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Christian Religious Studies
[For Class VI]

Translated by
Prof. Dipok Lal Chowdhury

Edited by
Father Stephen Gomes C. S. C
Ferial Azad

NATIONAL CURRICULUM & TEXTBOOK BOARD, DHAKA.
PREFACE

New textbooks at Junior Secondary and Secondary levels were introduced in the early 80's in the light of the recommendations of the National Curriculum and Syllabus Committee formed in 1975. Although more than a decade has elapsed, no major attempts were made to modify and revise the curriculum and develop new textbooks to meet the changing socio-economic needs of the country and to incorporate advanced scientific and technological knowledge of the contemporary world.

In this context, the Government took a comprehensive programme to modify and reform the time-old curricula: and syllabi of Junior Secondary, Secondary and Higher Secondary stages of education in 1994—1995. The broad aims and objectives of the modified curriculum are: to raise the standard of our education upto international level, to enable the students to acquire newer knowledge, to inculcate in them religious, moral and social values, and equip them with such skills that help them in self-employment.

New textbooks for classes VI to X were developed in accordance with the modified and renewed curriculum and syllabus. These books were first introduced in classes VI and IX in 1996 and those for classes VII and VIII were introduced in 1997. As usual these textbooks are written in Bengali.

In compliance with the Government decision of allowing the students to study in English medium also, National Curriculum and Textbook Board, for the first time in its history, undertook the task of preparing English version of the existing textbooks of different subjects for classes VI to X.

'This book 'Christian Religious Studies' for class VI is the English version of the original textbook entitled "Christa Dharma Shiksha" written in Bangla.

The work of translation, editing and printing was done rather in haste so as to make the book available to the students in time. Inspite of sincere efforts some inadvertent errors and omissions may be found in the book. As curriculum development is a continuous process, our efforts will continue to make the book free from these errors and improve accordingly in the next edition. In this respect positive advice and constructive suggestions from any quarter will be highly appreciated.

My sincere thanks and gratitudes are due to those who were involved in translating, editing and printing the book. My thanks are also due to Higher Secondary Education Project for their financial assistance and cooperation in this work. All efforts will be deemed fruitful if the teachers and students are benefited by the book.

Professor Mostafa Kamaluddin
Chairman
National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Dhaka
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CHAPTER ONE

LOVE RELATION BETWEEN

GOD AND MAN

God Created the Earth and Man (Genesis I)

“Sing to the Lord, all the world, .......................The Lord is great and is to be highly praised. .................... The Lord created the heavens” Psalms 96:1-5

As children one of the first things we notice around us is the beautiful world. We see around us the sky, trees, rivers, sea, hills, animals, people and feel the wind etc. .................... everything God created is so beautiful. Naturally a question comes to our mind: who created this beautiful world? Where did man, the greatest creation of all come from? Who is this powerful being who created all this? Many questions like this naturally come to our mind.

As we seek answer to these questions, we become aware who God the creator is? In primary classes you must have hear about creation story. Now we will know more in details about the creation.

You may have heard scientific explanation of man's evolution. It is impossible to know and understand the mystery of creation without religious faith. This is why, in all religions faith is necessary. In the Holy Bible we can find beautiful answers to questions on creation. In the Holy Bible we come to understand the profound mystery of creation and God's will and his almighty power. With how much love God created everything in this universe! Why did God create human being? The Holy Bible helps us to understand all this in a beautiful way. Moreover, it makes our faith in the loving God stronger. Even scientists and scholars acknowledge the great creator. Our national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in a poem says—
“Lord, you are like a big a child.
Playing with this universe like playing with a doll.
Creating and destroying,
you are doing it in silence
O Lord!”

How much truth there is in the poem does not matter, but what matters it recognizes.

**God's Almighty power** — This is what the poet tried the convey.

**The Holy Bible says** — "In the beginning God created the universe and the earth."
(Genesis I:1 verse)

**Think**

How great and powerful is God. His power and love are revealed in his beautiful creation.

I bow as a sign of acknowledgement of his power and love, down my head before God.

**God Created the Earth**

**It is written in Genesis, ''Then God commanded, ''Let there be light and Light appeared:'"** What a surprise God commanded and henceforth the work of creation began. Yes, with nothing but by the word of his mouth he created everything on earth. Can you imagine how powerful is God? How mighty is his word? But you do not think that God, has created everything without any affection and care. No, he has created everything with proper order. He has created all these with much love and care. In six days He completed the work of creation.
In the very beginning God felt the necessity of light in formless and desolate earth. So on the first day he created light separating from the darkness and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night". On the second day, he created dome naming sky to divide the water. On the third day he separated land from the water. He filled the land with different kinds of trees, grass, vegetable plants etc. On the fourth day, he created sun for the day, moon for the night and other plants and stars. On the fifth day, he created birds for the sky, fish for water and, different kinds of animals and insects for the land. Do you know what God created on the sixth day? He created man. Then on the seventh day he took rest. Yes, God was so pleased to see his creation. It was beautiful. He was pleased to rest. He did all these with his great power. So he took rest. This shown that he loved his creation as good and beautiful.

When you draw a fine picture or make a toy or something, you feel free and great after it is completed. You save it because you love it. God too, was pleased to see his creation and preserved it with much care and in order. That is why we are surprised to see an order of things in the nature and succession of seasons and wonder about who is the creator of all these? We wonder how powerful He is who created all this and maintains an order in the nature. He must love and care for this creation.

God is as if a master craftsman. A craftsman before he makes something, he thinks and plans; someway God created everything on earth with care and planning and set everything in order.

**Remember**

We can see the great power of God in creation of the beautiful earth and life. We can find the invisible God in all creation and that's why we should not only enjoy but also take care of animals, birds, trees, rivers etc. There is a bond of balanced in the creation/nature. If it is not protected with care it will soon be destroyed as part of creation; we will also be destroyed. We praise God, the creator by taking care and protecting the nature and everything in it.

**God Created Man**

We call man the best creature of the creation. Do you know why man is considered to be the best in God’s creation? Yes, man has knowledge,
inteligence and rationality. Man has many qualities and abilities by which he can do many good things. But above all he has soul. His soul and conscience make him the best among all creations. God created man as his own with all his love gave man conscience and soul. This is why man who is created in God's image is the best of all creation. To explain the deep loves of God for man, we call man God's children. It is written in the Bible "So God created man in his own image. "(Genesis 1: 27)

Remember
As we conceive God by our soul, develop a relationship with him, same way, we praise God and do good to other by using our talents, virtues and good judgment.

Tajmahal is an immortal memorial of Shajahan. When we see Tajmahal, we know his deep love for his wife and his taste for aesthetics. Same way, we see God in man and his creation. We come to recognize his almighty power and immense love.

Lesson for us
a) To uphold faith in God, the great creator and to praise him.
b) To love and serve people irrespective of caste creed and sex.
c) To learn to nature and care of the nature and wild life instead of indiscriminate use of them for selfish purpose.

Adam and Eve (Genesis 3)
Surely you have heard about the first man created by God. He is the symbol of our ancestors. A garden is a symbol of happiness and peace on earth. God created man, that is, Adam and Eve, as the best of all creation. He gave the earth and the whole creation to them to enjoy. They are to enjoy and care for it and praise God.

He gave Adam and Eve everything and kept them happy. Since he loved them so much, he let them live in garden Eden. But what is the meaning of love? Does it mean, one will do what he wills to do? No, love does not mean one can do wrong at liberty. In real love there is discipline for your good.
Even though God granted Adam and Eve happiness and peace, he warned them not to do any wrong or crime. He said". You shall not eat the fruit of the tree (in the middle of the garden) of wisdom. "The people usually do what is told not to do. Adam and Eve though lived in much peace, they were not happy, they thought surely the fruit of that tree was very tasteful. They became greedy. Temptation raised its hood like a serpent in their heart. The serpent asked them to eat that fruit. They did not pay any attention to the order of their Lord, the creator. They listened to the serpent and ate the fruit.

What happened then? They found themselves naked. In other words, they were defited. They lost the integrity God gave them. The image of God in which they were created was lost. They no longer remained distinct, became like other creature e.g. animals, birds. Why? Because they did not listen to their God. Thus man started on the path of sin. He walked away from God. No longer did they enjoy heavenly peace. Envy entered their life in place of love. All of us till today are carrying on the consequences of that sin.

**Remember**

It happens in everybody's life. Isn't it? Such as your parents, teachers or elders love you. They ask you to do many things and forbid you to do many things. But do you obey them? But you tend to go ahead with what you were asked not to do. You feel there is more pleasure in it. You do not understand how you got this way. This is a bad consequence. It is not possible to get back to good life. Life lost its original integrity and it is a matter of pity for all.

**A Story For You**

Jacob's father very often used to say to Jacob "Look, you should always buy good fruits and good food to eat with your pocket money. He told him not to smoke. But one of his school friends explained that smoking was a great fun and many people smoke. He offered Jacob cigarette on the way to school. Jacob secretly learned smoking from his friend and was addicted to it. He used to smoke hiding and never bought food with his pocket money. Nicotine slowly attacked his lungs. So at a young age his health broke down. He began to get fever and vomit blood. Doctor by checking up found that he
was attacked by TB. Hearing this his parents got frightened. What a blunder Jacob made by smoking. Will he get back that strong health he had before? Same thing happened in Adam and Eve's case. They did the blunder by eating forbidden fruit of the wisdom tree. They found no way to rectify their misdeed. God punished them for their disobedience.

**Disobedience and Sin**

Adam and Eve were disobedient to God. Thus they committed sin. God was displeased and sad for them. As Jacob was disobedient to his parents and fell seriously ill and his parents were sad. Same way God was sad at the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Sin is the bad consequence of disobedience, like being ill. When one sins, he/she looses peace of body and mind. God was very sad, so he punished Adam and Eve for their disobedience. They had to live in distress. They were thrown out from the heavenly pleasure and peace.

So you understand, what is sin? Disobedience to God is sin. There are two ways in a men's life. One is the way of disobedience, that is the way of sin. The other one is the way of obedience, that is the way of salvation. If we do not follow the words of God, his teachings and orders, if we do whatever we like, we are disobedient to him.

Remember one thing, we are after like Adam and Eve. Try to excuse ourselves impose it on another. Adam and Eve after eating the forbidden fruit could understand that they were naked. They covered their shame with fig leaves. They hid themselves from God but God found them and rebuked them for their disobedience. Do you know what Adam did then? He accused Eve; she had given him the fruit to eat. But Eve said the Satan in disguise of a snake tempted her to eat the fruit. But God spared no one. He cursed all, the snake, Adam and Eve. Someway it would not be right to accuse another for our own wrongdoing. God has given us intelligence and conscious. We understand good and bad. We ourselves have to be careful. We have to be obedient to God and live our life according to his will. God's will found in the teachings of the Bible. Elders, parents and teachers teach us according to the word of God. If we are obedient to them we are obedient to God.
Consequences of Sin

So you have seen, disobedience is never good. Whenever we do any wrong the result is not good. The result of sin is very grave. When we say or do anything bad that signifies disobedience and if we say or do something good that signifies obedience. That is why to say or do something bad, commit sin. Adam and Eve thought that they would be more wise, great and like God if they eat that forbidden fruit. So from the very fact of the selfish thought and pride sin entered their hearts. Whenever our selfishness takes precedence and pride entire our hearts, we walk into sin and sooner or later we suffer the consequences of sin.

In case of Adam and Eve, we find the sad result of sin in their punishment given by God. What punishment? God said to Eve "I will increase your trouble in pregnancy and your pain in giving birth, in spite of this you will' still have desire for your husband yet you will be subject to him. "He said to Adam "You will till the land, the ground will be under a curse, it will produce weeds and thorns. You will have to work hard and with the sweat of your forehead you will produce your food until you go back to the soil from which you were formed." Then he drove them out from the garden Eden.

From this punishment given by God we understand how awful may be the result of sin. The result of sin is always very bad. We usually say" Greed breeds sin and sin breeds death". This is very much so. Greed's of different types lead us to sin and we are punished for them. Sometimes the punishment cannot be seen or not given in this world. But punishment of sin is a must. God of course loves us. He wants that we repents.

St. Paul says "Consequences of sin is death." This death may not be natural, may be spiritual death meaning life without the relation of God in which happiness and peace are absent. We are deprived of the eternal life granted by God.

Now you think what are sins of Adam and Eve? They wanted to be equal to God and it was sin of pride. They were greedy, wanted fine fruits. So they became disobedient to God. What was the result of the sin? They were afraid
of God, they hid themselves from God. When caught they accused each other. Their inner peace was disturbed. They got a life of anxiety.

God wants to free us from the sin of Adam and Eve as well as from our own sin. So he sent Jesus Christ to this earth for our salvation. He brought our salvation. Being obedient to God, accepting the way of Jesus, we too can participate in his Redemption. We will know more about it later.

Remember

It is easy to commit sin but deliverance from it is not so easy. One will have to suffer for the sin either in this life or in life hereafter. So the christian life aims to be holy by being obedient to God, parents and elders.

Do you know the hymn about sin?

Since the death is the wage of sin (3)
Oh, the sinner knows not till today
But God's reward of mercy (3)
Eternal life in Lord Christ
(Religious hymn)

EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions

1. In the beginning of His creation what did God consider to be first thing needed?
   a. Air
   b. Soil
   c. Light
   d. Man

2. In the midst of the creation of beautiful world and life we find:
   a. the greatness of God
   b. the love of God
   c. the unlimited power of God
   d. the integrity of God

3. What will we have to do to be noble in society?
   i. We shall have to make our interest important
ii. We shall have to get rid of our pride and interest
iii. We shall have to wear costly dresses

Which of the following is correct?

a. i c. iii
b. ii d. ii and iii

4. Being tempted by Satan, Adam and Eve were

a. obedient to God c. firm relation with God
b. disobedient to God d. enmity with God

Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 5 and 6.

Adam and Eve were disobedient to God and ate fruits of the tree of wisdom. So God punished them.

5. What should we do to save ourselves from punishment of disobedience to God?

a. To obey parents and superiors
b. To be attracted to prohibited things
d. To be arrogant to neighbours
c. To entertain the temptations

6. What was the fate of Adam and Eve as a result of being disobedient to God?

i. They were driven out of
   Heaven
   ii. They were deprived of
       heavenly peace
   iii. They started to live in peace
       and happiness on earth

Which of the following is correct?

a. i c. iii
b. ii d. i and ii
Creative Questions

1. Theodore, a little boy, very carefully made some toys with clay. He used to play with the toys. He was very fond of them. One day while playing a toy was broken and Theodore began to cry. Theodore’s mother consoled him and said, “Do not cry, my beloved son, your own made toys are dear to you as you are dear to God. God has created us all with love and affection. Because He has made us all in His own image.” Hearing his mother’s consoling words Theodore was pacified and stopped crying.
   a. Who has created the earth?
   b. Why is God called the Creator of the universe?
   c. Explain why Theodore stopped crying on hearing his mother’s words.
   d. “God has created man in His own image.” — Explain.

2. Romel is his parents’ only son. He is a student of a famous school in Dhaka. Parents love him too much. Recently Romel has come in contact with some wicked boys. Being associated with these wicked boys Romel absents himself from school and wanders here and there. As a result he made bad results in the annual examination and so he is thrown out of his school. We find in our Christian Religious Studies that the result of sin is always negative. Regarding this Saint Paul says, “The ultimate result of sin is death”.
   a. Who was first created by God?
   b. Why was the first man disobedient to God?
   c. How could Romel have been saved from being expelled from school?
   d. “The ultimate result of sin is death.” — Explain.
CHAPTER TWO
EFFECT OF SIN IN MAN'S LIFE
Cain and Abel (Genesis 4: 1-16)

You have learnt that our first parents Adam and Eve had committed sin of disobedience when they were in garden Eden. So God the Father had driven them out from Eden and sent them to this earth. Here they spent their lives in hard work and in much distress. In other word, they lost the heavenly blessings they enjoyed.

We know this too that sin means to disobey the order of God. We do not have any relation with God when disobey the order of God or commit sin. This displeases God very much and disharmony besets us. The only way to return to father-son good relationship is by sorrow, repentance or penance for our sins. So we have to be all careful that by committing sin, we do not defile our soul, loose our mental peace and be cursed. If we stay away from doing any evil we will be saved from the sin. And our father children relationship will remain intact. There will be no disharmony in our life and our mind will be in peace.

Remember it too: We commit sin in three ways, such as 1. in thought, 2. in deeds and 3. by omitting. To plan in mind to do harm to others, to place envy and pride in mind, to plan of stealing or to nurse greed etc. are all sins of thoughts. Sins in deeds are also known as sin of commission. Such as stealing, dacoity offering and taking bribes, to deceive others, lying, to be disobedient of parents and elders, to murder etc. are sins of commission. When I know someone is planning to do some mischief or someone is doing mischief and I do not do anything to protest or do something to prevent or seek cooperation of others to stop it, then I can neglect my responsibility. It becomes sins of omission or neglect. Now it should be clear enough about sin and its consequences.

Remember with this: There are some moral and some supernatural or spiritual virtues. If we do not exercise or use these virtues in our life, we will fall in sins.
Moral virtues are -righteousness, self-control, moral character, to follow the dictate of the conscience which means to do what is right and just thoughts.

And the supernatural virtues are -to have faith hope in God and love for God. If you have these virtues then you will not commit sin and so you will not fall. You will enjoy endless peace and happiness in your life. And you will be able to do good to others.

**Remember**

"If a man wins the whole world but looses his soul it is of no use".

**Cain and Abel**

*(Genesis 4:1-16)*

You have heard many times the story of Cain and Abel from the Holy Bible. Isn't it? I am telling you the story again, listen to it carefully.

Adam and Eve became disobedient to God and at the temptation of Satan ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. God had driven them out from the garden Eden that is from heaven and sent them to the earth. It was their downfall. They started family life on earth. On earth, they were exposed to good and evil. Adam and Eve had two sons. Abel was elder and Cain younger. Cain was jealous and spiteful, but Abel was simple, gentle, plain living and of good character. Cain used to till the land and Abel used to keep sheep in the field. Both of them believed in offering sacrifices to God. But Cain would never offer his sacrifices to God honestly and with complete faith. He was insincere and had some doubts in his mind.

One day Cain offered crops of his field to God and Abel offered the best lamb of his flock. God accepted the offering of the honest and holy mind of Abel and blessed him much. But the offering of Cain was not accepted. Because he was envious, insincere and had doubts in his mind.

When God did not accept the offering of Cain, he became more furious and his pride, anger etc. engulfed him. He became malicious to his brother. Then the Lord asked to Cain "Why are you so angry? If you want to be good then leave anger, otherwise sin will surround you like ferocious animal and force you to sin". But Cain did not pay any attention to His word.
One day he took his brother Abel to a far away field with evil intention and killed him. Then the Lord asked Cain "Where is your brother?" Cain answered. "I do not know. Am I supposed to take care of my brother?" Lord said" I know what you have done. Look, the blood of your brother is crying out to me. The soil that sucked your brother's blood is under curse. That soil will not produce crops even when you try hard. You will be a homeless wandered on earth, you will never have peace.

