Christian Religion Studies

Class Seven



National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

Prescribed by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board as a textbook for Class Seven from the academic year 2013

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Revised for the year 2025

National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

Published by

National Curriculum and Textbook Board
69-70, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka

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Frist edition written, edited and translated by

Father Adam S. Pereira, CSC
Sister Shikha L. Gomes, CSC
Father Anal Terence Costa, CSC
Father Ashim T. Gonsalves, CSC
Robert Thomas Costa
Dr. Harold Bijoy Rodrigues, CSC
Jahid Bin Matin

First Publication : December 2012
Revised Edition : September 2014
Revised Edition : October 2024
Revised Edition : October 2025

For free distribution by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Printed by :

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)
National Curriculum & Textbook Board, Bangladesh

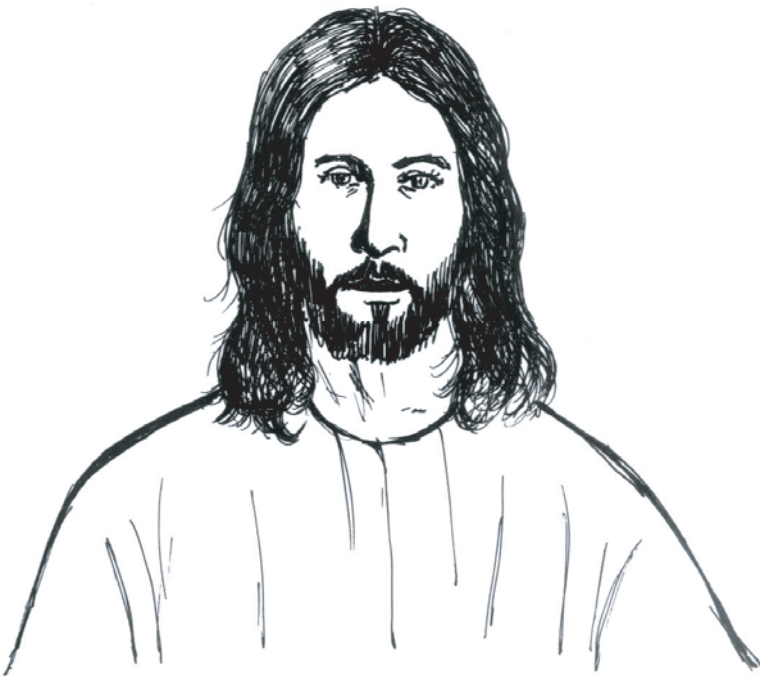
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Chapter One

Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son

God, the Father, loved the world so much that He sent His only Son into this world. Father's desire is to save the world from fall through His Son. Jesus is the one anointed by the Father, Christ the Saviour and the Lord of all nations. Through Him the humankind were saved and received the promise of eternal life. He is the true God and yet true Man. We shall try to know more about him in this chapter.



Jesus Christ, Son of God

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to –

- describe God's only Son;
- explain the meaning of 'Jesus', the Son of God;
- explain the title 'Christ' of the Son of God;
- clarify the meaning of the title 'Lord' of the Son of God;
- describe how the Son of God is true God and true Man;
- accept Jesus as Lord and be inspired to follow him.

Lesson: 1 Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son

In the previous class we learned about God. We experienced in various ways His work of creation and His work for the well-being of humanity. We also gained knowledge of His plan of salvation for the humankind, the best of creation. God created us so that we may know Him, obey Him, love Him and praise Him. He loved us first so that we may also love Him.

In the process of knowing Him we have also seen that God is made up of three persons. He reveals Himself to us differently at different times; at times He shows Himself as the Father, at other times, as the Son, and yet at other times, as the Holy Spirit. He did not reveal Himself fully at any one time. Human beings do not have the ability to understand Him fully. In order to reveal His full identity, He made promises to us at various times. Merciful God never forgot His promise. He fulfilled His promises to Abraham and his descendents. At the right time, He sent His only Son into this world.

Human beings repeatedly moved away from God. They were disobedient to God. One brother by killing another became unfaithful to God. In this way they fell. God made a grand plan to safe humankind from sin and to restore His relationship with them. He planned that He will come to them. Thus he decided to send His only Son to this world through the womb of a woman.

During the reign of King Augustus Caesar of Rome and king Herod of Judea He sent an angel to a virgin in Bethlehem. Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and delivered God's message to her. He addressed Mary as full of grace and greeted her. He told Mary that God was with her. She would become pregnant and give birth to a son. His name would be Jesus. He would be the redeemer of the world.

Mary was a very simple young woman. Her father was Joachim and mother was Anna. She was engaged to a young man named Joseph. Mary's family lived with their relatives and neighbours in a small village. Their days were passing in a normal pace. Mary's parents were devout and God-fearing people. She grew up with their love and care. Like her parents Mary was also very pious. God had already selected Mary to be the mother of His son. Before her birth God had separated her from the others so that she would be free from the original sin.

Mary was immaculate and without the original sin. She was startled at the address of the angel Gabriel. Thinking the message of the angel as unrealistic, she asked the angel how it could be possible as she was still a virgin. The angel told her that nothing is impossible for God. So, she would conceive by the

power of the Holy Spirit. Because the one who was to be born, he would be known as God's Son. As Mary had deep faith in God, she said "Yes". And through this "Yes" the plan of God had become a reality.

Joseph, husband of Mary, was a virtuous, God-fearing and humble person. He was a carpenter by trade. Mary became pregnant even before their physical union. After learning this, Joseph wanted to leave her quietly. But God sent angel Gabriel to Joseph. He informed Joseph about God's plan. He encouraged him not to be afraid of taking Mary as his wife. For Mary was with child by the power of the Holy Spirit. And the son she would give birth would be known as God's son. Joseph did everything as the angel told him. He accepted Mary as his wife and Jesus as his son. In this way, God sent his only Son in the family of Mary and Joseph. He is the only Son of eternal God, Lord Jesus Christ. "You are Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16: 16), by saying this like St.Peter, we put our trust in Jesus. Because of his coming into the world, the humankind obtained favour and salvation.

Task : Write down three qualities of Mary.

Lesson: 2 Meaning of the name 'Jesus'

We all have one or more names. Each name is beautiful. We are known to others by this name. Usually we get this name at our baptism.

For each one's name we find many literal meaning or synonyms. Some names also have historical or internal meaning. When these names are explained, many significant meanings are found. There are many names in the Bible that are connected to some events or some particular plan of God. For example, meaning of the name 'Moses' is to pull out from the water. When we hear this name and its meaning, we remember of a specific incident.

Israel, the chosen people of God, went through slavery under king Pharaoh of Egypt. The king was afraid of the increasing number of Israelites. Thus, all male children were killed at Pharaoh's order. Moses was the son of an Israelite. His mother put him inside a basket and floated it in the river so that the soldiers could not kill him. Later when the daughter of Pharaoh went bathing in the river, she heard the cry of child in the reed. The child was very beautiful.

She pulled him out of the water and nursed him. She gave him the name Moses because he was pulled out of the water. This Moses freed his people from slavery of Pharaoh. The one who was pulled out of the water saved his people from danger.

Although the chosen people of God were freed from the slavery of pharaoh through Moses, they could not be free from their sins. God wanted to form and guide His people through kings, judges, priests, elders and prophets. The ungrateful people forgot God. Over and over they sinned against God. To save the human kind from the stain of sin, God himself came to live with His own people, guide them and led them to the heavenly kingdom.

While sending His beloved Son in the womb of Mary He gave him a name. Angel Gabriel told Mary that the name of this Son would be 'Jesus'. Meaning of this name is 'God saves'. God revealed Himself with this name to humankind as their saviour. He is the forgiving God, who came into this world to save humankind. Through His Son God disclosed His identity to the human beings. Son of God was known by this name. This name is the greatest of all names. Humankind was redeemed by this name. Through this name, the blind, the cripple, the mute, the leper were healed. Hearing this name, the devils ran away and the dead rose to life. With the strength of this name the disciples preached the word of Jesus, the 'Christ'.

Lesson 3: Meaning of the name ‘Christ’

Jesus spoke in Hebrew and Aramaic. The holy Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek. Later it was translated in Latin, English and other mother tongues. That is why it is important to explain some of the names or words used in the Bible. In order to find out the true meaning, one needs to know their origins.

"Christ" is a Greek word. This word was translated from the Hebrew word "Messiah" or mashiach. Messiah means "anointed", and thus, the meaning of Messiah or Christ is anointed. The word Christ is put together with Jesus, because He has been sent and anointed by the Father. He is known as Christ. He fulfilled the wish and plan of the Father.

We know that a particular person of a lineage, society or nation is given a specific responsibility. For this the person is first chosen and nominated. At times this person is dedicated for the specific task through some social rituals.

In the society of the Israelites there were some such traditional rituals. The kings, priests or prophets from this nation were chosen this way. Those who were to be dedicated specially to do God's work were anointed. There are many

such stories in the Bible. Jesus was dedicated to fulfil the will of the Father. He was a king, a priest and a prophet all at one time. He was not like the other kings. His kingdom is eternal and everlasting.

After the birth of Jesus, the angels proclaimed to the shepherds "A saviour has born to you today in the city of David, He is Christ the Lord." God chose and nominated Jesus before his birth. He was born at the will of God and through the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Father sent him into this world by making him holy. During the time of baptism God the Father anointed Jesus in the presence of the people and revealed him by saying, "You are my only Son, I am pleased with you." For this reason, the Son of God is dedicated, holy and known as Messiah or Christ. And by offering His life on the cross, He fulfilled the will of the Father.

Lesson: 4 Christ is Lord

Lord is the Leader of all. He is the creator, giver of life, sustainer and saviour. He has power over everything in this world, even over death. The word "Lord" connotes the divinity of God. In the Old Testament God introduced himself as "Lord". From that time onwards the Israelites addressed Him as Lord. Lord signifies His overall authority and power.

In the New Testament Jesus is addressed as Lord as well. The reason is that He is the only Son of God. Through Him God revealed Himself. He freed humankind from the hands of sin. In the New Testament Jesus is acknowledged as God, because He is the Lord of heaven and earth.

Jesus is Christ the Lord. Jesus Himself revealed this to His disciples at various times. His divinity is made known through His actions of restoring sight to the blind, enabling the cripple to walk, making the mute talk, and healing the sick. He has revealed his divine power by forgiving the sinners and giving life to the dead

In His public life preaching, many people were healed and they called him Lord. By calling Him Lord, they expressed their respect and gratitude to him. After His resurrection, faith of the people was much deepened. The apostles recognize Him as "My Lord, My God" and proclaim Him as "He is the Lord".

We also call Jesus Lord. We present our petitions to the Father in His name. In the beginning of some prayers we start by addressing Him "Lord Jesus". After every prayer we conclude by "in the name of Jesus". He conquered death, resurrected, and the Father bestowed on Him all the powers. We can fully depend on Jesus. He brought salvation to all humankind. People have witnessed His power, honour, and glory.

Task : Write down two examples of how Jesus revealed His spiritual power.

Lesson: 5 Christ is true God and true Man

In this chapter we shall come to know Jesus Christ as the only Son of God. We have already learned that Jesus Christ was born from God as a human being. He is God and Lord. We have understood the meaning of the name of Jesus and have known Him as Christ. As Disciples of Christ we all believe in it and acknowledge it.

In the lengthy discussion of this chapter we have come to know that Jesus is God and He is also human being. Jesus became man from God. He is true God and true man.

A human being has body, mind and soul. He/she is born with body-mind-soul and then gradually he/she grows up in human nature. God has created human being in a very special way different from other creations. He has given human being intellect and will power which is not present in other things or animals. That is why human being is different from other animals.



As fully God and fully human, Jesus Christ offered Himself

Being born in the womb of a woman Jesus possessed the nature of body-mind-soul. He grew up in a fully human nature. He united Himself with all the joys and sorrows of human beings. In nature and shape He is fully human. There were wrong perceptions about God's human nature. The Church Fathers and scholars have confirmed that Jesus is human from God.

Jesus possesses two natures: human and Godly. He is completely God as well as human being. With all His human body, intellect, will power and actions, He is a true human being. Even as a human being He is different, because He is God and Man. United in Godliness and lordship, He is fully God. He died on cross. Later, by rising from the grave, He brought salvation for humankind. Through Him we have all been given the opportunity to go to heaven. All who live in faith receive new life, for Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is meaning of the word 'Christ'?

a. nominated b. sent
c. anointed d. savior

2. What is meant by the word 'Lord'?

a) miraculous power b) divine power
c) priesthood d) priestly rights

Read the following passage and answer questions 3 and 4

Dip is a pious person. He goes to 'A' place to preach the word. There he discovers a person who is involved with drug addiction and all other unsocial activities and is also physically sick. By his prayer, service and preaching Dip heals their physical and mental illness.

3. Who inspired Dip to do the above work?

a. Peter
b. Jesus
c. Paul
d. John

4. Through the works of Dip, people of "A" can receive –

i. new life
ii. service
iii. love

Which of the following is correct?

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

Creative Questions

1. Jui is engaged to Dany. Although poor, Dany was pious, God-fearing and humble. He worked in a factory at a poor salary. He thought of himself as unworthy husband for his wife. So he wanted to leave his wife secretly. He went to the priest and told everything. But the priest told Dany about Jui, "Jui is a simple, humble and devout girl. Do not be afraid to accept Jui as your wife." Dany did as the priest advised him.

   a. What is the name of the king of Judea?
   b. Why did God send His beloved Son in the womb of Mary?
   c. What aspects of Joseph can be found in Dany - Explain.
   d. The stimulus has some similarities with the story of Joseph? Justify your comment.

2. Proshanto is a social worker in an area. He is very pious in his personal and family life. He helps the poor of the village by giving them medicine, cloth and food. The villagers introduced the great heart of Prashanto, and they started bringing patients to him so that he could heal the patients. He told the villagers, “I can't do this, only Jesus can do this.”

   a. What is the meaning of the word ‘Messiah’?
   b. Why is Jesus addressed as ‘Lord’?
   c. Why did Prasanto express his inability to heal the patients? Explain.
   d. Do you think all qualities of Jesus are evident in Proshanto? Justify your comment.

Short Answer Questions

1. Why did God create human beings in His image?
2. What kind of man was Mary’s husband?
3. Why Mary is called ‘blessed among women’ ?

Chapter Two

God's Creation is the Greatest

The Creator God has created everything. All His creations are paramount. Every creation reveals the magnitude of God. The creation of God has a focal objective and that is the glory of God. He is beautiful and holy; He is present everywhere all over the world. Human being is the greatest of all the creations. Man has been given the right to dominate over all other creations that is to take care of those creations. Taking care of all creations is one of the important responsibilities of man. At the same time, human obligations include to praise and glorify God.



The greatest creation human being

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to–

- explain the objective of creations.
- explain-'every creation is preeminent'.
- describe the revelation of God in His creation.
- offer prayer of appreciation for the beautiful creations of God.

Lesson: 1 Objective of creating human being on earth

The mystery of God's creation for the salvation of human being is significant. His creation is the foundation of planning of salvation. His creation is the beginning of the history of salvation. "The one and only God started the task of creating the firmament and the earth in the ancient time."(Genesis 1.1).He is the creator of all the things both visible and invisible.

