that Savior.

**Example:** A Savior was to come into this world. John the Baptist also wanted to know whether Jesus was that Savior. He sent two of his disciples to Jesus to verify. The disciples asked Jesus: "Are you the person who was to come? Or should we expect someone else?" At that very time Jesus cured many people of their diseases, and evil spirits, and gave sight to many blind people. Then he answered John's messengers: "Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind can see, those who suffer from dreaded skin-diseases are made clean, the deaf can hear, the dead are
raised to life and the Good News is preached to the poor" (Lk 7:18-23).

2. Jesus worked miracles in order to drive out the demons or the evil spirits. Before the coming of Jesus, the Satan was reigning over this earth. But Jesus has driven out Satan. He has established the Kingdom of God. The Satan had kept man in bondage of sin. Now men have become the children of God, for they have been freed from the bondage of sin. The Satan had kept the human race confined in the shadow of death. Now the human race has entered into new life being liberated from the grip of death.

**Example:** Once a man with an evil spirit was brought to Jesus. That man was blind and dumb. Jesus cured him so that he could see and speak. All the people who saw the miracle were amazed and went on saying: "Could he be the Son of David?" When the Pharisees heard this, they replied: "He drives out demons only because their ruler Beelzebul gives him the power to do so." Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said to them: "Any country that divides itself into groups which fight each other will not last very long. And any town or family that divides itself into groups which fight each other will fall apart! You say that I drive out demons because Beelzebul gives me the power to do so. Well, then, who gives your followers the power to drive them out? What your own followers do proves that you are wrong! No, it is not Beelzebul, but God's Spirit, who gives me the power to drive out demons, which proves that the Kingdom of God has already come upon you" (Mt 12:21-28.)
3. Jesus worked miracles to arouse faith in man

**Example:** A marriage ceremony took place in the city of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the ceremony. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him: "They have no wine left." Jesus said to her: "Mother, are your thoughts and my thoughts the same? My time has not yet come." His mother said to the servants: "Do whatever he tells you" …There were six stone water jars for the ritual washing. Each of the jars was large enough to hold about a hundred liters of water. Jesus said to the servants: "Fill these jars with water." They filled them to the brim with water. Then he said to them: "Now draw some water out and take it to the man in charge of the banquet." They took him the water, which now had turned into wine, and he tasted it. He did not know where this wine had come from (but, of course, the servants who had drawn out the water knew). The man in charge of the banquet called the bridegroom and said: "Everyone else serves the best wine first, and after the guests have had plenty to drink, he serves the ordinary wine. But you have kept the best wine until now!" (Jn 2:1-10).
Exercise

1. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

a) Where was Cana?
   i) In Galilee (ii) In Caesarea (iii) In Jerusalem

b) How many lepers did Jesus heal?
   i) 10 (ii) 20 (iii) 30

c) Who was the leper who came back to thank Jesus?
   i) A Jew (ii) A Samaritan (iii) A Galilean

d) Where were lepers kept at the time of Jesus?
   i) In the hospital (ii) In the market place (iii) Away from the community.

e) How many kinds death are?
   a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4

2. Fill in the blanks:

a) One day Jesus was going to ______________.

b) Among the ten lepers one was a very __________ and __________ person.

c) Leprosy is a ___________ and __________ disease.
d) Jesus was born as a____________.

e) 'To be cured' means to recover from the disease of the _______ only.

f) 'To be healed' means to recover from the disease of the ____________, ____________ and soul.

g) Those whose souls shall die in sin will go to ______________.

h) Jesus had two natures: One was ____________ nature, and the other was ____________ nature.

3. Short answer question:

a) What happens to man when he contracts leprosy?

b) What had to be done after the lepers were cured from the disease during the time of Jesus?

c) Who came back to Jesus to thank after being cured from leprosy?

b) What were the ten lepers told to do?

e) Why did Jesus work miracles?

f) In which town of Galilee was the marriage feast held?

4. Essay type question:

a) How were the lepers treated before the time of Jesus and why?

b) What was to be done for healing?
c) Who among the ten lepers came back to Jesus and why?

d) Why did Jesus work miracles?

e) How does one's soul die?

**Routine work**

Make a list of different miracles of Jesus. For example:

1. Jesus feeding five thousand people.

2.

3.

4.

5.
Chapter Ten

Paul's call and his Mission

Earlier we learned the names of the twelve Apostles. We also learned how they responded to the call of Jesus and took part in his mission. Now we will know about another Apostle named Paul. Previously he was called Saul. Saul, a Hebrew name, is Paul in Latin. Previously Saul was an oppressor. But after his conversion he came to be known as Paul. He was not one of the twelve Apostles. Even then he is called an Apostle.

Birth and childhood

Saul was a Jew. There were two types of people in the Jewish community: the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Soul was a Pharisee. He was born approximately in A.D 10. The name of his birth place was Tarsus which was the capital of the province of Cilicia. The father of Saul lived in the city of Tarsus. He used to make tents with the leather of animal and sell them. Saul learned the art of making tents from his father.

Religious leader

When Saul was about eighteen, he came to Jerusalem. There he became a disciple of a religious teacher named Gamaliel and gained the necessary knowledge about the Jewish religion. Saul's knowledge in both matters of faith and Scriptures was vast. Besides other works, he used to make tents. He earned his own living from the works he did.
Saul used to think that the Jewish religion was the only true religion. So he searched out the people who were converted to Christianity from Judaism and sent them to jail. He imprisoned both men and women. He never showed any mercy or love to them. He inflicted heavy punishment upon them. He himself confessed this and it has been written in the holy Bible. He, along with his supporters, not only captured and put the Christian believers in jail, but he also killed many of them. One of Christian believers killed by throwing stones was Stephen. He was a Deacon. When stones were being thrown at Stephen, Saul was standing nearby. Those who were throwing stones at Stephen took off their outer garments and kept them at the feet of Saul. Saul was guarding it. That proved that Saul consented to the killing of Stephen.

**The conversion of Saul**

Saul conspired to kill all the followers of Jesus. So he took a written permission from the High Priest. He, along with some of his companions, started to move towards Damascus. The distance from Jerusalem to Damascus was more than 130 miles. It was noon when they drew near Damascus. Then suddenly a bright light from heaven fell on them. Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice of someone saying: "Saul, Saul! Why do you persecute me?" Saul
asked: "Who are you, Lord?" He replied: "I am Jesus, whom you persecute. But get up now and go to the city, where you will be told what you must do." His companions stopped and did not say a word. They heard the voice talking with Saul but could not see a thing. Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but could not see anything. So his companions took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. For three days he was not able to see, and during that time he did not eat or drink anything" (Acts 9:1-19).

Jesus had another disciple named Ananias in Damascus. Jesus appeared to him in a vision and said: "Ananias! Go to Straight Street and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying, and in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and place his hands on him so that he might see again." Ananias answered: "Lord, many people have told me about this man and all the terrible things he has done to your people in Jerusalem." Jesus said: "Don't be afraid. Rather go to him because I have chosen him to serve me, to make my name known to Gentiles and kings and to the people of Israel."

Then Ananias went to the house of Judas and put his hand on the eyes of Saul and told him: "Brother Saul, Jesus who appeared to you has sent me to you. He wants you to get back your sight and be fulfilled with the Holy Spirit." At once something like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes and he was able to see again. He stood up and was baptized. From then on he became a follower of Jesus. After he had eaten, his strength came back.
Paul preached the message of Jesus

After Saul's conversion people started calling him Paul. He stayed for a few days with the believers in Damascus. He went straight to the Synagogues and began to preach that Jesus was the Son of God, the Savior and Messiah. He preached that only Jesus could liberate man from sin.

Seeing Paul preach the message of Jesus in this way, the Jews of Damascus grew very angry. On the other hand, many were touched by his preaching and started being converted to Christianity. Therefore, the Jews tried to kill him. They began to guard the entrances of the town day and night so that Paul could not escape. Paul and his disciples came to know about the conspiracy of the Jews. One night Paul’s disciples carried him in a basket and took him outside the wall of the town. In this way Paul was saved.

Coming to Jerusalem, Paul, along with his disciples, tried to join the mission of preaching the message of Jesus. But all the disciples feared him because they could not trust him as an authentic disciple of Jesus. But Barnabas took Paul to the Apostles and introduced him to them. He described to them how the Lord Jesus had appeared to Paul in a vision on the way to Damascus and how he was converted. He further told them that Paul had already started preaching the message of Jesus with great courage.

After that the disciples gradually began to accept Paul. Paul became a great preacher of the messages of Jesus. Taking more disciples with him, he traveled to different places in order to
preach the message. He made three mission journeys one after another. His missionary journeys described below:

**Paul's first missionary journey to preach the gospel (AD 46 to AD 49)**

On his first missionary journey Paul took Barnabas Mark with him and went to the Island of Cyprus by sea. There he preached the Good News at Salamis and Paphos. After preaching there, they went to Asia Minor by water. There they went to Antioch, Iconia, Lystra and Derbe of the provinces of Perga and Pisidia, and preached the messages of Jesus.

