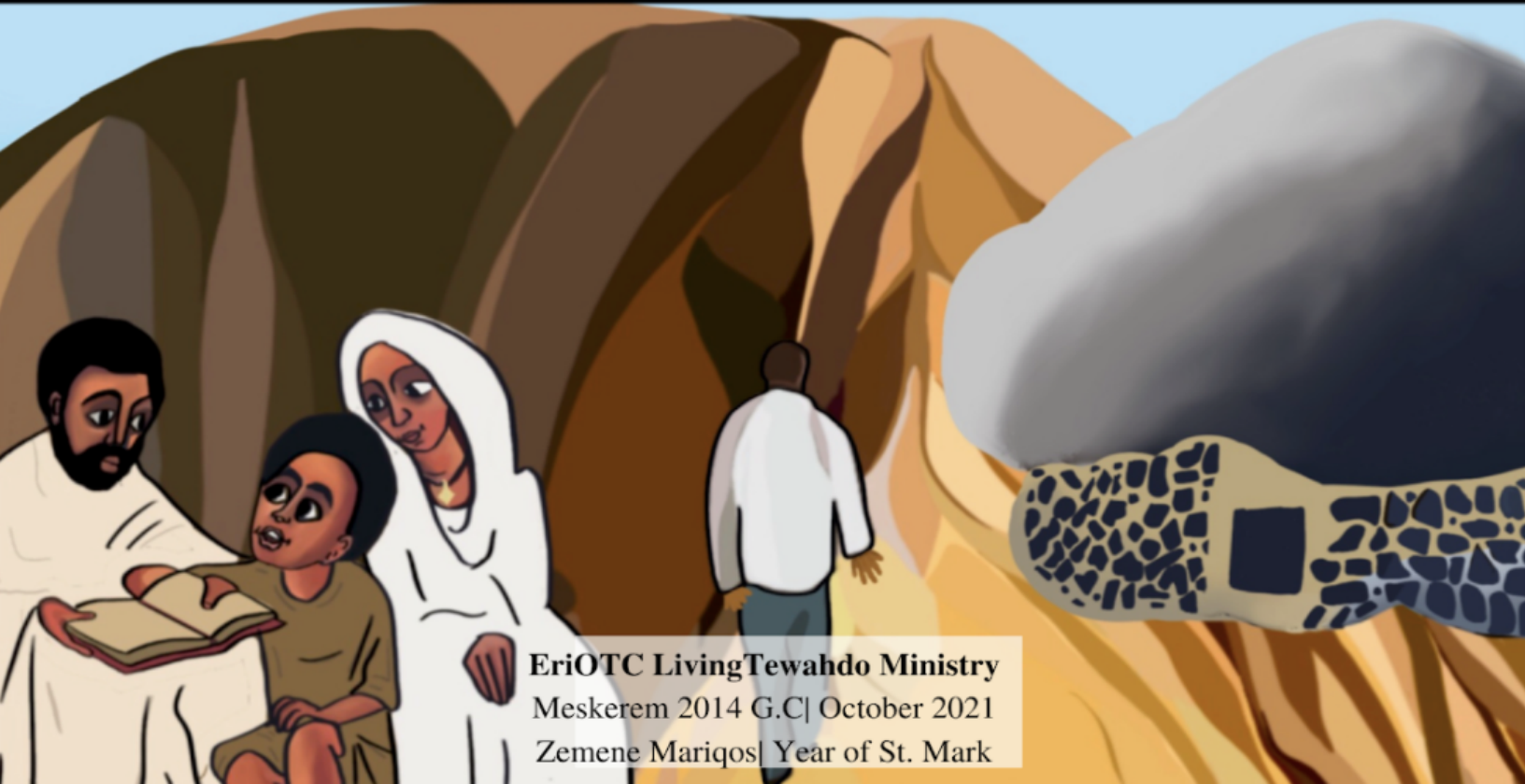




Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Diocese of North America

Sunday School Curriculum

Grade 5 | Life of Faith & Trust in God
Children of St. George



EriOTC LivingTewahdo Ministry
 Meskerem 2014 G.C| October 2021
 Zemene Mariqos| Year of St. Mark

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**By The Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church Sunday School
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H.H Pope Qierlos I the 5th Patriarch of Eritrea

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Preface

Knowing the great impact of the Sunday School in the development of our spiritual lives, especially that of the children and youth, the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Diocese of the United States & Canada felt the need for an improved Sunday School Curriculum. The aim of the lessons is to address modern day challenges encountered in the diaspora, while teaching the methods of the church in addressing these issues. These lessons were brought from the Old & New Testaments of the Holy Bible, the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Synaxarium, the History of the Monasteries of Eritrea, and the Book of Tsome Digua of St Yared.

The goals of this Curriculum:

- ❖ To preserve what it means to be Tewahdo, and ensure the continuance of the knowledge and capability to explain and defend the Orthodox faith in times of trial.
- ❖ Although unworthy, Christ called us all to be His disciples, teaching servantry as Christ first taught us. This must be a habit of ours to pass on as Sunday School servants--to serve God through service to one another.
- ❖ To develop firm relationships with Christ and His saints, becoming in communion with the Church Triumphant.
- ❖ The foundation NEEDS to be laid with the children FIRST so that the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Christian values can form in their life and personality to continue the faith of our fathers in the coming generations.

We pray that this curriculum can be a tool for the enhancement of our knowledge of our beloved church, and that God may reward every servant for their time and for the use of their talents, thirty, sixty, and hundred fold for their effort in the completion of this Curriculum. Glory be to God, His Holy Virgin Mother, and His Precious Cross, Amen.

“Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have greater wealth and glory than riches can provide. If a child learns a trade, or is highly educated for a lucrative profession, all this is nothing compared to the art of detachment from riches; if you want to make your child rich, teach him this. He is truly rich who does not desire great possessions, or surround himself with wealth, but who requires nothing...Don't think that only monks need to learn the Bible; Children about to go out into the world stand in greater need of Scriptural knowledge.”

+ St. John Chrysostom



Introduction

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”
3 John 1:4

This grade 5 Sunday school curriculum has been prepared for the children in the diaspora to learn from, as the order of the lessons follow the major events in our church, under the various seasons. The order of the lessons begins at the beginning of our church calendar, the first Sunday of Meskerem, September in the Gregorian calendar. The lessons are ordered as follows:

4 lessons for the beginning of New Year | September (Zemene Kiremt)
8 lessons for Zemene Tsigie | months of October – November [The last week is not specifically in the season]
6 lessons for Zemene Astemhiro | December & Early January
5 lessons for Zemene Asteriyo | January - February
8 lessons for the Great Fast
5 lessons for the period between Resurrection and the Feast of the Pentecost –
4 lessons after the Pentecost – The Apostle’s Fast
9 lessons for the Zemene Kiremt | The Rainy Season
3 Filler lessons

Although there are 3 filler lessons, they can be used at the end of the year for the sake of unity in all the churches. All the lessons are for the Sunday preceding a holiday, when there is one during that season. May God guide us all to use the lessons for the edification of us all, and the future of the church.

The New Year (Zemene Kiremt Cont.)

1. St. John the Baptist | Celebrations
2. Holding Our Tongue
3. The Holy Cross | Our Flag
4. Departure of Abune Ewostatiewos

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

St. John the Baptist | Celebrations

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To courageously witness truth and their faith.
- ❖ To learn the true way of celebrating birthdays and holidays.
- ❖ To understand that we should always praise God in everything that we do.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Matthew 14:1-12
- ❖ Luke 1:5-23
- ❖ Synaxarium 2nd of Meskerem.

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. Who can tell us the memory verse from last week?
3. How do you think we should celebrate birthdays/baptism's/holidays?
 - a. In everything we celebrate we should praise Him! That is what He created us to do.
4. How would you define sin to someone who has never heard of it before?
 - a. Anything that leads you away from God, anything that is opposite of what He created
5. What should we do when we are happy? (praise God!) What about when we are sad?
6. In everything that we do, what does God teach us that we should do at all times?
 - a. Praise Him!

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Give the kids an example where God surprised you in your life where you weren't expecting it.
- ❖ Show them the icon of John the Baptist, and His head after he was beheaded & a picture of a Locust.
- ❖ Today we are going to learn about a great saint, St. John the Baptist; and about a king who celebrated his birthday in vain.

MEMORY VERSE:

“He must never drink wine or strong drink; he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 1:15

OUTLINE:

In the land of Judea there was a priest named Zachariah and his wife's Elizabeth. Zachariah and Elizabeth were a Jewish couple who pleased God. Zacharias was a priest who served in the Temple, and one day, while he was serving in the Temple, an angel appeared to him.

He was frightened, but the angel said, don't be afraid, your prayer has been answered. Your wife will bear a son, who you will name John. Now Elizabeth conceived and bore a child and they named the child John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

And When Herod the king of Judah ordered all children to be killed, the soldiers came to Zachariah and asked him to give them his child, he told them to wait until he brought the child, Zachariah then took the child to the Temple and left him there. He then told the soldiers that the child was inside the temple, and when they tried to take the child; an angel of the Lord came and took the child to the wilderness.

John did not live in cities, but in the wilderness, eating locusts and honey, wearing animal skins, and teaching repentance. On this holiday, we commemorate the forerunner and great prophet, St. John the Baptist, son of Zachariah the priest, who was martyred by the order of King Herod. When St. John rebuked Herod because of Herodias. Herodias was the wife of his brother Phillip whom he had taken as a wife, and St. John said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." (Mark: 6:18). So Herod seized the Saint and cast him into prison; however, he still feared John and an uprising by his followers.

An opportune day came when Herod, on his birthday, gave a feast for his nobles, the high ranking officers and the chief men of Galilee. And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced and pleased Herod. He promised her anything she might ask for, even as much as half of his kingdom. She went to her mother and asked her, "What shall I ask?" Her mother said, "Ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter." When Herod heard this, he was exceedingly sorry. But because of his promise and those who were sitting with him, he did not want to refuse her request. He therefore commanded his servants to cut off the head of Saint John and they gave it to the damsel and the damsel gave it to her mother. (Mark 6:20-28) There was great consternation that day, and their joy soon turned into sorrow. It was said that when the holy head of St. John was cut off, it flew up off their hands into the air, and it cried out saying, "It is not right for you to take your brother's wife."

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Let us be like St. John the Baptist, and never be afraid to tell people that we are Christian. Let us celebrate our birthday by praying and singing spiritual songs for it is not good to celebrate our birthday singing music. We should thank God for creating us!

Q&A:

1. Can you think of another time that children were ordered to be killed?
 - a. The pharaoh ordered the death of all little children during the time of Moses
2. What did Zacharias the Priest see in the temple?
 - a. He saw an angel
3. What did Zacharias do when the soldiers came to kill the child John?
 - a. Zacharias took him to the temple and told the soldiers they could retrieve him from there, but the angel took him to the wilderness
4. Where did St. John live?
 - a. St. John dwelt in the wilderness
5. What did St. John say to king Herod?
 - a. St. John told him that he could not have his brother's wife.
6. What is the oath (promise) of the king to the daughter Herodias?
 - a. Herod promised Herodias she could have anything she asked for since she danced for him.
7. What happened to the head of St. John?
 - a. St. John's head after being beheaded flew and preached the word of God for 15 years.

8. How are you going to celebrate your birthday?
 - a. (Children's response)-(e.g. Singing mezmur, praising God)
9. What is St. John the Baptist known as?
 - a. Baptiser of the Divine, Priest, Teacher, Martyr, Apostle, Righteous

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ The next time you go to an event, a birthday, or gathering of any sort, try to sing mezmur and have fun praising God!

HYMN:

ተፈኖክ (፩)

ታርኩ ለናቅጽ ጽድቅ (፩)

Tefenoke 4x

Tarhu anaqitse tsidq 4x

ተላሊክካ ናይ ጽድቁ ማፃፀ ክትከፍቶ

You were sent 4x

To open the gates of righteousness 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Holding Our Tongue

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn how we can be watchful of the words we use and how we talk with people.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Luke 18:9-14
- ❖ James 3:1-12

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember learning last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What do you think is the biggest thing that can hurt you?
4. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me" What do you think of this saying? Is it true?
5. How small is the tongue? One of the smallest organs, but it hurts us so much!

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Today we will talk about our words, and how much God is displeased when we hurt our brothers and sisters, His children, with our mouths.

MEMORY VERSE:

"With it we bless our God and Father, & with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God."

James 3:9

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read Luke 18:9-14

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

We see here how much the tax collector sees his mistakes and he does not say rude things about others, while the person who was supposed to be a leader, and was supposed to be praying, was saying great things about himself, and rude things about the tax collector.

Have one of the children read James 3:1-5

"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things."

Do we see how small our tongues are? But look how much it does! Besides eating, it hurts others by saying hurtful things. We are rude and talk back to our parents, we make fun of our friends if they don't have the same things as us. We are rude to people because they are skinnier or more chubby.

- ❖ If your mom heard your friend say something mean to you, what would she say?
 - She would be angry! And maybe yell at the person. What do you think God says when we hurt someone He loves? When we hurt His children? He created us all, and He loves us all. So when we hurt others we are hurting our father too!

Have one of the children read James 3:6-12

“See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.”

- ❖ How did a small fire affect a tree?
 - It was so small but it grew and destroyed even a large forest!

Have one of the children read Proverbs 15:1

“A gentle answer turns away wrath; but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We must always remember to watch what we say. We should always remember how much it hurts us whenever someone makes fun of us, or hurts our feelings. Even though falling or tripping on the ground hurts us, we know that people saying mean things to us hurts us. And sometimes words hurt us even more! We need to always think before we speak, so that we don't hurt others.

Q&A:

1. How are we supposed to control our words?
 - a. Don't speak until you **think** about what you are going to say!
2. What problems can happen when we say the wrong things?
 - a. We can hurt our brothers and sisters, God is sad just like our parents are mad when we are the ones being bullied.
3. What was the memory verse?
 - a. “With it we bless our God and Father, & with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.” James 3:9

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ This week, each day write down how you spoke to others, were you kind? Were you rude to your parents, friends or teachers? Reflect back and think about how your words helped or hurt others.

HYMN:

እግዚአብሔር ሀብን ልሳን ጥበብ (፪)

ከመ ናለምር ሕጋ(፪) ለቤተክርስቲያን (፪)

Igzābhier habene lisane Tibeb 2x

keme na-imir higa 2x le-bietekrstīyan (2x)

እግዚአብሔር ሃብና ልሳን ንጥበብን

ናይ ቤተ ክርስቲያን ሕጋ ምእንቲ ክንፈልጥ

Igzābhier habena lisanin Tibebin

nay biete kristīyan higa mi'intī kinfeliT
God give us a tongue of wisdom 2x
So that we may understand the laws 2x of the church 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Holy Cross | Our Flag

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the history of the feast of the Finding of the True Cross.
- ❖ To learn the meaning of wearing the Holy Cross.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Synaxarium 16th & 17th day of Meskerem (Ge'ez Calendar)

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. Who can tell us the memory verse from last week?
3. Why do we wear a cross on our necks? (Ask everyone to take out his or her crosses.)
4. What does it mean when a country has a flag? (It is showing their identity! It shows them who they are!)
5. What is the flag or banner of Christianity? (The holy cross! And we wear it to show the symbol that God loved)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Queen Helena &/or If you find someone without a cross on his neck and tell him to meet you at the end of the class or give him one the following week. (This is a great opportunity to develop a relationship with the child. Remember a child measures love by receiving something from someone.)

MEMORY VERSE:

“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Galatians 6:14

OUTLINE:

On this day took place the consecration of the Church, and the Sanctuary, and the grave of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be all praise, in the holy city of Jerusalem, and of all the holy places which Helena, the empress, laid bare. Now the blessed woman Queen Helena took a large sum of his money, and she said to her son Constantine, “I wish to be blessed by God..and I will seek for and discover the wood of the Life-giving Cross.”

After the Lord was risen from the dead and ascended to heaven. His Cross in which he was buried used to make miracles. It was because of the many signs and wonders, which were made manifest at the holy tomb of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the dead were raised, and the paralytics were healed, and the sick were made whole. And because of these things the Jews were furiously angry, and they sent forth a decree throughout all the country of Judea and Jerusalem ordering that every man should cast the sweepings of his house, and the ashes, and trash of every kind on top of the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. They continued to do so for more than 300 years, until it became a very big heap. The holy woman, the Empress Helena, beloved of God, mother of the righteous Emperor Constantine, made an oath to the Lord to Go and search for the cross of the Lord. When her son Constantine became an Emperor she went to Jerusalem to take the blessing by visiting the tomb of the Lord. She also wanted to find the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When St. Helena arrived in Jerusalem, she went around asking the elders the whereabouts of the Holy Cross. In doing so, after asking many Jews who would not tell her, one of the elders who was an old Jew called Qiryacos - a believer of the true cross, told her the true cross is buried under the mountain or hill of trash. The hill was very big so she asked how she would know where to start digging to find the true cross. As a result, Qiryacos suggested that St. Helena should pray and raise incense (iTan). As Qiryacos suggested, it was done and when the incense burned, the smoke went up to the sky and down to where the true cross was buried. That was a sign from God, therefore, starting Meskerem/September 17 G.C they started to dig for 6 months, until Megabit/March 10 G.C and at that date the true cross was discovered.

❖ What did they do to find the true Cross?

➤ Prayed and raised incense

And she built a beautiful church for it, and she consecrated it, and she made a great festival in honor of it, on the 17th day of Meskerem, She ordered the removal of the hill of pile and three Crosses were found. They found three crosses on the pile. Queen Helena wanted to know which of the three was the true cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. since the Cross of the Lord makes miracles. The man Qiryacos told her to try the three crosses on a dead person; and the one that raises the dead person will be the cross of the Lord. She tried it on the two crosses but no miracle happened. But on the third Cross once they put a dead person that person came back to life. Then they healed many sick people and were cured by the cross of Jesus Christ. The cross was shining, and light was coming out of it. That day all the Christians were very glad and were singing and kissing the cross.

Queen Helena glorified with great praises, and commanded her men to build the altar of the sanctuary, and shrines Golgotha, and Bethlehem, and the cave where our Lord Jesus Christ was born, and the fortress of Zion, and Gethsemane where the body of our Lady the Holy Virgin Mary was buried, and the Mount of Olives, and all the holy places.

On that day there was joy, the kind that had never existed before. They performed the appointed service, and they consecrated the Holy Offerings, and they partook of the Holy Mysteries, and a great light appeared, and many signs happened on that day, the 16th of Meskerem G.C. And they marched round into all the holy places with the Honorable Cross, and they worshiped God there, and they received the Holy Mysteries, and they adored the Honorable Cross and sang litanies to, and then they departed to their countries in peace.

The cross is the banner of Christians. By the cross we destroy the power of the devil. The cross for us is the power of God. That's why we always make the sign of the cross when we start our prayer; when we eat we bless our food with the cross.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Let's always remember the power of the Holy Cross. When we wear the cross, we should remember how powerful it is--it is our weapon, our sword that we can fight anything with! When we are scared, we should make the sign of the cross, when we are joyful, and at all times we should make the sign of the cross! If the cross can raise someone who is dead, it can help us with anything!

Q&A:

1. What did the Jews do with the Cross of Christ that was healing people
 - a. They buried it in a pile of trash so people wouldn't come to it.
2. Who searched for the cross of the Lord?

- a. Queen Helena
3. What was St. Helen's son's name?
 - a. Constantine
4. What did the Jews do on the cross and the Tomb of Jesus?
 - a. They buried it under people's trash
5. Who told where the cross was to St. Helen?
 - a. A man by the name of Qiryagos
6. Out of the three crosses; how did they know the right cross of Jesus?
 - a. They put a dead body, and it was raised
7. Where did Queen Helena build sanctuaries?
 - a. At Golgotha, Bethlehem, the cave where Christ was born, fortress of Zion, Gethsemane, and Mt Olives
8. Why do we have/wear a cross on our necks?
 - a. To always have the protection of the Holy Cross
9. What is the banner of Christianity?
 - a. The Holy Cross!
10. Finish the sentence.."May I never boast of .."

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Teach someone outside of your family about your faith, what you believe in, and the importance of prayer by praying with them. Also teach them something you learned that you never knew.

HYMN:

ወረዱ እመስቀሉ (፪)
 እምመስቀሉ ኡብርሃ ለኩሉ እመስቀሉ ለኩሉ ዓለም (፪)
 ኩብ መስቀሉ ወረዱ (፪)
 ብመስቀሉ ንኩሉ ኡብረሁ ብመስቀሉ ንኩሉ ዓለም (፪)
 werido im-mesqelu 2x
 iMesqelu abriha le-kulu iMesqelu le-kulu Alem 2x
He came down from the Cross 2x
With His Cross, He lightened all with His Cross, the whole world 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Departure of Abune Ewostatiewos

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the story of Fr. Ewostatiewos
- ❖ To learn how important it is to discuss God's word with our family.
- ❖ To learn not to hold malice in our hearts
- ❖ To learn the blessing of invoking a saint's name.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Synaxarium 18th day of Sept/Meskerem (Ge'ez Calendar)

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. Who can tell us the memory verse from last week?
3. How do you know your parents, do you talk to them?
4. How many of us pray with our family at home?
5. Do you ever talk to them about God?
6. When someone compliments us, do we feel happy about it? How do you think God would feel if we always talked about Him and praised His name?

CLASS APPLICATION:

- ❖ After learning the story of Abune Ewostatiewos and how he grew up, let the children act out his story.

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show them an icon of Abune Ewostatiewos
- ❖ Today we are going to learn about Abune Ewostatiewos and how his parents raised him well, and his preaching around the world.

MEMORY VERSE:

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

Psalm 37:23

OUTLINE:

The saints are known for praising and glorifying God with all their deeds, each one of them using a different talent or gift given to them by the grace of God. When they depart this earth God glorifies their work because He is delighted in their ways. He makes promises to some of the saints that He will listen to the prayer of the children of men, meaning us, when they pray, give offerings or do something in the name of that saint.

On the 18th of Meskerem in the Ge'ez calendar father Ewostatiewos departed this earth. He was a teacher of the faith and a preacher of the Gospel. The name of his parents was Kristos Mo'A, and his mother was Sine Hywet; and they both were God fearing, and walked in all His judgments. And when he grew up, his father taught him the Psalms of David and the Books of the Church. Then he took him to the monastery of Abba Zacharias, his mother's brother, who when he saw him knew that the grace of God was dwelling upon him, and he taught him all the rules of monasticism, and he arrayed him in the apparel of the angels. And the young man fasted and prayed with such intense devotion that the elders of the monastery were surprised.

After a short time he was anointed as a deacon, and he ministered in the church like St. Stephen the archdeacon. Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared unto him with St. Michael and St. Gabriel, and He embraced him and breathed into his face the Holy Spirit. And He said unto him, “O my beloved Ewostatiewos, I have chosen you from your mother’s womb, and have appointed you to become a teacher of many nations from Eritrea, Ethiopia to Armenia to preach the Gospel without fear and trepidation. And whoever listens to you means they listened to Me; he who rejects you rejects Me.” When our Lord Jesus Christ had said this to him He went up into heaven.

Many men gathered together to him, and they became monks through father Ewostatiewos and became his disciples, and God made manifest through him signs and wonders which were innumerable in opening the eyes of the blind, and in healing the paralytics, and in casting out devils.

After becoming bishop, Abune Ewostatiewos began to preach and many disciples became monks through him, including Abba Absadi, who was appointed chief over the other monks before St. Ewostatiewos passed. While Abune Ewostatiewos was teaching the disciples in the town of Asmara, he left his tooth brushing stick. After traveling a long while he remembered it and sent a disciple to retrieve it, saying: “if it has started to grow, leave it (gidefo) if not bring it to me.” When the disciple returned, he was amazed when the stick had sprouted and started to grow. Because of this, the city where Abune Ewostatiewos left his stick that sprouted into a tree is called Godayf, meaning *we left it*. A church by the name of Debre Medhanit Abune Ewostatiewos was built in his honor.

When he departed to Armenia, he asked some of the sailors to let him embark in the ship and they refused him, and so he cast his head-fillet into the sea, and said a blessing over it in the Name of the Trinity, and made over it the sign of the Cross. Then he got up upon the fillet like upon a ship, and two angels acted as sailors, and our Lord as captain, and they carried over his sons who had no fear of the terror of the sea. And Abune Ewostatiewos said to his sons who were with him, “be careful that you do not have revenge and malice in your hearts; it seems that one of you is about to perish.” And before he had finished uttering these words one of his sons dropped into the sea and drowned because he was treasuring revenge and malice in his heart.

As he was departing to Armenia on a cloth, he saw a poor child cutting wood praying, “Egzio Aytmeharene Kristos,” (Don’t have mercy on Me). Abune heard this and corrected him, telling him that we say “Igizio Meharene Kristos,” (Have mercy on me). Abune. Ewostatiewos then proceeded to sail away. The child forgot the prayer and walked on the water to ask Abuna to correct him, but Abune was surprised and asked the child how he was walking on the sea? The child replied that he was just walking on land, unaware that he was actually walking on water. Abune Ewostatiewos, shocked, tells the child to just remain faithful as he is, and continue praying as he was to reach his destination.

By God’s will they crossed over the sea and came to the country of Armenia, our father Ewostatiewos continued to teach the men of Armenia the canons of the apostles, which are in the ordinance of the Synod until they were all one brotherhood in doctrine. When the time for his departure from this world had come, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared unto him, and made a promise for those who would say his name, and those who would celebrate his commemoration, and those who would write the story of his struggle. And when he died the bishops and priests prepared him for burial with great honor, and many miracles happened through his body.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ This story shows us the importance of prayer! Not only is it our way of speaking directly to our Lord, but it’s the sustenance of our lives. With His grace, what can go against us? What can outshine Him? How can we fill our hearts with His love if we don’t give Him time? Let us remember to pray as a family, so God can bless us, this is one of the first steps to walking in the

steps of God. If we don't talk about our creator with the closest people to us, will we ever talk about Him with others? Let's also remember to not to be jealous of others or angry, this is not how Christ teaches us to be with others. We see how Abune Ewostatiewos was raised by his family, and how that helped him to be closer to God, and how Christ Himself blessed him, and showed him the right path when others rejected him.

Q&A:

1. What did Abune Ewostatiewos grow up doing?
 - a. He grew up learning the psalms, and fasted and prayed regularly with his parents.
2. What did Christ say that Abune Ewostatiewos would do?
 - a. Christ told that Abune Ewostatiewos would "become a teacher of many nations from Eritrea, Ethiopia to Armenia to preach the Gospel without fear and trepidation. And whoever listens to you means they listened to Me; he who rejects you rejects Me."
3. What is the story of how the name of the Church in Eritrea was built, in his honor?
 - a. *Refer to the story.*
4. How did Abune Ewostatiewos arrive in Armenia?
 - a. Abune Ewostatiewos arrived by making a miracle in the sea riding on his head filet, while having Christ as the captain and the archangels help lead the way.
5. What should we do to grow closer to God? Where does it all start?
 - a. It all starts at home! If we want to get closer to God, we must become closer to our parents, and talk to them about Him, as well as our church fathers.
6. What did our Lord Jesus Christ promise to Father Ewostatiewos?
 - a. He would be a teacher of many nations, and preach the gospel. Whoever would listen to Father Ewostatiewos means that they listened to Christ.
7. What is today's memory verse?
 - a. The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Psalm 37:23
8. What do our steps look like? Let's ask: would God be delighted in the direction we are going?
9. Do we talk about God like we want others to say good things about us?

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Let's challenge ourselves and start a bible study with your family! Even just once a week for 20 minutes. When we talk with our parents about the Holy Bible, we learn the story of God's love for us together.
- ❖ We can get our parents blessings, and be led in our school, and in our spiritual life.
- ❖ Remember we need to grow our Body, our Mind and our Spirit!

HYMN:

በመንፈስ የሐውር ኢዎስጣቴዎስ መምህር (፪)

እንበለ ሐመር ጁበ ዘባና ለባሕር (፪)

be-menfes yehawir Ewostatiewos memhir 2x

inbele hamer dībe zibana le-bahr 2x

ብመንፈስ ይከይድ ኢዎስታቴዎስ መምህር (፪)

ብዘይ መርከብ ልዕሊ ዘባና ንባሕረ (፪)

Ewostatiewos the teacher walks by Spirit of faith 2x

Without a boat atop the sea 2x

Season of the Flower | Zemene Tsigie

1. Zemene Tsigie | The Holy Family's Flight
2. The Israelites Lack of Faith
3. Love God: Zacchaeus the Tax Collector
4. Chosen Ones
5. St. Moses the Black
6. St. George the Head of Martyrs | Martyrdom
7. Honor Your Father & Mother
8. Nehemiah | Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Season of the Flower & Intercession

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the Season of the Flower
- ❖ To learn about the sufferings of our Lady & the Holy Family
- ❖ To learn about the importance of intercession

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of Matthew Chp 2
- ❖ Seqoqawe Dingl | Lamentations of the Virgin
- ❖ Mahiliete Tsigie | Chant of the Flower (St. Mary)
- ❖ Metshafe Digua | Book of Hymns of St. Yared (Sunday Mezmur)
- ❖ Gedamat Eritrea | Monasteries of Eritrea

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Have you ever asked someone to pray for you?
4. Have you ever heard of the word intercession?
5. Who would we go to if we want to be great at gymnastics? An olympic gymnast.
6. Who would we go to if we want to be great at throwing a football? An NFL Quarterback.
7. Who do we go to when we want to be nicer, more kind, more generous? To the saints!

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of The Holy Family's Flight to Egypt.
- ❖ Today we will discuss the season of the flower, and what it represents. We will also learn what it means to pray for someone.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And out of Egypt I called my son;."
Hosea 11:1

OUTLINE:

In our church, this season is known as Zemene Tsige meaning The Season of the Flower, during this time, there is a fast known as Tsome Qusqwam meaning Fast of Qusqwam (one of the resting places of St. Mary during the flight from Herod). Tsome qusqwam is a 40 day optional fasting period which begins on Meskerem the 26th and ends Hidar the 5th of the Ge'ez calendar. During this time our church dedicates through fasting, with one's free will, and praying to remember the hunger, thirst, poverty, sadness and all the trouble that St. Mary, the mother of God faced on her journey to Egypt along with St. Joseph and St. Salome with the angel St. Urael guiding them. According to the gospel of Matthew chapter 2 the story goes like this--

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the wise men from the East came to Jerusalem saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? But When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Then Herod, when he called them secretly and sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.' However, Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under. However, Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.' and he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt."

During this season a special hymn, known as Mahilete Tsige, meaning The Chant of Flowers and Seqoqawe Dingil The Lamentation of the Virgin along with the Hymn of St. Yared (Digua) are sung in the church. They start on Saturday evening which lasts until early Sunday when Divine Liturgy begins. We remember this period as a manifestation of the love we have for St. Mary, Mother of God. The prophet Isaiah said "There shall come forth a Rod from the root of Jesse, and a flower shall grow out his root." (Isaiah 11:1) This is why our church's scholars symbolize our Mother St. Mary by the flower and our Lord and savior Jesus Christ by fruit. During this season we commemorate our Virgin Mary who gave us the true eternal Fruit of life by remembering her suffering, hunger, thirst and hardship during her journey to Egypt.

While our Lady the Virgin Mary, was fleeing King Herod from Bethlehem to Egypt, and when she could not find food or drink, her beloved son Jesus Christ led her to a blessed people that were welcoming of guests, in the town of Nagran (Nakfa). In the time of King Bazien on the 1st of Ginbot with St. Joseph and Selomie, the Holy family headed to this city arriving at Debre Sihat. They arrived at Debre Sina, the now holy rock, or welensa and our Lord through his holy hands created an entrance and windows, and through this miraculous deed they stayed in the welensa.