Man is the best of all His creations. Besides being the best, human being is committing sins by means of free will. Because of sins committed by man the beauty of the best creation of God has been damaged or destroyed. To salvage human being from the clutches of destruction God has sent His Son. On the arrival of His Son, the mystery of creation has attained completion. We have come to know about the only son of God Lord Jesus Christ in the First Chapter. The mystery of this new creation was decided since the very beginning of ancient time in the Jesus Christ.

Nothing existed before the creation of this world. In order to create God required no assistance. God has expressed all his absolute power through His creation. He is the one and only almighty God. God created the world within six days and took rest on the seventh day. God looked at His creation at the end of each day's creation. To Him those were "excellent". On the sixth day, at the end of His creation He declared, "Everything is very excellent" (Genesis 1.31). So, we can say that God's creation is the greatest.

"The almighty God has created human being in His own image; He has created: man and woman." Human being is the best of His creations. The prime reason is that God has created human being as His own image. He has given human being His own look, nature and habit. He has revealed Himself in the human beings. He has instituted friendship with human beings.

Man is an individual different from other materials and animals. He is great with his own characteristics. Man is not any material, rather a person. It is a great creation with the combination of body, mind and soul. Man has knowledge, intelligence, wisdom, conscience and will power. Man has self dignity. Human being can discover the nobility of God with his knowledge and love for him. He can feel His greatness, sing of His glory. Only man can know and love the Creator.

Another significant feature of the creation of man is that human being has been created in two distinct type-man and woman. Therefore, both man and woman have been created as the own image of God. As human being man and woman is the possessor of equal dignity. Again with their individual characteristics they are men and women. They are neither subordinate to another nor inferior to each other.

God has created human being as man and woman so that they can become partner of each other. "It is not good for a human being to remain alone; so I shall grow up such an individual for one who will help another and be other's suitable partner"(Genesis 2.18). As person they are individual, and as woman and man they will take and give assistance to each other. Both of the individuals are so excellent to God.

Lesson: 2 God's self revelation through His creation

Our growth is going on since our birth. Along with this growth, whatever we see, are created by God. Earlier we have learned so many things about the creation of God and how the world came into being. Writers compose rhyme, poem, story, drama or composition on this beautiful earth. Many reveal the beauty of the creation through painting. On the beauty of the creations beautiful songs are composed and sung to appreciate the creations in beautiful tune.



God's self revelation through His creation

It is the glory of God being revealed and appreciations being sung through these understanding of us about creations. Our concentration and devotion to God is very profound. Because "Everything was given existence by him; whatever has got existence, has not

got existence without Him" (John 1: 1-3). He has exposed Himself to the world through His creations.

"At the very beginning The Almighty God started creating the firmament and the earth" (Genesis 1.1). This very first line of The Bible expresses introduction of creations. We can understand by it that God has created everything that exists except Himself. He is the only God. All were created by Him, whatever has existence in this world.

With the arrival of the Son of God He has revealed the completion of His creations. In fact, He is the first and the last. Everything depends on Him. He basically has revealed Himself through everything. He has revealed Himself to human beings and builds up a nation to reveal Him completely. He is the only God who has created "the Heaven and the earth." (Isaiah 43:1).

God has mainly expressed His love and affection to human beings through this creation. He is the source of love and He Himself is love. It is He who has taught us how to love. We can love our God by loving and taking care of His creations.

Task : Express your feelings by writing rhymes, poems or paragraph or drawing picture on The Creations.

Lesson: 3 Every creation is unique

As the best of all creations every human being should have detail knowledge about the creation of God and the uniqueness of the creation. The most important is- it is very significant to know about God who has created everything. Everything has been created to glorify God. All creations bring forth welfare to man either this or that way round. Every creation is the paramount. The Creator who has created all the great creations, how unsurpassed He is!

God has given completion to the cosmos through his creations. Everything was dark, empty or zero before the creations came into being. God existed in the emptiness. He undertook a task that He would create. Accordingly He expressed all His power through His creations. He is the almighty and only God. He said let there be creations and within this utterance everything was created. He created the universe and human being in six days and on the seventh day He took rest. At the end of every day's creations He declared His own creations to be "the best". At the end of the sixth day after creating all, He declared all to be "the very best" (Genesis 1: 31). And on the seventh day He stopped and took rest.

At the end of every day's creation He observed, evaluated and judged His creations. He Himself assessed. He found that the creation has been very good. He was satisfied with His creation. He was happy to say that every creation has been good i.e. "unique".

Task : Prepare a list of things you see around you as unique.

Whatever God has created, everything is the best. God has enjoyed that very greatness every day. It is the sin and fall of human being which is not good. Sin is not created by God rather it is the misuse of the liberty of will of human being. The natural resources like land, water, air etc cannot be exploited for the greediness and luxuriousness of human being. The necessity and importance of these in human life is unlimited. Nature gives us life, food and gives us protection as well. One unique creation serves the other.

God said "the very good" or "everything is unique" after He has created human being. Therefore you are great, I am great, all men are great as well. This greatness of man is exposed in his domination and lordship. The greatness of creations has to be preserved to retain the greatness of human being.

Man must affirm his own greatness first in order to take care and dominate over the other creations. Otherwise he will not be able to direct and nurse the creation towards greatness. To nurse the creation is the responsibility of all of us. God has created human body not for slavery. Man shall take care of creation, and the creation has also been created to serve mankind. Man should express his affection and gratitude to the creation and take care of the creation in order to get that service.

Nature has been tormented, tortured and exploited in different ways. As a result adverse impact of it is seen in nature. Excessive use of land, water, air should be resisted in this age of industrialization. If the use of these resources are controlled, they may become more resourceful. It should be maintained that not only the powerful people but also the poor may be benifited by them.

The manufacturing of luxurious materials should be brought under control to preserve the created resources. As a result the life of human being will be simple and easy. Land, water, air have been so badly polluted that the created resources have become unhygienic and filthy. But Land, water, air have their own divine beauty. God told Moses, in a burning bush, "Take off your foot wear, as where you are standing on is a sacred land" (Exodus 3.5). This is relevant in regards of all creations of God. Man should live in the midst of creations with this in mind. One should take care of creations and love man. To serve and love God is revealed through the taking care and serving mankind, with this the greatness of creation is exposed as well.

Task : All the students of the class can take part in a tree plantation activity in the garden of school campus.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What has God exposed His absolute power through?

a. through a sentence
b. through His creation
c. through Jesus Christ
c. through some miraculous works

2. What responsibilities did God bestow onto man?

a. to create some new things
b. to enjoy only
c. to dominate over the world
d. to take care and nurse the creations.

Read the following passage and answer Questions 3 and 4

Asim earns a lot of money by indiscriminately cutting down forest trees to make and sell various types of furniture. People decorate their homes and enjoy luxury and comfort using his products. However, the waste from his factory pollutes the nearby river. A devout person called Asim said, " This kind of mindset is not beneficial for you or others. Proper education can bring a change in your attitude."

3. What is reflected in Asim's action?

a. The Glory of God
b. Welfare of humanity
c. Self-interest
d. Goodness of Creation

4. What can help change Asim's mindset?

i. Teaching to love creation
ii. Teaching to live a simple life
iii. Teaching to avoid consumerism

Which of the following is correct?

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

Creative Questions

1. Apurbo has build up a beautiful farm. There are cows, different types of birds, swans and chickens, plants and a garden of different kinds of flowers. He takes care of all these with sincerity and affection. He laboriously works for the development of the farm. He earns much money by selling milk from cows and flowers of the garden. He helps the poor after fulfilling his own needs.

a. Through what has God fulfilled the perfection of the universe?
b. How can we love the Creator?
c. Explain what responsibility is Apurbo shouldering as man?
d. Do you think God's glory and praise are reflected in Apurbo's actions? Give reasons.

2. Scenario-1

Going to a study tour Seema saw the 'Shalbon' in Modhupur area very beautifully decorated, chirping of birds being echoed. Scenery and environment of 'Shalbon' captivated Seema.

Scenario-2

On World Environment Day Joya came to know that the earth is losing its ecological balance due to cutting of trees and for not taking proper care of natural environment. And for this reason different types of natural disasters are arising every year. The earth is getting warmer day by day. Joya thinks that God has created a beautiful world and men are destroying it.

a. How was everything before all were created?

b. Why did God create man as unique?

c. What is revealed about God in Scenario 1? Explain.

d. Analyze what Joya should do to bring positive environmental changes in Scenario 2 in light of textbook information.

Short Answer Questions

1. What is the main purpose of creation?
2. How does God feel about His creation?
3. What is the duty of human beings?

Chapter Three

Man- of Body, Mind and Soul

God has given every human being body, mind and soul. Body is outside and mind is in deeper interior. Mind is invisible, but whatever is happening inside the mind can be perceived from outside in many respects. Soul is in the deepest state. It takes much time for us to reach there. Even then whatever exists there is the most valuable. Our body is mortal. When the body is out of order mind also exhausts. But the soul shall remain forever. With this immortal soul of us God draws similarity. Human entity consists of body, mind and soul. Again the greatest human entity is created as man and woman. This woman and man have equal dignity. Now we shall look at the deeper meaning of this human entity which consists of body, mind and soul.



Man- of body, mind and soul

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to –

- describe human being of body and soul
- explain what the soul is
- explain that human body is enlivened with the entity of soul
- describe that human being is created as man and woman
- inspire to keep body, mind and soul holy
- respect both man and woman equally.

Lesson 1: Human being - of body, mind and soul

Human being is at the same time of body, mind and soul. Body, mind and soul are one. There are skin, flesh and seed in a mango. All these are part of a mango. These three together is a mango. Like this, body, mind and soul are one. They are three parts of a single man., "The Lord and the only God picked up some dust from the earth and made out human being and gave life by blowing into the nose and man became a lively being."- is written in the Bible. This speech from the holy Bible makes us understand that God has created man according to His own desire. It is Human being composed of body, mind and soul who has become the greatest of all creations. Now we shall know about body, mind and soul.

Human body: Human body is the part of the dignity of the embodiment of God. Body is the temple of sacred soul because human body is enlivened with the soul. Human body with Christianity becomes the temple of the soul so human body is very important. We should remain very careful about taking care and preserving sacredness of the body.

Importance of human body: We are created as the embodiment of God. God has no body. But God has given human being a beautiful body. This body is visible and we work with it. Human body has many limbs and organs. Human body has head, face, nose, eye, ear, hand, leg etc. Every part has its own work. For instance, we think with our head, speak through mouth, hear with our ear, see with eyes, do different types of work with hands, walk or run with legs. The role of human body is very important. We can easily feel the importance of body when we see the sorrows of physically impaired people. The easy and normal life of man is hampered with the impairment of an organ of human body. Not only these, we do all kinds of work by using human body. The work of invisible God is being done by means of human body. Different types of feelings and attitudes are expressed through human body. Many say, physical expression is more forceful than verbal language. Thus human body is very important.

Taking care of the human body: Taking care of the human body which is the blessing of God is earnestly necessary. Decoration of the body in extravagance or using costly materials does not imply the taking care of human body. More importantly keeping the body clean, taking regularly necessary food, taking proper medical treatment when sick, wearing suitable dress in accordance with weather, doing limited labour, physical exercise and rest are specially remarkable.Along with the looking after the body, the sacredness of the body should be taken care of. In many respects, man abuses the use of human body. For instance, they become addicted to different types of drugs; instead of taking care of the body, by hurting it they damage the human body. But God wants us to respect our body and respect others as well. Whatever physical condition we might at, we should accept the self physical entity accordingly. We can be respectful to our body by accepting our physical shape, structure, color of the body etc. We should not commit any sin consciously using our body. We should always remember that our body is the temple of sacredness. God Himself dwells in it



Take care of body by exercise

Task : Draw a table like the following. Write down three good functions of the following organs and share with your side partner.		
Head	Hand	leg
Eye	Ear	Mouth

Let us sing a Togore song-

I know that I have to offer everything I have
All my wealth is, speeches from you- God
Sighting with my eyes, hearing with ears
Skillful work of my hand, I serve, way of the world
Everything shall have to be offered, everything.

Lesson 2: Misuse of human body

An individual person does not utilize human body, the best presentation from God properly. Human beings are being victims of complicated diseases. For instance AIDS is one of these diseases. Even by committing suicide man disgraces human body. Different complexities may arise if one does not accept oneself properly or without having complacency with the God gifted body. In many respects human person cannot take proper care of human body due to neediness, hunger and poverty. As a result, we find human being lying by the roadside or in the dustbin. This scenario is very pathetic. Human being often tortures others physically. Sometimes even human person kills human person. Presently every day we see and hear this type of happenings. Women and children are being physically tortured and becoming the victims of sexual abasement. As a result, fundamental human right is broken. Human body is damaged as a result of accidents. In fine, human persons are making misuse of human body sometimes intentionally sometimes by being victim of situation.

Physical disability: Some people are born with physical shortcoming in human society. Some organs are not at proper stage or do not function properly. As a result, their sorrows knows no bounds. They become dependent on others. We have so much responsibilities for them. We should be kind to them. We should help them when necessary. We have read in the holy Bible many times, Jesus cured these many physically challenged people. In this way, He showed them respect.

Task : What are our responsibilities towards physically impaired brothers and sisters? Discuss in group. You can take a decision to visit any physically disable person at your residential area. Then discuss what can be done for them.

Lesson 3: Mind and its importance

God has given us mind along with our body and soul. We can think with this mind. We feel whatever we think and whatever we feel we reflect it into work. We find mental strength from mind. According to great men, human mind is very powerful. The will power comes from mind. This will power is known as mental strength. This mental strength is principal driving force of human being. It is a special blessing from the sacred soul. So the happiness and sacredness of mind is very important. Even the physical happiness or unhappiness depends on the

happiness or unhappiness of mind. On the contrary, physical fitness or unfitness may influence upon mind. When body is fine, mind also goes fine. Sometimes due to physical illness, mind goes unhappy. So it is said- sound body in sound mind. So the refinement of soul depends on mental refinement and sacredness. We can realize our crimes due to our mind. Crime harms soul. Owing to this, man expresses his whole personality or whole of the man through his/her expression mode of his/her mind. Mind has immense importance. The happy and normal life of a person depends on the normal spontaneity of mind. That is why mind has immense importance.

Mental soundness is more important than being physically fine, because in spite of physical ailment, normal life can be continued. But when a man becomes mentally ill, his/her mental spontaneity cannot be continued. Mind is our driving force. Mental strength is intellect and will power. We can think argumentatively with our intellects. Our life is controlled by will power. Liberty of man comes from the will power. The ability to judge good or bad comes from this liberty. If the thinking power is well, then every other task is well done. Presently we see, different way outs are decided to control mind scientifically.

The importance and influence of mind in the life of belief is immense. Belief and mind are reciprocally related to each other. Manners and works of belief are directed and controlled by mind. Saints and preachers could lay down their lives due to their self confidence and determination. They could sustain different types of sufferings and tortures.

Again sometimes we observe that even being physically impaired; some people contribute the civilization by his/her determination and higher will power. We can mention here the names of scientist Stephen Hawkings and Helen Keller. Though being physically impaired they had determined confidence. Owing to this, they could give some memorable contributions for mankind. Again we observe that physical fitness is related with mental spontaneity. For want of mental soundness man falls in illness for many times. Now a days often we hear that due to excessive anxiety and mental pressure man becomes the victim of high pressure, cardiac disease, diabetic or mental disorder. For lack of sound mind nothing is in likeness. If mind can be directed and controlled properly, all works become very fine and proper. For this reason, elders tell you to be attentive, to give concentration.

