Christian Religion Studies

Class Six



National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

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Revised for the year 2026

National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

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Preface

The importance of formal education is diversified. The prime goal of modern education is not to impart knowledge only but to build a prosperous nation by developing skilled human resources. At the same time, education is the best means of developing a society free from superstitions and adhering to science and facts.To stand as a developed nation in the science and technology-driven world of the 21st century, we need to ensure quality education. A well-planned education is essential for enabling our new generation to face the challenges of the age and to motivate them with the strength of patriotism, values, and ethics. In this context, the government is determined to ensure education as per the demand of the age.

Education is the backbone of a nation and a curriculum provides the essence of formal education. Again, the most important tool for implementing a curriculum is the textbook. The National Curriculum 2012 has been adopted to achieve the goals of the National Education Policy 2010. In light of this, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has been persistently working on developing, printing, and distributing quality textbooks. This organization also reviews and revises the curriculum, textbook, and assessment methods according to needs and realities.

Secondary education is a vital stage in our education system. This textbook is catered to the age, aptitude, and endless inquisitiveness of the students at this level, as well as to achieve the aims and objectives of the curriculum. It is believed that the book written and meticulously edited by experienced and skilled teachers and experts will be conducive to a joyful experience for the students. It is hoped that the book will play a significant role in promoting creative and aesthetic spirits among students along with subject knowledge and skills.

The textbook on **Christian Religion Studies** has been written in the context of the changing world at the beginning of the 21st century. It includes the call for life in the Bible and the life sketch of the people called by God, in the background of huge changes in the demands and attitudes of the students. The textbook has been written keeping in mind that the students are encouraged to know the life and works of the Savior Jesus by believing in his salvation, and they become inspired in morality, spirituality, tolerance, generosity, and a non-communal sense of life and equality.

It may be mentioned here that due to the changing situation in 2024 and as per the needs, the textbook has been reviewed and revised for the academic year 2026. It is mentionable here that the last version of the textbook developed according to the curriculum 2012 has been taken as the basis. Meticulous attention has been paid to the textbook to make it more learner-friendly and error-free. However, any suggestions for further improvement of this book will be appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the book as writers, editors, reviewers, illustrators and graphic designers.

October 2025

Professor Robiul Kabir Chowdhury
Chairman (Additional Charge)
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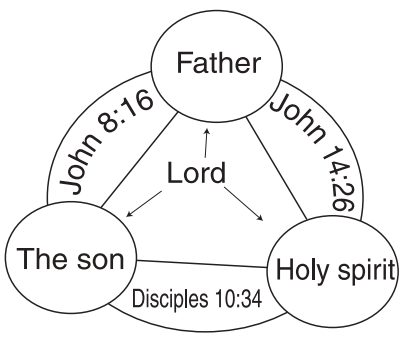
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Chapter 1

Knowing God

The Almighty God is the creator of all things, both visible and invisible. Human beings are His best and most favourite creation. He talked to human beings directly at the beginning of the history of creation. He used to talk about His plan and direct them. But gradually things started to change. In the course of time, He revealed Himself to mankind through different occasions or various people. He expressed His deep love for mankind. God wants us to know, love and obey Him. He wants human beings to love and take care of one another, as well as of other creations. It is our duty to respond to God's call.



At the end of this chapter we will be able to-

- describe the ways to know God
- explain how God gradually reveals Himself
- explain the love of God the Father to all human beings
- explain the ways to show our love to God by showing it to His creation
- show our love to God by showing it to our parents, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbours

Lesson 1: How to know God

After creating everything God created humans in His own image. He gave us the authority and right to rule over other creations. It is our responsibility to know Him, as we are His best creation. We should also have the desire to know Him because He has made us as His best creation and given us many qualities. He has given us the opportunity to see and enjoy all his wonderful creations. So it is our duty to know such a dear and kind God.

We know that God has created us to know, obey, and love Him and be happy forever with Him. This is His call for us. We have to know Him by knowing the truth. We can know God through:

- all created things and animals
- human beings
- the Holy Bible
- the Church, and
- Jesus, the Son of God

Task : Go outside with a pen and paper and observe the creations around. Write down the names where you can best understand the existence of God. Then share it with others.

Ways to know God

For those who have not become Christians yet, Saint Paul said whatever could be known about God, is there in front of them. God Himself has revealed those to them. His qualities are invisible, and power everlasting. He has neither beginning nor end. He is the creator, sustainer, and saviour. He has revealed Himself through His various creations in nature.

A. Knowing God through all created things and animals: God is the origin of all creation. He has given the universe speed. The world is moving at that speed. He has given law and order in nature. Everything is running according to those laws. He has created the world in a very lovely way. All these are the signs of His excellence. We can know the beauty of God through the excellent beauty of His creations. He who has made things in such a beautiful way, is the most beautiful. And as He is the most beautiful, He is also the source of all beauty.

B. Knowing God through human beings: Like other animals, human beings are also God's creation. God has created human beings in His own image. At first He created Adam. Then He created Eve from the ribs of Adam. They are the first human beings. Thus God is the origin of the first human beings. And He desires that humans will be kind, truthful, faithful, creative, and pure like Him because He has made them like Him. And we can know God more through our will, power, conscience, knowledge and ethics. Thus we can try to be like him day by day.

Everything begins and ends at the hands of God. There is none else except Him in this. God Himself comes to us so that we can know Him. He reveals Himself in different shapes and forms so that human beings can know, understand, love and follow Him. And thus finally humans can live with him happily forever.

Task : Share in a group, how you feel God’s presence through human beings in your life.



The Holy Bible

C) To know God from the Holy Bible: The Holy Bible is the message of God. From the beginning of creation till the salvation of mankind through Jesus, God has revealed Himself in various ways. These are written in the Holy Bible. If we read the Bible with love, respect and faith we can know God.

d) To know God through Jesus: God has fully revealed Himself through His son Jesus. In the old days, we heard God through the prophets. After Jesus being born as a human being, God was visible to us. Jesus says, "Whoever has seen me, has seen the Father. For I am in the Father and He is in me." Through Jesus we come to know God's strength, perfection, kindness, love, mercy and forgiveness. When we touch Jesus, we really touch the Father. Through Jesus we can hear God the Father.



To know God through Jesus

e) To know God through the Church: Jesus himself has established the Church. After ascending to heaven He has sent the Holy Spirit. The day of the descent of the Holy Spirit is the real birthday of the Church. And from that very day the Holy Spirit has been directing the Church through the disciples. Now, we can know God and His plans through the leaders of the Church.

Task : Make a promise to read one part of the Bible before starting your study and share it with everybody.

Lesson: 2- Stages of Revelation:

God has created human beings in His own image and given him knowledge and intellect. And with these gifts human beings try to know God. But we cannot know God fully with our own effort as we have limited knowledge and intellect. That is why God has intended to reveal Himself

to us. He has revealed Himself through His words and deeds so that human beings can love, obey, and know him and thus can lead a real happy life.

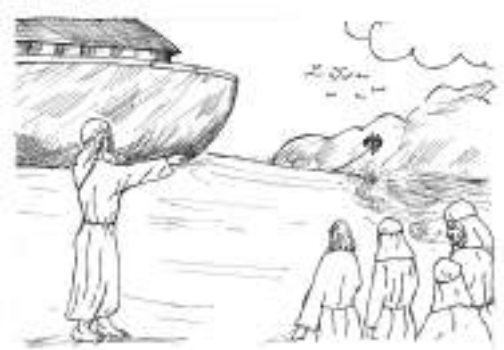
God has not revealed Himself to the human beings suddenly. Rather He has revealed Himself gradually from the beginning of creation. And it came to completion through Jesus' birth as a man. We wıll discuss the steps of God's self-revelation one after another.

a) Creation: God is the creator and almighty. He has revealed Himself through His creation. He is the source of love. He has intended to show His love through His creation. For this reason He has created everything. And thus, through all His creations God has revealed Himself.

b) Our First Parents: On the sixth day of creation God has created human beings. He loves the human beings most. That is why he has made a bond between Him and human beings. But our sins became an obstacle for God's self- revelation. And we got punishment for this sin. Human beings fell from heaven. They were sent down to earth from heaven.

But God promised to save human beings from the fall. He was faithful to His promise. And at last he kept His promise. Thus, He has always expressed His love towards human beings. Those who search to be free are saved.

c) Noah: Gradually the number of human beings increased in this world. They became divided into different nations and languages. And the amount of sin also increased. They forgot God. Only Noah and his family were afraid of God and showed respect to Him.



Lord's promise to Noah after the great flood

Then, with a great flood, God destroyed all the human beings except Noah and his family. And along with them, God also saved a pair of every animal. This great flood wiped away all the sins from the Earth. After that a covenant was made between Noah and God. Through Noah God established a new human civilization.

d) Abraham: God chose a religious and devoted man to reveal Himself more. His name was Abram. Later on God changed his name to Abraham. He was very obedient to God. God ordered Abraham to leave his home, kith and kin and go to Canan. God promised that Abraham's family would give birth to a great nation. But Abraham did not have any child yet and he and his wife Sarah had become old. Still Abraham believed God and went to Canan following God's order. God became very satisfied with him. He blessed him greatly and established a covenant with him.



Abraham got a son. His name was Isaac. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his favorite child Isaac. Abraham was ready to do that. But God did not let it happen. Thus he proved his deep love for God. Isaac himself along with his son Jacob was faithful to God. God named Jacob as Israel.

Lord's promise to Abraham

e) Moses: God has chosen Israelites to reveal Himself and to fulfil His promise of salvation. They lived in Canan. But due to poverty they went to live in Egypt. Gradually they became the slaves of Egypt. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, forced them to work hard and gave lots of punishment. That is why they were crying to God. God called Moses to make the Israelites free and take them to a land of freedom.

Moses freed them with the help of his brother Aaron. Then they crossed the Red Sea and went through the desert towards a free land. Later on, God gave Ten Commandments for the Israelites. Thus, God revealed Himself more through Moses.



Israelites in the desert

f) The Israelites: God brought the Israelites to the promised land under the leadership of Moses. This is the land of milk and honey. So, everyone got assurance of food and shelter. God established a covenant and formed a special nation with them. And in the mount of Sinai, God made a covenant with the Israelites through Moses.

Through the commands God gave, the Israelites started to see God as more gracious, more righteous and more loving. He reminded them that He would send a saviour for them. Thus, Israelites became the selected people of God.

g) The Prophets: God's chosen people have again and again become disobedient and ungrateful to Him. They stayed in that promised land as a nation. They wanted peace and order in the society and country. So they prayed for a king to God and He gave them a king. And from then on the kings ruled them. The lifestyles of all the kings were not the same. Some kings forgot God and became oppressors. Their immorality, injustices and sin led them and their country to the wrong way. So God sent various prophets to take them back to the right path. These prophets spoke the words of God to the kings and summoned them to change their mind. They tried to bring them back from the falsehood. They talked about justice and truthfulness of God very firmly. Thus the prophets played the important role of media of God's revelation.

h) Jesus Christ: God promised that He would send a saviour. He always reminded people about this through His prophets. God decided to send His own son in the world. He chose Mary or Maria for it. He decided to send the savior in this world through Maria's womb. God sent the Archangel Gabriel to Mary. The angel told her that she would conceive through the power of the Holy Spirit and become the mother of the saviour. Mary surrendered herself to God's will and the saviour Jesus was born.

The birth of Jesus brought the completion of God's revelation to human beings. It was revealed through Jesus that God loves the human beings. He commanded human beings to love all. He Himself did it. He proved that He loved human

beings by sacrificing his life upon the cross. Jesus is the path, the truth, and the life for us. Through Him we can go to the Father. Heaven's door was closed for us for the sin of our first parents. The Father reopened that door through Jesus, the saviour. Thus, we can see God's revelation through Jesus.



Pope: The Head of the Church

i) The Church: God continues to reveal Himself through the Church established by Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit reveals God Himself through the leaders of his Church. The people of the Church can see the presence of God through the leaders of the Church.

Task : Write a prayer thanking our loving God as He has revealed Himself to us.

Lesson 3: God's love towards human beings

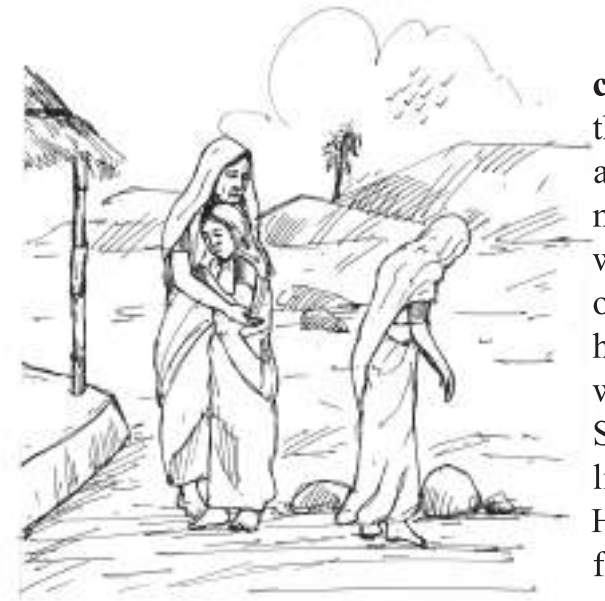
3.1. God's love revealed in the Old Testament:

God's love has been wonderfully revealed through His creation. The creations are the expression of God's love. If we truly believe in these, we can notice the loving presence of God. He has given love in human beings that they express for one another. Through this love we can experience God's love.

a) God created Eve to remove Adam's loneliness. He created such a partner whom Adam would like and love. Through this we can understand how much God loves the human beings, and how kind He is to us. God has created human beings as males and females because He loves us.. He loves both of them equally.

b) God loved Abraham a lot. So He gave him a male child in his old age. God told him to sacrifice his favorite son Isaac for Him. Through this God wanted to know the depth of Abraham's love for Him. Abraham was

ready to sacrifice and thus, God has given an example of love in the human beings.



c) Orpa and Ruth: Both were the brides of the same family and their husbands died. Their mother-in-law Naomi asked them whether they would return to their own house or not. Orpa went to her own house but Ruth stayed with her widowed mother-in-law. She treated her mother-in-law just like her mother. God has revealed His love through the bond of their family life.

Orpa went away but Ruth took the Mother-in-law as own mother and stayed with her

d) God revealed His love towards human beings by choosing the Israelites. He loves them as much as one loves his wife. God desired that His own people would also love their Creator. That is why He told through Moses in the Ten Commandments, "You shall love your God and Him only shall you serve". He also told the Israelites, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind".

Even though the Israelites have repeatedly gone away from God by committing sins, He has forgiven and brought them back again and again. It is because 'God is loving and kind, slow to anger, full of pity and just'. Thus God expressed the ideal of his love.

e) King David committed a great sin. But he had prayed for God's mercy. Then God forgave him because He loved David. David's kingship was not overturned.

3.2. God revealed His love in the New Testament:

The main theme of the New Testament of the Holy Bible is love. Saint John said, "God loved us so much that he sent His only son in this world so that we might live through Him". This is the main theme of His love: "Not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His son to the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is perfected in us." (John 4:9-12).

God has loved the human beings first. Yet they did not honor God's love. They committed sins again and again and went away from God. But God again forgave them and brought them back to Him. God showed His greatest love to us by sending His son to the Earth to save us.

Jesus Christ introduced the Holy Trinity to us. He wanted to write the names of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in our heart. As the Father and the Son love each other and remain together, so should the followers stay together and love each other.

Through the parable of the forgiving Father (Luke 15: 11-32) the lost Son and the hard-hearted brother, Jesus has drawn a good picture of divine love. Jesus tells us that we should love everyone, even our enemies. He even practices the idea of love that He talks about. And He showed the complete example of God's love by forgiving all the enemies, even though He was on the cross.

Task : Through whom and how have you received God's love? Share with others.

Lesson 4: Human's Love towards God through creation



Children singing in praise of creation

If we study Psalm 8, we can see how God is present in the whole creation. The Psalmist said: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them almost equal to

God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; You have put all things under their feet.

Here we can see that God is present in all His creations and each creation sings His praise.

God himself loves all His creatures. The book of Wisdom says: "For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that You have made, for You would not have made anything if You had hated it. How would anything have endured if you had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved? You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living" (11:24-26).

God takes care of His favourite creations. But He has given the responsibility to the human beings to participate in this process. He has given us the duty to control and dominate them. God loves us individually. If we want to know Him we should love Him. We cannot see Him because He is invisible. Then how can we love Him? We can see him in the creation, in all the human beings. Saint John said: "Those who say, they love God, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also" (4:20-21). Jesus Christ showed the ideal of love washing the feet of His disciples at the last supper. He advised us to serve one another in this way and to love each other.



Various types of service

From the words we can understand that God exists in the creation. He is also present among all of us. So if we love His creations and especially the human beings, we can love our Creator.

We can take care of the creations in the following ways:

01. loving and serving our parents, brothers, sisters and neighbours
02. giving food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, clothes to the naked, shelter to the needy and service to the patients
03. sharing our tiffin with others
04. helping the weak students in their study
05. visiting and serving those students who are ill
06. inspiring those who are upset
07. giving winter clothes to those who do not have any
08. taking care of the trees to protect the environment
09. not destroying trees unnecessarily
10. planting new trees
11. not misusing water, electricity, gas etc.
12. not killing any birds and animals without any reason
13. not using plastic and polythene bags.