❖ Let's repeat: "And out of Egypt I called my son." Hosea 11:1

APPLICATION:

We believe St. Mary is the true intercessor we can rely on, and through which we can obtain from God the strength and grace needed for our lives as our forefathers-the apostles did. We know she is the gate of hope for the needy, the weary, and the sick for her intercession is guaranteed to work through the love of Christ for Her and to us. And till the end of the time, our church and her children will plead to her asking Her son for forgiveness.

Knowing the trouble that Saint Mary, the Mother of God had during this month, we as believers should have the sense of feeling what St. Mary had gone through during the journey. During this period, our church specifically asks St. Mary to intercede between us sinners and the Holy God. And like our forefathers, we should have the continuous habit of praying to her and asking for her to intercede for us May Her intercession and blessings be with us now and forever. Amen.

Q&A:

1. Who accompanied St. Mary during her journey?
 - a. Baby Jesus, St. Joseph the elderly, Selomie & St. Urael
2. Why did the Holy Family flee to Egypt?
 - a. The Holy Family fled to Egypt because King Herod was looking to kill baby Jesus
3. How did the Holy Family know that King Herod was going to kill baby Jesus?
 - a. The angel of the Lord spoke to St. Joseph in a dream telling him to take the family and flee.
4. What are the three hymns sung during this fast period?
 - a. The Hymn of St. Yared (Digua), Mahilete Tsigie (The Chant of flowers), and Seqoqawe Dingil (The Lamentation of the Virgin)

CHALLENGE!

- ❖ Read the Praises of the Virgin (Widasie Maryam) each day. It can be in the night time or when you wake up, but challenge yourself to read the praises of the virgin during this time so we can remember the suffering that our Lady St. Mary went through in the desert for the sake of her beloved Son.

HYMN:

ትዌድሶ ሙርግት ወትብሎ (፪)

ወልድ ኦኑየ ቃልከ ኦዓም (፪)

tiwiedso merAt we-tiblo 2x

“weld ihuye qalike Adam” 2x

She (the bride) praises him saying this to her groom 2x

“My beloved your words are pleasant” 2x

መኃልየ መኃልይ ፪፥፲፬

Song of Songs 2:14

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Israelites lack of Faith

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the story of the Israelites and learn what it means to have faith.
- ❖ To learn how to trust in God, and not complain.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Numbers Chp 13, 14

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. Who can tell us the memory verse?
3. Who are the Israelites?
4. What do you remember about what God did for them?
5. What do we say when our parents ask us to do something? Do we whine, or are we excited to do it?
6. When is a time that you asked God to help you or guide you with something, and you saw how He helped you?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord"
Exodus 16:7

OUTLINE:

The Israelites were God's people, He freed them from slavery, parting the red sea, provided manna for them when they were hungry, and through Moses provided them water when they were thirsty.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them."

And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

"So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who were* among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord *is* with us. Do not fear them.”

And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel. Then the Lord said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? I will strike them with pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make you a nation greater and mightier than they.”

❖ Let’s say it together "And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord" Exodus 16:7

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Let’s remember that we need to trust God, and obey His commandments, by doing this we can be blessed like the many blessings that the Israelites received. After God continues to bless you we should see that He is always faithful and we will see His glory because He always hears our problems and helps us!

Q&A:

1. What do we see the Israelites doing here?
 - a. They keep complaining! God saved them from slavery and torture, He gave them Manna--the food of the heavens, and divided an ocean from them, but they didn’t appreciate it!
2. What about us, do we complain when we have too much homework? Or when we have to clean, or do something for our parents?
 - a. We must be grateful and always trust that God gives us everything for a reason. We should always be happy to help our parents.

CHALLENGE!

- ❖ Write down on a sheet of paper all the things God has blessed you with, and hang it in your room to always remember it, keep adding.

HYMN:

በመስቀልክ ርድእነ (፪) ወበኃይልክ ተማገፀነ (፪)

ቆላ ፪፥፳፭

be-mesqelike ridAne 2x webe-haylke temahtsene 4x

With Your Cross help us 2x And by Your strength we can trust 4x Col 2:8-15

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Love God | Serve Others: Zacchaeus

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn what it means to truly love God, and follow His commandment.
- ❖ To learn what it means to serve others.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of St. Luke 19
- ❖ Gospel of St. Matthew 25:35-40

PRE-LESSON QUESTION:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What do you do when guests come over?
4. What do you see your parents doing?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Today we will be learning about Zacchaeus the short and what it means to serve others.
- ❖ Have the children practice serving each other food or snacks, alternating each week.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.”
Matthew 25:40

OUTLINE:

“Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Remember what Christ's words were: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to *You*?’ And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.” Just as salvation came to the house of Zacchaeus, and came to seek out and to save the lost.” Christ wants us to open our hearts to everyone, and show love to one another, and seek out those that are not joining us at church.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Have you been showing love to your family? To your siblings? What about when guests come over? Zacchaeus loved God so much that he took Him to his house and provided for Him.
- ❖ The greatest commandment that Christ gave us is Love. Asking us to love God, and to love one another, like the love that He showed us on the Cross.

- ❖ The Lord is compassionate and loving, he loves to save sinners and hates no one. Though all of the people of Jericho hated Zacchaeus, the Lord Jesus Christ used to love him, and He loves us too.

Q&A:

1. Where was Zacchaeus when our Lord Jesus Christ saw him?
 - a. On a sycamore tree
2. What was Zacchaeus doing/working on in Jericho?
 - a. He was a chief tax collector & was rich
3. What were the people saying when Jesus entered the house of Zacchaeus?
 - a. They complained
4. What did Zacchaeus do to see Jesus? And why?
 - a. He climbed up a tree to see Him. He wanted to see the savior.
5. Let's finish the sentence: Repeat "Inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me..." Mark 25:40

CHALLENGE?:

- ❖ When guests come to our house, instead of playing in our rooms, we should welcome them with our parents, help our parents serve our guests, show them the love that Zacchaeus showed Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Remember what Christ's words were: "for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;... 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

HYMN:

እስመ ተፋቅሮ ይኒይስ እምክሉ ምግባር (፪)
 እዘዘነ ጳውሎስ መምህር (፪)
 ፍቅሪ ይሓይሽ ካብ ኩሉ ነገር (፪)
 ኢሉ ኣዚዙና ጳውሎስ መምህር (፪)
 isme tefaqiro yihieyis im-kulu neger 2x
 azezene pawilos mem'hir 2x
 Fiqrī yihayish kab kulu neger 2x
 Ilu azīzina pawilos mem'hir 2x
To love is greater than all 2x
He tells us, St. Paul our teacher 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Chosen Ones

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn that we are chosen ones of Christ.
- ❖ To learn about different saints and the talents they were given to serve God.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ 1st Samuel 16:1-13

CLASS INTERACTION:

- ❖ Give each student a small cup of skittles. Tell them to separate their favorite color or the best color from the group of skittles. They are “choosing the best”
- ❖ Have the students take turns reading the scripture.

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week’s memory verse?
3. Why do we have a favorite color, or maybe favorite color m&m, or skittles?
4. How do you feel when you are good at something? Soccer, basketball, drawing, listening
5. How would you feel if Christ came and picked you to be his son because of one thing that you always do?
6. What people can we name that were chosen by God for different reasons?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ We will learn about being chosen by God, in the eyes of the Lord we are all worthy to be called.
- ❖ If God chose us specifically for something, we would be excited, and honored. We would feel special because we feel chosen. Just as each of the saints had a specific task, in how they praised God while on this earth, we also have a special task. We each set out to be different from the rest of the world. Let’s look at some examples.

MEMORY VERSE:

“For man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”

1st Samuel 16:7

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read 1st Samuel 16:1-7

Now in the time of King Saul, the Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.”

And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears *it*, he will kill me.” But the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you.”

So Samuel did what the Lord said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, “Surely the Lord’s anointed *is* before Him!” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For *the Lord does not see* as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

- ❖ What did Samuel say? “For the Lord does not see as man sees...”

Have one of the children read 1st Samuel 16:8-13

So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.”

And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.” So he sent and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this *is* the one!” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.”

- ❖ God did not see the physical work that David did, or how he looked like, but the purity inside His heart. He saw someone that was trying His best to do good.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We are supposed to be different from the world, Christ wants all of us to look like Him, and knows that we can be His chosen ones like His saints. To be like this he wants us to choose Him like He chose us, and as David and the Saints chose Him. They did this by always searching for His heart, for what He would do whenever they are in trouble.

Q&A:

1. How do we know who God chooses?
 - a. How many different ways are there for us to talk to each other? (phone, email, texting, sign language, brail) Many ways, and just like there are many ways for us to talk to each other, God speaks to us in a lot of ways
2. Do we have to choose him back?
 - a. Yes, because God doesn't force us to be with Him, but He gave us free will to choose Him.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write one thing that is holding you back from choosing God, and pray before you are about to figure out what it is. Is it when you talk back to your parents, or maybe not listening to when your siblings are talking to you. Are you being mean to someone in school? Think about what is making us far from God?

HYMN:

ለዳድታን ኃረየሙ ውሉድየ ይቤለሙ (፪)

ኀበ ዓምደ ወርቅ ተጽሕፈ ስምሙ (፪)

le-tsad'qan hareyomu wiludiye yibielomu 2x

habe amde werq tets'hife simomu 2x

He chose the righteous and He called them His Sons 2x

On a pillar of Gold their names are written 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

St. Moses the Black

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the commandments of not stealing and killing.
- ❖ To learn the forgiveness of our God, and apply it in our lives.
- ❖ To learn what it means to truly search for God in our life and find Him.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Synaxarium Sene 24

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What were some of the 10 commandments that God gave Moses and the Israelites?
4. Have you ever looked for something and you couldn't find it? (Who ended up finding it?)
5. If you don't seek God, how will we know what is right and wrong?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show them an icon of St. Moses the black
- ❖ Today we will learn about Moses, his search for God, and his devotion to the faith.

MEMORY VERSE:

"You will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:13

OUTLINE:

"On this day, St. Moses the black, whose life story is remarkable, was martyred on the 24th of Sene. In his early life, St. Moses was a slave to people who worshipped the sun. He was a mighty man who loved to eat and drink excessively. He killed, robbed and committed all evil. No one could stand up before him, or challenge him. On many occasions, he lifted up his eyes to look to the sun and to talk to it saying, 'Oh Sun!! If you are God, let me know it.' Then he said, 'And you O God whom I do not know, let me know you.'"

"Being expelled from servitude to his master because of a murder he committed in his younger days, St. Moses joined himself to a band of robbers which he quickly came to lead due to his extremely harsh character and great physical strength. He became even more of a hardened sinner in this band, as they committed numerous robberies and murders. but by the grace of God he took refuge in a monastery near Alexandria one day to hide from local authorities.

One day, he heard someone saying to him, 'The monks of Wadi El-Natrun know the real God. Go to them and they will tell you.' Instantly, he rose up, girded his sword and went to the wilderness of shiheat. He met St. Isidore the priest, who was frightened when he saw him, because of his appearance. St. Moses comforted him by saying that he came to the monks so that they might let him know the real God. He was overwhelmed by the great piety of the monastic community. He fervently begged them with many tears to allow him to join their community, and eventually the monks were convinced of his sincerity, and he began a life of strict obedience to the abbot.

St. Isidore took him to St. Macarius the Great, who preached to him, taught him the faith and baptized him. He accepted St. Moses as a monk and taught him to live in the wilderness. St. Moses fought a spiritual fight which was greater than that fought by many saints.

However, the devil fought him intensively with his old habits of excessive eating, drinking, and fornication. He informed St. Isidore about everything which came upon him in his fight with the enemy. St. Isidore comforted him and taught him how to overcome the snares of the devil.

It was told about him, that when the elders of the monastery slept, he used to go round to their cells and take their water pots and fill them with water which he brought from a well at a far distance

from the monastery. After many years in spiritual struggle, the devil envied, and struck him with a sore on his foot which made him sick and bed-ridden. When he knew that this was from the devil, he increased in his asceticism and worship, until his body became burnt wood. God looked to his patience, healed his illness, and removed all his pains. The blessing of the Lord came upon him.

After a while, he became the Father and the spiritual guide of 500 brothers, who elected him to be ordained a priest. One day the Barbarians attacked the monastery and killed him with seven other brothers. One of the brethren was hiding, and saw the angel of the Lord, with a crown in his hand standing by and waiting for him. He went out from his hiding place to the Barbarians and he was also martyred.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We see how, even while St. Moses was doing wrong things, even though he struggled with the sins of his past, he always trusted in God. He always sought God all the time. Now even though we might struggle with desiring excess food, or maybe wanting what others have, we should always seek God for Him to help us. We might want the newest XBOX, or the most recent Nike's, the newest outfit, but we must remember that our first priority should be to look for God in everything--when we do this God will make sure to reward with this and so much more!

Q&A:

1. What were the sins that St. Moses the strong was struggling with?
 - a. St. Moses the strong was struggling with gluttony-excess food and drink, with killing and stealing, and with fornication.
2. What was St. Moses looking for, even though he was committing all evil?
 - a. St. Moses was looking for God even while he was committing evil deeds.
3. When St. Moses searched for God with all His heart, how did God respond?
 - a. God revealed himself to St. Moses even with all the acts he did, and helped him through St. Isidore. God is always merciful and waits for us to come back to him with open arms.

CHALLENGE!

- ❖ Tell someone the story of this great saint, what he struggled with and how he overcame it.
- ❖ Write a 5-7 sentence summary about what you learned from St. Moses and how you can apply what you learned in your life everyday.

HYMN:

ሀበኒ እግዚአብሔር አዕይንተ አእምሮ ወትረ ኪዳኑ ይርእያ (፪)

ወእለዛንነሂ ቃለ ዘባሕተትክ ይስምዓ (፪) ቅዱሴ እግዚአብሔር

Habene Igizio a'iynte a'imiro wetre kīyake yiraya 2x

we-a'izaninehī qale ze-bahtūlike yismiA 4x

ሃበና ጎይታና ናይ ምስትውዓል የኒንቲ ኩሉ ጊዜ ንዓካ ዝርእያ (፪)

Oidasie Igzi'i

እለዛና ውን ኮምኡ ናትካ ናይ በይንካ ቃል ዝሰምዓ (፪)

Habena goytana nay mistiwAl yeīntī kulu gīze niAka ziriya 2x

aizana win komu natka nay beynika qal zsemA 2x

Give us Lord eyes of knowledge that always look to you 2x

And ears that listen only to your words 2x

Anaphora of our Lord

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Honor your Father & Mother

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the blessings from obeying our parents.
- ❖ To learn how Abraham obeyed His heavenly father, and how Isaac obeyed his father.
- ❖ To learn how Christ obeyed and respected His mother even when he didn't have to.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Genesis Chp 22:1-17
- ❖ Gospel of John Chp 2:1-5

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What do you do when your mom or dad asks you to do something? Do you immediately do as they say? Or do we complain, saying 'I will do it later'?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Abraham offering Isaac as a sacrifice
- ❖ Today we will be learning what it means to honor our parents

MEMORY VERSE:

"Honor your father, and your mother, which is the first commandment with a promise."
Ephesians 6:1-3

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read Genesis 22:1-5

"Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!'" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

Have one of the children read Genesis 22:6-10

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham, his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son."

- ❖ When Abraham did this, do you know what Isaac said? He told his father to hide his face, so that Abraham would obey God, and wouldn't feel bad when he sacrificed Isaac.
- ❖ This is how much Isaac obeyed his father! He did not even beg him to save his own life! But he wanted to listen to anything his parents told him, especially if it was for God!
- ❖ What do you think will happen next?

Have one of the children read Genesis 22:11-17

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his

eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day, “In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

❖ What did God say He would bless Abraham with?

➤ To be a father of many.

Now we also see that, on the first miracle that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did, was one of obedience. There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do *it*.”

❖ Repeat the verse “Honor your father, and your mother, which is the first commandment with a promise” Ephesians 6:1-3

APPLICATION:

Isaac was not the one to save the world, our Lord, God & Savior Jesus was going to come, and this was a prophecy to teach us all. Let’s look back, did Abraham wait or question God when He asked Him to sacrifice his son? What about Isaac, Did Isaac ask why? Did he question his father? What about us, do we immediately obey our parents or do we question them? This is what Christ wanted to teach us. Now just like the first commandment that had a promise was asking us to obey our parents, God made a promise to Abraham that he would make him the father of many nations.

Q&A:

1. Who provided the true offering? Compare and contrast the old and new testament offerings
 - a. God→ Came down Himself
2. What did Abraham call the place?
 - a. The-Lord-Will-Provide
3. Who is the only begotten Son that would be the true sacrifice for our salvation?
 - a. Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ
4. How did Christ respond to St. Mary, when she asked Him to help them at the wedding?
 - a. He obeyed her
5. Let’s finish the sentence “Honor your father, and your mother..”

CHALLENGE!

- ❖ When our parents ask us to do something, don’t ask them why! Just do it immediately after they ask you.
- ❖ Whenever our siblings ask us to get them something, they can be older or younger, do what they say even though it may be difficult.

HYMN:

ይትባረክ እግዚአብሔር ይትባረክ እግዚአብሔር (፪)

ዘጉብረ ዐቢዩ (፪) እግዚአብሔር [፪]

yit’barek Igziabhier yit’barek Igziabhier 2x

ze-gebre abīye 2x Igziabhier (2x)

May God be blessed 4x

He Who did great things 2x God (2x)

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

St. George | Martyrdom

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the martyrdom that St. George endured and the many people that were saved through St. George.
- ❖ To learn about the importance of intercession, how it can help us come closer to God.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Praises of St. Ephraim for Thursday | Widasi Maryam ze-hamus
- ❖ Synaxarium of 23 Miyazya/April

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Why do you ask your teacher for help when you learn something new?
4. Why do you need any help from your parents when you are a kid, why don't we just teach ourselves?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of St. George with his 7 crowns
- ❖ Today we will talk about St. George the martyrdom and his devotion to the faith.

MEMORY VERSE:

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:12

OUTLINE:

Just like a baby needs help learning how to eat, walk, and talk, we need help on how to get closer to God. This is where the Saints come in, if we don't ask the people who already know how to add and subtract, who would teach us? We ask the saints to teach us how to overcome temptation, and how to become more holy, because Christ already taught them. Now on this day the holy and honored, the great star of the East, St. George, the fighter, became a martyr. The name of the father of this holy man was Anastasius, and he was from the country of Cappadocia; his mother's name was Theobesta, and she was from the country of Palestine. When George was twenty years old his father died, and he rose up and went to the Emperor Diocletian so that he might become a soldier like his father. And he found that the emperor was setting up idols, worshipping them, and compelling all men to worship idols. St. George divided all the riches he had, and gave it to the poor and the needy, and set free his slaves, and he stood up before the emperor, and confessed our Lord Jesus Christ.

The emperor tried to persuade him to reject Christ, and promised him many great honors, but he would not turn to idolatry, and he would not submit to him. And the emperor tortured him with many tortures, but God strengthened him and healed his wounds. God told him that he should die three times for His holy Name, and that each time He would raise him up, but that when he died for the fourth time he should receive the crown of martyrdom. And He promised him that he should inherit great and well-known fame in all the ends of the world, and informed him that he should continue to be tortured for years, and that He would send His angels to minister unto him.

Now the emperor was exceedingly sad and sorry because of all the many tortures which he was inflicting upon Saint George. After this the emperor brought to him a great and powerful magician whose name was Athanasius, and he concocted a cup full of poison, and gave it to that saint to drink, and he thought that he would die as soon as he had drunk it. When Saint George had drunk the cup, he received no injury whatsoever; and the magician believed in our Lord Jesus Christ, and became a martyr.

And the emperor had a saw, and he commanded his soldiers to saw the saint in it, and after dying our Lord Jesus Christ raised him up, and the saint returned to the city. When the people saw this, many of

them believed in our Lord Jesus Christ, and were martyred a total of 30,700 souls. When Saint George stood before the Emperor Diocletian, the emperor said to him, “We wish you to make these thrones where we sit to bring forth leaves, and bear fruit.” And Saint George prayed to God, and they put forth leaves and bore fruit. After this they took Saint George, and boiled him in a brass cauldron, and then threw him out into the desert, but God restored his soul to his body, and raised him up again; and he came back to them and preached the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ What was the first 2 ways that St. George was martyred?
 - Sawed St. George, and the 2nd was by boiling
- ❖ Who believed in Christ after he was poisoned?
 - The magician Athanasius
- ❖ How many people believed after St. George was sawed?
 - 30,700 people

They all marveled and said to him, “If you will raise the dead we shall know that your God is God indeed, and we will believe.” And Saint George prayed to God, and he raised up for them from a cave of very many dead people, both men and women and young people. And these preached the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and told the people about Hell, and the Judgment (or, punishment); and after this they returned to their graves, and died. And when those infidels who were contending against him, and resisting him, they said, “These creatures which you have raised up are unclean spirits; they are Satanic spirits, and not men.” And because of their great sadness and sorrow for Saint George, they committed him to the care of a poor beggar woman. And when the poor woman went out to beg for bread the angel of the Lord brought him a table whereon there were all kinds of good food. And there was in the house of that woman a piece of dry wood, and Saint George prayed to God, and that wood germinated, and put forth leaves, and it became a tall tree with long branches and much foliage.

And when the poor widow came and saw that great miracle, and how that tree had shot up, and the table, she marveled, and she brought her son who was blind, and deaf, and dumb, and a paralytic, and asked the saint to heal him for her. St. George told her the way to God, and she believed in our Lord Jesus Christ. And the saint made the sign of the Cross over the face of the child and he saw right away. And Saint George said to her, “I will that the next time he may be able to hear, and to walk and to speak.”

Now the emperor passed through the city, and saw that tree, and he marveled, and asked questions concerning it. And they told him, saying, “This tree is in the house of the widow where St George dwells.” And the emperor had him brought to him, and his soldiers beat him with very many stripes and crushed his feet, and he died for the third time, and they cast his body outside the city; but God raised him up and he returned to the kings. When the Emperor saw him, he marveled, and was frightened, because of all the tortures to which he had subjected the saint, and he began to speak him fair and he promised to give him his daughter in marriage and to make him the second in the kingdom if he would deny Christ.

Then the saint pretended to promise him,, that he would offer incense to his gods. And the emperor rejoiced, and thought that the saint would do so, and he ran to him, and kissed his head, and brought him into the royal palace. And the saint rose up to pray, and he prayed, and repeated a psalm of David, and the empress, the wife of the emperor, kissed him, and asked him to explain to her what he had read. And he began to make her understand from the time of creation, to the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; and his words entered her heart and she believed in our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the following day an announcement went around calling upon all the men of the city to gather together in order to see Saint George make an offering of incense to the gods. And when the widow heard this, she was exceedingly sorry, and she went out with the multitude to see Saint George make an offering of incense to the idols. And when the saint saw her he rejoiced, and said unto her son, “Go to Apollo, and command him to come to me in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ”; and the widow’s son was healed straightway, and he walked and talked, and he went to the idol, and told him what Saint George had told him to say. And he drove out the Satan that foul spirit, which dwelt in the idol, and brought it to Saint George. And the idol confessed before all the people, saying, “I am not God, but a creature that leads men into error.” And the saint commanded the earth to swallow him up, and straightway the earth swallowed that deceiver.

- ❖ What did St. George say when the Emperor asked him to offer incense to the idols?

- ❖ What does this tell us about using incense outside of the church, are we supposed to or not?
 - We see an example that when we use incense outside of the main reason God created it, we are not honoring God anymore, even if we don't do it on purpose.

Now when St. George did a miracle instead of worshipping their idol, the emperor and all those who were with him were ashamed. And being filled with fury and anger against Saint George, he came to the empress his wife, and she said unto him, "Did I not tell you not to oppose the Galilean? Their God is strong and mighty." And the emperor was exceedingly angry with her, for he knew that Saint George had brought her into the True Faith. And he commanded his soldiers to drag her outside the city, and to cut up her body with a saw, and they did, and she received the crown of martyrdom. Then the kings were afraid because of Saint George, and they advised the Emperor Diocletian to write the order for the soldiers to cut off his head with the sword, so that he might rest from Saint George, the mighty one, the conqueror, rejoiced exceedingly. And he entreated our Lord Jesus Christ to bring down fire from heaven and destroy the 70 kings, so that they might cease from inflicting tribulation upon the Church. And straightway fire came down from heaven, and burnt up the 70 kings and all their soldiers.

Then our Lord Jesus Christ appeared unto Saint George and made many covenants, or promises, with him. And he said unto him, "Whoever commemorates you on the earth I will destroy all his sins. Whosoever is in tribulation, whether by sea or on land, or is sick, and entreats Me in your name, I will deliver him quickly from his tribulation"; having said this He went up into heaven. After this the saint bowed his neck, and they cut off his holy head with the sword, and he received three everlasting crowns of martyrdom in the kingdom of the heavens. And four of his believing slaves took the body of Saint George, and wrapped it up in his apparel, and took it into the city of Lydda, and they built a beautiful church, and laid his body inside, and countless miracles were seen there. Salutation to you, O George, the root of thousands of martyrs. Salutation to the 90 men and 37 women who, when they saw the hidden glory of the heavens revealed at the martyrdom of Saint George, became martyrs. May the intercession and blessings of St. George be with us always. Amen.

APPLICATION:

We know that when we honor the people that God honors, we will be blessed by him. When we ask for the help of the saints that God blessed, we will also be blessed. Let's always remember to plead in the name of their saints and honor their day of martyrdom, just like we remember our family members who passed away. When we light a candle in front of a family member who departed are we worshipping them? No, we are simply remembering them, let us do the same for those who not only passed away but died for Christ and went through many trials and temptations, so they can teach us how to go through trials and tribulations for God also.

Q&A:

1. Who rebuked the idol that the Emperor had?
 - a. The young boy that used to be a paralytic, was deaf, and blind, but St. George healed him.
2. Name two miracles that St. George did?
 - a. Healing the young boy that was paralyzed, deaf, and blind; Bringing forth fruit from the chairs of the thrones; raising people from the dead; Making the idol speak and casting the demon out of it; growing a tree that was dry
3. Let's repeat: "Truly in like manner have the martyrs rejected the desire of this world, and poured out their blood for God, and have endured bitter deaths for the sake of the kingdom of heaven." -St. Ephraim the Syrian
4. What was the memory verse for today? ... "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:12

CHALLENGE

- ❖ Write a couple of sentences in your journal about what you learned about St. George today, and how you will celebrate him. Will you light a candle in his honor? Maybe give an offering to the church in his name? Or maybe plan to help the poor in his name?

HYMN:

ጊዮርጊስ ሐያል (፪) መስተጋድል

ገባሬ ተአምር (፪) ኮከብ ክብር (፪)

Gīyorgīs hayal 2x mestegadil

gebarie te'amir 2x kokobe kibr 2x

St. George the mighty 2x the soldier of God 2x

Performer of miracles 2x the star of honour 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Nehemiah | Rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the importance of caring for the Church, and the blessings we receive from her.
- ❖ To learn about Nehemiah's love for the house of God.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Nehemiah Chp 2

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Who is the first person you would call when you are in trouble?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Nehemiah.
- ❖ Today we will talk about Nehemiah and how much he cared for the house of God.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."

Nehemiah 2:17

OUTLINE:

Nehemiah was a servant in the Court of the King of Persia... He was the King's cupbearer. This office of royal cupbearer was one of the oldest and highest positions in the Babylonian court. Every person who was royal had a cupbearer, this person selected and tasted the king's wine and was guardian to protect them from any kind of poisoning. This means the King and other royal members have to trust the cupbearer, since he protects them from getting sick or dying.

Nehemiah was a pious man who loved God and God's people who were in Jerusalem... He heard that the people in Jerusalem were in difficulty because of their enemies and that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and cannot protect the city. He was sad. He sat down and wept for the Holy City Jerusalem then he thought, "My tears for the city will not build her walls. The best thing to do is to pray to the Lord". So he prayed, "O Lord, we are sinners but we return to you..my Lord, listen to my prayers..and grant me mercy in the sight of the king".

He waited for a suitable chance to ask the king to allow him to go back to Jerusalem. One day when Nehemiah was pouring wine to give to the king, he felt that the king was watching him and they started this conversation: the King asked "Why are you looking so sad, seeing you are not sick?" Nehemiah responded saying "May your Majesty live forever. How can I help looking sad when the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins and its gates have been destroyed by fire, and its walls need someone to build it?" "What is it that you want?" Said the King. Nehemiah prayed to God and said to the king; "Let me go to Jerusalem, the city of my ancestors, to rebuild it."

Nehemiah felt secure and thanked the Lord who granted him mercy in the eyes of the pagan king. Nehemiah told the king how long he would be gone and the king allowed him to travel and gave him letters to the governors of the provinces through which he would pass to help him in his mission. He also gave him a letter to deliver to the keeper of the royal forests instructing him to give Nehemiah timber needed for building and for the house he would live in.

Nehemiah happily went to Jerusalem and the king sent some army officers and a troop of horsemen with him. He arrived at the city and after resting for three days, on a moony night he went out to have a look at the walls of the city. They were completely ruined. Even the doors were burnt with fire.

The remains of the walls were only heaps of broken stones, dust and ashes. It was clear that nothing could protect the city from the enemies. He went back to the city and called the elders of the people and said to them, "Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem." Some enemies stood against him but Nehemiah's faith was deep and the Lord strengthened his heart. In a short time, all the people decided to build the wall. Although the enemies mocked him, the work continued and half the wall was built. When the enemies saw this, they decided to fight.

Now when Nehemiah knew the enemies' plots against him, he ordered his men to carry arms. He divided his men into two groups: The first group carried arms to guard them and the second group carried their swords and continued building the wall. Some men stood on the wall and others watched the enemies. Some of them blew trumpets when they saw the enemies drawing near. When the enemies knew that their plan was known, they retreated. The men worked for fifty-two days from sunrise to sunset. The Lord blessed them and helped them in answer to Nehemiah's prayer. The wall was built at last and the city was well fortified and its inhabitants were secured and lived in peace inside it.

- ❖ Let's repeat: "Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." Nehemiah 2:17

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Now through Nehemiah and his great desire to build God's temple we see that he relied on God, he trusted God to lead him and open the heart of the pagan king. We see that this wonderful desire that Nehemiah had, helped him to build, fortify and protect the city. Everyone was able to live peacefully inside of it. We should also do the same, we should pick up trash that we see in God's house, we should bring offerings to His home, and we should protect our temple so the enemy doesn't win. We can protect God's temple by fasting, praying, and doing good deeds.

Q&A:

1. Who did Nehemiah trust that would let him rebuild the walls of Jerusalem?
 - a. God! Not the King, he asked God to guide the king, to open the king's heart.
2. How did Nehemiah respond to the news of the walls of Jerusalem being broken down?
 - a. He said "My tears for the city will not build her walls...the best thing to do is to pray to the Lord"
3. Who fought against the Israelites? Who fights against us today?
 - a. The enemies, our enemy the devil fights against us
4. How did the King respond?
 - a. The king let Nehemiah go to the city to rebuild.
5. Why does the enemy fight us, what doesn't he want us to do?
 - a. He fights us because he doesn't want us to build the temple inside of us. He doesn't want us to grow closer to God, he wants us to be ruined like the walls of Jerusalem. He wants us to be lazy, he wants us to be greedy, and he doesn't want us to pray. He doesn't want us to fast. He doesn't want us to do any of these things because he knows that if we do, if we get closer to God, he knows that we can defeat him through God's strength.
6. What about us, what should we do now that we know what the enemy wants us to do?
 - a. We should work against him, and always pray, always fast, not be greedy, and learn to share.
7. Why will this help us?
 - a. We can make sure we can build our temple! We can build the temple inside of us, because the Holy Spirit is in us! We can build the physical church temple and take care of it. We can clean it, and bring offerings to it, we can serve in it and make sure it doesn't get into ruins.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ If you meet anyone that you get frustrated with, immediately pray so that God can change their heart, just like Nehemiah prayed to the King.
- ❖ Have a bible study at home to teach your family the lesson of what Nehemiah did for Jerusalem and how we can protect our house, our temple, our church.