Then Cain said "This punishment is too hard for me to bear my Lord. And now anyone who finds me as my brothers killer will kill me." But the Lord said," No, if anyone does so, then the revenge will be seven times upon him." After that Cain shame, fear and unrest fled away from Lord's presence and lived in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

**Remember**

Even today many people pray meditate, worship, give alms and makes Pilgrimage. But if they are not simple and honest in mind and have no love for God then the Lord will not accept their offering like that of Cain.

**Lesson for Us**

To nourish pride, greed, malice, anger, revenge in mind and to express them are sins. These lead to more serious new wrongdoing and sins. Being influenced by these, a person commits sins like murdering; stealing, dacoity, cheating etc. which are bad for himself and for others. In order to free ourselves from these we need to be self-restraint, simple, humble, righteous and follow our conscience. We should all exercise these virtues always.

**Let's pray**

Oh kind Father the Lord, you protect me from the sins of malice, anger, revenge, pride and violence. You make me perfect and holy in mind so that I can lead an honest, simple and holy life. Help me so that I can praise you by moulding myself with self-restraint, obedience, humility, righteousness, wisdom and instruction the conscience and through the good works, for the people. Amen:

**Memorize**

1. To have knowledge, you must first have reverence for the Lord. Stupid people have no respect for wisdom and refuse to learn. (Proverbs 1: 7)
2. It is the Lord who gives wisdom, from him come knowledge and understanding. He provides help and protection for righteous, honest men. (Proverbs 2 : 6-7).

Sing this hymn

"Bow my head under your feet-dust
Wash all of my prides in tears"

"I embarrass only myself by offering the praise to me.
I turn if for nothing around myself, fulfill your desire in my life lest I cast my myself in my works." Rabindra Nath Tagor.

Instruction

Here you will read two stories described in the Holy Bible of the widow's offering (Mark 12 : 41-44) and the parable of Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18 : 9-14) and you will try to understand about their humility.

Joseph's Childhood.

(Genesis 37 : 1 - 20 verse)

"Behold this dreamer cometh, let us slay him." (Genesis 37 : 19 -20 verse)

In the beginning in this earth there was nothing but God. God created all of this beautiful earth with only one word. Man is the best creature of His creation. He first created Adam then Eve as his partner. He created man so that man loves him and keeps the relation with him and be obedient to him. But man (Adam and Eve) being disobedient was driven out from Eden and sent to this earth. They lived together as husband and wife from the beginning. Thus began the family life.

We all live together with parents as well as brother and sisters. Father and mother love and extend affection to all of their children. But for some reasons they cannot love all children equally. They love some more than the others. We also cannot love all our brothers and sisters always. We will hear about a family of this kind in the Bible -it is Jacob's family.

The old Jacob had twelve sons. Joseph was his son of old age. So he loved Joseph a little more than the others. For this reasons other brothers were jealous of him. Their jealousy increased when they found that their
father made Joseph a beautiful shirt. Moreover, one day the boy Joseph saw a
dream. He told his brothers about the dream. "Listen my dear brothers, I had a
dream." The dream is like this. "We were binding sheaves in the field and
behold my sheaf stood up and yours bowed down to it." What may be the
meaning of this dream? His brothers understanding the meaning of that
dream became more jealous of him. After some day Joseph had another
dream. This time also he disclosed his dream to his father and his brothers. "I
saw the sun, the moon and eleven stars bowing down to me". His father
rebuked him but the affectionate father Jacob forgot it. But his elder
brothers could never forget it. They were waiting for an opportunity. One
day his brothers went to, a far away field to graze the flock. Jacob sent
Joseph to the field to bring news of his brother and the flock. When Joseph
was still at a distance his brothers saw him coming, they plotted to kill him.
They said " Here comes that dreamer, come on let's kill him and throw his
body into a dry well. We can say to our father that a wild animal killed him.
Thus the sin of jealousy seeded in the mind of his brothers and they could not
control it rather it increased gradually.

Remember

You live in a family with your parents, brothers and sisters. And you have
your neighbors and playmates. You play with them together. Sometimes you
quarrel and fight with them. Isn't it? You study in school and you have
schoolmates. In the same class you certainly do not have the same results. This
is why some one stands first, some one-second, some one third etc.
Someone perhaps even fails. Parents at home like some one who does not
quarrel or fight. Elders in the village love them who behave well and are
gentle. Schoolteacher loves some one who is good in studies and well
behaved. Even if they are not good in studies teacher love them, encourage
them, advice and help them.

Here is a story for you. Shally and Rebeca read in the same class. Shally is
very good in studies. She stands first in the class. But Rebeca is not good at
all in studies. She plays truant in class works as well as home-works. She is
often scolded by her teachers. She cannot make good results in the class.
Shally tries to make her understand but she does not care. Schoolteachers
love Shally very much. So Rebeca is very jealous of her. By this time annual examination is very near. Rebeca knows that the notes of Shally are very good. So she planned to make Shally fool. One day Shally went to play with her friends in tiffin period and in the meantime Rebeca stole her good notes. Shally could not find her notes when she sat for studies. Next day she went to school and informed everybody about her stolen notes. But nobody could say anything. And it was not possible to prepare the notes again to study because she had not enough time. Rebeca was very happy. Examination was over. Result was out after someday and it was found that Shally stood first again. And Rebeca failed again. One day Rebeca said to Shally "My dear sister, I have stolen your notes and God has punished me and I have failed. Take this your notes." Hearing this the Headmistress prepared a T.C. for Rebeca. Shally felt pity for Rebeca and she requested the Headmistress not to do so. The Headmistress was happy to see kindness in Shally. So she allowed Rebeca again to read in the school.

Was it right for Rebeca to do what she did? No never. Being jealous she had stolen the notes of Shally. But Shally could stand first by hard labour and with the blessing of God. So it is not fair to be jealous of others and to do harm to them. God does not tolerate it. And no one can shine or be successful by stealing. It was found sometimes that God would talk and give responsibility to his people in dreams and that would come true. Many people of course stood against it but they were never successful. There are many such instances in the Bible.

**Think**

Was it right for Joseph's brothers to make plan for killing of their younger brother? No, never. Should we do so ever like them or like Rebeca? No, it is wrong and sinful. Planning of committing sin makes man unrest. Sin and wrong doing open up the door for many more sins. It calls in many evils for oneself, family, society and the country.

**Instruction for us**

We all the brothers and sisters will live together in peace, forgetting the jealousy. Everybody will come forward to help at the danger of another. We
will help our parents. Thus each of us will be able to form a family and society of peace.

**Memorize**

"Don't harm my chosen servants;
Do not touch my prophets." (Psalms 105: 15 verse)

**Injustice to Joseph**

(Genesis 37: 21 - 36 verse)

"Then hold back from speaking evil and from telling lies." (Psalms 34: 13 verse)

You know that elder brother of Joseph plotted to kill him. They were jealous of him. The eldest brother Ruben tried to save him from the hands of other brothers but he could not protest against injustice openly. Re had no such moral courage. So he committed more sins. Therefore one who commits injustice and one who tolerates injustice both of them are equally guilty.

Now we shall know that the brothers of Joseph committed sin against God by doing wrong against their brother.
Joseph's brothers plotted to kill him. Then Ruben with the intention to save him advised his brothers not to kill him rather to throw him into a well. Ruben had the idea if his brothers threw him into a well later he would be able to send him back to his father: Ruben's proposal was accepted. Joseph came to them and his brothers forcibly took off the beautiful shirt given by his father. They threw, him into a deep well. Since the well had no water so Joseph did not die. But it was so deep that it was not possible for Joseph to come out form it.
The cruel brothers had no mercy for their younger brother, they paid no attention to his crying and screaming. They were enjoying the food Joseph had brought from home. At this time they saw a group of Jewish traders coming. Their camels were loaded with spices and resins. They were going to Egypt to sell their valuable merchandise. Joseph's brother then took him out from the well and sold him to those traders at twenty coins. The traders took him to Egypt. When all these happened Ruben was not there. He returned and went to the well but he did not find Joseph there. He felt sorry for his brother yet he did not have courage to protest against the injustice of his brothers. Afterwards they slaughtered a goat and stained that beautiful shirt of Joseph with its blood and went home. They said to their father, "a wild animal has killed our dear brother Joseph. We have found this shirt stained with blood. The father could recognize the shirt of his son. He believed that some wild animals killed Joseph. He was shocked with the sad news of his son's death and put on sackcloth to mourn the death. He gave up taking food and mourned for long time. Nothing could comfort him. He was almost dying crying and mourning for his son Joseph.

Meanwhile the traders took Joseph to Egypt and sold him to a guard, one of king Pharaoh officer. His name was Potiphar. Joseph remained as a slave of the officer for a long time. He did not have any sympathy from any one. So he depended on God as he served his master.

Think

Do you have any jealousy for your brothers and sisters? If you have, discard it from your heart because to be jealous is sin. If you nurture jealousy in your mind, someday it will be cause of big crime. This is why we shall refrain from becoming jealous.

Remember

When you do any wrong (such as lying, stealing, not preparing your lesson, cheating in exams, fighting with younger brothers and sisters etc.) certainly something inside you tells. "Don't do it, this is wrong". Who is this inner voice? Do you know? It is our conscience. Conscience is ability to judge between good and bad- it is given by God. He guides us through conscience.
conscience is our best judge and our real guide. It is our friend and adviser in life. Didn't the conscience of Joseph's brothers try to stop them to do injustice to him? Sure it did. But they did not care. So they threw him into the well first, then they took him out again and sold him to the traders. Imagine what a terrible crime they had committed against their own brother. Isn't it?

**Lesson for us**

If anybody does not follow the instruction of his conscience he easily commits sin. Remember, what ever we do conscience is its witness. Like true friend it makes us aware of our faults. When we plan to do anything wrong it warns us. When we conceal our crimes it tell us. It surely will be revealed someday. If we follow our conscience we will be saved from doing any wrong.

**Remember**

"God hates those who kill the innocent and those who conspire wrong doing."

**Memorize**

"You will earn the trust and respect of others if you work for good; if you work for evil you are making a mistake" (Proverbs 14 : 22 verse).

**Smoking and Drug Addiction**

"Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live." (Gen. 2:7).

We have also known from the first chapter that God has created us with much love and care. In other words, our body and mind everything is created by God. And God created everything holy. And what God created as holy, we cannot make it unholy. We have no right to do it. But in the modern world people forget from where they have come, who created them. How holy he is. Many do not want to know it and many do not believe even when they know it. As a result, the restless in the world, its problems and frustrations easily influence them. Thus our youths are specially influenced physically and mentally. They have no peace of mind. They take wrong step looking for peace and joy. They develop many bad habits among which smoking
and drug addiction are very dangerous and damaging. Such habits defile a human person created in God's image. Gradually they lead them astray. Those who have money spend it after drugs, etc. Many become slaves of such habits because of their parents and failures in life. In such habits they seek peace and joy. For whatever reasons, smoking and drug addiction cannot bring about any good results. They destroy a human person.

Therefore, remember God created man holy with love and care. We have no right to defile it by bad habits or drug addiction. It will be sin before God. St. Paul says: "Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God" (1 Cor, 19). "Be obedient to God and do not allow your lives to be shaped by those desires you had when you were still ignorant. Instead, be holy in all that you do, just as God who called you is holy" (1 Peter 1: 14-15).

"Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you; instead, be filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5: 18).

"So remember your Creator while you are still young, before those dismal days and years come when you will say, "I don't enjoy life" (Eccl. 12: 1).

"Drinking too much makes you loud and foolish. It's stupid to get drunk" (Prov. 20: 1).

"Don't let wine tempt you, even though it is rich red, though it sparkles in the cup and it goes down smoothly. The next morning you will feel as if you had been bitten by a poisonous snake" (Prov. 23, 31-32).

"Therefore whatever among you is purely worldly, get rid off; get rid off adultery, impurity, desire for flesh, impure desire and greed which are like idolatry. God's wrath comes down for such sins."

A young man in Rome after he was freed of drug addiction wrote to Father Pierino Gelmini who helped him with the treatment process-- "Father, I feel repentant when I realize I have planted the seeds of suffering and anxiety all around me. I remember my worried parents-- they were always apprehensive." They always thought, "Where is our son now? In what condition will our son return? Oh father, many times I asked this question
to myself that why do have to behave like this? Was it my fate that I have become a drug addict? But it is now time of resurrection for me".

**Ways and Means of Staying of Smoking and Drug Addiction**

1. Following a definite timetable everyday.
2. Daily prayer, Bible reading and to participate in Church's worship and other activities.
3. To spend enough time daily in reading textbooks and other good books.
4. To participate in regular sports and exercises or physical works.
5. To be obedient to parents and guardians.
6. To avoid bad companion and gang members, but to participate in cultural activities or to have hobbies. Also to watch educational program on TV.

At your age you must learn to be temperate and considerate and you will soon find out happiness in the process.

"Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God". (Mt. 5: 8).

**EXERCISE**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Sin is a kind of
   - a. Generosity
   - b. Disobedience
   - c. Politeness
   - d. Simplicity

2. As a result of sin the heavenly life of Adam and Eve
   - a. Developed
   - b. Fell down
   - c. A defeat came
   - d. An end came

3. By slaying Abel what characteristic of his own life did Cain express?
   - a. Courage
   - b. Cruelty
   - c. Love
   - d. Kindness

4. The brother's sold Joseph to the tradesman of which country.
   - a. Egypt
   - b. Syria
   - c. Israel
   - d. Iran
Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 5 and 6.

Saurav is a student of Class Six. He came in contact with some bad friends and started smoking. One day his religious teacher saw him smoking with those friends and told him of the bad effects of smoking. Saurav realized it very well that he has done wrong thing by smoking.

5. The cause that brought change in the mind of Saurav is
   a. Understanding smoking as a wrong thing
   b. Realizing smoking was a habit of the poor people
   c. Fear of the teacher
   d. Hoping to get maximum marks from his teacher

6. What steps can be taken to stop the students from smoking?
   i. Making people aware of the bad effects of smoking by mass media
   ii. Through visiting houses making students understand that smoking is bad
   iii. To include the matter of harmfulness of smoking in the text books

Which of the following is correct?
   a. i and ii
   b. ii and iii
   c. i and iii
   d. i, ii and iii

Creative Questions
1. Prodip could not afford to run the family though he works very hard. So he sent his five sons to the town. In the town Prodip’s sons got employed in building construction works. The youngest son was comparatively weaker than older ones. So he cannot work hard like his other brothers. All his brothers except the eldest became united and sold out the youngest brother to a kidnapper because they were tempted for huge amount of money. After that their father was informed that his younger son was killed in a road accident. Prodip burst into tears to hear the message of the tragic death of his youngest son.

   It is well known to us that sins and misdeeds bring evils for ones own self, family, society and country.

   a. As you read the above story what incident of your text book do you remember?
b. Why did the eldest brother Ruben oppose to the plot of killing Joseph?
c. How could the other brothers have kept themselves away from committing the sin of selling their own brother?
d. “Man of the present world is causing harm to each others being servants to their temptations”. – Explain.

2. Ajit is a simple, obedient, faithful and intelligent boy. He went to Dhaka city for higher education after he had finished his primary and secondary educations. Very soon he came in contact with some wicked friends and became drug-addicted. Day after day he continued to take drugs. One day he returned home with severe physical and mental ailments. All the hopes and dreams of his parents were destroyed. Seeing such condition of Ajit his mother also fell very ill. She was no longer able to look after her children and gradually became totally helpless. Because of this the whole family began to ruin.

Smoking and drug addictions are extremely harmful to human life.
a. What do understand by 'drug addiction'?
b. By what means can a drug-addicted person come back to normal life?
c. How could Ajit have kept himself away from drug-addiction?
d. “Smoking and drug addictions are deadly harmful to human life”– Evaluate in the light of Christian Religion.

3. Ajoy and Bijoy are two sons of an aristocrat family. Elder son Ajoy is evil-minded and ill-tempered and younger son Bijoy is polite and devoted to God. Though parents love both of them as their sons relatives and all people of the area love younger son more than the elder one. Realizing this the elder brother became envious of the younger brother and hurt him in different ways in secret. Nobody knew this misdeed of the elder brother. On the Christmas Day of that year their uncle gave them some gifts. Elder brother then said that the gift that is given to the younger brother was more attractive than the one given to him. He became angry and hurt his younger brother heavily. So his younger brother fell senseless. Due to this incidence Ajoy is arrested by police. Malice and revenge drug man to ruination.
a. As you read the above paragraph what incident of your text book do you remember?
b. What made Cain misbehave with his brother?
c. How could Ajoy behave well with his younger brother?
d. “Malice and revenge drug man to ruination.” Explain.
"I will give you many descendant and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing." (Genesis 12 : 2 verse)

The word "vocation" means "a call". God has created us with a great purpose. To fulfill that purpose he calls us to do various works in this earth. So it is our duty to accept our duties as his call.

In the beginning God used to call the prophets directly to do his works and would speak to them. If we read the Bible we see whenever man, the best creature of the creation of God, sinned God would send his prophets to save them.

Now we will see why God called Abra m. The name of Abram was Abra meaning the great father. But later God chose Abra as the father of multination and named him Abram remaining the father of many nations.

One day the Lord said to Abram "Leave your native land, your relatives and your father's home and go to a country that I am going to show you. I will give you many descendants and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous so that you will be a blessing. And through you I will bless all the nations."

As ordered by God Abram with all his relatives went to Canaan. There at the instruction of God he built an altar to the Lord. After a long time since this incidence God again appeared before Abram and said, "Don't be afraid, I am your shield and your reward" Abram answered "Oh my Lord, what will you give me? I am nothing but a childless man". In reply God promised to give
him a son. And he showed Abram the stars in sky and said, "Your descendants will be innumerable like the stars". And then he humbly believed it.

God kept his promise. At the 'age of ninety nine God said, to Abram," I am going to make an agreement with you. You will be the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram (great father) but Abraham (father of many nations). After one year Abraham at his old age had a son. He named him Isaac.

**Think**

What lesson have we got from the story of Abraham. We have learnt mainly three virtues- obedience, humility and faith of God. Yes, Abraham obeyed the order of God with humility all his life. And the Lord blessed Abrahm abundantly and according to his promise made him the father of many nations.

Because of his obedience and faith to the Lord, Abraham's name is written down in the Bible. The scripture says, "The obedient man announces the victory. "The real meaning of this is, he is successful in every thing." Abraham was obedient to the Lord so he had his blessings. As he believed the word of God so he was blessed with a son at such old age. The Lord increased the descendants of Abraham through his son.

**Listen**

Once there was a strong commander (Azesils). In the war against Persia and other countries he was victorious in those wars. One day he was very busy in a war. He had almost driven away his enemies, at that moment the king asked him to stop the war and to release the captives. The commander said about it, "Obedience is the greatest honour for a commander than to win a war."

God calls each of us as he did to Abraham. If we are humble and obedient to the Lord and uphold on faith in him, he gives us his blessings. It is the main duty of each christian to be obedient to his instructions and to have faith in him. Here is one more story about it.

I am sure, you know about the football player Pelay of Brazil. He was born in a very poor family. In his boyhood he had such days when there was no food, he had to go hungry. From his boyhood he had the ambition to be a famous player. And so he used to play ball made of rags. With the inspiration
from his father and the training given by the best player Bidre of Brazil and with his own efforts he has become the world-famous football player. Many people say "There will be no second Peley in the world." Peley said "Success needs exercise, hard work and love for one's own works." God definitely called Peley to be a sportsman and Peley though very poor, tried very hard to respond to God's call through hard works thus he could become the best player of the world. Do you know who inspired Peley first? No one but God.