Task : Sing ***'Aha ki oporup sristi tomar vabi jokhon bare bare'*** or a similar song in a chorus.

Sample Questions

Multiple choice questions:

1. Who is the origin of all creations?

a) God b) The angel of heaven

c) Parents d) Human beings

2. God wants human beings

i) To know God

ii) To obey God

iii) To love God

Which one of the following is correct?

a) i & ii b) i & iii

c) ii & iii d) i, ii & iii

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions no. 3 and 4.

Sumon is a bright student. But once, he got involved with bad friends and stopped studying. He started smoking and came home very late at night. One of his teachers lovingly helped him understand his mistakes. Feeling the teacher's love deeply, Sumon changed his ways and returned to the right path.

3. Which virtue of Jesus has been expressed through the teacher?

a) Righteousness b. Piety

c) Mercy d. Affection

4. Teacher's behaviour with Sumon was like this

i) to rescue him from sin

ii) to reveal divine glory

iii) to love students

Which one of the following is correct?

a) i & ii b) i & iii

c) ii & iii d) i, ii & iii

Creative questions:

1. Mita and Roma are two friends. They read the Bible regularly with devotion. When they go out, Mita notices the beauty of nature – trees, birds, flowers, rivers, etc. Roma, on the other hand, shows great kindness to all living beings. She stops people from cutting trees and feeds the birds nearby. She also helps neighbours who are sick or in trouble.

   a) What did God create on the sixth day?
   b) Why did God create a new human race through Noah?
   c) Whom does Mita want to know through her actions? Explain.
   d) Roma's actions show deep love for God's creation – do you agree? Give reasons.

2. Shamol regularly takes care of his garden. The plants are gradually growing up under his care and supervision. They are full of flowers and fruits. He also takes care of the birds and animals near his home. Shamol thinks that it is his duty to take care of them. On the other hand, his brother Omol behaves badly with Shamol and never helps any neighbour in danger. He lives alone in his own home.

   a) Who is present in the creation?
   b) What did God want to make us understand through His creation?
   c) Why does Shamol think his work to be his own duty? Discuss in light of your text.
   d) Do you think Omol loves God? Give your opinion.

Short Answer Questions:

1. In whose image did God create humans?
2. What is the church?
3. Why did God create human beings?
4. What is the main message of the New Testament?
5. Why did God forgive King David even after he committed a serious sin?

Chapter 2

The Purpose of God's Creation

God is the creator of the Earth and life. He is lovely and holy. He exists all over the world. He has created everything from nothingness and done so for His glory. His every creation is the best. There is a mutual connection and dependency among all His creations. It is our responsibility and duty to take care of all His creations. By loving His creations we can show our love to God.



At the end of this chapter we will be able-

- to describe God's creation from nothingness.
- to explain God's purpose of creation.
- to explain the mutual dependency among His creations.
- to describe our responsibility to take care of His creations.
- to express our love to God by loving His creations.
- to take care of the patients.
- to plant trees and take care of them.

Study 1: God's Creation

The universe was dark before creation. It was empty and vacant. At that time there existed nothing. God fulfilled this vacant space through the creation of the cosmos. He is the supreme ruler and the only creator. The history of this creation has been described in detail in the first three chapters of Genesis in the holy Bible. The first book of the holy Bible is Genesis. The first three chapters of this book describe the creation in detail. It says that God has finished His act of creation in six days and took rest on the seventh day. So we can say with firm belief that God exists from before His creation. He is the source of all creations. He is the only creator. He has created everything at His own will. He did not create anything for His own fullness. Rather He created things for the perfection of the universe. And through His creation, God has shown his almighty power. The reason behind all creations was the well-being and goodness. And His glory is expressed through this goodness.

At the end of every day's creation, God said, 'It's good'. But at the completion of all creation on the sixth day God said, 'Indeed it was very good'. On the seventh day He took rest from all His work. And this seventh day is holy, and has been devoted to God. On this day we get a chance to reflect on God's creation.

We get a chance to love God by loving His creations. So we should meditate on His creations. Kazi Nazrul Islam, our national poet has said in his song:

Anadi kal hote ononto lok gahe tomari joy.
Akash batash robi groho tara chad
Hei premomoy gahe tomari joy.
Shomudro kollol, nirjhor kolotan, hei birat, tomari udar joyogan
Dhan gombhir koto shoto himaloy tomari joy, gahe tomari joy.
Tobo namer bajay bina boner pollob
Jonohin prantor stobo kore nirob
Shokol jatir koti upashonaloy gahe tomari joy
Aloker ullashe adharer tondray tobo joyogan baje oporup mohimay
Koti jug juganto shristi proloy tomari joy, gahe tomari joy.

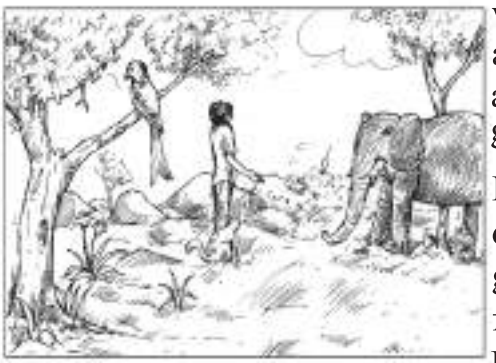
Task : Write a prayer in praise of almighty God, and share with others.

Lesson 2: The Purpose of God's Creation

The very first line of the Holy Bible mentions God's creation. It is says, "In the beginning God created heaven and earth" (Gen. 1:1). It means that God is the creator of everything between heaven and earth, and the visible and invisible. We come to know about God from the first chapter. We also know that He has revealed Himself to humankind gradually. From this chapter we will come to know about the mystery and purpose of His creation.

Mystery means such a thing that cannot be explained easily and clearly in detail. God's creation is a mystery to us. That is why we say that He has created things for His own glory. This mystery of creation is very important in our Christian life. And this is connected with our salvation, because God has made a plan for our salvation from the very beginning of creation. There is a close relationship between God's creation and the history of our salvation. We came to know earlier that all His creations are the best. But human beings have destroyed the beauty of creation with their sins. His creation has become pale. So to save humankind from this downfall God has sent His one and only Son to earth. And the Son has brought the beauty of creation back. His appearance fulfills the mystery of creation. From the very beginning it was God's decision that He would have all His creation renewed by His Son. And thus He would fulfill the mystery of creation. So every Christian should know and understand this mystery.

God has arranged everything perfectly. That is why we do not need to think about anything. We should know where we have come from and



The creations of God

where we are going. We should also know about from where everything (both visible and invisible) has come and where it will go.

In the Holy Bible there is a clear description about creation. God has gradually exposed Himself to humankind from the very beginning of creation. And He has formed a nation to reveal Himself more clearly. He is the only God. He is the creator of everything.

Task : A movie on creation can be shown to the students during the class time. Or some pictures related to creation can be shown. And if none of these are possible, students can be taken outside and asked to draw pictures on creation.

Lesson 3: Mutual dependency of His creations

God has not finished His job only by creating. He always saves His creation. All His creations are mutually connected and related. The sun, moon, stars, animals, seas, rivers, mountains, soil, air, nature etc everything is in harmony with each other. We cannot think of one without the other. Our existence is beyond imagination without any of these. So we should play important role to save the environment and nature.

From the very beginning of creation there has been an intimate relationship between God and the human beings. There is also a mutual relationship and dependency between us and all the other creations and nature. And the creations are also mutually connected themselves. Some examples are discussed below.

3.1: Every creation becomes lively in the sunlight. Trees, vegetables, crops



All the creations are dependent upon one another

grow.The water of the seas and rivers evaporates into the sky. Then it becomes cloud and comes down as rain. This rain increases the fertility of the soil and brings liveliness among all the things. Sunlight gives us strength and keeps us healthy. During winter it gives us warmth. Even the moonbeam we see at night is borrowed from the sun.

3.2: We find our relationship with so many things around us. There are trees from where we get oxygen, food, clothes, medicine, furniture, firewood etc. Animals live on grass, leaves and fruits of the trees. These animals also help us. The most important thing is that these trees play an important role to keep a balance in nature.

3.3: There are some insects that harm our crops. But some birds live on those insects and thus save our crops. So we can take the crops home happily. Rats often make holes in the paddy fields and cut the crops. But if snake comes, the rat goes away. Thus our crops are saved.

3.4: God exists in everything in nature. His vitality is in everything. We live on the food and drinks we get from nature. God has given vitality in food and drinks. Through food and drinks we feel God in our life. So God exists in everything related to our life.

3.5: Various birds, butterflies, grasshoppers increase the beauty of nature. We get pleasure by seeing the birds and hearing their songs. We find birds like cuckoo, magpie, kingfisher, pigeon, and dove etc. in various poems, stories, novels and dramas. Even crows and vultures keep our environment clean by eating rotten things.

3.6: Various kinds of flower increase the beauty of nature and bring delight in our mind. We use flowers for worshipping God. We use flowers to decorate, congratulate and also to receive guests. The scent of flowers

refreshes our mind. Bees collect honey from flowers and we use that honey as food and medicine. The beauty and purity of flowers attracts our mind.

We get satisfaction by understanding the mutual dependency among the creations. For this, we need to have knowledge and faith. The book of Wisdom says, "You love whatever there is, never hate what you have created. If you hated something then you will not have created that thing. If you do not wish, then how could anything exist? Rather you give life to everything because, you Lord, lover of life, everything is yours." (Wisdom 11:24-26)

Task : Write down through which creations you have received God. Then share it with others.

Lesson 4: Taking care of creation

God gave the responsibility to human beings to take care and to dominate every creature. Domination means to rule and save them, not to ruin. For example God is our Lord. He saves us, does not destroy us. While fulfilling our God-gifted responsibility to protect all His creations, we have to remember that God createed all the creatures in the best form. So human beings have to hold their excellence. Otherwise they may not judge the other creatures at their best level. It's a great duty to take care of the other creatures. When we fulfill this duty we do not become the slave of God, rather become His co-workers. When human beings take care of the creations, the creations will also take care of the human beings. We should take care of all the creations at least so that we can take help from them. And this is God's will.

Human beings should not misuse water, air etc. for their luxury. The whole world needs them. Every creation has its own characteristics and own life.

It is our duty to protect their unique characteristics. Natural resources like soil, water, and air give out themselves for others. They are not for themselves.

But nowadays we notice that nature is being oppressed and for this reason there is an adverse reaction in nature. Our present era is the era of industrialization. Natural resources need rest in this era. If they can take rest they will be much more enriched. Then human beings can find those useful. For this reason the poet has perfectly said:

Nodi kovu pan nahi kore nij jol
Toru gon nahi khay nij nij fol
Gavi kovu nahi kore nij dughdo pan
Kashtho dogdho hoye kore pore onno dan

Human beings produce luxurious elements by using natural resources. This practice should be controlled in order to make human life a simple one. If we lead a simple life, our natural resources will automatically be saved. But nowadays the soil, water, air are being extremely polluted. Thus nature is losing its balance and humans are losing a healthy life.


Moses near the burning woods

God says to Moses from the burning bush, 'Take off your shoes because you stand in a holy place' (Exodus 3:5). This word of God is applicable to all the creations. They are holy. All of the land is holy. For this reason we should take care of the creations. If we nurse human beings and all the other creations, it shows our positive attitude.

Task : 1. Write down how you will serve if any of your neighbours becomes sick.
Task : 2. We can have a tree plantation as a part of the class.

Sample Questions

Multiple choice questions:

1. What was the condition of the world before creation?
a. Deep darkness
b. Deep meditation
c. Full of joy
d. Focused on God

2. By the sin of humans

I. The beauty of creation has been destroyed

II. Creation has become stigmatized

III. The mystery of creation has become completed.

Which one of the following is correct?

a. i and ii b. i and iii

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

Read the following passage and answer Questions 3 and 4:

Social worker George built a large hospital where 2,000 people could work and poor patients could get treatment. He also visited the homes of the sick to help them. He believed all his success was because of God's grace.

3. George's service shows –

i. Care for God's Creation

ii. Service to God

iii. Showing off his greatness

Which is correct?

a. i and ii

b. i and iii

c. ii and iii

d. i, ii, and iii

4. What was the purpose of George visiting the sick at home?

a. Fulfillment of the world

b. To help and do good for others

c. To become famous

d. To achieve success

Creative questions:

1. James cut down big trees around his house to make furniture, but he does not plant any new trees. He also hunts animals freely. On the other hand, Subash loves nature. He plants many kinds of fruit and flower trees in his home garden. He enjoys eating fresh fruits and vegetables from his garden. He wakes up in the morning to the sound of birds and is always happy.

   a) What does sunlight give us in winter?
   b) Why should we take care of God's creation?
   c) What problems can happen because of James' actions? Explain.
   d) "Subash is a representative of God's creation". Evaluate this statement.

2. Misty is expert in handicraft. She draws different pictures, sews and prepares different things with colour and soil. Thus, she makes her home beautiful and amazes all. Apart from this, she has prepared a complete garden at home by planting trees of flowers, fruits and some other items. Thus Misty is taking care of God's creation.

   a) Whose existence is unimaginable without nature?
   b) How can we receive God through foods and drinks?
   c) Which instruction of your book has Misty followed to do this work?
   d) Evaluate the statement 'God is the inspiration of Misty's creative work'.

Short Answer Questions:

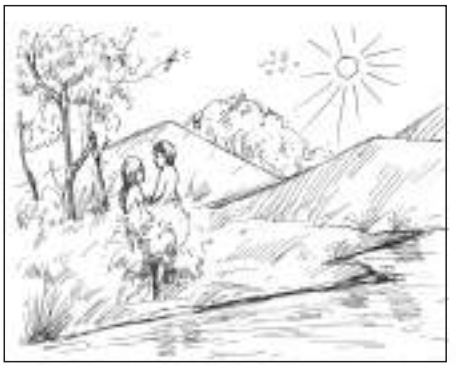
1. How can we show God's love?
2. What was the condition of the world before creation?
3. Why did God create the earth?
4. What does the word 'Mystery' mean?

Chapter 3

Creation of Human Beings

Almighty God has created human beings after finishing all His creations. In this chapter we will elaborately discuss three topics. They are a) Why God has created human beings so beautifully in His own image and likeness b) Why He has created them as males and females and c) Why He has given free will. During discussing these topics we will learn to know ourselves better as well as love others deeply.

At the end of this chapter we will be able-



- to explain why God has created human beings in His own image and likeness.
- to explain the dignity of male and female.
- to explain that God has endowed human beings with freedom and responsibility.
- to learn to respect the old and love the young.

Lesson-1: The purpose of God for creating human beings in His own image and likeness.

All works of God are great, good and beautiful. But among them Human beings are the best. Why are the human beings best? The main reason is God has created human beings in His own image and likeness. He did not create any other creation like this. To be created in His image means to get a soul like him. We can ask the question why God has created human beings in this way. The answer will be God loves us. Before discussing other topics we should know and understand it clearly.

We have come to this world for God. He has created us only for His delight and glory. We should know Him, love Him and follow His path forever. Our soul is immortal. After the death of our body our soul will still exist. So we will praise Him and be proud of Him forever. It is God's will that we have an intimate relationship with Him. This relation should exist in His own image forever. Only for this reason He has made us in His own image. The Holy

Bible says, 'the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength' (Mark 12:29-30).

God has created us with body, soul and mind. We call the soul heart. He has also given us free will so that human beings can know Him, love Him and follow His path. His image is reflected in our mind, soul and free will. Now we will discuss these elaborately.

1.1 God has given mind to human beings so that they can know God and understand the way He thinks. God has given us a strong power of thinking so that we can establish friendship with Him. We know that Abraham could know God personally. For this reason He has made friendship with Abraham. In the same way we can know God and establish a relationship with Him.

1.2 God has given us a soul or heart. We feel many things with our heart. It is the source of various feelings like love, hatred, happiness, sorrow, sympathy etc. God has given us hearts so that we can love Him. His will is that human beings will love and hate the same things that He loves and hates. He wants us to love Him with our whole heart. For this reason He has created human beings in His own image.

1.3 God has given us the power of imagination like His. For this reason whatever way we chose to lead our life, God allows it. He does not stop us. He could create human beings in such a way that they would follow only His direction. But in this way, human beings would only be a doll or robot and they would never have any freedom. Human beings are His special creation. He has created us only for Him. He becomes happy if we deliberately follow His own path.

He has given a great responsibility to human beings. It is to decide whether they will follow the path of devil or God, whether they will follow the words of God or neglect them. God never compels anyone to believe His words because He loves us. He wants human beings to love Him from their heart. It is impossible to build up a relationship of love by force. And finally we will be judged one day and get reward or punishment according to our work.

We should not think that we are equal to God as we are created in His own image. We should also not think that our knowledge is equal to God's knowledge. God is infinite and exists all over the world. He has no limitation. Human beings have limitation in everything. For example: They cannot be present in more than one place simultaneously.

God is immortal. He has neither beginning nor end. He was, is and will be forever. He has given us such a mind, heart and will power that we can build a lively relationship with Him and live in that. He has not created us like other animals. They cannot build a lively relationship with God. But we can, because we are created in His own image.

Task : Make a group of 3 to 5 and share with others which quality of God you find in the student sitting right to you.