HYMN:

እንተ ተሐንፀት በስሙ ወተቀደሰት በደሙ ቤተክርስቲያን (፪)

ወተላትበት (፪) በዕፀ መስቀሉ እስመ ኃይለ እግዚአብሔር ላዕሊጎ

inte tehintset be-simu wete-qedeset be-demu biete Kristian 2x

wete-atbet 2x be-itse mesqelu isme hayle Igziabhier la'iliene 2x

That was established by His name and made Holy by His Blood – the Church

Marked 2x by His Cross, for God's strength to be over us

Season of Mercy | Zemene Astemhiro

1. Hidar Tsiyon | Our Promise
2. Prophecy of Christ's Birth
3. Jesus Heals a Bleeding Woman
4. The Parable of the Ten Virgins
5. Jesus Heals the Canaanite Woman's Daughter
6. The Nativity | Gifting Others

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Hidar Tsiyon | Our Promise

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the blessings that we receive from our mother St. Mary.
- ❖ To learn about the idols that we worship today and their harms.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Exodus 19
- ❖ 1st Samuel 6

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Who are some people that we are excited to see on tv?
4. What are some examples of the idols that people worship? (golden calf..)
5. Can we think of idols that we worship now that are not objects?
6. What does the word covenant mean?
7. When was the first Ark of the Covenant made?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of the Nigdet.
- ❖ Today we will learn about the Ark of the Covenant, and the promise that was given to St Mary.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

James 4:10

OUTLINE:

Every year our Church celebrates "Hidar Tsion," or the Covenant of Zion on the 21st of Hidar in Ge'ez calendar. It is one of the 33 Holidays that our church has for St. Mary. The history of the Holiday goes back to when God saw the Israelis suffering and led them out of Egypt through the red-sea by the prophet Moses. God gave them the Ark of the Covenant that includes the Ten Commandments so that they can worship him and obey his words. *"and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' Exodus 19:3.* So with the Ark of Covenant with them they started their journey to the Promised Land beating every obstacle that was in front of them.

The bible tells us in many events whenever an enemy comes to the Israelis they would take the Ark of Covenant and by the power of God they were able to defeat all of their enemies. They were even able to take down tower of Jericho (Joshua 6). So through the leadership of different people God lead his people; although they would disobey his commandments at times God always had mercy upon them.

Among the leaders that God had chosen for the people of Israel was Eli the high priest. They fought with Philistines and as usual with the help of the Ark of Covenant, they defeated them several times. However, during the leadership of Eli the Israelis started disobeying God's Commandments. Eli's sons that were chosen to serve the house of the Lord were committing adultery and many sinful things. When another war with the Philistines arose, the Israelis carried the Ark of Covenant to help them defeat their enemies, separated the lake of Jordan, and broke the tower of Jericho to the battlefield. But because their sinful deeds during the war there were a lot of people who died, many were heavily injured, the two sons of Eli died and the Ark of Covenant that was their power and strength got captured by the Philistines

who worshiped idols. When the priest Eli heard that the Ark of Covenant was captured, he fell from his seat and died.

The Philistines placed the Ark of Covenant in the house of dagon their Idol, and the next morning they found dagon on his face kneeling to the Ark of Covenant. There was a lot of death and a lot of problems; and it was getting worse day by day so the Philistines decided to send it back to Israel [1 Samuel 6]. It was in this month that they Ark of Covenant came back to its place, which is why our church celebrates it with great Glory.

Our mother St Mary is called “Tsion”. It means a mount, something that you would hide yourself in. When God told Lot to escape because he was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah he told him: *“Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”* Genesis 19:17.

Our fathers symbolize St. Mary as the mountain that Lot hid in. King David also said *“His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob.”* Psalm 87:1. After stating that our Virgin Mary is the dwelling place of God and that she is also our refuge King David Continued to say *“For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place: This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it”* Psalm 132:13.

Just like the Ark of Covenant is where the commandments of God are written, God the Son dwelled in St. Mary. Qidus Efriem said in widasie Mariam ZeArb (Friday) “You have become the resting-place for the creator of the Heavens and earth.” May the prayers of St. Mary be with us Amen.

Let’s learn the 33 feast days on which we commemorate our Lady St. Mary. All of these feasts are honored equal to the Sabbath.

1. On the 7th of Nehase we celebrate the Conception of St. Mary.
2. Assumption (Filseta), which is celebrated for 6 days, each counted each as a separate feast. Nehase 16- 21. Day 16.
3. Day 17 of celebrating her Assumption
4. Day 18 of celebrating her Assumption
5. Day 19 of celebrating her Assumption
6. Day 20 of celebrating her Assumption
7. Day 21 of celebrating her Assumption
8. On the 23rd of Nehase a church in Jericho was established in her name.
9. On the 10th of Meskerem is the feast of her Icon.
10. On the 21st of Meskerem we celebrate the monthly feast of St. Mary
11. On the 21st of Tiqimfī we celebrate the monthly feast of St. Mary
12. On the 6th of Hidar is the celebration of when she entered Debre Ousqwam.
13. On the 21st of Hidar we celebrate Hidar Tsiyon, celebrating her Covenant.
14. On the 3rd of Tah’sas we celebrate the annual feast of Be’ata Mariyam, her entrance into the temple. We have twelve feasts a year when once a month on the 21st day we commemorate her death or birth in heaven and this makes it 31 feasts in all up to now.
15. On the 21st of Tah’sas we celebrate the monthly commemoration of St. Mary.
16. On the 22nd of Tah’sas we celebrate the annual feast that is St. Deqsiyos did on her behalf.
17. On the 28th of Tah’sas we celebrate the conception of our Lord Jesus Christ by St. Mary during the year of St. John.
 - a. On the 29th of Tah’sas we celebrate the conception of our Lord Jesus Christ by St. Mary during all other year -St. Matthew, St. Mark & St. Luke.
18. On the 21st of Tirī we celebrate the annual celebration of St. Mary’s departure.
19. On the 16th of Yekatīt we celebrate the annual feast of the Covenant of Mercy-Kīdane Mihret.
20. On the 21st of Yekatīt we celebrate the monthly feast of St. Mary.
21. On the 21st of Megabīt we celebrate the monthly feast of St. Mary.
22. On the 29th of Megabīt we celebrate when St. Mary gave birth to our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.
23. On the 21st of Mīyazya we celebrate the monthly feast of St. Mary.
24. On the 1st of Ginbot we celebrate the Birth of St. Mary.
25. On the 21st of Ginbot we celebrate St. Mary’s revelation at Debre Mitmaq.

26. On the 22nd of Ginbot we continue to celebrate St. Mary's revelation at Debre Mitmaq.
27. On the 23rd of Ginbot we continue to celebrate St. Mary's revelation at Debre Mitmaq.
28. On the 24th of Ginbot we celebrate her entrance into Egypt with the Holy Family.
29. On the 25th of Ginbot we celebrate St. Joseph's staff flowering, chosen to care for St. Mary.
30. On the 8th of Sene we celebrate when Christ made water spring forth from a rock to quench her thirst, during the Flight to Egypt. And it now continues to heal the sick.
31. On the 20th of Sene, we celebrate the establishment of a church in St. Mary's name.
32. On the 21st of Sene we celebrate the Liturgy at the church in St. Mary's name.
33. On the 21st of Hamle we celebrate the monthly feast of St. Mary.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Just like God made a promise to help the Israelites, he promised us that He would save us. Zion is the symbolism of St Mary, and He promised us that through a virgin He would save us from death.
- ❖ We should remember that as long as we ask for forgiveness, and plead in the name of St. Mary, God will hear our prayers and protect us in our troubles. He doesn't want our hearts to be misled like the sons of Eli were, but wants us to humble ourselves so that He can lift us up.

Q&A:

1. What does the holiday of Hidar Tsiyon mean? What is it a symbolism of?
 - a. Covenant of Zion, Zion is a symbolism of St. Mary
2. What would happen to the Israelites whenever an enemy came after them?
 - a. God would always protect them
3. What happened to the Ark of Covenant when the sons of Eli the priest were sinning?
 - a. They lost the Ark
4. What did the Philistines see their idol doing?
 - a. It was bowing to the Ark of the Covenant
5. How many celebratory Feast days do we have for St. Mary?
 - a. 33
6. Let's finish this sentence... "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." James 4:10

CHALLENGE!:

- ❖ Write a promise to St. Mary that you will do in her name. We will do it this month and open it at next month's celebration of St. Mary.

HYMN:

መምህረ ቅዱሳን (፪)

አክሊለ ሰማዕት ሰዶሚ ካህናት (፪)

mem'hire qidusan 2x

aklile sema'it seyamī kahinat 4x

Teacher of the Saints 2x

Crowner of the martyrs, appointer of Priests 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Prophecy of Christ's Birth

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the blessing of God leaving His throne for the sake of His creation.
- ❖ To learn how ALL nations were waiting for God to come down to save us.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Isaiah Chp 7
- ❖ Gospel of Luke Chp 1

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from last week's lesson?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Would you leave a mansion to go live in a barn?
4. Let's think, how could God, who created the world, leave His throne for His creation.
5. Would you freely give up your favorite gift, or your favorite pair of shoes, or your favorite dress?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Christ's Nativity
- ❖ Highlight that Holy men of God, prophets, predicted that Christ would be born
- ❖ All nations were living in sin and were waiting for the promised savior

MEMORY VERSE:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Isaiah 7:14

OUTLINE:

God through His prophets told His people that a redeemer would be born. A redeemer means "someone who saves or rescues" The savior is the Son of God, the Lord God Jesus Christ, and all nations were waiting for His birth.

All the prophets used to speak and prophecy about the birth of the savior, and one of them being the prophet Isaiah in chapter 7:14 said: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Have one of the children read Luke 1:26-38

"When the time came the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town called Nazareth, to a virgin from the house of David. "And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!' But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit* will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Now indeed, Elizabeth, your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said,

“Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.””

APPLICATION:

God wants to give us rest and He always says: "if you do not come to Me, I will seek you, run after you, search for you and hold you, and I will keep on doing so until I restore you." So God decided to come down to Earth so that we can live with Him again, so we celebrate Christmas because this is when He came down from Heaven.

- ❖ The angels-imagine how fast they were flying back and forth from the heavens to the earth in awe of Christ. While still in heaven He came down to earth, and was born.
- ❖ It's a mystery how God came down and was so humble to be born in a manger, a barn, warmed by the breath of the animals although He is king. He didn't have a home although he created the home that we live in.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Ask: Unless someone asked us, which one of us would leave playing with our friends, and start doing homework? Most of us wouldn't because we enjoy playing more. But God left His throne and lived on earth! He left His palace to be Here! Challenge yourself this week to do what you DON'T like to do. If you don't enjoy doing it, get out of your comfort zone! Use this blessed Fast of the prophets to get prepared to live with our Lord Jesus Christ! Fast a little longer! Wake up earlier, so you can prepare to accept Christ in your heart

Q&A:

1. What does redeemer mean?
 - a. Someone who saves or rescues
2. What did Isaiah say?
 - a. “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
Isaiah 7:14
3. Teach someone about Jesus Christ being born, and explain how amazing it is.

HYMN:

የጵም ስማያዊ በኃል ሰከበ ለዘተወልደ እምቅድስት ድንግል (፪)

ርእይኦ ፍሎት(፪) እእኮትዎ መላእክት እእኮትዎ መላእክት (፪)

Yom semyawī be-gol sekebe leze-tewelde im-qidist dingl 2x

Ri'iyiwo nolot 2x a'ikotiwo mela'ikt 4x

Today the Heavenly in a manger He slept, that was born from the Holy Virgin 2x

The Shepherds saw Him 2x and the angels praised Him the angels praised Him 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Jesus Heals a Bleeding Woman

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the power of God through his miracles.
- ❖ To learn how our priests represent Christ in the church.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of St. Matthew 5:9:20-22
- ❖ Gospel of St. Mark 5:25-34
- ❖ Gospel of St. Luke 8:43-48

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember about what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Have you ever kissed a cross or the hands of a priest after Divine Liturgy?
4. What are some miracles you know about that God has performed?
5. What do we need so that we can receive the blessing of miracles from Christ? (faith)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Discuss some miracles that Jesus performed that they may know about.
- ❖ Today we will learn of the miracle that Christ did for the bleeding woman, and how our fathers were given the gift to heal, in the name of God.

MEMORY VERSE:

“You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples”

Psalms 77:14

OUTLINE:

There was a woman who was sick and was bleeding for 12 years. She went to doctors and no doctor or any medication could heal the woman. She had spent everything she had and instead of getting better, she just got worse. She heard about Jesus and she came behind Him in a crowd of people. She said to herself “If I just touch His cloak, I will be healed”. She reached to grab His cloak and she was immediately healed. When she touched His cloak, Jesus turned around and said “who touched me?”

All of his disciples denied touching Him and said there was a large crowd and that people might have touched it by accident. Jesus replied by saying “Someone touched me, I know the power has gone out from me.” The woman sat there trembling and fell down before Him and told Him all of her truth and said that the reason she had touched Him was so that she would be healed immediately. Jesus replied to her by saying “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace”.

We can also see when Christ gave this gift to the apostles. St. Paul's gift of healing grace to the ailing was done just by touching his aprons. *“So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs and aprons, and the disease departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.” (Acts 19:12).*

This story is a good example of how we look to our priests as well for healing and look to them as an icon of Christ in our churches. There are stories of people touching the clothing of priests and receiving healing as a result. Our Fathers in the church hold a cross that we kiss and hold their hands out

that we kiss as a symbol of Christ and the priesthood that they received from the apostles, and leading back to Christ.

Our Father's priesthood can be traced all the way back to our Lord and Savior Himself! When priests become ordained, they have the hands of a bishop placed on them. That bishop had another bishop's hands placed on them and that and this goes on all the way back to when Jesus appointed his disciples and apostles to spread His word to people. It is important though that we do what our Fathers teach us but don't do as they do because they are still human beings and God is the only One who represents perfection. Just as Christ is the light of the world our fathers share His light, just as Christ told us: You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matt 5:14)

APPLICATION:

- ❖ (For the teacher) Share personal stories that you have seen of miracles in your church or another
- ❖ The woman was healed because she had a strong faith in Jesus Christ and his ability to heal people. If her faith wasn't recognizable to Jesus, she may have not been healed in the way that she was.

Q&A:

1. Why did Jesus ask who touched His cloak?
 - a. Because He felt someone be healed through Him.
2. Why was she immediately healed? Was it the power of Christ only, or does her faith matter too?
3. How does the strength of our faith relate to being healed?
 - a. "You are the God who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the peoples" Psalms 77:14
4. What was the woman suffering from that she needed healing?
 - a. She was bleeding for 12 years
5. What did Jesus say the woman had a lot of when she was wanting to be healed?
 - a. He said she had a lot of faith and that she will be healed immediately.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write down the memory verse and put it somewhere where you will see it
- ❖ Learn about different miracles Christ has performed

HYMN:

ይትፈሥሑ ዳድቃን የዋሃን ውሉደ ብርሃን (፪)

በትፍሥሕት ዒሉ ውስተ ለድባር (፩)

yit'fesihu tsad'qan yewahan wilude birhan 2x

be-tifsiht ielu wiste adbar 4x

The righteous rejoice, the kind children of light 2x

With joy they went around the mountains 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To understand the importance of always being ready for the second coming.
- ❖ To learn to always be prepared for praising His name.
- ❖ To understand that we must always be in peace with our brethren before Christ can give us His peace.
- ❖ To understand how the foolish and wise virgins represent followers of Christ.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 5:23; 25:1-13

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to be prepared? Do you go to school without your backpack?
2. What about in God's house, should we go without preparing?
3. How can we prepare when we are heading to His house? (Repentance and confession. Be prepared in our heart and body. Are we wearing our best clothes to our Father's house? Did we come prepared with a netsela like the saints in the heavens wearing white? Did we ask our brother or sister that we hurt for forgiveness?)
4. What about when we pray, how are we supposed to prepare?
5. Who can explain anything about the Parable of the Ten Virgins?

MEMORY VERSE:

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come”

Matthew 24:42

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read Matthew 25:1-9

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like the ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

The bridegroom took a while to come and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “No,” They replied ‘there may not be enough for both us and you.’”

- ❖ Why didn’t the 5 virgins share with the others?

Have one of the children read Matthew 25:9-13

Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ But he replied “Truly, I tell you, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

- ❖ What did the bridegroom say when the foolish virgins came late? (Truly, I tell you, I don’t know you) [Did you know back home in Asmara, the doors of the churches are also closed if they started the Divine Liturgy.]
- ❖ What about us, do we come late to church, oversleep, or do we come prepared?

- If we can't prepare to come to church, think how difficult it will be to prepare for when Christ comes down to take us with him.
- ❖ Why did the virgins need lamps? Wasn't the other virgins' lamps enough for everyone? (What do we see our parents bringing to church when they come?--they bring candles, food for the congregation, water to be blessed--we should also bring an offering to God when we come to His house. This is another reason that the virgins needed the lamps.)
- ❖ Let's repeat: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" Matthew 24:42

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Now we see through this parable that we must always be ready for the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must be ready in body and in our hearts. If we are not ready, when we ask to get inside, Christ will reply "Truly, I tell you, I don't know you." We must always maintain a good relationship with God so that He knows us when the second coming happens. We are completely unaware of the hour of the second coming which is a reminder that we must always be ready for the second coming.

Q&A:

1. What does the oil represent in this parable?
 - a. Because the virgins are representing followers of Christ who have not prepared themselves to face Him, He does not know them. If we do not get to know Jesus Christ while we are here on earth, He will not know us when we face Him on judgement day. So the oil represents the Christian faith, and the light represents the deeds that we do.
2. Why does Jesus reply "Truly, I do not know you" to the 5 foolish virgins?
 - a. *Because the 5 foolish virgins were believers but their faith lacks love and christian deeds. As faith without deed is dead, their empty faith can not save them on judgement day.*
3. Who do the 10 virgins represent?
 - a. *All the faithful (half prepared faithful , and half unprepared)*

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write down the goals for how you want to become more prepared for the second coming, what deeds you will do to show the faith that you have in God. Just like the wise virgins came prepared, we must prepare by showing our faith in God through our actions!

HYMN:

ሃሌ ሉያ (፪) ማእከሉን ቁም(፪)

ማእከሉን ቁም(፪) ክርስቶስ ማእከሉን ቁም(፪)

Halie luya 2x ma'ikeliene qome 2x

Ma'ikeliene qum 2x Kristos ma'ikeliene qum 2x

ነቅርቡ (፪) ንኣምላኽ ምስጋና (፪)

ንኣምላኽ ምስጋና (፪) ነቅርቡ ንኣምላኽ ምስጋና

Neq'ribelu 2x ni'Amlak misgana 2x

Ni'Amlak misgana 2x neq'ribelu niAmlak misgana 2x

Hallelujah 2x Christ dwell among us

Among us 2x Christs dwell among us 2x

Let's give an offering 2x of thanks to our Lord 2x

Of thanks to our Lord 2x let's give an offering of thanks to our Lord 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Jesus Heals the Canaanite Woman's daughter

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the importance of faith in God
- ❖ To learn how our lives will be benefited if our faith is strong

REFERENCE:

- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 15:21-28

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember about last week's lesson?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Do you trust that God will help you on your homework or a test when you ask Him? How do you show that you have faith, what do you do?
4. Do you only need to pray for God to help you?
5. What does it look like to have strong faith?
6. Who are some people you know, who demonstrate strong faith in the Bible?
7. What do you think it looks like to have strong faith today?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Jesus healing the Canaanite woman's daughter.
- ❖ Today we will learn about Christ healing the Canaanite Woman's daughter.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him"

Hebrews 11:6

OUTLINE:

When we truly believe God will help us, we wouldn't only ask him whenever we need help, or expect a miracle when we didn't study for our test. How can God help us, if we don't first make the effort. Today we see the story of the Canaanite woman and her faith in Christ. Not only did she believe but she came to him, she didn't wait until Christ randomly came to her house.

Have one of the children read Matthew 15:21-26

"Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

Have one of the children read Matthew 15:27-28

And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

- ❖ What did the woman mean that "even the dogs eat crumbs that fall from their master's table."?

We can learn so many things from this story. When the Canaanite woman asked God for help the first time, He did not say anything in return to her immediately. Most people would see that as a sign to

stop asking for help and just lose their faith in God. Instead, the Canaanite woman continued to ask for help for her daughter. Eventually, God realized how strong her faith was and granted her desires and her daughter was healed in that moment.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ As children of Christ, it is easy to pray and when we don't get an answer immediately, we want to give up and stop strengthening our faith. We must always remember that the goal is always to grow closer to Christ and it starts by strengthening our faith.
- ❖ We can learn a number of things from the Canaanite woman and it is important that we continue to remember her when wanting to strengthen our faith

Q&A:

1. What was wrong with the Canaanite woman's daughter?
 - a. She was possessed with demons and suffering terribly
2. What did Jesus reply to the Canaanite woman when she asked Him to heal her daughter?
 - a. "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Learn about more miracles God has performed.

HYMN:

እልል ንባል ደስ ይበለና ሠናይ ተግባር እዩ ኣምላኽና ጌርልና (፪)

ከነመስግኖ (4) እንታይ ኣሎ ኣምላኽ ዝሰላኖ? (፪)

ilil nibel des yibelena senay tegbar eyu Amlakna gierilna 2x

kene'mesgno (፪) entay alo amlak size'ano? 2x

Let us rejoice and be happy, for our God has done great things for us 2x

Let us praise him 4x What is there that is impossible for our God? 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Nativity | Gifting Others

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the mystery of Christ's birth.
- ❖ To learn about His birth is a gift to everyone.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of St. Luke 2:1-20
- ❖ Synaxarium of Tahisas 29

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was the memory verse from last week?
3. Would you give up your house to live with animals?
4. Where does God live? (Heaven! And He is everywhere too.)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of the Nativity.
- ❖ Today we will talk about the amazing Birth of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved”

John 3:17

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read Luke 2:1-7

“And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Have one of the children read Luke 2:8-13

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And [c]behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

- ❖ What do you think the angels will say?

Have one of the children read Luke 2:14-16

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

- ❖ What do you think the Shepherds will do next?

Have one of the children read Luke 2:17-20

Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.”

- ❖ Let’s repeat together: “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved” John 3:17

APPLICATION:

- ❖ God gave His one and only begotten Son to save us, and help us to join Him in heaven. Jesus Christ came down from heaven so that we can live forever! This is why His birth is the most treasurable gift we have as Christians.
- ❖ We must remember this special gift everyday and must thank God for giving us the greatest gift; His only Son to save the world.

Q&A:

1. What did the angel say to the Shepherds about the birth of Jesus Christ?
 - a. To not be afraid and that His birth is a gift to all of us.
2. Why is Jesus being born a gift to us?
 - a. Jesus was given to us by God to save us from from the sins we will commit

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Teach someone about Nativity and why it is a gift
- ❖ Write the verse down and put it somewhere where you will see it often

HYMN:

ስብሐት ለእግዚአብሔር በሰማያት (፪)

ወሰላም በምድር ሥምረቱ ለሰብእ ሃሌ

ሃሌ ሉያ (፫) አሜን ሃሌ ሉያ (፪) መዝ ፻፵፮. ሉቃ ፪፥፩፻

sibhat leIgziabhier be-semayat 2x

we-selam be-midr simretu le-seb halie halie luya 3x amen halie luya

Glory to God in the highest 2x

Peace on earth, & goodwill towards men, Hallelujah Hallelujah 3x Amen Hallelujah

Psalm 148 & Luke 2:14

Season of Revelation | Zemene Asteriyo

1. Peer Pressure & Social Media
2. Theophany | The Holy Trinity Revealed
3. Intercession | The Saints
4. Fast of Nineveh | Obedience
5. Covenant of Mercy | Kidane Mihret

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Peer Pressure and Social Media

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn how peer pressure and social media can affect our spiritual lives (positively and negatively)
- ❖ To learn how to choose good friends.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Genesis 39:1-23
- ❖ 1st Samuel 20:1-2

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What would we do when our friends ask us to do something uncomfortable in front of other people, and if you didn't do it, you wouldn't have any of your friends at school anymore?
2. What if they asked us to give them only one answer on the homework one day because they didn't know it? It's not a big deal, it's only one question right?
3. What if they only ask you that during a test one day after you said yes to the homework question, what will you do then?
4. When can friends be helpful? When can they hurt us without knowing?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Today we are going to talk about what kind of friends God wants us to have.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm”

Proverbs 13:20

OUTLINE:

Let's think about how we would act, and imagine if you would act the same way if your teacher was in front of you when your friend asked you. Would you say that same thing to your friend? No, we probably wouldn't because we would be afraid of getting in trouble. Now we learn the story of Joseph, who even though he would become like the slaves who were being whipped, he stood his ground and trusted God. We will also see the friendship that Johnathan and David had. We will first begin with Joseph.

Have one of the Children read Genesis 39:1-7

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!” ”

- ❖ What do you think will happen if Joseph says yes? What do you think would happen if he says no? Isn't she his ruler?

Have one of the Children read Genesis 39:8-10

But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house

than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" And though she spoke to Joseph everyday, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make a sport/joke of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

Have one of the Children read Genesis 39:16-23

She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

In the Holy Bible we see an example of how Joseph endured peer pressure, by someone who was in higher authority, and overcame it by trusting God. A good example of friendship, instead of peer pressure that Joseph received, is how David and Johnathan's friendship was trustworthy. That no matter where the evil works came from they still relied on doing good in God's eyes. While learning about them, let's ask, *Do I have any friends that make me think of something that I wouldn't do in front of my parents? Do any of my friends lead me into doing wrong things? What about me, do I lead my friends in a good direction? Would I say these words if Christ was talking with us?*

"Then David fled from Natioth, and went and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?" So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why would my father hide this thing from me? "

❖ King Saul at the time wanted to kill David but hid this from his son Johnathan.

Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father knows that I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, *as* the Lord lives and *as* your soul lives, *there is* but a step between me and death." So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do *it* for you." Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We see how Joseph demonstrates loyalty to what is right in the eyes of God no matter what anyone else thinks. We can learn that regardless of the circumstances, we should only be seeking opportunities to please God, and not people. If Joseph had given into temptation and went to bed with the master's wife, he would be helping her commit adultery which would be a sin against him as well.
- ❖ It is always our choice on whether we give into the pressures of our peers or the world or stay true to God and do what He plans for us. We must choose our peers wisely and not give into negative peer pressure. If we are to use social media, we must make a conscious effort to follow good people, *tewahdo* pages and avoid pages that include sins of the world.

- ❖ Lastly, if we are given an opportunity to do wrong yet we choose the more challenging path that is right in God's eyes, He will bless us abundantly in the way he blessed Joseph even when he was in prison.

Q&A:

1. What is God demonstrating by being with Joseph even though he is in prison?
2. How did Joseph respond when the master's wife told him to come to bed with her?
 - a. He responded that he will not go to bed with her because he is trusted by the master to do what is right and he will not go against him.
3. How did God bless Joseph even after he was put in prison?
 - a. While in prison, God was with him, he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. Joseph was in charge of all of those held in prison and was held responsible for all that was done there.
4. What are some examples of positive peer pressure?
 - a. Someone pressuring you to go to church to learn about God, someone pressuring you to go to a gubae, someone pressuring you to spend more time with your family instead of going out etc.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write some ideas on how you can positively use social media to improve your spiritual life
- ❖ Teach someone about the meaning of today's memory verse.

HYMN:

ሀብኑ እግዚአብሔርን አገኙት አእምሮ ወትረ ኪዳኑ ይርእያ (፪)

ወእለዛንነሂ ቃለ ዘባሕቲትክ ይስመዓ (፩)

habene Igzio a'iyente a'imeru wet're kīyake yiraya 2x

we-a'izaninehi qale ze-bah'titke yisme'A 4x

Lord give us the eyes that look to you 2x

And ears also, that listen to only Your word 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Theophany | The Holy Trinity Revealed

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn that Christ was baptised in the river Jordan to welcome all to be a part of Him.
- ❖ To know the story behind how the Holy Trinity showed their Godhead is one.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 3:1-17

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. How do we treat someone new when we see them at school or at church, usually we probably don't do anything, just continue with the same friends we are with, right?
4. Imagine being the new kid at school, you feel different, how would you feel if someone came up and started to talk to you and welcome you?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Christ being baptized at the Jordan.
- ❖ When Christ came to earth, the people were separated into two separate groups, the Jews and Gentiles. The Jews didn't like the Gentiles, and the Gentiles never knew God, and had idols that they worshipped. The Jews were unkind to them and were never friendly towards them. Our Lord and Savior wanted to save everyone, not just one group of people. Even though the Jews were worshipping Him, they didn't understand that it was important to be kind to others and didn't know Christ because they thought highly of themselves.

MEMORY VERSE:

"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks..and have all been made to drink into one Spirit"
1st Cor 12:13

OUTLINE:

Have the children read Matthew 3:1-3

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying:

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' "

- ❖ What did Isaiah prophecy say that St. John would say?

Have the children read Matthew 3:4-6

Now John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

Have the children read Matthew 3:7-11

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ..Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.."

- ❖ John the Baptist is saying this because he knows that the Pharisees are not welcoming of others, that they thought highly of themselves, while Christ was coming to teach that even those who weren't Jewish could come to God through baptism.

Have the children Matthew 3:13-15

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

Have the children Matthew 3:15-17

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- ❖ At the end we see the revelation of the Holy Trinity, the Father spoke through the clouds, the Son was being baptised, and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ didn’t have to be baptised but He did so that he could teach the Gentiles that they could come to Him and He would accept them, while also teaching that He is one of the Holy Trinity.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ When Jesus Christ came to Him, we see that St. John shows humility and explains how he is not even worthy to even hold Christ’s sandals for His feet. This is a big contrast from how the Pharisees treated others who weren’t Jewish. We must welcome others like Christ was teaching, that we are all one under God. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was baptized so that He could show the Jews and Gentiles that they are all His children. Not only did He get baptized to show them that the Gentiles could become one with Him through repenting and being baptised, but even though He is God, He lets St. John baptize Him.

Q&A:

1. What was the prophecy that Isaiah said in his book in the Old testament that St. John the Baptist said?
 - a. “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.’ ” Isaiah 40:3
2. Why was Christ baptized in the River Jordan?
 - a. To teach that not only Jews were called to Him, but all people, He was baptised at the center of two rivers that were separate, and came together where He was baptized.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ The next time we see someone new, or maybe someone who seems lonely, invite them to talk with you, whether it is at school or at church.
- ❖ Challenge yourself this week to talk to someone who you’ve never talked with before.

HYMN:

በእደ ዮሐንስ ተጠምቀ ሊየሱስ ናዝሬዊ (፪)

ሰማያዊ (፭) ሊየሱስ ናዝሬዊ (፪)

be-ide Yohanis teTemqe Iyesus nazrawī 2x

semayawī 5x Iyesus nazrawī 2x

By the hand of St. John Jesus the Nazarene was baptized 2x

Heavenly 5x *Jesus the Nazarene 2x*

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen.