**Remember**

Abraham was obedient to God and trusted him so he was made the father of many nations.

**Instruction**

If you hear the call of God, you will have to pray in the morning and evening together. You will read the Holy Bible and meditate (Proverbs 7:2-3). You can do as the Poet Golam Mostafa did-

The path on which lies eternal curse.
The Path on which lies eternal sorrows.
Oh great leader do not ever lead us there.

**We are all chosen of God**

(Genesis; Chapter- 15)
I.Corinthians 12 : 11- 14 and 27-28
John 15 : 1-17 verses

We know that God at different times called different prophets and had given them special responsibility. We have seen in Holy Bible Abraham was a prophet. He by the inspiration of God used to speak to the people and do good works as well. He always obeyed God. So God blessed him and his descendants a lot.

Once God told this great prophet, you will be blessed as promised by your Lord and you will be kind to many nations, but you will not accept kindness from other and you will rule over many nations." If your neighbour is poor, be
kind to him, never refuse to help him and you will offer him loan according to his need. So I am giving you this order that in your own land you will be generous to your neighbour, in the distress and poor you will always be generous.

Thus God selected David, Smauel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Moses and others to proclaim his word and to do good to the people.

We know Christian brethren are called by God. The church is the Christian community. This is the normal and holy duty of every Christian to proclaim the word of God and to be kind to all the poor and distress irrespective of their caste and creed and to do good for the country. For this we may have to encounter much trouble and have to sacrifice much but we must not draw back. You know the crossing of the Red Sea by Moses, flood of Noah and the story of Abraham's test. Don't you? Just think how much trouble they had to go through and the sacrifices they had to make.

**Jesus Founded The First Church With His Twelve Disciples**

Jesus first founded the church with his twelve disciples, later many people joined them. He ordered them "Go to the whole world and preach my word and serve the people, those who believe will have life." Peter was their main leader- the first Pope. Thus church became the mystical body of Christ. In other words, every believer in Christ became the strongest part of the invisible and heavenly body of Christ. They preached the teachings of Christ in the whole world. Those who accepted the new teachings were blessed. By receiving the Sacrament of confirmation, we became visible soldiers of Christ and we were endowed with virtues and responsibilities.

It is written in the Holy Bible "You did not choose me; I choose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures. And so the Father will give you whatever you ask of him in my name. This, then, is what I command you : Love one another." (John 15 : 16 - 17 verse)

**God has Given Each Selected Person a Different Power**

We find so many people in the Church of Christ but they do not perform the same services. God has given different person different talent so that they can serve and enrich the people, community and the country in various ways. So
you see some became pastors, some teachers, some writers, some lawyers, some soldier or ordinary farmers. The various professional talents are the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit gives them. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in the same way in each person for the good of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge. One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles, to another the gifts of speaking God's message and to another the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and these that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all these, as he wishes he gives a different gift to each person. (I Corinthians 12: 1-11 verses)

These particular qualities are actually our vocation in life or call of God or his nomination.

**Think**

Keep silent for a while and think for what work or service he calls you. Then you write it down what you want to be in your life.

**Let us pray**

Oh kind Lord, you grant me your mercy so that I understand that I am also your chosen one. Bless me so that I can praise you and do good to all people and serve my country even with my life. Be helpful to all my thoughts and services. Amen.
EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The meaning of the word Abraham is
   a. Father  
   b. Godfather
   c. Father of many races  
   d. Father of a race

2. How many things are essential to form a life?
   a. One  
   b. Three
   c. Five  
   d. Seven

3. To which path does instigation lead man?
   a. Good path  
   b. Wrong path
   c. Ruination  
   d. Distress

4. With how many disciples did Jesus found the Church?
   a. Twelve  
   b. Fourteen
   c. Sixteen  
   d. Eighteen

5. Through whom will all races receive God’s blessings?
   a. Joseph  
   b. Jacob
   c. Abraham  
   d. Isaac

Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 6 and 7.

People of different professions live in our society. There are teachers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, doctors, engineers etc. in the society. Everyone works in his or her own respective area in order to make the world beautiful.

6. We have received different talents from
   a. Moses  
   b. Abraham
   c. Holy Spirit  
   d. Joseph

7. The way that God works in man is -
   i. Revealing the Holy Spirit to every one in the same way
   ii. Revealing the Holy Spirit in every different person in a different way
   iii. Revealing the Holy Spirit in the same person in all different ways
Which of the following is correct?

a. i c. iii
b. ii d. ii and iii

Creative Questions

1. Two candidates have got nominations in the election of union council. One of the candidates, Ramesh Babu, was haughty and corrupt and earned money by threat. The other candidate Jatin Babu was God-loving, upright, honest and social worker. He made publicity about himself as an eligible candidate. On the other hand Jatin Babu kept faith in God and makes publicity that he will serve people sincerely and honestly. The results of election showed that Jatin Babu won the election. God chose good persons like Abraham, David, Samuel and Elisa to serve humankind. Likewise voters helped Jatin to win the election.

a. Who was Abraham?
b. Why did God choose Abraham?
c. How could Ramesh Babu have been the winner in the election?
d. “Every Christian is chosen by God”. – Explain.

2. After staying abroad for seven years, Mr. Robin began to live in his own village Shimulia. He found that his village remained behind in all respects. So he founded an organization named Sebok Sangha with 12 courageous, honest and wise young men of the village. This organization served helpless, weak, poor and old people of the village. Many of the villagers came forward to help Sebok Sangha in various ways.

To receive blessings of God man must serve each other.

a. How many disciples did Jesus have when he founded the Church?
b. Why did Jesus make church?
c. Like the people of the village Shimulia how can you cooperate with the development make of your area.
d. “Not only by prayer but also by serving the humankind, God’s blessings can be obtained”. – Evaluate in your own words.
Perhaps you have heard about the prophet Samuel in your previous class. Samuel was one of the greatest men of God in Old Testament. And in Old Testament there are two books in his name. God called him for his service in a strange way. Samuel was the only son very dear to his parents. His mother got him by asking God. So his name was Samuel meaning 'receiving by asking'. And she offered Samuel for God's service.

Can you imagine of such sacrifice? You too are dear to your parents. Aren't you? But can your parents offer you to God like Samuel? Yes, very hard to do this. Samuel's mother could do it. Because she got Samuel by the mercy of God. So she expressed her gratitude to the Lord by offering him for God's service. God too made Samuel a prophet as He wished. If we surrender ourselves to God he would also use us for His service.

Let us feel God's call in our life by hearing about Samuel "I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)

**Birth of Samuel**

(Samuel 1:1-21 verses)

There was a man named Elkanah in the hill-country of Ephraim province. He had two wives Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah had no children. Every year they went to worship and offer sacrifices to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh. Each time Elkanah offered his sacrifice, he would give one share of the meat to Hannah. At this she would feel sorry for her because that she had no child. Her husband of course, was very kind to her because of this.

One day Hannah could not bear her inner feeling anymore, she cried bitterly and prayed before the altar of God. She said to the Lord, "Oh Lord, please look at me, give me a son. I will offer him for your service in the temple. He will never have his hair-cut. Hannah prayed for long. Eli, the priest of the temple,
thought that she was drunk. But he came to know that Hannah prayed pouring out her troubles to the Lord, so he blessed her and asked her to go home in peace.

After some days Hannah by the grace of God became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel (receiving by asking). God blessed them with a son. So Elkana and his family offered sacrifices to the Lord. Hannah dedicated her son Samuel to the Lord.

So you have seen how God answered the prayer of Hannah. We have many things here in this world. But without God's will despite all things we cannot be satisfied. That is why we let out all our sorrow and joy to God. We do in our prayer. God also wants us to share our sorrow and happiness. If He desires He can grant a man's prayer.

Jesus said, "The Father, will give you whatever you ask of him in my name". (John 15 : 16 verse). We pray to the Lord in the name of Jesus. It means Jesus mediates on our behalf. He is the path through whom we go to God.

One Priest said, "Pray in any style of your life. Even though your prayer is not accepted, still pray. And you will understand for everything there is a reason, and you will offer your thanks for everything to the Lord."

Hannah got the answer of her prayers because it was sincere and powerful. How do you pray? Remember it if you pray to the Lord with your whole heart, he listens to you. Nothing happens in this world or in your life without his knowledge.
Hannah Offered Samuel (Samuel 1: 22 - 28 and 2: 1- 6)

"The Lord has filled my heart with joy
how happy I am because of what He has done.
I laugh at my enemies, how joyful I am
because God has helped me".

Do you know what are these words said above? These are the first part of the song of praise sung by 'Samuel's mother. Samuel's Father Elkanah and his family came back after offering their sacrifice to the Lord. But Samuel's mother had to stay home, because she had greater solemn promise and sacrifices planned for later: So she had weaned him. She took him to Shiloh to the temple taking along with them three bullocks, one ephah of flour and a bottle of wine. And they slew a bullock and brought the child to Eli.

Hannah introduced herself recalling her promise to the Lord, said "I am that woman who prayed for a son to the Lord. I had promised if I was given a son I would offer him to the Lord. He granted my prayer and gave me a son. Now I have come to keep my promise. I offer this son to the Lord. This son would live here with the Lord for his whole life.

Then Hannah with the gratitude bowed before the Lord, and raised her voice in praising and joy. She explained in her song the power of God and his kindness.

Thus she handed over her son Samuel to Eli and went back home with her husband.

Sometimes you have seen in the Church or in a prayer meeting someone offering donation with thanks. When someone's desire is fulfilled by the blessings of God he thanks God in different ways. Donation of thanks is one of them. Hannah was happy to have a child by the grace of God. She did not want to have that child only for her. According to her solemn promise she offered the son to the Lord. It was not so easy. How can a mother give away her son to the Lord from her? Hannah did it by the strength of her faith. In which faith she asked the Lord to grant her a child. After getting the child with the same strength of faith she dedicated her son to the Lord.
Everything of this world belongs to the Lord, His gifts. We are only looking after them. God has appointed us. We make a mistake when we demand them as our own. We should always offer our gratitude to him. Many times we forget to thank him. In our prayers we always want for us but never thank him for what we have already got. Whereas the Lord is donating us a lot every moment and every day in different ways. Without his gifts and blessings we can not carry on. This is why St. Paul said, "And you always thank your Lord for everything." (Ephesians 5: 2)

So let us thank our Lord like Hannah in all conditions even in distress. Let us offer the gifts of gratitude at his feet. Think of Hannah who offered her only son to the priest at the temple for the service of God. She used to come once a year at the time of festival to see her son. How many persons can offer such a big gift of gratitude.

Knowing such a great sacrifice of Hannah to the Lord, let us offer ourselves at His feet. There is a good prayer of self sacrifice of a Christian ascetic named Ignetas Layola. The prayer is :

Oh Lord you take my right my desire my intelligence and everything, what I have all you have given me, I am giving you all these, you use this as you wish. Give me your love, your sympathy I will be rich with that, I want nothing more. Amen.

**Samuel's Vision.** (I Samuel Chapter 3)

Samuel was growing up at the temple with the priest Eli. Day by day he was being loved by God and the people. Two sons of Eli, even being priests could not be obedient to the Lord. Because of their selfishness and unbecoming, behaviour, the people almost stopped coming to the temple.

One day what happened, do you know? Eli fell asleep, the boy Samuel also was sleeping near the ark of God in the temple. At that time someone was calling Samuel by his name. Samuel went to Eli and asked him if he called him Eli said " I did not call you, you have heard wrong, go to bed". Samuel
went back and lay down. Again someone called "Samuel", Samuel". Thus he made mistake three time presuming that Eli had called him. Then Eli told him that definitely God had called you. He said "If He calls you again you will answer, 'My Lord order me' This time hearing the call Samuel answered, "My Lord, order me".

Lord then spoke about the sons of Eli. He told Samuel that He would punish them.

Samuel get up in the morning but he did not tell Eli anything. But when Eli asked him he told him everything. Eli accepted the wish of God, because he know his sons very well. Thus the vision of God appeared to Samuel and the relation was made between the Lord and him. The boy Samuel was growing up before God. In the course of time everybody came to know that Samuel was a prophet of God and he was trusted by God. Later he had more visions from God so that he could tell the people about Him.

Do you know that the Lord knows us by name as He knew Samuel? He is always eager to have relations with you. We can make this relation with him. First by praying to God. Second by serving God and people. Samuel did both the jobs with much care.

God may call you by your name as He did to Samuel. He may do so through a priest, a teacher or your parents. Samuel never heard His voice before so he made mistakes several times. But the Lord knew him, so He called him again and again until he could recognise His voice. This may happen in your life too. Our duty is to be alert for His call. If He calls we are to respond as Samuel answered 'My Lord order me', which means he was very obedient to God. God wants to tell us many things in this world. He wants us to be at His service doing many things. He loves us and know us. If we love Him and are obedient, He will get many things done by us.

**Remember**

Who surrenders himself to the Lord completely like Samuel the Lord uses him for His works.
There is a good article about vocations. It is —

**CHRIST HAS NO HAND—**

Christ has no hands, He uses our hands to work.

Christ has no leg: To Lead the people in His way we are His legs.

Christ has no lips: He has our lips to tell the people about Him.

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**EXERCISE**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. The name of Prophet Samuel’s mother was
   a. Paninna   c. Maria 
   b. Hanna     d. Elora

2. How many wives did Elkanah have
   a. One       c. Three 
   b. Two       d. Five

3. In the Temple Eli was a
   a. Priest    c. Caretaker 
   b. Prophet   d. Accountant

**Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 4 and 5.**

Childless Hanna is deeply grieved and praying to God in the Temple. In her prayer she said, “O Yahweh of hosts, if only you will have compassion on your maidservant and give me a son, I will put him in your service for as long as he lives and no razor shall touch his head”.

4. The cause of Hanna’s grief is
   i. Poverty   iii. Childlessness 
   ii. Lack of God's blessing
Which of the following is correct?

a. i  
b. ii  
c. iii  
d. i and ii

5. Which of the following may be your best prayer as a student?

a. O Lord give me wisdom  
b. O Lord, give me physical strength  
c. O Lord, give me name and fame  
d. O Lord, give me more wealth

Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 6 and 7.

On one Sunday morning Joseph was walking along the road. On the way he saw that an old woman was not able to lift a heavy pitcher. Joseph went ahead and helped the old woman by lifting the pitcher. The old woman was happy and thanked Joseph. Joseph said, “Thank God, not me”.

6. What is our duty toward God?

a. Thank God only during prayer  
b. Thank God only after being rescued from danger  
c. Thank God always  
d. Thank God only passing exams

7. Thanksgiving to God is the expression of

i. Responsibility towards God  
ii. Gratefulness towards God  
iii. Gratification towards God

Which of the following is correct?

a. i  
b. ii  
c. iii  
d. i, ii and iii

Creative Questions

1. James and Koli are a childless couple. They used to cry and pray to God everyday for a child. They used to read the Bible regularly. They knew that everything on earth was God’s gift. They came to know about sacrifices of Samuel while they read the Bible. They promised that if they were blessed with a child they would dedicate it to the service and welfare of God and man. After much worship of God they were blessed with a son. They named their son Theodore.

a. Who was Samuel?

b. Why was Samuel dedicated to God?
c. How can James and Koli dedicate their son Theodore to the welfare and service of God and man?
d. “Everything on earth is God’s gift.” – Explain in your own language.

2. Thomas is the only son of Robert the Preacher of Sonai Church. Thomas was a selfish and bad natured son. The local people were very dissatisfied with him. His father always gave him advice to be a good person. One day his father informed him that Eli had two sons and they were wicked boys. Thomas’ father also said, “God is always dissatisfied with wicked people.”
   a. Who was Eli?
   b. Why was God dissatisfied with the sons of Eli?
   c. How can the example of Eli’s family bring Thomas to better path?
   d. “God always punish evildoers”. - Evaluate.

3. Virtuous life of Hanna has inspired Ira to pray to God. One day the religious teacher was teaching about Ignasius Loyola’s prayer of surrendering herself to God in the class. He told the students, “Gratefulness can be expressed through this prayer and God’s love and kindness can be attained.” Ira came to understand the importance of prayer and she began to pray regularly.
   a. Who was Hanna?
   b. What does it mean by surrendering oneself to God?
   c. How has Ignesius’ prayer influenced Ira?
   d. “Prayer is conversation with God”. – Explain.
"Earth and sky listen to what I am saying, The children I brought up have rebelled against me."

The Lord want the people of each country of the world carry out His order and instruction. That they should lead their lives according to the teachings of their own religions. If they misbehave, commit sin and lead a bad life, lot of unrest and distress will fall upon them and their country. Even when man lead morally a bad and sinful life. God is patient with him, because he loves man very much. He wants that man returns from evil to good, for immoral to moral and from wrong doings to good works. He always wants such change in man. He sends new prophets and holy man with his message so that people listen to his holy word and his instructions. Those who do not listen to their warnings, orders and teachings they will have endless troubles, tortures distress. There are many examples in the Holy Bible. God chose Isaiah as prophet to warn - and bring back the fallen Israel to the true and right path. God appeared before Isaiah in a vision and warned the fallen Israel to return to the true path. He warned them that if they do not come back from the sinful ways then they will be destroyed together with their country, God will punish them severely. If they get back from the sin and depend on Him, God will help and protect their land and the people.

**Prophet Isaiah Had Vision** (Isaiah 6: 1- 13)

You understand that Isaiah is a prophet mentioned in Old Testament of the Holy Bible. He was pious and holy man. Most probably he was born in Jerusalem. He was much dedicated to God. In 740 B.C. the King Uzziah died and that very year Isaiah had vision of God.

One day Isaiah, standing by the temple of Jerusalem, was engaged in praying. He was in deep prayers. Suddenly he saw the Lord sitting on his high throne,
The entire temple was filled with the bright royal robe. He was surrounded by a good numbers of angels. Rays of holiness was shinning around them. Each angel had six wings. They covered their face with two wings and their feet with two wings. And they used the other two wings to fly. Isaiah heard the angels sing to God in a loud voice.

"Holy, holy, holy! The Lord Almighty is holy! His glory fills the world."

The entire temple shook with the psalm prayer of the angels. The stone under Isaiah's feet and the wooden fixture of the temple shook and the temple was filled with smoke. Isaiah was as if dry wood in fear. He very humbly thought "I am worthless sinner, an ordinary man. I am not worthy to stand before the Holy Lord. My lips are impure and sinful and my people Israel are also sinner. How can I pronounce the name of the great Lord?"

The message of God is being revealed to me in the form of smoke."

Then one of the angels flew down to him carrying a burning coal that he had aken from the altar with a pair of tongs and touched his lips the burning coal and said "This has touched your lips and now your guilt is gone, and your sins are forgiven."

Pure in heart, Isaiah now lifted up his head to the Lord. He heard the Lord say "Whom shall I send? Who will be my messenger? Isaiah answered, "My Lord, here I am, I will go, send me." The Lord said, "You go to the Israel and give them this message, No matter how much you listen you will not understand. No
matter how much you look, you will not know what is happening. Makes the minds of these people dull, their ears deaf and their eyes blind, so that they can not see or hear or understand. Isaiah asked "How long will I do this work, Lord?" He answered "Until they return until their body and mind are purified-until one tenth of your land and people remain to be destroyed. That is so long you will live you will give them my message and warn them.