Lesson 2: The meaning of God's Image

We have come to know that God is invisible. He does not have a body, but only a soul. But we have body, soul and heart. Which part of the human body has God made in His image? He has given us a soul in His own way. Our soul is like God's. It means we have some virtues like God. What are those virtues?

2.1. Love:

God Himself is love. He loves, that is why He has created everything in this world. He loves us very much. He has also given us this virtuous quality. That is why we love our parents, siblings, relatives, neighbors, friends, classmates, poor and ill people. If we want we can love like God without any selfish interest.

2.2 Creativity: Human beings have creative power like God. For this reason human beings can think and work creatively. They can express new idea. They can produce new art, invent medicine, tools etc. God created us in His own image so that we can take care of other creations. We will know the plan God has for humankind and be a part to apply it. Thus we can be God's co-workers.

Task : Sit in pairs and discuss what kind of creative works you can do.

2.3 Strength: God has created everything with His words. There is an infinite power in His words because He is the almighty. There is also power in the word of humans but that is limited. Our parents, teachers and superiors advise us to be good persons. We listen to them and try to be good persons. God has given us strength to do many things. Human beings have got the virtue of creativity from God. Our difference with God is that He has created everything from nothing. But we create new things by using God's gifts. It means human beings only transform God's creation.

2.4 Salvation or redemption: God is our saviour. He saves us from danger. Human beings have got this virtue from God. Human beings can support and save one another during danger. They can show the path of relief. During the time of fear they can provide courage. And during the time of sorrow they can provide happiness. When one is busy, another can help him. In these ways human beings can play the role of the saviour. They can show the way in which we can be saved from greed. Doctors can cure a patient. God has sent His son Jesus in this world for the salvation of human beings. There is a difference between Jesus and us. God has given us forgiveness from sin but we cannot do so. We can only preach Jesus' word of salvation. We can help others with the gifts the Holy Spirit has given us. But we cannot give those virtues to other human beings.

Task : Sit in pair and discuss how you can rescue others.

2.5 Holiness: God is Holy. He has given a desire in us to be holy. He has created human beings in His own image and it suggests God loves them. He has planned in such a way that human beings can experience the holiness of God. God has created everything for human beings and in return of it they will love God, to serve Him and devote all the creations to Him.

2.6 Conscience: God is the source of all positive and good things. He has given a sense to understand what is bad and what is good. For this reason, if a human being does anything good, his heart gets satisfaction. And if he does anything evil he feels guilty in his heart. Then he seeks forgiveness from God and tries to be holy.

2.7 Forgiveness: God has forgiving nature. God's son Jesus has made the concept of forgiveness clear by the example of the forgiving Father. We

also obtain the power of forgiveness from our God. We can live in peace in a family, a society and world, because we can forgive.

So now we can say that God has given many divine virtues to us. For example: we have got from God virtues like pity, sympathy, patience, praise, care etc. We can increase them in a limited manner. For this reason it is said that human beings are the mirrors of God's divinity.

Task : Make 2 columns. Write on the left column the virtues of God that you noticed and on the right column the virtues of God that you possess.

Psalm 8:5-6:

Your have made human beings almost equal to a God,

And crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

You have put all things under their feet.

Lesson -03: God has created human beings as males and females.

God has created human beings in His own image. It does not mean that we have got the body like God. Rather it means we have got souls and other virtues like God. God is formless having only soul.

Every human being, male or female, is the image of God. Everyone has his or her individuality. So every male and female deserves to get equal rights and respect. God did not give more respect to one and less respect to another.



Man and Woman

Both males and females have equal sense of dignity and rights because they are the image of God. Both of them have the right to establish relationship with God and with each other. Both of them have various types of virtues like holiness, kindness, forgiveness, acquiring knowledge, respecting others etc. For this reason question should not be asked about who deserves more respect. God exists both in male and female and God has given his soul to both of them.

Task : Act out a small play showing equal respect to both males and females.

Man is a social being and he has not been created to live alone. God has created Adam as the first human being and kept him in the Eden garden along with other animals. He had relationship only with the trees and the animals at that time. He was not happy because as a social being he was incomplete and he needed at least one person to form a society. For this reason, God created a woman who would be his companion. He became complete by getting his companion and thus he became happy.

Males and females are the image of God not only as individuals but also as a family. When a man and a woman form a family together, they reveal the image of God. God means God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit. A male and a female together form a family and give birth to their child. A unity develops among them. They express the unity of the Trinity through it.

To form a society, a country and a nation, both males and females play a role like the two wheels of a cycle. If one wheel becomes destroyed another cannot move alone. The whole cycle becomes motionless. A society becomes weak if women do not play any role along with men. For this reason our national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam said:

Bishwer ja kisu mahan sristi, chiro kollyankar
Ordhek tar koriase nari, ordhek tar nor.

Task : Write down the virtues of your father and mother separately.

3.2 : Freedom and responsilbility : God created Adam and Eve and settled them in world of happiness, the Eden Garden. He gave them a beautiful mind, will and responsibility to enjoy the blessings of the garden together in love. But Adam and Eve went away from God misusing their liberty. For their mistake the mankind is now chained in slavery. God liberated the Israelites from the Farao and set them free from slavery. He sent his only son to save the mankind from the slavery of sin. He(son) gave His life on cross and made us free. God has given us the freedom of will to enjoy every thing on earth like Adam and Eve. But by being weak we commit sin misusing the freedom and forgetting our sacred responsibilities. But God has not forgotten us or taken away our liberty through the priests as His (son's) representatives. He has arranged everything so that we can save ourselves from committing sins. God wishes that we may save ourselves from slavery of sin with the help of His priests and lead a free and holy life.

Lesson-4: The holy family: Mutual respect, dignity and ideal of love.

The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is the holy family. We learn many things from this family. For every male and female the ideal of the holy family is imitable. There was a deep respect and love between Mary and Joseph. Here we will talk about how they acquired these virtues.

4.1. Mary had deep faith in God. Archangel Gabriel told her that she would be the mother of God's son. Then she became afraid because she was not married at that time. But the angel told her that she would be pregnant with the power of the Holy Spirit. So she agreed. She was afraid of being insulted by society and her marriage could be over. But she accepted everything because that was the will of God. In this way we can understand that Mary had deep faith in God. Through her faith and respect towards God she achieved respect from Joseph and the other people.

4.2 Joseph had deep respect towards Mary. She was engaged to Joseph a long time before their marriage. After that Joseph came to know that Mary is pregnant and for this reason, he decided to leave Mary secretly as he did not want to make her shameful in society through this event. We can understand how much he loved her.



The Holy Family

4.3 Joseph also had deep respect and faith upon God. When he was thinking of leaving Mary, the angel of heaven came to him in dream and told him that Mary is pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit and Joseph should not be afraid to accept her. Joseph took that order with deep faith. He accepted Mary as his life partner and thus we can understand that Joseph had deep faith and respect towards God. He was also obedient to God. Thus Joseph's action made him respectful to Mary and the other people.

4.4 Mary and Joseph had deep love between them and they also had the same kind of mentality. That is why they could stay together during their sorrow. When Jesus was about to be born, Joseph could not find any good place in Bethlehem. Mary could understand her husband's condition. She did not rebuke or condemn her husband. Rather she accepted everything with delight. Through this event we can understand how much mutual love and respect they had between them.

4.5 Both Joseph and Mary were religious minded. Every year they went to the temple of Jerusalem. They had to walk a long way to go there. All the people of their village went there together. Every year Joseph and Mary went there to observe ritual leaving other work. Now, we can understand that they had deep religious feelings and divine faith. That is why they could love and respect each other.

4.6 They had unity, love and a sense of responsibility. They had enormous love for their child. When Jesus was lost in the temple of Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph searched and found him. During their sorrow they were always together. They never accused each other. Only for love they found Jesus.

Task : Write down the similarities between the Holy Family and your family.

Sample Questions

Multiple choice questions:

1. Male and female together form-

a) society b) family

c) God's image d) Man's image

2. Why has God created everything for human beings?

a) To serve God.

b) To love and serve God.

c) To consume

d) To consume and to devote towards God.

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions 3 and 4.

Onkon and Adri were brother and sister. Adri hid a book of her brother and made fun. When Adri could understand that it was a bad work she returned the book. Onkon forgave her.

3. Through her work Adri can achieve—

a) Satisfaction of heart

b) The holiness of God.

c) The development of conscience.

d) Everybody's love

4. Onkon's activity expresses-

i. divine virtue

ii humane virtue

iii virtue.

Which one of the following is correct?

a) i

b) ii

c) i & ii

d) ii & iii

Creative questions:

1. Dina and Deep love each other very much. One day Dina got sick, but they could not afford a doctor. Deep stayed by her side, cared for her, and prayed constantly. Both of them lived a prayerful life. Dina never blamed or scolded Deep. In times of trouble, they stood together and found solutions. Because of their love and trust, they could overcome everything.

   a) Who is the reflection of God's holiness?
   b) How can we love selflessly like God?
   c) What kind of family do Dina and Deep have? Explain.
   d) The beauty of Dina and Deep's family life is a blessing from God – Evaluate based on your textbook.

2. When Brishti was born, her family was very happy. Her pure and sweet smile brought joy to everyone. She studied with love and care from her family and became a well-known doctor and social worker. She had great compassion and love for people. Just hearing her kind words helped patients feel better. Her husband is a famous researcher. He develops medicine and machines for diagnosing illness through his hard work.

   a) In whose image were human beings created?
   b) How do we choose between good and bad?
   c) Which quality of God is seen in Brishti's husband? Analyze based on your textbook.
   d) 'The image of God is reflected in Brishti' – Evaluate this statement.

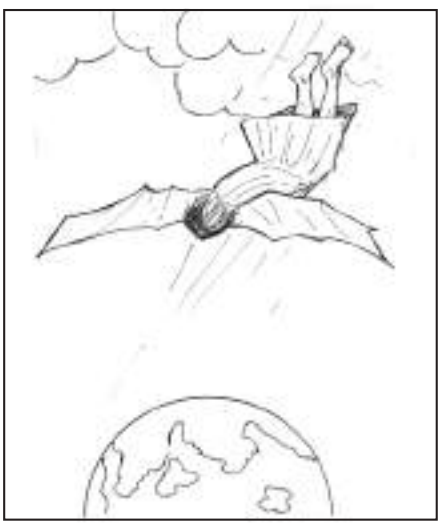
Short Answer Questions:

1. Why did God create us?
2. What materials did God use to create human beings?
3. What qualities of God live in our hearts?
4. What does it mean that humans are created in God's image?

Chapter 4

Fall of the Angels of Heaven and the Human Beings: Promise of Salvation

God is infinitely kind and good. He wanted his creations, especially the angels of heaven and the human beings, to love Him, know Him deeply, worship Him and be obedient to Him. For this reason God has given freedom to them. But some of the angels of heaven were proud and committed sins against God. They degenerated into devils. They also persuaded human beings to commit sin. Human beings also fell in the trap of devil and became disobedient to God. They misused their freedom. We call that very sin of human beings the Original Sin. This sin entered the history of human beings. But the infinite kind God did not destroy human beings. He promised that he would send a saviour for them.



At the end of this chapter we will be able-

- to describe the fallen Angels of heaven.
- to explain how human beings got trapped by the influence of devil.
- to explain the meaning of Original Sin.
- to describe how we can overcome the influence of sin.
- to learn how to resist sin.
- to reject dishonest company and lead an honest life.

Lesson-1: Fall of the rebellious angels of heaven

Almighty God has created the angels of heaven in order to worship Him. Just like God they have no body but only souls. God has created them in the best way. They always praise God and live in a place of happiness. Among them there was Lucifer. He rebelled against God. Some other angels also joined his group. Thus they committed sin against God and had a fall. Those who had a fall became devils. Now Satan Lucifer is called the Devil.

The main reason of their downfall is that they did not want to obey the kingship of God. All those that joined that group boasted in the same way and became disobedient to God. So God made a burning Hell and

threw them there. They will be burning there forever. The main reason of their downfall is that God has given them free will but they have misused that by rejecting God. They opposed God and wanted to be equal to Him.

The Devil or Satan tempted our first parents into sin. This was the most destructive temptation of Satan. Our first parents could not overcome that temptation and committed sin against God. The Devil said, 'If you eat the fruit of this tree you will become like God and you will learn the knowledge of good and evil'. Through these words we can learn that Satan is a great liar. He is the father of all lies.

The rebellious angels of heaven have taken their utmost decisions before their downfall. For this reason their sin is not forgivable. After their downfall God has not given any opportunity of repentance to them.

From the very beginning he has been named a murderer. He is so much destructive that he also tempted Jesus to commit crime. He suggested Jesus to be disobedient towards the Holy Father. Satan tried to remove Jesus from the job for which the Father has sent him.

In his first letter Saint John said, 'Whoever commits sin is the follower of Satan, because Satan has committed sin from the very beginning. God the Son came to this world to correct whatever bad Satan has done. (1 Jn.3:8)

We know that God is almighty. Satan's work is never infinite. He is only a creation of God. Jesus came to this world to establish the Kingdom of Heaven and Satan can never stop that. We clearly see that Satan directly expresses hatred against God. Satan is always trying to destroy Christ's work of establishing the Kingdom of Heaven because he cannot tolerate it. Satan is always trying to tempt human beings to commit sin. Thus he is making human heart bruised all over. Those who love God will leave Satan. In this way one day they will make the work of Satan fruitless.

Task : In today's world what types of work of Satan do we notice? Make a list of them. What is your duty to avoid the work of Satan?

Lesson-2: The fall of human beings

God established a relationship with human beings. He made them as his best creation. He also gave them freedom the best gift. Their living place

was the Holy Garden of Eden. But the human beings could not understand that by committing sin they had lost their place of happiness.

God gave the duty of taking care of everything on this new earth to our first parents. He told them to take care of trees, animals, birds and aquatic animals. He kept them in a beautiful garden. He told them to enjoy everything and prohibited to do only one thing. In that garden there was a special tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God prohibited eating the fruit of that tree. He told them that if they ate the fruits of that tree, they would die. They were following God's command.

Satan hated God. He wanted to destroy the beautiful environment created by God. He thought if he could make human beings commit crime, God would get hurt. In this way Satan was searching an opportunity to take revenge against God. At first he tried to allure Eve. He told Her that the fruit of that tree was very sweet. But Eve replied that it was forbidden for them. Satan asked if she knew why God had forbidden that for them and added if she ate the fruit, she would be strong and wise like God.

Eve believed the serpent. She forgot the prohibition of God. She forgot how much God loved them. She wanted to be wise and knowledgeable like God. Avoiding God's instruction she wanted to work according to her will. So she took a fruit from Satan. She ate the fruit and also made Adam eat a little. For her suggestion Adam ate that forbidden fruit. From that very moment everything changed. They could understand that they were naked. Then they made dress with the leaves and wore it. They started fearing God.

Adam and Eve did not obey God's command. They misused God's best gift freedom. They became disobedient to God and thus experienced downfall. Because of sin, death entered into human life. God gave them punishment by sending them to earth. And here they started to lead their painful life.

Task : Make small groups and discuss what types of temptations come to the life of the students. How can they overcome them?

Lesson-3: Original Sin

The souls of Adam and Eve were holy like God. With the strength of that soul they could control their body. They had freedom. That is why they could take

decision for their future. But to protect that freedom was a great challenge for them. Human beings became defeated in that exam. Satan's temptation was very much harmful for them. They could not overcome that temptation. They found Satan's word much more attractive than God's. They became greedy to be like God. After knowing everything they disobeyed God. This is the first sin committed by the first human being. For this reason we call it the Original Sin.

The inherent meaning of Original Sin:

1) Through the original Sin, human beings wanted to do God's work by themselves.
2) They neglected God.
3) They brought misfortune upon themselves.
4) They lost the grace of divinity.
5) They started to be afraid of God.
6) They received bad ideas about God.
7) Their good relationship with God deteriorated.
8) They lost the control of soul over body.
9) Desire of sex came to them.
10) Their relationship with other creation became destroyed.
11) Through the Original Sin, death entered the history of human beings.
12) Thus Original Sin entered into the life of all human beings.

Task : Act out how Adam and Eve committed sin with the temptation of Satan.

Lesson-4: Ways to overcome the temptation of sin

Temptation of sin comes to us at all times. Those temptations never suggest us to follow what is good. They just give us pleasure for a moment. But these delights take us away from the path of God. And for this reason we have to suffer. On the other hand, God has kept for us His words, which will guide us towards His path. If we follow His words, we can move to the holy path like Him. In this way, we can be with Him after our death. So to say God has given us free will. Through this, we can select our own path.

To overcome this temptation is very important for us. But before that we should have an idea about the source of temptations. The main source of temptation is within us. We all have instincts. These instincts are the appetite of emotion and sense organs. We have five sense organs. They are eyes, nose, ear, tongue, and skin. Through these mediums sometimes we imagine positively and sometimes we imagine negatively. With positive imagination we can do good work and with negative imagination we can do bad work. Then the question comes, what is the source of these instincts? These come from our heart. Lord Jesus said, 'It is from within, from the human hearts the evil intentions come out and causes fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they destroy a person'. (Mark 7:21-23)

We also have good instincts. Among them love is the best. It originates from the desire of doing people's welfare. Saint Augustine said, 'Love is the desire of other's welfare.'