Intercession | The Saints

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To understand the intercession of the saints, and why it is allowed in the Church.
- ❖ To learn the story of the wedding at Cana of Galilee and St. Mary's intercession.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of John 2:1-12
- ❖ Book of Revelations 8:3

PRE-LESSON QUESTION:

1. What do you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Who would you ask to help you learn to play soccer, an official soccer player, or just anyone you know? (pro-soccer player)
4. Who would be the best person to ask to teach you how to shoot a 3-pointer? (a pro basketball player!)
5. Who can intercede for us or plead to God on our behalf? (St. Mary, the angels and saints.)
6. When do we ask for their intercession? (Always!)
7. Have you ever asked someone, or heard someone ask if you can pray for them? (That is exactly what intercession is!)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of all the saints.
- ❖ What does intercession mean? (the action of intervening on behalf of another: *through the intercession of friends, the action of saying a prayer on behalf of another person*)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you,
whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct."

Hebrews 13:7

OUTLINE:

So do we ask our friends and family to pray for us? But what about the saints? Wouldn't the prayer of a Saint who has already been saved benefit us? These Saint's have gone through all the pain, suffering, and trials of this world, and they have all received the gift of eternal life. Therefore, the intercession of these saints is very important! There is no one closer to God than his own mother, the Angels that are His messengers, and all of the martyrs and saints who have defeated the temptations of this world!

Have one of the Children read John 2:1-5

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

- ❖ Did Christ even say yes? How did St. Mary know He would?
 - Because she is His mother! And she knows He will listen to His mother!
 - No matter what happens, when we ask St. Mary to ask her Son, Christ will always listen!

Have one of the Children read John 2:6-11

"Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the

feast.” And they took *it*. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!” This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

In the book of Revelations 8:3 we read what St. John saw:

Have one of the children read Revelations 8:2

“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Have one of the children read Revelations 8:4

And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth”

Here, we see that the angel is standing and receiving the prayers of the people, mixing it with the censor, and as the incense (ῥύτις) rises up, and the prayers of the people also rise up to the throne of God. So not only do they have the ability to intercede on our behalf, but the Bible even shows us how they do it!

We pray to God and ask the saints to pray and intercede on our behalf. We remember their faith and wonderful deeds and praise their love for God. We also plead to them in the Divine Liturgies and celebrate their feasts on the days they had faithfully overcome their struggles on earth and accomplished their missions. Death was only their departure from this world. The saints, living on earth or reposing in paradise, are like us, awaiting the Second Coming of Christ in His Glory.

We should read about the life of saints and find one or more than one that deeply affect us, learn more and more about this saint and ask his or her intercession. However, our relationship with the saints is not to replace our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, but it should support and complement it.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ “Asking for the intercessions of the saints, is like calling on a pro football quarterback to coach you on passing. Or asking an Olympic gymnast to help you land a back handspring. The saints are the “pros” of prayer, repentance, charity, virtue, & love—not of their own accord, but by the grace they have been granted in their relationships with Christ.”
- ❖ In conclusion, the saints are those who, like us, worked out their salvation with fear and trembling. Like us, they struggled with the passions, but perhaps unlike us (yet), they were able to allow God’s grace to transform them completely, banishing their passions through repentance, opening their hearts through prayer, and striving to love all of creation as God loves it.
- ❖ The prayers of the saints, including those of the Mother of God, is a great mystery. The intercession of the saints is their communion and participation in the life of Christ. Just as the intercession of St. Mary helped at Cana of Galilee, we continue to ask for the pleading of St. Mary daily.

Q&A:

1. How did St. Mary respond after Christ said that the time for Him to do miracles was not there yet?
 - a. She already knew He would do the good work.
2. Did Christ complete the miracle even though it was not His time yet?
 - a. Yes! Because although it wasn’t time, His mother our beloved St. Mary asked on behalf of the wedding party. She interceded for them to her son.
3. Why would the intercession of a Saint be more beneficial than the intercession of a friend or family member?

- a. Because they are already saved, and God already helped them on this earth, so they understand and have more experience. They are the ‘pros’ of humbleness, patience, kindness, love, so they can best guide us on how to get those virtues. Just like the pro soccer player would be the best person to teach soccer, they are the best people to teach us how to love, how to be kind, humble, patient and other virtues!
4. What do we see the angel holding?
 - a. Incense with the prayers of the saints
5. How do you think the angels and saints pray in heaven?
6. Have you seen what our father priests hold in the divine liturgy? What is it called?
 - a. A censer, it has incense in it

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Pick a saint you want to learn more about from the Synaxarium and present their story to the class next week after teaching your family about them.

HYMN:

መልአክ ሰላምን ሊቀ መላእክት ኢራኤል(፪)

ሰአል ወጸሊ በእንቲአነ አዕርግ ጸሎትኝ ቅድመ መንበሩ ለመድኃኔ ዓለም (፪)

melake selamine līqe mela’ikt Urael 2x

se’al we-tselī be-intīane a’irig tselotine qid’me menberu le-Medhanie alem 2x

The angel of our peace Archangel Uriel 2x

Plead and pray for us, raise our prayers before the throne of the Savior of the World 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Fast of Nineveh | Obedience

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the Fast of Nineveh (Tsom Nenewie)
- ❖ To learn about the importance of obedience to God and our parents.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Jonah 1-4

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from last week's lesson?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. How many fasts do we have in our Tewahdo faith? What are they? (7 major fasts)
4. How long is the fast of Nineveh? (it is 3 days long)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ The Fast of Nineveh is one of the seven major fasts in our Tewahdo faith. This is the fast that reminds us of the importance of obedience to God. This fast occurs for 3 days (on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) two weeks prior to the Great Lent (Abiy Tsom). This fast commemorates the 3 day fast the people of Nineveh did in order to receive forgiveness from God because of all of the sins they had. After this fast, God forgave the people and Nineveh and did not destroy their city. Though this fast is demonstrating the importance of obeying God, we can learn to also obey our parents in the same manner.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Do not merely listen to the word and deceive yourselves. Do what it says”

James 1:22

OUTLINE:

There was a city by the name of Nineveh that was full of sin and wickedness. Due to the fact that this city was extremely wicked, our Lord asked the prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach against the wickedness and tell all of the people of Nineveh to repent for their sins.

Jonah completely ignored what God wanted him to do and he got on a boat to the city of Tarshish in order to completely flee from the Lord. While on this boat, the Lord sent a big storm on the sea, a storm so big that the boat seemed as if it would break. Jonah seemed to not be bothered by this storm because he went to sleep while all of the sailors on the ship were crying for help out of fear. They were extremely baffled by how Jonah was sleeping through this and not praying to God to ask for forgiveness so they would not perish. While all of this was going on, the sailors decided to see who was responsible for causing this storm and they soon realized it was Jonah and asked him what they should do to get this storm to calm down. Jonah told them because it was his fault, he should be thrown into the sea and by doing that, the sea would become calm. The sailors begged God to not hold them accountable for sacrificing an innocent man to save their own lives. Once Jonah entered the sea, it became calm and these men greatly feared the Lord and made vows to Him. The Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah and Jonah stayed in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: (have a student read this prayer aloud)

“I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me. “Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice. For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods

surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me. Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God. "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple. "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."
Jonah 2:3-10

Once this prayer was said, the Lord commanded the fish and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. Once Jonah was on dry land, the Lord for the second time commanded Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh and command them to repent for their sins. The city was extremely large and took three days to go through the entire city. Eventually, the people of Nineveh turned from their evil ways and once God saw this, He relented and did not bring the destruction he had threatened. Jonah was extremely angered by this because the people of Nineveh were by no means innocent and deserved to be punished for what they had done.

But the Lord replied "is it right for you to be angry?" because Jonah had been forgiven for his sins and given a second chance the exact same way that the people of Nineveh would be forgiven and given a second chance.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ In conclusion, it is extremely important we obey God and listen to what He wants for us. If we feel as if God is telling us to do something and we choose to ignore His will for us, there may be punishment involved. If we continue to repent for our sins, God will forgive us and we will bring so much joy to our Lord and Savior. It is important to keep in mind that our parents are also children of God and we must respect them as well. If our parents tell us to do something, we must honor them in the name of God and obey them.

Q&A:

1. What is a prophet and what do they do?
2. What is God demonstrating by forgiving the people of Nineveh?
3. When does this fast occur?
 - a. 2 weeks before the Great Lent (Abiy Tsom)
4. Why was God going to destroy the city of Nineveh?
 - a. The people of Nineveh were sinning and not repenting for their sins
5. How long did it take Jonah to travel through the entire city of Nineveh?
 - a. It took Jonah 3 days to travel through the entire city of Nineveh

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Teach someone about this fast and the meaning behind it.
- ❖ Reflect on a time where you asked for forgiveness

HYMN:

ከም ሕዝቢ ነን። ይቅረ ከብለና (፪)

ንጹም ንጸሊ ናብ ላምላኽ ኩልና (፪)

kem hizbī nenewie yiq're kiblena 2x

ni'tsom n'tselī nab Amlak kulina 4x

Like the people of Nineveh that he may forgive us 2x

Let us all fast & pray to our God 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Covenant of Mercy | Kidane Mihret

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the meaning of a promise and how it applies to our relationship with God
- ❖ To understand how we plead to our Mother Mary to receive mercy and just how much she loves us.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Synaxarium Yekatit 16
- ❖ Psalms 89:3

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Have you ever asked someone to pray for you? Have you ever heard someone ask another person to pray for them?
4. What is a promise, do you keep your promises?
5. Who do you think would be better at keeping promises, someone who still makes mistakes or someone who is already saved?
6. What does covenant mean? (promise)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of St. Mary being crowned by the Holy Trinity.
- ❖ Today we will learn about the promise that God made with St. Mary.

MEMORY VERSE:

“All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies”

Psalms 25:10

OUTLINE:

The Lord has a covenant with His chosen ones . “ I have made a covenant with my chosen , I have sworn unto David my servant” (Psalm 89:3). This promise of covenant is to all His saints, and above all to His Mother Holy Saint Virgin Mary. Thus, On this day we (our church) celebrate our holy Lady Mary, the two-fold Virgin, the God-bearer, because this is when our Lord Jesus Christ gave her the Covenant of Mercy and she received it so that we could call upon her name, or give alms to the poor, even if it were only a cup of cold water. After Christ ascended St. Mary into heaven, taking her pure flesh with Him, and He sat down at the right hand of His Father, having done everything on earth, except for sin, He left His mother Mary in the house of John, His disciple, so that he might love her, and cared for her. From there onwards our Lady Mary lived there, and used to go to the tomb of her Son, at Golgotha, to pray there. And when the Jews saw her there they were filled with wrath, and envy, and they wished to drive her away; but God hid her from them Then they gathered and decided to set guards over Christ's tomb, so that she might not come there again and pray, but she did not stop going there day by day, and the guards did not see her, because the covering of the glory of her Son hid her. And angels came to minister unto her, and her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, visited her frequently, and fulfilled for her all her desires.

When St. Mary visited Christ's tomb, some of the angels used to take her up into the heavens and show her the places where the saints rested, with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the souls of the fathers who had died from Adam until that time worshipped her, saying, “Glory be to God, Who has created your flesh of our flesh, and bone of our bone. In you we have found salvation, and you have

become for us the haven of life from destruction through the Son of God taking upon Himself flesh through you.”

And then the angels took her, and brought her to her beloved Son on His throne, and the curtains, which were flames of fire, were drawn aside on the right hand and on the left, and our Lord took her hand, and kissed her, and said unto her, “Have you arrived, O my mother?” And He raised her up on to the throne of His glory, and He seated her by Him, and He described to her all the joy and gladness which no eyes have seen, nor ears have heard of, nor the heart of anyone can imagine, that was prepared for her. And underneath the throne of glory she saw David, the King of Israel, her forefather, with all the company of the prophets, and the angels, and the souls of the righteous, in a circle, singing to the harp, saying, “Listen to me, my daughter, and consider, and incline your ear. Forget thy people and thy father’s house. The king has desired your beauty; he is your Lord” (Psalm 45:10). And from there the angels took her to show her the place of punishment, and they brought her to the limit of darkness, which is prepared for Satan and his hosts, and for all those who walk in his ways. And our Lady Mary said, “Who will describe this place to the children of men, so that they may not come here?” And the angel said unto her, “Fear not, O Mary, God is with you, and for your sake, with those who shall come after you.”

And then the angels carried her away and brought her into a certain place, and there our Lady Mary sat down, being exceedingly sorry for all sinners. And on this day the sixteenth day of the month of Yekatit, she stood on the Place of the Skull (Golgotha), and besought her Son, saying, “O my Son, swear to me by God Your Father, and by Your Name of Christ, and by the Paraclete, Your Spirit, and by my womb which carried You for nine months and five days, Thee Whom the earth cannot bear up, Thee Whom the angels cannot approach, I plead You, O my Son, by Your going forth from me without labor, and by Your delivery that was painless, I plead You by my breasts that fed You, and by my lips which kissed You, I plead You by my hands which embraced Thee, and by my feet which walked with You, I plead You by the manger where You did lay in, and by the ragged clothes where You were wrapped in, O my Son, and Beloved One, I beg You, and entreat You, to listen to the words of my petition, and to come to me, and to fulfill for me everything which is in my heart.”

And when our holy Lady, the Virgin Mary, the mother of the Light, had said this, our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ came down straight away, and there were with Him, surrounding Him, thousands of thousands, and tens of thousands of tens of thousands of angels, and he said to her, “What shall I do for you, Mary, My mother? What desire do you have that you would like for Me fulfill for you?” And our Lady the holy Virgin Mary answered and said to her beloved Son, “O my Beloved Son, my Lord and Redeemer, my Hope, and my Refuge, with You I place my trust. Because of You I was strong in the womb of my mother, and in the womb which covered You, and You are my memorial, at all times. I Your mother Mary, for whoever celebrates my commemoration, and whoever that builds a church in my name, or clothes the naked, or visit the sick, or feed the hungry, or gives drink to whoever is thirsty, or comforts the sorrowful, or makes the sad to rejoice, or writes the history of my strife, or even sings a song at my festival; promise me that God shall give that person the good reward from You. I beg and plead You on behalf of all those *who honor me and believe in my intercession to You*, to set them free from Sheol, and to remember the hunger, and thirst, and all the trials which came upon me through You.”

And our Lord Jesus Christ answered and said unto her, “It shall be for you as you say, and I will fulfill for you all that you ask; I became incarnate of you, and I swear that I will not make any covenant with you to be a lie.” Salutation to you, O Book of the Law and Covenant, like the Tables of stone.

On the Mount of Olives Christ taught us saying: “blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matt 5:7) He taught us to be merciful and pure, that we may comfort the sorrowful, and feed the hungry, give clothes to the sick and we will be blessed by God, through the intercession of St. Mary and all the saints. Just like He taught us this, our mother St. Mary teaches us to do the same, and that if we do these things in her name, that God will hear our prayers. He will hear our prayers because we are doing these things out of love for other people, just like Christ first loved us.

We see how important we are to St. Mary and how much she loves us. She loves us so much that she asked her son to forgive us in her name. That if we even give water to someone who is thirsty in her name, she wants our Lord and Savior to forgive us our sins. This shows us how important it is to care for

other people, how important it is to lean on St. Mary so she can help us and guide us. Even when we sing a mezmur about her, she listens to us. She teaches us these things so that we can take care of each other, and follow in the path of mercy and truth. So that we can also keep our promises to God, just like she promised us, and just like our Lord and Savior promised her.

- ❖ Let's repeat together: "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies" Psalms 25:10

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We commemorate this day to honor the promise of mercy and how it was given to our Mother Mary by her son Jesus Christ. We pray through Adey Mariam so that our prayers are heard by God, and just like God made a covenant with Adam, and with Abraham, He made a covenant with our Lady Mary.
- ❖ That just like Saint Mary cares for us, we should also take care of each other. Just like she promised us, we should sing hymns for her, write her story, teach others about her and do all of this to praise God's name.

Q&A:

1. What did Christ do while He was on earth?
 - a. Everything except sin.
2. Where did St. Mary go to pray?
 - a. Golgotha where Christ was once buried)
3. Who was trying to stop St. Mary from praying at Christ's tomb? Why?
 - a. The Jews, because they were jealous, and were filled with hate.
4. Why do we ask the saints for intercession?
 - a. Just like our Lord promised St. Mary, that He would listen to our prayers and save us if we do the kind things in the name of the Saints [for God]. We pray to God or we pray for someone or have someone pray for us. We don't pray to people.
5. What did the angels show St. Mary?
 - a. They showed her heaven and where she would sit with the saints. They also showed her where the devil is and where all those who followed his ways would go.
6. Who do you think is the greatest saint in the kingdom of Heaven?
 - a. St. Mary! The purest of the pure, the theotokos. "The Father looked from heaven, and found no one like you, He sent his only-begotten, Who came and was incarnate of you" Imagine! There was not a single person in the entire world since Adam and Eve that was worthy of being the bearer of God, the bearer of our Lord.
7. Let's finish this sentence: "All the paths of the Lord are mercy.."

CHALLENGE!

- ❖ Write a poem for saint Mary about why we love her, or what you will do in her name every year.

HYMN:

ተዝካርኪ ለእመ ገብረ በተለምኖ ጽኑዕ (፪)

በመግባብተ ሰማይ (፫) ምስሊኪ ይነግስ ኃጥእ (፪)

tezkarikī le-ime gebre be-te'amino tsinu 2x

be-mengiste semay 3x misliekī yinegis haTi 2x

He who does your memorial with strong faith 2x

In the Kingdom of Heaven 3x even if he's a sinner he will reign with you 2x

Great Lent | Abiy Tsom

1. God Came Down | Zewerede
2. Holy | Qidist
3. Keep Your Temple Holy
4. Infirm Man
5. Debre Zeyt | Mt. of Olives
6. Gebri Hier | The Faithful Servant
7. Nicodemus
8. Palm Sunday & Holy Week

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

God Came Down | Ze-werede

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the themes of the weeks during Lent.
- ❖ To learn the prophecy of our Lord & Savior coming down to save us
- ❖ To learn the meaning of fasting

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Genesis 22
- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 4
- ❖ Journey through Great Lent | Dn. Medhanie Haile

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. How many days did Christ fast in the desert? (40)
4. Who do you remember in the old testament that also fasted 40 days & nights? (Moses)
5. What does fasting mean to you?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ We learn that the first thing God asked Adam and Eve was to fast. He asked them not to eat from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. What happened after they ate?
- ❖ Show an icon of Christ fasting in the desert.
- ❖ Today we will talk about the first week of the Great Lent.

MEMORY VERSE:

*“Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling.
Lay hold of His instruction, lest the Lord be angry.”
Psalms 2:11*

OUTLINE:

Our father St. Yared created spiritual themes for each of the weeks of Great Lent and prior to the official 40 day fast, our church set up a week of preparation. This first week carries the theme from St Yared's hymn saying “The Jews have crucified God who came to the earth to save Adam.” This week of preparation is known by a couple of names, the Fast of King Heraclius, or the common one is Zewerede, meaning He who descended from above. This week of preparation allows us to get ready for fasting. Our church prepared this week of fasting, also known as the fast of Heraclius, just like the fathers at the time of King Heraclius' reign fasted until the King retrieved the cross after it was stolen by the neighboring country.

Before our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ came down to earth, He tested Abraham with his son, this was a prophecy that God the Son would come down to be sacrificed for our sake.

We take a look at what God told Abraham: “Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ So he said, ‘Here I am.’ He then replied, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God since for My sake you have not spared your beloved son.’ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him a ram was caught in a thicket by its horns. So he brought it for a whole burnt offering in the place of his son. Thus Abraham called the name of the place *The-Lord-will Provide*; as it is said to this day, ‘*On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided*’ Abraham served the Lord with fear even so much that He was willing to give up His only son.

So what is fasting? Fasting in Fit'ha Negest (or the Law of Kings) is defined as follows: fasting is abstinence from food, and is observed by man for certain times determined by law, to attain forgiveness of sins and much reward, obeying thus the one who fixed the law. During this fasting period, us Christians abstain from meat and all animal products after fasting without eating until 3pm in the afternoon. We fast

in order to show our love for God. God showed us how much He loves us on the cross, so we fast to show Him the same love.

After being baptized in the Jordan River “Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.”

APPLICATION:

We learn that Christ fasted to show us that we need to fast, so after the week of preparation, and the 40 days fast, we fast for another week called Holy Week to remember the sacrifice that Christ gave us on the cross. Just like Moses fasted on Mt. Sinai to receive the 10 commandments, and our forefathers fasted to gain self control and overcome temptation. Through this we show God how much we will try to give up, with His grace, so that we will be blessed by Him.

- ❖ Let’s repeat the verse together: “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Lay hold of His instruction, lest the Lord be angry.”

Q&A:

1. By what names is the first week of the Great lent called?
 - a. The first week is a week of preparation also known as the fast of King Heraclius, then the 40 days that our Lord fasted. The last week remembers the sufferings of Christ, called “*The passion week*”. And according to our church tradition, He received 6666 scourges until His crucifixion.
2. Who were some of the people told about the prophecy of God becoming man?
 - a. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
3. What is the name of the first week before the 40 days during Great Lent?
 - a. Ze-werede, meaning He who came down, Fast of the King, Fast of Heraclius,
4. How many weeks are in the Lent & what are they called?
 - a. 8 weeks. Zewerede, Qidist, Mikurab, Metsagu, Debre Zeyt, Gebri Hier, Niqodimos, and Hosa’ina.
5. Who are some examples in the bible of holy people that fasted in the Old Testament?
 - a. Moses fasted for 40 days and nights in order to accept the 10 commandments.

CHALLENGE!

- ❖ Write down your goal for what you are going to read during each day of the fast
- ❖ Write down what we are struggling with, is it eating too fast, is it not praying in the morning, or before we sleep? Is it not listening to our parents immediately when they ask us to do something? Write it down and pick one to work on during this Great Lent.

HYMN:

ንድም ድመ ወናፍቅር ቢጸነ (፪)

ወንትፋቀር (፩) ንትፋቀር በበይናቲነ (፪)

Nitsum tsome we-naf’qir bītsine 2x

We-nitfaqer 4x nit’faqer be-beynatīne 2x

Let us fast, and let’s love our neighbor 2x

Let us also love one another 2x Let us all love one another (2x)

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen.

Holy | Qidist

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the meaning of holiness.
- ❖ To learn how we can use our bodies for holiness.
- ❖ To learn how to truly fast

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Leviticus 20:26
- ❖ St Yared's Book-Digua
- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 6
- ❖ 1st Peter 1:13-21
- ❖ Book of James 3
- ❖ Journey through Great Lent | Dn. Medhanie Haile

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Are people holy? (Yes!) What about the church? The saints?
4. What does it mean to be holy?
5. How can we use our body to do holy things?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Christ fasting in the wilderness.
- ❖ Today we will learn what it means to be Holy, and how we can emulate Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

*"Be holy for I am holy."
1st Peter 1:16*

OUTLINE:

Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ fasted for 40 days and nights without food or drink, as He was being tempted by the devil. Now our father St. Yared teaches us that for this week of Great lent we try to become holy, just as our Lord, God, and Savior did while He was being tempted on this earth. This week's theme from St Yared's book Digua, has the hymn saying "**bitsum ayen, bitsum lisan, izni bitsum im-semi hisum.**" This means "let the eyes fast, let the mouth fast, and let the ears fast from hearing evil." "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Now in the book of James, we learn how important it is to be careful of what we say. St. James teaches us saying: "For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to restrain the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things.

"See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body"

Now St. Matthew teaches us about the eyes, saying: "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. We learn that even the little things that we might see can affect us, so we should always be careful of what we watch, so that we do not get in the habit of watching unholy things.

We can begin to fast our ears by continually listening to the holy words of God, by listening to hymns that praise Him (mezmur), by listening to sermons (His word), and by forgoing listening to music, which is not holy. Now how can we fast our eyes? We can watch stories of the saints, instead of endlessly watching tv, video games, and music videos. We can fast our mouths by speaking holy words, and being kind to others on how we talk. We can read the daily prayers, and the Holy Bible. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ teaches us saying that although “all things are lawful for me, not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.”

When we were baptised as children we were also confirmed into the church through the placement of holy oil called Meron, on our bodies. This was so that we can use our bodies for good, for holiness, as St. Peter teaches us: “We are called by God and His saints to be holy, and for all the parts of our body to be used for good.”

APPLICATION:

We should always ask, is this a holy thing? And if it is, make sure to continue to do it. We learn the importance of protecting our body from anything and everything that is not from God. We must always strive to be holy like the saints, like St. Paul says in the book of Ephesians 1:4- “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” God calls us to be holy like Him and just like the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

❖ Let’s repeat together “Be holy for I am holy” 1st Peter 1:16

Q&A:

1. What is the theme for this week’s fast?
 - a. The first week is a week of preparation also known as the fast of King Heraclius, then the 40 days that our Lord fasted. The last week remembers the last sufferings of Christ which is called the Passion Week .
2. What does that saying mean? “yitsum ayn, yitsum lisan, izni yitsum im-semi hisum.”
 - a. Let the eyes fast, let the mouth fast, and let the ears fast from hearing evil
3. So are we considered holy? If so, what should we do to stay holy. If not, why aren’t we holy?
 - a. Yes! We are considered holy because we have received the Holy Spirit within us. We should continue to strive to do good, and use our bodies for holy things. Always thinking, what would Jesus do?
4. How can we fast our ears, eyes and mouth?
 - a. By continually listening to the holy words of God, by listening to hymns that praise Him (mezmur), by listening to sermons (His word). By being kind to others on how we talk. We can read the daily prayers, and the Holy Bible, and reading stories of the saints.
5. Who can give an example of what good we can do with our feet and where they go, what they do?
 - a. Visiting the sick or elderly. Walk on holy ground, like the church, or monasteries.
6. What about our hearts, and mind? The priest also puts the holy meron on where our hearts are, and on our head. What can we do to be holy in them?
 - a. Think kind things about other people, don’t think jealous thoughts. Think how you can help someone, what would Jesus do for them.
7. Finish this saying from St. Yared’s hymn book Digua: Yitsum...
 - a. Yitsum ayn, yitsum lisan, izni yitsum im-semi hisum
8. Now how are you planning on fasting your body, the temple of God, in addition to not eating meat or dairy?

CHALLENGE!

- ❖ Write down detailed goals for how you are going to use your eyes, ears, and mouth for holiness.
- ❖ Write down what we are struggling with, is it eating too fast, is it not praying in the morning, or before we sleep? Is it not listening to our parents immediately when they ask us to do something? Write it down and pick one to work on during this Great Lent.

HYMN:

ጾመ እግዚእነ (፪)

እርእዖሁ ከመ ይገባን (፪)

tsome Igzi'ine 3x

arayahu keme yihabene 2x

The fast of our Lord 3x

A standard as He set for us 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Keep Your Temple Holy

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn what it means to be holy.
- ❖ To learn how Christ was holy, and the example He gave us with the saints.
- ❖ To understand how we can use our body for holy things.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Ezra 3
- ❖ 1st Corinthians 6

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. How can we use our body for good things?
4. What are the wrong things that we shouldn't use our body for?
5. What do we think of when someone says temple?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of the Church (Temple).
- ❖ Emphasize that the Holy Spirit dwells in each person, today we will learn the true Temple of God.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in *you*,”
1st Corinthians 6:19-20

OUTLINE:

After the Israelites took over the besieged Jerusalem from the babylonians, the builders began laying the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the Lord, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord saying “For *He is* good, for His mercy *endures* forever toward Israel.” Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' *houses*, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. This was the temple that God had said Solomon would build, but the fathers who were present for the original temple missed seeing the first one.

We see here that the physical temple that anyone builds can be destroyed, but there is another temple that God gave us. That temple is inside each and every one of us.

- ❖ Let's repeat the memory verse: “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in *you*,” 1st Corinthians 6:19-20

St. Paul teaches us “all things are lawful, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- ❖ St. Paul teaches us that our body is not ours, so whose is it?

Let's see the story of a young man who ran home with blood all over his clothes, his father opened the door and asked him, "What happened to you?!" The scared young man said, "I accidentally killed someone dad!" The police came knocking and when they opened the door they saw the father's clothes with blood everywhere and immediately arrested him, taking him to the police station. The son went to the police station to see his dad and asked him, "What do I do now?" The father told him "You now have my life, since I am paying for your mistake, you must live my life in goodness. "

Just like this father paid the price for his son, our Father Jesus Christ paid the price for our mistakes on the cross. Just as St. Paul tells us, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" like St. Paul imitates Christ we must also follow in the footsteps of the saints. We must also be holy. Now we ask what can we do to be holy?

- ❖ Let's repeat the memory verse together "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in **you**," 1st Corinthians 6:19-20

When we were baptized in the church and confirmed at 40 or 80 days the Holy Spirit began to dwell within us. We were anointed in over 36 places of our body and we were made holy by God. Now God asks us, are we keeping our body in holiness? Are we looking at holy things with our eyes, or seeing harmful things? Are we using our hands for holy actions or for hurting others? Are we using our mouth for holy things or to say hurtful things to others? We are given a mind by God in order to use it for good. A heart to be used for good.

- ❖ What can we do to use these things for good?
- ❖ How are our senses (eyes, ears, mouth, nose, hands) used for holiness inside the church?
 - Answer: (Eyes see holy things-ICONS, Ears hear holy things-Words of God, hearing hymns, hearing the Gospel, Mouth says holy things-Praises God with holy words, sings to God with hymns, eats Holy Communion, Nose smells holy incense, Hands clap when singing hymns, touch holy temple, even our Feet stands on holy ground)
 - Do we talk back when our parents ask us to do something or are we obedient? Do we listen to our siblings, old or young, understanding that God can speak to us through everyone?
 - Do we gladly rejoice when someone asks us a favor? That's our chance to use our body to glorify God, by helping others!

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We see that St. Paul teaches us that God wants us to be like Him and His saints. We should always try to be good, and do the will of God. We must always look for ways to do kind things for others. We must always ask, what would Jesus do in this situation? What would St. Paul do? How can I use my body so that God can be proud of me? Let's always think of the saints and they will help us to follow in their footsteps.

Q&A:

1. Where is the temple of God?
 - a. We are the temple of God, God also gave us a temple on earth so that we can receive His Holy Flesh and Precious Blood.
2. Who does our body belong to?
 - a. Our body belongs to God, not only because He created us, but because he paid for all the bad things we've done so we can live our life like Him, good and holy. Just like the boy who sinned terribly, but his father took the blame. We continue to make mistakes but God paid it through His blood. To honor His sacrifice we must live as He would.
3. What can we do to keep our bodies holy, to do good?
 - a. We can keep our bodies holy by making sure to watch good things, not shows, movies, or games that make us think wrong things. We must listen to good things, hymns that are praising God, and always thanking Him with mezmur, and with our mouths saying kind things to others, and always thanking Him. With our hands we should always be kind to

others, and use them for good, as well as our feet should lead us in a positive direction. With all of these we must ask, would God be proud of me here? Would Christ be in this place? Would He be saying these things?

CHALLENGE!:

- ❖ Write 3 things you can do this week and continue to do regularly to keep your body holy. Be ready to share with the class how you will imitate the saints and Christ.

HYMN:

በኩሉ ልብ ናስተብቀሁ ለእግዚአብሔር አምላክነ (፪)

ኅብረተ መንፈስ ቅዱስ ሠናየ ከመ ይጸግወነ (፪)

ብምሉእ ልብና ንለምኖ ንእግዚአብሔር አምላክና (፪)

ሐብረት ናይ መንፈስ ቅዱስ ሠናይ ምእንቲ ክህበና (፪)

፪ይ ቆር 12:13

be-kulu lib nastebqu'o leIgziabhier Amlakine 2x

hibrete Menfes Qidus senay keme yitsegiwene 2x

With all our hearts let us plead the Lord our God 2x

That He may grant us the good communion of the Holy spirit 2x 2nd Corinthians 13:14

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Infirmity | Metsagu'i

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the story of the infirm man.
- ❖ To learn how we should truly ask for forgiveness.
- ❖ To learn of the Sacrament of Confession.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Exodus 20:8
- ❖ Psalm 41:1-3
- ❖ John 5

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Have you ever heard of a miracle done in one of our churches or monasteries?
4. What do we feed our body? (Food!) What about our mind? (Education, learning new information.) What about our soul, what do we feed it? (The word of God.)
5. Are our mind, body and soul in balance? Are we feeding all of them or only some of them?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Christ healing the infirm man.
- ❖ Today we will talk about the infirm man and learn about the sacrament of Confession.