**Let's do it ourselves**

Study the map of the first journey of Paul in your book. Explore the places where Paul preached, draw lines with pen following the routes of the journey and underline the places mentioned.

![Map of Paul's First Missionary Journey](image_url)
Paul's second missionary journey to preach the gospel (AD 50 to AD 53)

On his second journey Paul took Silas with him. At first they preached in places like Syria, Cilicia, Derbe, Frigea, Galatia, Troas, Macedonia, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth etc.

Paul's third journey to preach the gospel (AD 54 to AD 58)

On his third journey Paul preached the message of Lord Jesus in places like Galatia, Phrygia, Ephesus, Macedonia, Corinth, Troas, Caesarea etc. In order to help the Christian grow in their faith and spirituality, Paul wrote some letters during the third journey. He wrote to the Galatians, to the Romans, to the Philippians one letter each, and two letters to the Corinthians.

Sufferings of Paul during preaching

Paul endured much pain and suffering during his missionary work. In the letter to the Corinthians he described all his sufferings and pains (Acts 11:23-29). He was imprisoned many times and was subjected to violence including whipping. His ship sank in the sea. He suffered in the floods. He was attacked by robbers. And he passed hard days without food in the deserts and on the sea. Still he carried on his responsibility of preaching the messages of the Lord Jesus to the end. Besides, without depending on others, he made tents and sewed caps and sold those for earning money. During the leisure time, he wrote letters to different groups or communities to inspire them. Thus he wrote 13 letters in total. Towards the end of his life, he was
imprisoned in Rome. But he continued to preach the messages of Jesus till the last day of his life.

**Let us do it ourselves**

Let us underline the places where Paul went to preach during his second and third journeys.

**Prayer:** My Lord! If you want to use us at Your service, enable us to hear Your call and respond to it. Be with us always! Help us to lead virtuous life. Amen.
Exercise

1. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

a) Paul (Saul) was a:
   i) Hebrew ii) Jew iii) Saducee

b) The religious teacher of Paul was-
   i) Barnabas ii) Gamaliel iii) Ananias

c) The distance between Jerusalem and Damascus was _____ miles.
   i) 120 ii) 130 iii) 140

d) By what name was Saul called after his conversion?
   i) Samuel ii) Mark iii) Paul

e) On his first missionary journey with Barnabas, Paul first went to _______ by ship.
   i) Cyprus ii) Asia Minor iii) Perga

f) Who accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey?
   i) Mathew ii) John iii) Silas

2. Fill in the blanks:

a) There were two types of people in the Jewish community: __________ and __________.
b) The name of the birthplace of Saul was __________, which was the capital of the province ______________.

c) Saul ______________ to kill all the ______________ of Jesus.

d) There was a disciple of Jesus named ______________ in Damascus.

e) Taking Saul with him Barnabas introduced him to ____________.

f) During the leisure time Paul wrote many __________ to __________ the believers.

g) During the last part of his life Paul was imprisoned in ____________.

h) In total Paul wrote ________ letters.

3. Short answer question:

a) Who was Saul? Where was he born?

b) At what age did Saul come to Jerusalem?

c) Where and from whom did Saul get his religious education?

d) By which work did Saul earn his living?

e) To whose house did Saul go after his seeing Jesus in a vision?

f) How many times did Paul make missionary journeys to different places?

g) Whom did Paul take with him on his first journey?
4. Essay type question:

a) Describe elaborately the conversion of Saul.

b) What did Jesus say to Aninias?

c) How did Saul get back his eye-sight?

d) What did Paul preach to the people?

e) What type of sufferings did Paul endure during his preaching?

f) Which Letters did Paul write during his third missionary journey?

Routine Work

1. Make a list of names of the places of Paul's first, second, and third missionary journey below:

   First journey ------------

   Second journey --------

   Third journey ---------

2. Write down what pain and sufferings did Saul endure.
People all over the world know Mother Teresa as the 'Mother Teresa of Kolkata'. She left her own wealthy country and wealthy family as a young woman and came to India. There she became a nun and started living in a convent. She founded a religious organization named 'Missionaries of Charity' for the poor. The Sisters of that organization are engaged in charitable works throughout the world. She was given 'The Templeton Award' and 'The Nobel Prize for Peace'. The Indian government awarded her the highest honor, 'Bharat Ratna'. Now she is 'Blessed Mother Teresa'.

Birth and childhood of Mother Teresa

Before Teresa entered the religious life, her name was Agnesa Gonxha Bonjaxhiu. She was born on 26 August 1910. On the next day i.e. on 27 August she was baptized in the catholic church. Her father's name was Nikola Bonjaxhiu and Mother's name was Dranafiel Bonjaxhiu. Her father used to work as a contractor making houses and her mother was a housewife. Teresa was the youngest among the three brothers and sisters. Teresa's family members were the citizens of Albania. But at the
time of her birth the family was working at a place named Scopje in Kosovo. Teresa was born there. Most of the people of Albania are Muslims. But the family of Teresa was (Catholic) Christian.

Teresa's father died in 1917 when she was only seven years old. With three children her mother had to pass the days in great hardship. She worked hard to bring up her children by tailoring. Teresa's mother was a very pious lady. So she always prayed to God. Teresa used to go to Church with her mother and spend time in praying hours together.

**Call to a religious life**

Teresa's continuous prayer to God made her relationship with Him intimate. There was a youth organization in the parish where she lived. She joined that organization as a member and took part with them in different charitable activities. One day, all on a sudden Teresa heard the call of God in her heart. God said to her: "Leave the family, leave your kinsmen, be a missionary in the service of the poor." At the age of twelve she heard this call of God. At the age of eighteen she left Scopje and decided to join the Order of
the Loreto Sisters in Ireland. After that she joined the Novitiate of the Loreto Sisters. This house of formation was situated at Darjeeling in India. For the first time in 1931, she took the vows of poverty, obedience and chastity. At this time she gave up her former name Agnes and took the new name Sister Mary Teresa. In may 1938 Sister Teresa made the Perpetual Profession of Vows.

**A new call: Service to the poorest of the poor**

Sister Teresa taught geography and Christianity at St. Mary's School of the Loreto Community. While she was a teacher there, she was very much distressed to see the condition of the poverty stricken people all around. She always thought of dedicating herself to their service. In 1946 she got another call from God. God said to her: "Serve me in the poorest of the poor." This call knocked again and again on the door of her heart.

**Missionaries of Charity founded**

Sister Teresa decided to found a Religious Order. She obtained the necessary permission from the Pope. In October 1950 she got the permission of the Pope to found a new community. The Pope named the Congregation of Sister Teresa as the 'Diocesan Order of the Calcutta Diocese."

But afterwards this name was changed to the "Order of the Missionaries of Charity". For the main work of this organization is to provide loving service to the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the blind, the lame, the lepers and the helpless. These people have nobody to love them and to care for them. They consider themselves as a burden to the society. People consider them as outcasts.
With the approval of the Government of India, Sister Teresa got permission to use the temple precincts at Kalighat in Kolkata for her work. After a few days she opened a centre for the dying and named it 'Immaculate Heart'. Later on she opened another centre for the lepers named Shanti Nagar (City of Peace) which was simultaneously an orphanage. By the year 1960 Sister Teresa opened shelters for the innumerable dying people, Homes for the destitute children and shelters for the lepers all over India. She gradually began to open centers to shelter the homeless in different countries outside India.

**Mother Teresa in the service of the poor, the destitute and the neglected**

Mother Teresa found most joy serving. She nursed the lepers, tuberculosis patients, AIDS patients, orphans and the disabled persons.

She used to clean the sores on hands and legs of the lepers by washing the wounds with hot water. She used to nurse and take care of everyone personally. She used to give them money and dresses when necessity arose. The patients used to embrace her and she also used to embrace them. She had no feeling of repugnance.
Winning awards

In 1971 Pope Paul VI conferred 'Pope John XXIII Peace Award' on Mother Teresa. In the same year she was given 'The Kennedy Prize' of the U.S.A. In 1972 she was honored with 'The Nehru Award'. In 1975 she received 'The Albert Switzer International Award.' In 1980 she received the highest honor 'Bharat Ratna.' In 1985 she was given 'The President's Independence Day Award' of the U.S.A. and in 1994 she got the Congressional Gold Medal. In 1996 she was honored with the citizenship of the U.S.A.

The Nobel Peace Prize

Before being honored with the Nobel Prize for Peace, Mother Teresa received immense love from people across the world. But the Nobel Peace Prize was the greatest honor in her life. She was given 'The Nobel Peace Prize' for her work of bringing peace throughout the world. She got this award on 18 October 1979. The giving of this award to her means recognizing that loving our fellow human beings is the best way of creating
peace in the world.