Think

How are life and soul? Have I committed sins by my word, deed and negligence? How many times I told lies, engaged in quarrels, fights, planned to quarrels, gave bad advice to others, disobeyed my parents, teachers and elders. My arrogance and ill-manners have hurt others and so on. The people in our country are committing crimes and sins, stealing and dacoity, murder, taking bribes, hyzaking, looting and so many other corruptions have made our society polluted. They are creating so much unrest in the country. No, things cannot be like this.

Let us pray

Oh gracious Lord, I am a sinner, be kind to me, forgive my sins, make me holy in body, mind and soul. Teach me to be more modest and polite. Teach me to listen to you and respect you and to work for the people. Be kind to me so that my neighbours and I be your beloved children and can work for peace and prosperity. I raise my body, mind and soul for you. All the praise and glory be for the heavenly Lord. Amen.

Let us sing

Oh Lord speak out,
I want to hear that I am your servant,
I am thirsty, you are the saviour.

Read: The preaching of John the Baptist. (Luke 3: 3 -14)

Prophet Isaiah's Warning

Then the Prophet Isaiah dedicated himself for the Lord's works, observing the sins, injustice and many other wrong activities of the native Israel he said in pity "Even the animals recognise their master, understand his voice
and follow him but the fallen sinners Israel do not respect their Lord, the creator. They have abandoned their holiest Lord and have gone astray. This is why destruction and unrest prevail in this country and foreign enemies taking this opportunity to burn your city. Yet the Lord is protecting some people in Jerusalem. Otherwise your conditions might have been like Sodom and Gomora."

Isaiah said more, "You be purified very soon in your mind, otherwise the Lord will not accept your offerings and prayers. Because even now your hands are stained with blood of murderers. Your body and mind are full of sinful acts. So the Lord does not accept your offerings, prayers, scripture service, increase, religious festival etc. rather He hates them."

So all of you be purified and return from doing wrong and ill-manners, change your mind, be perfect and forgiving. You learn well-manners and justice, stand by the widows. And then only the Lord will forgive you and bless you". The Lord said more "Even though your sins are red like vermillion yet the Lord will make them snowwhite, even though they are red like a burning coal, they will be made as white as wool: "If you are obedient to the Lord you will live in your native land, you will never be driven away, otherwise you will certainly be killed." Because the Lord has said so. There is a similarity between what Isaiah has said and what John the Baptist has preached. Isn't it?

**Read:** The preaching of John the Baptist: (Luke 3: 2 -14 verses)

**Prophecy of Isaiah**

Isaiah 7 : 14 verses

9.1-7 ,,

11:1-3 ,,  
28. 16 ,,  

"Look, a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him 'Immanuel' (Lord with us)."

We have seen that the prophet Isaiah was engaged in teaching the Israel people to repent and return to just and true path. He told his natives a great prediction. That is, he predicted about the coming of Jesus before he was born and asked them to prepare for him. It is not that only Isaiah
predicted about Jesus. In Old Testament many other prophets like Malakhi, Safonyo, Haggai, Daniel, Zehiskel, Jeremiah, all of them predicted his coming and told to prepare for it.

Isaiah was the name of king David's father. Jesus from his mother's side was the descendant of David. God promised to Israel that the saviour would be coming from David's generation.

Many people followed Isaiah but many others did not. Isaiah told them "The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants. The spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom and the knowledge and skill to rule his people. He will know the Lord's will and honour him and find pleasure in obeying him. He will not judge by appearance or hearsay." (Isaiah 11:1-3)

He warned the Israel and said," Listen now, descendant of king David. It's bad enough for you to wear out the patience of men-must you wear out God's patience too? Well then the Lord himself will give you a sign : a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him 'Immanuel.' By the time he is old enough to make his own decisions people will be drinking milk and eating honey." (Isaiah. 7:13 - 15)

He further, said, "The land , of the tribe of Zebulun and Naphtali was once disgraced, but the future will bring honour to this region, from the Mediterranean eastwards to the land on the other side of the Jordan and even to Galilee itself where the foreigners live. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows but new light is shining on them." "A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called "Wonderful Counselor", "Mighty God", "Eternal Father", "Prince of Peace." His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as king David's successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time". (Is.9,1-2 and 6-7).

Thus the great prophet pronounced about the coming of Jesus among the waiting Israels with a hope. We know Jesus really was born to save the mankind. Is it not?
EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Isaiah was
   a. An Angel  
   b. A social leader  
   c. A Prophet  
   d. A Clergyman

2. How many wings had each of the Angels who surrounded God?
   a. Two  
   b. Four  
   c. Six  
   d. Eight

3. Uzziah, the King of Judah died
   a. In 1100 BC  
   b. In 740 AD  
   c. In 740 BC  
   d. In 1205 AD

4. The birthplace of Isaiah was
   a. Damascus  
   b. Bethlehem  
   c. Jerusalem  
   d. Egypt

Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 5 and 6.
Rosaline said to her friends, “The natural calamities like Sidor are the results of our wrong doings in society. Calamities like this take place because of our disobedience to God.”

5. In the light of the speech above what should we do?
   a. During the natural calamities we should remember God and obey His commandments.
   b. All the people of every country of the world should obey God’s commandments.
   c. Some chosen people of each country should obey God’s Commandments.
   d. Only religious and political leaders of all countries should obey God’s Commandments.

6. Which of the following is expressed through the aforesaid saying?
   i. Liberality towards God  
   ii. Greatness towards God  
   iii. Loyalty towards God
Which of the following is correct?

a. i. c. iii  
b. ii d. i and ii

Creative Questions

1. Gilbert sees a group of wicked boys quarrelling in front of his house. He goes to the quarrelling boys and tells them very politely, “Quarrelling is sin and it begets evil and harm. It harms our body and brings lack of peace in mind. This lack of peace of our mind brings disaster in society. We all should pay heed to holy words of God and obey His commandments.” After hearing these words of Gilbert the boys stopped quarrelling and left the place.

a. Whom does God send to make us know about His commandments?
b. Why should we obey God’s holy words?
c. How can the boys do good to the society obey God’s commandments?
d. “God’s holy words bring peace”. - Explain.

2. Being not able to resist temptation to eat raw mangos Ripon threw some stones to the mango tree of his neighbours. One of the stones broke glasses of the neighbours’ window. The owner of the house informed the matter to Ripon’s mother. The incident hurt mothers mind. She made her son understand the seriousness of the result of his act and said to him, “Evil deeds bring danger. You should abstain from evil thoughts and deeds and be purified by heart. Prophet Isaiah also told us to be purified by heart”.

a. Who was Isaiah?
b. What does it mean to be ‘purified by heart’?
c. How can Ripon’s temptation be resisted?

3. The teacher was delivering a lessons on Isaiah’s prophecy to the students in the class. He said, “In the present society, much lawlessness, disorder and injustice are taking place. Prophet Isaiah is also told us about it. The
prophet prophesied about the advent of our Saviour”. One of the student Jewel asked the teacher “Sir, did only Prophet Isaiah make prophecy”? Teacher said, “No, not only him; many other prophets also made prophecies about the coming of the Saviour. They also told the people to be aware of this and prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord”. Through the birth of Jesus those prophecies got fulfilled.

a. Write the name of one of the Prophets of the Old Testament.
b. Describe the meaning of a warning of Prophet Isaiah.
c. How will Jewel call his friends for the welfare of society?
d. “Warnings of the Prophets inspired the people to keep away from sinful life.” – Explain.
CHAPTER SIX
NEW TESTAMENT
GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE
The Birth of Jesus Christ
Matthew 1: 18 - 25 verses
Luke 1: 26-38

You have read in the prophecy of Isaiah "Look, a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him 'Immanuel" (Isaiah 7: 14 verse)

In the creation story it is said that God has created the beautiful earth for us. For our necessity he created moon, sun, stars, rivers, hills and mountains. He has arranged the earth as he pleased with trees, birds, light and air. He has enriched the earth with all kinds of elements. Like this way He made the garden Eden. There God gave Adam perfect peace and happiness. But being Tempted by the devil they had committed sin disobeying the Lord. The Lord was very sad and displeased. He drove them out from Eden. But God had promised saying that he would send someone to save them from their sins.

How did God keep his promise? We will discuss it now. Jesus Christ was that promised saviour. The birth of Jesus Christ is nicely written in the New Testament in the Holy Bible. A pious young girl named Mary lived in the town of Nazarath in Galilee. Mary was engaged to, Joseph, a good young man, descendant of David. One day the angel Gabriel came from the Lord with a message.

Behold, that vergin will give birth to a son
He welcomed Mary and said "Peace be with you, the Lord is with you". (Luke 1: 28).

Mary was deeply troubled and tried to understand what his word meant. The angel said again, "Do not be afraid, Mary, God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus (Saviour)."

"He will be great and will be called the son of God. The Lord God will make him a king as his ancestor David was and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end. "Mary said to the angel "I am a virgin, how can this happen?" The angel said "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason, the holy child will be called the son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth is pregnant even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do". Mary then accepted it and said "I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

When Joseph knew that Mary was pregnant then he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly, so he made plans to break the engagement. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said "Joseph descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be
your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. She will have a son and you will name him Jesus. Because he will save his people from their sins.

Now all these happened in order that what the Lord had said through the prophet came true, "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called 'Immanuel' which means, "God is with us".

So When Joseph woke up he took Mary as his wife, as the angel of the Lord had told him to do. And when Mary gave birth to a son he named him Jesus.

**Think**

God loves us so much, he made us like him. But like Adam and Eve we too hurt God by committing sins. He has given us this beautiful earth. And sent Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. From this lesson we learn God's love for us and obedience of Mary and Joseph to the Lord. We also learn simplicity and holiness of their spiritual and earthly life. Both of them obeyed God and fulfilled His desire and remained holy for rest of their life.

**Remember**

God has created us with his love and he wants us to know him, love him, to respect him, serve the people and to live hear after with him in heaven in peace for ever and ever. But we in this earth commit sin and injustice, so he sent Jesus to save us from sins. And this has been possible through Joseph and Mary. They were loyal to the Lord. We too have to be obedient to our parents and elders in all respect otherwise we cannot enter heaven.

How can we obey the Lord? We are obedient to God by being obedient to our parents and by being faithful to our religious teaching. He has given us our parents and elders to keep us on the right path. They also love us and wish us well. As God loves us and wishes us well, if we follow the advice of our parents and elders? We are found to, prosper in our life and there will be peace in our family, community and the country.

Certainly you have heard the name of Mahathma Gandi, Have you not? Mahathma Gandi from his boyhood was very obedient to his parents. That is why he is very famous in the world. Mohan was his nick name. His
father was often sick. When Mohan was sixteen his father fell ill in bed, he has supposed to care for him. He used to give him medicine in right time, massage his body, pour water on his head and do many things like these. After his father was asleep at night, then he could also rest in peace. But he never got. After finishing all the works he used to go to school and prepare his lessons. And he spent rest of his time in taking care of his father. In the afternoon if his father would feel better, he would ask Mohan to go to play. Mohan carried his father's blessing because of his love and care for him. He also earned God's blessing. This way he earned world wise fame by sacrificing his life for the motherland. He became the father of the nation of India. Same way, you should know about Iswar Chandra Bidyasagar his respect for his mother, obedience to his parents, respect hard work and patience.

**Lesson For us**

We should remember that we are to fulfil the desire of God and then only shall we be blessed. For that we must seek God's mercy. Let us pray together in the words of Rabindra Nath Tagore "Oh father, Oh God, drive away all the sins and faults, give us what is good so you are pleased and we have peace. Oh Father, we want all the good from you as you are grace and root of all good, we bow, Oh Father, we bow before you."

**Guide lines**


b) In reality you respect your elders and take care of them when they are sick. If you commit any sin, confess it.

c) You love your younger brothers and sisters and other schoolmates.

d) Memorize : Lord's prayer, Hail Mary, Glory be and Angels, message of angels.
   (You can learn these prayers as taught by different churches.)

**Good News for the Shepherds**

(Luke 2 : 1 - 20 verses)

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom
He is pleasant." (Luke 2: 14 verses)

In our practical life we are pleased when a baby is born in our family or in the
house of neighbours. We go to see that baby. We take some small
presentation like garments, towels, toys etc. for the baby. And thus we accept
him or her. We recognise him. Later we celebrate his birthday too. Isn't it?

Today we will know that many people like us getting the message of the birth
of Jesus and went to see him. In every country the government arranges
the census of population for enumerating the exact number of people of
its country. Just like that some days before the birth of Jesus the Roman
Emperor Augustus Ceaser ordered the census. The first census took place
during the time of King Quirinius in Syria. It was the order of the king that
one should register his name in his own and in the line of the ancestors town.
Joseph was the descendant of David. The birth place of David was in
the town of Bethlehem in Judaea. Joseph went to Bethlehem with his
engaged wife Mary. After getting his name registered it was already night,
he could not have any shelter in any houses or in any inn. At last he took
shelter in a cowshed with Mary. And there near about at 12. a.m Mary gave
birth to Jesus Christ. Jesus was wraped with a piece of cloth lying in a
manger. Thus our Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation was born as a poor in
a cowshed in Bethlehem. In that part of the country some shepherds were
spending the night in the fields taking care of their flocks. An angel of the
Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They
were terribly afraid but the angel said to them "Don't be afraid, I am here
with good news for you. This very day in David's town your saviour is born -
Chirst the Lord. And this how you will know him, you will find a baby
wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great
number of angels appeared in the sky singing praises to God- "Glory to
God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to those with whom he is
pleased."

The angels left praising the Lord. Then the Shepherds said to one another "Let
us go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord told us through the angels". So
they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. The shepherds went back singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said.

**Think**

How great is the God's love for us. We are sinners and not worthy to go to heaven. The Lord promised to people that he would send such a guide who would liberate all the people from their sins and would lead them to heaven. The Lord has sent Jesus Christ for us according to his promise. And the shepherds had found Jesus the Lord in a cowshed in poorly clad. And the arrival of the saviour of the world was announced by them. Jesus has taught us to worship only one God and to serve the mankind. For this you need the formation of mind and conscience and earn education and experience.

**Remember**

As God loves us, so we have, to love each other. One who has love in his/her heart, he/she tries to remove sorrow and distress of others. He has no enemy and hatred. He can forgive others easily. One who has love he never talks bad of others. He always thinks that we are all children of one God. God is good, he loves all equally and does good to all. This is why he has sent his only son to this earth as a man. The Holy Scripture says "God makes the sun shine upon good or bad, bring down the rain upon good or bad". It means he helps all, not taking any side of good or bad, pious or sinners. At present there is one such lady in the world who loves all people deeply. She picks up and takes care of the abandoned children in the ditches and on the street and brings them up with much love and care. Do you know her? Who is she? She is Mother Teresa. She received Nobel prize for the great love for the distressed people. But she has spent that money received from Nobel prize for the distressed, poor and sick.

She got that prize from God's plan. She said "Life can not be complete beauty unless one loves the people. "It mean we can have a completely beautiful life being kind to others and by loving them. By our good behavior we can do so much good to others."
**Let us Sing**

Jesus has come in the cowshed today
to break up the ties of shackle,
Jesus has come in the cowshed
to destroy totally the loads of sin
and deep darkness,
The angels sing so sweet on the earth
and in the blue sky. (Hymnal)

**Instructions**

a) Love all the people irrespective of their race, creed and caste.
b) Forgive your enemies and wrong doers.
c) Keep your promise, if you make one.

**Let us pray**

Oh kind Father of the Universe, grant us your mercy so that we can love all the people equally irrespective of caste, race, and creed forgetting the differences. You teach me to use my ability, power and skill for doing good to people and to remove their pain and distress; in the name of Jesus, Amen.

**Wisemen from the East came to see Jesus**

(Matthew 2 : 1-2 verses).

"Once again my people will see the difference between what happens to the righteous and to the wicked, to the person who serves me and the one who does not". (Malachi 3: 18 verse)

You have learnt that according to the words of the prophets, Jesus, the saviour was born in a cowshed. He came to this earth to save the people from their sins. He has shown the people the way to live in peace in this earth by His teachings, advice and his life style. He has also shown the way of salvation in spiritual life. Those who follow his advice and teachings, their life
will be filled with happiness and peace, and they will have eternal peace hereafter. So the birth of Jesus the saviour is a great news for the whole mankind. 25th of December is the birthday of Jesus Christ. On this day, throughout the world all the Christians become jubilant in a great joy. They worship and offer sacrifices in befitting manner. They become holy in their souls and in their body and mind they feel a sense of pure joy and satisfaction. They promise to lead a good life in the coming year and they want to serve the people as Jesus did. They promise to discard all sinful thoughts and wrongdoing. They also promise to enjoy mental and spiritual peace by avoiding, envy, anger, pride, greed, bad companions and the bad advice and will open a door of peace for others.

**Three Wise men in the Cowshed**

After the birth of Jesus, first came the shepherds and then came three pious wise men from the East to see Jesus.

![Three wise men from the east came to see Jesus.](image)

When Jesus was born, a new star appeared in the sky. Following that star the three wise men arrived at the court of King Herod. They were very eager to worship Jesus. They brought with them the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for Jesus. At their arrival to Jerusalem they asked the King Herod. "Where is the new king of the Jesus born? We saw his star and understood
that he is born and we have come to worship him." When king Herod heard about this he was very upset. He said "I am the king, how can another king be born in my kingdom? It can't be, let's see." He called all the chief priests and the teachers of the law and asked them "Where will the Messiah be born?" In the town of Bethlehem in Judaea they answered. For this what the prophet Micah said. "A prophet wrote Bethlehem in the land of Judaea you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Juclah; far from you will come a leader, who will guide my people Israel"

Hearing this king Herod was very angry and jealous. He called the wise men to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact date and time the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with this instruction. "Go and make a careful search for the child and when you find him let me know so that I too may go and worship him."

So they left and on their way they saw the same star they had seen in the East. It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They went into the house and they saw the child with his mother Mary and St. Joseph lying in the manger. They were very happy to see Jesus. They knelt down and worshipped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, Frankincense and myrrh and presented them to him.

Then they returned to their country by another road since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

**Read and try to understand**

1. "Worthless, wicked people go around telling lies. They wink and make gestures to deceive you, all the while planning evil in their perverted minds, stirring up trouble everywhere. Because of this, disaster will strike them without warning and they will be fatally wounded. "(Proverbs 6: 12 -,15 verses).

2. "Would you like to enjoy life'? Do you want long life and happiness? Then hold back from speaking evil and from telling lies. Turn away
from evil and do good; strive for peace with all your heart. (Psalms 34:12-14).

**Remember**

Jealousy and anger destroy the peace of mind and greed for position, money and self-interest give birth to sins. They are the Source of evil and give bad advice to others. They are engaged in murdering, stealing, hyzaking, looting, abducting, drinking, addicting etc.

**Listen to a Story**

There were two friends. They were very intimate. One is a son of a very rich Landlord and other a son of a poor farmer. The Landlord's son could not have education because he was enjoying his life in earthly pleasures and luxury with his friends. But the son of the poor farmer inspite of much troubles had higher education and got a good job in a government office.