We should know how to overcome the path of sin. In this age to build up some necessary habits is important. Among all the good habits the best and the most helpful one is the spiritual habit. Along with this we should control our senses. These habits help us a lot to move to the right path. Through these habits we can overcome all our temptations and can reach the actual goal. How we can overcome temptations:

- to make a strong promise to avoid sin;
- to make a regular habit of prayer and pray to God for mercy; strength and courage to overcome those allurements;
- we should confess regularly;
- regularly to attend the Eucharist and receive Holy Communion;
- to believe in the power of the Holy Spirit;
- to resist the power of Satan;
- to receive good counsel and help from holy persons;
- to read and meditate on the Holy Bible;
- regularly to take part in sports and enjoy pure delight;

- to take part in various activities of family and society;
- to help and serve the poor;
- always to mix with good friends and avoid the dishonest company.

We should always be conscious to avoid the temptation of sin. We should take right decision by judging what is right and what is wrong. And after that we should try our level best to choose the right path.

Task 1 : Share with others in a group if you have overcome any temptation in your life.
Task 2 : Show in a group performance how you can avoid your friend's ill temptations in an ideal way.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What is the first sin committed by human beings called?

a) First Sin b) Original Sin
c) Great Sin d) Heavy Sin

2. Why did God create angels?

a) To worship God
b) To serve humans
c) To show their glory
d) To rule over others

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions 3 & 4

The Madhupur Church grew because of God's blessings and the proper guidance of the Father. But Sajal gathered some people and opposed the Father. The Father called them and tried to help them understand.

3. What should be done for changing the attitude of Sojol?

a. to praise the Parish Priest.

b. to worship the Angels of the heaven

c. to accept the kingship of God

d. to behave well with others

4. The main reason behind the downfall of Sojol is –

i) he misused his free will

ii) he opposed God

iii) Others' influence

Which one of the following is correct?

a) i c) i & ii

b) ii d) ii & iii

Creative questions:

1. Topu : Tonoy, your mobile set looks very beautiful. Where did you get it?

Tonoy : I have taken it without informing anyone from the shop I work. If you want I can bring you another one secretly.

Topu : Let's go now and do it.

Tonoy : Let's go.

a) By which name is Lucifer called?

b) Why did human beings become disobedient towards God?

c) Which teaching can help Tonoy overcome his present situation?

d) Make a comparative study between the result of Tonoy's temptation and the downfall of human beings.

2. Sujon reads in class VI. He is expert in everything like sports, acting and studies. He started to think himself as someone great. He neglected and rebuked the weak students in the class. He often did not listen to the teacher. Gradually everybody started to hate him. One day he told his teachers that he knew more than them. When the Headmaster heard it, he was given a TC (Transfer Certificate).

a) Which Angel of heaven rebelled against God?

b) How did Satan's downfall occur?

c) What is expressed by the attitude of Sujon? Discuss according to your text.

d) Make a comparative study between the fall of Sujon and that of heaven's angel.

Short Answer Questions:

1. What are the natural tendencies (instincts) of human beings?
2. Why did God create humans in His image?

Chapter 5

Isaiah's Response to God's Call

God calls different people in different time to proclaim His words to the people. And whomever He called they left everything and offered their lives to God's work. They considered this call as a responsibility. They responded to this call with joy because their Creator has called them. In this chapter we will see how God called Isaiah and how Isaiah responded.



Isaiah

At the end of this chapter we will be able-

- ❖ to explain the meaning of God's call to people
- ❖ to explain the heavenly vision of Isaiah
- ❖ to explain the purification of Isaiah by God
- ❖ to explain God's call to Isaiah and his response to God's call
- ❖ to describe the necessity of purification of human beings to participate in God's work
- ❖ to trust and have faith in God by understanding the trust and faith that Isaiah had in God

Lesson 1: God's Call to People

Invocation means call. God is invisible but He has communication with people through heart. He created all human beings with a body, mind and spirit. Human body can be seen but the spirit and mind cannot be seen. With this unseen spirit and mind people can communicate with God. They can listen to God through prayer and silent meditation. In this invisible mind and spirit God gave a special power called conscience. With that conscience they can decide whether they will respond to God's call or not. God calls us to be

good, to be a true Christian and to enter into a special life. In this chapter we will discuss them.

1.1 Call to be Humans: God gave us birth in a human family. We all have body, mind, and spirit. We have all the parts that our body needs to have. Yet God calls us to be humans. What does that mean? Our parents also tell us 'be human'. We know what they want to tell us by this saying. They tell us to acquire human virtues and values. For example we have before us Jesus, the Son of God. We believe Jesus is fully human and fully God. Jesus had all the virtues of humanity. If we follow Him we will become true humans. If we use the virtues and values that we have for the welfare of others, we will become more humane day by day.

1.2 Call to be Christian: We received a second call from God. That is the call to be Christian or to be followers of Christ. We cannot be called Christian only by receiving Baptism and other sacraments. As our parents ask us to become humans, likewise we have to become Christian day by day. To be a Christian or a follower of Christ first of all we have to be a true human being. If we cannot be a true human first, we cannot become true Christian. As much as we become a human we will become a true Christian. By following Jesus Christ we can respond to the call to be a true Christian.

1.3 Unique Invocation: God gives special call to those who strive to be true human and true Christian. He calls some to be Priest, Pastor, Religious Brother or Sister and Catechist. These are unique calls because God calls these people to proclaim His message. In the Holy Bible we find many individuals who got the special call. We can name some of these people. They are Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Daniel, Ruth, Esther, Debora, John the Baptist, Mary, Anna, Mary Magdalena, Peter, Paul and many others. Those who got this special call were truly humans and devoted to God.

For this special invocation we need to remember:

a. God's call for people is a glorious matter. It is glorious because it comes from God.

b. God's call is for a particular reason to do a special task. He sends the person with a special mission.

c. God's call is to serve God and man, not to be served.

d. Those who receive the special call face a lot of challenges. They have to cope with lots of criticism and unpleasant situation. They have to sacrifice a lot. Sometimes they even have to bear physical sufferings.

e. God calls and awards missions. He also gives them the necessary gifts for the particular task to be done. God does not give them the gifts for their selfish use, but to work for the church, society and the country.

The first unique call is to be truly human and a true Christian. After that if God wants He may call us for a particular mission. To respond to God's unique call we need to listen to God's everyday call. Our daily prayer, meditation, different events of the day, the reading of scripture and different spiritual books, the lives of great people and their messages can help us to hear God's call.

Lesson 2: Calling of Prophet Isaiah

Prophet Isaiah was an honest man. He had great devotion to God. In this lesson, we will learn about Isaiah's heavenly vision. There he had a vision of God. He heard God's voice. God's angel purified him. God called Isaiah for a special mission and he responded to the call.

Vision of Isaiah

In the year when King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne which was high and lofty. The border of His robe filled the church. Seraphs were in attendance above Him. One called another and said: "Holy holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory". The pivots of the door shook at the voices of those who called and the church was filled with smoke. I said, "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among the people of unclean lips! Yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the Seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of forceps. The Seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

What Isaiah saw in the Heavenly vision

a) God was sitting on a throne.

b) Seraphs were glorifying God. They were praising God with the incense. The pivots of the door of the church shook at the voices of those who were praising God.

Reaction of Isaiah: Isaiah was afraid of having a vision of God. Because at that time people thought it was impossible to see God for them. Because it was thought that humans are unclean and God is Holy. So Isaiah thought that he would die.

Sanctification of Isaiah: Isaiah said, his mouth and eyes were unclean. He was totally unworthy to God. But one of the Seraphs made his mouth holy with fire. Then the Seraph told him not to worry, because from then on he would be counted as a holy man.

God called Isaiah: After his purification, God asked a question to Isaiah. God said, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" By this question God gave the opportunity to Isaiah to make a decision freely. He did not force Isaiah.

Isaiah's response: Prophet Isaiah thought about God's question. Then in his heart and mind he felt a great desire to serve God. In response he said, 'Here I am! Send me.'

This is how Isaiah was called by God to be a prophet. He freely responded to God's call. God did not purify Isaiah for Isaiah's sake. But to work for God He gave Isaiah the precious gift of holiness.

Task 1 : Write about your feeling if God has called you for a mission.

Task 2 : Act out in a group showing Isaiah's vision of heaven.

Lesson 3: Necessity of Sanctification of people for God's Work

Out of His own initiative, God revealed himself to Isaiah. But Isaiah was afraid and hesitated to meet God. The main reason for being afraid and the hesitation was his personal feeling of uncleanness and unworthiness and also the sinfulness of Israelites. That is why he said that he was unclean. On the other hand, God sanctified him and made him holy. Then God gave him a special responsibility. Here we can see a few steps:

a. God called Isaiah for His work. This is why God appeared to Isaiah.

b. Isaiah hesitated to do God's work because he thought he was a sinner, unclean and weak. His repentance is seen here.

c. God forgave the sins of his repented heart and made him holy.

d. Then Isaiah felt he was ready to talk to God.

e. God talked to Isaiah about a special responsibility. God asked him, 'Whom shall I send? Who will go?'

f. Isaiah knew it was a difficult task. Even then he responded to God's call. He offered himself to preach the words of God.

Jesus' teaching about the righteousness of people

Some quotations of Jesus about peoples' holiness to do God's work are as follow:

- In the beatitudes Jesus said, 'Blessed are the pure in spirit, for they shall see God.'
- 'For I tell you unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'
- 'You have to be righteous as your heavenly Father is righteous.'

What we see in the reality of our life

1. We also have the desire to be pure in spirit like Isaiah. When we sin, we feel we are unclean or unholy.
2. Every year before we welcome Jesus at Christmas, we celebrate the season of Advent. At that time, we try to change ourselves and become holy in body, mind and spirit. In this way Christmas becomes joyful. Likewise, before we celebrate the occasion of the Resurrection of Jesus, we celebrate the season of Lent. We begin this significant time by putting ash on our forehead. Through these we regain our righteousness.
3. By receiving the sacrament of Baptism we are forgiven of our original sin. Before receiving the Holy Communion we receive the sacrament of Confession or Reconciliation. At the beginning of the celebration of the Eucharist we have the penitential rite for the forgiveness of our sins. People receive the sacrament of reconciliation before receiving

the sacrament of Confirmation, Marriage and Priesthood to sanctify them.

4. In the village, the Prayer Leaders, legion of Mary, St. Anthony choir group try to live a life of holiness.
5. Holy vowed persons and the people who offered their lives to preach the Good News strive to live a life of holiness.
6. The priests who offer sacrifice whole heartedly tries to live a life of holiness and offer a holy sacrifice.

Prophet Isaiah felt the need of being sanctified to do God's work. After purifying Isaiah, God called him for the special work. If we want to respond to God's special work, we too have to live righteously.

Task : What you are going to do to live a righteous life, write down in your notebook and share in a small group.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. How can we respond to the call to be true Christian?

a) Listening to God's Word
b) Praying regularly
c) Obeying the commandments of Christ
d) Following Christ

2. The person who is called needs to remember that God called him---

a) to worship
b) to serve
c) to serve God and man
d) to love all

Read the following passage and answer the questions 3 & 4.

Mr. Asim goes to school every day and teaches the students with care. He often tells them, "Be honest and upright individuals." One day the head teacher called Mr. Asim to the office. Mr. Asim thought he might be rebuked for some negligence and felt afraid. But the head teacher instead gave him a more important responsibility, recognizing him as a competent teacher.

3. Mr. Asim tells his students to be honest individuals so that they –

a) Become successful in life

b) Contribute to building a better society

c) Achieve financial stability

d) Focus more on studies

4. Why did the headmaster choose Ashim like Isaiah?

a) to encourage b) to give courage

c) to give responsibility d) to criticize

Creative Questions

1. Everybody loves Binoy because he speaks very nicely. He is honest and compassionate to the poor. He always prays to receive God's grace. For this behavior and experience he was called to be a priest. At first Binoy was not willing because he thought that he is a sinner. He was suffering from indecision to accept this important responsibility. He started praying and after that he understood God's will and accepted the call to be a priest.

a) What is the meaning of 'invocation'?

b) What do we need to do to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven?

c) From your textbook, which of the teachings encouraged Binoy to be a priest?

d) 'Binoy's responsibility is to fulfill God's will'- evaluate the statement.

2. Ashim is an obedient and intelligent boy in his family. He has received the sacrament of Baptism. He regularly participates in religious festivals and programs and serves people. He has become a good person by working with the priests at the mission and is called by God. He knows that to do God's work he needs to be a righteous person. That is why the Church has chosen him.

    1. Who saw the Angels?
    2. What kind of person was Isaiah?
    3. Describe how Ashim lived his life.
    4. Show the similarities and dissimilarities of Sanctification between Ashim and Isaiah.

Short Answer Questions:

1. Why does God call human beings?
2. What does it mean to be a true Christian?
3. How did God purify Isaiah?
4. What did Lord Jesus teach about human purity?

Chapter 6

The Birth and Childhood of Jesus, the Saviour

God loves us. So He has sent His son for the expiation of our sins. His son was born as the saviour and the remission maker of sin of this world. He came for all the people of all the countries in this world. Those who will take the path of liberation will be saved. In this chapter we will discuss the birth and the childhood of our dear saviour. At the same we will try to deepen our relationship with Him.



Jesus: The Saviour

At the end of this chapter we will be able-

- to explain the purpose of God in sending Jesus into this world.
- to explain the importance of Jesus' being a human being.
- to describe the childhood of Jesus.
- to explain how the childhood of Jesus teaches us to form a beautiful life.
- to lead a humble and modest life.

Lesson 01: The purpose of the coming of Jesus, the saviour into this world

God is the creator of the universe. He is almighty and exists all over the world. He is the source of all that is good, auspicious, and the source of holiness and knowledge. He has given power and knowledge to all His creatures, especially to human beings so that they can know Him. God has created human beings as His best creature. It means He has given human beings conscience and soul. He has also given them a freewill and love.

1.1 The fulfilment of God's promise: We know that Adam and Eve became disobedient to God and committed sin. That is why they were sent to this world from heaven. Thus, they were sent out from heaven. For their sin they were deprived of heavenly peace and happiness. God has given human beings the power of taking decision independently. He has also given them the freedom of choosing good and evil. But human beings did not choose good. Rather they had chosen evil. God never

expected this from human beings. He was offended. It was not possible for human beings to be in the Heavenly Garden, that is, with God anymore.

Through such misuse of freedom of will human beings were punished. Yet, being kind and loving, God in his anger did not give them the extreme punishment. God did not destroy them totally. Rather He promised that to save human beings He would send a saviour into this world. God kept His promise. He sent His own son for us. Thus Jesus, the saviour came into this world.

Two thousand years ago Jesus came into this world. The invisible God became visible. He became incarnate like the human beings and came closer to us. He lived a life like us. He has made known to us God's plan of salvation for human race.

1.2 To save human beings from the power of Satan: For the sin of our first parents the whole human race was living under the shadow of sin. Human beings fell in the trap of Satan and Jesus came to this world to save us from that trap. He loved human beings so much that He gave His life to save them from sin. Jesus said: 'I have come as light into this world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.' (John 12:46)

Task : Share in small groups how students fall in the trap of Satan. Also share how Jesus saves you from Satan.

1.3 Rebuilding of the split Relationship: Jesus himself has said the purpose of his coming into this world. In gospel of John (6:38), he said, "I have come down from heaven, not my own will, but for the will of Him who sent me". The will of the Father is: to free all those from sin whom the Father has entrusted to Him. Jesus has given His life to rebuild the spilt relationship of human beings with God.

1.4: To save the lost ones: Jesus Himself said further about the purpose of His coming, 'For the Son of man came to seek out and to save the lost' (Luke 19:10). We all have lost God's favour as a result of our sins. Jesus came to restore our status and bring us back to the favour of God.

1.5 Mediator between God and human beings: Jesus said, 'I am the path, truth and life'. Through Him we receive mercy and blessings of God. Now He has become the mediator between God and the human beings. He takes all our needs to God and bestows God's mercy and blessings upon us.

Task : Discuss in pair how you lose God and get reunited with Him through Jesus.

Lesson 02: The Significance of the birth of Jesus, the saviour

Jesus was born to free us from sin. We have learnt about it earlier. We also have known about His birth. We will discuss its significance.

2.1: Immanuel: The birth of Jesus has much importance for us. Through prophet Isaiah God has predicted about Him. The prophet said that a young woman would bear a son, and name him Immanuel. Immanuel means 'God is with us'. (Isaiah 7:14)

Isaiah further said that a child was born for us. A son has been given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and He is named 'wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace'. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

God said through the words of prophet Micah, 'O Bethlehem, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose reign is from ancient days to eternity. He shall be great to the ends of the earth'. (Micah 5:2-5)

2.2 The Lamb of God: The promise that God made through the prophets was going to be fulfilled. An Angel of God visited Joseph in his dream. The Angel said to him, 'the child conceived in Mary is from the Holy Spirit. she will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus. Jesus means 'Saviour'. (Matthew 1:18-21)

We can hear God's words through John the Baptist. John says, Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away all the sins of this world. In the temple people used to sacrifice lamb to God. They believed that God forgave all their sins through the sacrifice of the lamb. John says that just like the lamb one day Jesus will be sacrificed. And through him, God will forgive all the sins of human beings. (John 1:29)



Mary being informed by Archangel Gabriel

The Archangel Gabriel came to Mary and told her to name the child in her womb "Jesus". He will be great. He will be called the son of the Most High. God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will rule over the Jacob forever, and his kingdom will be endless.