At the Nobel Peace Prize Giving Ceremony, Mother Teresa said: "I am accepting this award on behalf of the poor. The millions of the poor people of the world are my brothers and sisters. We all are members of the same family."

**The death of Mother Teresa**

Mother Teresa died on 5 September 1997, at the age of 87. At the time of her death there were over four thousand Sisters, three hundred Brothers and one hundred thousand volunteers of the Religious Order founded by her and engaged in work in 610 centers in 123 countries throughout the world. In these centers AIDS patients, lepers and phthisis patients are provided with food and shelter. People with serious problems are given counseling here. Helpless, destitute and abandoned children, boys and girls are given shelter. Many schools are also run at these centers.

**Laid to rest with full state honor**

Mother Teresa was not the Head of any State. But she was more than that. She had done what many Heads of States could not do. So she was given a burial with full State Honor.
Blessed Mother Teresa

On 19 October 2003, in a solemn ceremony she was proclaimed as 'Blessed Teresa'.

Exercise

1. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

a) What was the name of Mother Teresa before she took her Vows in the Religious Life?
   i) Albania  (ii) Scopje (iii) Agnes Gonxha

b) In what year did Teresa make her Perpetual Vows?
   i) 1935  (ii) 1339  (iii) 1978

c) In what year did Sister Teresa get the call of God to serve the poor?
   i) 1950  (ii) 1946  (iii) 1947

d) In what year did Mother Teresa get 'The Albert Switzer International Award'?
   i) 1970  (ii) 1975  (iii) 1978
e) In what year did Mother Teresa get 'The Nobel Peace Prize'?
   i) 1979  (ii) 1989  (iii) 1999
f) In what year did Mother Teresa die?
   i) 1999  (ii) 1998  (iii) 1997
g) In what year did Mother Teresa get the title 'Bharat Ratna'?
   i) 1970  (ii) 1980  (iii) 1990
h) In what year was Mother Teresa given citizenship of the U.S.A.?
   i) 1996  (ii) 1997  (iii) 1990

2. Fill in the blanks:
   a) People all over the world know Mother Teresa as Mother Teresa of __________.
   b) The name of Mother Teresa's father was ____________.
   c) The name of Mother Teresa's mother was ____________.
   d) Mother Teresa heard the call of God at the age of ____________.
   e) Sister Teresa taught ____________ and ____________ in St. Mary's School.
   f) Mother Teresa opened a center named '__________' for the dying people.
   g) Mother Teresa found great joy in ____________.
h) In ________ she was adorned with the "Nobel Peace Award'.

i) Mother Teresa was buried with ___________ honor.

3. Short answer question:

a) How is Mother Teresa known by the people around the world?

b) At which temple in Kolkata did Sister Teresa get permission of the Govt. of India to use the facilities for the sick and poor?

c) What did God command Mother Teresa?

d) What were the main works of 'The Missionaries of Charity'?

e) Where did Mother Teresa establish shelters for lepers?

f) What did Mother Teresa say at the time of taking the Nobel Prize?

g) In what year and at what age did Mother Teresa die?

4. Essay type question:

a) Briefly narrate about Mother Teresa's birth and childhood.

b) How did Mother Teresa get the call to be a Religious?

c) How was the 'Order of the Missionaries of Charity' founded?

d) In what kind of works did Mother Teresa find great joy?

e) Why and in what year did Mother Teresa get the Nobel Prize?

f) Why was Mother Teresa buried with full State Honor?
Many Jews used to live in Persia. Once a man of high position of that country planned to destroy all the Jews. But he could not do so on account of a Jewish woman. The name of that woman was Esther. It was her Persian name. But her Jewish name was Hadassah. In this chapter we will learn in detail about her.

The childhood of Esther

The name of Esther's father was Abigail. Esther was a little child when Abigail died. So Mordecai, Esther's cousin, undertook the responsibility to bring up the child. Mordecai adopted Esther as his own daughter. So Esther was a foster daughter of Mordecai. Esther was a very beautiful woman. Everybody liked her at the first sight.

Esther as the queen of Persia

The name of the king of Persia was Ahasuerus. His kingdom was very large. The name of
the queen was Vashti. One day the king arranged a grand feast for some of the leaders and ministers. He was out of his senses due to excessive drinking wine. So he fancied to show the beauty of the Queen to his invited guests. He sent a messenger to the Queen asking her to come to the banquet table. The Queen was busy with her invited guests in another feast. So she ignored the messenger of the King. She thought that going there would be disgrace for her. When she did not respond to the King, he felt insulted. He grew very angry. Instantly he removed Vashti from the position of the Queen. A search was ordered to find a replacement for Vashti. The King commanded that the most beautiful young ladies would be searched out and gathered in the palace of Susa. The one whom the King would choose from among them would be his Queen. Many beautiful young ladies were brought to the palace of Susa. Mordecai was also an employee at the palace. His foster daughter Esther was also a beautiful lady. She was also brought to the palace. She was told to conceal her identity as the daughter of a Jew. In the palace many maid servants provided services to her. As a result she looked more beautiful than ever before. After staying several months with the other young ladies, Esther was brought and presented before the King. The King liked Esther most and he put a crown on her head. Thus Esther became the Queen of Persia.

**Mordecai saved the King**

The King appointed Mordecai as a door-keeper of the palace. By that time two guards named Bigthana and Teresh were appointed for the King. They together planned to kill King
Ahasuerus. Mordecai came to know about it and informed Queen Esther about it. Esther reported this to the King. The matter was investigated. The two guards were found involved in the conspiracy. So they were hanged. The King was saved and the fact that he was saved by Mordecai was remembered by the King.

**Haman in high position**

After a few days, King Ahasuerus appointed Haman in the highest position of the State. According to the rule of the royal administration, everyone in the palace was bound to kneel down before Haman and honor him by touching his feet. But Mordecai did not follow the custom because to do that was forbidden among the Jewish community. Mordecai was advised to show due respect to the King by kneeling down before him and by bowing and touching his feet. But he refused to follow any advice. So Haman became very angry.

**Plans to destroy the Jews**

Haman decided that he would destroy Mordecai along with all the Jews. So he went to the King Ahasuerus and told him: "There is a group of people in your country that do not follow your rule. They follow their own rules. So they should not be permitted to live in this country." But Haman did not let the King understand that he was talking about the Jews. So the King became angry with those who did not follow the State rules and regulations. He highly regarded Haman. So he authorized Haman to take any action against them. Then Haman got ready to take revenge. He wrote letters to every group of people in
their respective language. He stated in the letters that all the young and old, children and women of the Jews community were to be killed.

To prove that it is an order of the King a seal of King's ring was stamped on the letters. So the people of the country came to know about the matter and they believed it.

**The lament of Mordecai**

Mordecai came to know about the matter. He himself tore his garments, wore sackcloth and smeared ashes on his body. Then he started to shout in the middle of the city and went to the royal court. But nobody wearing sackcloth was allowed to enter the royal court. The letters of Haman started to reach those places where the Jews lived. Mourning, fasting, crying and lamenting started everywhere. They put on sackcloth and sat on ashes.

**Esther united with Mordecai**

The Queen Esther came to know that Mordecai was wearing sackcloth. She wanted to know the reason. So she sent nice clothes for Mordecai. But he did not keep it. Later on she came to know all about Mordecai through her servants. She found out that Haman had planned to kill all the Jews. Mordecai also sent a copy of Haman's letter to the entire people engaged in fasting and prayer.
Queen. He requested Esther to discuss the matter with the king and to request him to change the decision. Esther suggested to Mordecai that he, along with all the Jews, would go on fasting in Susa. The fasting would continue for three days and three nights. Esther and her servants also would do the same. Then she would go to the king. Mordecai did all according to the advice of Esther. He went on fasting and praying. In the same way Esther passed three days and three nights fasting and praying.

Esther appeared before the King

After three days Esther left the mourning dress and wore bright clothes. Then she appeared before the King. At that moment the Queen looked very beautiful. But she had a great fear in her heart. As the King looked at her, she fell unconscious. The King held her up quickly. The King assured her: "Don't be afraid. You don't have to die. Tell me your desire. I'll give you even half of my property." After a while the Queen regained her conscious. She said to the King: "I have arranged a feast today. I earnestly wish that you and Haman will attend the feast."

The King and Haman came for the feast. The King asked her: "What is it that you desire?" Esther said: "I'll arrange the feast again tomorrow. You and Haman are invited to the feast. At that feast I'll make my request known to you."