In the office, because of his hard labour, honesty and modesty, everybody respected him. Everywhere he had name and fame. As such the son of the Landlord was jealous of him. So he thought that he would invite his friend to go for hunting deer and he would kill him there. He would tell everybody that he was killed by a tiger. Being invited, his friend accepted the offer. They entered a deep forest. The son of the farmer got frightened and just then a big tiger came there. The son of the farmer ran away and came to a field. He shouted for help and got many people there. Meanwhile in the forest when the Landlord's son aimed his gun at the tiger and it jumped on him, caught him by his neck, dragged him deep the forest. He was killed. The people entered the forest with sticks and stuffs. They found the dead body and the gun and handed them over to the landlord. Have you seen how the Lord saves an honest man and punish the wicked?

**Pray in silence**

Oh kind Father, you save me form the hands of jealousy, anger, greed and temptation. I should not be jealous or greedy at other's goods and prestige. I want to be happy with what I have, you give me strength that I can do good to others with my ideas, service and my ideal life. I must not think bad of others. All the glory and praise to you oh Lord, Amen.
Ten Commandments of God

First. : Worship the Lord thy God and only serve Him.
Second. : You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
Third. : Observe Sunday as a day of rest and keep it holy.
Fourth. : Respect your parents.
Fifth. : Do not commit murder.
Sixth. : Do not commit adultery.
Seventh. : Do not steal.
Eighth. : Do not accuse any one falsely
Ninth. : Do not desire another man's wife.
Tenth. : Do not desire another man's goods.

Instruction

Memorize the Lord's prayer, An act of charity, An act of faith, An Act of hope, An Act of Repentance and prayer before you go to bed and before you rise and also memorize the prayers before and after the meal. Recite these prayers together with others.

The Escape to Egypt with the Baby Jesus

(Matthew, 2 : 13 - 21 verses)

"Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which can never be shaken, never be moved."

(Psalm 125: 1)

"If the Lord does not build the house, the work of the builders is useless. If the Lord does not protect the city, it is useless for the sentries to stand guard."

(Psalm 427: 1)

You have learnt in your previous lesson that after the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem the shepherds and the wise men being informed by the angels and star went to see Jesus. Then king Herod was afraid and thought his throne would be captured by Jesus. So he asked the wise men to inform him once
they find out where Jesus is born, because he was jealous and angry of Jesus. Jealousy is one kind of big sin. Man commits sin due to jealousy and anger. A jealous man can murder, hijack, fight and capture others property. But those who are blessed by God are saved even from the murderers.

Today we will know how Jesus was saved by God from Herod the conspirator.

You know that the wise men of the East sensing the conspiracy of Herod, went back to their own country by another road. On the other hand, an angel of the Lord called Joseph in a dream and said "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to Egypt and stay there until I tell you to return. For the king Herod will be looking for the child to kill him. Joseph got up, took the child and his mother and left at night for Egypt where he stayed until Herod died.

King Herod realized that the wise men of the East had tricked him. At this he was very angry. This led him to more sins. He ordered to kill all the boys ages between two and younger. So the prophecy of Zeremiah came true:

"A sound is heard in Ramah, the sound of bitter weeping. Rachel is crying for her children; they are gone, and she refuses to be comforted."

(Zeremiah 31 : 15)
After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said "Get up, take the child and his mother and go back to the land of Israel, because those who tried to kill the child are dead. So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother and returned to Israel.

Think

How unlimited the power of God is. If he desires he can save all of us from the hand of unjust people. On the other hand those who obey the Lord and pray to Him enjoy peace in their mind. They are blessed by God for ever.

Remember

God has created us with a definite intention. He wants each one of us to do certain work. As He sent Jesus to save us. God rescued Jesus from king Herod, Pharisees and envious Israel's till he completed his mission. Jesus although he was son of God, had to face much opposition to reach the intended goal. The God was always with him and encouraged him.

So we should think now what is intended for me by God to do. And to reach our goal we are face lots of troubles. We should not be afraid, we must stand against injustice and we should keep away from doing any injustice. as our freedom fighters did.

You have definitely heard about the war of liberation which took place in 1971. During that time our young men fought against the raiding army of Pakistan. Their only target was independence. Again many had taken refuge in neighbouring India because they were helpless and afraid of being killed. The freedom fighters earned independence after fighting long nine months. Now we are the citizens of an independent country. Our land is Independent Bangladesh. God definitely created those freedom fighters for that particular work. They too have made the country free with their hard work and bravery. Those who had fled away in fear have come back and dedicated themselves for the development of the country. Likewise you will have to work for the economic, social and political development of the country. Then only can we preserve our independence. And for this you will have to be educated, wise and of good character.
Lesson for us

a) God is our only creator, protector and saviour.

b) Jealousy, envy and anger open the door to injustice.

c) We can live in peace and security by complete dependence on God.

d) Evil design and injustice by one do harm to the country, people and himself.

Let us pray

Oh loving Father, you fill our hearts with your love so that we do not become jealous of others, so that we can control our anger and do not harm others. We want to avoid quarrel and fighting, you lead us and be with us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Memorize

"Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion which can never be shaken, never he moved.

"(Psalm 125: 1)

The Baby Jesus is offered in the Temple

(Luke 2 : 22 - 39 verses)

We may make our plans, but God has the last word.

(Proverbs 16: 1)

Everything of this earth is guided by rules. Where there is no rule there is no discipline. By the attraction of the moon and the sun, the high and low tides and the seasons are changed. Thus the balance of the environment remains correct. From the very beginning some religious rules and practices are being observed. In the Books of Exodus 13 : 12 - 25verses and Leviticus 12 : 6 - 8 verses, we find that God had given them some rules and regulations. Even today we see the some rules being practiced -farmers bring their new crops and first fruits of their trees to the Church as their offering. Likewise, we offer some money at Sunday worships. We also take the new-born baby to the church and get him blessed by a priest. The child is also made holy and
Christian Religious Studies

member of the church by baptism. This is the duty and obligation of every Christian father and mother. Besides we promise to offer sacrifices in the church for the welfare of children even for elders. It is not only practiced in Christian religion but also done in Hindu and Muslim religions. This was done in case of Jesus Christ. We are telling you today about it.

After eight days of his birth, he was named according to the law of Moses, when the time came, he was named Jesus—name given by angel. According to the law of Moses when time come for Jesus and Mary to be purified Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord because it was written in the law of the Lord, "Dedicate all the first-born males to me." (Exodus 13:2 verse) According to the rule of the Lord they took with them a pair of doves and two young pigeons as required by the law of the Lord.

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good devout man and was waiting for, Israel to be saved. The Holy spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple; parents of Jesus gave the child in his arms and he gave thanks to God with joy, saying:

"Now, Lord, you have your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples. A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about the child: Simeon blessed then and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword will break your own heart."

There was a very old prophetess a widow named Anna, daughters of Phanuel of the tribes of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty four years old. She never left the Temple, day and night
she worshipped God fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

When Joseph and Mary had finished doing all that required by the law of the Lord, they returned to their home town of Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew and became strong and he was obedient to his parents.

**Think**

Jesus Christ our Lord being the son God has come to this earth. Mary his mother and St. Joseph followed the religious tradition of Israel. Like that we are to follow the law of our religion. The laws of the state are related to religious precepts. If we do not follow the state's law we are not good citizens. A state can not run without law. If every citizen follows the law and discipline of the country, then it will be happy and prosperous.

**Remember**

If we follow the law of the religion we will have peace in our mind. And then one day will see the Lord and will gain the eternal peace in heaven. If the law of the states are followed then the people will live in peace. There will be no unrest, stealing, decoity and killing. As our country is facing with these problems it seems the era of barbarism is coming back. At this scientific age, by our intelligence we have learnt to make many things, but God has not asked us to misuse anything. Science has taught us to invent but not to destruct anything. We will use our knowledge, conscience and educations for the -good of our nation.

**Lesson for us**

a) One should thank God for His blessings.

b) We should offer something as sacrifice to him as a token of gratitude.

c) We should live a good life like Simeon and Anna and every one man should take up the life of prayer.

d) Every citizen must follow the law of a family, society and the state.

e) We should engage our lives for the service of others as instructed by Jesus.
EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Question

1. Where in Bethlehem was Jesus Christ born?
   a. In an inn c. In a cowshed
   b. In a hut d. At a corner of a beautiful building

2. The Angel came to the shepherds to give the message of birth of
   a. A Prophet c. The King of Jerusalem
   b. Jesus Christ d. An angel

3. The Angels praised
   a. Mary c. Man
   b. Prophet d. God

4. For all night long shepherds
   i. Played cards iii. Sang praises of God
   ii. Watched flocks of sheep
   Which of the following is correct?
   a. i c. iii
   b. ii d. i and iii

5. What does the word ‘Emmanuel’ mean?
   i. God is on us iii. God is nowhere
   ii. God is with us
   Which of the following is correct?
   a. i. c. iii
   b. ii d. i and iii

Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 6 and 7.
Sanchoy was envious of pious Julius. One day Sanchoy mixed some poisons with the foods in the fodder of the cows of Julius. Incidentally a cow of Sanchoy ate the foods of the fodder and died.

6. Which of the following statements is similar to the central idea of the incident mentioned above?
   a. The honest is helpless and the wicked is strong
   b. God saves the honest and punishes the wicked
   c. The honest can easily be trapped with danger
   d. God helps the honest in danger
7. Which of the following meanings is true of the incident mentioned above?

i. To think of doing harm to others brings harm to oneself.
ii. To think of doing harm to others does not bring harm to oneself.
iii. To think of doing harm to others in secret

Which of the following is correct?

a. i  c. iii
b. ii  d. ii and iii

Creative Questions

1. Limon is the only son of a widow mother. He is an obedient son of his mother. He always studies attentively. His mother always makes him hear the Holy Bible and inspires him to obey the elders. Mother says to him, “God blesses those who obey Him. For example, Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph”. Limon’s mother advised him to lead his life in accordance with the commandments of God.

a. What is the meaning of ‘obedience’?
b. How is the way of being obedient to God?
c. How can Limon get himself established in the society?
d. “Obedient people are always blessed by God”. – Explain.

2. Pollob is the son of a landlord father. He spends his life in worldly enjoyments and in merriment with friends. He is quite ignorant about God’s Ten Commandments. One day during their conversation his friend Tapan informed him about the Ten Commandments of God. Hearing about the Ten Commandments of God he changed his previous life and began to lead a good life according to the teaching of God. Since then he stopped telling lies and wasting time in meaningless merriment.

a. What is the Fourth Commandment?
b. Why should we abide by the Ten Commandments of God?
c. How can Pollob observe Ten Commandments of God?
d. One of the Ten Commandments of God “Do not tell lies”. – Explain.
3. The couple of Apurba and Moni live a happy family life. They live on agriculture. At the time of harvest they get plenty of crops. One-tenth of their produced crops is offered to the Church as thanksgiving and gratefulness to God. This way they feel very happy. In the Bible we have seen that parents of Jesus have dedicated Jesus to the Temple. By following ideals of Jesus’ parents devotees of Christ should likewise lead their lives.

a. After how many days of his birth was Jesus taken to the Temple?
b. Why did his parents take Jesus to the Temple?
c. According to the example of Apurba and Moni what kind of life should we live?
d. Explain the necessity of being grateful to God.
CHAPTER SEVEN
HEAVENLY POWER OF JESUS REVEALED

Fulfilling the prophecy of the prophets, Jesus the saviour came to this earth. But his arrival was so ordinary that many people could not recognize him. Even observing his good teaching and works they could not recognize him. He was known as son of an ordinary carpenter. A very few people could understand that he was the Messiah as described in history. Some people recognized him as one of the prophets. Many people did not pay any importance rather they misunderstood his words and works. Seeing his divine authority and power many began to think that he was a religious rebel. Specially the religious teachers (Sadducees) and the social leaders, (Pharisees) did not accept Jesus as the Messiah sent by God on the contrary, they stood against him and rejected him, his teachings and works.

In this chapter we will hear how some recognized him for what Jesus is. In the course of time some people believed that he was the Son of God and Messiah the saviour. Seeing his life and works, gradually they began to recognize him. Before we read these, we should prepare our mind. Many of us in this era of the modern world keep ourselves away from religion. We don't accept anything without logic or proof not even certain truths. But when we read about Jesus, we must be prepared with simple and holy heart and mind. Otherwise, we may be acting like blind though we have eyes.

By reading about Jesus we will make our belief in him strong, otherwise this learning will be meaningless. This learning is not for passing the examination, but to know Jesus bit by bit and deeply and our intention is to have faith upon him. There is a good proverb "Better to look than to hear but faith is much better than knowing, because there is a deep relation of love in faith."

Remember

With the faith on Jesus we are to be inspired in his ideals and that will be our duty. We are to serve the neglected and poor people irrespective of race
and creed. By dedicating ourselves as serve the oppressed we will reveal the
same strength of God, Jesus depend on to serve the mankind.

Acknowledgement of Jesus the Saviour.

(John 1 : 1 - 34)

The Gospel presented by John, the disciple of Jesus was written after three
other Gospels. John was very fond of Jesus among the disciples. So he has
presented Jesus in his works with much respect and precisely. He has selected
a few such events in which the idea that our Lord Jesus is the word of God,
Son of God, and saviour of our life is very clearly shown.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son, so that
everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life."
(John 3, 16)

You definitely know about the birth of Jesus. St. John says, "Jesus was the
word of God before his birth as a man. Before the earth was created the word
of God already existed, he was with God and he was the same as God. That
very word turned into Man and came to this earth as Jesus. He himself told us
what is life, what is the meaning of life. As we realised the power of light in the
dark, so Jesus came as that very light.

We will try to understand this part of the Gospel of John how John the
Baptist gave witness about Jesus by preparing the path for his coming. How
he acknowledged Jesus as the lamb of God. By this event we will know
about the devout mission of John and this way our own faith and devotion in
Jesus will strengthen.

John the Baptist came before Jesus. Surely you know who was John the
Baptist. He was the only son of Zechariah and Anna, fruit of their old age. He
was a dispassionate ascetic. He used to live on wild fruits in the lonely plain.
He came before Jesus to tell that Jesus was the saviour and nominated by
God. John gave witness about Jesus and wanted to bring changes in the
people so that they could recognize him and have faith in him. He
preached among the people and said that Jesus was that saviour, the
Messiah who is supposed to come as prophesied by the prophets. He is
much greater than John the Baptist. For God is revealed through the life of Jesus.

Many people misunderstood. They thought John the Baptist was that Christ or the anointed Son of God. But John told them the truth. One day what happened do you know? The religious leaders from Jerusalem sent a few people to John the Baptist. They wanted to know if he was the Messiah or Elie. But John with the words of Isaiah made them understand who he was. He said," He was that voice in the desert which was preparing path of the Lord." He is not the nominated Messiah of God but he was the man preparing the path of the Lord's coming for. He baptized Jesus with water and explained his baptism. His baptism is only the sign of change of mind from sins, but the real Christ who is coming later will baptize people with the Holy spirit and fire. He will change your whole body and mind. He is so great that John is not worthy enough even to untie strap of his sandals.

John called him the lamb of God, son of God as holy and innocent as lamb. He died on the cross and sacrificed himself like a lamb for the salvation of man from sins.

Yes, thus John the Baptist made himself humble before Jesus and upheld Jesus as glorious. His acknowledgement and witness make us believe that Jesus is the real nominated Son of God and so it teaches us to make Jesus glorious in our own life.

**Remember**

When we become proud and show ourselves very big, we do not show Jesus in our life. But when we are humble and obedient, then we make Christ glorious and we acknowledge him as our Lord. So we have learnt from John the Baptist that we acknowledge Christ by being humble and generous. Do you know the song of humility? Let us practice the song-

- Oh Jesus give me humility so that I receive you
- and take care to be humble like you. It is the desire in my heart
- Being the Lord of Heaven you came to this earth,
- being humble on the cross, Oh Lord of the earth, sacrificed your life for the sinners.
- Though I am dust only, yet I am proud always.
I am in distress, yet, my heart is proud.
I beg you to teach me to be immersed with humility,
to be real Christian on earth.

**Instruction For Us**

1. To acknowledge Jesus as Christ as John the Baptist did.
2. To make known Jesus to other people.
3. To reveal Christ not 'me', in my humble life and work.

**Self-revelation of Jesus in Cana**

*(John 2:1 - 12)*

You know very well that Jesus performed many miracles. Can you mention when he performed his first miracle? He did it in a wedding feast in Cana.

Many of you know that story. Yes, Jesus had been invited to a wedding in Cana: His mother and the disciples were there too. There was a big arrangement, everybody was busy in making fun and eating. Feasting is very important for such an occasion as a wedding. Isn't it? It is true on our country too. Many people come to such feast, after having their food they bless the bridegroom and the bride. You have certainly attended such marriage ceremony and enjoyed the feast.

Have you ever noticed that at the time of eating everybody comments about the food and cooking? Someone may say the meat is very tasteful or the sweet is not up to the mark, etc.

The worst thing is when any item falls short. It is a matter of prestige for the host. It is said that shortage of food at a wedding brings bad luck to the bridegroom and bride. There are so many other comments/reaction like these. It is not true?

Something like this happened in the wedding in Cana. It happened towards the end of the feast. According to the custom of that region the grape-juice is served the invited guests, to drink to their satisfaction. But grape-juice fell short and the people were very unhappy. The host was embarrassed. Jesus' mother asked the servants to do as ordered by Jesus.
There were nine big water jars. Jesus asked the servants to fill those jars with water and they did. And then he asked them to take it to the man in-charge of the feast. The man tasted it and was surprised. He did not know where this grape-juice came from. He wondered why this fine grape-juice was not served in the beginning.

Thus Jesus turned water into grape-juice at the wedding in Cana. His disciples saw that miracle and believed in him. This way his Divine power was revealed in his work. Jesus is the Son of God.

What have you understood from this beautiful event? Jesus was so powerful person, was not he? He turned water into grape-juice. Even now Jesus wants to do such great works. If we make him our friend and invite him to be present in our life, he will do such work when we need it. Many of our wants, much of
the emptiness in our life can be overcome by Jesus presence. Just think, if he would not turn water into grape-juice in Cana, what would happen in that wedding? The people would not have been satisfied. The host would have been embarrassed and the bridegroom and the bride would have been unhappy. So everybody was saved, as Jesus was present there. Even today Jesus wants to help us. He wants to fill up the emptiness in our life. He can do it if we believe in him.

**Think**

We should come forward to solve other's problem. We can do it with our talents given by God. Thus we can present Jesus to another's life too. St. Peter said "**Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God**". (I Peter 4: 10)

**Instruction For Us**

a) We should fill our life with the presence of Jesus.

b) We should assist and cooperate with others when necessary.

**Jesus Heals an Official's Son**

(John 4 : 46-54)

When Jesus went back to Cana again, he did another miracle. Do you know what it is? He healed an official's son.

When he went back to Cana a government official from Capernaum came to him and told him that his son was very ill. He requested Jesus to go to Capernaum and heal his son.

Jesus was sad. He exclaimed that without miracles people do not want to believe. At the request of the officer he said to him "Go, your son will live." Do you know what the man did? He believed Jesus and went back home. On his way home his servants came and informed him that his son was better. He asked them when it happened. The official came to know from them that yesterday when
Jesus told him to go home, his son will live, at that very hour the fever left his son. 