MEMORY VERSE:

"The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed. I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." "

Ps 41:1-3

OUTLINE:

The fourth week of Great Lent is called Metsagu'i. This means infirmity, and through this theme we learn that Christ came to this world not only to preach and teach concerning the kingdom of God but to heal the sick, infirm and those possessed with mental and spiritual diseases. Our Lord teaches us that sometimes, those possessed with mental and spiritual illnesses can be caused by sin, other times it may be a way God leads us closer to Him. The power of forgiveness is available by faith in Christ and the Holy Spirit through his church and the sacrament of penance. Therefore this week is named Mestagu'i because it has been dedicated to the Lord's Acts of healing.

Have one of the children read John 5:1-6

"After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

- ❖ Why did Christ ask the leper if he wanted to be made well, wasn't it obvious?

- Christ will always heal us, but he wants it to be by permission not by force. Does God force us to ask for forgiveness? No, He wants us to go to confession by our own will, but when we are ready He is always ready to forgive us.

Have one of the children read John 5:7-13

The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.' "Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in *that* place.

- ❖ Why did the jews say it was unlawful to carry one's bed on the sabbath, is this still true today?
 - They said this according to the laws that God gave in the old testament saying to rest on the sabbath as He rested Himself. Yes it is still true today, but we rest from work that we ourselves benefit in flesh. We always should continue to help others, and do works of goodwill. We should always continue in praising our Creator, this does not stop.
 - Matt 12:11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."
- ❖ So what do we rest from?...

Have one of the children read John 5:1-6

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

- ❖ We see here Christ tells the infirm man to sin no more. We rest from anything that will take us away from God, this would be anything that can lead us into temptation. Anything that is not in God's favor, anything that is not beneficial to our soul. We continue to pray, to serve others, to give to others and to preach the word of God in our actions.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We feed our body with food when we are hungry, and our mind in school with knowledge, but are we feeding our soul too? Are we praying daily, and asking God to heal us from our sins like the man who became infirm from his sins? We should always ask for God to help us and continuously ask for His guidance. Just like the infirm man, Christ can heal us of anything if we truly ask for forgiveness, and confess to Him through our father priests. In this case Metsagu'i or the Infirm man was made ill because of his sins, this doesn't mean that we always get sick from our sins, but we never know why we get sick, so we should always ask God to forgive us no matter the occasion.

Q&A:

1. What will you all take home from today's lesson?
 - a. (Open ended.)
2. How are we supposed to ask for forgiveness, and where do we confess?
3. What is the memory verse?
 - a. "The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed. I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You." " Ps 41:1-3

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Forgive someone that you never did before, if you are the one that needs to ask for forgiveness, ask--it might be difficult at first but it will get easier over time.
- ❖ Have a conversation with your confession father. If you do not have a confession father, approach a father priest and say hi, have a conversation with them. Try to get to know them!

HYMN:

ከም ብዝሒ ሣሕልኻ ኣምላኽ መሓረና 2x
 ከምቲ ምሕረትካ ውን ይቐሬታ ሃበና 2x
 ኣንጽሃኒ ጎይታይ ኩበ እከይ በደለይ 2x
 ነዛ ጸልማት ዓለም ከይኮን ኣገልጋላይ 2x
 ኣነስ ፈለጥክም ኣበሳይ በደለይ 2x
 ፍጹም ኣንጽሃኒ ምሕረት ግበረለይ 2x
 ኣምላኽ ኣሕዘንኩኻ እከይ ውን ገበርኩ 2x
 ይቐረ ክትበለኒ ቅድሚኻ ወደቅኩ 2x
 ቅድሚኻ ወዲቐ ክልምን ንዓኻ 2x
 ጎይታይ ምሓረኒ ምውዳቀይ ርኢኻ 2x

kem bizhī sah’lika Amlak meharena 2x
 kemtī mih’retka win yigrieta habena 2x
 antsihanī goytay kab ikey bedeley 2x
 neza tsel’mat Alem key’kon agelgalay 2x
 anes feleT’kiwo abesay bedeley 2x
 fitsum antsihanī mih’ret gibereley 2x
 Amlak ah’zenkuka ikey win geberku 2x
 yiqre kitiblenī gidmieka wedeq’ku 2x
 qidmieka wedīqe kilimin ni’Aka 2x
 goytay miharenī miw’daqey ri’ika 2x

With your abundant mercy, Oh God forgive us 2x
 With your compassion too, accept our remorse 2x
 Cleanse us oh Lord renew us once again 2x
 From the darkened world save our repentant soul 2x
 We see much clearly now our sins before our face 2x
 Have mercy on your child renew him/her once again 2x
 God we have let you down with our transgressions 2x
 That you may forgive us we fall before you now 2x
 Lord have mercy on us seeing our fallen state 2x
 With a heavy heart with tears of contrition 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Debre Zeyt | Mt. of Olives

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the importance of Christ's teaching at the Mount of Olives.
- ❖ To learn how to prepare for when Christ comes a second time.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 24

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What do your parents ask you to do when a guest is coming over?
4. In which direction do we face when we are praying? Why?
5. What does it mean when we say that Christ is coming again?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show icon of Christ teaching at Debre Zeyt | Mt. of Olives
- ❖ Just like when we have to prepare when a guest is coming over to our house, we also have to prepare for when Christ comes a second time. We don't clean our rooms, but we have to clean our hearts, our mouths, and our minds. We have to clean them to have good things inside of them, to say holy things, and to do holy things. We will learn what our Lord and Savior taught the people at the Mt. of Olives.

MEMORY VERSE:

“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west,
so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Matthew 24:27

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read Matthew 24:1-3

“Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will* be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Have one of the children read Matthew 24:4-

And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, [b]pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

- ❖ What did Christ say there will be before He comes down again?
 - Famines, pestilences, earthquakes, wars, etc..

Have one of the children read Matthew 24:9-25

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. “Then if

anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.

❖ How will people start acting when Christ is about to come?

➤ People will start saying they are God, people will be mean, they will start hating each other.

Have one of the children read Matthew 24:26-27

“Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; *or* ‘Look, *He is* in the inner rooms!’ do not believe *it*. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

❖ How did He say that He would come down?

➤ “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” Matt 24:27

APPLICATION:

❖ When we pray, we always face east, and we do so in order to prepare for when our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ comes down to take us with Him. We should prepare by asking for forgiveness, confessing our sins and taking Holy Communion. By doing this we are getting closer to God, and we can overcome temptation that is thrown at us.

Q&A:

1. What is the name of the theme for the 5th week of Great Lent in English & Ge’ez, why is it named this?
 - a. Debre Zeyt, Mt. of Olives; It is named this theme because this is where our Lord Jesus Christ taught about Judgement day.
2. How can we prepare for when our Lord Jesus Christ comes down to take us to heaven?
 - a. Praying more often to get closer to God, confessing our sins, and taking holy Communion.
3. What was the memory verse for today?
 - a. “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” Matt 24:27

CHALLENGE:

❖ This week prepare to take Holy Communion, challenge yourself to watch what you say, and do.

HYMN:

ምእንታን ክንጸንዕ ኣብ ቤተ ክርስቲያና _____ ኣይትፈለየና/ኣይትፈለይና (፪)

ካብ ኣምላኽና ካብ ኣምላኽካ (፬) ምሕረት ለምንልና/ለምንልና ብቃል ኪጻንካ (፪)

mi’ntan kin tseni ab biete kristīyana _____ aytifeleyena

kab Amlakna kab Amlaka 2x mihret leminilna bi’qal kīdanka 2x

So that we may prevail and stay within the church _____ don’t desert us.

From our God, from your God, ask mercy through your covenant

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Gebri Hier | The Faithful Servant

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn “who is the wise and faithful servant.”
- ❖ To learn how to use our talents.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ 2nd Chronicles 14
- ❖ Psalm of David 40
- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 25

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week’s memory verse?
3. Who would like to share with us a talent that they have that they enjoy doing often?
4. Who can give an example of a talent? Do we all have talents?
5. What is the theme of the 6th week of Great Lent?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show icon of the parable of the Talents.
- ❖ Our Lord Jesus Christ taught about what should we do

MEMORY VERSE:

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things,
I will make you ruler over many things.”
Matthew 25:21

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read Matthew 25:14-18

“For *the kingdom of heaven* is like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.

- ❖ What did the person with five talents do? What about the person with one talent?

Have one of the children read Matthew 25:19-23

After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

- ❖ How did their lord respond to those with five and 2 talents?

Have one of the children read Matthew 25:24-30

“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.’

“But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

- ❖ How did their lord respond to the person with one talent?
- ❖ What about us, do we delight in doing His will? Is his law in our heart?
- ❖ How will our Lord respond when we do “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.” Matthew 25:21

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We should think how we can help at church, is it cleaning, is it bringing offerings or tithes. Some of us can help prepare lessons for class, organize binders, or take attendance.
- ❖ We can also be faithful servants in our homes, and help use our talents for our families, that is also serving God because we are serving our household.
- ❖ Let’s remember what our Lord will say to the good & faithful servant, he said: ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Q&A:

1. What did the first two servants do with their talents?
 - a. They doubled theirs, the first double theirs from 5 to 10 and the second from 2 to 4.
2. What did the 3rd servant do with his talent?
 - a. The third servant hid his talent.
3. What should we do with our talents?
 - a. Use them from God.
4. What will Christ tell us when we use our talents?
 - a. “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.” Matthew 25:21

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Read Matthew Chapter 25, and come up with 3 talents that you have that you can serve God with.

HYMN:

ተወከፍ ጸሎተኝ ለእግብርቲክ ወለእለማቲክ (፪)

እለ ዳመዉ መጽሐፍ ጽርሐ መቅደስክ ጊዮርጊስ ኃያል (፪)

tewekef tselotomu le-ag’birtike wele-a’imatike 2x

ile tsamewu metsu tsirha meqedesike Gīyorgīs hayal 2x

Receive the prayers of all the men and women servants 2x

Who come to your holy temple, strong St. George 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Nicodemus

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn to always seek the truth.
- ❖ To learn to humble ourselves because we don't always know everything.
- ❖ To learn why we get baptized when we are babies.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Leviticus 12
- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 3 & 5
- ❖ Gospel of John 3

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from last week's class?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. How did the people know someone was a person of God in the Old Testament? (Circumcision)
4. At what age did Our Lord Jesus Christ get baptized? (30)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Raise your hand if you've been baptized.
- ❖ Show Icon of Nicodemus visiting Christ in the night.

MEMORY VERSE:

"No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."

John 3:5

OUTLINE:

Have the children read John 3:1-4

"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.'" Jesus answered and said to him, 'most assuredly, I say to you, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?'"

- ❖ What do you guys think, how can we be 'born again'?
- ❖ Have you all been "born again"?

Have the children read John 3:5-8

So Jesus' answered 'no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit"

- ❖ When were we born of the flesh? (When we were born from our parents)
- ❖ When are we born of the spirit? (When we were born from the Holy Spirit through Baptism)
- ❖ Let's repeat the verse "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." John 3:5

Have the children read John 3:9-16

Now, Nicodemus answered and said to Him, 'How can these things be?'" Jesus answered and said to him, 'are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? Most assuredly, I say to you, we

Speak what we know and testify what we have seen, and you do not receive our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

- ❖ Why didn't Nicodemus understand?
- ❖ Who can give an example of when you thought you knew the whole story but you later learned that you didn't?
- ❖ How did this make you understand that we always don't know everything, and that we should not act like we do?

Nicodemus concedes that God must have sent Jesus because of all the miraculous signs he performed. Now Jesus gets to the heart of the matter by responding with firm truth saying: "...no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." Nicodemus was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, at first a Pharisee, and afterwards he became a disciple of Jesus. He was early convinced that Christ came from God, but was not ready at once to rank himself among His followers. After visiting Christ later in John 7:45-52, we see him defending the Savior before the Sanhedrin. At last, in the trying scene of the crucifixion, he avowed himself a believer, and came with Joseph of Arimathea to pay the last duties to the body of Christ, which they took down from the cross, embalmed, and laid in the sepulchre, John 19:39.

- ❖ Let's repeat the memory verse "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." John 1:5
- ❖ Since Christ was baptized at the age of 30 to be an example to us, does that mean we can't?
 - No because in Matt 5:17 Christ says "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." this teaches us that we follow both the Old and New Testament ways
- ❖ So why did He get baptized later?
 - To be an example to those that were not Jewish and had not been circumcised like in the old testament

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We learn that after water and receiving the Holy Spirit we become fully one with God. (Matt 3:13) We must humble ourselves, just like Nicodemus, even though because of his position he thought he knew a lot, but Christ taught him that he had much that he still didn't understand, and he sought the truth no matter what. Even though we might do really well in school or we might be the ones to always help in our homes, we need to understand that it is our job, we shouldn't do it to feel better but to glorify God. We learn to always trust and follow Him until the very end. We must be baptized when we are born, and be born of the Holy Spirit. Let's repeat together: "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." John 1:5.

Q&A:

1. Why did Nicodemus go to Christ at night?
 - a. 1. He was afraid that the other Pharisees would see him going to Jesus.
2. What did Nicodemus discover about being born again?
 - a. 2. Nicodemus discovered that a person after being born from their parents had to be born from God through baptism, meaning receiving the Holy Spirit.
3. How did Christ respond to Nicodemus?
 - a. 3. Christ told Nicodemus: "No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." John 1:5.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write a 5-7 sentence summary about why you were baptized at 40/80 days, and explain why you did not wait until you understood your faith to get baptized like our Lord did.
- ❖ Teach 1 or 2 people in your home what you learned about in today's lesson.

HYMN:

አቀድሞ አእኩቶቶ ለእግዚአብሔር (፪)

በእንተ እግዚእን ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስ (፪)

aqedim a'ikutoto leIgziabhier 2x

be-inte Igzi'ine Iyesus Kristos 2x

Before everything we thank the Lord 2x

Through our God Jesus Christ 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen.

Palm Sunday & Holy Week

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the sacrifice Christ gave for us to have life.
- ❖ To learn that the passions of Christ purify us of diseases

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Likeness of the Passions | Melki'a Himamat
- ❖ Book of Exodus 12
- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 21; 26

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember about what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What happened on Palm Sunday?
4. On what Mount was our Lord crucified on the cross?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an Icon of Palm Sunday and Christ's crucifixion.
- ❖ Today we will learn about Holy Week, and it's importance.

MEMORY VERSE:

“ ‘Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom’ ”
Luke 23:42

OUTLINE:

The Holy Week is one of the most important weeks throughout the year in the church. During this week we walk in the path our Lord Jesus took to the cross. We have to concentrate on prayers only and forget about TV and music and all the earthly distractions. The church contemplates the passions of Christ and all the events that took place till the Resurrection during the Holy Week.

After Lazarus Saturday *where* Christ brought Lazarus back to life, they prepared a dinner for Jesus. Many people came to Bethany to see the man whom Jesus raised from death. On Sunday was Hosa'ina, or Palm Sunday, and the crowds of people came out to meet Jesus when He entered Jerusalem. The crowds took the branches of Palm trees, and their robes and went out to meet Him, shouting: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

- ❖ Why did the people lay their clothes, and palm trees on the ground? What did this symbolize?

Now in the Passion Week, a prayer for all those who have departed are done on Palm Sunday. After Palm Sunday the church only focuses on Christ's passions during this week. The sanctuary doors are to be closed, the sanctuary veils are drawn, and prayers for the repose of the dead are raised. The word "Fasika" means "Passover" and it refers to the *angel* when he passed over the houses of the Hebrews which were sprinkled with the blood of the Passover lamb which in turns stands for the sacrifice of the Cross. "Fasika" comes from the word "Pascha" in Greek and "Fish" in Hebrew.

- ❖ What does Fasika mean? In what language? (Passover in english, Greek)

The Passover lamb was selected and kept from the tenth day of Nisan (*March-April*) till the fourteenth day of Nisan, then it was offered as sacrifice. That is why the doors of the sanctuary are shut after Palm Sunday and are kept closed without any liturgy until Maundy Thursday, then they are shut again until the celebration of the Holy Burial on Good Friday. During Pascha prayers the church sings the hymn singing "leke hayl" meaning "Yours is the Power". This hymn is taken from Revelation 5:12.

- ❖ What does the church sing during Holy Week? What does it mean? (leke hayl | yours is the power)
- ❖ Does the church pray the Divine Liturgy during this week? Does it pray for those you have passed away?

Each day we observe a different event or miracle that Christ did. One of the most important days is Covenant Thursday, our fathers wash our feet, like Christ showed humbleness by washing the disciples feet. Afterwards, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy, just as Christ gave them the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Christ blessed the bread and gave the disciples His Holy Body, and Precious Blood, and at the same time, the Jews were offering the passover lambs like the traditions they had since the old testament. At the end, He went out to the Mount of Olives to pray, and there He was arrested and taken to the house of Caiaphas, then to the Council.

On Good Friday Caiaphas questioned Jesus and accused him of blasphemy because He said that He was the Son of God and the Sanhedrin brought Christ to Pilate and questioned Jesus for the charge of being King. At the 6th hour (12 at noon) is the time when the Lord our Savior was crucified, the honest thief's words are to be said, "Lord, remember me when you come to Your kingdom."

Candles are put out between 12-3pm, to remind us of the darkness that took place on the earth at that time. At 5pm we bow (sigdet) and say "Igziō Meharene Kristos" facing the east, then... times towards the west, then facing the north, then .. times towards the south to show that we worship Christ who is crucified for us, and through His crucifixion, He saved all people who believe in Him.

This night is called Apocalypse, i.e. the Revelation as the whole Book of Revelation is read that night and sweet hymns like those of the angels are sung all over the night. That evening, the Tinsa'ie Liturgy starts at midnight as the Lord Christ rose at Dawn on Sunday.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ "In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Christ suffered for our sake, and teaches us to be patient with one another and love each other like He first loved us. He also shows us that we will be tested by the enemy on earth, but we should always rely on Christ to provide us help and guidance. Whether we are struggling at home, or we need help in school, God always answers our prayers, and He showed us this when went on the cross for us. Let's all pray and fast that God will help us in all of our struggles.

Q&A:

1. Where was Christ the Saturday before Hosa'ina?
 - a. Christ went to Lazarus's house where he rose from the dead.
2. What prayers are forbidden during Holy Week, and why?
 - a. Prayers for the dead are forbidden after Palm Sunday because we only remember Christ's suffering.
3. Name the different days during Holy Week a symbolism of?
 - a. Thurs: Christ washing the disciples' feet & the sacrament of Holy Communion Fri: Christ's Crucifixion Sat: Qedam Si'ur
4. What does 'leke hayl' mean, and from what book in the bible did we get it?
 - a. It means yours is the power in Ge'ez | From Revelations 5:12
5. What was the accusation that the Sanhedrin brought against Christ?
 - a. They accused Christ of blasphemy saying He is the Son of God, and of being King.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Pick your favorite part of Holy week, and teach it to someone in your family.

HYMN:

ንክንዓርሕ መንፈስ ቅዱስ ኣይትፈለየና (፪)

ኣይትፈለየና (፪) ሓይልኻ ሃበና (፪)

ni'kinisa'h Menfes Qidus aytifeleyena 2x

ayti'feleyena 2x Haylika habena

That we may repent Holy Spirit don't leave us 2x

Oh don't leave us 2x send us your strength

Season of the Resurrection | Zemene Tinsa'ie

1. Tinsa'ie | The Holy Resurrection
2. The Prodigal Son
3. Lideta | The Birth of the Theotokos
4. St. Yared | The Heavenly Hymns
5. Eli the Priest & His Sons | Our Family

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Tinsa'ie | Holy Resurrection

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the effect of resurrection on the life of our Lord.
- ❖ To understand the impact of resurrection on the life of the Church, and our lives.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of John 11
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Do we always win tournaments, or our games in school or sports? We are excited when we win right?!
4. What about if we couldn't see who we were fighting, and were blindfolded, would we be able to win?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show them an icon of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.
- ❖ Today we will learn about the Holy Resurrection. The days of resurrection are days of happiness and joy so the church sings the resurrection hymns with joyful tunes for fifty days. Sad tunes are forbidden, as well as fasting and kneeling in worship during these days. (Blind fold them and try to have them hit a pinata or something else.)

MEMORY VERSE:

"I am the life and the resurrection, he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live"

John 11:25

OUTLINE:

The devil won all the rounds before the Resurrection. He could make the authorities sentence Jesus to death as a sinner and evildoer. The Lord didn't object nor protest. The devil was able to have Christ be disgraced with striking His body with whips and striking Him and spitting on His face, nailing His hands and stabbing Him with the spear. Christ received all these sorts of afflictions on the cross and the devil thought that the Lord was weak and that he would win over Christ.

The disciples hid in the upper room because they were afraid of the Jews. While the sincere women and the Mary's together with John and Peter went to the tomb all night long til dawn to offer the spices to the body of Christ the disciples were sad at hearing of Christ's death. After His resurrection, the two disciples of Emmaus were speaking with the Lord while He was walking with them without even knowing Him.

The truth of resurrection turned sadness into joy and despair into courage. This is the power of resurrection. The Lord Jesus rose with His own power. He tricked Satan, and brought all those in Hades to paradise. He rose and His wounds were still on His body and His side was open. He rose and declared: "O death where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Christ's resurrection had a great effect on the church of the apostles. the Acts (St. Luke) says: "And with great power the apostle gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all". Without resurrection the preaching would be futile.

He says: "And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:14-17).

Our Lord Jesus is Living in heaven and in our hearts. Through the Holy Spirit, He fills our hearts with the power of His resurrection. Whenever our hearts are filled with His love the spirit of resurrection fills us and the ugly sin disappears. Whenever we let go of our grudges, or bad thoughts, the Holy Spirit who raised Christ from the dead fills us and raises us with Him and saves us from evil. Through the Holy Spirit, we get the power to rise up. St. Paul says "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Romans 8: 11).

APPLICATION:

- ❖ If we are going to win with Christ, we have to always look for heaven. Christ said to Peter, "Do you love me? ...attend my sheep" After His resurrection, the Lord used to say and still says to our hearts, "That who loves Me should feed my lambs." John 21:15-17 This whole time we couldn't see our enemy to beat him, we were blindfolded, but now Christ not only opened our eyes, but instead He fights for us, so that we always win. But we can only win if we ask for His help whenever we have bad thoughts, or if someone makes us mad, we should always ask Him!

Q&A:

1. What is the difference between the resurrection of Christ and that of Lazarus?
 - a. Christ freed us all, and overcame death!
2. What was the effect of resurrection on the church of the apostles?
 - a. It has given the church joy and happiness
3. How many people saw Christ after He resurrected?
 - a. Over 500 people (1 Cor 15: 3-8)
4. Let's finish the sentence.. **Repeat** "I am the life and the resurrection he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" John 11:25

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Repeat this memory verse everyday this week to remember that we are saved through His resurrection!

HYMN:

ወምድርኒ ትጉበር ፋሲካ (፪)

ተሐዲባ በደመ ክርስቶስ (፩)

we-midrinī tigebir fasīka 2x

tehatsība be-dem Kristos 4x

The Whole earth rejoices perfectly 2x

Cleansed by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ 4x Exo. 12:12-14, Heb 9:11-28 & Eph. 2:11-22

ዘፅ ፲፪፡፲፭-፲፮ ዕብ ሀ፡፲፭፡፳፭ ኢፌ. ሄ፡፲፭፡፳፪

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Eli the Priest & His Sons | Our Family

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the importance of knowing God
- ❖ To learn the importance of obedience.
- ❖ To learn that we hear God through different people.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Proverbs 19
- ❖ 1st Samuel 2-4
- ❖ Wisdom of Sirach 3

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Do we immediately do something when our parents ask us, or do we ask why first?
4. What about with our siblings, do we ask them why or do we just do what they ask us?
5. Do your parents ever discipline you, put you in timeout, or take away your toys when you were a kid, take your phone, or video game device? Were you happy about it? Did you learn from it most of the time?
6. What do you think God wants your parents to do, discipline you or say nothing?
7. Do you think that our Lord Jesus Christ obeyed His parents when He was a child, even though He is God?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Today we will discuss priest Eli and his two sons that were priests of God as well.
- ❖ Show an icon of the Holy Family (St. Mary, Joseph, and the Child Jesus).
- ❖ Read Chapter 3 of the Book of Sirach together.

MEMORY VERSE:

"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another."

1st John 1:7

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read 1st Samuel 2:12-

Now the sons of Eli *were* corrupt; they did not know the Lord and the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord. But Samuel ministered before the Lord, *even as* a child, wearing a linen ephod. Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring *it* to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The Lord gives you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the Lord." And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the Lord.

Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the meeting. So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my sons! It is not a good report that I hear. You make the Lord's people transgress. If one man sins against another, God will judge him.

But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?” Nevertheless they did not listen to the voice of their father. While the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men.

Now a man of God came to Eli and told him, “The Lord says ‘Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh’s house? Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel *to be* My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense? Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded *in My* dwelling place?’ Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: ‘I said before *that* your house would walk before Me forever.’ But now ‘Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father’s house, and you will see an enemy *in My* dwelling place, *despite* all the good which God does for Israel. Now this *shall be* a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them. Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest *who* will do according to what *is* in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.’ ”

Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; *there was* no widespread revelation. And it came to pass at that time, while Eli *was* lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the Lord where the ark of God *was*, and while Samuel was lying down, that the Lord called Samuel. And Samuel answered, “Here I am!” So he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, you called me.” And Eli said, “I did not call; lie down again.” And he went and lay down. Then the Lord called yet again, saying “Samuel!” So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” He answered, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him. And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you did call me.”

Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if He calls you, that you must say, ‘Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood and called like in the other times, saying “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.” Then the Lord said to Samuel: “Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. On that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them. And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision. Then Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son!” He answered, “Here I am.” And he said, “What *is* the word that *the Lord* spoke to you? Please do not hide *it* from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you.” Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It *is* the Lord. Let Him do what seems good to Him.” So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel *had been* established as a prophet of the Lord. Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines, and encamped beside Ebenezer; and the Philistines encamped in Aphek. Then the Philistines put themselves in a battle array against Israel. And when they joined battle, Israel was defeated by the Philistines. And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, “Why has the Lord defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies.” So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, *were* there with the ark of the covenant of God.

And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook. Now when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, “What *does* the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews *mean*?” Then they understood that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp. So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, “God has come into the camp!” And they said, “Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before. Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These *are* the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you Philistines, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!”

- ❖ Let’s repeat: “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1st John 1:7

So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell Israel and the ark of God was also captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. Then a man named Benjamin ran from the battle line the same day, and came to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. Then the man said to Eli, and Eli said, “What happened, my son?” So the messenger answered and said, “Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured.” Then it happened, when he mentioned the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died. And he had judged Israel forty years.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We should always remember that God is who guides our parents to teach us right and wrong. Knowing this we should always respect and listen to them, even if we don’t agree. Through the example of Eli and his sons we see what happens when we don’t obey our parents, and if our parents don’t discipline us. We must follow the light of Christ, which is seen in those who teach us to do good things. Not only must we obey our parents but also elders and our brothers and sisters even if they are younger than us.
- ❖ We see through the child Samuel that God can speak through anyone so we must listen to those who tell us good things from God. Although we should be careful and not just obey everyone but we must follow the word of those who also follow the light.

Q&A:

1. In the book of Proverbs 19:18 it says “Disciplining your children while you still have the chance; indulging them destroys them.” Did Eli do what the Lord asked of him?
 - a. No! He simply scolded them but never disciplined them, so they grew up not caring about what God says, they ended up disobeying their parents, and doing evil works.
2. What did God say to Samuel that He would do?
 - a. He was going to do what He said He would against Eli’s house since Eli did not listen, and did not discipline his children.
3. What did the Israelites take with them? Did they usually win? They took it with them?
 - a. The Ark of the Covenant. Yes they usually won when God was with them, but because of the many sins of the children of Eli, and their vile behavior in the temple, God was not with them.
4. Who was the Judge during this time?
 - a. Eli the priest.
5. Were there any people at this time that God was speaking to? But who did God choose to speak through?
 - a. No, there weren’t but God chose to speak through the child Samuel.
6. Let’s finish the sentence.: “If we walk in the light..”

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Challenge yourself to listen to your younger siblings in anything they ask you.
- ❖ Also challenge yourself to help your parents in anything they need at home and sacrifice your time that you usually relax or play to help them
- ❖ Read the book Wisdom of Sirach chapter 3 with your family

HYMN:

እግዚአብሔር ሀብኑ ልሳኑ ጥበብ (፪)

ከመ ናእምር ሕጋ(፪) ለቤተክርስቲያን (፪)

እግዚአብሔር ሃብኑ ልሳኑ ጥበብ

ናይ ቤተ ክርስቲያን ሕጋ ምእንቲ ክንፈልጥ መዝ. ፩፥፭

Igzābhier habene lisane Tibeb 2x

keme na-imir higa 2x

le-bietekrstīyan 2x

Igzābhier habena lisan niTibebin

nay biete kristīyan higa mi'intī kinfeliT

May God give us willingness and wisdom 2x

That we may do the laws of the church 2x *Proverbs 1:5*

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

St. Yared | The Heavenly Hymns

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the history of St. Yared.
- ❖ To learn where our hymns came from.
- ❖ To learn the importance of keeping the traditions that were passed down from our forefathers.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Synaxarium Ginbot (May) 11

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. If we can't give up something that's not in heaven while we are on Earth, will it be easy or hard when we get to heaven?
4. Where do you think music and dance came from? (when the sons of Cain tried to seduce the daughters of Seth) What about hymns? (from the angels in heaven)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Today we will talk about St. Yared(Jared), the person responsible for the all ziema of the church .
- ❖ The Church history on hymns dates back to St Yared, in the 5th century. Inspired by the Holy Spirit and moved by a deep love of the Church, he composed all the hymns of the church with musical notations. He created special hymns and musical variations for different occasions & seasons.
- ❖ After we sing hymns, we finish by saying "Zimarie melaikt yesmealna" or "May He make us worthy to hear the hymns of the Angels."

MEMORY VERSE:

"Stand fast & hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle."

2nd Thessalonians 2:15

OUTLINE:

And on this day St. Yared disappeared, he was a poet and hymn writer, who was like the Seraphim. This man was a kinsman of Abba Gideon a priest of 'Aksum. and in [this church] was first preached the Faith of our Lord Christ, and it was consecrated (i.e. dedicated) in the name of our holy Lady, the Virgin Mary, the God-bearer. When this Abba Gideon began to teach the blessed Yared the Psalms of David, he was unable to keep him with him for many days at a time, and then when ...he fled into the desert and took up his abode under a tree. And he saw a worm which was climbing up the tree, and when it had climbed up half way it fell down upon the ground; and this it did many times, because of the difficulty of climbing the tree.

And when Saint Yared saw the perseverance of the worm, he repented in his soul and returned to his teacher and said unto him, "Forgive me, O father, and dispose of me as thou wishest." And his teacher, a spiritual man, received him, and having asked God with tears He opened the thoughts of Yared's understanding, and he understood the Books of the Old and the New Testaments in one day, through the Holy Spirit; and then he was made a deacon. Now in those days there was no singing of hymns and spiritual songs in a loud voice to well-defined tunes, but men murmured them in a low voice. And God, wishing to raise up to Himself a memorial, sent unto him three birds from the Garden of 'Edom, and they held converse with Yared in the speech of man, and they caught him up, and took him to the heavenly Jerusalem, and there he learned the songs of the Twenty Four Priests of heaven. And when he returned to

himself, he went into the First Church in Aksum, at the third hour of the day, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Hallelujah to the Father, Hallelujah to the Son, Hallelujah to the Holy Spirit.”