Functions of mind

We have certainly perceived the importance of mind. Now we shall find some important assignments of mind.

1. Mind is the force of spiritual life. We call this force as inner sight with which we judge and consider life.
2. Mind directs and controls the whole of a man.
3. Mind helps to think and take decisions about any particular matter.
4. Mind helps to analyze any matter argumentatively.
5. Mental concentration helps achieve success in any matter.

Means to keep mind sound

Often our mind is upset very easily. We shall have to keep our mind sound for the great importance of mind. Some ways have been mentioned below.

1. To keep faith and confidence upon God;
2. To keep self confidence;
3. To keep positive attitude and avoid being influenced by ill forces;
4. To think good and work good;
5. To live an honest life with values and keep moral life proper;
6. To keep good relations with all;
7. To maintain social customs, observe festivals with amusements;
8. To remain one self clean and keep the environment beautiful;
9. To be in good companies;
10. To accept the directions of an honest and right person.

Besides these, there are so many things that we can perceive by our own thinking. Actually the responsibility of keeping the mind sound goes to us.

Task : Write down what you do when you are upset and what you do to come back to mental soundness. Share with your group.

Lesson 4: Entity and Soul

The word Entity refers to human life or the complete human being in the Holy Bible. This entity also means human soul which is the most valuable. Because of this soul man has become the image of God. Soul means the sense of basic principles of human being. God is the creator of this entity. We see in the psalm song 139.

"You formed my inmost being; You knit me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew; my bones were not hidden from you,

When I was being made in secret, fashioned as in the depths of the earth. Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down;

My days were shaped, before one came to be.

How precious to me are your designs, 0 God;

How vast the sum of them!

Were I to count, they would outnumber the sands; to finish, I would need eternity."

Soul

We have known it earlier that God has created us with an immortal soul. Because of this soul we are said to be the image of God. The difference between body and soul is-body is mortal but soul is immortal. Soul is the special presentation of God. We call soul the 'life'. The soul of God has been given inside us. In the Holy Bible it is mentioned "The Lord and the only God picked up some dust from the earth and made out human being and gave life by blowing into the nose and man became a lively being."

The human body is enlivened with the entity of soul

Whatever we say man- body, entity, soul-altogether is one man. That means human being is an entity made as the image of God is at the same time an entity of body and soul. Human body enjoys the same dignity as the image of God. Only body has no importance. The body is glorified when it comes in touch with soul and attains dignity. With the touch of entity of soul human body is enlivened i.e. gets life. This body in the shelter of Christian soul has been created to be the temple of holy soul.

1. Soul and body are closely related. Owing to the entity of soul human body becomes lively. Body and soul together make up a unique man in which his/her nature is expressed.
2. Every entity of soul is created by God, which is not only produced by father mother. Soul of man is immortal. Though it gets separated with the death it is not destroyed. We also believe, on the dooms day it will unite with resurrected body.
3. Saint Paul prays, may God grant people the complete sacredness: “May their soul, life and body remain beyond any criticism for the arrival of Jesus Christ.” Here we understand that man created by God is much above his/her eligibility and with special consideration only he can be uplifted to meet God.

All these matters are very abstract and mysterious. It is difficult for us to understand, but we accept it with belief. It is a matter of profound meditation.

Task : Sit down all together in a nice and quiet environment. Close your eyes. Meditate for five minutes. God has created you with body, mind and soul.

Lesson 5: Human being created as man and woman

Man may not be alone, that is why God has created this beautiful earth, organisms and all other things. Last of all He has created human being. At first He has created man. The first man is Adam. He has kept him in a garden called Eden of heaven. But God has understood the loneliness of Adam. So at one point He said: "Man should not live alone. So I will grow up some one especially for him who will help him, be his worthy companion." God has created all creatures of land and birds of sky with clay. Thereafter He asked man to pick up names for other creatures. Adam has named all. But no one could be found to be the companion of human being out of other creatures, because man is quite different from other creatures. The ultimate loneliness of man could not be fulfilled.

Then God has given Adam a kind of drowsiness. He has fallen in deep sleep. At that time, he picked up a rib of Adam’s body and then coverd that part with flesh. Then He has formed a woman with that rib picked up from chest and brought her to man. At this man said:

"At last, this is bone from my bone, flesh from my flesh! She should be woman, since she has been picked up from man!"

That is why man gets united with his wife leaving his father-mother and becomes one body. This is how man and woman has been created

Woman and Man: Equality and Difference

God has created woman i.e. Eve like Adam whose nature is similar to that of his. Adam's life partner has not been created imitating any other creation; rather she has been created with one part of man. This is why no sooner has man seen woman he perceives that it is she his worthy partner. He has physical and mental relation with her. Both of them are equally possessor of human entity, but in different ways. Because man is man, woman is woman. The first identity of both of them is that they are human being. They are reciprocal to each other. This is because they want to get united with each other. They feel the attraction of getting united. But one should know the equality and difference between man and woman.

Equality	Difference
1. God has created man as His own image, He has created woman as His own image as well.	**1.** In regards of physical structure woman and man have certain differences. Particularly their sexual organs are different. By this man and woman can be known separately. More over man's body is comparatively by strong but woman's body is soft. There are differences in the dress.
2. Both woman and man have body, mind and soul.	**2.** God has empowered man and woman in different ways. For example, woman can conceive and give birth. Man does not have this ability.
3. Both woman and man have needs of body, mind, soul and society.	**3.** Certain differences are remarkable in the cases of exchange of feelings, expression of emotion. Men are comparatively more rigorous, they cannot express all their feelings easily. Women are comparatively soft and emotional.
4. Both man and woman have sense of self dignity and rights.	**4.** Men believe in physical strength. The strength of women lies in their mind and heart. They have more internal force.
5. Women have some manly qualities; men have some womanly qualities.	**5.** In regards qualities men and women have differences.

6. Women are capable of doing any type of work like men.	**6.** In social consideration particularly in male dominating society men and women have differences and dissimilarities. Women are exploited in many ways. They are robbed of their due rights. There are differences between male and female children in the question of facilities.

We normally observe the aforementioned matters. But psychologists say that a man has 51 % manly entity and 49% womanly entity. Together these two form a complete man. On the contrary a woman has 51 % womanly entity and 49% manly entity. Together these two form a complete woman. But both men and women are created by God. To God they all are equal. Neither of them is superior to the other. More importantly they have equal dignity as human being.

Task : Write down five differences and dissimilarities between men and women surrounding you and share in small groups.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What do we use for thinking and reasoning?

a. Mind
b. Heart
c. Soul
d. Brain

2. What does soul mean?

a. human entity
b. human body
c. presentation of God
d. similarity with God

Read the following passage and answer Questions 3 and 4:

Gautam and Joakim are good friends. Both are devoted to God. Joakim always sits back in the classroom and hesitates to answer the teacher's questions. But Gautam is the opposite. Observing Joakim's situation, Gautam comes forward to help him. Later, Joakim participates in the school debate competition.

3. Which characteristic is absent in Joachim?

a. power
b. mental strength
c. sacredness
d. belief

4. Considering Gautam's character traits, he is-

i. Self-confident
ii. Encouraging
iii. Suffering

Which of the following is correct?

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

Creative Questions

1. Mr. Joseph has two children- Rony and Sumi. While taking food Mr. Joseph offers Rony the best part of food because father wishes Rony to be a doctor. Additional teacher has been appointed for Rony. Sumi studies at her own will. In the result it is observed, because of spontaneous concentration examination result of Sumi becomes much better than that of Rony.

a. What did God think after He had created Adam?
b. What is the relation between soul and body?
c. What aspect of Joseph's actions has deviated? Explain.
d. Considering the matter of gender equality, do you support Joseph's actions? Give your opinion in light of textbook information.

2. Sourav is the only son of his parents. But he is not normal like others. He is physically impaired. He has profound belief upon God. He prays to God seeking strength so that he can do his own work. As a result he makes a good result in the exam. He obtains government scholarship. On the contrary, his friend Palash suffers from mental anxiety due to his color being black thouhg he is physically fit. He cannot focus on any task. Due to mental s tress he becomes sick.

a. What should one be aware of along with the proper care of the body?
b. What do you understand by misuse of human body?
c. What kind of character traits are revealed in Saurov's actions? Explain.
d. What do you think Palash can do to change his condition? Give your opinion in light of the textbook.

Short Answer Questions

1. What is meant by human existence?
2. What happens when the human body becomes dysfunctional?
3. Why is greater importance given to mental health?

Chapter Four

Sin

People can sin knowingly and at the same time stay away from sin also. That is why one has to first decide whether to sin or not to sin. Those who keep themselves steadfast to this decision, they can go a long way to holiness. And those who do not follow up with their decisions, it is mostly due to negligence. Others who do not take any decision not to sin, they lack awareness of sin. Here we shall discuss what sin is, its kind, and how to be saved from sin. This will help us grow in new awareness of sin.



A repentant person

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to –

- explain the meaning of sin
- give details of its kind
- explain about seven capital sins.
- elucidate how one by controlling the seven passions stay away from smoking or taking drugs
- clarify the consequences of sin
- explain the desire and ways to be saved from sin
- keep far away from sin and be inspired to lead an honest life

Lesson 1: Sin

Actions, words, thoughts or neglects that cause us to oppose the love of God and of our neighbours or take us far away from that relationship of love are called sins. It is the guilt against intellect, truth and pure conscience. Due to sin we become too much attached either to ourselves or to some created objects. And that is why we fail to love God and His people truly. We keep ourselves away from God because of sin. Sin destroys the superior and gentle nature of human being. It tears down the integrity of peoples' personality and character. Now we can say that sin is the opposing thoughts, desires, words and actions of God's eternal commands. Like the original sin, all other sins are disobedience and opposition to God. It is to love self or giving priority to self by neglecting God.

Task : Take a little time, quiet yourself and think, meditate - which sin you commit.

Kinds of sin

There are many kinds of sins. We commit sins in different ways. In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul says: In all of us there is lower nature, that is, the nature of body or emotion. This nature contradicts the Holy Spirit. When we live by our lower nature, we commit sin. The sins that we commit due to this nature are: adultery, impurity, wickedness, idolatry, witchcraft, hostility, quarrel, envy, anger, dissension, fraction, jealousy, drunkenness, orgy, and the like. Those who commit these sins, it is warned that they cannot enter into the heavenly kingdom. Sins can be categorized from different perspectives. For example, there can be a category of sins from the perspective of attitude towards sin or the circumstances that are involved. Then again, sin against God, neighbour or self; bodily and spiritual uncleanliness; thoughts, word, actions or failings are also other aspects to categorize sins. First let us see the seriousness of sin. According to its seriousness, sin can be divided into two groups: greater (mortal) sins and lesser (venial) sins. Discuss elaborately about this two kinds of sin below.

Mortal sins and venial sins

Mortal sin is violation of God's commands. Committing this sin, human beings' love of their hearts is destroyed. Due to this, they become more attached to their lower nature and they move far away from God, their ultimate and final goal of life. They become detached from God who is the source of all happiness. Life-blood of love is demolished. Because of mortal sin, human persons die spiritually. Some of these sins are: murder, blasphemy, etc.

On the other hand, venial sins are sins committed against less serious moral precepts. In other words, when a person disobeys God for simple matters, it is called venial sin. Many times people commit these sins without fully knowing the matter or without their full consent. In this situation the love of one's heart decreases little. But due to this kind of sin, love becomes weaker. Examples of venial sins are: lying, excessive joking or laughing, talking too much, etc. Following is a comparative discussion of mortal and venial sins.

Mortal sin and venial sin

Mortal sin	Venial sin
1. Disobeying God in serious matters	1. Disobeying God in less serious matters
2. When love is exhausted and grace of God is deprived of a person, he/she commits mortal sin	2. Love is weakened by venial sins. But people are not fully deprived of God's sanctifying grace, friendship with God, and love or eternal bliss.
3. Another characteristic of mortal sin is choosing evil thoughtfully and with contempt	3. Committing a sin out of Ignorance or of not understanding a matter fully is a characteristic of venial sin
4. Person, place or time is of importance for mortal sin. For example, being hostile to a stranger is less serious than being hostile to one's parents	4. Same is applicable to venial sin, but there is a certain flexibility in it

We need to be mindful about a few matters to understand deeply about sins. These matters are as follows:

1. One needs to have faith in the forgiveness, salvation and grace of God, because He is infinitely forgiving. He always anxiously waits for our return to Him. God sent His only Son into this world to save us.
2. One should never be downhearted. Always have faith and hope in God.
3. One should always be aware of sins.

4. One must have the desire to avoid sins.
5. Develop a true conscience and to follow it.
6. Using one's free will properly.
7. Always remember that God hates sins and not sinners.

Task : Name five mortal sins and five venial sins.

Lesson 2: Sin against God's Ten Commandments

God gave us Ten Commandments so that we can follow him and lead a holy life in this world. We have heard about them earlier. These commandments clearly show us how to lead a holy life and stay away from sins. When we fail follow them, we commit sins. In other words, these commandments contain restrictions that cause sin. Following are some of the ways we commit sins against the Ten Commandments:

1. by worshipping other Gods besides the only God or be attached to other things.
2. by dishonouring God's holy name. By taking God's name in vain.
3. by not observing the Sabbath and praising God.
4. by not honouring parents and elders.
5. by killing others.
6. by committing adultery.
7. by stealing from others.
8. by telling lies or giving false witnesses.
9. by coveting.
10. by coveting others husband or wife.

Task : Think and write how you can avoid sinning against the Ten Commandments.

Tendency to sin

Sin begets sin or increases tendency to sin. Repeating the same sins give birth to passions. Seven habits of sin are called seven passions. They are: pride, greed, jealousy, anger, lust, gluttony and laziness. These are the main reasons for sin or these give birth to other sins or evil tendencies. In the following section these seven passions are explained.

1. Pride: It is to think oneself as greater or superior to others; to giving priority to one's own self. Due to pride people do not respect God and other people. We know the reason for the fall of the angels, they thought of themselves greater than God and they contested God. Our first parents (Adam and Eve) also wanted to be equal to God by disobeying Him and sinning against God. In the present days we see many people with lots of wealth or money who disdain others. Many others think of themselves greater and become proud due to their intellectual powers or special abilities. In this way we commit sins of pride.

2. Greed: When we disparately want something that is not ours or cannot be ours, we become greedy. If we want to have what we do not possess, we commit sins of greed. For example, suppose a friend brought a very beautiful pen in the school; when we see it a desire grows in us and we want to have it. Like this we commit sins of greed.

3. Jealousy: It is not to be able to accept or tolerate or feel pain at the good of others. We experience this many times. For example, I cannot tolerate the boy or the girl who secures first place in the class or the teachers are extra mindful of him/her. I feel jealousy in mind. I say bad things against the person. By being jealous we can even harm others. The Pharisees hanged Jesus on the cross for this reason.

4. Anger: To get angry at something is called anger. When one gets angry, the person cannot control his/her temper. Not only that, by getting angry, the person can cause harm to others also. We hear it said that when a person gets angry, he/she become ferocious like a wild animal. We also notice that when we become angry, we spoil the environment, utter foul words, break objects, and even hurt others. In some cases one can even kill another due to extreme anger. But it is also true that even after getting angry and harming others, one can understand his/her fault and repent.