The gallows for Mordecai

Haman's mind was filled with delight because he was going to hang Mordecai on the gallows very soon. So he made a very high gallows to kill Mordecai by hanging.
The King and Haman attend the feast of Esther

The King and Haman sat at the feast prepared by Queen Esther. Then the King asked Esther: "My dear Queen, what do you wish? If you want even the half of my kingdom, I'll give it to you." The Queen said: "O great King! If I have found favor with you, I ask that you spare my people. I don't want any kingdom or property from you. I have only one desire. Let not my own people be destroyed."

The King asked: "Who is going to destroy your people?" The Queen replied: "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman! He completed all the arrangement for destroying the Jews. He had already gotten your permission for the deal and announced it across the country." The King grew very angry with Haman for that and expressed his anger. The servants also were disappointed with Haman. One of the servants proposed to the King: "Great King, a fifty cubits high scaffold has been made. Haman made it for hanging Mordecai. Now let it be used for hanging Haman." The King ordered the servants: "Hang him on that scaffold." So Haman was hanged on the scaffold made for hanging Mordecai. In this way the Jewish people chosen by God were saved by the wisdom, strategy and courage of Esther.

In this chapter we saw that Mordecai, all the Jewish community, Queen Esther and her companions all fasted and prayed to God. God heard their prayers. Let us practice fasting and prayer.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, I pray that I can understand the meaning of fasting. Enable me learn to fast bit by bit. Let me learn to pray while fasting at the same time. I trust, you will answer my prayer. Amen.
Exercise

1. Match the parts of the sentences on the right column with those on the left:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left</th>
<th>Right</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) The Jews lived</td>
<td>a) Ahasuerus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Esther was brought up</td>
<td>b) as a door-keeper of the palace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) The name of the King of Persia was</td>
<td>c) by her cousin Mordecai.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) The King appointed Mordecai</td>
<td>d) appointed a man named Haman to a high post.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) The King Ahasuerus</td>
<td>e) fasted and prayed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Haman built a high scaffold</td>
<td>f) were saved by the wisdom, strategy and courage of Esther.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) The Jewish community</td>
<td>g) to hang Mordecai on it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>h) came to know and believed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i) in Persia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Fill in the blanks:

a) The name of Esther's father was __________.

b) The helpless child Esther was brought up by her cousin __________.

c) The name of the King of Persia was ____________.

d) Two guards named ____________ and ____________ were unhappy with the King.

e) The people of the Jewish community smeared their bodies with ________ and lay on ____________.
f) For three days and three nights the Queen Esther ____________ and ______________.

g) The Queen Esther requested the King to save ______________.

h) Fasting provides ______________ in prayer.

i) Prayer while fasting has a ______________ side.

3. **Short answer question:**
   
a) Why did Haman grow angry with Mordecai?
   
b) What did Haman tell the King Ahasuerus?
   
c) What did Mordecai do on hearing the decision of destroying the Jewish community?
   
d) What advice did Esther give to Mordecai?
   
E) Who wanted to kill the King and who saved him?

4. **Essay type question:**
   
a) Describe the childhood of Esther.
   
b) How did Esther become the Queen of Persia?
   
c) Why did Haman decide to destroy the Jewish community?
   
d) What did the Queen, Mordecai and other Jews do before Esther appeared before the King?
   
e) What sentence was given by the King as a punishment for Haman and why?
5. Make a list of the benefits of prayer and fasting:

a) 

b) 

c) 

d) 

e) 

f)
Chapter Thirteen

The Pentecost

A great festival of the Christians is the Pentecost. Before the Christians, the Jews used to observe this feast. How did this festival start to be observed by the Christians? What does the festival really mean? It is important for us to know this.

The feast of Pentecost

We know that the Israelites got freedom from the slavery of the Egyptians under the leadership of Moses. They had a feast of unleavened bread on the preceding night of the day when they were freed from Egypt. They called this feast as the 'Feast of Deliverance'. After gaining freedom from the slavery of Egypt, they used to observe the feast of deliverance on that day. After seven weeks of the festival of deliverance i.e. on the fiftieth day they used to observe another festival. That festival was known as 'The Pentecost'. So the Pentecost means the fiftieth day. Before this day they used to harvest new grains. Then they used to thank God by observing the Pentecost. It was not only the grains for which they thanked God but also for all that He did for them in the past in accordance with His promise.
Why we celebrate the Pentecost

The event of the resurrection of Jesus is very important for us. We got freedom from the bondage of sin just as the Jews gained freedom from their slavery in Egypt. After the resurrection Jesus promised to his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit. The Apostles of Jesus assembled in a house fifty days after the resurrection. They were in great fear of the Jews. At this time the Holy Spirit came down on them. This is the day that we observe as the Pentecost.

The events of the Pentecost

After the death of Jesus, the Apostles were living in great fear of the Jews because they had killed Jesus. They thought, perhaps they would also be killed by the Jews. Moreover the Apostles had deep faith and hope in Jesus. Now Jesus was no more with them. So they were disappointed. The Lord Jesus knew that his disciples would spend their life in fear as long as they would not get his Spirit. Thus the community which he founded would never grow. So he sent his Spirit on his disciples. The Spirit of Jesus came down on the

![The Holy Spirit coming down on the disciples](image)
The fiftieth day arrived according to the custom of the Jews. On this day the Apostles were assembled together in a house. They heard a sound like that of a strong wind blowing. The house where they were staying was filled with that sound. They saw that something like tongues of fire came down and rested on them on each one separately. Then they all were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave them power to speak. Each of them received the power of speech of them began to speak in different language. Jews from many countries of the world had gathered there. A large number of devout Jews also came to Jerusalem from those countries. A large crowd of people gathered around the house where the Apostles were staying. They came near the house while they heard the sound of violent wind. They were much astonished to hear each of the Apostles speaking in their own language. They thought that the Apostles were drunk with wine.

**The holy spirit came down in the form of fire**

We know that Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan. The Holy Spirit came down on him on that day in the form of a dove. But the Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost in the form of the tongues of fire. Why did the Holy Spirit come down in the form of the tongues of fire? We shall be able to understand that well if we try to know the different effects or qualities of fire.

1. Fire attracts man. We can see fire in the darkness. So Jesus wanted that the qualities which the Holy Spirit gave us could
shine like dazzling light.

2. Fire gives heat. In the days of winter, we light fire and protect ourselves from the cold and feel the warmth. Love is like heat or warmth in our life. In the winter, we are protected by warmth. Heat and cold are opposites. Many people die in the cold of winter. Likewise when love is lacking, many people die. Jesus wanted to save all men from death by his love.

3. Fire decreases the volume of matter. Any matter is reduced much when it is burnt with fire. As for example, when a big tree is burnt after being cut down and dried then it becomes ashes and small in quantity. Likewise our vanity and pride become ashes when they are burnt by the fire of the Holy Spirit. Then we can be gentle and humble.

4. Fire gives light. Darkness is vanished when the light shines. Darkness is a symbol of sin, falsehood and ignorance. But light is a symbol of holiness, truth and wisdom. We can overcome our attraction for sin with the power of the Holy Spirit who is with us. Thus we can accept the light of Jesus after we quit all paths of darkness possessed by Satan.

5. Fire spreads all around. When we light a little fire to a heap of straw it does not remain motionless. It increases gradually and spreads on all sides. In this way a little fire assumes a huge shape. The Holy Spirit helps us to make our belief, hope and love effective. With the power of the Holy Spirit we share our faith, hope and love with others. We do not hide the word of God within ourselves but spread it to others.
6. Fire brings unity. If we set on fire a big pile of papers of various colors, then they burn and are transformed into the same color. Afterwards the papers lose their former distinctive colors. No dissension remains among us as we get in touch with the Holy Spirit. Rather we experience unity within ourselves.

7. Fire destroys malice. We can destroy things by fire which we don't like. Likewise with the power of the Holy Spirit we burn and destroy the sins of our heart. That is to say, we can obtain forgiveness of our sins and made clean.

**Peter delivers speech by the power of the Holy Spirit**

After receiving the Holy Spirit the Apostles had no more fear or despair. They understood that Jesus himself was with them. The Spirit of Jesus himself helped them to understand this. Peter began to speak about Jesus fearlessly to the Jewish people after receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. He made the people remember Jesus' works of miracle, sufferings, death, resurrection and

The Apostle Peter speaks to the people
ascension into heaven. He reminded them of what was foretold about Jesus in the Holy Scripture. There was the explanation of all the events of Jesus' life in the Holy Scripture. Peter spoke boldly about Jesus being killed by the Jewish people. Many of those who heard his sermon were converted. Many of them believed in Jesus. They asked Peter and the other apostles: "What shall we do, brothers?" Peter said to them: "Turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit." Many of them believed his message and were baptized. About three thousand people were added to the group that day.