The first Hallelujah he made the foundation, and called it “Zion.” In the second Hallelujah he showed forth how Moses carried out the work of the Tabernacle, and this he called a “Song of the heights.” And when they heard the sound of his voice, the king, and the queen, and the bishop, and the priests, and the king’s nobles, ran to the church, and they spent the day listening to him.

And he created hymns for each season of the year, for summer and winter, and spring and autumn, and for festivals and Sabbaths, and for the days of the Angels, the Prophets, the Martyrs and the Righteous, in three modes. That is to say, the first mode is called Ge’ez, the second mode is Izlī, and the third mode is Araray. And there was no sound in these three modes any of the sounds that are made by men, and birds, and beasts.

God promised St. Yared that whoever invoked his name or celebrated his commemoration would be heard; and to this day the place of his grave is not known. Salutation to Yared.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ The hymn of St. Yared is the central and most beautiful element of Orthodox worship. We use the tsenatsil (cistern), the kebero (drum), meqomya (staff), shambiqo (flute), a mesenqo (lute) a 5 string Krar (lyre), and 10 string harp called a begena.
- ❖ The only instruments used inside the Biet Meqdes, (the sanctuary) are the cistern, kebero & meqomya. The others can be used outside the sanctuary walls. Just as St. Yared brought back the chants from the heavenly jerusalem, we also choose to use only those special hymns that encompass the full range of chants.
- ❖ When we try to go outside of the Yaredawi ziema (Chants of St. Yared) we are choosing to go outside the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Churches tradition, we do not bring any other types of variation of chants into the singing in the church, when the full range of chants has been encompassed in the Chants of St. Yared. St. Paul also teaches us to “Stand fast & hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.” It doesn’t matter if it was passed down only by word of mouth or by written words, we are told to continue the traditions that our forefathers learned from the saints.
- ❖ Since this inspired hymn is the work of the Holy Spirit, it has been transmitted from generation to generation with great respect and honor. So at the end, the church doesn’t conform to the standards of the world. The church has it’s own deeply rooted tradition & culture in which has been established.

Q&A:

1. Where was St. Yared when he saw a worm?
 - a. He ran away from his uncle and sat under a tree because he was struggling to learn.
2. What did he see the worm doing, and how did it make him feel?
 - a. The worm kept falling over and over, but at the end persevered and kept working until it got to the top. St. Yared was motivated and returned to his uncle and apologized.
3. Where did St. Yared bring the hymns from?
 - a. From the heavens where he learned the songs of the 24 priests of heaven
4. For what seasons or holidays did St. Yared create the hymns for?
 - a. For every season, and every festival, for each sabbath, and the holidays of the angels, prophets, martyrs and the righteous.
5. How many modes did he create, and what are they called?
 - a. 3; Ge’ez, Izil, & Araray
6. Let’s finish this sentence: “Stand fast & hold the _____ whether by _____ or _____.”

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Whenever you are doing something, listening, or reading something, ask: does it sound like it's holy? Does it make me think of holy things? Or is my mind wandering elsewhere?

HYMN:

መሠረተ ዜማ ወጠነ (ጀ) ያሬድ ካህን

ያሬድ (፫) ያሬድ ካህን (ጀ) ጥዑመ ልሳን

Meserete ziema weTene 2x yaried kahin

Yaried 3x yaried kahin 2x Tiume lisan

Foundation of the hymns of the church that Yaried the priest composed

Yaried 3x Yaried the priest 2x delightful voice

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Birth of the Theotokos

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn what Theotokos means.
- ❖ To learn the importance of the Birth of the Virgin Mary.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Psalms 88 & 132
- ❖ Book of Clement 3

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What happened after Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree?
4. Did they have any hope afterwards, if so, what was it?
5. What does Theotokos mean?
6. Who is the Mother of God?
7. Who are St. Mary's parents?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Today we learn about the birthday of our Lady and Virgin St. Mary the mother of God.
- ❖ Show an icon of St. Mary and her parents.

MEMORY VERSE:

“I will take flesh and be born from a virgin
whose name is Mary, your great great granddaughter and save you. ”
Book of Clement 3:13

OUTLINE:

“The Lord swore an oath to David...” saying “From one of your own descendants I will place on your throne...for the Lord has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His dwelling, saying, “This is my resting place for ever and ever” [Psalms 132:11-14]

In the beginning our all knowing Creator, put a seed in our father Adam that would go on for generations and eventually be the seed through which St. Mary would be born. God told Adam “I will be born from your daughter's daughter and save you” [Book of Clement]. Through this Adam had hope that he would be saved from death, after eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil.

Now the ancestors of St Mary, Tiekta and BeTirīqan (ቴክታን በጥረቃን), were very wealthy and faithful to God but they were barren. They wondered who would inherit their wealth. Thus, through her sorrow Tietka said to her husband BeTiriqan, “If God hasn't given you from me, go and marry another one, He will give you a child.” However, BeTiriqan disagreed and said, “The God of Israel knows I would not commit to this.”

Then, they instantly saw a revelation that changed their sorrow to happiness. They saw a white bird leaving their house, and the bird to give birth to another bird until the sixth generation, the sixth generation to give birth to the moon and the moon to give birth to the Sun. They were happy and confused at the same time. They went to the famous oneirocritic in their city and asked him to reveal to them what they saw.

- ❖ Did the descendants of St. Mary have hope at first when they couldn't have a child?
- ❖ What did they see that gave them hope?

He said “You will bear a child, but I don't know the parables with the moon and the Sun, it's not revealed to me. He might be a prophet or a king.” Since the revelation was from God, Tiekta bore a child

and named her Hie'iemen (ዚኤሙን) Hie'iemen means: "I received my wish and the fruit of my prayers". Hie'iemen gave birth to Dierdie (ደርደ), and Dierdie to Tona (ቶኅ), Tona to Sikar (ሲካር), Sikar to Hiermiela (ኢርሚኤ), and Hiermiela to Hanna. When Hanna became old enough, she married a righteous man from the tribe of Judah, named Joachim.

Now today, we celebrate the birth of our holy Lady, the pure two-fold Virgin, Mary, the God-bearer, through whom came the salvation of the race of the children of man. Her honored father Joachim was an old man, and had no child, and he was very sorrowful of heart because of this, for he was not able, having no children, to bring in an offering; and his wife was barren, and there was a law of the priests that barren women should not bring in an offering. And the righteous woman Hanna, her mother, was very sad, because of their failure to have children.

And while Joachim was standing up in the mountain, and praying at the end of the fourth day of the week, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and told him that God would give him seed, through which the salvation of the whole world should come. And he came down from the mountain, and being confident, with boldness of heart, through what he had heard from the angel of the Lord, he told his wife of the vision which he had seen, and she gave thanks to God. And she believed that His word was true, and she vowed a vow to God that she would give the child, which should be born, to God, to serve His house all the days of his life. And after this, she conceived and brought forth this holy and heavenly woman, whose name was Maryam (Mary), which is being interpreted, "Lady," though there is another interpretation, "Gift and grace," and indeed she is the Lady of the entire World, and the Queen of all women, and through her we have found heavenly grace.

God has fulfilled His promise with Virgin Mary sworn to King David, "from the fruit of his body He has given the Virgin. From her the Creator, Christ the New Adam, is born, a king to sit upon King David's throne [Psalm 88:3-4]. And on the Birth of St. Mary, the Church chants, what is the sound of feasting that we hear? Iyaqiem and Hanna cry joyfully saying, "O Adam and Eve, rejoice with us today; for if by your transgression you closed the gate of Paradise to those of old, we have been given a glorious fruit, Mary the child of God, who open its entrance to us all". O Bride of the Father, immaculate Mother of the Son, and holy and resplendent temple of the Holy Spirit; O most chaste of all creation, most suitable to His ultimate purpose, on this account the universe was created and by your birth, was the eternal will of the Creator fulfilled.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We see that God gave us hope from the very beginning and showed us that even when we make mistakes He will give us a chance to repent and come back to Him. Our Lady St. Mary is pure and was created without sin from the beginning like all of us, but as she grew older she still never knew sin, this is what makes her special and different from all the other saints. We always ask St. Mary to pray for us to her beloved Son our Savior so that He might forgive us our sins. Just like at the wedding of Cana of Galilee that she interceded for, we ask her to intercede for us daily.

Q&A:

1. How many feasts of St. Mary do we have?
 - a. 33
2. What language is Theotokos, & what does it mean?
 - a. Greek, Mother of God, since she held our Lord and Savior in her womb while He was still sitting on His throne in the heavens.
3. What did God promise Adam?
 - a. That "from his daughters daughter He would save Him"
4. What is our hope? Who do we have hope in?
 - a. God! We have faith that God is our hope and salvation. And through St. Mary God came down in the form of flesh to save us from death, and sin.
5. What will you all take home from this lesson? [Everyone answers]

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Memorize the memory verse and say it every night that you pray at home.
- ❖ Teach someone the story of St. Mary and

HYMN:

ኢየሱስ ወለዳ ኢየሱስ (፪)

ዳዊት ዘመዳ ኢየሱስ ወለዳ (፩)

Īyaqiem weleda Īyaqiem 2

Dawīt zameda Īyaqiem weleda 4x

Joachim begot her 2x

David is her kin 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Prodigal Son

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the story of the Prodigal Son
- ❖ To learn what it means to be lost and return to God
- ❖ To understand what it means to be forgiving.
- ❖ To understand how to rejoice in others' happiness instead of being jealous.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Zechariah 1:3
- ❖ Gospel of Luke 15:4-6; 11-32
- ❖ Gospel of John 10:11;14-15

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What does prodigal mean? (Lavish, freely and recklessly)
4. Have we ever been mad at our parents when they forgive our siblings for doing something wrong, but they didn't see the good things you did?
5. How many of us have been jealous when our parents don't see our good work but notice our brother or sister's good work?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ This week we will be talking about the lost son.
- ❖ Show an icon of Christ with His sheep.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son." "

Luke 15:21

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read Luke 15:11-16

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me*.' So he divided them *his* livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with lavish living. But after a while when he had spent it all, there was a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he gave him the job to work in his fields to feed the pigs. And he was so hungry that he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, but no one gave him *anything*.

Have one of the children read Luke 15:17-20

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.' " "And he arose and came to his father.

Have one of the children read Luke 15:11-16

But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

- ❖ What did he say? -Repeat together:
 - 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' Luke 15:21
- ❖ When did the father forgive him?
 - Before he even asked for forgiveness! As soon as he saw him returning to his home it says "But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."

Just like this our Father in heaven forgives us as soon as we realize our mistake, as soon as we are ready to repent and ask for forgiveness, as soon as He sees that we deeply regret whatever mistake we may have made. Just like this, our parents are also forgiving of us when we make a mistake, and sometimes they are mad or disappointed but they do this to teach us that they expect better.

Have one of the children read Luke 15:22

"Now the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

Have one of the children read Luke 15:28-30

"But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has destroyed your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

Earlier we asked if we have ever been jealous when our parents don't see our good work but notice our brother or sister's good work, this is how the other brother felt.

Have one of the children read Luke 15:31-32

"And [his father] said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' " The father rejoiced because he got his son back 'thus says the Lord of hosts: "Return to Me," says the Lord of hosts, "and I will return to you," Zech 1:3

APPLICATION:

- ❖ God teaches us He will always be there when we want to return to Him, and that whenever we are lost, he will always leave everyone and come for us. Imagine that! He loves us so much that whenever He sees other people are doing good He leaves them for a little bit to run for us. Like he taught us, He is our shepherd. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.
- ❖ When he has a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, he will leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it. When he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' [Luke 15:4-6]
- ❖ Let us all rejoice when our brother or sister is lost and comes back home. When they do something wrong to hurt us or our parents but come to ask their forgiveness, we should also rejoice. Wouldn't we be happy if our father left others and came looking for us? Wouldn't we be excited? That's exactly what Christ did for us on the Cross, and why we should rejoice at

Q&A

1. How did the other son feel, and why?
 - a. He was jealous, that he didn't get a celebration like his brother
2. Is it right to feel this way? Why? If not, how should we feel?
3. How do we sometimes act like the prodigal son?
 - a. When we lie to our parents, teachers. When we are rude and mean to one another. When we are jealous of what other people have and wish we could have what they do. Whenever we are not thanking God for what we have.
4. How does God react when we run away from Him?
 - a. God is sad and disappointed and waits for us to come back to Him. And when we come back He is so very excited!
5. What can we do to return to God, and ask for forgiveness?
 - a. We can ask for forgiveness, and go to Aboy Qeshi and ask God for forgiveness. He gives us our fathers so they can teach us the right way, and how we can stop making the same mistakes.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Teach your sibling or your parents about what it means to be forgiving.
- ❖ Read the story of the prodigal son with your family this week.

HYMN:

ኢትዮጵያን ኢትዮጵያን ወኢትመንነት (፪)

አምላክ ሰላም ተራድላን(፪)

እግዚአብሔር እግዚአብሔር ነጽረ ነቢይ (፪)

ሰላም ወልድኪ የሃሉ ምስሌን(፪) (፪)

አይትግደራና አይትግደራና ሸለል አይትበለና (፪)

ናይ ሰላም አምላክ ተራድላና (፪)

ድንግል አዴና ድንግል አዴና ጠምቲ ናባና (፪)

ሰላም ናይ ወድኼ የሃሉ ምሳና(፪) (፪)

ītigdefene ītegdefene we-ītimenene 2x

Amlake selam teradi'ane 2x

Igzi'itene Igzi'itine netsirī habiene 2x

selame weldikī yihalu misliene 4x

aytigdefena aytig'defena shelel aytibelena 2x

selam nay Amlak yihalu misana

dingil adiena Dingil adiena Temitī nabana 2x

selam nay Wediki yihalu misana 4x

Don't leave us 2x

And please don't neglect us

Oh God of peace, come save us 4x

Our lady 2x looks towards us 2x

May the peace of your son, dwell with us 4x

Season of the Paraclete | Zemene PeraqliTos

1. Pentecost | The Coming of the Paraclete
2. St. Michael | Bahran Trusts God
3. The Apostolic Church
4. Forgiveness

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Pentecost | The Coming of the Paraclete

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the condition of the church during the 1st century.
- ❖ To describe the established values in the church after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.
- ❖ To define the contributing places and people involved.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Acts 1:15-20; 2
- ❖ Book Joel 2:28

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What happens when we are baptized, what do we receive? (The Holy Spirit)
4. What does paraclete mean? (Another name for the Holy Spirit)
5. What does Pentecost mean? (50 days in Hebrew)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Pentecost
- ❖ Today we will talk about the coming down of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles.

MEMORY VERSE:

“He breathed on them, and said to them; receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained”

John 20:22-23

OUTLINE:

After the resurrection Christ established the sacraments of priesthood as it is written: “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying: All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” Matthew 28:18-20. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them; receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained (John 20:22-23, Matthew 18:18).

Have one of the children read Acts 2:1-16

“So when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

We hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” Now others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these

are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.’ Joel 2:28

Have one of the children read Acts 19:9

“But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.

Have one of the children read Acts 9: 2

And asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Have one of the children read Acts 24:14

But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets

Have one of the children read Acts 13:2-3

When our Lord and Savior ascended to the heavens, as He ordered and foretold them, the Apostles started their fast the day after the Pentecost. The Apostles’ Fast is one of the oldest fast, and the first kind of fasting kept by the Christian Church. As the Apostles’ fasted, the Holy Spirit spoke to them, ‘as they ministered to the Lord and fasted; the Holy Spirit separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work when I have called them. And when they fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ After Christ established the church, the Apostles accepted the Holy Spirit and began to fast so that they could grow closer to God. This is one of the oldest fasts in our church that we do. Make sure to fast while thinking about how the apostles were fasting, and praying.

Q&A:

1. Who were the people inside the upper room when the Holy Spirit came down?
 - a. There were 120 of them, the 36 women, 12 Apostles and 72 disciples.
2. What fast begins after Pentecost?
 - a. The fast of the Apostles
3. What authority did Christ give the apostles?
 - a. To baptize all the nations in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to observe all things that I have commended you. And to forgive the sins of men and release them when they repent.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Teach the story of the Holy Spirit coming down on the apostles on Pentecost to your family in a family bible study!

HYMN:

ቅዱሳን ዘለምግቤ ወንጹሐን ይኩኑ (፪)

ጸረቅሊጦስግ (፫) መንፈስከ ፈኑ (፪) ግብረ ሕዋርያት ፪፥፫፥፬

Qidusan ze'im-habieke we-nitsuhan yikunu 2x

Peraqlitosiha 3x menfesike fenu 2x

As you gave the saints, and the pure to be 2x

Paraclete 3x send down your spirit 2x Acts 2:3-4

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

St. Michael | Bahran Trusts God

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the annual feast of St. Michael
- ❖ To learn about the miracle that God did through St. Michael
- ❖ To learn what it means to trust God always.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Synaxarium 12th of Sene/June

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Whenever you go on an airplane, or a bus or train, have you ever asked to see the pilot's or conductor's license or check that they should be flying the plane or driving the bus? Why not?
4. What do you have for those people who are flying or driving you? (You have trust that they can do their job)
5. What are ways that we trust God everyday? (Walking, going to school, sleeping-that we will wake up the next day)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Today we will discuss trusting God
- ❖ Have the children do a trust fall (on a mat) where one child has to catch another from falling to the floor
- ❖ Show an icon of St. Michael & Bahran

MEMORY VERSE:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart...And He shall direct your paths."
Proverbs 3:5-6

OUTLINE:

Now on this day is celebrated the commemoration of the glorious angel Michael the Archangel. There was in the city of Alexandria a great temple which Queen Cleopatra had built in the name of the star Venus, and they celebrated a festival. And there was a large idol, and they used to offer up many sacrifices to it on the day of the festival for 300 years and more. When Abba Alexander was Archbishop of Alexandria, and the righteous Emperor Constantine was reigning, the True Christian Faith spread abroad. And Abba Alexander wanted to smash that idol, but some men of the city prevented him, saying, "We are in the habit of celebrating a festival in honor of this idol. And behold, fifteen archbishops before you but they didn't change our traditions."

Abba Alexander rebuked them severely, and he explained to them saying, "This idol can't do evil nor good, but those who celebrate the festivals of idols worship Satans." He said to them, "If you will listen to my advice, let me arrange for you this festival like it used to be, let us smash this idol, and reconsecrate the temple, change it into a church in the name of the glorious angel Michael, and we will arrange this festival in his honor. And let the altar be dedicated to God Most High, and let the poor, and the needy, eat the oxen and sheep which the priests slay, and the angel Michael shall intercede on your behalf with our Lord Jesus Christ." And this idea pleased them, they agreed and they made the temple a church in the name of the glorious angel Michael the Archangel. And that temple became known as the

“Church of Caesarea,” and it continued to stand until the Muslims reigned in Egypt, and then they destroyed it.

- ❖ What happened to the church of St. Michael? (They built the church in his honor but it was later destroyed.)

Now there was a certain man who feared God, and who used to celebrate the commemoration of the glorious archangel Michael on the twelfth day of each month, and especially during the months of Hidar and Sene. And he had a neighbor who was a rich man without mercy, and that man used to hate the God-fearing man when he celebrated the festival of the glorious angel, and used to laugh at him. After the God-fearing man’s time of his death came, he told his wife to always be merciful, and celebrate the commemoration of the angel Michael. His wife was with child during this time, and after the man died his wife buried him.

Now at that time the woman was about to have the baby she was in very great tribulation, and she said, “O Michael, angel of God, have compassion upon me, and entreat God on my behalf so that He may deliver me from the tribulation in which I am,.” And when she had said these words, the house where she was in became full of light, and she was relieved of her pains, and she brought forth a child whose appearance was godly.

The angel of God, the glorious Michael, came down from heaven, and he blessed the child, and said, “God says: *This child shall inherit the goods of the rich man who doesn’t have any mercy, his possessions and all his lands.*” At that moment the rich man was looking out from the window of his house to the house of the woman, and he heard the voice of Michael saying these words and he became sad, and sought a reason to kill the child, but God protected him through the intercession of the glorious angel Michael.

- ❖ What did God say about the child? (He would inherit everything that the rich man has)

Now when the child was ten years, his mother did not have any money and the rich man used this opportunity against the woman saying to her, “Give me your son, and let him help me, and I will feed him and clothe him, and give you gold.” When the woman heard these words from the rich man she rejoiced on account of her poverty, and the rich man gave her twenty dinars in gold, and she gave him her son; and having taken him the rich man rejoiced and he said in his heart, “Behold what I have desired is becoming true for me.” Then he made a wooden box the size of the boy and forced him into the box, and threw him into the water along with the key.

By the will of God the box floated on the surface of the river until it came to the area of a certain city, near the river. A certain shepherd who was tending his flocks near the river saw the box, dragged it out, and carried it into his house, and he was thinking by what means he would open the box. While he was thinking about this, God put the thought into his heart that he should go to the river, and straight away he found a fisherman. The shepherd told him, “Cast your net into the river in my name, and I will pay you for the fish”; and the fisherman did as he said. A great fish came out from the net, and the shepherd paid him; and taking it he went to his house, and broiled it, for his household to eat.

After he slit the belly of the fish he found a key inside it, and he said to himself, “Maybe this is the key of the box.” He inserted the key into the keyhole of the box it opened, and the shepherd marveled for he found a boy inside it whom the rich man wanted to kill. When he saw him, he rejoiced and he called him “Bahran” because he found him in the river; and the boy (Bahran) became like his son. Now the distance of the city where the boy was born, from where the shepherd lived, was a journey of ten days. After many days the rich man wished to go and sojourn with the shepherd, and when the sun was about to set he said to the shepherd, “Do you have a place where we can lodge until tomorrow; if you do, I will pay you.” And the shepherd brought the rich man into his house, and called Bahran.

When the rich man heard this name he asked the shepherd, saying, “Is this your son?” And the shepherd said unto him, “Yes, I found this young man when he was a little boy in a box in the river, and I took him and raised him as my son.” When the rich man heard this he was very sorry in his heart, and he knew that the young man was the boy who he had thrown into the river to kill. On the next day, the rich man was leaving, and devised an evil plan and said to the shepherd, “I want you to give me your son so that I may send him with a message to my house in the city because I have forgotten something which is

in my house; and I will pay you twenty dinars of gold” And the shepherd rejoiced because of the gold, and he called the young man and said to him, “O my son Bahran, this honorable man may send you to his house on some business, and return to my house in peace”; and the young man said unto him, “Willingly, O my father, whatever you command me I will do.”

Then straightway the rich man wrote a letter to his steward, saying, “When you have read this letter kill the bearer of it, ‘Bahran’. Let no one know about this until I come”; and he wrote a secret sign, which none else knew. He gave it to Bahran, and the young man departed. As he was journeying along the road, the angel of God, Michael, the Archangel, came to him, on a horse in the form of a soldier of the emperor; and he said to Bahran, “What do you have with you?” And he replied, “A letter from a rich man who sent me to his house.” St. Michael said to him, “Show me the letter,” and Bahran being afraid gave it to him. And the angel blew on the paper, obliterated everything and wrote with his own hand saying, “, I the rich man have sent you the bearer of this letter Bahran. When you have read this letter, marry him to my daughter and give him everything in my house, and my lands. Let him do what he wants in my house. Here is the sign which is between you and I.” And the angel gave it to Bahran, and said to him, “Go to the house of the rich man, and when you have arrived at his house give this letter to his steward, and do not tell him that I met you on the road, and that I have changed this letter.” And Bahran said unto him, “Yea, my lord, everything which thou hast commanded me I will do.”

And Bahran arrived at that city, and he gave his letter to his steward. And when the steward had read it, and recognized the mark. They made a great marriage-feast for Bahran and the daughter of the rich man, married them in the church, and they lived in the happiness of marriage for forty days, towards the end of the marriage-feast the rich man returned to his city, and when he heard the sound of the music and singing, he asked, “What is this sound which I hear?” And certain of the men said unto him, “Your letter came by the hand of a young man called Bahran, and as in it you did command that your daughter should be married to him, they gave her to that young man whose name is Bahran. And behold they have been rejoicing in the marriage-feast forty days and forty nights. They have given him all your money, house, and, and possessions, like you commanded in your letter.” When the rich man heard these words, he cried out at the top of his voice, and fell down and died.

The young man Bahran always celebrated the commemoration of the glorious angel of God, Michael the Archangel, on the twelfth day of each month, and he knew that it was he who had appeared unto him and breathed on the letter and obliterated what was written there, and. He built a beautiful church in the name of the glorious angel Michael, the Archangel, and he painted a picture of him in it in front of the sanctuary. Through this picture many miracles were done, and the sick were healed. Bahran was appointed priest of that church.

On the day of the resurrection this glorious angel bowed before the throne of God, and said, “I beg and entreat Thy compassion, O my God, I Your servant and messenger, to make known to me all those who celebrate my commemoration upon earth, through Your righteous promise.” God answered and said, “O Michael, chief of the faithful hosts of heaven, behold, I command you to lift up upon your wing of fire as many men as you are able to carry upon it, three times over.” Saint Michael rejoiced, and he did just this.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Therefore we should strive, and celebrate the feast of the glorious angel Michael, the Archangel, as much as we can, even if it be only to give a cup of cold water in his name to someone who is thirsty.
- ❖ Let’s ask for mercy from God through the intercession of the glorious angel Michael, that He may protect us from the Satan, and may put far away from us all pain (or, sickness) and the plague, and may increase the fruits of our lands in performing His mercy, and may forgive us our sins, and may give rest to the souls of our dead, and may bring back in safety those of our fathers and relatives who are traveling, and may set peace in our midst, and may strengthen us to stay in this True Faith forever. And this glorious angel Saint Michael the Archangel performed many miracles.

- ❖ Just like Bahran trusted God to protect him, God did! He protected him using His angels, and we should always trust God to protect us and guide us in all our lives. We can only do this through prayer, and believing in Him.

Q&A:

1. What did Bahran say?
 - a. Whatever you command me, I will do--he was obeying his father no matter what. And we will see God will reward him later on
2. Who was the first person in Bahran's family to explain how important it was to honor St. Michael's feast day?
 - a. His father
3. Let's finish the sentence.. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" Proverbs 3:5-6

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ (Prepare a list of Saints with brief explanations of their miracles for the children to remind them, and choose from throughout the year.)
- ❖ Pick one Saint that you have learned about so far and always ask for his or her intercession in your life after you ask for St. Mary's intercession. Whenever you walk somewhere, when you are coming to church, when you are heading to school, ask for the help of this Saint to protect and guide you always.

HYMN:

ባህረ-ጌጌ ይቤ ዘነገደ ባህር (፪)

ርእይኩም (፪) ለሚካኤል (፪)

Bahranini yibie ze-negede bahri 2x

ri'yikiwo 2x le-Mikael 4x

Bahran said as he went through the sea

I saw him 2x St. Michael 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Apostolic Church

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the condition of the church during the 1st century.
- ❖ To describe the established values in the church after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.
- ❖ To define the contributing places and people involved.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Acts 2
- ❖ Book Joel 2:28
- ❖ Monasteries of Eritrea

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What is the meaning of an ambassador? (a representative)
4. Who do you think were the ambassadors of Christ? (The apostles! 2nd Corinthians 5:20)
5. How many were they? (120) Acts 1:15-20
6. What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?
 - a. A disciple is a follower of Christ; an apostle is someone who Christ gave the job of spreading His word.
7. What is the Apostolic era?
 - a. The era when the apostles went and preached the word of God.

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Today we will learn about the apostolic church.
- ❖ Show an icon of the Apostles

MEMORY VERSE:

“Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”

Psalm 19:4

OUTLINE:

After the resurrection Christ established the sacraments of priesthood as it is written: “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying: All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” Matthew 28:18-20. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them; receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained (John 20:22-23, Matthew 18:18).

- ❖ Let's repeat together, “Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world” Psalm 19:4

The church started to grow and was characterized by the following:

1. A Unified Church
 - ❖ From day one the church learned to be together. We see the abidance in the Book of Acts: “these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brethren” (Acts 1:14) “And they, continuing daily

with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart” (Acts 2:46). It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul (Acts 15: 25).

- ❖ Let’s think about ourselves, are we united with our family, are we united as a church, are we united when we are praying in the divine Liturgy? The angels in the heavens are continually praising God every day, every hour, every second of each day. And when we begin praying, God says wait, my child is calling me, my children are calling on me.

2. The church was characterized by Evangelism

- ❖ To the Jews: the first time when St. Peter addressed the crowd after the Pentecost (Acts 2:14-47). Then those who gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls (Acts 2:41). Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47). And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women (Acts 5:14). For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith: and many people were added unto the Lord (Acts 11:24).
- ❖ To the Gentiles: Cornelius was the first that St. Peter visited and baptized him and his family (Acts 10:23-48).
- ❖ How can we evangelize? At school, even at home, we must be an example to our siblings, even our parents, and to our classmates. We must show what it means to be Christian and show the love that Christ has taught us.

3. And finally, the church was characterized by Persecution

- ❖ We all know the story about Saul and his conversion (Acts 9) and the killing of James by Herod. The Jews inflicted the early church with many afflictions, it was considered a sect: -”For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarene (Acts 24:5). But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere (28:22). The attack on Christianity started by attacking Christ Himself (John 8:48, Matthew 9:34, 12, 24, Luke 11:15). This led them to falsely accuse Christ and crucify Him. After the destruction of Jerusalem they organized attacks on Christians. During the 1420’s a man named Mohammed Gragn came to East Africa, specifically Eritrea, and Ethiopia and began burning churches, burning Ark of Covenants, many historical books, and holy equipment that were in our monasteries. By God’s grace, in the monastery of Abune Inque Brhan in Shehay, the grave of Abune Inque Birhan protected over 67 Ark of Covenants, keeping them safe.
- ## 4. The Established Churches: Jerusalem, Alexandria, Rome, Antioch

APPLICATION:

- ❖ The church was strong in faith and evangelism in the apostolic era. The apostolic period is the first 100 years after Christ. During this period the Christianity spread throughout the world and the books of the New Testament were written. May God bless the church with the spirit of unity as in the apostolic era.
- ❖ As more Christians were being persecuted for their faith, the church continued to grow, and many continued to become believers. The same church that Christ established, continues now in the Orthodox church.

Q&A:

1. In what places were the churches established?
 - a. They were established in Jerusalem, Alexandria, Rome, & Antioch (modern day Turkey)
2. What are the ways in which the church was characterized?
 - a. The Church was characterized as unified, by evangelism, and by persecution.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write the names of the 12 disciples of Christ and bring it to class next time.
- ❖ Call a friend that did not come to church today to ask about him and encourage him to come next week.

HYMN:

ወከመ ንኩን አሐደ በመንፈስ ቅዱስ (፪)

በመንፈስ ቅዱስ (፪) አሐደ በመንፈስ ቅዱስ

we-keme nikun ahade ahade beMenfes Qidus 2x

beMenfes Qidus 2x ahade beMenfes Qidus

So we may be one 2x one through the Holy Spirit

Through the Holy Spirit 2x one through the Holy Spirit

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

Forgiveness

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn what it means to forgive.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Leviticus 20
- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 5
- ❖ Gospel of John 8
- ❖ Ephesians 4
- ❖ 1st Peter 4:8

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. How should we treat others who might make a mistake? (Be kind)
4. Let's ask what does Christ do whenever we make a mistake?
5. Whose job is it to judge us, or each other? (Christ when he comes down for judgment)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ This week we will learn about forgiveness.