So he and all his family believed. They understood that the boy was healed by the divine power of Jesus. So they believed that Jesus was the Messiah and they also became real disciples of Jesus.

In this story we learn a new lesson. It is not right to believe in Jesus because of miracles only. Our faith should not be based on evidence or logical arguments, such faith has no depth.

We may do so with our friends. Prove it that you love me or you do something for me and prove that you are my friend. We may even do the same with our parents. We do not want to believe them that they love us unless they do something good for us.

This is not correct. We must trust them sincerely and that becomes a deep love. Certainly, we cannot think that our parents will do us harm. Jesus also wants that we have a deep relationship with him. We should not test him. He will certainly reward us for faith on him. The king's official believed him and went back. Jesus did not have to go home with him. When he went home he found his son healed. Because without any proof he believed him, he got reward of his faith.

Jesus wants to see such deep trust in our life too. If any one wants to be his real disciple then he must have that faith that he is the Christ and is always with us. And then we will have our reward and he will be with us. He loves and do good to us. Thus with the simple faith we would be his real disciples.

**Remember**

Faith itself is a test. It cannot be proved like mathematics. Faith is established on the basis of love. We love God and he loves us too. It is our belief that he always speaks the truth, never deceives us, only love leads us to faith.

In the same way he should value other's faith. When someone depends on you and trust you, then you should fulfill his desire.
Let us pray
Oh Lord, you sent your Son Jesus in this earth as the light of truth. So you give us that truth in our hearts so that we believe him and have him with us. Help us so that we can trust others and share pleasure and peace with them. Amen.

The Healing at Chandni pool (Ghat)
(John 5 : 1-18)
You know that Jerusalem was the most holy place for the Jews because of the Temple In the Temple they used to pray and offer sacrifices, as we go to church and pray and do all sacramental duties (baptism, Lord's supper etc).
The gate in Jerusalem through which the animals (lamb, ox, goat etc.) were to be brought in was called Sheep Gate. There was a pool near that gate. Sometimes the water of that pool would stir up. People believed that at that time some angel would appear there and at that time any sick person who would get down in the pool first, would be healed. This is why many sick people would be waiting around the pool so that they could jump into the water first at the moment when water would stir up.
A man was there who had been ill for thirty eight years. He could never get in the water when it stirred up, for he had no strength to move.
Jesus went to Jerusalem for, a religious festival. He saw that man and heard that he had been ill for long time and he could not avail the chance to get in the water when the water stirred up and that no one helped him. Every time the water stirred up, someone else got there first. Jesus had pity on him. He asked him "Do you want to get well?" The man told him about distress. Do you know what Jesus did? He told him "Get up, pick up your mat and walk" Immediately the man get well, picked up his mat and started walking.
But do you know what a problem was created? The day was Sabbath, on this day the Jewish people never work. But the man who was healed by Jesus was carrying his mat. So the religious leaders were angry. They said "Today is Sabbath, why are you carrying your mat?" The man said that a man has healed him, for he did not know who Jesus was.
Afterwards Jesus found him in the Temple and said "Listen, you are well now, so stop sinning or else something worse may happen to you" Then the man left and told the Jewish authorities that it was Jesus who had healed him. So they began to persecute Jesus because he had done this healing on a Sabbath. Jesus told them that he is always doing the will of God the father. This saying
made the Jewish authorities more angry because he called God as his own Father and they were determined to kill him.

From this story again we see the divine power of Jesus. He healed such a man who had been ill for thirty eight years. May be it is very hard for us to realize the fact. But even now God is doing miracles in this earth. He is doing this for a man through others like us. If we have firm belief like that sick man, then we will realize who Jesus is.

Jesus has revealed God's power in this world. We find God's plan of salvation gradually revealed in all his works.

Here also we find the obstinacy and lack of sincerity in the religious leaders. They could never understand the new teachings of Jesus which was God's love and based on the mercy of God. Their own pride of power and superstition made them blind. They could not see the revelation of God's power whereas the simple sick-man for his faith to Jesus had the touch of God's mercy.

In our life too fanaticism, obstinacy and vanity stop us to realize God's power and his mercy. But broadness, modesty and kindness to the people bring us to God. Thus we realize the unlimited sympathy of God towards us and to other people. You may meet such a man who is ignorant and stupid whose behaviour may be inconsistent. He may behave blindly or with pride, we should have sympathy for them. Jesus has come to save all. Awakened with God's love, we must be good to all.

**Remember**

We are to face lots of trouble if we want to do good works. If we want to help others, somebody may stand against it or create problems. But never be afraid in doing good to others. Let no obstruction be on your way. To serve the people is to serve Christ. Remember by serving people, you praise God.

St. Basil said, "the extra rice you have is the food of the hungry.
The extra clothes you have are the clothes of the naked.
The money you secretly save is the money of the poor."
Jesus Feeds the Hungry
(Marks 6 : 30-44)

One day Jesus with his disciples went to the other side of the lake of Galilee. He wanted to go to a lonely place for rest. But many people saw them and arrived at the place ahead of Jesus and his disciples.

Though Jesus was tired he was happy to see the large crowd. He thought "They were like sheep without a shepherd." He healed those who were ill and began to teach them many things.

It was almost evening. His disciples said "Send the people away and let them go to the nearby farms and villages in order to buy themselves something to eat." Do you know? What Jesus said to them? He said "You yourselves give them something to eat". He asked Philip "Where can we have some bread to feed all these people?" The disciples were at a fix, how could they feed so many people. Philip said" For everyone to have even, a little bite, it would take, much money." Jesus asked "How many loaves do you have?" Andrew said "There is a boy here who has five loaves of bread and two fish."

Do you know what Jesus did? He asked the disciples to bring those five loaves of bread and two fish. And then by his instruction the people sat down in groups of fifty and hundred on the green grass. Then Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. Then a miracle happened. Everyone ate and had enough. The disciples collected twelve baskets full of what was left of the bread and the fish. Do you know how many people ate here?

The boy gave Jesus five loaves and two fish.

The number of people who were fed was five thousand. Everybody was surprised. Jesus fed five thousand people with only five loaves and two
fish, how was it possible? Moreover there left twelve baskets full of the crackers.

In the miracle that Jesus had performed they saw his divine power and accepted him as Christ. They were amazed and began talking about making Jesus their king. But Jesus went off to the hills quickly with his disciples, because Jesus had come to the world not only to give bodily food, but spiritual food also—fullness of life.

In Lord's Slipper we are reconcile with Christ.

You perhaps are thinking of fun. If Jesus would give us such food. Yes, with the blessings of God and with the power of Jesus' prayers we are living in this world. I can do or make nothing on my own. Everything of this world like food, riches, prestige and learning all are God's blessing. So we give thanks to
God at every meal. Jesus has taught us in the Lord's Prayer to pray "Oh Lord, give us our daily food". For God gives us our food.

Parents or brothers and sisters earn money. It is true we buy food to eat with that money. But God's blessings is on everything. We should not forget it. As Jesus has fed the hungry so we should remember it and we should feed the hungry who has no food. Jesus wants us that we help each other. And then only we shall have no wants. God's miraculous power which we do not always understand will then be revealed in us.

In the last supper too Jesus offered himself as food to his disciples. In the Lord's supper we remember that. As the worldly food nourish our body and mind so taking the flesh and blood of Jesus, our spiritual life gets nourished. Jesus gives us not only the worldly food but also he gives us spiritual food. By taking that food we become one in Jesus! become holy like him and receive heavenly life. Jesus said " I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live for ever." [John 6 : 51] .

**Let us learn a Prayer**

Oh loving God, let your loving spirit come to our hearts and enlighten us with your love. Bless us so that we can love you and all the people without any self interest. Amen.

**Instruction For Us**

a) Jesus has come to this earth to give us life of body and spirit.

b) Like the sacrifice of Jesus, we will also dedicate ourselves to God to serve and love other people.

c) In this world, whatever we eat to live, is God's gifts to us. We should always be grateful to him for that.
EXERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions
1. What is the name of the father of John the Baptist?
   a. Zachariah  
   b. Philip  
   c. Andrew  
   d. Basil
2. In order to be disciples of Jesus we have to
   i. Imagine  
   ii. Believe  
   iii. Attend seminars
Which of the following is correct?
   a. i  
   b. ii  
   c. iii  
   d. i and ii

Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 3 and 4.
Bina said to her father, “Father, do you love me?” Father replied, “Yes, I love you.” Bina said, “Then please give its proof.” Father asked in return, “Tell me, where is God?” Bina replied, “Where does God stay can’t be shown. It is to be believed.” Now father said to Bina, “Have you got answer of your question?” Bina said, “Yes, I have.”
3. Bina’s father’s love for Bina can be felt only through
   a. Belief  
   b. Speeches  
   c. Discussions  
   d. Giving of precious gifts
4. Religion the pious man
   a. Has faith and love  
   b. Has full knowledge  
   c. Has blind imitation  
Which of the following is correct?
   a. i  
   b. ii  
   c. iii  
   d. ii and iii
Creative Questions

1. Ranu and her father Mr. Gomes attended the wedding party of Alfred. A large number of guests were present there. The amount of food which was cooked seemed to be insufficient. Yet everything went very well without any problem—they were no shortage of food. On their way back home Mr. Gomes told Ranu about the miraculous incident that had happened at the wedding feast of Cana. Ranu said to her father, “It was Jesus who saved Alfred and his relatives.” Thus Jesus saves all.
   a. What was the strange incident of the wedding feast at Cana?
   b. Why did the disciples believe in Jesus?
   c. Explain the incident of the wedding party of Alfred?
   d. “Jesus saves us from all our dilemmas”. – Explain.

2. A hungry man came to the house of Mr. Rodrigues and wanted some food from him. Mr. Rodrigues gave almost half of his own food to that hungry man. Mother said to Rodrigues, “will your food be enough”. Rodrigues replied, “If our Lord Jesus could feed five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fishes then why would we not be able to inspire one person to share his food with someone else? Mother was pleased with the answer that her son had given. Then she told him the following words of Saint Basil: “Your surplus food is for the hungry and your surplus clothes are for the naked. The money which you secretly accumulate is for the poor.”
   a. How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves of breads and two fishes?
   b. Why did Jesus take bread and fish from a small boy?
   c. How will Rodrigues use the teachings of St. Basil?
"What you have done will be praised from one generation to the next. They will proclaim your mighty acts. They will speak of your glory and majesty and I will mediate on your wonderful deeds. People will speak of your mighty deeds and I will proclaim your greatness. They will tell about all your goodness and sing about your kindness." (Psalms 145:4-7)

You know that Jesus came to this earth for the salvation of man. It was his duty to get back the people from sin and doing wrong and to teach them to lead just life. He did his work in three ways. By preaching gospel or teaching and guiding, by the ideals of his life and by doing good to all. To fulfill the desire of God, the Father, he prepared himself from his childhood to youth that is, till 30 years of age and through his active ministry for three years. He knew that the bad people would not like him and his teaching, they would kill him on the cross. So he selected twelve disciples before his death to preach words of God and to do good to people till the end of this earth.

We see in this world that parents or guardians prepare their own children for the future. Before their death they handover the responsibilities upon them. In the society one leader handover his responsibilities upon them. In the society one leader handover his responsibilities to another for the continuation of good works. Jesus too handed over his responsibilities to his disciples for the salvation of man. It was the first Church of Christ or society of the believers of Christ. In today's world all the believers in Christ are the members of that church established, by Christ. "Anything you say to a wise man will make him wiser, whatever you tell a righteous man will add to his knowledge" (Proverbs 9:9)

**Jesus founded the Church by appointing the twelve Disciples as Apostles.**

Jesus first of all selected twelve disciples for the work of salvation, for the welfare and peace on earth. They were the apostles. The word apostle mean
messenger. Now listen to the story how Jesus founded the church by selecting the apostles.

One day Jesus went up to hill. There he spent whole night in meditation and praying. In the morning he came down from the hill and asked the disciples to come together. And he selected twelve out of them and named them the apostles. They were -

Peter, His brother Andrew, Jacob, His brother John, Phillip, Bartholemew, Thomas, Matthew the tax collector, Two brothers Jacob and Andrew, Simon, Judas Iscariot who handed over Jesus to his enemies.

Jesus ordered his disciples and said "Go to the whole world and preach my word to the people. Those who will believe and live accordingly will have the eternal life".

Jesus gave them power to drive out the Satan and to heal those seriously ill and gave also the power to perform miracles.

Jesus was then surrounded by other disciples and many other believers coming from other parts of the country. They came there to listen to him and to be healed. All of them were trying to touch him. Because power was coming out from his body. And whoever touched him was healed. (Luke 6:12 - 19)

**Jesus Sends Out The Disciples to Preach**

Then Jesus called the twelve disciples together with another twelve persons and appointed them for preaching. He sent them ahead two in one group whatever village he decided to go.

He said to his disciples "Truly, harvest of man and works are many, but workers are few, so request the master (God) to send more workers for harvesting (to prepare people to preach the gospel).

**Jesus Warned The Disciples**

"You go, I am sending you as lambs to the ferocious animals like wolves. Be simple like pigeons but be alert like snakes. You tell everybody that the kingdom of God is near. You heal sick, bring the dead back to life and drive
out the demons from the tortured. You have received without paying, so give
without being paid."

Do not carry any bag, money, shirt or shoes. Don't waste time on the way.
When you go into a house say "Peace be with you". If the people in that
house welcome you, stay there. Eat whatever they offer you. If anybody is
sick there in the house or in the village, heal him. If they are in worries speak
to them about peace. Try your best in my name to meet their need whatever
they may be.

And if anybody does not welcome you don't stay there, thus they will be
deprived of your peace. They will not see the sign of your blessing. I tell you
on the last day of your judgement, their condition will be more serious
than that of Sodom and Gomora. Jesus said more "Those who listen to you,
they listen to me, and those who disregard you, they do the same to me and
to my Father who has sent me.

**Preaching of the Disciples, Praising of the Lord and the Joy of Jesus**

The disciples by the order of Jesus went to villages and towns and spoke about
God. They told the people to turn away from sins and follow the path of truth.
After sometime they were pleased to see the result of their mission and came
back to Jesus. They reported to him about their works. They said "Oh Lord,
even the demons obeyed us when we gave them command in your name."
Jesus answered "Yes you will be winner in the fight against the serpent and the
devil. Do not rejoice because you have defeated the devil but rather rejoice
because you will be rewarded.

And Jesus was pleased and said "Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, I praise
Thee because you have not revealed all these to the interlegents and Wiseman.
Yes my Father, it has been done by your wish." Then again he turned to his
disciples and said "How fortunate you are to see the things that you see. I tell
you that many prophets, even the great kings wanted to see even though they
desired so, they could not. What you see but they could not and to hear what
you hear but they did not. (Luke 10: 1-24)
So you understand how powerful were the disciples, that is, the apostles, the nominated persons of God. But remember that each of us is nominated by Christ. Jesus has called us and has given us power to preach his words and do miracles for the good of the people. Do you hear his call Are you ready to work according to that call? Yes, if we believe in God and if we respond to his call with faith then each of us can do something big and good in the name of the Lord.

Think

Now keep silent for sometime and think for what work God is calling you or wants to send you. Then write down in your exercise book what you want to be in future.

Teacher: Robin, Please tell me what you want to be in future?
Robin: Sir, I want to be a good teacher when I grow up.
Teacher: Very good, but to be a teacher, you need much training, knowledge and patience are required. And you will have to work very hard to earn all of these.

Teacher: Joseph, what have you written down?
Joseph: My mother wants me to be a priest. I am also thinking along that line.
Teacher: Very good, by becoming priest, you will be a servant of the Lord and will preach his words. You will teach the people morality and by giving up family life you will serve your people. You need to prepare yourself for this from now on. Though it is a difficult line, there is nothing greater than becoming a dedicated priest.

Teacher: Now, Mary you tell me what you have written?
Mary: I want to be many things so I haven't written anything down. Once I think I will be a sister and then again I think I'll be a teacher, and so on. I am confused.
Teacher: Yes, you haven't decided anything yet, it is natural. But you will
have to know together with your studies what is the call for you from God.

Teacher : Pius; what have you written ?

Pius : Sir, I have written nothing but I have decided I will not be a lawyer because my father said that they speak lots of lies.

Teacher : No, Pius you and your father are not totally correct. Because all the lawyers do not speak lies always. This is never correct to have blind ideas about a man or a profession. Of course, everybody should avoid free telling lies. But for this you need habit, strong will power, self control and good character. I hope none of you will tell lies, will you ?

All : Yes sir, we will try.

Teacher : What about you, Jyoti, What have you written ?

Jyoti : Sir, I want to be a doctor and I will treat patients and save lives of people.

Teacher : Yes, this is a very good call. If you are a doctor you can serve many people irrespective of caste and religion. Like a teacher you will serve the people of your country. For this you will have to work hard, you need perseverance and knowledge. I believe you will succeed.

Teacher : Enough for today because the bell will be ringing soon. But you will always think that each of you are a nominated person of God and you have a call in your life. To do something good or to be someone big in your life is the call of God. So God calls us to do something in our life. And though this call each of us is nominated apostles of the church.

**Let us pray**

Oh kind God; the Father, please give me your mercy so that I may understand that I am also one of your nominated persons. Bless me so that I can praise Thee with the offering of my life and can do good to all men and the country. Be helpful in all of my thoughts and works. Amen.
Let us sing
We are the servants of God
We will never fail
We will serve in the name of Jesus
We will never fail
We have kept a room for Jesus in our heart
We will never fail
We all will work for the progress and peace. (Hymnal )

Memorize
Are you immature ? Learn to be mature.
Are you foolish ? Learn to have sense.
Listen to my excellent words,
all I tell you are right (Proverbs 8: 5-6 )

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (John 14 : 1- 14)

Sing to the Lord, all the world!
Worship the Lord with joy
come before him with happy songs!
Never forget that the Lord is God.
He made us and we belong to Him.
We are his people, we are his flock. (Psalms 100: 1-3)

We know that God is our creator, pastor, protector and saviour the Lord. He sent his own son to show man the way of salvation. He showed the Israel the way of salvation by his advice, teaching, works and ideal life. But he knew that it was very hard to followed his teaching and way of ideal life. He also knew that sins, torture, bad social leaders, their lies, illegal guidance and teaching would lead the people towards wrong path. We know this is why Jesus before his death selected his disciples. He asked them to teach the people so that man can gain eternal life. They can live in peace in this world. Because God has created us to know Him, to love and serve Him and after death to have eternal life with Him. But in gaining this
eternal life, it is not enough to serve God only. Jesus said, "You will love your neighbour as your own and will dedicate yourself in serving the people." This is why Jesus gave his disciples many divine qualities. But it is very hard to lead a true and just life and to serve the people. For this we will have to face lots of troubles, illegal torture, disgrace and we will have to sacrifice our interest. Those who will overcome all these tests and remain faithful in Jesus divine life, they will win and will gain eternal life. And those who do wrong will be damned. They will never have peace in life and they will destroy peace of others. Before his death Jesus said to his disciples "I am the way, the truth and the life." Those who follow me and my teachings, they will be united with the life of God and prosper and will enter the eternal life.