The Apostles received different gifts from the Holy Spirit. We also got the Holy Spirit at the time of our baptism. This was renewed at the time of the Sacrament of Confirmation by a bishop or a priest. So we have also received gifts of the Holy Spirit. Now we shall discuss about these gifts:

**The gifts of the Holy Spirit in our life**

**The gifts of the Holy Spirit are seven. For instance:**

1. **Wisdom:** By this gift we learn to know the will of God. God sees everything. We can also see God by this gift.

2. **Understanding:** By this gift we can understand the love of God and meaning of His Word.

3. **Counsel:** This gift helps us to speak the truth, to do the right thing and to be clean.
4. **Fortitude:** By this gift we can overcome all obstacles and dangers. We no longer are afraid to speak and preach about God. This gift gives us courage in our sorrows and sufferings.

5. **Knowledge:** By this gift we remain faithful to God and true follower of the true path.

6. **Piety:** By this gift we learn to be humble and to worship God.

7. **Fear Of The Lord:** By virtue of this gift we are strengthened in faith that God is all-powerful. Nothing can move without His command. We fear God of out of love and in this way overcome our sins.

The fruits of these gifts of the Holy Spirit will be visible if they remain in the hearts of men. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are as follows: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity.

**Come and pray to the Holy Spirit**

O! Holy Spirit, give me your strength. Let me lead my life with Your power at all times. Let me remain far from all sins. Help me to be obedient to my parents and elders. This is my prayer to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.
Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks.
   
a) A great feast of the Christian Community is ________.

b) Fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus the _________ came down on the disciples.

c) The Holy Spirit gave them ____________.

d) They thought that __________ were perhaps ____________.

2. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

   a) What do you mean by Pentecost?

   b) What came down on the Disciples?
      i) Satan (ii) Cloud (iii) The Spirit of Jesus.

   c) In what form did Holy Spirit come down on the Disciples?
      i) In the form of dove, (ii) In the form of Fire (iii) In the form of air.

   d) About how many people were baptized that day?
      i) One thousand (ii) Three Thousand (iii) Two Thousand.

3. Short answer question:

   a) What is meant by Pentecost?
b) What is the "Feast of Deliverance?"

c) In what form did the Holy Spirit come down on the disciples?

d) What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

e) What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

4. **Essay type question:**

a) Why do we celebrate the Feast of the Pentecost?

b) Write some of the characteristics or qualities of fire.

c) Why did the Holy Spirit come down in the form of fire?

d) Briefly write about any four of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

e) What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit?
Chapter Fourteen

The Lord's Prayer

One day Jesus was praying in a lonely place. When he finished his prayer one of his disciples came to him and said: "Lord, teach us how to pray as John taught his disciples to do." Why did that disciple want Jesus to teach 'how to pray'? Because he did not know well how to pray, and what to say in prayer. He wanted to know about it from his teacher.

Like that disciple, we also want to learn 'how to pray'. From whom can we learn that? The disciple wanted to know from his teacher. A disciple has to learn from his master. That is the best way to learn how to pray. Jesus is our teacher. We can learn from him. Let us learn the best prayer from him.

How should our prayer be?

Jesus taught that we need not use too man words when prayer. We should not shout so as to be heard by others. It is unwise to
think that if we do not shout, the Father will not hear us. He hears everything even when we speak to ourselves. The reason is that He is not far away from us. He is always with us. He is in the depth of our being. He knows all our secret and inmost thoughts. He also knows our needs. Besides, He wants us to speak to him frankly. This is the way the Lord Jesus taught us how to pray.

**The Lord's prayer**

We call it 'The Lord's Prayer' because it is he who taught us. This prayer is offered to the Father in heaven. Jesus himself used to say this prayer. Jesus learned this prayer from his Father in heaven. It is the best prayer. So Jesus taught it to his disciples. Like Jesus we also can pray to our Father in heaven. By this prayer we praise Him and tell Him about our needs. The words of the prayer are given below:

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
   On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts,
   As we also have forgiven our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
(You can say it the way you are accustomed to do.)
The meaning of every phrases of the prayer

1. **Our Father:** Through our baptism we became members of the Church. We have become children of the same family. The Father of this family is God.

2. **Our Father in Heaven:** Our Father lives in "heaven". But by heaven it does not mean any invisible place. He is present everywhere. He is in the church. Those who live in holiness in this world are with the heavenly Father; he is in their hearts. He is in the hearts of those who call on Him in prayer. So we must always remember when we pray that He is everywhere.

3. **Hallowed be your name:** God is holy. Holy is His name. We say this in our prayer so that we can know Him and love Him. We wish to live in His presence at all times.

4. **Your kingdom come:** The kingdom of God actually means Christ. Where there is Christ, there is God. His kingdom i.e. Christ is already present among us. In the Lord's Prayer we say that God may be present where is not there yet.

5. **Thy will be done on earth as sit is in heaven:** It is the will of God that every man should be saved. Everybody should love Him and should love one another. Jesus came to this earth to do the will of God. God's will has been fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus remained obedient to God even unto his death. Now it is our duty to be obedient. While saying the Lord's
Prayer we have to keep mind that we should also be obedient to our Father and to Jesus.

6. **Give us this day our daily bread**: As His children of the Father we look up to Him for everything. We have faith in Him. We depend on Him. Through this we express our deep relationship with Him. He has given us our lives. He also provides us with whatever we need. He gives us not only physical food but also the food of our souls. He gives us all sorts of blessings. We pray for our daily food from our Father. We do not get become unnecessarily anxious about our future. We believe that our Father will provide us with food. He will provide us daily with the food for our body and soul.

7. **And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors**: Like a lost child we wander far away from our Father. We come back again and beg His pardon. We commit sins like a tax collector, and again beg pardon with submission. We saw in the story of the prodigal son that the father pardoned his son, but the elder brother did not pardon his younger brother. So their father was sad. The servant was pardoned by his master but he did not pardon his fellow workers in the story told by Jesus. So the master punished the servant. If the servant had pardoned his co-worker, the master would also have pardoned him. Likewise, if we pardon others' faults, God will also pardon our faults.
8. **Lead us not into temptation:** We all fall prey to temptation, but we all don't commit sin. Those who cannot resist greed, become the slave of temptation. Thus they commit sin. If we fall prey to temptation, there is a possibility of committing sin. So it is better not to give in to temptation. Therefore, we pray to God so that we can overcome temptation.

9. **But deliver us from evil:** 'The Evil One' means the enemy of God. He, who creates obstacle against the work of God, he is the enemy of God. We call him Satan. In the prayer to God we pray that He will save us from the clutches of Satan.

**We will pray devoutly**

We pray everyday. Through the prayer we make friendship with God. As a friend speaks frankly about the woes and wills of his mind, we also speak to God about our joys and sufferings experience. As a friend expects help or assistance from another friend, so we also want help and favor from God. As a friend praises his friend for his life, work and goodness, so also we praise God for His kindness and goodness.

Through our prayer to God we praise and glorify Him. And we tell him what we need. We open up our minds and hearts to Him.
We will say this prayer every day. We will say it with deep love and respect. We will not miss saying this prayer to God for a single day. This prayer was taught by Jesus. He said this prayer every day. He taught us this prayer so that we also sincerely and trustfully do it.

**Let us keep in mind**

a) We will say our prayer everyday.

b) We will do it alone as well as with the family members.

c) We will say our prayer after rising in the morning and before going to sleep at night.

d) We will do it before and after eating our meals.

e) We will do it before going to school and after returning from school.

f) We will do it before we begin our study and after our study.

g) We will say the Lord's Prayer together with our family members every night. We will listen to the Word of God from the Holy Bible while praying the rosary or the other prayers.
Exercise

1. Fill in the blanks:

a) Lord, teach us to _______ as John taught his _________.

b) ________________ himself used to say this prayer.

c) We call it the ________ which Jesus ________________ us.

d) We have become members of ________________ by being baptized with water.

e) 'The kingdom of God' means ________________.

f) If we fall prey to temptation, there is a possibility to commit_______

2. Short answer question:

a) What was Jesus doing in a lonely place?

b) Which one is the best prayer?

c) Who gives us our daily food?

d) What do we want everyday from our heavenly Father?

e) Whose fault do we pardon?

f) What possibility arises if we fall prey to temptation?

g) With whom do we pray and when shall we do it?
3. Essay type question:

a) What does 'Give us this day our daily food' mean?

b) What does Jesus mean by 'Lead us not into temptation'?

c) How can we pray regularly with love and devotion?

Routine work

Write a story about an incident when you pardoned someone.
Chapter Fifteen

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Along with the Catholic Church some other Christian churches hold that there are 7 Sacraments (holy rites of sanctification). For instance: Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist (Communion), the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), Anointing of the Sick and Marriage. But some Protestant Churches recognize just 2 Sacraments, viz., (1) Baptism (Immersion) and (2) the Lord's Supper. We know that Jesus himself instituted these Sacraments. In other words, Sacraments are holy and efficacious signs given to us by Jesus for our sanctification. Of the Seven Sacraments, we have learned about Baptism, Confession and Holy Communion. We learned that we enter into the family of God through baptism. Then we grow strong in faith by the grace of Christ. By confessing we obtain forgiveness of our sins and reconcile with God and fellowmen. Here we will discuss about the Sacrament of Confirmation at length.