MEMORY VERSE:

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read John 8:2-6

Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" This they said, testing Him, that they might have *something* of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His* finger, as though He did not hear.

- ❖ If that is the rule that God gave Moses, what do you think Christ will say, the same person who gave those laws to the Israelites?
- ❖ Should the lady be stoned? Did Christ come to get rid of the law in the old testament? (No, he came to fulfill the law).

Have one of the children read John 8:7-11

So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard *it*, being convicted by *their* conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest *even* to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Have one of the children read John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

We are called to be the light of the world, and to forgive one another and to be kind to each other. Everytime we disappoint God, He still loves us, and cares for us, everytime we repent from the bottom of our hearts. Knowing this He expects us to love one another, teaching us through St. Peter saying: “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” ”

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Christ came to fulfill the law as he said on Mt. Olives: “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven..” Matt 5:17
- ❖ True forgiveness is granted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If we want to be forgiven for our sins, we must forgive the people around us who have done wrong to us. We must also understand that as humans, we are unable to judge those around us but know that God is the only one who can judge us.

Q&A:

1. Who is in charge of judging people?
 - a. Jesus Christ on judgment day
2. How does Christ want us to treat people who hurt us?
 - a. With Love! Because if we are only nice to our friends, what is the difference between us and other people who don’t love God?
3. Let’s finish the memory verse: “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ The next time someone hurts you, forgive them, start with your siblings at home. If they won’t listen to you or if they are mean to you, forgive them and don’t say anything back, just pray.

HYMN:

እንዘ ናፈቅራ ማርያም (፪) እንዘ ናፈቅራ (፪)

እንዘ ናፈቅራ (፪) ማርያም እንዘ ናፈቅራ (፪)

inze nafeqira Maryam 2x inze nafeqira 2x

inze nafeqira 2x Maryam inze nafeqira 2x

while we shall love her St. Mary 2x as we love her 2x

as we love her 2x As we love St. Mary 2x

The Rainy Season | Zemene Kiremt

1. Fast of the Apostle's | Servantry
2. Abune SeyfeMichael | Gedam Tsa'ida Imba
3. The Rich Man & Lazarus
4. St. Longinus | Sacrifice
5. The Angels
6. The Fast of St. Mary's Assumption
7. Abune Philipos zeDebre Bizen | Temptation
8. Debre Tabor | The Transfiguration & Heavenly Jerusalem
9. St. John's Monastery | Respecting the Temple

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Fast of the Apostles | Servantry

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about why we participate in the fast of the apostles (Tsome Hawariyat).
- ❖ To learn the importance of being a servant and ways we can become servants.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Matthew 9:14-15
- ❖ Mark 2:18-20; 11:12-25
- ❖ Fet'ha Negest | Law of Kings
- ❖ Tiwfit | Church Tradition

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?
4. What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle? (A disciple is any follower of Christ, Apostle has been given the job to preach the word of God by our Savior Himself.)
5. Can you remember a time when Jesus Himself fasted?
6. Let's name all the seven fasts in our church. (The Fast of Nineveh, Great Lent, Fast of the Apostles, St. Mary's Assumption fast, Fast of the Prophets (or Advent), The Paramon fast (day or days preceding the feast of nativity and feast of Theophany), and Wednesday and Friday weekly fasts.

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Review the 7 fasts and the names of them.
- ❖ Today we will discuss the Fast of the Apostles, and what it means to serve Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

"So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer"

Ezra 8:23

OUTLINE:

The Fast of the Apostles is one of the 7 fasts we observe in our Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church. The dates depend on when we celebrate Fasika or Tinsa'ie meaning Christ's resurrection. While Christ was on earth, the disciples of John and of the Pharisees were fasting. Then they came and said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?"

- ❖ What do you think Jesus said to them?

Have one of the children read Matthew 9:14-15

"And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."

After Christ destroyed death by death, He stayed on the earth revealing Himself to many people and over 500 people saw Him risen from the dead. After forty days, He ascended into heaven and left the apostles with the promise that the Holy Spirit would come to dwell in them. Now fifty days after Christ's resurrection from the dead the Holy Spirit came down in the likeness of fire, and soon after, the apostles began to fast because the bridegroom was taken from them and they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We observe this fast just like the apostles did and after we are baptized and are 7 years old we begin to fast.

Now just like the apostles began to fast after Christ left them, we also fast until Christ comes down again. Until then we must bear fruits! What does it mean to bear fruits?

We see that trees that bear fruit give us nourishment, they feed us, they give apples, and oranges give us food. Now we see that while on earth Christ passed by a fig tree and was hungry. And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. In response Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard it.”

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Now Christ showed them that they must also produce fruit in their work on earth. That they should not be dry and waste their talents. God gave each one of us a gift to use, and just like the apostles served Him with their talents we must also follow in their footsteps. We should pray and fast so that God can show us our talent, and how we can use it. This fast is important because it is the time for us to serve God and rejoice in Him because He has allowed us to participate in doing fruitful things.

Q&A:

1. Who was Jesus talking about, being the bridegroom?
 - a. He was talking about Himself
2. What do you think the apostles began to do after they received the Holy Spirit and began to fast?
 - a. They began to serve God. They began to use their talents and teach others about our Creator and the wonderful things they had been given. St. Peter was Christ’s rock and was given the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and with his ability to speak well, he preached to the masses.
3. Why do we observe the fast of the Apostles?
 - a. We observe it just like the apostles did after they received the Holy Spirit. In order to get closer to God, and have better communication with Him.
4. Why didn’t the apostles fast while Christ was on earth?
 - a. The apostles did not fast while He was on earth because they were still learning from Him, and they could talk with Him directly.
5. *Except our lord and saviour Jesus Christ who fasted 40 days and nights ,name some other people in the New Testament who fasted.*
 - a. *The Apostles fasted after Christ ascended and they received the Holy Spirit. St. John the baptist also fasted while he was in the wilderness.*
6. What are some examples of talents that we can use at church?
 - a. We can clean the church after class. We can also take turns leading mezmur. We can take turns teaching the class. We can also bring snacks to church to share with others. There are many ways, we just need to find our talent and pray to God so He can show us how He wants us to serve Him.
7. What about us, what talents or gifts do we have that we can serve God with?
8. What was the memory verse for today?
 - a. “So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer” Ezra 8:23

CHALLENGE!

- ❖ Give the children tasks to help serve in the church. Assign a weekly or monthly schedule where they take turns cleaning their classroom.
- ❖ Give them turns to take attendance, and have an attendance folder with their names.
- ❖ Assign them groups for competitions and have monthly jeopardy where they take turns leading the games.

HYMN:

በጾም ወበጸሎት ወረሱ ተስፋ ሕይወት (፪)

ጻድቃን ጻድቃን ውሉደ ብርሃን (፪)

be-tsom webe-tselote weresu tesfa hīywet 2x

tsadqan 2x wilude birhan 4x

By fasting and by prayers they received hope of life 2x
The righteous 2x the sons of light 4x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Abune SeyfeMikael | Gedam Tsa'ida Imba

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the story of Abune SeyefeMichael and the history of the Monastery.
- ❖ To learn about monasticism and the strength of the seclusive life of monks.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 19

CLASS APPLICATION:

- ❖ Have the students do a research project and choose different saints to present in the next class. (Homework idea). Prepare the resources prior to class time.

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Have you ever heard of a monastery, what is it?
4. What is a monk or nun, what do they do, how do they live?
5. Do you all ever see your parents or grandparents use tsebel, or go to may tselot? What is it used for?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Abune SeyefeMichael and Gedam Tsa'ida Imba.
- ❖ Today we will learn about monasticism, and what it means to be a monk.

MEMORY VERSE:

"If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me."
Matthew 19:21

OUTLINE:

Today we learn about the celebration of the Monastery of Tsaeda Emba Selassie which commemorates its annual celebration on Hamle 7 every year. It is found in the hilly highland terrain of the northern region of Eritrea. The monastery was first established by Abune Seyefemicheal whose name means the sword of St. Michael. Born in 1626 A.D in the village of Dersenay, a village located a few kilometers from the mountain. The name of their father is Amde Michael, meaning pillar of St. Michael, and the name of their mother is Hirute Mariam.

After becoming a monk, they went to the monastery of Tsa'ida Imba Selassie in 1668, created a community and introduced the rite of St. Pachomius (a rite of monkhood). Abune SeyfeMichael continually lived in humility, modesty, solitude, and a life full of prayer.

- ❖ What does it mean to be a monk from what we learn from Abune SeyfeMichael?
 - To live a life dedicated to speaking with God. To live a life always praising our creator.
- ❖ Who do you think is closer to God, us or the monks and nuns living a life of solitude?
 - The desert fathers! Because that is their only job, to praise God, and speak with Him daily.

In this monastery there are many miracles. One day when the spiritual children of Abune SeyfeMichael struggled to find water since there was no water source nearby. Abune SeyfeMichael prayed to God, and sprung water from the rocks, and it is used to heal the sick. It is still in the monastery today. Many believers also use the graveyard of Abune Seyefimichael as Tsebel, and get healed.

Before Tsaeda Emba became a monastery, many hermits lived in the area. After many Muslims invaded the area during the Ottoman empire, they were killing Christians and this made all the hermits flee. After the start of the Italian regime, people started to live in peace.

The most fascinating thing in this monastery is, the monastery sits wedged atop one of the region's highest mountains, mount Tsaeda Emba. Climbing this mountain is not only hard but also dangerous. It makes it almost impossible for a person to stand on it. Despite this fact, the monks in the monastery are used to the edge and can walk over it without much difficulty, but to anyone visiting walking with two legs on this edge is impossible. This monastery is on the same steep mountain that our father Abune Indriyas of Gedam Debre Tsigie moved it on his journey back to Asmara.

During the Italian colonial period, the Italians asked the monks to build a road as an entrance to the monastery, but the monks refused and stuck to walking over an edge of the mountain, and even with the steepness of the area, no life has been lost in climbing the mountain so far.

- ❖ What about us, do we pray on our way to school? What about when we drive to church?
 - Let's remember that everywhere the fathers went, they were singing to God, reading His words, praying to Him, and in everything they did, they spoke as if He was right next to them. This is how we should be. Even though Abune Seyfemichael and the monastic fathers struggled with battles with people trying to kill them, they struggled getting to their home in the monastery, they always trusted God.

Now around the age of their departure, Abune SeyefeMichael faced great temptation. They were faced with many heresy, but with the help God defeated all of them. Wrestling with many of them proving their teaching was unorthodox. After their great fight and teaching, they passed away at the age of 96 on the 19th of Tikmit in the year 1722 of the Ge'ez calendar at their monastery Tsaeda Emba Selassie.

The monastery is a male only monastery and contains various religious books that have existed for over 600 years. One of the things that marks the monastery as an exceptional one is--in the summer of 1970 the area received a heavy rainy season and during this season lightning struck the mountain on one side and left its mark there. The mark left by the lightning resembles the map of the country today.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We see the great duty of the saint fathers that dwell in the desert, wilderness in solitude, and through their prayers we continue to have a church that is blessed and continues to flourish. We must always remember to give back to our churches and monasteries, and keep them in our prayers, and take advantage of the many gifts of healing that they provide. We should also see how important it is to live with Christ, and to pray to Him daily in our prayer corners at home, when we have a journey, going to school or visiting someone's house. In everything we do we should remember the sacrifice and martyrdom of the flesh that the desert fathers gave and continue to give. What is our job now? To continue what they have started, maybe not in the desert but at home, in the car, in the church, at family or friends house, in public places, to always continue in prayer.

Q&A:

1. What does it mean to live a life filled with prayer?
 - a. It means that throughout the day, no matter how big or small the task, you always think of God. If we are eating with our family we can think of how God blessed us with having our family and the food on our table.
 - b. If we are studying or doing homework we can ask God to help us, and guide so that we can do well so everyone can praise Him by the work that we are doing.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Research a story about a desert father from our country (give the children options, and resources to use), and bring a presentation about them. (powerpoint slides, Prezi, posterboard, tri-fold display with pictures to teach the class the next week.)

HYMN:

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ጸልዩ ለን ንኃሉ በሰላም (፪)

abew qidusan ile debre we-gedam 2x

tseliyu lene ni'halu be-selam 4x

Saint fathers in the mountains and within the monasteries 2x

Pray for us that we may dwell in peace 4x

The Rich Man & Lazarus**OBJECTIVE:**

- ❖ To learn to obey God's commandments.
- ❖ To learn to be merciful to others since God is merciful to us.
- ❖ To learn about life after death.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of St. Matthew 5:7
- ❖ Gospel of St. Luke 16:19-31

CLASS APPLICATION:

- ❖ Have the children act out the events after learning the story.

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was the memory verse from last week?
3. Why doesn't God just come down again and show us that heaven exists?
4. Why can't He simply speak to us like He spoke to the Israelites so we know what to do?
5. Do you think if someone came back from the dead to explain how important it is to repent?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Judgement day.
- ❖ Today we are going to learn about the story about the Rich man & Lazarus.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy”
Matthew 5:7

OUTLINE:

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’

APPLICATION:

- ❖ This world is temporary and we will leave it. What happens when someone dies, do we ever physically see them again? We know that they are not with us, but through Christ's resurrection and through the life of the saints, we know that there is life in the heavens that is more. We see that when someone is not kind to others and does not have the fear of God in them cannot see God in life after heaven. But when we truly look for God in everything He will reveal himself to us.

Q&A:

1. How did the rich man and Lazarus live on earth? How did they live after they died?
 - a. On earth Lazarus was a beggar, the rich man lived in excess, only caring for himself. After death Lazarus lived in joy, while the rich man was burning from the fire of God's love.
2. Was the rich man merciful? Does it say that he helped Lazarus or anyone else?
 - a. No, it shows us that he lived however he wanted, while Lazarus was sick trying to eat his left overs.
3. Why did the rich man want Lazarus to come down?
 - a. He felt the strong power of God's love burning him because he didn't love or seek God as much as God sought him. So he was tormented because of his lack of desire for God.
4. Why does the rich man want to send Lazarus to his family on earth?
 - a. So they can repent and live a better life.
5. What led to the rich man's destruction, was it simply because he was rich?
 - a. Notice how it doesn't name the rich man in the Bible, but it does name those who would be written in the Book of Life after death. His wealth did not lead to his destruction but his cruelty and selfishness.
6. Why wasn't Lazarus rescued, why didn't God help him or save him?
 - a. *God always uses his saints to show Himself through them, He didn't rescue him not because of his poverty, but to prepare for him everlasting happiness through his patience, endurance, and worship.*
7. Are we merciful to others if they hurt our feelings or do we hold that over them?
 - a. We are called to be merciful and help others even when we don't have to.
8. What is the memory verse?
 - a. "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy" Matthew 5:7

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Try to help a person in need this week and teach someone the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

HYMN:

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በእክናፍኪ ርግብየ ጎሪት (፩) መዝ ፩፻፩

tsinhinī wiste senay, we-sewirinī imot 2x

be-ak'nafikī rigbīye hirīt 4x

Wait for me in goodness, and hide me from death

With your wings my chosen dove 4x Psalm 61:4

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

St. Longinus | Sacrifice

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the prophecy of Christ's crucifixion.
- ❖ To learn how even those that betrayed Christ could still be forgiven, if repentful, using St. Longinus and his journey to Christianity.
- ❖ To learn what happened after Christ was Crucified, and understand that even if we make great mistakes, we can still return to God.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Book of Psalms 22:16-18; 34:20-22
- ❖ Gospel of John 19:20;31-37
- ❖ Synaxarium of Hamle 23

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember learning in last week's class?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What happened to Christ when He was on the Cross?
4. What do you receive when you take Holy Communion? Do our fathers only give us Christ body and blood? (No! They also give us *may qorir*; the water that spilled with Christ's precious blood.)
5. What does it mean to ask for forgiveness, have you ever apologized for something terrible you might've done?
6. Can you think of anyone who became Christian after they help crucify Christ on the cross?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Remind the children that God always guides us, especially if we seek Him.
- ❖ Today we will learn about the Sacrifice that was made on the Cross, and how we can return to God, even if we make a mistake!

MEMORY VERSE:

“ ‘I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen. ”

Matthew 28:20

OUTLINE:

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

“They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. they pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look *and* stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” Psalms 22:16-18

- ❖ Where does it say this? (Psalms)
- ❖ What does this tell us?
 - That there were prophecies in the old testament thousands of years ago, that Christ would come to save us. It was also prophesied that His clothes would be divided.
- ❖ What do you think happened when they cast lots on Christ's belongings?
 - Some of the people were led to repentance. For example, the man who took Christ's sandals was led to Mount Olives and started to repent for His sins.

Now when it was time to check for the death of those on the cross, because it was the Preparation Day, the bodies could not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, and the Jews asked Pilate that their legs

might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Christ. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, and they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

- ❖ What came out from Christ's side?

- Blood and water

For these things were done so that the Scripture should be fulfilled, because another Scripture says "Not *one* of His bones shall be broken." "They shall look on Him whom they pierced." In Psalms 34:20-22 it says:

"Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all. He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. The Lord redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned."

- ❖ Does anyone know the name of the man who pierced Christ's side?

His name was Longinus. Now, on this day also Saint Longinus became a martyr. When Tiberius Caesar reigned, he appointed Pilate governor of the land of Judah, and he gave this Saint Longinus to him among his other soldiers. And when the time arrived, and the Lord wished to suffer for the salvation of His people, He permitted the wicked Jews to perform this thing. When they had made themselves ready for this deed, this Longinus was one of the soldiers whom Pilate commanded to crucify our Lord. And because of this the Jews gave him a lot of money, and he worked and did the will of the Jews, and he pierced our Lord with a spear after He had delivered up His soul, and blood and water flowed from His side.

And when this saint saw this he marveled exceedingly. And when, at the time of the Crucifixion, he saw that the sun became dark, and that the moon became like blood, and that the curtain of the Temple was torn, and that the rocks were split open, and that the dead rose up, Longinus wondered even more; now he had heard and seen the miracles that our Lord performed from His Birth to His Crucifixion. And when the righteous Joseph took the body of our Lord and Redeemer, and laid it in the cave, this saint was standing there with the guards when they sealed the tomb. And when our Lord rose, the tomb being sealed, this Longinus was dismayed, and he asked God to explain to him this mystery. And our Lord sent unto him the Apostle Peter, and he found him on the day of the Resurrection of our Lord.

Now Longinus asked the Apostle Peter, and adjourned him to tell him the whole history of the Redeemer; and the Apostle Peter told him everything, which had been prophesied concerning our Redeemer, and how He was the Son of the Living God. And thus believed through the Apostle Peter, and he departed to the country of Cappadocia, and he preached in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, like the Apostles. When Pilate heard about this he was exceedingly angry, and reported him to Tiberius, and the emperor had him tortured and cut off his head with the sword; and the saint received the crown of martyrdom in the kingdom of the heavens.

Now we see how St. Longinus left the evil he did and turned his heart to God. He did so all the way until he even chose to die for Christ. Now we know that after the blood and water spilled from His side, St. Urael and other Angels came and received it, in order to take it to all corners of the earth, that all may partake in it. So that we may repent in our hearts, asking forgiveness of God for all our mistakes, and take His Holy Flesh and precious blood to have everlasting life. Even though Christ died on the Cross, He resurrected, and just like St. Longinus was forgiven and received the crown we also need to strive to receive crowns that God will give us.

- ❖ How can we do that without being physically martyred like St. Longinus? What can we do to receive the heavenly crown?

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We learn that just as Christ sacrificed Himself so that we may have life, the saints also sacrificed their lives for Christ. We look to them on how to live a life of repentance, and purity. How can we do this? We can start by giving our time! We can take time to pray to God, by waking up early

even though we like to sleep. By fasting from food, and fasting from things we are obsessed with. We can choose to speak less if we like to talk a lot, instead choosing to listen. By doing this we are fighting the enemy in the things we find hard. By doing this and asking God to help us always in prayer and fasting, we can receive the heavenly crown that God wants to give us. All we have to do is pray to Him daily, and He will help us.

Q&A:

1. What did the soldiers do with Christ's clothes?
 - a. They cast lots for it.
2. Where were the people led when they had Jesus' belongings?
 - a. They were led to repentance, like the man with Christ's sandals was led to Mt. Olives to pray.
3. What happened with St. Longinus who pierced Christ on the side?
 - a. St. Longinus asked for forgiveness, was baptized by St. Peter and later beheaded in the name of Christ.
4. What flowed out of our Lord's side when He was pierced, and what does it symbolize in our church?
 - a. *"Blood and water".." without shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness of sins" (Heb 9:22) and Christ by His grace gave us to baptise by water to participate and die with Him and resurrect with him through Baptism.*
5. How far did St. Longinus go, to sacrifice His life for God?
 - a. *He preached upto the the land of Cappadocia (center of present day Turkey) before his martyrdom.*
6. Let's repeat: " 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen. " Matthew 28:20

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Repeat the memory verse everyday when you pray in the morning and at night, so that you remember that God is always with you.

HYMN:

ለዳድቃን ኃረየሙ ውሉድየ ይቤሎሙ (፪)

ኀበ ዓምደ ወርቅ ተጽሕፈ. ስሞሙ (፩)

le-tsad'qan hareyomu wiludiye yibielomu 2x

habe amde werq tets'hife simomu 2x

he chose the righteous and He called them His Sons 2x

On a pillar of Gold their names are written 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Angels

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the history, and roles of angels.
- ❖ To understand the role they play in our lives.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Genesis 1:1
- ❖ Job 38
- ❖ Luke 15:8
- ❖ Metshafe Aksimaros

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think there is anyone that tells God what we do at home and everywhere else?
2. What do you remember was made first when God created the world?
3. When do you think the angels were created?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of the angels before the throne of God.
- ❖ Today we will talk about the angels and their roles, and how they help us get closer to God.

MEMORY VERSE:

“The Angel of the Lord shall encamp around those who fear Him, and He will deliver them.”

Psalm 33:8

OUTLINE:

On the first day of the time of creation, God created the heavens and the Earth. This occurred on Sunday (Day 1). Now in the first hour at night God created the 4 elements of nature. These are: Water, Earth, Wind, & Fire. God then created the seven heavens. In the second hour at night God created መንበረ መግስት (Menbere mengist/Throne of the Kingdom), In the third hour God created ጽርሐ ኦርያም, and in the fourth hour God created ሰማይ ውዳድ (Semay widud/. Now In the fifth hour God created ኢየሩሳሌም ሰማያዊት (Īyerusaliem semayawīt/heavenly Jerusalem), and in the sixth hour God created ኢዮር (Īyor). In the seventh hour God created ራማ (Rama) and in the eighth hour God created ኢረር (Īerer).

God then created the angels to fill the heavens. Now the angels were made with wind and fire. In the ninth hour God created the angels who live in ኢየሩሳሌም ሰማያዊት (Īyerusaliem semayawīt/heavenly Jerusalem), and in the tenth hour God created the angels who live in ኢዮር (Īyor). And in the eleventh hour God created the angels who live in ራማ (Rama), and finally in the twelfth hour God created the angels who live in ኢረር (Īerer). God also made Satnael and his angels above all of the other angels at this time.

Have one of the Children read Job 38:7

“When the stars were made and all My angels praised Me in a loud voice?”

This shows that stars were made after the angels. Now Angels or Mela'ikt in Ge'ez means messenger in Greek, and they were created out of nothing, like fire and wind. They don't have flesh, and we can't see them. They also don't die, get sick and they can't have children.

Have one of the Children read Psalm 104:4

“Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.”

The angels in heaven have their own place, and each of them have different jobs. In heaven there are 100 tribes or groups of angels (Matt 18:12). And after Satan fell from heaven, Adam was created (Lk 15:8). Now after God placed the angels in 3 different heavens, called Īyor, Rama, & Īrer.

In Īyor there are 40 tribes or groups, and there are 4 Levels in it. The first floor as 10 tribes/groups and the angels who live there are called Lords, (አጋእዝት/Aga'izt) and they used to be led by Satnaiel. On the second floor are the Cherubim, and they are led by a Cherub. This is the same group of angels that guarded the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were kicked out. Now on the third floor is the Seraphim, and is led by one of the Seraphs. On the last level there are 10 tribes called the Mighty that are led by St. Michael.

In Rama, there are 30 groups/camps of angels and they are divided into 3 floors. The angels on the first floor is called Myriad/Arbab/አርባብ, and St. Gabriel leads it. The angels on the second floor are called Thrones and their leader is St Raphael. They are faster than the wind, they carry gold shields and blazing swords. The angels on the third floor are called Rulers, and their leader is St. Suriel.

In Īrer there are 30 groups of angels and they are divided into 3 camps. In the first camp, the angels are known as Authorities (መኳንንት/mek'wanint) and are led by the angel Sadakaiel (ሳዳካኤል). In the second camp, the angels are known as Chiefs (ሊቃናት-liqanat) and are led by the angel Selataiel (ሰሊታኤል). And in the third camp, the tribes are called angels (መላእክት-mela'ikt) are led by St Anaiel (አናኤል).

Now the angels in heaven have 2 main duties, and that includes worshiping God, and helping/serving people.

Have one of the Children read Hebrews 1:14

“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Now here, St. Paul is showing us that all the angels are ‘ministering’ or serving those who are going to inherit salvation, meaning that they will be saved (go to heaven). This means us! We are trying to live with God in heaven, and the angels are here to help us do that.

They also deliver messages, like St. Gabriel delivered to St. Mary that she was going to give birth to baby Jesus. Or like when He told Zachariah about St. John being born. The Angel St. Uriel also protected St. John and His mother Elizabeth, when the little children were being killed by King Herod. And finally, they are continuously praising God, in different ways.

Have one of the Children read Isaiah 6:3

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His Glory”

This shows us that the angels are continuously praising God through songs and many other ways. In different books we also see how they help and serve people.

God wants us to continually praise Him, like the angels do. Now Christ taught us to pray all throughout the day, and like we learned before, we are asked to pray 7 times a day. One of those times is at 5pm. Now there are angels in the church at all times, but at 5pm, when we are at church, guess what! There are double the amount of angels. This is because the 600 angels guarding the church during the day are switching with the next 600 guardian angels that stay there at night. This means that there are 1200 angels inside the church! So we are with even more saints when we go to church at that time.

This is one of the duties of some of the angels, including watching over the church, and there they thank God all the time!

APPLICATION:

- ❖ God listens when the angels ask Him, because they already serve Him with their whole heart. He gave us the angels so that they can protect us, so they can strengthen us, and if we need it, they can save our lives. So when we beg God in the name of an angel or saint, they raise our prayers to heaven. So we should always look to the angels for help if we need it.
- ❖ God gave each one of us a guardian angel that goes back and forth from earth to heaven and delivers wonderful news when we do good things, and even when we make mistakes. All the time this guardian angel is protecting us. So let us always ask God for help through the angels, because we know that He will help us through them.

Q&A:

1. Who was created first, us humans or the angels? (Angels)
2. Name the 3 places in heaven where there are angels. (Īyor, Rama, Īrer)
3. What are the ways that the angels help us? (Fight for us, protect us)
4. What time do the angels switch shifts guarding the church? How many are there? (5pm, 1200)
5. What does our guardian angel do? (Tell God what we do; guide us).

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ This week, challenge yourself to talk with your guardian angel. Everytime you're about to do something, ask him what he thinks, because God sent him to protect us, he knows what God wants us to do.

HYMN:

ቅዱስ ቅዱስ ቅዱስ እግዚአብሔር (፪)

ፀባዖት ፍጹም ምሉእ ሰማያት ወምድረ ወምድረ ቅድሳተ ስብሐቲክ (፪) ኢ.ሳ. ፩፥፫

qিদus qিদus qিদus Igziabbhier 2x

tseba'ot fitsum mulu'i semayat we-midre we-midre qidistate sibhatike 2x

Holy, Holy, Holy, O Lord 2x

Lord of Angelic hosts, Heaven & earth 2x are filled with your Glory 2x Isaiah 6:3

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

The Fast of Her Assumption | Filseta

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn the importance of fasting and pleading to our Lady St. Mary.
- ❖ To learn the story of St. Mary's Dormition.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of St. Luke 1:48-49
- ❖ Synaxarium of the 21st of Tirī
- ❖ Synaxarium of the 16th of Nehase

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember learning last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. Have you ever asked someone to pray for you? Or have you heard someone else ask?
4. Why do we ask someone to pray for us, what will we get from it?
5. Who do you all think is the greatest saint that pleads for us? (Saint Mary)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of St. Mary's assumption with the angels around her.
- ❖ Today we will learn about the day that St. Mary was taken to heaven.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Henceforth all nations shall call me blessed,
for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy *is* His name.”
Luke 1:48-49

OUTLINE:

Today, we begin the season of fasting that the apostle's took after they could not see the assumption of our Lady Virgin Mary. Now, our Lady prayed continually at the holy grave of our Lord Christ; and the Holy Spirit made known to her that she was to depart from this fleeting world, and then told the virgins who were with her from Mt. Olives, even as our Lord told them. Then our Lady Mary prayed, saying, “O my Lord Jesus Christ, listen unto me, and to my prayer at this time, and unto my petition, and bring to me your disciple, John the evangelist, and likewise all Thy disciples, both those who are living and those whose souls You have taken, for You are the God of the living and of the dead, and to You belongs glory forever and ever, Amen.” and behold a cloud straightway took up John in the spirit from the city of Ephesus, and brought him to our Lady the holy Virgin Mary; and when he stood before her she glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. And John said unto her, “Rejoice, O you who are full of grace, who did bear our Lord Jesus Christ.” And the Holy Spirit spoke by his mouth, saying, “You shall go forth from this world with great honor and glory, and after many great signs and wonders which our Lord and God shall make manifest by you.”

When our holy Lady the Virgin Mary heard these words, she rejoiced exceedingly, and she prayed, saying, “Glory unto You, Oh my Lord and God Jesus Christ, Who has granted to me what I asked. And now, honor me by Your coming with Your angels, so that they may take my soul and bear it up with Thee into the heavens.” And straightway the voice of the Holy Spirit from heaven was heard, saying, “At this time all the angels shall come from heaven, and the Apostles from all the ends of the earth, riding upon the clouds, and they shall come to Bethlehem, for the sake of the holy and blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.” And straightway all the Apostles came, for those who were dead rose up from their graves, and they stood before our holy Lady the Virgin Mary, and said unto her, “Rejoice, O you who art full of grace, for our God was born of you. He shall take you out of this fleeting world with great glory even as He promised you.” And straightway our Lady Mary sat down upon her bed, and said unto the Apostles, “Now do I know that my God and your God, Jesus Christ, will come to me, and that I

shall see Him as I see you, and then I shall depart from this world. And now I desire you to tell me when you knew that I was to depart from this world, and so hastened your coming to me.” And Peter and all the Apostles said unto her, “The Holy Spirit commanded us to come unto you, and straightway we mounted upon a cloud of light, and we arrived where you are in the twinkling of an eye.” When our Lady Mariyam heard this from the Apostles, she lifted up her voice and said, “I praise and hymn Your Holy Name, O my Lord Jesus Christ, my God, because You have seen my suffering, and have revealed to me wonders, for You are Almighty; henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.”

And when the Virgin had finished her prayer and supplications, she said unto the Apostles, “Bring me incense and a censer, and summon our Lord Jesus,” and they did as she commanded them; and straightway our Lord Jesus Christ came. And thousands of thousands, and tens of thousands of tens of thousands of angels, surrounded Him, and archangels, and our Lord Jesus Christ comforted her, and told her of the rest and joy which were prepared for her. At that moment many miracles took place; the blind received their sight, and the dumb spoke, and the lame stood up straight and walked, and the lepers were cleansed, and from those who were possessed of devils the evil spirits went forth quickly. And all those who were suffering from sicknesses of diverse kinds, as soon as ever they came to the place where was our holy Lady the Virgin Mariyam, were healed straightway of their sicknesses, no matter of whatever kinds they were.