Quarrel due to anger

5. Lust : God has given human being sexual desire to use it in constructive purposes. When this desire is misused, it becomes 'Sin'. Uncontrolled sexual desire is lust. Some examples of lustness are desiring human being for enjoyment, to annoy by making ill comment, staring with the eyes of lustness etc. We see or hear so often how different ways other people are sexually harassed. Children, young woman - nobody is secure. Lust can turn people into an animal. Those who are not self-disciplined are liable to sin.

6. Gluttony: It is the excessive greed for food. When someone wants to eat too much, too many times, or want to eat everything whatever he gets, it is called gluttony. We need food to survive. But eating too much is sin. People can also suffer from various sicknesses due to gluttony.

7. Laziness: When a person is reluctant to work or spiritual exercises, he/she is lazy. It is to neglect one's religious duties and not doing any work. God created us with body, mind, and soul so that we can lead a good life by performing all religious functions and doing physical labour. Some people are not ready to do hard work. They are very lazy and ease-loving (we commit sin by being lazy).

Lesson 3: Controlling the seven Capital sins

Since the seven capital sins lead us to evil, we need to learn how to control them.

1. Practising humility, learning to give importance and respect to others;
2. Being content with what you have without feeling greedy;
3. Being happy and joyful at others' good and thanking and praising God;
4. Act gently at all situations by avoiding violence;
5. Practising self-control;
6. Eating moderately;
7. To try things wholeheartedly and not neglecting responsibilities.

Task : Of the seven capital sins, which three cause you to sin more? Write a prayer seeking God's strength not to sin anymore.

Consequences of sin

We all want to live a good, beautiful and happy life. We want to live well together. We all desire to have a beautiful, peaceful, and war-free world. But every day we suffer and cause others to suffer in various ways. We see the consequences of our sins everywhere. In other words, we undergo the consequences of our sins. Due to sin, we see the following:

1. Uproar and discord
2. Pain and suffering
3. Various types of sicknesses
4. Quarrel and separation
5. War and killing
6. Unfairness and injustice
7. Broken relationship between God and human being
8. Loneliness
9. Frustration and despair
10. Death

Task : Share in the group what consequences you experience in your personal life due to sin and design a poster.

Lesson 4: Ways to be free from sin

Sin entered into the history of humankind at the fall of our original parents, but God at the same time promised to save them from sin. He promised to send His only Son into this world for this purpose. God gave us free-will. He only wants us to turn away from sin and be saved. He arranged everything for us. No matter how grave our sins are, His mercy is always greater. We have to remember this all the time. Even though we may be sinners, but we should never be disheartened.

In the Gospels we see how Jesus showed his mercy towards human beings. The angel told Joseph: "You shall name Him Jesus for He will redeem His people from sin." Same is true for the Sacrament of Communion: "This is my blood, blood of the New Covenant, which will be shed for the redemption of all." He created us without the help of anything. But without our cooperation, He does not save us. He showed us many ways to become free. Some of these ways are:

1. to be aware of sins by being true to one's conscience and to the hope of salvation;
2. admit yourself to be a sinner;
3. be humble in admitting your sins;
4. repent for your sins;
5. promise not to sin again;
6. have faith in the kindness and grace of God;
7. forgive others and nurture the attitude of forgiving others;
8. confess and receive communion;
9. be converted and use your free-will properly;
10. receive the Holy Spirit and live according to His inspiration;
11. Pray and read the Bible regularly; and
12. Maintain right relationship with God and neighbours.

Task : Pray the following psalm (15) in two groups

LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent?
Who may live on your holy mountain?

The one whose walk is blameless,
who does what is righteous,
who speaks the truth from their heart;

whose tongue utters no slander,
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
and casts no slur on others;
who despises a vile person
but honors those who fear the LORD;
who keeps an oath even when it hurts,
and does not change their mind;
who lends money to the poor without interest;
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent;
whoever does these things will never be shaken.

Text : Discuss in your group how one can stay away from sin. Then meditate personally, make a resolution as to how you renounce sin.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. How many ways can sins be categorized according to their seriousness?

a. two ways
b. three ways
c. four ways
d. five ways

2. Anger can be controlled by

i. Forgiving
ii. Being patient
iii. By prayer and reading of the Bible

Which of the following is correct?

a. i & ii

b. ii & iii

c. i & iii

d. i, ii & iii

Read the following passage and answer questions 3 and 4

Ratan and Kiran are two classmates. Kiran could not accept that Ratan ranked first in the class exam. They had several arguments and even physical fights over it. As a result, their relationship deteriorated.

3. What did Kiran feel about Ratan's good result?

a. Jealousy
b. Pride
c. Anger
d. Hatred

4. What do they need to avoid to attain the Kingdom of God?

a. Conflict-filled relationships
b. Flattery
c. Sycophancy
d. Un-cooperated attitude

Creative Questions

1. Joyanto quite often takes money from his father's pocket. He spends a lot of time with his friends. Seeing the changes in his conversation and behaviour one day his father asked him about money. But Joyanto utterly denied it. In this way he started acting weirdly with his friends.

a. What kind of sin is it to disobey God's commandments?
b. What do you understand by the seven passions or tendency to sin?
c. What kind of problem did Jayanta face? Explain.
d. In what ways can Jayanta return to the right path? Share your opinion in light of the textbook.

2. (Laya, Choa, and Sumon live in the same area and read in the same class. In the evening they meet each other.)

Laya: Choa, how are you?

Choa: I am not as bad as you are. I am fine.

Laya: Will you not go to school today? Let us go together. Choa: Will I go on foot like you? I will go by car.

Sumon: Why are you talking with Laya like this? Are you showing off your wealth? God will punish you.

Choa: Why will I not show off? Money is all. God cannot do anything to me.

a. What ıs sin?
b. What is meant by venial sin?
c. What kind of sin is Choa committing? Explain.
d. How can Choa be freed from this kind of sin? Give your opinion.

Short Answer Questions

1. What are the consequences of deadly sin?
2. How can one live a holy life?
3. What is the way to be freed from sin?

Chapter Five

Life and Work of Savior Jesus

God Himself is love. He loved the world and sent His only son Jesus Christ into this world, so that man can be saved through Him. Lord Jesus Christ emptied Himself. He took the role of a servant. Being in the form and kind of man He was born in the womb of Virgin Mary by the power of Holy Spirit. He gave man the word of salvation. Being innocent Himself He sacrificed Himself on the cross for sins of other people. By being resurrected He gave us too a new life in participation of resurrection. His whole life is quite a mystery. In this chapter we will discuss some aspects of the mystery of His life. Besides we shall know about the beginning of His public life till his entrance into Jerusalem.



Jesus preaching among the people

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to–

- explain the main mysteries of the life of Jesus
- explain the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist
- explain the importance of baptism of Jesus
- explain how a baptized man can be able to contribute to build a developed personality and elegant society
- describe the beginning of Jesus' preaching at Galilee
- explain the reason of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem
- encouraged to follow the ways of Jesus like the disciples

Lesson 1: Main mysteries of the life of Jesus

By the term mystery we mean something that can't be understood by general knowledge or intelligence. As mystery is beyond our knowledge we need belief to understand it. There is solemn mystery in the life, work, preaching, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Father God revealed Himself through Jesus. So Jesus said that anyone *who has seen Me has seen the Father*. Jesus has born as a man to fulfill the will of Father. So the smallest mystery of Him also reveals the love of God to us.

Jesus' mystery of sustaining body: Jesus has deep bondage of love with God. But by the fullness of time God sent His only son for the salvation of mankind. Being a God He didn't want to hold the equivalency of God. He absolutely emptied Himself. He came down from heaven to earth. God chose a simple Virgin Mary to be the mother of savior. He prepared Mary for that. He created her innocent so that our savior can be born in a sinless womb. Though Mary was worried at first but she abided by God's order proving herself as 'servant of Lord'. By this "yes" of Mary, son of God has come to this world. Being in the form and kind of man He became humble. By taking this body he became poor, and made us rich through His poverty. Taking the body of a man He took everything of a man in Him, opened a simple way of salvation for mankind. We lost our heavenly bliss by the sin of our ancestors and regained it through the sustainability of body of the Son. He was born as a poor baby in a cowshed. Poor shepherds were His first witness. They were praising Him.

Jesus' mystery of salvation: The whole life of Jesus is a mystery of salvation. He spent most of his preaching time with poor, needy, oppressed and deceived people. He did it so that people can get the taste of salvation; can be free from miseries and from bondage of sin. But our complete salvation comes through His shedding of blood on cross at Calvary mountain. Being innocent and sinless, He took the burden of our sin on His shoulder. He obeyed the contemptible death on cross. He tolerated everything. Being most obedient of Father He took everything on Him. We gained salvation in exchange of His blood. We have become independent.

Mystery of the unrevealed life of Jesus: Lord Jesus' daily life was very easy and simple. He had strong faith in religious system. He was very obedient to his parents. This obedience expresses His obedience to Father God. He told His parents about the presence of heavenly Father in Him by saying this, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" He expressed clearly that He was sent by Father for a special mission.

Jesus' mystery of glorification: Everything wasn't finished with the death of Lord Jesus. He was buried and resurrected after three days. He was resurrected and made us a part of His resurrection. So we have also an expectation that this death is not end of life. We will have resurrection one day with Christ. Because Jesus Himself said, "I am resurrection and I am life. He who believes in me will get an eternal life." We have become a part of eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus. The glorification of Jesus glorifies us with salvation.

So, the whole life of Jesus was full of mystery. From His sustaining body to painful death and resurrection, all were signs of His mysterious life, which needs to be revealed by faith.

Lesson 2: Baptism of Jesus Christ

Some of us took baptism in childhood. Jesus took baptism when He grew up. But Jesus' baptism was different from that of ours. He took baptism from John to change mind. Our baptism meant external sign or symbol which is set by Jesus and recognized by church. We attain God's blessings through it. Jesus took baptism to set up a new form of sacrament. That is to gain a new life in water and soul.

Jesus started His new life with His baptism from John the Baptist in river of Jordan. John addressed the people to repent for their sin and to change their mind. He said them, "Change your mind." He told them to remove their evil thoughts from their mind and to lead a good and honest life. In response of his calling many tax¬collectors, Pharisees, Sadducees, and sinners changed their mind and took baptism.

One day Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized. Though He was innocent he was baptized to show the glory of God. First John was not agreed to baptize Jesus. He said that he himself should be baptized to Jesus. But Jesus didn't give away. Jesus told him "Let it be so now". So John baptized Him. After His baptism, Holy Spirit descended on Jesus as a dove. And a voice was heard from heaven, "He is my dearest son, you all listen to Him." Everyone who was there heard it with great surprise. This event was the beginning of Jesus' self-revelation as the son of God and Messiah of Israel or savior.

Task : Show the event of baptism of Jesus in role play action.

Purpose and importance of baptism of Jesus:

Jesus started His missionary activities as a servant of the only God after being baptized Himself. He took Himself among the sinners. By baptizing and shedding His blood on the cross at Calvary Jesus sacrificed Himself for the salvation of mankind. He sacrificed Himself at the intension of Father God. Father God was also happy for His consent. The spirit that was on Him during His sustaining body was still on Him. The door of Heaven was closed for the sin of Adam. We get the opportunity to go to heaven by being innocent by means of baptism. A new creation started with the descending of Holy Spirit.

With the baptism a human person being a follower of Jesus at the rebirth in water and spirit attains a new life. He becomes a dear one to God through Lord Jesus. He starts a fresh new life, where there is no sin. Thus every baptized man gets an opportunity to grow with the holiness of Jesus.

Task : Discuss in group how our lives change after baptism.

Lesson 3: Preaching of Jesus- Beginning of A Journey

Jesus started His public life through His baptism. Soon after His baptism, Jesus spent forty days in desert. There He was led by Holy Spirit and lived among the wild animals. Angels attended Him during that time. He was tempted by Satan and defeated him. Then He selected 12 disciples for His preaching.

John the Baptist, to whom Jesus was baptized, was put in prison and Jesus went to Galilee. He started His work at Galilee. He said, "The time has come, the Kingdom of Divinity is near, change your mind and believe the good news." The main subject of his preaching was Kingdom of Divinity and repentance. In fact, He proclaimed Father's word for the testimony of Kingdom of Divinity.

In response of this calling many people became followers of Jesus. And Jesus selected some of them special to be witnesses of Kingdom of Divinity. He started His preaching from the side of the sea of Galilee where He invited them to the path of God. One day He was walking beside the sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea. He called them to follow Him. At once they left their nets and followed Him. When He had gone a little farther, He saw two sons of Zebedee- Jacob and his brother John. They were preparing their nets in a boat. As soon as Jesus called them, they left their

father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him. Thus He called others and made them understood the hidden truth of Kingdom of Divinity.

Task : Write down the names of five persons who followed accordingly responding the call of Jesus.

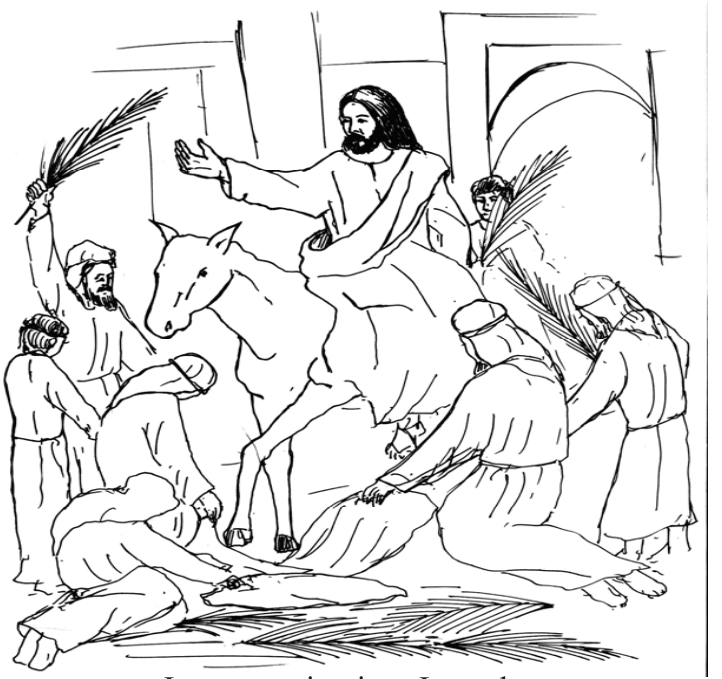
Significance of preaching:

The purpose of Jesus' preaching was to observe Father's desire and fulfill Father's intention. And Father's intention is to save people from eternal death or sin. Its purpose is that man can be a part of heavenly life proclaimed by Jesus. Lord Jesus united every believers of Kingdom of Divinity and completed this work. United mankind on the basis of belief is the church of Christ, which is the seed of kingdom of Divinity and introduction.

Task : Share in group how you are following the way of Jesus.

Lesson 4: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem

As the days of ascension were near Jesus took a firm decision to go to the holy city Jerusalem. He knew that He would be killed in this city. He told His disciples three times about it. By going to Jerusalem Jesus made a sign of His death, because all prophets had to be martyred in Jerusalem. It would not be an exception to Him.



Jesus entering into Jerusalem

The triumphal entry of Jesus

Jesus drew near to Jerusalem with His disciples. Many people were also gathering to join Passover. When they heard that Jesus was also coming, they came out to greet Him. Here the disciples brought a donkey from the village and laid their clothes on it. Then they placed Jesus on that.