The Significance of Confirmation

Confirmation is an important Sacrament. Baptism, Communion and Confirmation - these three Sacraments are called the
Sacraments of initiation into the Christian life. No fullness comes in our Christian life until we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation by a bishop or a priest. Until this Sacrament our journey into the Christian life remains incomplete. New life is given to us when we receive baptism. This new life is to be lived in God's love. This new life reaches its fulfillment at the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred by a Bishop or a Priest. By the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation we are enriched with the power of the Holy Spirit. Our Christian faith attains maturity. Maturity here means the ability to understand what is good or what is bad. The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens us with the power of the Spirit. Then one can understand what is virtuous and what is sinful. By this Sacrament one grows to be mature in the Christian faith and hope.

**Who can receive this Sacrament?**

Each baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive this Sacrament of Confirmation. That is to say baptism must precede the Sacrament of Confirmation. One should have the age of discretion before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. One has to personally express his intention to
receive this Sacrament. He must take part in Christian ceremony having cleanness in heart.

**The celebration of Confirmation**

In the celebration of Confirmation, candidates are anointed on the forehead with the sacred chrism blessed by a Bishop. The Bishop extends his hands over the head and invokes the Holy Spirit. Normally only the Bishop can confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. But in two instances a priest can also confer this Sacrament. First, a Priest can confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on an adult immediately after he is baptized. Second, a Priest can confer the sacrament of Confirmation to an adult who was baptized in his childhood but now is in danger of death.

**The use of chrism in the Sacrament of Confirmation**

Why is chrism used in this Sacrament? In the Old Testament, the king was anointed with oil. By Confirmation we are initiated into the Christian life. After being anointed the king had the authority to administer and rule his country. Likewise by Confirmation we gain the power to administer and rule ourselves with the power of the Holy Spirit. Oil is necessary for our physical health. Mothers rub oil on the various parts of the body of a child before and after bath so that it is protected from the cold. So oil keeps the child fresh. Similarly we become fresh and strong in our soul when we receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred by a Bishop or a Priest. Then no evil power can attack us easily. The power of the
Holy Spirit is like the oil for us. The Holy Spirit heals us. A wound is healed when oil is applied. In the same way, when we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the power of the Holy Spirit protects us from the destructive consequences of our sins. The Sacrament of Confirmation imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark.

This mark or seal is an impression of the Holy Spirit. This seal of the Holy Spirit marks our total belonging to Christ as believers. This means that we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation only once in our life.

Why is this seal imprinted? We know that the possession of a thing is ensured by a seal. In the ancient times a seal was imprinted on the body of a soldier when he entered the Army. That was never to be erased. The seal meant a guarantee that this person was a soldier of a particular country or kingdom. Likewise, when the seal of the Holy Spirit is imprinted on us with the Sacrament of Confirmation by a Bishop or Priest one becomes a faithful witness of Jesus, a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, a child of God. By Confirmation one becomes a faithful follower and a courageous witness of Christ. He or she becomes a soldier of Christ to fight against sins in this world. When we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, people can recognize us by our words, works and conduct that we are followers of Christ. We can bear testimony to our faith and religion with courage. He is no longer afraid to die for his religious belief.
The effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation

The following are the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- It roots us more firmly in the divine filiation with God the Father and communion with His children.
- It unites us more firmly to Christ Jesus.
- It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.
- It renders our bond with the Church more perfect.
- It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ.
- It makes us courage to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

PRAYER: Lord, many men and women have dedicated their lives for the service of the Church and they have become martyrs for their faith. Give me the strength and courage to always walk in the light of the Holy Spirit and lead my life in accordance with the teachings of Jesus.
Exercise

1. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

   a) How many Sacraments are there according to the Catholic Church?
      i) Three  (ii) Five  (iii) Seven

   b) What do we become after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation?
      i) An adult  (ii) A minor  (iii) A youth

   c) What is the seal of the Sacrament of Confirmation?
      i) Imprint of a tree  (ii) Imprint of fire  (iii) Imprint of the Holy Spirit

2. Fill in the blanks:

   a) In other words, a Sacrament is a ___________.

   b) Each ________ Christian believer can take the Sacrament of ___________.

   c) In the celebration of the Sacrament of _________ the candidate is anointed on the forehead with ____________.

3. Short answer question:

   a) Which ones are called the Sacraments of Initiation into Christian life?
b) What does 'spiritual maturity' mean?

c) Who is invoked during the anointing with chrism on the forehead at the Confirmation?

d) How many times can we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

e) What happens when we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

4. **Essay type question:**

a) Who can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? What are the conditions for receiving this Sacrament?

b) What is the meaning of the anointing with chrism in the Sacrament of Confirmation?

c) What are the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

**Routine work**

Make a list of the duties and obligations of a Christian who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
Chapter Sixteen

Global family

Global family and its members

A group consisting of parents and children is called a family. The members of the family may live together or some of the members may live far away or even abroad. The word 'family' also has a wider meaning. In this regard not only the parents and children are the members of the family, but the kiths and kin are also considered as members of the family. This concept of the family has even more extended meaning. The men and women originating from the same ancestors are members of the same family. From this point of view all human beings are members of the same family because all the human beings originated from the same first parents.

He Who created our first parents is called God or Allah, or Iswar. By whatever name He may be called, He is One and the Same. He is the Creator. Our Creator is only one. So it can be said that we all came from the One Creator. After death all the
souls will go back to Him. He is the Creator from Whom we all came. He is our Father and He is our Mother also. We all are His children. So, all of us on this earth are mutually related as brothers and sisters. There is only one human family across the globe. We are the members of the one global family.

The beginning of the global family

From the book of Genesis in the Bible we learned the history of how the global family started. After the completing the creation of the other species, God created man on the Sixth Day. The whole human race originated from the first parents. Right at the beginning of creation God formed a family. It was the first human family. From this family all the human beings have been born gradually. Their descendants have filled the world. Even if we do not know each other, still we know that our ancestors are the same.

Characteristics of the global family

We can find the interrelation between all the members of the global family on the basis of the characteristics mentioned below:

1. Although the faces of men and women of the globe are distinct and different, still the color of the blood of all is red.

2. We all breathe the same air in order to stay alive.

3. We all move around and enjoy in the same sunlight.

4. In order to survive all eat of the produce of the same earth or soil.
5. We all need to drink the same water having oxygen and hydrogen.

However, in spite of being members of the same family, there are many conflicts and quarrels among us. There may be in the same family quarrels among the brothers and sisters. Similarly there may be problems among the members of the global family. The types of problems could be:

1. The spirit of revenge may be stronger than the spirit of love among the members of the global family.

2. Not every one can enjoy their basic human rights. Many of them are deprived of their fundamental rights.

3. The majority of the members are selfish. So they think of themselves only, indifferent to or unconcerned about others. For this reason there is mistrust and domination.

4. Many try to be rich at the expense of the others. While a few have become excessively rich while the great majority remain poor and at the starvation level.

5. Competition for power and wealth results into growing jealousy, hostility, exploitation and oppression.

6. Some States engage in hostility and war.

7. Terrorism, violence and corruption increase and spread due to man's desire for domination.

8. Justice is denied to many. They do not get the share of the earth's resources that rightfully belongs to them. So there is
injustice in the society. And lack of justice means lack of peace.

9. The elderly people, women and children's dignity is not respected. Those in power enjoy too many privileges.

* The human and moral values are eroding due to greed.

* People less attentive to the needs of spirituality or their need for God.

**Pope John Paul II's contribution in shaping the global family**

Injustice, restlessness conflict, hostility, thirst for revenge etc. exist all around the globe. Still the Pope John Paul II believed that it was possible to build a society where there is peace and harmony by unifying all the members of the human family and all the nations together. He used to believe that it would be possible to establish a peaceful State by unifying all the leaders of the world. To achieve this goal, he worked relentlessly. Some of his efforts are mentioned below.

**Human rights, Justice and peace for the construction of global family**

One of the most basic principles of Pope John Paul II was 'Not war but peace'. He believed that a war causes another war. The hostility among the nations increases. War cannot bring about peace; war is not a solution to any problems. Rather it leads to further conflicts and bloodshed. Many people, soldiers, women and children die in war. Many households and properties are
destroyed. So whenever the Pope went to any country, he kissed the ground. By doing that he wanted to show that God loves all equally. Every leader of every country should have such an attitude.