Then our holy Lady the Virgin Mariyam said unto her beloved Son, “O my Lord Jesus Christ, I am afraid of the awful and terrifying angels who are in the air of the Land of Fire.” And our Lord said unto her, “Which of them can have dominion over you?” When the time for her to depart from her body drew nigh, the Apostles and the virgins who were there weeping asked her to bless them, and she laid her hands upon them, and blessed them. And straightway our Lord Christ took her pure soul in His Divine Hands, and He wrapped it up in a cloth of light, and took it up with Him to the habitation above. And her Son, our Lord, commanded the Apostles to bury her body in a fitting manner, and they carried it to Gethsemane. And before her soul departed, our Lady looked and saw a great light, which it is impossible for the tongue of man to describe. And our Lord Christ said unto her, “Henceforth your body shall depart to the Garden of Delight, and you soul shall dwell in the abode of joy, wherein the angels shall praise [God] before you.” And our Lady said unto Him, “I beg You, in the operation of Your wisdom, to listen unto my petition. Whoever shall pray to You in my name in Your mercy receive his petition. Whoever is in tribulation and pray’s to You in my name, deliver him from all his tribulation, for You art Almighty in heaven and on earth. Bless everywhere those who shall celebrate the commemoration of my name, and accept the offerings of all those who shall offer gifts in my name.”

And our Lord Jesus answered and said unto her, “Behold, I have done for you all which you did ask of Me. Rejoice, for every gift and every honor I will give you from my holy Father. And everyone who shall pray unto Me in thy name henceforward shall never perish, neither in this world nor in that which is to come. After our holy Lady the Virgin Mariyam was dead the Apostles prepared her for burial, and they carried her on a bier so that they might take her to Gethsemane, as our Lord commanded. When the Jews heard of this and they knew that it was our Lady Mariyam [on the bier], they went out to her, and one of them seized her bier with his hand in order to throw her off from it on the ground; and the angel of God smote him with a sword of fire, and cut off his hands, and they remained hanging on the bier. And then the Jew believed in our Lord Christ, and he pleaded our Lady Mariyam with tears and repentance for what he had done, and he wept bitterly, saying, “Verily, O pure Virgin, thou art the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, Thou God in truth, I beseech Thee to have compassion upon me.”

And through the prayers of the holy Apostles his hands were restored to their former positions. When the Apostles had buried her they remained there three days; now her death took place on Sunday, the twenty-first day of the month of Ter. And our Lord Jesus sent angels of light, and they carried her body away from the grave, and laid it under the Tree of Life, which is in the Garden of Delight.

Then the angel of God took her body & the apostle John and placed it in the Garden of the tree of life. After her death, the Apostles continued to be sad and sorrowful, because of her separation from them,

& because they were left orphans by her. While John the evangelist was preaching in the country of Asia, he returned and told them that St. Mary is in the Garden of Delight.

Out of their immense love for our Mother, the other Apostles wanted to give her an appropriate burial so they prayed and fasted 14 days to receive her body again. At the end of their 14 day fast, God allowed her body to come down for the apostles to bury her. In the presence of our Lord, prophets, righteous and thousands and thousands of angels she was buried in Gethsemane. On the 16th day of the month of Nehase, our Lord Jesus Christ, commanded that the body of His pure mother shall go forth.” And straightway the body of our Lady Mary went forth from the grave at the foot of the Tree of Life, and our Lord Jesus Christ comforted her, and He said to her, “Come to Me, O My beloved mother, that you may ascend to the kingdom of heaven, to the joy which is everlasting.” And straightway all the trees of the Garden bowed their heads, and the angels and archangels took her up, and the righteous bowed low to her. And David, the prophet, sang a hymn of praise, saying, *“And the Queen shall stand at Thy right hand, and her apparel shall be of fine needlework with gold woven through it” (Psalm xlv, 9)*

Now Thomas the Apostle was not present at the time of her death, but as he was coming on the cloud, he found her body with the angels. And one of the angels said unto him, “Make haste and salute the body of the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mariyam”; and he made haste and saluted her. And when he came to the Apostles they told him how our Lady Mariyam was dead, and he said unto them, “I did not know it until I saw her body, even as you made me to know when I doubted the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And when he came to the grave to see the body of our Lady Mariyam, and they opened the grave, they could not find her body; and they were amazed and marveled exceedingly. And straightway Thomas told them how he had saluted her holy body as the angels were carrying her up to heaven. And the Holy Spirit said unto them, “God does not wish her body to lie in the earth.” And God made a covenant with the Apostles that even as He had shown Himself, so He would show her to His servants a second time, ; and afterwards the apostle’s fasted for 16 day’s striving for the blessing of St. Mary. They were rewarded by the coming of a congregation of angels, and the hand of our Lord delivering to them the Divine Liturgy and Holy communion, He fulfilled the covenant.

And all the days of her life were sixty four years; twelve years she lived in the Temple, three years with her parents and thirty three years she lived with Christ, and after the Resurrection of our Lord Christ she lived for fifteen years in the house of John the evangelist, even as our Lord commanded her when He said unto her, “Behold your son,” and to John, “Behold your mother.” Salutation to the going forth of your soul from the body without fear of death. Salutation to the going forth of thy soul, and to thy death, which was like unto a marriage.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We learn that no matter what we should always ask for the intercession of our Holy lady St. Mary. We see that even our Lord Jesus Christ like in the Covenant of Mercy, Kidane Mihret, once again says that anyone who prays to Him in the name of our Lady St. Mary will be heard, and He will listen to our prayer whenever we ask.

Q&A:

1. What did our Lord say of St. Mary’s body being on earth?
 - a. God did not wish her body to lie on earth, so the angels took her body to heaven.
2. What did our Lord promise the apostles?
 - a. That He would show St. Mary to the apostle’s a second time in Nehase
3. Did the Apostle’s bury St. Mary? Where?
 - a. Yes, at Gethsemane.
4. What did they see after they fasted the 1st time?
 - a. They received her body and were able to bury her, but she was hidden from them.
5. After she was ascending to heaven, who saw her in the heavens? What did they do next?

- a. St. Thomas saw her, and told the apostles, and they wanted to see her, so they fasted and prayed.
- 6. What happened next, Who came down?
 - a. After they fasted and prayed, Christ brought all His angels, with St. Mary, down for the apostles to see her again, and they held the Divine Liturgy, and all the disciples saw her Assumption into heaven.
- 7. Did the Apostle's get to see St. Mary's body Assumption?
 - a. Yes, after they fasted, and prayed to see her again.
- 8. Let's repeat together: "Henceforth all nations shall call me blessed, for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy *is* His name." Luke 1:48-49

CHALLENGE:

This entire week, just as St. Mary was kind in her words and actions, challenge yourself to only say kind things to everyone in every interaction that you have.

HYMN:

ፀቃውዕ (፪)

ይውህዝ እምከናረሃ(፩)

Tseqawi'i 2x Honey

Yiwihiz im-kenafirīha 2x

Honey 2x

Is dripping from her lips 4x (Pleasant words from St.Mary)

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Abune Philipos Ze-Debre Bizen | Temptation

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about Abune Phillip.
- ❖ To learn about the monastery of Debre Bizen and its' history.
- ❖ To learn how to overcome temptation.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Translation from Gedle Abune Philipos

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from last week's lesson?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What does it mean to be a monk?
4. Where and how do they live? (Secluded, by themselves unmarried, in the desert/church)
5. What is temptation? How does someone protect themselves from it?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Abune Filipos & Mt. Bizen.
- ❖ Today we will learn about temptation, and how Abune Philipos overcame it.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation.”
Matthew 26:41

OUTLINE:

On top of the Mt. Bizen, rising 2,700 feet (825 m) above Nefasit, lies the monastery of Debre Bizen. The monastery was founded by Abune Filipos in 1360 and survived various rulers because of its unique position. Abune Philipos who was born in Aksum, Ethiopia specifically in a region village called “Adi Golaguli”. Their father's name is Yardana Igzi, and their mother's name is Megdelawit. His parents were barren for a long time, but God told them they will have a child through the angel Gabriel and they bore Abune Philipos on the 9th of Tiqimt in the year 1319 A.D, and his parents raised him to be God fearing.

Abune Philipos' parents took him to Abune Bokmis who was the son of Abune Ewostatiwos, and through Abune Bokmis, Abune Filipos became a monk when he was 12 years old, and preached around the country for 30 years. Afterwards he wanted to live isolated from the world, and went to a village called, “Tikul” and joined fathers like Abune Absadi, and Abune Merkorios. These three fathers prophesied what they would want in the future now Aba Merkorios said, “I want my graveyard tsebel to be white and for it heal people”. Aba Absadi said, “I want my spiritual children to be many” and Abune Philipos said, “I don't want any females to enter the monastery.” Now as time passed, God fulfilled their wishes and it is seen now in their respective monasteries.

- ❖ What did Abune Merkorios want in the future? (White healing tsebel)
- ❖ What did Aba Absadi want for their monastery? (Many spiritual children)
- ❖ Now finally, what did Abune Philipos want for their monastery? (Gedam with only males.)

Now, Abune Philipos wanted a men's only monastery so that they focus on God only, because they want to get closer to Him. Just like there are women's only monastery's too.

When Abune Philipos was 42 years old with their 16 students in the year 1365 A.D., they founded the monastery with all its laws, teaching and administration. Many nonbelievers surrounded the borders of the monastery and they were under constant attack which stressed and worried Abune Philipos. These attacks made Abune Philipos make an agreement with the governor of Dahlak. He told him “If you steal or slave trade any of my students, with the help of Christ, I will make you and your offspring unable

to use the sea” They were saying to the governor that he will make the land dry. The governor of Dahlak feared the message he received and asked them to mention him in their prayers. He wrote a letter shortly saying, “Never steal, tax or slave trade the people of Debre Bizen and the people of Massawa should not anger the monks of Debre Bizen.” The letter still exists inside today in the monastery. However, after the departure of Abune Philipos, foreigners constantly attacked the monastery.

Abune Philipos, did many miracles. To mention a few, they raised a man named Nicodemos from death. Three camels took the stick of Abune Philipos and placed it inside the cave. They said, “The servant of God, Philippos has told you to come out. The camels jumped out of the cave like Birds. Abune Philipos is mainly known for causing smoke to come out of a river. To show that Saturday and Sunday to be equally respected they burned the river. For this reason they call them “Andadi Bahri.”

❖ Why did they call Abune Philipos “Andadi Bahri?”

When the time of their departure came close, they gathered all the monks and gave them advice. “Respect the laws of God, respect both Saturday and Sunday equally. Remember the feast of the Holy spirit (50 days), when you are resting, walking, resting, and sleeping, let the love of St. Mary be with you” The monks asked them to choose a leader after them, and they chose the youngest of all of them Aba Yohannes to be the leader of the monastery. Abune Philipos departed at the age of 84 on Nehase 5 in 1433 in the Ge’ez calendar. Their soul was ascended by many angels with the leadership of the angel Gabriel. Their body is still in their monastery Debre Bizen. One interesting fact about Abune Philipos is that they were commonly known as fadil (ፋደል), and people called them this because they didn’t learn the letters of the Ge’ez alphabet but were able to read. Now any student from that gedam, is still called the son of Fadel. We should ‘flee from all temptation,’ not to even think about it... if a thought comes, we should immediately pray. The monastery is mainly known for the fights they put up with the Italian regime who was introducing Catholicism at that time. They did what they could, and finally wrote the book, “ Metshafi Birhan” (Book of light).

The annual celebration of Bizen Monastery falls on the 5th of Nehase, celebrating his departure in the Ge’ez calendar which is 11th in August in the Gregorian calendar.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ We learn that Abune Philipos, St. Philip was a saint called by God after His parents prayed and asked God, He granted them their wish of a child. After raising their child to fear and love God, He became a great saint who continues to lead us in how we should live our lives in holiness.
- ❖ Let’s repeat: “Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation.” Matthew 26:41

Q&A:

1. What was the wish of Abune Philipos and the other monks for their future monasteries?
 - a. Abune Philipos wished that their monastery would be without temptation from women.
2. Why did Abune Philipos pick this wish?
 - a. Abune Philipos picked this so that they would not be led into temptation so He can get closer to God.
3. What was one struggle that Abune Philipos had in the surrounding area?
 - a. Name 2 miracles that Abune Philipos did.
 - b. 1) They struggled with the governor of Dahlak, 2) they struggled with the Italian regime
 - c. 1) Camels camel took the staff of Abune Philipos into a cave and said to him that He is the servant of God, and came out of the cave as birds 2)They caused a river to become on fire releasing smoke from it 3) Even though they never learned the alphabet they knew how to read.
4. What does Abune Philipos teach us to do when we are tempted?
 - a. Abune Philipos teaches us to call out to God and the intercession of St. Mary and the saints.
5. Let’s finish the sentence:... “Watch and pray lest(you enter into temptation.)” Matthew 26:41

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write in a journal each day what you did to overcome a temptation. (For example: what you did to not get angry easily, not be impatient with our siblings, rude to our friends, not respecting our parents, saying words that are unholy)
- ❖ Have a family bible study and teach your family what you learned about Abune Philipos.

HYMN:

ሃበ እንዘ ጸወራ ለስምየ ይኩን በረከትየ (፪)

እንዘ ጸለየ እምደብረ ቢዘን (፪) ጸለየ እባ ፊሊጶስ (፪)

habe inze tsewera simiye iye yikun bereketiye 2x

inzeye tseleye im-debre Bizen 2x tseleye aba Fīlīpos 2x

Whoever carries my name let it be a blessing 2x

This he prayed at Mt Bizen 2x Fr. Phillip prayed 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Debre Tabor | The Transfiguration & Heavenly Jerusalem

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the events and the nature of the transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ To know what kinds of bodies we will have when we depart from this world.
- ❖ To learn the significance of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Matthew 17:1-9
- ❖ Luke 9:28-32
- ❖ Revelations 4:4-8

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. When someone is coming to your house, what do your parents do, how do they act?
4. What about when the president is coming to your school, what would your teachers tell you to do, how would they tell you to dress?
5. What does Transfiguration mean? (complete change in appearance, a transformation.)
6. What is the church, is it just a get together of people? (No! We are in the presence of God.)
7. How should we act in church? (Respectfully, in reverence)
8. What do the angels wear, or look like in heaven? (They are clothed in white)

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ This week we learn about the Transfiguration, one of the ninth major feasts of the our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Show an icon of Debre Tabor, the Transfiguration of Christ.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 22:30

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read Matthew 17:1-4

“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

Have one of the children read Matthew 17:5-8

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

Have one of the children read Matthew 17:9

Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

- ❖ Christ revealed His divinity to the apostle's for a reason, so that they can see how to best glorify Him. They can learn how to truly respect Him. How to behave before Him, how to worship Him, and how to approach Him and His temple.

- ❖ We learn here that around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. We see in the book of Revelations that: the four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”
- ❖ We see that they praise God day and night, and this is what Christ, by revealing His Godhead, was trying to teach them how to praise him. This is how we should also praise our creator daily. Now when we approach His temple we should also bow in awe like the apostles did. When we enter the likeness of the heavenly Jerusalem we should approach in reverence and fear. We should know that God comes down in the form of His flesh and blood.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ Christ comes down every time we are two or three and are gathered in His name with the same mindset, to glorify Him and to ask for forgiveness [Matt 18:20]. Now when we are in His temple we should always approach quietly, gather our thoughts, come prepared starting from our homes from the changing of our clothes to be as best as possible. We should prepare as we come driving in the car, we should prepare as we arrive at the building of the Holy church. We should follow in the footsteps of the saints, taking off our shoes like Moses did, not because we don’t want to make it dirty (even the desert was filled with dirt!) but because we want to leave our sins, our mistakes outside the holy place, coming clean both in our hearts and clean in our bodies. Jesus’ transfiguration was the first fruits of the transfiguration of human nature. “Who will transform our lowly body, that it may be conformed to His glorious body” [Phil 3:21]. He revealed His nature to the Saints so that both they and us can understand who created us, and how we should prepare and act in front of Him, and in front of others. How would we act if Christ came down in front of us? Would we ignore Him and start talking to our friends?

Q&A:

1. Why did St. Peter say to Christ for them to make tabernacles for Him?
 - a. To show reverence to them, but they made a mistake and God the father speaks and teaches them that Christ is His only begotten Son, and equal to the Father
2. Why did the prophets Moses and Elijah appear at the mount?
 - a. To show that Christ, as God, can bring both the living and the dead. Elijah did not die, and disappeared before people, while Moses died while on Earth.
3. At what holiday did we learn about God the Father saying the same words? And what did God the Father say at that time.
 - a. At Theophany-Timqet
4. Who was present at Theophany during the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ?
 - a. God the Father was there as they heard His voice, God the Son, was being baptized, and God the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove landing on Christ’s head. John the Baptist baptized our Lord & Savior.
5. Where does the heavenly Jerusalem dwell on earth?
 - a. The heavenly Jerusalem dwells in the temple of God in which we receive His holy body and precious blood.
6. How do the angels, saints, the martyrs and the righteous praise God in heaven?
7. What does it mean to enter God’s temple?
 - a. To enter God’s temple means to be in the presence of God, to be in front of Him, and we are with Him through the holy words that we sing and His holy body and precious blood

that we partake of, through the holy icons we see, and through the holy land we stand on with our feet. We are in His presence through the good holy thoughts that He puts in us during the Liturgy.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write 1-2 sentences about what you understand our bodies will be able to do in heaven that we cannot do now.

HYMN:

አሐደ ለከ ወአሐደ ለሙሴ (፪)

ወአሐደ ለኤልያስ ንግበር ማህደር (፪)

ማቴ ፲፯ ፥ ፪

ahade leke we-ahade le-musie 2x

we-ahade le-ilīyas nigber mahder 4x

One for You and one for Moses 2x

And one for Elijah, let us make tabernacles 4x Matt. 17:4

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

St. John's Monastery | Respecting the Temple

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn about the history of St. John's Monastery in Eritrea.
- ❖ To understand how we should always reflect on our actions in the house of God.
- ❖ To understand the importance of respecting the temple.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Gospel of Matt 21:12-13
- ❖ 1st Timothy 3:4-5
- ❖ Book of Leviticus 19:30
- ❖ Monasteries of Eritrea

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What do you remember from what we learned last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. How do you keep your house when you know someone is coming over? What do your parents tell you to do?
4. Would you leave spilled water in your room for someone else to clean up? Why do you clean it up?
5. What about when you go to someone else's house, do we just barge inside or do we sit quietly after saying hi, and are respectful to their home?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of the church
- ❖ Today we will be learning about St. John's the Baptist's Monastery and respecting the temple.

MEMORY VERSE:

“You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord.”
Leviticus 19:30

OUTLINE:

Today we will discuss the monastery of St. John the Baptist in Eritrea. 537 (A.D.) years after the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, St John's monastery was constructed after Debre Sina and Debre Libanos and was constructed by St John himself. It is located in a town named “May Ayni” just near Dekemhare. Going back to history, there was a man named Dirar, also known as “Mehamed Tse'Ada”, he had three children. Dirar left his family and went to the city Ham, and soon after, he met Abune Libanos, and asked him to become his father. Abune Libanos then baptized him, and changed his name to “GebreKristos”. Abune Libanos soon passed away, and Dirar buried him in “Ham”. Before GebreKristos' death, he made his children's promise that they would move to Tiedrer. Shortly after Dirar had passed away they buried him at Ham, the same place Abune Libanos was buried and his three children moved to Tiedrer just as their father had told them to do.

Dirar's children constructed a monastery in Tiedrer and at some point, people were inappropriately approaching the church which was in the monastery. St John appeared in the dreams of the priests of the church who were serving there at that time. He tried to tell them to move the church due to the improper actions that were being done within it. However, the priests did not understand St John's appearance and did nothing about it. Through a miracle, St John moved the church's equipment to the higher side of the mountain where the monastery was located. Soon after, the priests were surprised and wondered where all the church's equipment had gone to. They searched the entire monastery and finally found it on the top of the mountain. All priests brought the equipment back into the church and continued on with their service. However, St John again took the church's equipment back up to the top of the mountain. The priests were again shocked and wondered how everything went missing, especially because this was the third time this happened. They were trying to figure out how they were going to find

the church's belongings until they saw the mountain miraculously split in half. Everyone there witnessed this miracle, three rocks were thrown down to three different places as well. The first rock landed on a place called "Hadas," the second one landed at the bottom of the monastery and finally, the third one landed on the top. As they saw this, everyone shouted out "what a miracle!". Finally, everyone then agreed to move the entire church to the top of the mountain where St John had been placing the church's equipment the whole time.

Soon after, St John appeared from Jerusalem to a small village named "Amadir" located in Eritrea. He attended a baptism, until he saw one woman did some inappropriate things in the Church. At the time, if anyone committed a big sin, they were prosecuted and therefore, this woman was prosecuted on the spot. St John then took all the church's equipment to the Kidane Mihret church in Asmara, then to "adi Arada", then to "Embeyto Seharti" and finally ended up taking it to "Tiedrer". For this reason, the Kidane Mihret church in Asmara holds a St John Tabot (Tablet of Laws). At Tiedrer, in the middle of two mountains there was an area that cracked which sprung out water. People with many different kinds of illnesses that were washed by this water were cured.

The celebration of this monastery is honoured during the geez new year which is in September. When St John baptized our Lord, Christ asked St John what he wanted from him. St John asked Christ to forgive the sins of those who commemorate him and call out to his name and therefore, Christ promised what he asked for. Christ also promised him "You can walk on water and enter Heaven, I will clothe you the clothes of light and crown you the crown of light". You can read more about St John in the Bible and in other books on St John as well.

Overall, this holy Monastery was formed by St John himself and therefore us Christians are to honour this monastery and pray in the intercessions of him in order for our sins to be forgiven by God. May the prayers and blessings of St John be with us all amen.

Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

One who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?)

APPLICATION::

- ❖ Let us all remember how holy our church is, because our Lord Jesus Christ paid for it by His blood. When we come to church we need to think of how the saints like John the Baptist protected the church, and how Christ Himself

Q&A:

1. Which St. John is this monastery in honor of?
 - a. St. John the baptist, who baptised Christ in the river Jordan
2. What happened when the people that came to the monastery didn't respect it?
 - a. St. John appeared and admonished the people. St. John also took the church equipment and hid it from the fathers so that the church couldn't be used, until people respected it.
3. If we don't know how to take care of our own house, can we even take care of God's house?
 - a. No we can't, so that's why we must always take care of our house, and care for God's house too.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ This week, take care of your house, and let's challenge ourselves to pick up any trash we see in our church. Let's not wait for someone else to pick it up. Each of us should take responsibility for the house God gave us!

HYMN:

በመንፈስ ይሐውር እምኃይል ውስተ ኃይል (፪)
ካህን (፪) ወነብይ ካህን ወነብይ (፪) ዮሐንስ መጥምቅ

be-menfes yihawir im-hayle wiste haile 2x
kahin 2x we-nebiy, kahin we-nebiy 2x yohanis meTmiq 2x
By the Spirit he was moving from strength in strength 2x
Priest 2x and prophet, priest and prophet, St. John the Baptiser

Filler Lessons

1. Faith | Father Abraham
2. Joseph & His Brothers
3. Giving Thanks | Jehoshaphat

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Faith | Father Abraham

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn to always have faith in God no matter our circumstances

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Genesis 22
- ❖ Gospel of Matthew 6

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. Have any of you ever been on an airplane, or an elevator?
2. When we go on the plane do we talk to the pilot first to ask if he has his license? Or do we check the elevator to make sure they built it correctly?
 - a. We simply have faith that the pilot flying the plane and the engineer that built the elevator knows how to do their job. This is how we should have faith in God in everything that happens in our lives.

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an Icon of Abraham Sacrificing Isaac.
- ❖ Today we will learn about Abraham and the great faith he had in God.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

John 11:40

OUTLINE:

Assign the children different parts to read from the Bible. (Gen 22:1-13)

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.” So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham, his father and said, “My father!”

And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?” And Abraham said, “My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” So he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me.”

Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day, “In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

We see the faith that Abraham had in God for his only son, and he had faith because he knew that no matter what, everything he received wouldn't be possible if God didn't allow it. If God didn't not

provide for him, he would not have his son, so he believe in God with all his heart and he saw the glory of God”

- ❖ Let’s say the memory verse together: “Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” John 11:40

Assign a child to read from the Bible. (Matthew 6:26-34)

“Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.”

Did any of us actually go to the forest to water the trees, we didn’t but God takes care of them, if he takes care of them, how much more will he take care of us? We should always remember that He came down from heaven so that we would have a chance to join Him. Through this we should realize that we should always have faith in God daily.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ God doesn’t say no, he asks us to wait for the right time. He doesn’t say no to us, He says, I will give you something better. He wants us to be patient and have faith in Him because He always knows what is best for us. We might be struggling in school, or maybe something is going on at home, but God always knows the situation. He wants us to have faith in Him all the time so we can always rely on Him at times where everything is going well, and in the most difficult times.

Q&A:

1. Did Abraham question God when He asked him to sacrifice his son? Why or why not?
2. How can we trust God daily, what can we do?

- a. Prayer! Always pray, read the bible, God is waiting for us to talk with Him

Ask if the children have any questions.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ This week, choose a time (morning, evening/before lunch) and ask God for faith to trust in him and do this each day.

HYMN:

እድህንኒ ሊተ እስመ ኅልቀ ኑር ወውሃደ ሃይማኖት እምገጸ ምድር (፪)

ማርያም እሙ ለፍቁር (፪)

adhinini līte isme halqe hier we-wihade haymanot im-getse midre 4x

Mariyam imu le-fiqur 2x

Save me because there is no righteous person and there is lack of faith in the face of the Earth 2x

St. Mary Mother of the Beloved 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Joseph & His Brothers

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn to appreciate what we have.
- ❖ To learn not to be jealous, or compare.
- ❖ To understand that everyone has their own gifts from God.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ Genesis 37

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What do we say when our parents won't let us go somewhere but our friends' parents let them?
4. What about when our siblings get more praise when they do something but we don't receive anything? Should we be jealous or should we be happy for them?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Show an icon of Joseph & his brothers.
- ❖ Today we will discuss the story of Joseph, and his brothers.

MEMORY VERSE:

“The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man..”

Genesis 39:2

OUTLINE:

Now in the book of Genesis we see a story of a young man who was his father's favorite, his name was Joseph.

Have the children read Genesis 37:1-10; 18-20

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, “Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.” And his brothers said to him, “Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Then he dreamt another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.”

So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?” And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

After Joseph tells his brothers his dreams, they hate him even more

Genesis 37:18-20

“Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. Then they said to one another, “Look, this dreamer is coming! Come therefore, let us now kill

him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, ‘Some wild beast has devoured him.’ We shall see what will become of his dreams!”

After selling him to the Midianites, the Midianites sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

Later on, after being jailed unjustly, God later rewards him with favor in the eyes of the Pharaoh making him Governor of Egypt.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ God gave us each our own talents, and Joseph’s talent was in his dreams. His brothers could have known their talents if they sought God out, but instead they were blinded by their jealousy, and looking at what Joseph had rather than looking for their own gifts.

Q&A:

1. Why were Joseph’s brothers jealous of him?
 - a. His father liked him more than his brothers, he also had a gift of knowing the future through his dreams.
2. What happened with Joseph?
 - a. He was sold into slavery, and later jailed unjustly.
3. How does Joseph respond when he is unjustly punished?
 - a. He is patient, and God later rewards him and he becomes one of the most powerful people in Egypt.

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ This week, focus on the gifts that God gave you, don’t compare yourself with anyone!

HYMN:

ቅንዑ ለእኛ ተቃቢ ጸጋ (፪)

መድኃኒት ነፍስ (፪) መድኃኒት ኪዳን ምሕረት (፪)

qinu le-inte teAbi tsega 2x

Medhanite nefis 4x medhanit kidane mihret 2x

Envy of the spiritual gifts 2x

Healer of the soul 4x healer covenant of mercy 2x

In the Name of the Father and The Son and The Holy Spirit One God. Amen

Give Thanks | Jehoshaphat

OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ To learn to give thanks for everything we have, in good times, and bad.
- ❖ To learn that we should put God first, in hard times, and when we receive good things from God.

REFERENCES:

- ❖ 2nd Chronicles 20
- ❖ 1st Thessalonians 5

PRE-LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What did we learn last week?
2. What was last week's memory verse?
3. What would you not be able to do if you did not have any hands? (eat, drink, get up from bed)
4. What could you not do if you did not have feet? (walk, play soccer, basketball, run, jump)
5. What is the most important thing to you in your life? (write it on the center of the concentric circles). Is it your favorite video game? Watching TV? Playing sports?

INTRODUCTION:

- ❖ Have the children draw 3 circles that encircle each other; ask them what they think about the most, and write it in the middle of the circle.
- ❖ Ask them to write the next two things that they think about the most in the second of the concentric circles, and the same for the third and fourth most important things on the last concentric circle.
- ❖ Show an icon of Jehoshaphat.
- ❖ Today we will discuss what Jehoshaphat did in his time of need.

MEMORY VERSE:

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1st Thessalonians 5:18

OUTLINE:

Have one of the children read 2nd Chronicles 20:1-8

It happened after this *that* the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and *others* with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which *is* En Gedi). And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask *help* from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said: "O Lord God of our fathers, *are* You not God in heaven, and do You *not* rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand *is there not* power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? *Are* You not our God, *who* drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name"

- ❖ Jehoshaphat and his people went to war, and through the grace of God, they won, so they praised the Lord

Have one of the children read 2nd Chronicles 20:18-22

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high. So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.” And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying:

“Praise the Lord, For His mercy *endures* forever.” Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

- ❖ Just like Jehoshaphat we should always look to God and even thank Him when we are in trouble and need help, and when He helps us in our troubles, always thank Him!

Have one of the children read 1st Thessalonians 5:16-22

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”

- ❖ St. Paul teaches us the one thing God wants for our lives. He wants us to always thank Him.

APPLICATION:

- ❖ No matter the situation, in every little thing that we do, we should always thank God, and when we do, He will bless us again a thousand times over. We see that even kings who have power have to thank God. No matter how important we are in the world, we are all the same in God’s eyes, and He will be there to help us, with anything, but we have to remember to give thanks like Jehoshaphat.

Q&A:

1. What did Jehoshaphat do when he found out his enemies were coming to hurt his people?
 - a. He proclaimed a fast
2. Why did Jehoshaphat call all the people?
 - a. So they can plead to God and ask Him to help them
3. Did the levites win? What did they do afterwards?
 - a. They won, and thanked God.
4. What do we need to do all the time that we learn from Jehoshaphat?
 - a. To always thank God, and to look to Him in times of happiness and in times of trouble.
5. What does St. Paul teach us?

CHALLENGE:

- ❖ Write the times that you don’t praise God, but when we should, so we can remember to do it in the future. (When you come home from school, when you arrive safely from a trip, whenever you are playing a game, thank God He gave you hands and feet to walk, play and go places. When we immediately wake up and we can see in the morning. Thank God all the time!)
- ❖ Keep a journal of everytime you want to thank God, so that we can praise Him in word and by writing about the times that He has helped us.

HYMN:

አቀድኞ አለኩቶቶ ለእግዚአብሔር (፪)

በእንተ እግዚአን ሊኖሩኝ ክርክቶኝ (፪)

aqedim a’ikutoto leIgziabhier 2x

be-inte Igzi’ine Iyesus Kristos 2x

Before everything we thank the Lord 2x

Through our God Jesus Christ 4x