And a great multitude spread their garments on the road. Others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the multitudes who went before and after Jesus cried out, "Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest." Thus Jesus entered into the temple in Jerusalem.

Purpose of entry to Jerusalem

Many people wanted to make Jesus their king. But He always rejected that. He showed how His city accepts Him as savior through His entrance to Jerusalem. He entered into the city on a simple donkey as the son of David, because His ruling is different. He will accomplish this rule through His death and resurrection.

Investigative task : Prepare a report on how the followers of Christ prepare themselves during the prayers for Easter and how the pleasures of Easter can be shared with others.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. How many times did Jesus talk about His death during His preaching?

a. Twice
b. Thrice
c. Four times
d. Five times

2. Jesus took baptism to express –

a. Glory of God
b. Glory of angels
c. Glory of Holy Spirit
d. Glory of John

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

The preachers of rural area teach children about sacrament, so that they can differentiate good and evil and change their mind. The priests usually go once to remote villages for preaching. Then Himel was eager to accept sacrament. Later he was accepted with the sacrament of the church.

3. Through that program Himel accepted the sacrament of-

a. confession of sin
b. communion
c. baptism
d. Intervention

4. Through that sacrament Himel achieved

i. blessings of God
ii. New life
iii. Acceptation of church

Which of the following is correct?

a. i & ii

b. ii & iii

c. i & iii

d. i, ii & iii

Creative Questions

1. Anol is a preacher. Since childhood, he has been deeply interested in religion. He takes part in all religious activities before anyone else. While doing ministry work, he faces criticism, hatred, and humiliation from people. Still, he carries out his work gracefully because he knows that to do something good, one has to endure hardship– sometimes even neglect from loved ones. His childhood religious education inspired him to stay focused. As a result, he has become a faithful servant of God and a free person.

a. Who were the first witnesses of the birth of Jesus?

b. Why was Jesus born in a stable?

c. Whose characteristics inspired Anol in his work? Explain.

d. Do you think Anol has done works worthy of God's grace? Give reasons to support your answer.

2. Placid is a social worker. He is working with others for the development of society. Everyone of his locality knows about his honesty, faithfulness and justice. A friend of him wanted to testify his honesty. So he insisted him to stop his social activities and offered him a lot of money. But Placid ignored him. And he continued his work strongly and appointed more workers, so that they can continue his work in absence of him.

a. By whom was Jesus baptized?

b. What happens to a man after his baptism?

c. By which event of Jesus was Placid encouraged and won the temptation? Explain.

d. Jesus' calling of disciples and Placid's appointing of workers– compare and contrast these two incidents.

Short Answer Questions

1. What kind of life did the Virgin Mary life?
2. Why did Jesus come to the world?
3. What was the main theme of the preaching of John the Baptist?
4. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Chapter Six

Mary's Response to God's Call

In spite of man's sins and going away from God, yet God's love has not decreased a little. He gave word to man that He will send a savior. Mary played an important role in realizing God's plan. Mary's response to God's call is an inspiration for our life. We will read this chapter in depth of our heart with deep faith and piety and we will try to feel the call of God in our heart and try to respond.



The angel's message to Mary

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to –

- relate the news of the appearance of great angel Gabriel to Mary
- relate the inseparable relationship of Christ with Mary
- decide the place of Mary in the mysteries of the Church of Christ
- to go about according to the will of God

Lesson 1: Great angel Gabriel's message to Mary

The plan of God began from the fall of mankind and the promise of God. God said to Satan that appeared in the guise of serpent, I will bring about enmity between your race and the race of women, and between your race and her race. For people the people of her race will strike you on the head and you will bite them on the foot heal of them." At this promise, there is a citation of a woman and her race.

Mary was a virgin of Nazareth. By race a Jew. Her Father was Joachim and mother was Anna. Before the birth of Mary her father and mother offered her to God. And God brought her to this earth to be the mother of His Son as sinless. One day God sent the great angel Gabriel to her. Mary was engaged with a man named Joseph from the race of David. Coming to her the angel said, "Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you." Hearing the word Mary became very disappointed. She thought what the meaning of that greeting was! Then the angel said to Mary "Don't be afraid Mary! You have received the grace of God. Listen, being conceived you will give birth to a male child; you will keep his name Jesus. He will become great. He will be known as the Son of God and man. The Lord God will give Him the royal seat of his forefather David. He will rule the race of Jacob. His kingdom will be unending."

Mary then said to the angel, "How can that be?" I am a virgin. In reply the angel said, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and you will be conceived by the power of God. That's how Jesus will be born. That holy person will be considered as the son of God-----and see your relative Elizabeth whom the people used to call unfertile, carrying a baby in her womb. She is in progress of six months, because nothing is impossible for God." Then Mary said, "I am the hand maid of God! Let it be done to me what you said!" (Luke 1: 26 - 38)

Task : Act out the message of the angel to Mary. Say the adoring prayer after the act is worked out.

After reading this part from the Bible we can see that God sent a very important message to Mary through the angel Gabriel. He called Mary to be the mother of the savior. Mary responded to that call in spite of her being disappointed. She completely submited herself to God. She said to God, "Let what you said be done unto me."

The virgin maid of the Nazareth was leading her life very ordinarily like the other girls, she was dreaming to begin her conjugal life with Joseph, because the final word of her marriage has been confirmed. There was engagement between

Mary and Joseph. And right at that time the message of the angel deeply troubled her. Mary was deeply thinking about the possible bearing of a child in her womb being in unmarried stage. In spite of that she totally left her in the hand of God. Because she had dependency and deep faith in God, She was very holy and a pious woman. She was totally ready and open to obey the will of God. She called her the maid of God. When the angel said to her that everything is possible for God then Mary was agreed to happen any incident in her life. She did not even think what would happen at this and what the people would think or say. Her utmost wish was to obey the will of God in her whole life.

Task : Share with your group how you obey the will of God in your life.

Lesson 2: Undivided relationship of christ with Mary

In no way the relationship of Mary with Jesus can be separated. In fact, Mary is the mother of God and the savior. We recognize and respect her in this way. As such the relationship of Christ and Mary cannot be disconnected for obvious reason. The bond of Mary with the Church of Christ cannot be disconnected. The mother had great unity with the son in the saving work of the mankind. This unity has been revealed from the time of Jesus' coming in the womb of Mary till his death.

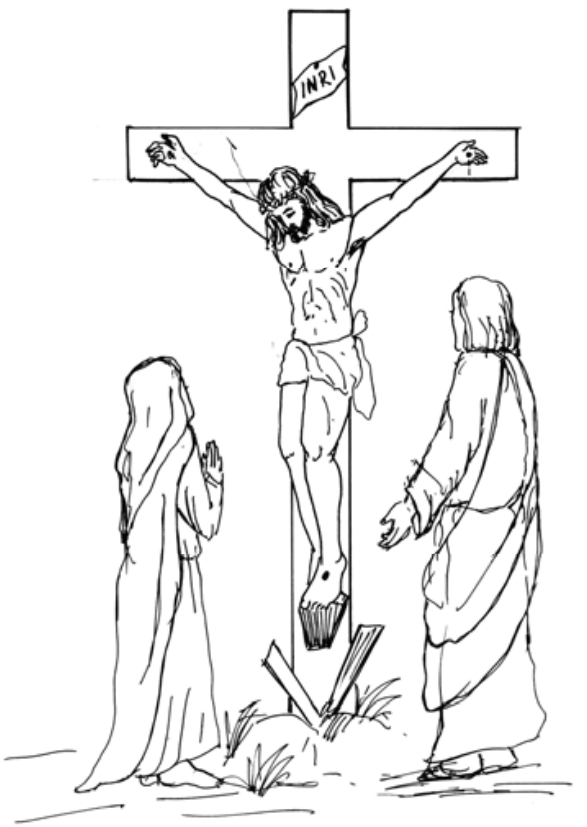
1. Graceful: During the time of the announcement of the coming of the Lord, great angel Gabriel greeted her calling graceful so that Mary at this special time with the unity of faith can respond to the call of God and for that it was necessary to be filled with 'grace'. Mary became blessed and her holiness fully came from Christ. With holy gifts of Christ she was saved in greater way.

2. Obedience: The heavenly angel told Mary that with the influence of the Holy Spirit she will give birth to a male child. Though naturally it seems to be impossible, Mary responded to that with obedience filled with faith. She certainly knew that "Nothing is impossible for God," For the obedience and humility she could say that "I am the hand maid of the Church." "Let whatever you said be done unto me." With the consent of her own she became the mother of the Son of God. She accepted the will of God by heart and soul. She offered herself to her son and in his work fully. Man was dirtied with sins and disobedience of Eve. But man was freed from sins for the faith and obedience of Mary. Death reigned on earth for the disobedience of Eve. But life came on earth for the obedience of Mary. She became the mother of the living being. Being united with Jesus alone she acquired this heavenly virtue.

3. Mary brought Jesus to Earth: Mary dedicated her whole life for Jesus. Mary bore Jesus in her womb and offered a savior to the earth. She brought up child Jesus providing good education and counseling. All the joys and sorrows of Mary surrounded Jesus. Mary tolerated seven sorrows for Jesus. Besides; Mary underwent numerous sorrows for Jesus. But through those happiness and sadness, the maternal glory of Mary became more beautiful and successful. Mary always prays for the church as mother. In this way there is an exclusive unity of Mary with Christ and the Church.

4. Mary's heavenly maternity: In the holy bible Mary is called as the "Mother of Jesus". With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Elizabeth greeted Mary as "The mother of my Lord!" before the birth of her son. The church has accepted the heavenly maternity of Mary. Mary is the mother of God. He is the Son of the Lord also became man and who is God Himself, and His mother is Mary. Jesus and Mary are united in this bond of undivided relationship forever.

5. Mary under the cross: The deep unity of Mary has been revealed during the time of the passion of Christ when He was handed over to the enemies.



Mary under the cross

He faced the trial and was sentence to death on the cross. At this Mary was terribly hurt. A very heavy cross was put on the shoulder of Jesus. He started His journey toward Calvary taking the cross on His shoulder. Mary also walked alongside of him. She met her dear son on the way. Jesus was crucified reaching Calvary. Jesus suffered the crucial death for three hours before his death. At this time of agony all the apostles fled away. But the mother of Jesus stood under the cross courageously. As a mother during the time of sufferings of death her presence was very strong and inspiring.

In this way Mary advanced in the pilgrimage of her faith. Till the death on the cross she was stem in faithfulness with him. According to the heavenly plan she was beside her son in extreme agony. She felt in her motherly heart the depth of agony for her son. She has given loveable consent to go forward in the work of freedom. Before his death Jesus has given his mother to the dear apostles as their mother. An extra-ordinary side of Mary's maternity revealed under the cross. We notice these three special things of Mary's maternity. These are, her maternity as an ordinary woman,and as a human being her divine maternity as the mother of the son of God and with the sight of faith the spiritual maternity. We can feel the extreme revelation of Mary's maternity is at the time of standing under the cross. Jesus himself received peace and inspiration during the time of this extreme agony.

Handing over his own mother to John, Jesus made his mother the mother of all men and mankind. And giving John as the son of Mary gave the whole mankind the right of children. Before the death of Christ in presence of mother Mary this extra-ordinary incident took place in the history of mankind. Similarly, Mary stands beside us in time of the sadness and pain. Gives us hope, strengthens us and encourages us to go ahead on the path of life. And to complete the difficult task and to overcome all hindrances.

Task : Share an incident of your life when you felt the presence of Mother Mary.

6. In prayers Mary is connected with Christ and the church: Mary was with the apostles after the ascension of her son to heaven. She was united with them in prayers. Thus she helped in the foundation of the Church of Christ. Being engaged in prayers with all she was awaiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Mary was conceived by the influence of the Holy Spirit and always surrounded with Jesus.

7. Mary's virginity: Mother Mary is the mother of the son of God. The church of Christ is admitting this from the beginning that Jesus was only born in the womb of virgin Mary with the power of the Hoy Spirit. According to the description of the Holy Bible the birth of Jesus in the womb of virgin Mary is the work of God. This is very difficult for man to understand this matter fully. In dream appearing to Joseph the heavenly angel said to Joseph that "What was born in the womb of Mary was in the influence of the Holy Spirit." Besides, the Church of Christ witnessed the fulfillment of the virginity of Mary. There was a citation in the book of Isaiah, "Look being conceived the virgin will give birth to a male child." Mary's giving birth to the Son of God is a mysterious truth. That's why in churches' worship Mary is proudly declared as "Ever virgin."

8. Mary's Virginity in God's plan: In His plan of freedom God wanted that His Son will be born of a virgin. On behalf of the whole mankind Mary welcomed that saving work. Her virginity is the sign of her faith. Her faith helped her to become the mother of her saviour. To hold the body of flesh and blood of Jesus in her womb Mary is rightly blessed, but she is more blessed because she embraced Christ in faith. Through this motherhood Mary became the sign of the church of Christ. Her relationship with Christ has become stronger.

Task : Share how you see personally the relationship of Mary with Jesus; discuss that dividing into small groups.

Lesson 3: Mary's place is mysterious in the Church of Christ

Mary is the mother of Christ and she is the mother of the Church of Christ. In mystery of Christ the role of Mary is considered. Mary is the mother of God, the mother of the saviour. As whatever is involved with Jesus she is also involved with that Jesus established the church, he is the head of the church. Mary is the mother of Jesus. That's why she is the mother of the church as well. In giving birth of the church, Mary has a role, specially, the birth date of the church, Mary was present when on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles. Till today as the mother of the church Mary is always present there.

1. The piety of blessed Mary: The piety of mother Mary in the church of Christ has captured a remarkable place. She has been honored as the mother of God from the beginning of the church of Christ. Mother Mary has special place in the worship of the church. Observation of the feasts of Mary, the piety in saying the rosary, these are the signs of respect to Mother Mary. The faithful disciples of the

church also pray to Mother with faith and piety, in well and owe. Not only that many churches and grottoes in the world are built in the name of mother Mary. There are many places of pilgrimages in remembrance of Mary, where thousands of people go to show piety and love to mother. As a results of the faith to mother Mary many miracles took place in different places of the earth and still going on. The recitation of holy rosary is a strong prayer.

2. Mary the portrait of the eternity of the church of Christ: Blessed Mary is sinless. The church has got holiness as it is connected with her. There is no defect in it. Yet, the faithful of this church are trying heart and soul to overcome the sins of their personal life and trying to get holiness relentlessly. That is fixing their eyes to Mary they are making all out efforts, because in Mary the church of Christ is fully holy in the meantime.

3. Mary is the real portrait of the church of Christ: Mary is virgin: Her virginity is the sign of her faith. There is no place of suspicion in this faith. This faith is the undivided self-sacrifice of her to the will of God. Her faith made her able to be the mother of the saviour. Saint Augustine said, "Mary is in fact blessed for the incarnation of the flesh and blood of Jesus to her womb, but she is more blessed because in faith she has embraced Christ." Mary being virgin and mother at the same time became the symbol of the church of Christ based on faith, accordingly to the word of God becomes real mother. Preaching the word and giving baptism she gives birth to the children. These children with power of the Holy Spirit and from God take faith to an external life. She herself is that virgin who keeps her promise given to her husband fully and with pure faith.