Pope John Paul II believed that the demand for justice can be fulfilled by love, and peace can be brought about by justice. He knew that deep down everyone wants peace. So he tried to bring together all religious communities, nations and classes of people for the sake of peace. He urged them to pray together.

He called together the leaders of the Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and Christians. He invited all the religious leaders. They gathered in 1993 in the city of Assisi in Italy. They prayed together for peace. All of them responded to the call of the Pope and joined the prayer. On that day it was proved that even though we are followers of different religions, we can all pray together because all are made by the same Creator. That day the Pope John Paul II became very happy. So he called the leaders again in 2002 to establish the peace in the different places of the world. All the leaders again joined the programme this time. Beside that, Pope John Paul II strongly condemned
those leaders who advocated wars. For example, in 1991 Pope John Paul II condemned President Saddam and George Bush for war. He wrote letters to them urging them to stop the war. On 11 September 2002 when the terrorists attacked the Twin Tower in U.S.A., Pope John Paul II protested. In this way he tried his best to build a family of love bringing together all people of the globe. In 2003 when the U.S.A. attacked Iraq, Pope John Paul II again criticized the president of U.S.A. openly. He urged him to stop the war.

**Pope John Paul II gave an example of how to forgive**

Pope John Paul II became an intimate friend with the young and the old alike. In 1981 he was shaking hands cordially with the people at St. Peter's Square. Taking advantage of the situation, a man named Mehmet Ali Agsa, a citizen of Turkey shot at the Pope. The bullet hit the belly of the Pope. Immediately the police arrested the miscreant. And the Pope was sent to a hospital. Gradually he recovered and...
resumed his usual activities. Every day he prayed for the conversion of Agsa. In 1983 he went to see Agsa in the prison. He pardoned him there and blessed him with his hands on his head. The honorable Pope requested the heads of States not give capital punishment to Agca.

The leaders accepted the request of Pope and Agsa was sentenced to jail for life. The people of the world became astonished to see the example of forgiveness of the Pope.

Why did Pope John Paul II forgive Ali Agsa? Because he knew that through forgiveness one can be converted. Through forgiveness all can live together. As Jesus forgave His enemies, Pope forgave his enemy in the same way. He wanted people to know that forgiveness is necessary for living together in peace. Forgiveness is a proof of the love for each other.

**Pope John Pauls journeys and visits to different places of the World**

Pope John Paul II was Pope for 26 years. During his pontificate 104 times he visited many different places of the world. He visited over 142 countries and attended many programs. The motive of his journey was to establish brotherhood among the people of the world. He wanted to make the people know that God loves everybody. As a man of God he also loves all. For this reason he would kiss the ground of every country where he landed. Through this type of efforts he was able to establish a good relation among the nations.
The duties and responsibilities of the global family

We all want to live in a family because we find delight, love, forgiveness, sympathy and companionship in a family. In order to make the global family a place of joy and happiness it should have some characteristics. But how do we acquire those qualities? We have to learn those in a small family of our own. A family is the most important primary school. While growing up in a family we acquire many necessary virtues. Those who learn to be responsible in the family, also learn to carry out the responsibilities in the global family.

The responsibilities of the leaders

Every political or religious leader comes from a family. We see many leaders helping other countries. They have learnt it from their families. As members of the global family we hope that the leaders of every country will help other countries in need. They can help each other in terms of food, clothing, housing, education, health, culture, security and so on. Through mutual cooperation the people of all countries can grow up together. We can find many instances of cooperation everywhere.

Mutual cooperation at the time of Tsunami

Obviously we have heard about tsunami through the communication media like television, radio and newspapers. This devastating natural calamity affected Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and some other countries on 26 December 2004. At the bottom of the sea a violent earthquake caused vibration in the water.
The water level rose very high and the mountain high waves rolled over the villages and towns. That water flooded the shores affecting animals, households and all other domestic things. Thousands of people died. Many people were wounded. They lost their lives, wealth and mental health.

Many people of the global family came rushing there to bury the dead, to rescue those who survived and providing medical care for the wounded, making shelter for the homeless and providing food for the hungry people there. They came to help them as their own brothers and sisters.

Those who could not go there physically, prayed for the relief of their suffering. Through these activities the unity and brotherhood of the global family was expressed and strengthened.
The responsibilities and duties of the members of the global family

We love our heavenly Father; all men and women of the globe are His children. So we are mutually brothers and sisters. Therefore, we have some responsibilities towards one another. Some of the ways in which we can carry out our responsibilities are stated below:

a) By loving human beings and believing in his/her dignity.

b) By respecting our parents and leaders.

c) By doing work together with the young and the old.

d) By being responsible, obedient and respectful to the family, society and country.

e) By showing respect to man and following good ideals.

f) By praying regularly.

g) By acquiring good qualities.

h) By avoiding bad habits.

i) By leading an honest life.

j) By doing hard work.

k) By following the teaching and the example of Jesus.

l) By taking part in social and religious activities.
Let us write down how we can carry out our responsibilities as members of the global family:

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**Exercise**

1. Fill in the blanks:

a) A group consisting of parents and their ____________ is called family.

b) He created ____________ on Sixth Day.

c) The only principle of Pope John Paul II was ____________ but not ____________.

d) He believed that ____________ brings justice and justice brings ____________.
e) Through ______________ it is proved each other's ________________.

f) ______________ is the most important ______________ school.

2. Match the parts of the sentences of the right column with those of the left:

| a) We all get the sun shine. | a) forgive Ali Agsa? |
| b) We all live | b) spirituality or God |
| c) We all satisfy our thirst | c) conflict and war |
| d) Everyone can not enjoy | d) their right |
| e) Some countries want | e) drinking the same water |
| f) The people are less attentive to | f) having the grain of the same soil. |
| g) Why did Pope John Paul II | g) from the same sun. |
| | h) love and peace |
| | i) without love |

3. Write 'C' for correct and 'IC' for incorrect answers:

a) All human beings descended from the same first parents.
   - C

b) Our Creator is One and the Same.
   - C

c) Most of the people are selfish.
   - IC

d) Pope John Paul II was very intimate and friendly with both the young and the old.
   - C

e) Pope John Paul II wanted to let all people know that God loves all.
   - C
4. **Short answer question:**
   
a) What is a global family?
b) With whom was the family started at the beginning?
c) In what type of society did Pope John Paul II believe?
d) What was the main principle of Pope John Paul II?
e) Who shot a bullet at Pope John Paul II and when?
f) What did Pope John Paul II do to Ali Agsa in the prison?
g) What kind of things do we learn from our family?
h) Where and when did Tsunami occur?

5. **Essay type question:**
   
a) What are some of the characteristics of the global family?
b) Explain some problems of the global family.
c) Describe the exemplary act of forgiveness of Pope John Paul II.
d) What are some of the responsibilities of a member of the global family?

**Routine work**

In what ways do we become members of the global family? Make a list of those and bring those with you to class.
Chapter Seventeen

Bangladeshi Christians and the Country

We are the people of an independent country. The name of our country is Bangladesh. We are all Bangladeshis. People of different religions live in this country. We gained our independence through a bloody war of nine months in 1971. We learned something about the role of the Christians of Bangladesh in the liberation war. Now we shall try to know something about the contribution of the Christians in the fields of education, health, development, and in times of natural calamities.

There are some Christians in Bangladesh. They are very few in number. But their contribution in building up the nation is considerable. Christians living in any country respond to the needs of the people in any country of the world. In our own country too, the Christians have been playing an important role in the field of education, health and development, and helping the victims of natural calamities in our country. Sometimes people wish to when or how long ago Christianity came to this country. What was the condition of this country like when they came? What kind of services do the Christians render to the society?
Arrival of Christianity

When Christianity came to our country it was one country with the present India, Pakistan and Myanmar. The present Bangladesh was then called East Bengal.

Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese sailor, came to India by sea in 1498. After this the Portuguese traders went on coming to India regularly. The missionaries also came with these Portuguese traders. The basic objective of those missionaries was to assist the Portuguese in the practice of religion. But during their free time they also began to preach religion to the people of this country. From the fifteenth century onward the Christian religion came to this part of India and other regions through different Religious Orders. Among them were the Franciscans, the Dominicans, the Augustinians and the Jesuits. They established churches in different places and preached religion.

The reality of Bangladesh at the time

From the very beginning the Christian preachers labored very hard in this country. The people were very poor and backward. They led their lives with much hardship. They depended solely on agriculture. Crops were damaged by natural calamity practically every year. Their houses were separated from one another by long distances. There were no roads to move from one place to another. All around there were forests and jungles. These were infested with ferocious animals. Cholera, pox, malaria, dysentery and typhoid were widespread. Innumerable people died due to lack of medical facilities. Besides, storms and tornados were almost regular occurrences which caused
damage to houses of the poor people. It was very difficult to travel by water-ways. Innumerable people died every year in capsize of boats. Those who lived on the banks of the rivers and seas had to live always in fear of pirates. In spite of all these adversities the Christian missionaries worked very hard. It is difficult for us to imagine how the missionaries survived and carried on their activities. At present we are blessed with different kinds of modern technologies.