2.3 Establishment of the Kingdom of God: Jesus has come to the earth to establish the Kingdom of God. The Angel came to the shepherds to bring the news of Jesus' coming. The Angel refers this as good news of great joy, because human beings were waiting for ages for the coming of the saviour. That is why the angel said, "to you is born this day in the city of David a saviour. He is Christ the Lord. Human hearts will find peace through him". Peace comes to human hearts through the forgiveness of sin. Christ will forgive the sins and bring peace in their hearts.

Task : Share an event with all in a group through which you have understood that God is with you.

Lesson 3: The Childhood of Jesus

After the birth of Jesus and before His Baptism, we only know a little about Him from the Holy Bible. The events are- a) the presentation of Jesus in the temple; b) the flight into Egypt; c) the return from Egypt to Israel; d) The childhood of Jesus in Nazareth; e) Jesus was lost in the temple; f) Jesus returns to Nazareth with his parents. Through these events we will come to know something about Jesus' childhood.

3.1 The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: After forty days of Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary took the child Jesus to the temple of Jerusalem to offer Him. The Jews believed that in the process of childbirth a woman becomes impure. So, one had to go to the temple for purification. If a woman gave

birth to a male child, the mother had to go to the temple after 40 days. In case of a female child the mother had to go after 80 days. There she had to offer that child. But in place of the child the parents could sacrifice a lamb and take their child home. If the parents were poor they could sacrifice a pair of dove or pigeon. So after 40 days of Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary went to the temple of Jerusalem with their son. They were poor, so they sacrificed a pair of dove or pegion instead of lamb. There was a religious man named Simeon in the temple. He was a very pious and devoted person. He was waiting to see the coming of the saviour in his own eyes. When Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple he instantly understood that this was the saviour for whom the nation of Israel had been waiting so long. He took Him on his lap and praised God. He found peace to see the saviour.



Presenting Jesus in the Church

3.2 The Flight to Egypt: Three Magi from the East came searching for Jesus. They went to King Herod and wanted to know something about this. King Herod told them that he did not know anything about the new king yet. He told the Magi to search for the new king and if they found Him, they were to inform him so that he could pay homage to the new king. Actually King Herod was afraid of the arrival of a new king. He thought that his kingdom was over. So he gave a command to kill every child who was less than two years. The soldiers started to kill all the babies. In the mean time, the Magi paid their homage to child Jesus and went to their country in another

way. At night, an angel of God visited Joseph in his dream and advised to flee to Egypt with the child and His mother and stay there until further notice. It was because the king was looking for Jesus to kill. That is why Joseph fled to Egypt at that very night with his wife and son.

3.3 The Return from Egypt: King Herod died when Jesus was only four. After that the Angel of God again visited Joseph in his dream. He ordered him to return to Israel. Joseph did according to what the Angel told him. Here he heard that in the place of King Herod, his son Archelaus was ruling over Judea. He became afraid thinking that the king, like his father may also want to look for Jesus to kill Him. So they went to Galilee. There they started to live in a city named Nazareth.

3.4 Childhood of Jesus in Nazareth: After the birth of Jesus, His parents did everything according to the Jewish tradition. After that they returned to Nazareth with Jesus because that was their own city. Jesus passed his childhood in that city. For this reason everyone knew Jesus as 'Jesus of Nazareth'. Jesus was also familiar with everyone in the city. They were His friends. He was growing up gradually. He also adjusted himself with the rules and regulation of that city. He was growing up physically and also in the virtues of love, affection, sympathy etc.

3.5. The Boy Jesus was lost in the Temple: Every year Jews observe the festival of Passover or the feast of the Deliverance. This was observed as a reminder of the event that happened many years ago. Jews were captive by the Egyptians. God saved them through the leadership of Moses and Aaron. After being free they started to live in their promised land. The event of being free was very important for them. That is why every year they observed the day as a Solemn Feast. They gathered in the temple of Jerusalem to celebrate this feast. Remembering the occasion, they would sacrifice lambs and feasted on that. The adult Jews who lived within 15 miles of the temple were bound to join there. Apart from this, all the Jews around the world would come to join this at least once in their life. Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. That city was within 15 miles of Jerusalem.

For this reason, the parents of Jesus also joined the feast every year. There was another ritual in which the male children of age 12 would also join. When Jesus became 12, He also joined that for the first time with Joseph and Maria. Many people gathered there on the occasion of that feast.

After the feast, people returned home walking in groups, as the area was hilly. Women could not walk alone at night because there was fear of thieves and robbers. That is why they started earlier as they walked slowly. Men started later because they walked rapidly. After reaching the hilly area men joined the women. For this reason, before starting her journey Mary thought Jesus was with Joseph. On the other hand, Joseph thought Jesus was with Mary. This way they left Jesus in the church. In the evening when Joseph and Mary met each other they could understand that Jesus was neither with them nor with any relatives. They became very anxious. They quickly started their journey towards Jerusalem to find Jesus.

Even after the feast was over, religious scholars would sit together and discuss their religion. In the temple, scholars were discussing. Jesus was in the middle of those scholars and asking various questions and listening to them. Everyone got surprised at Jesus' sharp intellect and knowledge.

At that very moment Mary and Joseph reached there. They saw that Jesus was taking part in the discussion. Mary hugged Jesus. She said, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety". But the answer of Jesus surprised everyone. He said, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them.

Jesus said that he must be in His Father's house. In these words we could understand that God, the Father, is the actual father and Joseph is his foster father. He was born from the womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is the Son of God. Jesus was born as a fully human but he is fully divine. 'I must be in my father's house' means that He was born only to dedicate His life to God, the Father.

3.6 Jesus returned to Nazareth: Jesus was born in the house of Mary and Joseph. He grew up with their love and affection. He was obedient to His parents. That is why He left the discussion in the temple and returned to Nazareth with His parents. He attended all the affairs of family. He started to grow up physically. Along with this, He also started to acquire knowledge, education, religious knowledge and experience. The intimacy between God and human beings started to increase. He started to get wisdom from God and love and affection from human beings. He became a perfect human being.

Task : Write down the similarities between your childhood and Jesus' childhood.

Lesson 4: The example of Jesus' childhood to make our life beautiful

In every one's life the example of childhood of the great people plays an important role. A great example in front of us is the young Jesus. From the event of his childhood we can take the beautiful ideals for our lives.

4.1: The desire to be in the Father's house: When Jesus was 12 years old He went to the temple with Joseph and Mary. They went a long way with their own group. But Jesus was left behind in the temple. They went back to the temple and found Him. Mary said to Jesus, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety". Jesus answered, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

From His answer we can understand that He Has come from the heavenly Father. The boy Jesus had a great desire to spend time with the heavenly Father. He had an attraction for Him.

We should have the same attraction. We also have come from the Father. One day we will go back to Him. While we are in this world, we should spend some time with our Father every day. That means we should pray to God every day. If this ritual does not exist in a house, we should form the habit of regular prayer with our parents.

4.2 The eagerness of Jesus to acquire religious knowledge: In the temple the young Jesus was listening to the scholars and asked various questions and listened to them. Through this event we could understand that He had a strong desire about religious matters. Everyone was surprised to see His knowledge about religion.

Sometimes we get the opportunity to acquire religious knowledge. Each family has a Holy Bible. If we don't have we can collect one. We should read the Bible every day. We also can read the biography of the saints and other spiritual books. We should have the knowledge of our own religion. We can learn this lesson from the young Jesus.

4.3 Jesus' obedience towards His parents: Jesus told Joseph and Mary in the temple that he must be in His Father's house. Yet He returned with them to their home. There He was obedient to His parents. Throughout His whole life, to do for the Father's will was the main purpose of Jesus.

We should be obedient to our parents, elders and teachers. Obedience brings goodness to our life. If we become obedient, we can prosper in life. We can get protection from various dangers through obedience. Young Jesus can present us a very beautiful model about the matter.

4.4 The relationship of love and respect in the family: Young Jesus had deep love and respect towards Joseph and Mary. He received the love and affection of His mother. He also loved His mother deeply. He also loved and respected His foster father who nourished Him, protected Him from danger, and loved Him.

We should love and respect our parents. God has sent us in this world through them. We would not survive without their love, care and affection. So, our love for them must be constant.

4.5 To take part in the affair: Jesus did not show obedience towards parents only through His words. Rather He expressed them through His deeds. He spent up to 30 years in His house. In that time He must have had some education from His parents. He did not pass His time idly. He helped His parents in their work. He never hated or neglected regular work.

This is also important in our life. We should help our parents when we get scope outside our study. By doing so, our honour will not be reduced, rather our body and mind will be fit and we can concentrate on our studies. We can prove our respect, love and obedience towards our parents by helping them.

Task : Make a list of the virtues of Jesus, which you find worthy of imitating.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What is the meaning of 'Immanuel'?

a. God is with us. b. God saves.

c . Anointed one d. The one who is sent

2. The purpose of the coming of Jesus is---

i. to do for the will of the Father

ii. To find out that has been lost

iii. To express the glory of God

Which one of the following is correct?

a) i & ii b) i & iii

c) ii & iii d) i, ii & iii

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions 3 & 4.

Palash is a young adult. He helps with all kinds of work to support his family. He also reads spiritual books and the lives of saints, which has helped him grow into a spiritual person. He cannot tolerate social injustice.

3. Which virtue of Jesus has been expressed in Palash?

i) Obedience
ii) Respect
iii) Loyalty

Which one of the following Correct?

a) i & ii b) ii & iii
c) i & iii d) i, ii & iii

4. Palash could not accept injustice because he wanted to-

a. build a beautiful society
b. become established in society
c. bring economic prosperity
d. be praised by everyone

Creative questions:

1. Samir's parents were very religious. Samir got up early, said his prayer and studied regularly according to his parents' order. But he was a little bit lazy and did not want to help his parents and had no desire to read the Bible.

a) Where was Jesus lost?
b) Why did the Jews observe the Passover?
c) Which virtue of Jesus has been expressed through Samir's work?
d) Do you agree that Sameer can shape his life by following Jesus? Discuss based on the textbook.

2. Ajay and Promila is a happy couple. Ajoy's father built a nice factory and made him its director. Gradually the factory became large. But Ajay ruined the factory by following what others said. When his father noticed that he had become disobedient to him, he got hurt. He finally decided to make Ajay the assistant of that factory.

   a) What is the name of the foster father of Jesus Christ?

   b) How did Jesus help His parents in their daily life?

   c) In which way Ajay can return to the good path? Explain.

   d) 'Ajay's father is the image of God'. Explain this statement.

Short Answer Questions:

1. Why did young Jesus stay behind in the temple after the Passover?
2. What is the meaning of the word Immanuel?
3. Why was Jesus brought to the temple in Jerusalem for dedication?

Chapter 7

Miracles of Jesus

Jesus, the Savior of the human race, publicly proclaimed the Kingdom of God for three years. His miracles were a part of preparation for the people to accomplish the work of Salvation. These are the signs of the Kingdom of God that He has preached and inaugurated. The miracles happened to them who had deep faith in Jesus. Miracle did not work for them who did not have faith in Jesus. Jesus' miracle is closely related to our faith. If we have faith in Jesus, miracle would happen in our life right now. In this chapter we will discuss the miracles of Jesus.



Miracles of Jesus

At the end of this chapter we will be able to-

- describe the miracles of Jesus
- explain the characteristics of the miracles of Jesus
- explain the story of Jesus' raising the young dead boy of Nain back to life
- have faith in the divine power of Lord Jesus

Lesson 1: Miracles of Jesus

By miracle we understand some extraordinary events. People are unable to understand or explain the cause of how it happens with their general knowledge. The works of miracles are called supernatural works. 'Supernatural' means something that is impossible for man to accomplish. It is impossible for man to do the miraculous work. This is possible only with the power of God and there God himself is present.

In the Holy Bible we can see that miracles did not happen only through Jesus. We can find miracles in the Old Testament too, For example, the Ten Plagues in Egypt before the departure of the Israelites. The Israelites crossed the Red Sea when Moses divided the sea into two and the Israelites walked through it.

In the desert God sent ***Manna*** from heaven for the Israelites. Water came out from the rock. Like these we can see many miraculous events that took place.

Lord Jesus' miracles were different. Because of some important characteristics Jesus' miracles were different. In the next chapter we will discuss more. There are 37 miracles of Jesus listed below:

1. The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11)
2. The man with an unclean Spirit at Capernaum was driven away (Mark 1: 21-28; Luke 4: 31-37)
3. Catching Fish miraculously (Luke 5: 1-11)
4. Jesus raised a young man at Nain (Luke. 7: 11-17)
5. Jesus cleansed a leper (Mathew 8: 1-4; Mark. 1: 40-45; Luke 5: 12-16)
6. Jesus heals a Centurion's Servant (Mathew 8: 5-13; Luke 7: 1-10; John 4: 46-54)
7. Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law (Mathew 8:14-17;Mark1:29-34; Luke4: 38-41)
8. Jesus cast out demons at the end of the day (Mathew 8: 16-17; Mark 1:32-34; Luke 4: 40-41)
9. Jesus stops a storm (Mathew 8: 23-27; Mark 4: 35-41; Luke 8: 22-25)
10. Jesus heals the Gerasene demoniac (Mathew 8:28-34;Mark 5:1-20;Luke 8: 26-39)
11. Jesus heals a Paralytic at Capernaum (Mathew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5: 17-26)
12. A dead girl restored to life (Mathew 9: 18-26; Mark 5: 21-43; Luke 8: 40-56)
13. A woman miraculously healed (Mathew 9:20-22; Mark 5: 24-34; Luke 8: 43-48)
14. Jesus heals two blind men in Galilee (Mathew 9: 27-31)
15. Jesus heals one who was mute (Mathew 9: 32-34)
16. Jesus miraculously heals a man at the Pool of Bethzatha (John 5: 1-18)
17. Healing of the man with a broken hand (Mathew 12: 9-13; Mark 3: 1-6; Luke 6: 6-11)
18. Jesus cast out Beelzebub from a demoniac who was blind and mute (Mathew 12: 22-28; Mark 3: 20-30; Luke 11: 14-23)

19. Jesus heals a crippled woman (Luke 13: 10-17)
20. Feeding the five thousand people (Mathew 14:13-21; Mark 6: 31-34; Luke 9:10-17; John 6: 5-15)
21. Jesus walks across the water (Mathew 14: 22-33; Mark 6: 45-52; John 6: 16-21)
22. Healing of many sick people in Gennesaret (Mathew 14: 34-36; Mark 6: 53-56)
23. Healing of a Canaanite woman's daughter (Mathew 15: 1-28; Mark 7: 24-30)
24. Jesus heals a deaf man who had obstacles in his speech at Decapolis (Mark 7: 31-37)
25. Feeding the four thousand hungry people (Mathew 15: 32-39; Mark 8: 1-9)
26. Jesus cures a blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8: 22-26)
27. Transfiguration of Jesus (Mathew 17: 1-13; Mark 9: 2-13; Luke 9: 28-36)
28. Healing of a boy with an evil spirit (Mathew 17: 14-21; Mark 9: 14-29; Luke 9: 37-49)
29. Silver coin at the mouth of a fish (Mathew 17: 24-27)
30. Jesus heals the man with dropsy (Luke 14: 1-6)
31. Jesus cleansed ten lepers (Luke 17: 11-19)
32. A man born blind receives sight (John 9: 1-12)
33. Jesus heals a blind beggar near Jericho (Mathew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18: 35-43)
34. Jesus raises Lazarus to life (John 11: 1-44)
35. Fig tree withered (Mathew 21: 18-22; Mark 11: 12-14)
36. Jesus touched the ear of a slave of the High Priest and healed him (Luke 22:49-51)

The book of the Acts of the Apostles says, 'You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him'. (Acts 10:38)

The miracles of Lord Jesus still happen in the world today in different ways. If we look through our eyes of faith we will definitely see them. As an example: Through the faith-filled prayers miracle happens in people's life.

Miracle happens through the lives of the Saints. Miracle happens through the doctors with the power of God. He gave the healing power in the nature.

Task 1 : Draw the picture of a miracle mentioned in the text.

Task 2 : Share a miracle that happened in your life or other's life with all in a group.

Lesson 2: Characteristics of the Miracles of Jesus

Two main aspects have been revealed through the miracles that Jesus has done:

a) First, Jesus Christ is God, and

b) The second is that God the Father has sent Jesus to fulfill a special work.

The Jews had idea beforehand about the miracle of God. But they were amazed to see the work of Jesus. They said that they had never seen such events. By this we understand that the miracles of Lord Jesus had some different characteristics. We need to know them. The characteristics are:

2.1 Prayer, Praise and Thanksgiving: We notice that before performing a miracle Jesus prayed to God, the Father. He began His work by praising and thanking the Father. For example, before feeding the five thousand people Jesus looked up and thanked God. Then He gave the bread to the people. Once a boy possessed by demon was brought to Jesus' Disciples to heal but they could not heal him. Then he was brought to Jesus and He healed him. He said to his Disciples that prayer and fasting are needed to heal such people possessed with demon.

2.2 Thanksgiving from the Healer: Those who came to Jesus and were healed, were asked by Jesus to go to the Priests and show themselves. He also asked them to make an offering in thanksgiving. For example, after cleansing a leper Jesus ordered him to tell no one. "Go", He said, "and show yourself to the priest as Moses commanded, make an offering for your cleansing, for a testimony to them".