Task : How you offer your piety to Mother Mary, share that in group:

Let us sing

My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour,
He looks on His servant in her lowliness
Hencforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me,
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
On those who fear him.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who gave the news of the birth of Jesus to Mary?

   a. God
   b. Heavenly angel
   c. Holy Spirit
   d. Great angel Gabriel

2. Why did God choose Mary?

   a. For her humility
   b. For her prayerfulness
   c. For her holiness
   d. For her simplicity.

Reading the following passage and answer the questions 3 & 4

Flora is a very pious woman and a woman of principle. Her only son is mentally retarded. Flora always took care of her child and prayed to God. One day this mentally retarded child became a leading artist. His fame spread at home and abroad.

3. The quality of virgin Mary that is depicted in Flora is– in God.

   a. Dependency
   b. Deep faith
   c. Love
   d. Piety

4. The character of Flora can give man-

   i. Love
   ii. Peace on earth
   iii. Freedom from sin

Which of the following is correct?

a. i & ii

b. ii & iii

c. i & iii

d. i, ii & iii

Creative Questions

1. Shanta is a student of class Seven. She is religious, truthful and just. On the occasion of Easter a function is held in the field beside the school. The responsibility was given to Shanta. On the day of the function some strayed youths started to make disturbance to stop the function. Many participants fled away. Thinking about the instruction of the Headmaster Shanta carried on the function. At this time the Bengali teacher encouraged and cooperated with her. At this time the thought of Virgin Mary came to her mind.

a How was the life style of the Virgin Mary?

b. How can we show piety to Virgin Mary?

c. Explain Which quality of the Virgin Mary was reflected in Shanta?

d. Analyze the cause of Shanta's remembering Mary because of the role of the Bengali teacher.

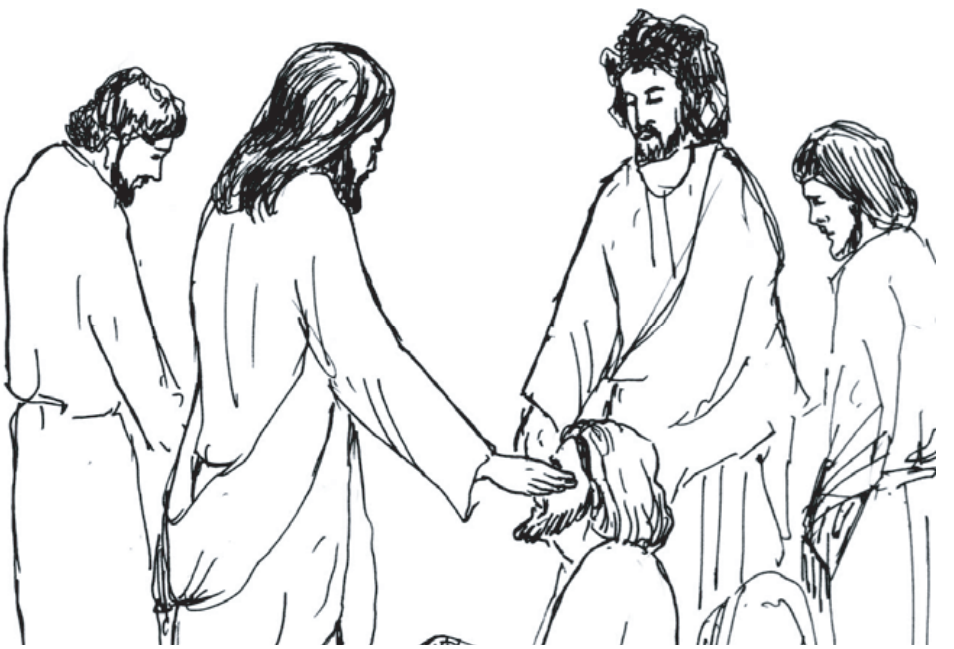
Short Answer Questions

1. What kind of life did the virgin Mary live?
2. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus?
3. What was Mary's relationship with Jesus like?

Chapter Seven

Miracle Works of Jesus and the Kingdom of God

We know a good number of miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ described in the Holy Bible. He performed these miracles during his proclamation time. He proved his strength and power through these works. People were astounded observing these great deeds because they had never seen it before. In this chapter we shall deepen our faith on Jesus by thinking and meditating upon the miracle works of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Jesus as Healer

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to–

- explain the emergence of God through the miracle works of Jesus.
- explain the Kingdom of God through the healing of 'the man with evil spirit'
- keep complete trust upon Jesus and stay away from the evil

Lesson- 1: Miracle works of Jesus and the Kingdom of God

We have already learned about the miracle works of Jesus written by Mathew, Mark, Luke and John in New Testament. We have seen a full inventory of Jesus' miracle works. Jesus proved his power and strength through these mira-cles. This power or strength is against the evil power. He wanted to establish a new Kingdom revealing his power and strength against the evil. This new Kingdom is the Kingdom of God.

What is the Kingdom of God?

We understand by kingdom a particular land where there is a king and the people. But Kingdom of God is not like any worldly Kingdom. It is the Kingdom of God where there is no sin or evil, instead there is justice, peace, love, forgiveness, sympathy and compassion. If a place or a person possesses these virtues, there lays the kingdom of God that means God Himself is present there. So it can be said, where God's works are being done and who obey God's will, Kingdom of God is among them. It is an important part of the Holy Bible and it can be found both in Old Testament and New Testament of the Holy Bible. The prophecy of the Kingdom of God has been described in the Old Testament and that has been fulfilled through Jesus Christ, the Son of the God. This revelation of Lord Jesus is completed through his acts, his words and his miracles. This kingdom of God is not proclaimed only to Christians but to all human being. Christian Church is the seed or the introduction of the Kingdom of God. The Church is always proceeding to maturity through which the fullness of the Kingdom of God will appear.

Task: Write down the characters of worldly Kingdom and the Kingdom of God side by side in two columns.

Call of Jesus to enter into the Kingdom of God

Lord Jesus Christ starts his life of proclamation calling all to enter into the Kingdom of God. After John being imprisoned Jesus proclaimed Good News saying, the time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has come near. Repent for your sins and believe the Good News. Lord Jesus has come to establish the Kingdom of God fulfilling his father's will. His father's desire is to dedicate life for the people so that they can share his eternal life. For this reason he gathers people surrounding him. He sends his disciples to gather people around him with his words and many symbols as a sign of the Kingdom of God. At the end Lord Jesus through his crucifixion and the resurrection leads the revelation of the Kingdom of God to fullness.

Lord Jesus calls all to His Kingdom. However Kingdom of God is first expressed to the children of Israel nation for which God has special blessings but it is for all nations, for all people. Everybody is called to be the citizen of the Kingdom of God.

Though the Kingdom of God is meant for all, the poor and the people of low social class will enjoy the priority to enter into the kingdom or to be citizen. Jesus says blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. They listen to his words with humble spirit, and accept it and lead lives accordingly. The secrets of Kingdom of God are hidden from the learned and wise but revealed to those who are poor and socially exploited. Lord Jesus supports poor people in his worldly life, stays with them, and becomes compassionate loving them. For this reason he gives 'Love' the most important precondition to enter into the Kingdom of God.

Besides to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God Jesus compares it to banquet. He invites the sinners in this banquet. In fact, he has not come for the religious but the sinners. Repentance is the way to enter into the Kingdom of God. That is why, how joyful it is there in the Kingdom of God when a sinner repents!

Symbols of the Kingdom of God

The mystery of the Kingdom of God is very deep. For this reason Jesus Christ explained the Kingdom of God through many symbols, signs and parables.

a. Jesus compared Kingdom of God with a mustard seed. In the region of Jesus a mastered plant is very big, but as a seed it is very small. But when it grows and becomes a tree, it becomes the largest plant of the garden. In branches of that tree the birds roost.

b. Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to the Yeast. Yeast should be mixed up till it all is leavened.



Kingdom of God is like a tree

c. Jesus compares again the Kingdom of God to a treasure hidden in a field. A man finds it, selling all what he has and buys that land.

Jesus invites all to enter into the kingdom of God through his parables. But the final decision to accept is ours. To gain the Kingdom of God we have to sacrifice something and lead life according to His words.

Task : How can we be the citizens of the Kingdom of God as students? Discuss in a group.

Lesson-2: Revealing the kingdom of God through miracles

Jesus uses parables to make clear the term kingdom of God to us. He uses miracles as symbol for the fullness and to express the kingdom of God. The truth reveals through his miracle works that he has come from God. These works helps us to deepen our faith. These miracle works reveal his divine power and strength. The coming of the Kingdom of God in this world means defeat of evil or devil. Jesus frees people from the effect of evil spirit by driving away the demon. Jesus' victory over the evil spirit forecasts the conquer of Jesus. Jesus settles down the kingdom of God by dying on the cross.

Task : Select one of the Jesus' miracles. Write down how does that event reveals the kingdom of God and how the power of Jesus to perform miracle works.

The key to the Kingdom of God

Key is the external sign of power. As we know the responsibility of the key of a house or institution is not given to an unknown person. The person, who can realize the obligation and bear it, is given the responsibility.

Jesus appoints twelve disciples during his proclamation time so that they stay with him and participate in his missionary work. Peter is one of the most important among the twelve, whom Jesus calls rock and he has built his church on this rock. Jesus bestows the key of the Kingdom of God to him. Whatsoever he sets free in this earth shall be freed in heaven. Whatsoever he holds in this earth shall be hold in heaven. Lord Jesus gives Peter the responsibility to take care of his sheep. Bestowing the key to Peter and Peter's role as the successor is the sign of the presence of the Kingdom of God to us.

Lesson 3: Healing the evil spirited person

There are the effects of good and evil on every person. Sometimes good becomes stronger and sometimes the evil one. In the same way, in the earth also has the effect of both good and evil. As we see, sometimes the good performs the stronger role, and sometimes, as if evil is grasping everything. Man can make the world more beautiful by the virtue of his good power. At the same time man can destroy the world applying his evil power. The holder and the bearer of the evil power is the Satan. This evil spirit is present from the very beginning of the earth. Jesus fights against the evil power and defeats it. The conflict between good and evil is going on among the people even today.

Task: Make a list in group, where the evil power is active in the real world and how can one escape the evil power away.

Good Angel and Bad Angel

Lord Jesus Christ has driven out many evil spirits and through it expresses his victory over the evil power. We should have a clear idea about Angel (Holy Spirit) and Devil (Evil Spirit) before going through the incidents where Jesus drives out the devil in the Holy Bible. As we know, Angels have the spirit only but not the body. God creates them to worship God in the heaven for good, to serve him and to be delighted in Him with the sight of God. They are God's beloved. God uses Angels to convey his messages to mankind. For instance, God sends Angel Gabriel to the shepherds to give the message of the birth of Jesus Christ. Angels were sitting at the grave of Jesus and told the disciples the message of resurrection of Jesus. Besides these, God has engaged Angels of Protection to save us. They are constantly giving us protection as our friends and protectors.

On the contrary, Bad Angel has only soul, they have no body. They are also very powerful but their strength is not unlimited. The main task of Bad Angel is to avert the formation of Kingdom of God. Bad Angels commit some destructive works in this world but to the strength of God that comes to no consideration at all. When a person is guided by the strength of Satan, he is controlled by the Evil Angel. The task of Satan is revealed in this world in different ways. It may also happen that a person becomes the tool of Satan even against the self intention.

Task: Differentiate between Good Angel and Bad Angel.

Driving Away of Evil Angel by Jesus

By studying the New Testament it is ascertained that Jesus has cured people pre occupied by Evil Angel eight times. The list of this has been given below:

1. The dumb and blind pre occupied by Evil Angel (Mathew 12:22-28; Mark 3:22-27; Luke 11: 14-23)

2. The daughter of a Canaanite woman pre occupied by Evil Angel (Mathew 15 :21-28; Mark 7:24-30)

3. The dumb man pre occupied by Evil Angel (Mathew 9:32-33; Luke 11 :14-15)

4. The boy patient of nervous system pre occupied by Evil Angel (17: 14-20; Mark 14- 29; Luke 9:37-43)

5. The man of Garrison pre occupied by Evil Angel (Mathew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39)

6. A man from Kafarnaum pre occupied by Evil Angel (Mathew 7:28-29; Mark 1 :23- 28; Luke 4:31-37).

7. Maria of Magdalena (Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18).

8. The crippled woman preoccupied by Evil Angel (Luke 13: 10-17)

Task: Act out some of the incidents of Jesus' healing the people preoccupied by Evil Spirit.

We can understand from the above list that Lord Jesus has cured a number of people pre occupied with Evil Angel. Once a man troubled with Evil Angel was brought to Lord Jesus. The man was dumb and blind. Jesus cured the man. Instantly the man got back his eye sight and strength of speaking and everybody present there were amazed to see this miracle. All were chanting slogans with the appreciation of Jesus. But the Persians instead of being happy started telling that Jesus was driving out Evil Angel with the strength of chief of Evil Angels Beelzebub. Jesus knew their thinking. So He argumentatively told them that a kingdom divided in conflict is destroyed very soon. At the same way if Satan haunted Satan they themselves would get divided among themselves. Thus that kingdom should not last long. He asked the Persians when their disciples drive out satan with whose strength do they do it? That is not certainly with the strength of Satan. They did not answer that question. Accordingly Lord Jesus did not answer any question of them. We know that Lord Jesus Himself drives out satan with the strength of Only Soul. This is how He reveals out the Kingdom of God to Human beings.

So it is evident that Jesus has dominated over all evils through the strength taken from One and Only God. He has not come to destroy the evils but to look after so that the human being may not be the slaves to evils. Human being should fight against evils and enjoy the freedom and continue to extend the Kingdom of God. We have discovered the Kingdom of God through Lord Jesus.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the meaning of Kingdom of God in this world?

    a. Defeat of Jesus
    b. Defeat of disciples
    c. Defeat of Satan
    d. Defeat of Maria

2. Why does God reveal the mystery of the Kingdom of God?

    a. For justice
    b. To change mind
    c. For religiosity
    d. For truthfulness

Read the passage below and answer the questions 3 and 4

Kona has been working as the head of an institution for a long time. It has become difficult for her to work for the institution for her old age. She thinks that Komol is perfect for this position among all other colleagues. Komol serves the poor and needy besides his toil for the development of the institution.

3. What character of Peter is revealed in Komol?

    a. Tendency to serve
    b. Humanity
    c. Cooperation
    d. Responsibility

4. Dissimilarity of works between Komol and Peter

i. Serve the poor and needy
ii. Evangelization
iii. Miracles

Which of the following is correct?

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

Creative Questions

1. Having gone to a Middle East country Michael saw the country very much disciplined. He thought that its administration, law and order, communication all are much planned. The people of the county have been living in peace and happiness by the sound governance of the king. Staying beside the people king helps them in all the difficulties. People are also co operating the king to maintain peace in the kingdom.

a. Who are called to be the citizen of God's Kingdom?
b. How should we lead our lives to enter into the Kingdom of God?
c. Explain which characteristic of God's kingdom is evident in the country that Michael saw.
d. Differentiate between kingdom Michael saw and the kingdom mentioned in your textbook.