**Significant contributions**

We can surmise that the natural calamities in those days were very severe. In this unfavorable condition it was very hard for the missionaries to preach the messages of Jesus. So the Portuguese missionaries left the country. The Religious Orders that came also did not stay for long. There were only two or three priests to look after the Christians spread out in a vast region. So the Pope proposed to the Congregation of Holy Cross to come to this country. There were priests, Brothers and Sisters in the Congregation of Cross. They came to this country in 1853. They have been preaching the messages of Jesus in this country since then. Side by side they founded and administered many schools and health-care centers. Originally they worked in all the areas of Dhaka Diocese and in Chittagong, Barisal and Mymensingh. Besides preaching of the message of Jesus they carried on other works such as education, health-care, human development, economic-social and cultural development of the people. At the same time initiatives were taken to train and prepare local priests and Religious to continue the mission of Jesus. As a result of their initiatives nowadays we see a good
number of local priests are working in all the dioceses of our country.

Congregations of local Sisters are also working in different places of the country. Among them the SMRA Sisters, the Shanti Rani Sisters, and the LHC Sisters are the main.

The other Congregations of Religious which are now working in this county are: PIME Fathers, Xaverian Fathers, Oblate Fathers, Maryknoll Fathers, TOR Fathers and Brothers, Jesuit Fathers, Benedictine Fathers, RNDM Sisters, Adoration Monastery Sisters, Sisters of Charity, Salesian Sisters, PIME Sisters, Missionaries of Charity, Maryknoll Sisters, Blue Sisters, OLS Sisters and OSL Sisters.

**Development work of the Christians**

The missionaries consider the preaching of the message of Jesus as their first duty. Therefore, like Jesus they were distressed to see so much suffering. They tried to alleviate this suffering as much as they could. Why did they have to engage in these works? They did it because Jesus said that when we feed the hungry, we actually feed him. When we give shelter to the homeless, we actually give it to him. When we take care of the sick, we actually take care of him. The missionaries made practical application of those messages of Jesus which they preached to the people. The missionaries believed that their preaching had no value without the practical applications of Jesus' message. So they placed much emphasis on education, health-care, economic, social and cultural development. The natural calamities destroyed many things every year. So they
took it as a challenge to face this situation. A brief description of their works is given below:

1. Achievement in the field of education

The Christian community placed great emphasis on education in Bangladesh. The philosophy behind is that the people will be able to improve themselves and their lot if they receive good education. At present (2006) the number of educational institutions founded and administered by the Christian community is as follows:

a) Primary Schools - 211
b) Secondary Schools - 52
c) Technical Schools - 24 and
d) Colleges - 3

These educational institutions were started by the Christian community. Various Religious Congregations started most of these institutions and many of them are still being run by them; while some others are being run by other people. The names of some of the oldest educational institutions are: St. Gregory's Primary and High School, St. Francis Xavier Girls School, Holy Cross Girls High School of Tejgaon, St. Joseph Primary and High School at Mohamadpur, Bandura Holy Cross Primary and High School, St. Placid and St. Scholastica Primary and High Schools of Chittagong, St. Alfred Primary and High School of Padrishibpur, St. Nicholas Primary and High School of Nagari, St. Mary's Primary and High School of Tumilia, Notre Dame

The objectives of the educational institutions

The main objective of the educational institutions run by the Christians is to promote overall development of each student. That is to say, those who study here will become honest men and women committed to the truth and justice. Their personality will become attractive. People will know them as persons of integrity. All, irrespective of race, religion or color, get the opportunity to study in these institutions. At present many people who studied in these educational institutions run by the Christians are serving in high positions in and outside the country. Honesty, dedication, discipline, sense of responsibility and spirit of service are some of the qualities that are seen in the lives of those who have gone through these institutions. Every year there is a great pressure at the admission time in these institutions; for many guardians are anxious to get a good education for their children. They seem to be convinced that these educational institutions try to do for their children what every good educational institution should do.

Some characteristics of the Christian educational institutions

The principal characteristics of these institutions are:

* To train and form the students to be honest persons. They teach them to be tolerant, methodical, hardworking,
preserving, cooperative, upright, just, benevolent, responsible, self-respecting and forgiving.

* To make everyone a good citizen so that he can dedicate his life for the welfare of the nation.

Every effort is made to help the students acquire the above-mentioned qualities in all the Church-run educational institutions. It is hoped that the boys and girls trained and educated in these institutions will be good people, loyal citizens and dedicated servants of the nation. They will not be a burden on the society in any way; on the contrary they will be true asset to the country. They will help build a prosperous and developed Bangladesh.

2. Christians in health services

Three out of one thousand mothers die in Bangladesh at the time of giving birth to babies. The rate of the death of babies under one year are 57 in one thousand. Many babies are born under-weight and mal-nourished in our country. And they grow up with poor health. There are not many experienced doctors in the villages. So in the rural areas many die because of lack of good medical treatment.

Hospitals

Under the circumstances the Christian community emphasizes very much on health-services and medical care for the people. Some of the hospitals run by the Christians are: St. Vincent Hospital of Dinajpur, St. Paul Hospital of Mongla in Khulna, Fatema Hospital of Jessore, Jalchatra Hospital and Jalchatra
Leprosy Hospital of Madhupur, Christian Hospital in Rajshahi, Harishpur Hospital in Natore, Malumghat Hospital in Cox's Bazar, Chandraghona Christian Hospital, Parbatipur Lamb Hospital, and Mission Hospital of Natore. Thousands of patients get nursing care and medical treatment at these hospitals.

Holy family Hospital situated at Moghbazar of Dhaka was also established and run for many years by the Christian missionaries. This hospital is now being run by the Red Crescent Society. At present 177 out of 335 nurses in this hospital are Christian and they have been working with much good reputation.

**Charitable health centers**

There are 53 charitable dispensaries run by the Christian community in different parts of the country. Along with medicines, education and counseling on health are given to the poor patients from the village in these hospitals.

**Doctors and nurses**

There were about 70 qualified Christian doctors in the country in 2005. Christian nurses are quite numerous. They are found working in almost all hospitals and clinics in Bangladesh. They provide quality nursing service to the patients with much love and compassion.

**3. Christians in socio-economic development**

Man cannot create anything new. Everything is created by God. Man can only work with what has been created by God. But
created in the image of God, man has the duty to work for his own development. Changes that are made for the good of man and the society are called development. These changes are done in such a way that it can help develop the qualities of man as man and accomplish the well-being of the people.

A poor country like ours has numerous problems. Poverty, over-population, natural calamities etc. are some of the most serious problems. It is not possible for the Govt. of the country to solve all the problems single-handed. Many private organizations are working for development in Bangladesh. The Christian community of Bangladesh is not lagging behind in this regard. There is a good number of NGOs run by the Christian Churches at the national level. For example, CARITAS Bangladesh, World Vision Bangladesh, CCDB, RDRS, Baptist Aid, KOINANIA, SODAP etc. Besides, many Christian faithful on their personal initiatives are running many NGOs at the national and the local levels. For example, HEED Bangladesh, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association etc.
Exercise

1. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct answer:

   a) How large is the Christian population in Bangladesh?
      i) Bib number (ii) About five percent (iii) Very few
   b) In what year did Vasco da Gama come to India by sea?
      i) 1498 (ii) 1598 (iii) 1698
   c) On what does the Christian community in Bangladesh put much emphasis?
      i) On education (ii) On constructing house (iii) On agriculture
   d) How many Christian charitable dispensaries are there in Bangladesh?
      i) 63 (ii) 103 (iii) 53

2. Fill in the blanks:

   a) We are ___________ of a _______________ country.
   b) Our ___________ was then called _____________.
   c) They established ___________ in different places.
   d) All _____________ want to give their children
3. Short answer question:

a) When Christianity came to present Bangladesh, what other countries were one with it?

b) In what year did the Religious Congregations come to Bangladesh?

c) What were some of the main diseases when the first missionaries came to Bangladesh?

d) Write the names of the Religious Congregations of the local Sisters.

e) Mention some of the characteristics of the Christian educational institutions.

f) Write the names of some of the Christian hospitals.

g) Write the names of the NGOs of the Christian community.

4. Essay type question:

a) Write briefly about the condition Bangladesh when the first missionaries came.

b) What are the main objectives of the Christian educational institutions?

c) Write briefly about the achievement of the Christians in the
field of health-care services.

d) Write briefly about the contribution of the Christians in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

**Routine work**

Write an essay on how you want to participate in serving your motherland.