2.3 Revelation of Jesus' humanity: Lord Jesus Christ revealed His humanity while doing His miracles. That is, He had deep love, kindness, affection, compassion and forgiving attitude towards the people. He certainly did something when He saw the sick, the blind, lame, leper, demoniac and the paralytic. When someone came from the house of the

sick and requested Him, He always went with them. When people came to Him with their problems He discussed with them. He went to sinners' houses and ate with them to bring them to the path of goodness. Jesus wept when Lazarus died. Seeing the crying of the widowed mother of Nain Jesus raised the young dead boy to life.

2.4 Faith was the main foundation of His miracles: There is a saying that faith brings salvation. It happened during the miracles of Jesus. Before doing the miracle He tested the relatives of the sick if they had deep faith. That means, if they have full trust in Him or not. Being assured of their faith and trust He cured them. Where there was lack of faith He never performed the miracle. For example, Jesus did not see any faith or trust among the people of Nazareth in His own village. So He never performed any miracles there. After healing the sick He said, your faith has healed you.

2.5 Sometimes faith of others is enough: The faith of the sick or the sufferers was not always necessary to perform the miracles of Jesus. For example, the servant of the Centurion was sick at his home. But the Centurion came to Jesus begging to heal his servant. Jesus said to him, "Go, your servant is healed". At that right moment the servant was healed in his house. It was because the Centurion had deep faith.

2.6 Miracle was done in front of the people: Lord Jesus never did any miracle alone in a secret place. He performed them in front of all, in the synagogue or at the assembly of the people. For this he had to face challenges from the social leaders and the Pharisees. At times he took only a few selected people as his companions. For example, for some miracles he only took Peter, James and John and the parents of the sick

2.7 Various kinds of miracles: There were differences in the miracles of the Lord Jesus. He cured people from different kinds of sicknesses. He had authority over whole nature and it was evident in his miracles. Miraculously he rebuked and calmed down the storm and walked across the water. He healed the demoniacs. He also healed the insane. Miraculously he cured different kinds of sickness. Jesus had done these types of various miracles.

2.8 Miracle through touch and speech: Many times Jesus used his word and touched the sick person or used his spittle to heal the sick miraculously. Whatever would be needed according to the situation he would do it.

2.9 Miracles for the non-Jews: Jesus' miracles were not only for the Jews. He was kind to the ones who came from outside too. The Centurion was not a Jew. But his faith and trust in Jesus was deeper than the Jews. Another time a mother came to Jesus with a request to heal her daughter. To test her faith He first said that He has been sent for the chosen ones only. But Jesus was amazed to see her deep faith and healed her daughter.

We need to discuss the miracles of Jesus with faith. By doing this, our faith in Jesus will grow. Through faith we will also see the miracles in our lives.

Task : Make groups of five. Act out as a group in the classroom with any of the miracles of Jesus.

Lesson 3: Jesus raises the widow's son at Nain

Once Jesus went to the city of Nain. His Disciples and a large crowd followed Him. As He approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was a mother's only son and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. When the Lord saw her, He felt compassionate for her and said, "Do not weep". Then He came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" The dead man sat up and began to speak and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and God has looked favorably at His people!" This word about Him spread throughout Judea and all the surroundings.

Explanation of the story: We can see the following through this event:

3.1 Sorrow and Sadness of People: Here we see the most pathetic picture of the people. The widow mother has lost her only son. She has no one to take care of her in this world. This widow mother is totally destitute, lonely and helpless. We can understand the sadness that she felt. The villagers also were weeping with the widow mother. But no one had the power to give her son back to her.

3.2 Jesus was full of compassion towards sorrow: We can understand how deeply compassionate Jesus was towards sorrow of the lonely and the helpless people. Jesus was full of compassion for the sorrowful mother who lost her son. He went to them. The bearers stood still. He touched the bier and said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" Immediately the dead man became alive. In this way Jesus consoled the weeping mother.

3.3 Revelation of the miraculous power of Jesus: Through this event we can see the revelation of divine power of Jesus. He is God. He gives life to the people. He has the power over death too. Death will come to everyone one day. Nobody has the power to escape from it. Jesus has the power over death. He is almighty.

Task : If one of your relatives or neighbours dies, how would you show your compassion and consolation to them? Share it in the group.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What is 'miracle'?

    a. work accomplished by the power of God
    b. work that bewildered the people
    c. work accomplished by human power
    d. Work of a magician.

2. Why did Jesus do the miracle?

a. For His own glory

b. For God's glory

c. To express His love and compassion to the people

d. For God's glory and express love to the people

Read the following passage and answer questions 3 & 4:

Apurbo's parents arranged a prayer service before his primary public examination of class five and especially requested the priest to pray on Sunday during Mass. Everybody prayed for Apurbo and blessed him. After passing the examination Apurba and his family distributed clothes among the poor and the widows of their village.

3. Why did Apurba's parents arrange for prayer?

a. Prayer brings good results

b. Prayer helps build a better society

c. Prayer nurtures a spirit of cooperation

d. Prayer reduces inner weakness

4. Apurba and his parents distributed clothes –

i. To win the villagers' hearts

ii. To thank and express gratitude to God

iii. To glorify and praise God

Which of the following is correct?

a. i & ii

b. i & iii

c. ii & iii

d. i, ii, & iii

Creative Questions

1. A brilliant student, Raktim, suddenly fell seriously ill. In desperation, he was taken to the parish priest, who was requested to pray for Raktim's healing. The priest asked the entire parish to observe a day of fasting and prayer. Through everyone's prayers, fasting, and the doctor's treatment, Raktim recovered.

   a. Before doing any of the miracles what did Jesus do?
   b. What were the main aspects that were revealed through the miracles of Jesus?
   c. Which work of Jesus can be found similar to that of the Parish priest?
   d. 'Everybody's prayer, fasting and the good treatment are the main cause for the healing of Raktim'. – Evaluate this in the context of the textbook.

2. Parshi was returning home from school. She had to cross a highway, and while doing so, a pickup van hit her. Though the local people took her to the hospital, her condition was not improving. Her parents then took her to Brother Newton. Brother Newton prayed to God, and Parshi was healed.

   a. Whose son did Jesus raise at Nain?
   b. Why was Jesus able to heal the dead boy?
   c. Discuss the virtues of Jesus revealed in Brother Newton?
   d. "Brother Newton was the symbol of Jesus." Do you agree with it? Explain.

Short Answer Questions:

1. For how many years did Jesus preach about the Kingdom of God?
2. What is meant by miraculous works?
3. What is the meaning of a miracle?
4. Why did Jesus perform miracles?
5. What are the two main themes of miracles?

Chapter 8

The Birth of the Church and Its Mission

We acquire knowledge on different subjects from our birth till death. Previously we learned something about the Church, now we will learn more about the history of the birth of the Church and its mission. Along with these we will reflect on our active participation in the mission of the Church.



At the end of this chapter we will be able-

- to explain the idea of the Church.
- to describe the history of the birth of the Church.
- to analyze the mission of the Church and its impact.
- to be motivated through the mission of the Church to walk in the way of truth and justice.
- to be inspired to involve ourselves in the work for the development of society.

Lesson– 1: What is the Church

Generally, the word 'Church' means an assembly or gathering of people. And "The Church" means the community of the believers Baptized and gathered in the name of Jesus Christ. Through the preaching of the Good News and the work of the Disciples these people have become the members of the Church. The word 'Church' in Hebrew means 'Kahal', which meant the 'People of God' who gathered together for the worship of God. Therefore we can say that the Church is a human community of the believers in Christ. This Church's special characteristic is to serve people. The main source of their inspiration for service is the life and works of Jesus, that is, the Gospel. Being inspired by the Gospel the people in the Church receive different Sacraments. These also give them the strength to participate in the work of service. These services are the life of the Church. This keeps the Church active and alive. The Church becomes fruitful being united with Christ. The following examples will clear our understanding of the meaning of the Church.

1.1 Church as a Vine: Jesus himself compared the Church to a vine. He is the true vine. And His followers are the branches. His Father takes care of the vine. The Father prunes every branch in Jesus that bears fruits

and removes the branches that bears no fruit. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit unless it abides in the vine, nor can the Church be fruitful unless the members of the Church abide in Jesus.

1.2 Church as a Human Body

St. Paul compares the Church to human body. He said our body is one but there are many parts. And though there are many parts, the body is one. According to St. Paul all of us together are the body of Christ. We all are the parts of that body. As different parts of the body have different works we, different people have different gifts. Even though all our gifts are not the same, with the entire gifts we build one body, the Church.

1.3 The Church as a Servant



Jesus' modesty

During the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of his Disciples one by one. Then Jesus said to them, "Being the Lord and Teacher, I have washed your feet; so you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set an example that you should do as I have done to you." To wash one another's feet means to serve.

1.4 Church as the Preacher of the Good News



Speech of the Disciples

Before His Ascension, Lord Jesus Christ commanded His Disciples, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation. The one who believes and is Baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe; by using my name they will cast out demons, they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands and if they drink any deadly things,

it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." Through these Jesus directed his Church that all believers of Christ take part in the proclamation of the gospel.

Task : Draw any picture of the Church as a symbol and show it to all in the class.

Lesson – 2: Words of Jesus Christ to the Servants of the Church

Among the Disciples of Jesus, Peter's faith was strong. Once Jesus was telling His Disciples about His own death through sufferings. Hearing him Peter said that as long as he was alive he would not let Jesus suffer. He was the first one who recognized Jesus as Christ. Seeing his faith Jesus said, "I tell you, you Peter means rock and on this rock I will build my Church, no power of the earth will win over it". Another time Jesus asked Peter, 'Do you love me'? Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you". Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep". Three times Jesus told Peter the same words.

After the Resurrection, Jesus repeatedly appeared to his Disciples. He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven then; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Before ascending to heaven Jesus gathered His Disciples in Galilee, there Jesus directed them about their Mission. He said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make Disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the names of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; And these signs will accompany those who believe; by using my name they will cast out demons, they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age."

He also promised them that He would send the promised gift from the Father, that is, the Holy Spirit. They will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit who is to come down from heaven. He asked them to wait in the city of Galilee until the Holy Spirit descends.

The meaning of the special words that Jesus told his disciples:

2.1 Faith is very important for the Apostles of Jesus to look after the Church

and to preach the good news. Peter was the head of the Apostles. Jesus gave him the main responsibility to look after the Church.

2.2 Jesus gave the authority to the Disciples to forgive the sins of others. They will forgive sins with the power of the Holy Spirit. God will forgive the sins of man through the Disciples.

2.3 Keeping Trust in Jesus: Jesus wants to assure his Disciples that they will receive the special power from him. Everything on earth is under His authority. The biggest enemy of humans is death. But Jesus has undergone death and overcome the mighty death. Therefore all power is under his feet. He is the Lord of all power. There is no doubt or question with the Lordship of Christ.

2.4 The power and responsibility to preach the good news and heal the sick:

Jesus sent his Disciples into the whole world to do His work. He asked them to teach everything that He had taught them. He asked them to make Disciples of all nations. His teachings are the Gospel values; may all people learn them and live accordingly.

2.5 Jesus will always be with them: After the death of Jesus the Disciples thought that like Him, the enemies will also kill them. In this frightened situation the Disciples did not have courage to go to the whole world without their Lord, because He had called them to help Him in His work. They left everything and followed Him. He made friend with them. He loved them and they also loved Him. So, He did not leave His beloved Disciples in an uncertain future.

2.6 Jesus will send the Holy Spirit: After Jesus ascended to heaven the Disciples were waiting in Galilee as instructed by Him. There they were waiting for the Holy Spirit to descend on them.

Lesson – 3 Birth of the Church

The existence of a child begins when it comes to the womb of the mother. After nine months when the child is born, we call it his birthday. It is the same with the Church. The Birth of the Church is the day when Jesus was born into this earth, but when the Holy Spirit descended on the Disciples, it was the real Birthday of the Church.

After death of Christ, His Apostles were hiding in fear. But after three days Jesus Christ rose from the death. Then He appeared to His Apostles several times. They did not know before that Jesus would rise from the death. After

seeing Jesus alive the Apostles became very courageous.

Jesus ascended to heaven 40 days after His resurrection. Before ascending to heaven, He promised His Apostles that He would send a helping Spirit for them from the Father. That Spirit will console them, give courage and will give them all the help. Until the Spirit comes He asked them to remain in the city. After Jesus ascended to heaven His Apostles were waiting for the Spirit to descend on them. That day came very soon.



Descending of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

After the Ascension, all the Apostles were together praying in one room. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were praying together. Divided tongue of fire appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them the ability. They were speaking the language, which they didn't know before. They were speaking with the new power that was given to them.

After that moment they did not hide in fear anymore. They came out on the road. They were speaking in different languages according to the power the Holy Spirit gave them. There were people of different countries speaking different languages. They were bewildered to hear the Apostles speaking different languages. Because whatever the Apostles were speaking they understood in their native language. But they did not understand the meaning of that event.

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, the most courageous among the Apostles raised his voice and addressed them. He told them the Disciples were not drunk as the people were thinking. That this is what was promised by God and spoken through the prophet Joel. God promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon His

People, bless and help them. He also said that the Jews had sinned by crucifying and killing Jesus, the Savior. By doing this they had sinned against the plan of God.

When they heard this, they were disheartened and asked Peter and other Apostles what they should do. Peter said to them, repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus. Then the Holy Spirit will come upon them and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Hearing this message that day about three thousand people repented and in the name of Jesus, received baptism. They devoted themselves to worship God and began a new community of believers in Jesus. Day by day more people began to join them. This is how the Church began its journey.

Lesson –4: The Mission of the Church

Jesus Christ sent His Apostles to all the nations in the whole world to work. This is why we call the Disciples 'Apostles'. The work that Jesus asked the Apostles to do is called the 'Mission'. They began to preach the teachings of Jesus to the people of different nations. They began to proclaim so that all people may know and accept Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. They gave this responsibility to more people to continue after their death. So the work of Jesus is continuing till today directed by the Church that was built by Jesus. The works that the Church is doing at present are given below:

4.1 Christian Witness: We know that people want to see the work more than only talks or speeches. Nobody likes the person who only talks but does not implement. So, the Church not only gives witness through words but also its action too. The Church is giving witness to the world through its works of mercy, which is providing food, clothing, shelter, and education, establishing peace etc. and in many other ways. This responsibility is not only for the Church leaders but also for all the Christians. So, the Christians are giving witness of Christ by showing love to the poor and sorrowful, the underprivileged and those who are suffering.

4.2 Proclamation of the Word of Christ: The main theme of the Mission of the Church is to proclaim the good news. God loves His people and for their salvation He sent His only Son Jesus into the world. Jesus Christ had suffered and died. And He rose again. This is the good news for the people of the world because by rising from the death, Jesus became the savior of the

people. To proclaim this good news to the people, many Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Brothers, Sisters and the Catechists are serving in the world by offering their lives. Many are being martyr to give witness to Christ. This responsibility is for all Christians. Christ calls everyone to give witness to Him in whatever way of life they are.

4.3 Repentance and Baptism: Jesus began His mission with His Disciples. He used to say that time had come to repent and believe in the good news. He gave the responsibility to His Disciples to continue the mission that He started. The Disciples likewise called people to repent and to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Through these, people can receive new life. Repentance and baptism are related to each other. Those who repent also receive baptism.

This responsibility has been given to all Christians. Being charged with this responsibility all believers of Christ are to invite others to believe in Christ and to be baptized. At the same time, it has to be remembered that everyone has the right to his or her own religion. We have to be careful that no one's faith is hurt. The Holy Spirit inspires the faith within; only those will repent and be baptized.

Task : Discuss in pairs through what kind of life style you can become a witness to Christ.

4.4 Building the Local Church: When a seed is planted in the soil it grows there and becomes a big tree in the same ground. Then it gives flowers and fruits. Likewise, the Church is grounded in the soil of each country where it has been planted. It is developing and bearing fruits according to the culture of that country. That means it becomes mature in faith in its own country and gives witness to Christ. It spreads the light of Christ to the people of the country. As a follower of Christ it builds a community of communion in her own country. This way it becomes the local Church. The local Church of each country is united with the universal Church. It becomes united with all Christians in the world like one family.

4.5 Dialogue with Inter-faith Brothers and Sisters: When we discuss the religious matters with the brothers and sisters of other religions that is called Religious Dialogue. Through these we exchange our religious

faith and values with one another. Through this we learn to respect others' religion and their religious values. Through religious dialogue or discussion we respect the religious beliefs of other faith communities. At the same time we can present our Christian values to them.

4.6 Human Development through Formation of Conscience: The main responsibility of the Church is to form the conscience according to the Gospel Values and to awaken the dormant conscience of the people. And through them, it encourages people to be truly humans. The Church runs schools, colleges, technical education, health-care-centre and different kinds of service institutions. Through these the Church tries to develop a healthy conscience, and to develop thoughtfulness and behavior of the people.

This responsibility has been given to all Christians to carry out socially and personally. We carry out it by living according to the religious and moral values. Through these religious and moral values we learn to respect and honour one another. We are inspired to become true brothers and sisters by loving one another.