2. Bina and Rita are brilliant and bosom friends. Besides studying they take part in extra curriculum activities in the school. After a few days, it has been noticed that Bina has started to behave unusually. He got involved with addicted friends and eventually became addicted himself. He began to neglect his studies. At one point, he realized his mistake. Though he tried to return to the right path, he could not. There was a battle between good and evil forces within Bina.

a. Whom has God nominated to save us?
b. Why has God created Angels?
c. Explain the influence of which power exists in Bina?
d. "There was a battle between good and evil forces within Bina". Analyze this statement in light of the textbook.

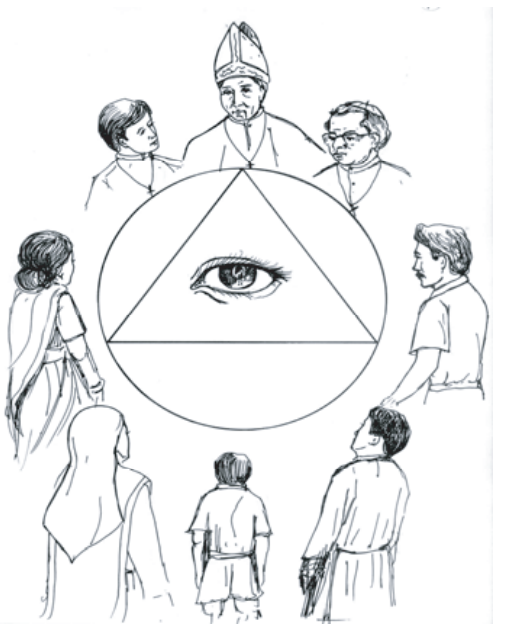
Short Answer Questions

1. Why did Jesus use miraculous works as signs?
2. What is meant by the Kingdom of God?
3. How were the mysteries of the Kingdom of God revealed?

Chapter Eight

The Church of Christ is One, Holy and Apostolic

An active member of the Church should have clear cut idea about the church of Christ. We should know it clearly that the Church of Christ is mainly one and universal though they are divided in to small fractions. Because it is Christ who himself has established it. He is God. He is the source of all holiness. That's why the church is holy. Christ sent his apostles to preach the word to the people of the whole world. That's why the church is apostolic. As a result being the members of the one and holy church of Christ we all are apostles, because all have to fulfill these duty and responsibilities. For this reason we should even know more about the church.



We all are one in the church of Christ

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to –

- explain - the church of Christ worldwide one and universal
- explain the significance of holiness of the church of Christ
- explain the apostolic characteristics of the church of Christ
- explain the role of the Church of Christ to establish unity in the society and to maintain it
- lead our life with the mentality of unity, holiness and apostolic service in the society

Lesson 1: The church of Christ is one

The appearance, behavior, conduct, the mode of talking, outlook and so on are different from all others. In many a case we may find some similarity of one with the other, but complete similarity may not be found in one with another. In spite of one's being different from the other there is a general similarity in every one. The similarity is that we all are human being. We all have flesh and blood. We all have hands, eyes, nose, ears and so on. We all live by taking oxygen from the air. Let's give another example. We see a glass of water as liquid and again we see frozen as ice. We can evaporate the same water by making it hot. As a result water can be seen as liquid, hard and evaporated condition. Similarly in spite of some differences in size or characteristics in the church of Christ we all are one.

To reconcile with mankind and to establish unity God sent His only son to the world. Christ wanted as he and the Father are one so that all men become one. All may live united in the same Christian communion and faith. So that all remaining united may take part in extending the church.

Task : What are necessary to build unity in coordination with a group of fifteen persons; write that discussing in the group and present it.

In group discussion we saw which subjects are most important to keep in unity in group. Similarly the church of Christ is same from the beginning till today. This unity will continue from age to age.

For these reasons mentioned below the Church of Christ is one:

1. Founder: The church of Christ is one for the cause of the founder. In God's plan church is established through the Son of God. Lord Jesus is the head of the Church. He has always given strength, courage and the strength of mind to lead the Church. Under His supervision and direction we all are united. He fulfilled the will of His Father through the chosen person. And He built a holy society.

2. Spirit: The church of Christ is one for his Spirit. Lord Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to his Church on 50th day. Only for the Spirit from the beginning of the earth till the end the church is guided in search of unity and will be so. Being shrouded with the same Spirit, all are the different parts of the church.

3. Love: The church of Christ is one for its love. The revelation of the Spirit took place through the love of God the Father and God the Son, and being under the

Spirit the church is born or introduced. Showing that love to one another the Christian faithful are united in fraternity.

4. Faith, Sacrament and apostolic heritage: The church of Christ is the unity of the visible communion through faith, sacrament and the apostolic heritage. There is one faith in the Church of Christ. We believe in the same creator. That's we are graceful with the same grace of sacrament and we are led by the Holy Spirit as the Christian faithful.

Task : Write why it is necessary to have unity in the church and present it in front of all.

Lesson 2: The church of Christ is universal

The traditions, behavior and rituals of the various countries and races are dfferent. From the part of the Christian faithful they are within Catholic or different protestant churches. Yet, from the inception of the church we all are universal. The word 'universal' in other word means Catholic. Christ chose his followers, appointed and sent them to all men of all nationalities of the world. He also said, “You go everywhere in the world. Preach the good news to all.” He also said, “The power of death will never be able to defeat the church.” Jesus said this because He was always there as the guide and savior. In inception of the church in different countries, in the presence of the people of different languages, the universality of church was revealed and will exist till the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Church became universal by remaining connected with the center of the church of Christ. Lord Jesus Christ himself founded the church and laid down its responsibility on the apostles. Jesus named Peter as stone. He built his church on the stone. In Peter's strong base of faith he laid down the responsibility on Peter. The other Popes as the heirs of Peter later took the responsibilities of looking after the church. Small churches as well as the bigger churches both connected with Rome are working for all. Love is the inspiration of apostolic work. Love is the inspiration for the apostolic work. Church is spreading the love of Christ all around through its leaderships.

Besides, our belief in and the sacramental service responsibility in same Jesus has given us universality. The presence of some small churches and religious rituals are different. Yet, all the Christian faithful are baptized in same Christ. In many cases all the churches have numerous similarities. For that reason there

is a relentless striving to establish unity among them,. This is a big challenge for the church of Christ. Any time anyone will be able to include in this. The church has stretched out the hands of its service for all and spreading Christian love among all.

Tesk: You will go to a institution close to you and express the universality of the church taking part in the work of service for all.

Lesson 3: The church of Christ is holy.

Holy means pure and unadulterated, with this word the sinless and dirt less condition is also meant. The son of Jesus came to earth to establish church. Because the heavenly Father made a plan to bring back all, to the path of heaven. God created man after His own image, means he created man like Him. But man lost that image of holiness by sins. That's why to give them that image means holiness, God sent His Son. By coming here the Son brought back holiness by giving his own life. He established a church so that the work may continue till the end of the earth. This is why the church of Christ is holy.

Lord Jesus Christ is holy himself. The church established by him is also holy. He clothed the church by giving the Holy Spirit. Comparing the church as his bride and body He gave His holiness. He made them his own. Fraternal love is the image of holiness, all is called to achieve that. This fraternal love leads the Church towards achieving holiness, makes it meaningful and fulfills it.

Our earth is like a land. There are good plants and weeds side by side. We might have remembered the parable of the seeds of wheat and weed. In that story Jesus told an interesting story. The owner of a land sowed the seed of wheat. But in the same land, his enemy sowed the seeds of weed in the dark of the night. The plants of wheat and weeds look like the same. That's why they began to grow in the same way. But the difference was seen when they reached full height, just before bearing the crops. The servants of the land lord wanted to uproot the weed in ahead of time, but the land lord did not agree because he had a fear if they uproot the weed they will uproot the plants of wheat as well. That's why he gave chance to them both to grow together.



The relationship of the holiness of heart with of the face

Through this Jesus meant the owner is God Himself and the wheat is good people and weed is evil man, the land is the earth. The enemy is the Satan. In this earth there is co - existence of good and bad people. God does not want the destruction of the sinners; rather He wants the sinners to come back to Him changing their mind. That's why he waits and gives opportunity.

It is seen in the earth many respond fully to that call by leading a holy life. By recognizing them the church gives them the dignity of saints. Christ also gives us that same call, so that following their footsteps, we may make us holy.

Task: Discuss in pair and present it in the class what is the meaning of being holy" and how to become holy.

Lesson 4: The church of Christ is apostolic

Our parents and superiors send us to different places for work. Our parents choose us to do this special work and send. It means we are sent. From the very beginning the church of Christ was sent for apostolic work, because Christ himself is sent by his Father for special purpose. We can call the church of Christ holy for these special meaning.

1. The church of Christ is built on the base of faith of apostles, specially to be his witness and sent for the apostolic work.
2. With the help of the Holy Spirit the church of Christ got the lesson from the mouth of the apostles, they up keep them and reach them to men.

3. Being united with the central administration with the help of the Bishops, Priests and the Pastors and carrying on the work of teaching, making it holy and leading it till the coming of Jesus again.

Lord Jesus himself was sent. But he does not do anything alone. He says, I cannot do anything of my own, preach whatever I have received from the Father and include the others. As Jesus cannot do anything without Father as such we cannot do anything without the help of Jesus. We all are called and sent to witness the resurrection of Lord Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Task: Write what sort of apostolic work you can do in your family, school and local society.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who is the source of all holiness?
   a. God
   b. Jesus
   c. Holy Spirit
   d. Heavenly angel.

2. How are people united in brotherhood?
   a. through service
   b. through love
   c. through sharing
   d. through faith

Read the following passage and answer questions 3 & 4

Two brothers, who are siblings, are in a severe conflict over land. Observing this, an elder from the village, Mr. Milon, sits with them to discuss and establish peace between the two.

3. Whose inspiration helped Mr. Milon to take up the above work?

   a. Priest
   b. Church
   c. Holy Spirit
   d. Jesus Christ

4. Through Mr. Milon's actions in society –

   i. Harmony will be established
   ii. Love will increase
   iii. Mutual dependence will grow

Which of the following is correct?

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

Creative Questions

1. Due to Father Rupom's love for the Church and his hard work the Church grew spiritually. But one young man of the Church, Shimanto, without the knowledge of the priest, starts working against the Church and tries to lead other young man astray. Upon realizing this, the church secretary informs the priest and suggests expelling Shimanto from the congregation. But the priest says, "No need to expel him. Give him a chance." Gradually, Shimanto realizes his mistakes and returns to the right path.

a. What is meant by holy?
b. Why did the Son of God come to earth?
c. Through which of the priest's teachings did Shimanto return to the right path? Explain.
d. What could be the result of Shimanto's holy life, in your opinion? Give your opinion based on textbook information.

2. Mother Teresa was a European and a Christian. But her love is open for people of all nations and religions. She never considered religion, nation or nationality differently. With her sisters who followed her, she established "Missionaries of Charity", a religious congregation to serve the humanity. She founded "Nirmal Hriday" (home for the destitutes), "Shishu Bhavan" (orphanage for the children), "Naba Jibon Abash" (home for the retarded children), "Prem Nibash" (resident for the lepers), and many others to extend her services for the people. She lived in the community with her sisters giving them responsibility to look after the various programs and she herself remains as their model.

a. What is the inspiration of apostolic work?
b. Why is Church holy?
c. What teaching of the Church inspired Mother Teresa to do the above works?
d. 'Church of Christ and Missionaries of Charity' both are universal. Evaluate in the light of the stimulus.

Short Answer Questions

1. How did the Church begin?
2. Why is the Church holy?
3. In what sense do we call the Church apostolic?

Chapter Nine

Forgiveness, Endurance And Patriotism

Forgiveness, endurance and patriotism are not only social and human but also religious value. It is better to do any work with forgiveness in mind. Endurance brings maturity in our, thought, manner and action. Patriotism strengthens our minds to do something good.



Forgiveness and reconciliation

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to–

- explain the concept of forgiveness according to the Holy Bible
- explain the benefits of forgiving
- explain the result of forgiving or unforgiving
- explain the Bible's teaching about endurance
- explain importance of endurance in social life
- describe how we can attain endurance
- describe the meaning of patriotism
- describe the teaching of Bible about patriotism
- encourage to love our country as a tolerant and pitiful person

Lesson 1: Teaching of the Holy Bible about forgiveness

Task : Take paper and pen.Write down the scripture given below in your own paper and meditate one minute silently, what God wants to tell us.
"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."(Ephesians 4:32)
Share with others if you have forgiven anybody or if you have been forgiven for any fault.

Now we shall read two stories one by one and write down in the paper what we would do in that situation.

1. First event:

Anna and Nomita are very close friends. Anna believes her friend Nomita very much. Once she shared a very secret matter with Nomita. She thought that Nomita would not discuss with anybody about that, but Nomita disclosed the secret to another friend instead of keeping it secret. Nomita not only revealed Anna's secret, but she also added some words of her own with that. Anna got shocked because her friend promised to her of maintaining secrecy, but she didn't. For this reason she got angry on Nomita. She decided that she would not talk to Nomita anymore.

Task : Think personally What would you do if same situation happens in your life.

2. Second event:

One day the teacher gave the students a group discussion. Before going to group discussion Sagar took out his wrist-watch and put it on the table. He sat at another place for the discussion. When he came back to his sit from the group he did not find his watch. He asked all the students but nobody confessed of taking that. Sagar was upset. The following day, before going to school Dip went to Sagar's house. He confessed to Sagar that he had taken the watch. He returned the watch and asked forgiveness in regretful heart. Sagar became happy and said, "My friend I must forgive you because you have come to me courageously and confessed your guilt and given the watch back. I assure you that I will forget all about that." Again they became friends.

Task : Everyone write in paper personally and present, what you would do if you were in the place of Sagor

Our redeemer Jesus Christ taught us with His life to forgive. Now we shall read a scripture. Jesus told the crowd-"you have heard that it was said in the ancient time-you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."(Matthew 5:43).

The enemies seized him and sought false testimony against him; they blamed him without any fault. One of his friends betrayed with him. Jesus said nothing. He had no intention of taking revenge. He approached to Calvary carrying a big cross. They spat in his face, he was slapped, fisted and kicked and also whipped by them. He was crucified nailing on the cross. The enemies offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; while he was thirsty. He tolerated it silently. Jesus prayed humbly to father, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34).

We have to forgive each other to get God's forgiveness

Task : Discuss the questions given below in group:

1. Share with others in group, if you have forgiven anybody anytime any day.
2. How can you win the heart of someone and truly forgive against whom you have the attitude of revenge?
3. How does the prayer teach you to forgive?
4. How can Jesus teach you to forgive?

Our heavenly Father forgive us, if we repent and ask his forgiveness for our sins. God never recalls the sins what he has forgiven once. In the same way, we also should not recall any fault after forgiving.

Let us meditate upon the Verses from the Bible given below:

Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Should I forgive for seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

(Matthew 18:21-22)

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

(Ephesians 4:32)

Let us remember again the two events we have discussed above. Revise again the previous answers according to those events. Now I can change my comment if I want.

Task : Discuss the questions given below and prepare a report in group:
1. What behavior would I do with Nomita if I were in the place of Anna?
2. How did they feel in heart if they had really forgiven Anna and Sagar?

Lesson 2: The good effect of Forgiving and the bad effect of unforgiving

It is sure that the effect of forgiving is always positive and effect of unforgiving is negative. Let us see the good effects first.