What the Holy Bible says about it. Listen

Before his death at the last supper with the disciples Jesus said, "Do not worry, do not be broken down with fear, frustration and doubts. Uphold your faith in God. I am going to prepare a place for you. There are many places in my Father's house, if it were not so, I would have told you. After getting the place ready I will come again and I will take you all to the Father, so that you can live with us. You know very well where I am going.

Then Thomas asked Jesus, "Lord we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can go to the Father, if they do not come through me. If you know me, you know my Father. Now you have learnt Him so you have seen Him."

Philip said to Jesus "Lord, show us the Father and we will be pleased." Jesus said "Philip, so long I am with you yet couldn't you know me? One who has seen me, has seen my Father too. Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? What I tell you? I do not utter from myself but the Father who is present in me, is doing His work. Trust my word that I am present in the Father and the Father is in me. At least what you have seen me to do, believe them."

Jesus also said "Verily I tell you if anyone trusts in me, he will trust in my works also and because you will believe so I have done all these. You will do greater things than these. And what you will ask in my name, you will be given, so that the glory of the Father is revealed through the son".
Truth here means the real God. If we trust in the teachings of Jesus and follow his way and lead our life accordingly then we can go to God. Otherwise we will end up in hell. Jesus wants us to follow the truth of God and his teaching and afterwards be united with God.

Life is spiritual life and eternal life. If we follow his path, teaching on earth, we will enjoy his divine and spiritual peace in our life. And even after death we will have divine eternal life. But in this sinful earth when we want to follow the way of truth then we are to accept much troubles, torture and disgrace. So Jesus before his death warned his dear disciples about the above sufferings.

But you will have to remember that these teachings are not only for his disciples but these are also for all the peace loving people of this world who are expecting the eternal life. Especially these teachings are the sources of faith, hope, strength, courage and pleasure for the people of the world and believers. We get them from the teachings and life of Jesus. So we receive the sacrament and Lord's Supper to be united with God and have spiritual life.

**Jesus Prays for the Disciples**

*(John 17:1-26)*

Then Jesus prayed to God the Father, for his disciples so that they can remain faithful to him. He raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Oh Father, time has come, reveal the glory of your son. I have completed the work for which you had sent me. I have revealed your glory in this earth completely. Now you can take me to you."

"Oh Father, I pray for them whom you gave me in this earth, I have told them all about you. I taught them your true teachings and they have believed you. I will be no more in this earth but they will remain here. So long I was with them I protected them but now I am going. I know the world will hate them, give trouble and torture them, but you will help them to keep their faith firm, protect them from sins. This is my humble prayer to you. So that they can be holy by walking on the right path and one day they can be united with you and me.

I am not only praying for them but also for those who will believe me by hearing from them. Oh Father, help them to be united among themselves as I
am united with you. So that whoever sees them united can believe that I have come from you. As you love me so they love each other. As we two are united, so they may also be fully one and live together till the end of their life.

**Jesus Promise to His Disciples**

Once again Jesus told his disciples "Yes, I know you are burdened with sorrow and fear. But don't be hurt, don't be afraid. I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper who will stay with you for ever: He is the Spirit who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive him because it can not see him or know him. But you know him because he remains with you and is in you. He will fill you up with strength, wisdom, knowledge, power to judge and will enlighten you. He will lead you toward the eternal life and truth. He will teach you what have to do, he will remind you what I have taught you and you will not be afraid of doing my work and giving witness on my behalf. (John 14: 15-1;7)

**I am the vine, you are the Branches**

Then Jesus turned to his disciples again and said "I am the real vine and you are the branches and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in one that does not bear fruit and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruits. Remain united to me and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself, it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you can not bear fruit unless you remain in me. Remember it, without me you yourself can not do anything, not even by the advice of Satan and the hypocrites. If you will not follow me you will not have my way. the truth and my life: (John 15: 1-7). Jesus said all these to his disciples so that they can realize "I am the way, the truth and the life." Do you understand all these? You Will understand more as you grow up.

**Let us pray**

Oh Lord Jesus, I trust you, you are the way, the truth and the life. You make my faith, hope and charity more firm so that I remain united with you all my life. So that I can lead my life according to your teachings and I can reveal your glory to others with my life and my work. And then at the end of my life,
Lord, I can be a part of your eternal life. I pray this through your son, the life giving vine our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Memorize
"Oh Lord, the God, you bless those who are honest and perfect in mind. But those who are not honest and have left your path, you drive them away."

Remember
If the branches are not with the trunk they can not bear fruit, similarly if we are not with Jesus, we cannot have the way, the truth and the life. Jesus says "I am the vine you are the branches, one who is in me I am in him and he can bear many fruits. You can not do anything unless I remain with you".

Let us sing
Jesus is the light on the path of life.
You walk with me, in the terrible tempest on the river of life
Rudder is broken, sail is torn
Jesus comes and holds the rudder
lest the boat is sunk (Hymnal)

Guide line
The students are to memorize and try recite together acts of faith, hope and charity, contrition etc. form the books of their respective churches (if any). They are not to neglect it.

The Conspiracy of Judas
(Judas Iscariot)
(Matthew 26 : 1 - 25 verses
"His speech is filled with curses, lies and threats he is quick to speak hateful, evil words. He hides himself in the villages waiting to murder innocent people. He hides himself in the villages, waiting to murder innocent people. He spies on his helpless victims. (Psalms 10: 7-8)
"Peace of mind makes the body healthy, but jealousy is like a cancer (Proverbs 14: 30)

Those who are more greedy and jealous they usually conspire easily against others. The people of this world are born with some bad habits. Some people can control these bad habits but others cannot control them. And these bad habits gradually increase and drag people towards greater injustice. Among those bad habits pride, greed, jealousy and anger are prominent. Those who have greed for money, wealth and position, they are out of spite to become jealous and conspire against others.

The conspirators do not hesitate to prove an innocent guilty, for self interest. Even friends, relatives and very close ones who can be trusted usually engage in conspiring because of certain greed.

Certainly you have heard about the battle at Palashi. After the death of Nawab Alibardi Khan his grand-son, Sirajudowla became the Nawab over Bengal, Biharar and Urissa. Since Alibardi Khan's time, the English came to this country for business. But Alibardi Khan realizing the shrewdness of the British merchants, did not allow them to build any forts for their purpose. The English were afraid of him. But after his death, they were not afraid of Sirajudowla. They got some local greedy people on their side such as Mirzafar, Jagotsheth, Rajballav who joined in the conspiracy of the English hoping to gain wealth and position. But they were very trusted friends of Siraj. Mirzafar was a very close relative of Nowab Sirajudowla. At last in the battle of Palashi in 1757 against English, the chief of the Army Staff Mirzafar did not fight and betrayed Siraj. Victory went to the English. Later Siraj was killed by the order of Miron, the son of Mirzafar. And then the English ruled over this country for two hundred years.

The people of India and Bangladesh remained as the slaves of the English. In the Bible we find the same story of conspiracy against Jesus. You know about the twelve disciples of Jesus. They used to hear the teachings of Jesus and observe his works of miracles. But one of these twelve disciples named Judas being involved in the conspiracy helped Jesus get arrested in exchange for only thirty silver coins.
On that day Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon, a leper. While Jesus was eating, a woman came in with a jar full of expensive perfume and poured the perfume on Jesus' head. Jesus' disciples became angry and said to one another "What was the use of wasting the perfume? It could have been sold for lot of money and given to the poor. Reading the minds of the disciples, Jesus said "why do you bother her? She has done a fine and beautiful thing for me. You will have the poor with you always and any time you want, you can help them. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body to prepare it ahead of time for burial. Now I assure you that whenever this gospel is preached what she did to me will also be preached."

Then one of the twelve disciples who was called Judas Iscariot became jealous. He knew that the chief priest was plotting to kill Jesus. Being tempted he went to the chief priest and said "What will you give me if I hand him over to you". Then the chief priest gave Judas a purse of thirty silver coins. So Judas was very happy and started to look for a good chance to hand Jesus, over to them.

"Now I assure you that whenever this gospel is preached all over the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her" (Matthew 26:13)
Jesus Eats the Passover Meal With His Disciples

Passover festival is in remembrance of the liberation of the Jews from Egypt. Long time ago God protected the Jews miraculously from the slavery of the Egypt. In remembrance of that incident the Jews every year observed the great feast. They used to observe it for eight consecutive days. Jesus and his disciples also used to do the same in a befitting manner. So his disciples on the first day came to him and asked "Where can we arrange the Passover Meal for you? What is your wish." "Jesus said" go into the city and you will find a man, you tell him, the teacher says, my time has come. I will eat the Passover meal with my disciples at your house. "And the disciples arranged the feast according to his wish.

In the evening Jesus sat with twelve disciples to eat. While they were eating Jesus said "truly, I tell you that one of you will betray me. One of you who is eating with me.”

The disciples were upset and began to ask him one after the other "Sureley you don't mean me, do you?" Jesus answered "It will be one of you, one who dips his bread in the dish with me. The Son man will die as the sciptures say he will, but how terrible for that man who betrays the Son of Man. It would have been better for that man if he had never been born!! Then Judas one who was handing him over to the enemies said " Rabbi, (Lord) is it me?" Jesus answered "You said it yourself."

Think

Judas was one of the beloved disciples of Jesus. He was the treasurer. Jesus and other disciples trusted him. He had the purse always with him. But he was greedy. He could not resist the temptation of thirty silver coins. Although he was a disciple and close to Jesus, he plotted to hand over Jesus to his enemies. On the other hand, the woman who poured perfume on the Jesus' head was not at all greedy. She showed respect to the distinguished guest pouring the perfumes on his head. She did it as a token of love from her heart.
Through this act she announced the coming death of Jesus. She also completed the ritual perfuming of the dead body in anticipation. At that time it was the custom to perfume the dead body of the dear ones.

So you see how Judas plotted only for thirty silver coins to hand Jesus over to his enemies. He was very close friend of Jesus. On the other hand, the woman was stranger but an admirer of Jesus. She perfumed his body with expensing ointment to remember his death. What is the difference between these two persons.

**Remember**

When Judas asked Jesus "Rabbi, is it I?" Jesus answered "You said it yourself." Jesus gave him the indication to change his mind. But Judas did not do that. Likewise Sirajud dowla advised the trusted friends like Mirzafar, jagatseth and Rajballav to change their minds but they did not. The traitors handed over the country and its independence to the English. Should they have done it? Not at all. By plotting Mirzafar wanted to be the Nawab of Bengal, Bihar and Urissa. But he was unable. Similarly it is also written in the Bible, that Judas out of guilt feeling in the end he hanged himself. So much money could not bring him peace. So the conscience of each person works like a guard. It always helps think honesty and work honestly. And conscience advises not to do bad works, avoid bad thoughts and avoid giving bad advice. If we follow our conscience, we all will live in peace in our families, society and country. So the Poet Shjeikh Fazlul Karim has written-when our conscience is defeated by evil, we are then burnt by the fire of self-reproach.

But when we are united with each other with the tie of love, our huts become heaven.

**Instruction For Us**

- Traitors have no peace in their minds.
- When you understand that you are plotting against someone, leave it immediately.
- Traitors are enemies of families, society and the country. Traitor invites evil for the families, society and the country.
- Divine pleasure is present in families, society and the country through people's happiness and peace.

**EXERCISE**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. The main purpose of the coming of our Lord Jesus on earth is
   a. To teach man  
   b. To bring salvation to all the people  
   c. To become a companion to man  
   d. To become man’s judge

2. How many Apostles did Jesus have?
   a. Ten  
   b. Eleven  
   c. Twelve  
   d. Thirteen

Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 3 and 4.

Anthony continued to give formation to his son Peter to be a good citizen and become a famous from his very boyhood. Peter had a lot of talents and was very worthy like his father. He obeyed his father and studied very seriously and became established in the society.

3. Peter was a good citizen and established because
   i. He got good advice from his house-tutor  
   ii. He was very intelligent  
   iii. He was given very good formation by his father

Which of the following is correct?
   a. i  
   b. ii  
   c. iii  
   d. i and ii

4. Peter is
   a. A son of an educated father  
   b. A son of a careful and responsible father  
   c. A son of a wealthy father  
   d. A son of a poor father
Parents are very dear to us. Nobody comes to this world without parents. Parents bring up their children. So we must perform all our own duties well and obey them. Thus we can satisfy our parents.

5. **We are branches and Jesus is**
   a. The leaves  
   b. The vine
   c. Bunches grapes  
   d. Flowers and fruits

6. **One of the important responsibilities of children towards parents is**
   i. To provide them some money
   ii. To keep them pleased
   iii. To supply them clothes and foods

**Which of the following is correct?**
   a. i
   b. ii
   c. iii
   d. i and ii

**Creative Questions**

1. Shusanta and Prasanta are two friends. They read in Class Six. One day Shusanta said to Prasanta, “All the disciples tried to touch Jesus. Because at that time an miraculous power was coming out of Him. Whoever touched Him was healed. Have you ever heard about that?” Prasanta said, “Yes, I have heard that. Our teacher has told us that Jesus appointed some of His disciples to be his messengers. He gave them power to perform miraculous works.”
   a. How many disciples did Jesus appoint to be His messengers?
   b. Why did all want to touch Jesus?
   c. What can Shusanta and Prosanta do for the society by follow the ideals of the disciples of Jesus?
   d. Evaluate the role of Jesus’ disciples in preaching His words.

2. Gabriel is a pious man. His only son is Ananda. Father asked his son, “Ananda, do you know that you are one of Jesus’ disciples?” Ananda said in reply, “Yes father, I have read today in my religious book—Jesus had said
to His disciples that they should go out for work immediately. They should also tell everybody that the Kingdom of God was already at work. Therefore, they should heal the patients, give life to the dead and change the hearts all the people”.

a. Who was Judah Iscariot?

b. Describe one of the main qualities of Jesus’ Apostles

c. How does Ananda work as a disciple of Jesus?

d. “The Kingdom of God was already at work”. Explain the meaning of this sentence?

3. A father asked his son Robin, “My dear son, what sort of profession would you like to take when you will grow up as an adult person?. I want you to be a businessman.” Robin said to his father, “My dear father, I want to be a priest. I have read in our religions book that if every person has faith in God and responds sincerely to the call of the Lord then he can perform big and good works in the name of God”

a. What is preaching the Kingdom of God?

b. What was the main cause of Jesus’ pleasure in his disciples’ acts of preaching?

c. How will Robin enlighten the society becoming a priest?

d. “We shall succeed in everything if we have faith in God”.—Explain.
CHAPTER NINE

JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE FOR MAN'S SALVATION

Prayer of Jesus At Gethsemane and his passion


"Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation." (Luke : 22 ; 40 verse)

Jesus knew how he will die. But he was worried to think about the pain of death as a man. He knew that Judas would hand him over to his enemies. After having supper he went to a lonely place Gethsemane with his disciples to pray silently. He loved much the people of this world. And he loved the disciples too. And he knew that Judas would hand him over to his enemies. This is why he went there to pray to God for strength to endure the treachery of the disciple and the unbearable pain of death. Because as a human being he was ready to accept the pain of death.

Every man of this earth dreads the death because they love their own parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and above all this earth. No one wants to be deprived of this fascination. We are redeemed by the death of Jesus. Similarly death of every man is the door to eternal life. So we should not fear the death. We are to pray like Jesus so that we can endure the intolerable pain of death. We should try to understand how Jesus prayed for the help from God to bear that pain of death.

The stream Kidron was in between Jerusalem and Jaitun Hill. Gethsemane was on the other side of the stream Kidron to the west of Jaitun Hill. Very often Jesus with his disciples used to go there to pray. That day after having the Passover meal he went there with his disciples to pray silently. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation." Grief and anguish came over him and he said to them, "The sorrow in my heart
Christian Religious Studies

is so great that it almost crushes me. He knelt down and prayed, "My father, if it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me, yet not what I want, but what you want." At this moment an angel came down from heaven and encouraged him. He was then at the peak of his mental pain and he continued his praying, his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. He returned to his disciples and found them asleep and he called them up and said to them. "How is that, could not you watch with me even for one hour? Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. "While he was talking to his disciple at that time Judas, one of his twelve 'disciples, came there leading a group of many people. He came to Jesus to kiss, Jesus asked him, "My dear friend, have you come to hand over the Son of Man by a kiss?"

Think

Kissing is the greatest sign of love and affection on earth. Judas handed Jesus over to his enemies by that sign. Is it possible to endure this pain? Suppose you have a very close friend, you love him too much and trust him. If any time he betrays you then how will you feel? Your parents, elder brothers and sisters how much they love you and care for you. Can you ever be ungrateful to them and do any harm to them? Your teachers how much they love you and take trouble to advice and instruct you in building up of your life. Will you spoil your life by being disobedient to them like Judas? Never do it. Judas kissed Jesus and handed him over to the enemies, but Jesus addressed him as his friend. That mean he pardoned all his faults. You too will pardon the faults of your friends even your enemies. For the well being and success in your life you will abide by the advice and instruction of your parents and elders and you will respect them.

Remember

A life of prayer can give you strength and courage against all dangers. It can save you from all evils. It helps your to endure any pain and trouble as Jesus did it. In pain and trouble his sweat became like drops of blood. But through prayers to God, Jesus was strengthened so much he could even address Judas as friend. So all, of us should promise that in the family we will
pray together at least once in the evening each day asking God's help. Jesus Christ has taught his disciples and all of us this ideal of prayer.

**Memorize**

"Keep watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation"

"Father, it is not my wish, but yours be done."

**Instruction For Us**

- One should not betray his friend.
- One should not keep distance when his friend is in distress.
- He is the real friend who always wishes well of his friend and comes forward to help him at the time of his danger.
- It is the teaching of Christ that a true friend will come to the aid of others at the time of their danger to share their happiness, sorrows, pleasure and pain.

**Jesus is Brought Before Pilate.**

(Luke 22 : 63 - 72 verses)


"Crucify, Crucify him" (Luke 23 : 22 verse)

"The king speaks with divine authority, his decisions are always right". (Proverbs 16 : 10 verse)

The word 'judgement' is much known to us. When brothers and sisters quarrel in a family, parents make the judgement and punish the guilty and thus make them understand about right and wrong. If anybody in a society commits any wrong, say to grab the land of others illegally, then the elders of the village compromise it through judgement. For a very big crime there is a judiciary department in the country. There the judges handle the judgement. They convict the accused person for a big crime.

Yes, the guilty person should be punished through judgement. But sometimes it is found that an innocent person is convicted by severe punishment at the evidence of false witness. Sometimes he is put in jail for life-term or
given capital punishment. Likewise, a false case was brought against our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because he used to give good advice to the people, the elders, leaders and chief priests were against him and plotted to kill him. And Judas one of his disciples joined them. With his help they arrested Jesus from the garden Gethsemane. You have learnt it from your previous lesson. In this chapter you will learn how Jesus was judged by different persons.

**Trial of Jesus Before the Priests and the Governor**

Those who arrested Jesus, they beat and mocked him. They spat on him, slapped on his cheek. Then they blind folded him and asked him mocking "Tell us who slapped you?" Thus they accused Jesus and laughed at him and called him by name.