4.7 Love is the Source and Rules of the Mission:

In His life of preaching, Jesus supported the poor, the needy and the ill-treated brothers and sisters. Through these He taught us to stand beside them. We all are created in the image of God. According to the teaching of Jesus the Church invites us to stand beside the poor, the needy and the ill-treated people. Our responsibility is to be united with the poor. Our Priests, religious and all Christians are giving their precious services through different institutions, especially through education, health care, eradication of poverty, leprosy shelter, rehabilitation centre for the handicapped, care centre for the elders etc. We should also serve the poor and the needy people in our own work place. We uphold the love of Jesus to others this way.

Task : In your life, if you have done any charitable work for the poor and the needy, share it in the group.

Lesson –5: Impact of the Mission

Good trees bear good fruits and likewise good works end in good results. God's work will definitely be good. Jesus, the Son of God, built the Church. He Himself is the Head of the Church. He has given the responsibility of the mission to the parts, that is, to His Disciples and to all people. He has

sent them to His Mission by giving different responsibilities. We have already discussed the mission. To carry out the mission of Christ in our country there are local and foreign workers in the Catholic and Protestant Churches. In these institutions more than 350 Priests, 100 Brothers, 1100 Sisters are working. Besides them, so many individual Christians are also involved in serving the country. Now we will discuss the effect or impact of the mission of Jesus. We will see the effect of the Mission of the Church in the education of schools and colleges, formation of youth, value formation, healthcare, financial and social development, family development, and in many other ways.

5.1 Expansion of Education: The Church is running 250 primary schools, more than 50 high schools, colleges, teachers' training colleges, almost 50 technical schools, orphanages and the handicrafts centers all over the country. It is also thinking to establish a university soon. Educational institutions are involved in teaching for a long time. Through these, lots of students get opportunity to acquire knowledge every year. After that they get opportunity for higher studies at home and abroad to increase their intellectual power. They are developing as the resources of the country and the world.

5.2 Formation of Values: The educational institutions run by the Church put more importance on the total development of people. Along with practicing knowledge, here they teach moral, social, cultural and many other values necessary for life. They give importance to the individuals to be good human beings.

5.3 Healthcare: The Church is running more than 70 hospitals, dispensaries, clinics, and shelters for leprosy and the sick to provide healthcare services in different areas of the country. Thus, lots of people are getting healthcare free or at minimum cost. Through these services, people are receiving the healing touch of Jesus.

5.4 Financial and Social Development Work: In our country the Church is running a number of Non-Governmental organizations. Among these Caritas, CCDB and Koinonia are the main ones. For financial development, Credit Union and Culb are playing the vital role. For social development the Christian Housing Society is playing a vital role. Apart from these, there are many other organizations run by personal initiatives. Through these, the country is developing financially, socially and culturally.

Through these organizations a lot of people are getting food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and education every year. Culb and Credit Union brought incredible financial development in the life of the poor people.

5.5 Development of the Family: The Church is giving more importance to build a good family. Church is giving its continuous services all over the country to keep good relationship between the husband-wife and the children. Thus the Church is playing an important role in formation of the country and the nation.

Task : Act out with any of the charitable works done by the Church.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What does the word 'Kahal' mean in Hebrew?

a. People
b. People of God
c. Christian family
d. Parish

2. What is the main characteristic of the Church?

a. To baptize
b. To give alms
c. To serve
d. To preach

3. Who have the responsibility to serve the Church?

a. Only the leaders of the Church
b. Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Catechists
c. All the Christians
d. Only Parents

Read the following passage and answer Questions 4 and 5:

John, Rahim and Akash – friends from three different religions – were talking during lunch break. John shared that during Christmas, he bought a notebook for a poor girl with the money he received as a gift. Hearing this, Rahim and Akash also shared how they help the poor during Eid and Durga Puja.

4. Religious Dialogue of the three friends teaches us-

i) to respect all religions
ii) to increase religious harmony
iii) to awaken religious values

Which one of the following is correct?

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

5. Which Christian missionary trait is reflected in John's action in the passage?

a. Christian witnessing
b. Preaching the Christian message
c. Conversion and Baptism
d. Formation of local church communities

Creative Questions :

1. Shagor is a famous and well-known preacher. In a big assembly he preached about repentance. Hearing his preaching many people repented and received baptism. He also cured the sick through his prayer.

a. Which Apostle of Jesus had a strong faith?
b. What is the way to receive salvation?
c. Which teaching from your textbook influenced Shagor to perform this kind of work?
d. "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to all creation"- How this command of Jesus is reflected in Shagor's life? Explain in accordance with your textbook.

2. Shuvo is a big leader of the Christian community. With his own initiative and foreign help he established an organization. He worked day and night for it. He brought development through it into the life of the people. He is also working for expansion of education.

   a. With whom did Jesus begin his mission?

   b. When do the people of the Church become fruitless?

   c. Which teaching inspired Shuvo to establish the organization?

   d. 'Shuvo's organization is like the Church' ---Evaluate the statement.

Short Answer Questions:

1. What is the Church?
2. What happened to the disciples after receiving the Holy Spirit?
3. What was the reaction of the people after hearing Peter's speech?
4. Why did Jesus send out His disciples?

Chapter 9

Truthfulness, Discipline and Service

Truthfulness, discipline and service are values. 'Value' means something that is precious, dignified or reinforced. Something good is in the value, that's why we like them. The values are very important and precious, that is why we want to have them. To safeguard the values in their lives people are ready to face any difficulties and even ready to give up their lives. We want to form our life according to the teaching of Christian Values. Through these we can love and respect all people regardless of their race and religions. Being educated by this learning, we want to selflessly dedicate our lives for our country and the nation.

At the end of this chapter we will be able-

- to describe the teaching of the Bible about truthfulness.
- to describe the ten ways to be truthful.
- to describe the necessity of truthfulness in personal, social and political life.
- to describe the teaching about discipline in the Bible.
- to describe the ten ways to form a disciplined life.
- to describe the usefulness of a disciplined life.
- to describe the teaching of the Bible about service.
- to describe the importance of service in family, society, the Church and the country.
- to describe the ways of service to the family, society, the Church and the Country.
- to be truthful in our thoughts, words and work.
- to be able to accustomed to a disciplined life.
- to form our mind to help the poor, sorrowful and the needy.

Lesson – 1: Truthfulness

Truthfulness means speaking the truth. 'Truthful' means to be faithful, reliable, trustworthy, dignified, impartial, and simple and mature in behavior.

In the Ten Commandments the eighth one states: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (Ex. 20:16). Not giving false witness means truthfulness or always speaking the truth. The one who speaks the truth becomes a true person. The one who is truthful always speaks the truth. God is truth. The truth that we know and are acquainted with comes from the true God. Those who speak the truth give witness to the true God. They desire truth in their lives. To desire truth means to always love truth. To love truth means to speak the truth or to accept the consequence of being a person of truth. It means if there is a reward in being truthful we accept that and even if there is humiliation or suffering on account of being truthful, we need to accept that too.

Those who speak lies or give false evidence have sin against the truth. They dishonor the true God. To harbor falsehood means to be immoral. They do what they should not do. Thus they become unfaithful to God. Through this their relationship is broken with God.

A truthful student-

a) always speaks the truth and does not worry about whether s/he will have about to go through sufferings or not.

b) shares his/ her own feelings with others.

c) speaks in such a way that others are not hurt by his/her way of speaking

d) speaks positively and scrutinizes the good and bad while expressing his/her opinion.

e) expresses his/her opinion against others only when it is absolutely necessary.

f) doesn't have any guilty feeling after telling the truth.

g) knows his/her classmates and teachers well and serves them.

Example: There was a student of class six named Shantona. One day, during tiffin break, she found a nice watch on the verandah. She gave it to her teacher. Shelly was crying when the class was going on because she lost her watch. At Christmas, her mother gave that watch as a Christmas present. The teacher understood that the watch belonged to Shelly. So, the teacher gave the

watch to Shelly. Then she stopped crying. The teacher asked Shelly to thank Shantona who gave the watch to him. Shelly embraced Shantona to thank her and expressed her gratitude.

Honest people can make good relationship with others in the society. Those who speak the truth have no fear in their heart. But those who lie are always fearful. The more the love for truth increases, the more the fear of the mind goes away.

Example: Subroto and Johny are in the same class. Their teacher explains everything well in the classroom. But Johny told his parents that the teacher did not teach well. So, he needed to go for private tuitions. Every month, his father gave him money and he gambled with it. He always remained quiet in the class. He did not mix with others. Looking at his face it was clear that he was in fear. On the other hand, Subroto was not involved in such an act. He was always happy. He was able to mix with others easily. He had no fear in his mind.

Task : First make a list and write down in your notebook, the works of lie and works of truth. Then share in small groups.

Lesson – 2: Ways to be Truthful

God is the source of all truth. It means all truth comes from him. His words are true. Whatever he has spoken in the Bible is true. The Commandments He has given us through the Holy Bible are all true. He is faithful forever. It means we can believe in Him because whatever He says He does. As God is true, He calls his people to live in truth. For example: He gave the Commandments to the Israelites and said if they obeyed those commandments He would always save them. He kept his word. Always He was with them.

God revealed all truth in Christ. Christ came as the Light of the world. He said, those who believe in me will not be in darkness. The path of darkness is the path of evil. Path of light is the path of Holiness. He is full of truth. He is the Truth. He said, you will know the truth and truth will make you free. To follow Christ means to know the Spirit of truth, that is, to live according to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. God the Father has sent Him into the world. Christ leads us to the path of truth.

We can call a student truthful when s/he:

a) does the homework properly and in time.
b) speaks the truth about the homework with his/her friends.
c) explains the real cause to his/her teacher if s/he is unable to do the homework.
d) does not follow unfair means in the examination, does not look at others' paper, writes only whatever s/he knows.
e) faithfully carries on his/her responsibilities in the school.
f) returns the money or things if some one gives more by mistake.
g) honestly admits the mistakes.
h) never tells the secret of his/her friends to others.
i) deposits any money found to the office so that the owner may get it back.

God gave conscience to every person. With their conscience they can differentiate the truth from lies. Conscience speaks in the heart of the person. Whoever listens to the voice of the conscience and acts accordingly, can always speak the truth. They become the people of truth.

All people want to live in a truthful society. Because there is real joy and happiness in a society of truth. A society that is full of lies has always quarreling, fighting, blaming each other and all such things. St. Thomas Aquinas said, those who are honest with each other can trust one another. Truthful people together can build a beautiful society. Many times different organizations, cooperatives and other institutions are established through personal and communal initiatives. The ones that are run by honest people last long. But where dishonesty and injustice dominates the leaders of the organizations, cooperatives and institutions perish quickly.

Task : 1. Share in small groups how you can form a truthful life.

Task : 2. Sit in groups of four and find out the paths of light and the paths of darkness.

Ten ways to be more truthful

a) make a promise yourself to be truthful and obey this.

b) choose a ***guru*** and share with him/her how you are keeping your promise to be truthful and what progress you have made.

c) think several times before telling a lie or giving any false explanations in any places or to anybody.

d) be careful about exaggerating any message or information to hurt or ridicule others, or to use harsh words.

e) be careful of making the false story hiding the truth or telling half truth and half lies.

f) do not try to cover the truth with false.

g) restrain from telling a lie just for fun.

h) don't keep quiet when it is necessary to speak the truth. Do not go with lies.

i) when you realize that you have told a lie, apologize immediately and tell the truth.

j) in the solitude of your mind by talking to yourself decide what would be the best for you to do and when.

Task : Prepare a short play in a group on 'The Victory of Truth' or 'Honesty is the Best Policy' and act out in the classroom.

Lesson – 3: The importance of truthfulness in Personal, Social and National life

Truth can never be concealed because it is like light. As darkness vanishes when there is light, similarly falsehood disappears when the truth is revealed. Truthfulness is a noble virtue in a person's life. Honest people are respected in the society. Honest people are like the crowns in any society. Honesty is indispensable in personal, social and the life of the nations. One who is a student today will be an important person tomorrow and will work for the well being of the society and the nation. The ways a person can sow the seeds of truthfulness for his/her life, society and the country are by:

a) keeping his/her mind holy through prayer life.

b) expressing truthfulness in thoughts and deeds.

c) always telling truth inside and outside the house.

d) being honest in his/her daily exchange and dealing with buying and selling.

e) sincerely confessing any of his/her faults.

f) behaving well with all in the society.

g) having his/her relentless efforts to establish truth in the society.

h) not giving or receiving bribes from any kinds of work in the country.

i) looking after the family by honest means.

j) being eager to establish truth obeying the rules and regulation of the country.

Mr. Suresh is a middleclass grocer in the suburb. For fifteen years he has been doing this business with great fame. Even though there are many shops around like this, people come to shop to buy their things. Very interesting and amusing events take place every Sunday. As Suresh attends the morning Mass every Sunday, he opens his shop at 8:00 a.m. When he comes to open the shop he finds that many buyers are waiting for him to open the shop. Some of them wait for more than an hour. Suresh doesn't know any magic to run his shop but many buyers come to his shop. Why? To answer this mystery Shuresh's school-friend Roney asked him, "Why do so many people come to your shop?" In answer Shuresh told him, "I charge the right price, weigh justly and deal honestly with them".

God rewards us abundantly for being honest as he does to Suresh. Truth always triumphs. Living a life of truthfulness we can have the benefit of truth in our lives.

Task : What kind of work do we need to do from now on to establish truthfulness in the society and the country?

Lesson – 4: The ways to form a life of discipline

A disciplined life is very important for all of us. We must form a disciplined life. But before that we need to know well about discipline. Discipline means self- control, self-management, self-restrain. Through these we further understand self-dependence and freedom. Those students who have a sense of discipline –

a) complete their homework properly and in time.

b) stick to one work until it is finished.

c) initiate another work after finishing one.
d) lead their personal life in the right direction.
e) work to attain the goals of that society with whom they live.
f) try again and again if they are not successful.
g) follow their own conscience but never do anything forced by friends.
h) work for production which will develop their own life and the society.
i) avoid destructive work, for their own sake and for the society.
j) keep their temper cool.

If you want to build a strong disciplined life, you need to:

a) take a firm decision that you must have a strong desire to be a disciplined person. Your desire will inspire you to take the path of discipline.
b) make a personal commitment that daily you will sow some virtues in yourself and will nurture them.
c) try to know well, what is good and acceptable in the society and what is bad and not acceptable in the society.
d) try to make a habit of accountability to the authority. Be ready to accept the consequences of your good and bad deeds. Do not blame others for your mistakes.
e) exercise or cultivate discipline. Because by practicing people make progress. Make a routine for the whole day and try your best to follow it.
f) avoid bad habits. e.g. stay away from bad reading, watching bad films, keep away from the company of bad friends and smoking.
g) keep company with those who like a disciplined life as you, make friends and at times discuss with them.

Lesson – 5: Teachings in the Bible about Discipline

Discipline is necessary for all of us. After creating the world God set some laws and orders for everything. The sun, the moon, the stars, all the animals and the nature are following that order. Our body becomes ill if it goes out of its law. So, all are moving under God's direction. In the Holy Bible God has given us proper words to lead disciplined lives. We will now discuss it. The devotees of God have many sufferings in their lives. These are: punishment and retribution from God, justice of God, tests for refinement and affliction.

First: Punishment and retribution of God. The Letter to the Hebrews says, 'My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when

you are punished by Him; for the Lord punishes those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts'. (Hebrew 12: 5-6) Our parents also punish us because they want our good. God reprimands us so that our lives become beautiful and we may follow His way and be righteous as He is. For us punishment is never sweet. But later we understand that it happened for our well-being. So, the book of Job says, "How happy is the one whom God reproves; therefore do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He wounds, but He binds up; He strikes, but His hands heal". (Job 5: 17-18). The Book of Proverbs also says, "A fool despises a parent's instruction, but the one who heeds admonition is prudent". (Proverb 15: 5). Through Paul God says, "But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world". (1 Corinthians 11: 32).

Second: When we commit any sin, God talks to us through conscience. He shows our fault. That is why St. Paul says, "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow" (Gala. 6:7). He also says, 'God is kind also, at the same time he is firm. It means he does everything for our good. For our sins we get punishment. This happens for the sanctification of our sinful life. Again, after repentance we return to the life of happiness.

Task : Share with your group if you have ever heard any reprimand from God through your conscience.

Lesson – 6: Efficacy of a Disciplined Life

Undisciplined life is like a ship without a rudder. If there is a rudder in a ship in the sea, it can reach its destination. Like that if we lead a disciplined life it is possible for us to reach our goal. Through a disciplined life we can cultivate other qualities and thus life can be unfolded. To be successful in life one needs to build a life of discipline. We get the idea of this kind of life from the great people of the world. They were great because they had a disciplined life. The players who maintain discipline while playing have a greater chance to win. But even being a good player those who do not maintain discipline lose. The schools that follow proper discipline receive good results annually. The students who obey his/her teacher become disciplined persons. They will succeed in their studies. But the students who do not follow the good advice of his/her teachers have to suffer a great deal in life. The factory that runs in a disciplined way produces a lot. If discipline is maintained on the road there is less accident. If the soldiers maintain good order there is hope to win the

war. Discipline is very important for good health too. Those who maintain order with food, sleep, rest, and regular exercise, stay in good health. The children who practice discipline in their lives become good citizens of the country. We need to have discipline in life to be happy in the society. If we live in our own undisciplined way our society will have disorder. Then our society and every person's life will be at risk and it will face destruction. For spiritual development discipline is also essential. Through self- control and self-restriction it is possible to bring liberation of souls. Because through this people can overcome all kinds of desires. To be with God in heaven we have to live a disciplined life.

Lesson – 7: Teachings about service in the Holy Bible

Once, a group of Pharisees and the Scribes came to Jesus to test him. They asked Jesus, what is the greatest Commandment? Jesus answered, the first Commandment is: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind. The second is: You shall love your neighbor as yourself".

St. Paul says, "For you called for freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence. But through love serve one another". (Gala. 5:13)



to serve one another shows our love

According to the Texts above we understand that if we love, we have to take the responsibility. And to take the responsibility is to serve. Our service should be for God and our neighbors. Who is our neighbor? In answer to this Jesus told the parable of Good Samaritan. Like that Samarian man, we have to be the servant for others. Love and service are interrelated; Jesus showed that not only through his words but also his deeds. At the Last Supper with his disciples, He has given the greatest example of service. Jesus washed the feet of each of his disciples. Jesus told them, 'Unless I wash your feet, you have no relationship with me.' By washing feet Jesus gave them a new commandment. He told them to love as Jesus had loved them. With this example he showed that if we want to show our love to others we have to serve one another.

For love and for the expression of love Jesus put great importance on service. According to His teaching, after our death we will be judged on the basis of our life of service. That is why He said, those who will give food to the hungry, drinks to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, clothes to the nacked, care to the sick, go to visit the prisoners will go to heaven. And those who will not do these will loose their right to go to heaven.

Lord Jesus told his disciples, "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mathew 20: 26-28)

Jesus gave the responsibility to Peter to look after His sheep. As the head of the Church, Peter understood the importance of love. He felt that through service it is possible to give the best expression of love. That's why he said to all in the Church, put yourselves with great responsibility in the service of all according to the various gifts that you have received from the Holy Spirit.

Task : Share with others how you can express love through services.

Lesson - 8: Importance of service towards Family, Society, Church and State:

From the teachings of the Holy Bible we get a clear idea that Jesus served His family, society and state. His ideal inspires us to do the same.

a) Family : Jesus had lived with His parents for thirty years and helped them in all possible ways. He was obedient and loyal to them. He served them by doing works with Mary at home and with Joseph at carpentry. As children we also can help our family members, relatives and neighbours. We can show respect and gratefulness to them by following their advice and by doing works properly.

b) Society: Jesus helped the people of the society through different miracles. Following Jesus we may serve the society in many ways such as serving the sick, helping the poor and consoling the oppressed.

c) Church: Jesus helped people by preaching them spiritually in the Church. We can also participate in various services by taking part in mass prayer service. By donating money we can take part in the Church's development activities.

d) State : Jesus sacrificed His life for the salvation of mankind. We can work for the people of the state in our daily activities. We can serve the state by living honest and ideal life, without making discrimination between the rich and the poor, by behaving politely with every one.

We are called to follow the ideals of Jesus. To follow Him means to follow His life style and utilize them in our life. So it can be said that we have to spend our life by serving family, society, Church and the state as well. Then our life would be beautiful, successful and blissful.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What do you mean by discipline?
   a. Self-Control b. Self-image
   c. Self-defense d. Self-evaluation
2. Why did God give conscience to all people?
   a. To remember God b. To judge good or bad
   c. To enter into reality d. To be joyful

Read the text below and answer the questions 3 & 4:

Robin usually behaves politely and humbly in the class. One day for a small matter there was a quarrel between Robin and his older classmate Probir. When the Headmaster wanted to know about it, Robin admitted his fault spontaneously and begged forgiveness for wrong doing.

3. Which virtue is expressed in Robin's behavior?
   a. Boldness b. Dependence
   c. Truthfulness d. Justice

4. Robin's behaviour will promote –
   i. Mutual respect in society
   ii. A disciplined environment
   iii. Respect for authority

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

Creative Questions:

1. Prodip, a student of class ten is very good in his studies. When any student gets sick in the class he gives primary treatment sincerely. He helps the poor students paying their school fees collecting money from the students by communicating with the Headmaster. Through all his works he won everybody's heart. After doing his M. A., M. Ed. he joined the same school as a teacher. Being pleased with his work, the School Managing Committee appointed him Headmaster after a few years.

   a. How many greatest commandments are there?

   b. Why is discipline important for health?

   c. Describe which teaching did Prodip receive from the Christian Religion to build a beautiful life.

   d. 'Prodip is a true image of St Peter'. Do you agree with this statement? Give your opinion.

2. Piyal is attentive to his studies and always works hard. Although he has a weak memory and struggles in some subjects, he still regularly attends school, listens to his teachers attentively, completes his lessons and homework, obeys his parents, and wakes up on time – all with sincerity. Since his annual exams are near, he has started praying regularly to God.

   1. In which Commandment did God forbid to give false witness?
   2. Why does God command not to give false witness?
   3. Discribe which teaching of the textbook is revealed in Pial's behavior.
   4. Do you think such a life-style of Pial will bring about good results in his life? Give reasons for your answer according to your textbook.

Short Answer Questions:

1. What is meant by truthfulness?
2. Why is truthfulness necessary in personal life?
3. What is meant by discipline?
4. What are the greatest commandments?

Chapter 10

Priyonath Boiragi

Priyonath Boiragi is a precious treasure in the Christian society. Our Lord Jesus Himself called him. And responding to His call, Boiragi led a life based on the Lord's ideals. He preached the name of Jesus through all works of his life. He was able to do these works till the last day of his life as he was blessed with the Holy Spirit. His life is like a bright shining star to us. We shall see his contribution as we study his life. And thus, though it is not like him, we can at least try to find out how to work for Lord Jesus.



Priyonath Boiragi

At the end of this chapter we will be able-

- to describe the birth and childhood of Priyinath Boiragi
- to describe the contribution of Boiragi in Christian music
- to describe the contribution of Boiragi towards serving humanity
- to be inspired to serve humankind after studying his biography

Lesson 1: The Birth and the Childhood of Priyonath Boiragi

Rice, river and canal these- three things make Barishal. And here, in a small village named Indurkani, Upazilla Gournadi, Dist. Barishal lived Srinath and Shorno Kumari Boiragi. During the favourite rainy season of Rabindranath while all the rivers, lakes and canals were flooded with rainwater, on such a day Srinath and Shorno Kumari gave birth to their second child on 3rd June in 1886. They named him Priyonath Boiragi. Priyonath had three brothers and a sister. The sister was Bidhumukhi, and the brothers were Uttam, Autul and Shubodh. Priyonath was a great music lover. Even Autul and Shubodh had deep interest in music. But it's a matter of sorrow that Uttam died at the age of only 21 and Priyonath became very sad at this.

There is an important background behind this family's taking the title of Boiragi. Previously they were known as Bondopaddhay. Priyonath's grandfather once protested against the harsh rules, regulations and practices of the society. And as a symbol he took the title of Boiragi leaving the previous one of Bondopaddhay. Then they left the village of Goila and started living in Torunshen.

Priyonath's father was a famous teacher in the village primary school, and mother was a kind hearted, beautiful and learned lady. She spent her leisure time in teaching the illiterate women in her area. At that time many men were also illiterate along with women. So Priyonath's mother would read and write letters for others. She also recited from the Holy Bible to the women. So she was highly respected by all.

Priyonath spent his childhood with his parents. He completed his primary education from the local missionary school. Later on he successfully passed the Entrance exam from Srirampur Mission School. He passed his F.A. (now H.S.C.) from Kolkata Scottish Church College. Priyonath's modesty, polite behaviour and simplicity easily attracted everyone. He got much success in sports and music in his student life. All the members of his family had such a sweet voice. He regularly practiced the Christian songs. Whenever he got time he used to devote himself to the service of God through composing songs.

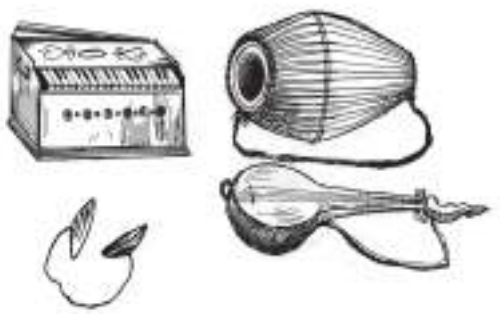
Priyonath's father Srinath Boiragi died at the time he finished college. So Priyonath had to take the responsibility of the whole family. At first he was a little upset at the deaths of his father and brother. Still, being a believer, he managed to take the responsibility of the family and moved onwards to find a job. Then he got a job in the Tax Department in the Sundarbans. And thus he got even more chance to express the glory of God. The immense natural beauty of the Sundarbans mesmerized him. The vastness of the

rivers, the greenery of the trees and the coastal lines gave him the opportunity to indulge in prayers. At that time that Priyonath started giving more time in composing the Christian music. But it's a matter of sorrow that his job did not last long. He left his job and came to Noakhali as he could not tolerate the corruption there. There he started teaching in a missionary school.

Task - 1: Act out through a role play how the Priyonath Boiragi's mother taught the illiterate people.
Task - 2: Mention one after another the steps Priyonath Boiragi took to be established in life.

Lesson 2: The Songs of Priyonath Boiragi

All the members of Priyonath's family had deep interest in music and literature. All of them achieved success and recognition through own talents and efforts. But this family's interest in Christian Music and literature was known from before. Priyonath Boiragi was especially blessed by God the Father in spiritual affairs which can be proved by the vast source of Christian spiritual songs.



Some musical instruments

Priyonath could understand that the devotional hymns gave comfort and pleasure the suffering souls. It gives courage and makes it easy to follow the path of the Lord Jesus. He could understand that everything on earth is temporary. He composed a classical hymn in love of the Lord Jesus. Its lyric and music can take us to God. This is one of his hymns:

Amar juralo pran eshe Jishur paye.
Eshe doyal Jishur sri choron tole amar ghuchlo vober voy.
oi chorone naire dukkho klesh, naire vober jala, pap oshantir lesh
Bujhi dughdho modhu probahi shei desh ache oi choron tolay.

All of Priyonath's songs tell us of the peace of life. And it's a point to think about how much love he had for the Lord so that he could produce such a touching song. When one goes deep into Priyonath's songs, their hearts are filled with deep love, glory and devotion for the Lord. Every soul becomes

impatient to get the company of the Lord. That is why we see this craving desire in this song:

Tomar joy hok, joy hok, hei Moharaj, hok mohima kirton ai mohitole.
Vobe joto noronari eshe shari shari lutak tomar oi choron tole.
Boshe shorger shinghashone cheye acho jogot pane
Kothay ke kande ovajon, kore haat prosharon
Koro hei dharon, tule kole.

Priyonath, this fine craftsman of music could devote himself to Lord Jesus. That is why he called and paid tribute to Jesus both in times of happiness and sufferings.

Moner anonde aj daki tomare.
Ohe Jishu doyamoy, jara tomar doya pay tara dhonno hoi ai shongshare.
Amar noyoner jol, tumi kokhon eshe muche dile ami jani na doyal.
Akhon je dikete chai, shukher kul kinara nai, shongshar vora shukher joware.

So we see that this great man's heart was filled with heavenly love. The way he preached Christianity among the people of Barishal and Foridpur, enlightened thousand of hearts. This is the light of Christ's love.

Task : Get into two groups and sing any two songs of Priyonath Boiragi.

Lesson 3: Priyonath Boiragi's contribution towards serving humanity

Many great people have worked and are still working for public welfare in our society. We think that everyone is successful in his/her own ground. But the types of their contribution are different. Priyonath is a successful pastor. His success also covers various fields like teaching, composing literature, translating, special praying for the sick, organizing voluntary service and as a writer. We will talk about some of them here:

3.1: His contribution to music:

The honorary title Guruji was a symbol of respect and honour from his admirers. A virtuous man can easily be found through his creation. Everyone knows about the contribution of Priyonath in the realm of Christian music and Bhojons. Till today Guruji Priyonath's music brings tears into our eyes, guides us in the dark nights, consoles the troubled souls and shows the right path of life.

Priyonath's contribution in the world of Christian music till 1957 is immense. The music he composed to show Jesus as the saviour and to keep His followers in a state of gratitude to Jesus is very important for the Christian society.

3.2: Protest against corruption:

Priyonath had to take the responsibility of the whole family as his elder brother Uttam died at an early age. He was in dire need of a job in the crisis of his family. But the job he got in Sundarban Tax office did not last long. There the honest and courageous Priyonath had the chance to have home, car, and a lot of money in a short time. But these did not attract him. He left the job as the true believer in Christianity. Thus he protested against corruption.

3.3: His contribution as the Pastor of the Church:

Priyonath, the believer in Christianity, was a well-learned and experienced man. He went to Srirampur, India in 191 S. There he took higher degree in theology. During this time his diverse qualities and interests were evident. So the missionary authorities employed him as Pastor. His preaching soon spread among people. All the members of the church became fan of his music. Young men and women would come in groups to listen to his songs.

At this time his music started getting widespread popularity. During this time he married lchhamoie at the request of the church authority and his mother. She was then the headmistress of the missionary school. She was outstanding as a wife. She always helped him to spread the knowledge of Christ. In 1925 he returned to his own village of lndurkani. He was again called to preach the Good News. He went to Rajasthan, India. But the weather did not suit him well. So after a few days his health weakened and he returned to his own village.

3.4: Priyonath Boiragi as a translator:

He returned to his own village from Rajasthan, India. He was then called by Gouranadi Catholic Mission to work as a translator. His fame was well known at that time as a learned man and an expert in the English language. There he translated the Holy Bible and the words of the Lord. He also translated many other important books related to the Bible. Thus he translated many books in Bangla there. He also continued to write and compose music whenever he had time. Sometimes he also organized prayer services and religious occasions. Everyone was inspired for his dynamic leadership and organizing ability. He used to sing new songs to the people who came to attend the evening gathering in his house.

3.5: Priyonath Boiragi in the service of the poor:

Priyonath's sweet words and pleasant manners worked like magic to attract everyone and bring them close to him. People from faraway places came to him every day. Some came with requests for blessing, some for money. He kept his heart open to all and happily came to help them. It is said that he helped people from his salary.

3.6: Priyonath as a literary figure:

Priyonath was transferred to Dhaka in 1938. At that time Radio Dhaka and Radio Kolkata used to broadcast Christmas and Holy Weeks Songs, lyrical dramas and other programs. As an expert, it was Priyonath's responsibility to make these a success. He broadcast some Christian religious programs while he was in Dhaka. During the last part of his life he was transferred to Srirampur. There he was appointed to do literary works related to Christian religion. He earned a good fame as a religious play writer. He also composed poems, stories etc. If we analyze his work, we can easily see that he was a great literary figure.

Priyonath spent his last days of life as a person of prayer devoted to God. He was in Srirampur, Kolkata before his death. Finally this servant of the Lord died on the late midnight of 14th December 1957. He is no longer with us today. But he is still alive in his songs and works of services towards humanity.

Task : Among the welfare activities of Prionath Boiragi which one would you like to achieve and how?

Sample Questions

Multiple choice questions:

1. How did Priyonath Boiragi preach Christ's words?

a. Through prayers b. through sports

b. c. through his life and work d. through works of kindness

2. The songs of Priyonath Boiragi tell us of

a. Ultimate peace of life b. Divine love

c. Joy and happiness d. Sorrow and pain

Read the following passage and answer the questions 3 and 4.

Tereza is very good at drawing and also loves singing. She received a national award and a large financial reward from the government, which she joyfully donated to the education of many local students.

3. Which quality of Priyonath Boiragi is reflected in Tereza?

a. Musical talent

b. Drawing skills

c. Athleticism

d. Love for travel

4. What is reflected in Tereza's reaction to receiving the award?

i. Glory and praise to God

ii. Service work

iii. Public awareness

Which of the following is correct?

a. i and ii

b. i and iii

c. ii and iii

d. i, ii, and iii

Creative questions:

1. Romeo is involved in different social welfare works from his childhood. He says his prayer, recites from the Bible, and helps the sick every day. Practicing music is also one of his favourite activities. He is vocal against the drug business in the area. He also tried to bring back some of his classmates from the wrong path. But as he could not do so, he left their company.

   a. Where did Priyonath work?
   b. Why did Priyonath resign from his job at the tax office?
   c. Whose characteristics can be traced in Romeo? Explain.
   d. Evaluate the statement: " Romeo is a priceless treasure of the Christian community", based on the textbook.

2. Shubroto had a desire from his childhood that he would become a Priest after finishing his studies. So he prays and recites from the Holy Bible regularly along with his studies. He respects his elders and behaves well with the neighbours. He often helps the poor boys and girls with his own money. Later on he entered the life of Priesthood after consulting with the local Priest. All this was to find God in his life.

   a) In which college did Priyonath Boiragi study theology?
   b) Why did Priyonath study Theology?
   c) Why did Subrata want to enter the priesthood? Give your reasoning.
   d) How does Subrata's way of life inspire you? Analyze with reference to the textbook.

Short Answer Questions:

1. Why is Priyonath Boiragi considered a priceless asset to the Christian community?
2. Why did Priyonath Boiragi protest against the cruel rules and practices of society?
3. How did Priyonath Boiragi serve the poor and needy?

The End

2026 Academic Year

Class Six : Christian Religion Studies

দয়ালু যারা, ধন্য তারা।

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