When it was morning the elders, the chief priests and the leaders all got together in a council meeting. They had Jesus brought before them and asked him "If you are that Christ then tell us". Jesus answered "If I tell you that you will not believe and if I ask you any question you will not answer. But from today you will see the Son of Man sitting on the right of God." Then they all shouted together "Are you then the Son of God?" Jesus replied "You yourselves have said it. I am". Then they said "What more witnesses are required, we ourselves have heard what he said". Then they took Jesus to Pilate for judgement.

**Jesus Before Pilate**

The priests and leaders of the people accusing Jesus said "This is the man who spread the sense of opposition in our nation. He tells the people not to pay taxes to the government and also says he is Christ, the King". Then Pilate asked him "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered" You yourself are saying it. I am". Then Pilate said the chief priests and other people "I do not find anything wrong in him for which I can punish him." Then the people who got together there shouted, "this man, has instigated the people by his teaching in Judea and from Galilee to this place." Hearing this Pilate said, " Is this man a Galilian?" He came to know that Jesus was under the King Herod, so he sent him to Harod because at that time Herod was in Jerusalem.
Jesus Before Herod

Herod was very pleased to see Jesus because he had heard so much about him and had desired to see him. He asked Jesus many questions but Jesus did not answer and the chief priests and teachers of the law were accusing Jesus very aggressively.

Herod and his soldiers mocked and insulted Jesus but finding no fault against him they put a fine robe on him sent him back to Pilate. On that very day Herod and Pilate became friends before this they had been enemies.

Jesus Back to Pilate

Herod finding no fault against Jesus sent him to Pilate again. Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders and the people and said to them, "You brought this man to me and said that he was misleading the people. Now I have examined him here in your presence and I have not found him guilty of any of the crimes you accuse him of, nor did Herod find him guilty. There is nothing this man has done to deserve death." Pilate could understand that the people out of jealousy were claiming to put him to death.

Pilate understanding their ideas said, "So I will have him whipped and let him go". But the whole crowd cried out "Kill him, set Barabbas free for us." Because during that festival it was the practice to set someone free for them. Barabbas had been put in prison for a riot that had taken place in the city and for murder.

Pilate tried to set Jesus free so he appealed to the crowd again. But they shouted back "Crucify him, Crucify him". Pilate said to them a third time. "But what crime has he committed? I can not find he has done anything to deserve death, I will have him whipped and set him free". But the unruly crowd shouted and wanted him to crucify Jesus. When Pilate saw all in vain and the situation would be more chaotic so he set Barabbas free as they asked for and he handed Jesus over for them to be crucified.

Think

Was it right to hand Jesus over for the people to crucify him? Did Pilate do justice to Jesus? Why didn't he do that? If he would have done justice then the
chief priests, teachers of the law and other people would not obey his judgement. He was afraid of that.

**A Story For You**

Joy was very talented student. He was a son of very rich family. They had a big house in the town. His father was a renowned doctor. His father made him a doctor after spending lot of money. And he got a job in the Health Complex in a remote village. One day he was going to that village from the town. On his way he saw a man had a bus accident and was seriously wounded and his wife was appealing to all the people to help take her husband to the hospital. Joy got down from his car and saw that the man was bleeding too much. The accident took place in such a place from where the hospital in town or the Health Complex of the village was too far. Joy thought if he would take him so far, the patient may die because of much bleeding. So he tried to stop the bleeding with his apparatus what he had with him, taking much care. But the bleeding did not stopped and the patient died after sometime.

The man's wife could not accept it and she accused Dr. Joy for the death of her husband. Some educated and influential people also took side against him. He was judged in the court. He answered all the questions asked by the lawyer and told to truth. The lawyer asked him why he didn't take the patient to hospital. He said "I would have taken but before that I tried to stop the bleeding." But the judge accused him guilty too. He was termed as irresponsible and unskilled doctor and his certificate was cancelled. In fact Dr. Joy did not want his death, he tried to save him. But the judgement went against him. That judgement was not correct because it was based of false witnesses.

Pilate in fear of the people and to save his position, accepted the false witnesses and thus did injustice to Jesus.

In reality we will see the same injustice is being done in our society and country. Such injustice is being done to protect one's position.

In our country the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam wrote many poems, songs and stories against the British ruler to protect the country from the tyranny of the English. So he was sent to jail illegally. Yet he protested against it. In respect to him we call him rebel poet. It-is necessary to have honesty and moral courage to protest against injustice, you can also earn these.
Remember
The elders and chief priest being jealous they tortured and insulted Jesus. They should not have done this. Pilate and Herod had the power to do justice but they did injustice to Jesus to keeps their positions and also in fear of the people. If they wished they could free Jesus from the hands of people but they did not do that. They remain guilty before God and mankind for ever in doing injustice to Jesus. When you grow up, you never do such injustice to anyone.

Instruction For us
- Never accuse the innocents.
- To do harm by giving false witness is unjust and sin.
- You must have all facts before you judge, someone may be guilty or not guilty.
- To give verdict against your conscience or out of fear of people is sin.

Instruction
Memorize
"When the King is concerned with justice the nation will be strong but when he is only concerned with money, he will ruin his country."
(Proverbs 29 : 4 verse)
"A witness saves lives when he tells the truth, when he tells lies, he betrays people".
(Proverbs 14 : 25 verse)

 Lord Jesus Death on the Cross
"Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing". (Luke 23 : 34 verse)
We, all the Christians, are well acquainted with the word 'Cross'. Cross is the symbol of our Christian faith, because Jesus has dedicated his life on the cross
for the salvation of man. We the followers of Christ, make ourselves known as Christians by the sign of cross. So we place the cross on the top of the church building, on the top of our houses in Christian organisations and we wear it on our necks. Cross is the symbol of love of Christ.

Jesus Christ by his intolerable suffering on the cross showed his deep love for us. He did not hesitate to accept death for the expiation of the sins of the sinners. This is why he said "I have come to this world not for the righteous but for the sinners". He offered his life on the cross to his beloved Father for the salvation of the sinners.

In our previous lesson we have learnt about the injustice done to Jesus by Pilate. Pilate wanted to protect Jesus in many ways from the hand of unruly people. But Pilate was afraid of the people because he had the lust for the position and he had no moral courage. So he set free the robber Barabbas as the people wished and handed Jesus over the to the Governor to crucify. And the enemies of Jesus killed him illegally hanging him on a cross.

### The Story of Jesus Carrying the Cross

Getting the order of Pilate the people made a heavy cross and forced Jesus to carry it up to mount Calvary. The enemies put a crown of thorns on his head because Jesus had said, "yes, I am king." On the way they met a man named Simon he was from Cyrene; he loved Jesus and wanted to see him. Jesus was very tired and on the way he fell down on the ground three times, lest he dies before crucifixion, the soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross.

Seeing Jesus carrying the cross and his intolerable suffering many people followed him. Many of them were women. His suffering made them weep loud. But Jesus turned to them and said. "Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me but for yourself and your children". Two other men, both of them criminals were also led to be put to death with Jesus on the cross. Because in those days crucifixion was the most insulting and highest form of punishment.
The Death of Jesus on the Cross

The soldiers led Jesus to the top of mount Calvary. There in the place called "Skull", nailed Jesus' hands and feet on the cross. Of the two criminals one was put the right and the other to the left of Jesus on the cross.

The Crucified Jesus between two criminals.
"Don't you fear God? We received the just sentence for what we did but he has done no wrong." He then said to Jesus, "Remember me Jesus when you come to your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be with me in Paradise."

And then Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Farther, in your hand, I place my spirit." He said this and died.

It was then about the sixth hour and darkness fell over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two and there was an earthquake which cracked the stones. One of the soldiers with his spear pierced Jesus left chest and form there came out blood and water.

**Think**

The meaning of the word cross is "suffering". The sign of the cross or crucifying reminds us of the intolerable suffering of Jesus. As we have built Shaheed Minar to commemorate the language myrters, through which we show our respect to the myrters. Same way, we pay our respect to the death of Jesus by showing our respect to the cross.

We consider Good Friday as the day of Jesus' death on the cross. Did Jesus deserve such an humiliating death on the cross? Never. He loved the people with his whole heart. Isn't it? So as the sing of that love he accepted such a painful and humiliating death on the cross. He committed no wrong. But we commit so many sins and injustice. So how much we should repent and beg pardon for sins.

Jesus the ideal of forgiveness. In so much pain he begged pardon to heavenly Father for us "Father forgive them". On the other hand the priests and teachers of the law never thought about their sins. Jesus had no anger or jealousy or desire to take revenge on them. But one of the criminals recognizing his wrong doings very humbly prayed to him so that Jesus would include him in his kingdom and Jesus promised him to grant his prayer. He gave his life for the salvation of all people of this earth and said " Father I surrender my spirit to you."
What a great self sacrifice and ideal of forgiveness he left for us. By this word of Jesus his complete obedience to the Father is expressed. He fulfilled all the responsibilities given by the Father and gave back everything to Father. Lord Jesus for our sins accepted a humiliating death on the cross. Like that you may have read about the great Khudiram in history. He wanted to save IndioPak-subcontinent from the regime of the English. For this he led many movements in a legal way. But when the British rulers came to know about it, they killed him by hanging. He gave his life for the freedom of people of the country. He gave the people a sense of freedom. Later through the sacrifice of many other patriots we are a free nation today. Have you ever thought about it? When you grow up you will know this more and you will work for the prosperity of your country and the nation. You should not think about yourself only.

**Remember**

Jesus is the ideal man of forgiveness and love. We are to follow his ideal This earth is very difficult place. We are to face many wrong doing and injustice in our life. We will have to pray to the Lord, our God, for our enemies. God created us to work for Him by serving the people and country. He has given us each a particular job to do. We will have to do that the best we can. Your first duty is to be obedient to your parents and teachers and to study well and live a good life. It is not fair if you don't study. You will have to be well educated. If all of you are well educated and have good character then the country and the nation will prosper. Then only our country will be considered a developed country.

**Instruction For Us**

- Christ is the ideal of forgiveness, we are to follow him.
- We are to love each other, if anybody begs pardon, we are to forgive him. We must not think revenge.
- We have to do our own duties well so that like Jesus, at the time of death, we can surrender ourselves to Him.
- When you realize your own fault, beg pardon immediately and always keep away from doing wrong and injustice.
Memorize
- "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." 
  (Luke 23 :4)
- "Father, in your hands I place my spirit". (Luke 23 : 46)
- A prayer from a man in distress : His heart is broken, he himself surrendered all the load of his distress at the feet of the Lord.
  (Psalms 102)

Let us Pray
Oh Father, the Lord, keep us safe and help us in any situation so that we can do our works well. You teach us to bear all the troubles and insults in our life so that after death we can have eternal life with you. We pray to you for this help, in the name of the crucified Jesus, Amen.

Let us sing: Jesus' fourteen station on the way of the cross.(Hymnal)

Victory of Jesus on death and his accession
  Luke 24 :"1- 12 and 50 - 53
"You destroy this Temple, but I will build it up again in three days".
  Mark 14 : 58

The victory of Jesus after death of resurrection of Jesus is a great miracle. It has never happened before in the world and will never happen again. It happened only in Jesus' life.

We have seen how great men were born in this earth. They died but none of them rose up to life, again. Because none of them had divine power. But Jesus was both man and God. Through this resurrection he proved his divinity.

Before death, Jesus told his disciples about his resurrection. "After some days you will not see me, again after some days you will see me. "(John 16 : 16)"
They will mock him, insult him and spit on him. They will whip him and kill him, but three days later he will rise to life." (Luke 18 : 32 - 33)

This resurrection is 'a victory of Jesus over death, a victory over man, enemies, sins and the darkness. By this resurrection Jesus proved that he was truthful and true God. He accepted death on his own will according to his own word
he raised himself in body and soul. This resurrection is the root foundation of the Christian church or the people in Christian faith. Because Jesus by his resurrection proved that he is God that all his words are true and that he is Almighty.

**Thus it is written in Holy Bible**

Jesus died on the cross after enduring the intolerable pain. That days was Friday and it was three o'clock in the afternoon. The day of his death is known to as 'Good Friday'. When towards the evening, a man named Joseph from the village Arimathea courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He was a member of the Council.

But he had complete faith in Jesus. Pilate was surprised to know that Jesus died so soon. He inquired about Jesus' death calling a captain and knowing perfectly that he died, permitted Joseph to take away his dead body.

There was another admirer of Jesus named Necodim another member of the Council like Joseph. He joined Joseph. He bought about 50 seers of perfume to pour on the dead body of Jesus. They had a great respect for Jesus. Then they took the body down, wrapped it in a linen sheet and placed it in tomb which had never been used before. And they covered the entrance of the tomb with a large and very heavy stone.

By this time Pharisees and chief priests went to Pilate and said "Sir that fraud Jesus told that he would rise again after death, so please order to guard the tomb for three days, otherwise his disciples may steal his body and later say that he is resurrected." So Pilate ordered the soldiers to guard the tomb. He said "You arrange guard as you want". They went there and sealed the entrance of the tomb and employed some soldiers there. But what Jesus had said must come true; he is Almighty God. Who has that power to keep him inside the tomb?

Jesus came out from the tomb on Sunday, the first day of the week. At that time all on a sudden, there was an earthquake. An angel removed that heavy stone from the entrance of the tomb and sat on it. His dress was milky white
and his body was as bright as lightning. Having observed all these the guards were at a fix in fear. They ran to the leaders of the Jews and explained everything. They bribed those guards giving much money and asked them to keep silent about it. And they were further told, "if anyone asks anything you tell them, when we fell sleep deep at night, his disciples came and stole the body away." And if the Governor comes to know this, you will not be spared. So the guards told lies as advised by the leaders. They did not tell what really happened.

But they secretly accepted Jesus as Almighty. And by this resurrection Jesus proved that he is the Lord, true and Almighty, his teachings are absolutely true.

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark. Mary Magdalene and other two women went to the tomb with some perfumes. They found the stone, removed from the entrance. An angel was sitting on it. They were frightened. The angel said "Don't be afraid, I know you are looking for the crucified Jesus. He is not here. He has risen. Look there, his tomb is empty, his dresses and scarf everything left there: Go tell the disciples and Peter, "Jesus, of course, is going to Galilee ahead of you."

Then they went running to Simon, Peter and other disciples and told them about his resurrection. They also came running to the tomb but they did not find him there. They also found the dresses and scarf of Jesus left there.

They went back home but Mary Magdalene stood crying outside the tomb and she saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her. "Woman, why are you crying" Mary answered "They have taken my Lord away and I do not know where they have put him". Then she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that he was Jesus, she thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him?" Jesus said "Mary". She could recognise his voice and said "Rabboni" meaning teacher. Jesus said to her "Go and tell my brothers and my disciples that I am going back to my Father, my God and their
God”. So delighted Mary went running to the disciples and told them that she saw the risen Jesus.

After resurrection Jesus have been in the earth for forty days and he appeared before two disciples who were going on to the village EMMAUS. Another day when the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them "Peace be with you" he said. He showed Thomas his scars and said "Thomas stretch out your hand and touch my scar and stop doubting and believe, you have certainly heard it. So according to the word of the Holy Bible you don't be doubtful about Jesus, because the word of Jesus, his teachings in the Bible cannot be untrue.

**Jesus ascension to Heaven**

The last miracle of Jesus life is his ascension to heaven physically. After resurrection he stayed in the earth for forty days and after forty days he ascended to his father, the God, in front of the disciples. And it was his ascension to heaven.

One day Jesus went to mount Olivet in Jerusalem with his eleven disciples. The disciples once again showed their respect falling on his feet. Jesus said to them "Go to the whole world and preach my words. Those who will believe and be baptized will receive eternal life. The precepts and teachings have given you, teach the same to people of all nations, so all can be saved. The people of this earth may torture' you much but don't be afraid of them, I will remain with you till the last day of this earth. And the Holy spirit that will be sent to you. He will give you the wisdom, conscience and necessary strength, courage and knowledge."

Then Jesus for the last time blessed the disciples and began to ascend to heaven. A piece of white cloud came and covered him. Jesus went to heaven and the disciples saw him no more.

The son of God, our Lord Jesus is now in heaven with the Father and the Holy Spirit and is seated on the right hand of God, meaning he is in heaven with God in great honour. He will come again to this earth on the last day to Judge all the people.
Let us pray
Oh Father, the God, you bless us so that we can remain faithful to your teachings and ideals. You make our belief firm so that we do not go to wrong path but we help the people to lead their lives according to your teachings and lead them to the right and honest path. You lead us by your Holy spirit so that we be always on the right and honest path and be united with you after death. All praises and thanks be to you, Amen.

Memorize
"Those who love your law have perfect security, and there is nothing that can make them fall. I wait for you to save me, Lord and I do what you command.
(Psalms 119: 165-166)

Recite together
Lord's Prayer and the Apostles creed (Only for the Catholic boys and girls)

Let us sing
Ananda Loke mongola loke..........  
Birajo satya sundaro ..............  
-Rabindra Nath Tagor.

EXCERCISE

Multiple Choice Questions
1. Who handed over Jesus to the enemies?
   a. John    
   b. Peter   
   c. Shimon   
   d. Judah

2. Do not afraid of death, because
   i. Death is a blessing
   ii. Death is pleasure
   iii. It is death through which one can enter into eternal life
Which of the following is correct?
   a. i  
   b. ii     
   c. iii  
   d. ii and iii
Read the paragraph below and answer to questions 3 and 4

Rana went to the playground to play football. While playing a piece of rusty iron pierced into his foot. So Rana got seriously ill and soon died. Rana’s mother was very grieved and afflicted. His younger brother consoled his mother saying, “Mother, please do not cry. Jesus also died after he suffered on the cross. During the death of Jesus Mary, His Mother, had unbearable suffering. But she accepted all for our salvation.”

3. At the time of Jesus’ suffering on the Cross who came to console him and thus strengthen him with courage?

4. At the death of her son Rana, his mother is consoled by
   i. Thinking Jesus’ suffering and death
      ii. Listening to the younger son’s consoling words
      iii. Imagining that human death was natural

Which of the following is correct?
   a. i         b. ii
   c. iii     d. i and ii

Creative Questions

1. Philip and John were gossiping at the leisure time of their class day. Philip said, “What a cruel and treacherous man Judah was! Jesus even addressed him as friend.” John said, “It seems you are certainly telling about the incident how Jesus was caught? The incident is certainly surprising and it is not desirable for us.”
   a. Who was Judah Iscariot?
   b. Why did Judah Iscariot handed over Jesus to his enemies?
   c. How can the incident of Judah Iscariot help in the relationship between Philip and John?
   d. “Judas was an unkind betrayer. But Jesus called him a friend.” Explain the meaning of the statement.
2. Rubel and Dollar are two friends. They were discussing about death. Rubel said, “How brutal an act it was to take Jesus to Calvary and crucify Him! During His unbearable suffering Jesus said to His Father, “Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” Dollar said, “Jesus was very compassionate.”

a. What is a Cross?
b. Why was Jesus crucified?
c. What did Rubel and Dollar realize from the death of Jesus? Describe.
d. “Lord, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.” – Explain.
2012 ACADEMIC YEAR

দয়ালু যারা, ধন্য তারা
- বাইবেল

বঙ্গবন্ধুর স্মৃতি - দারিদ্র্য ও নিরক্ষরতামূলক সোনার বাঙ্গালিদেশ গড়তে নিজেদের যোগ্য নাগরিক হিসাবে গড়ে তোলে
- মানীন্দ্র প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

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