Good effects of forgiving

The good results after forgiving the rages against anybody are:

1. There remains peace in the heart, mental health remains sound.
2. Decreases the trauma, mental pressure or uproar and hostility.
3. Grows sympathy and compassion for others.
4. There establishes a good relationship with others.
5. Spirituality can be developed, i.e. it becomes possible to build up a good relationship with God.
6. Blood pressure remains comparatively less.
7. Frustration is eliminated.
8. There hardly remains any desire for drug addiction.
9. Illustrate self as a model to others.
10. Family bondage is reaffirmed.
11. Every moment of life can be filled with peace and pleasure.

The bad effect of unforgiving

We feel sorrow and get angry when someone who is very nearer or whom we believe very much hurts us. If we nourish those feelings day after day in our minds, harshness nests firmly in our heart.

1. We want to take revenge against that man and hostile attitude comes upon us.
2. If we allow our negative feelings to grow that ruins our positive feelings. And so forth bitterness and injustice becomes active in our mind.
3. If we deny forgiving, we spoil ourselves.
4. We have to pay a great value for unforgiving. Harsh attitude comes into our mutual relationship.
5. We are busy with past in our mind. As a result we can not enjoy the joy of reality.

6. Frustration starts to work in our mind. So life becomes unpleasant and valueless to us.
7. Spiritual life does not attract us. We lose the way to heaven.
8. Our relationship with others breaks. We become lonely.
9. The possibility of failure increases in every work and the relation with all other is spoilt.

Task: A reunion program can be arranged. As a result everyone may have a chance to go to each other to beg pardon and to forgive, and everybody shall get experience of forgiveness in reality.

Lesson 3: Endurance

Endurance means the desire or the ability to control the cruelty or bore feelings. Endurance stands for calm and intense perseverance. We call a person the man of endurance who can tolerate persuasion, instigation, boredom, accident, delay, troublesome situations, suffering, pain etc. That person can tolerate these with restraint and patience.

Whatever we do in our lifetime, endurance is needed for all. We often remain confined in a place in traffic jam; have to stand in a long queue to receive money from bank or for buying ticket somewhere else. There are no results of anger and shout in those places. There is no way without waiting with endurance there.

Teaching about endurance in the Holy Bible

Saint Paul says, "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently." (Romans 8:25)

Saint James says, "As you know, we consider blessed those who have perse-vered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. He was supposed to do that. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." (James 5: 11)

Saint James has given Job's example. As we know, Job lost all his wealth, children, pet animals even the capitals he had. His wife and his friends induced him in many ways. Job has overcome all the temptations, because he did not want to commit any sin leaving God. It is written in the book of Job, "In all these, Job did not commit sin by charging God with wrongdoing" (Job: 1 :22). Job's wife advised Job to leave God. Job answered his wife, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept only 'good' from God, and not trouble?"

Saint Peter says: "Here you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by

fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." (1 Peter 1 :6-7)

It is written in proverbs: "Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you." (Proverbs 20:22)

Saint Paul says: "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus"(Romans 15:5). Again he says, "Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."(Romans 5:3- 4) Saint James says: "Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."(James 5:7)

Lesson 4: Practice of endurance in personal and social life

All the virtues we have as a human being, endurance is the most essential virtue we need in every work and every moment. Jesus says to His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me "(Matthew 16:24). Jesus wants to illustrate by this that adversity, sufferings, mental agony must come in the life of a true follower of Jesus. One has to endure all these in the name of Jesus. These will come to that person's life because that person loves Jesus.

The word **'endurance'** is derived from a Latin word **'patiencia'**, which means "to suffer and endure". There are so many things we must endure, whether we want or not. For instance, waiting for food to be cooked keeping on the oven, spending time for study, waiting several months for the results after appearing in the examination, waiting several months after sowing in the field, stopping in the traffic jam, sometime standing hours after hours in the line for booking ticket etc. Time is necessary for all these. Making haste no task can be done well. Besides, we are to be tolerant during the time of walking fast in a crowded road. When we are to go quickly that time we get on a rickshaw or bus and if the rickshaw puller or bus driver does not drive fast then, many times we become intolerant. We are to be tolerant this time too.



As a social being, we can be a real man or can be imitable to others practicing the virtue endurance. We have to be endurable in family, school, and in

the play ground and gathering with friends, in all places and works.

In the time of social customs, rituals endurance must be shown. Others opinion should be respected. Specially during the time of walking on the street and talking to unknown person we should control our behaviour and we should be endurable.

Sometime, we ask for result just after prayer. But, we are to keep in mind God will fulfill my desire when He wants.

Lesson 5: Way to acquire endurance

We often utter a proverb, who endures, he does exist. This proverb means the conquest of endurance is certain. Endurance is an acquirable human quality. We can acquire endurance trying following features:

a. Praying regularly as a pious man and being faithful in God's direction.
b. Taking food by maintaining diet routine and taking enough rest.
c. Not allowing any anger and malice in mind
d. Making balance and overcoming mental depression in work or any situation
e. Showing normal behavior getting success in work or accepting any defeat
f. The life style and works of the famous persons shall have to be followed.
g. Solving every contradiction as soon as possible which causes down fall of the relationship.
h. Helping and working for the neglected, disable and poor people of the society
i. Maintaining line while taking ticket or in any public service such as bank, train or bus
j. We can gain endurance accepting the sorrows, accepting with simple and humble mind when we are deprived from anything.

It is very significant to every human that "Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet. Waiting, patience, and endurance all these are the way of being conqueror. As we know difficulties are increasing in the present world. We should be prepared to decorate our life to face every work and every situation being endurable.

Lesson 6: Patriotism

"Patriotism is a profound affection or love for one's own country. Nationality comes together with Patriotism. Inhabitants of every country have an attraction for their country. Michael Modhusudhon Datta described love for the mother land in a poem "Bongo Vasha" in an excellent way. He wrote:

Oh in this treasury of Bengal so many jewels
Even then, I (a fool) neglect,
Being greedy to grab riches of others, roam
Abroad, begging their culture at some evil days
Passing so many days leaving the real happiness!
Sleepless, starving, engaging the mind at some other business
Busy in finding some pleasures which are hollow;-
Playing in the mosses forgetting the garden of lotus!
The goddess told in the dream later-
"O poor fellow jewels in abundance in your mother tongue,
What had made you then a beggar?
Go back, you ignorant, your home!
Obeyed it with pleasure; found
Store house of riches in the mother tongue in full volume.

Michael Modhusudon says in the poem "Kopotakhho Nod"-

Oh river, incessantly I remember you.
In solitude always I think of you;
Always (as people listen to
Some spell of fantasy) but instead of murmuring
I satisfy my ear with some deception!-
Many countries I've seen, many rivers,
But whose water can satisfy the thirst of this affection?

English poet Samuel Johnson said about patriotism to be "The last shelter for the depraved person." He wanted to mean that, everybody needs a shelter even a criminal or a depraved person. And that shelter is his mother land, the land of one's own.



Freedom fighter of Bangladesh

Mother, soil and motherland these three words are very dearly to all. Love to these three is called patriotism. Harvest from the ground of the country, fruits nourishe human life; woods and nature fulfill our needs with loving care. For that reason love for the country grows in our mind. We shall work with responsibility for the affection to the country as patriot. For that we sing together in our national Anthem:

My Bengal of gold, I love you
Forever your skies, your air set my heart in tune
as if it were a flute.

Teaching from Bible about Patriotism

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring punishment on themselves. Rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For they are God's servants to make you do well. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for they do not bear the sword for nothing. They are God's servant, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoers. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. "(Romans 13:1-5).

Saint Paul wants to say through this to us that, we should love the rulers for the love of our country because rulers are servants of God. So we should not fear for having love. Those who do the evil lack love for the country. They fear the rulers.

Psalm writer wrote:

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
The people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
The LORD looks down from heaven,
He sees all the sons of men;
From where he sits enthroned
He looks forth on all the inhabitants of the earth,
He who fashions the hearts of them all,
And observes all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his great army;
A warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
And by its great might it cannot save.
Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
On those who hope in his steadfast love,
That he may deliver their soul from death,
And keep them alive in famine.
Our soul waits for the LORD;

We learn through this psalm, people from every land must depend on God, because it is God who nourishes and saves them. They get free from the danger and the enemies in the power of God. Saint Peter says in his book 1 , "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy." (Peter 2:9-10)

Saint Peter wishes to tell us that we are connected to God spiritually as His own entity. We can belong to His entity only if we sustain our devotion and love towards Him and comply with all His rules and instructions.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."- Who said?

a. Peter
b. Stephan
c. John
d. Jesus

2. How can one become tolerant?

a. By being patient
b. By forgiving
c. By being considerate
d. By serving

Read the passage below and give answer of the question number 3 and 4:

Prafulla lives abroad, but his heart remains in the village. He constantly visualizes the green paddy fields and river water of his village and hears the chirping of birds. He is amaged of thinking about surrounding nature and atmosphere. He has got a degree on environment from abroad. So he thinks how the atmosphere of the village can be saved. He returns to village and inspires all about this. The people are also inspired.

3. Which characteristic is exposed in Prophullo?

a. Cooperation
b. Endurance
c. Patriotism
d. Self-control

4. Prophullo will not get from this work –

i. Exaltation
ii. Peace
iii. Divine power

Which of the following is correct?

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

Creative Questions

1. Niloy, Ayon and Oishi are classmates. They go to school and play together. They three are very faithful friends. One day Ayon borrows a book from Oishi. Oishi wants back her book just one day before the exam. But Ayon says, "There is no prove that I have taken your book". Oishi gets a great shock. She informs the matter to Niloy. Getting angry Niloy beats Ayon. Ayon realizes his fault and gives back the book. All sorrows of Oishi fade away. But Niloy cannot endure Ayon any way.

a. What does endurance bring in our work?
b. Why has God forgiven us?
c. Which character reveals in Oishi? Explain it.
d. Describe the outcome of the work of Niloy.

2. Sujon and Moitri were going to school by a bus. Driver was driving the bus accordingly. Sujon was anxious thinking that the school gate would be closed. He was looking at his watch frequently and becoming averse to the driver. Suddenly the running bus was stopped. Sujon and other passengers were scolding the driver and speaking ill altogether without realizing what was happening out side. Realizing the worse situation, Oishi asked "Sujon, Why are you scolding the driver? He has no fault. He stopped the bus to avoid an accident. Keep patient you all, don't be angry. Our creator will convey us safely.

a. What is patriotism?
b. Why should we admire the rulers?
c. Which character is expressed on Moitri? Explain it.
d. Evaluate the importance of practicing the character of Moitri in personal and social life.

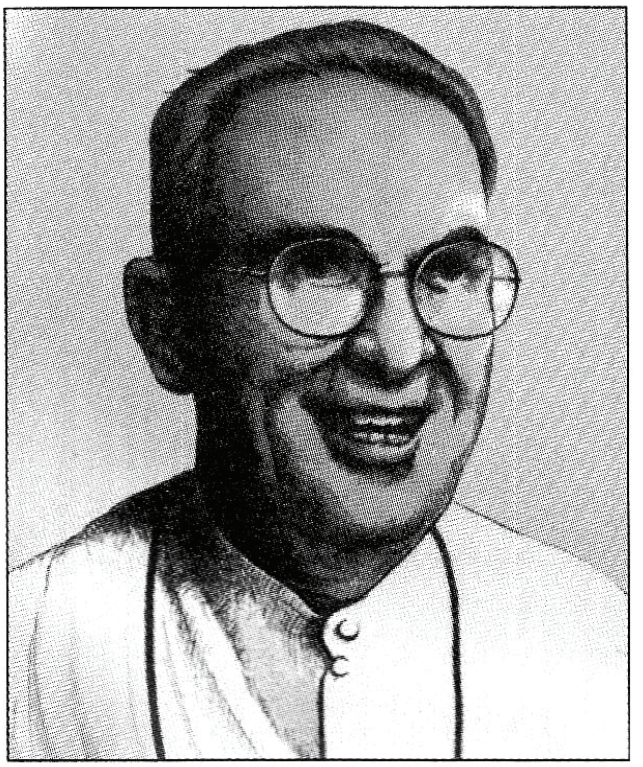
Short Answer Questions

1. What does it mean by patriotism?
2. What do we need to express ourselves?
3. What does it mean by endurance?

Chapter Ten

Father Charles JosephYoung

Father Charles Joseph Young CSC was a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross. He left his parents, siblings, relatives, motherland, and everything and came to Bangladesh (the then East Bengal) to offer his life for Jesus. Besides his ministries as a priest, he experienced God's closeness by serving God's people through social works. He was the father of credit unions in Bangladesh and was also involved with Caritas, Natural Family Planning, and so on. He offered his life for this country, died here and is buried here. In this chapter, we will learn about his life in short and will thank and praise God for his life and work. Side by side we shall inspired to help the poor.



Father Charles Joseph Young

At the end of this chapter, we will be able to–

- explain Father Young's childhood and educational background;
- elucidate the role of Father Young in the establishment of Credit Union.
- expound Father Young's contributions in the eradication of poverty;
- be sympathetic to the oppressed and poor people of the society.

Lesson 1: Childhood and Education

Father Charles Joseph Young was born on 3 June, 1904 in New York, United States of America. His father was Daniel Young and mother was Mary Jennings. Both of their parents came from Ireland. Many years back they migrated to the USA for a better life. Charles' forefathers came to the USA in 1625. The Mary Jennings came a bit later. 'Young' means juvenile. Thus the ideal in the Young's family is to be 'always young'. Father Young was always young in his life and work.

Father Young's father Daniel was a factory worker in the urban city of New York. After getting the job, he married Mary Jennings. The two dreamed of a happy and beautiful family together. To make their dream come true they both worked hard. Three children were born in their family. Charles was the third of the three. Charles' mother Mary died giving birth to her fourth child; the child also died. Charles' father became very vulnerable at the early death of his wife. It was almost impossible for Daniel to work in the factory and to raise his children at the same time. Being somewhat helpless, Charles' father put his children in an orphanage. After a few days he married again and brought the children to his home.

Charles' elder brother Frank used to work at St. Bernard seminary. After two years he moved to another place for studies. Charles' took up his brother's job. Here he did odd jobs such as running errands, guarding the gate, and such other things. He was still there when the First World War was going on.

After completing the primary school, Charles went on to high school for studies. He got admitted at The Most Holy Rosary High School in Syracuse, New York. The school was run by the Sisters of Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Parish Priest of this parish Father Mehan was a very kind man. He inspired Charles to be a missionary to East Bengal by becoming a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Lesson 2: Priestly formation and ordination

Charles entered the Holy Cross seminary in September of 1923 at the age of 21. At that time it was called a minor seminary. This was located on a small hill in the campus of the University of Notre Dame in the state of Indiana. All his classes were held in this university. Father Young had worked as a chaplain in the US army. This responsibility certainly influenced his formation training to lead a lively disciplined life. After completing his studies at the university, he

entered St. Joseph novitiate located in the same campus. Finishing the novitiate year, prayerful and God-loving Charles received his first vows on 2 July, 1925. He received four vows: Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Foreign Missions.

Charles came in contact with many famous personalities during his academic and priestly formation period. His rectors were mostly very well-known persons with many talents. One of them was Father Thomas Erving. He was an expert mathematician and very tolerant person.

The former days of Charles in the seminary were very hard, but they were also spent with much happiness. Father Charles J. Young loved sports very much. Due to his short physical stature, he did not play football and basketball. He played tennis from the beginning of his school days till before his priestly ordination. Like in the sports, he was very active in his works as well. That is why he had enormous physical strength and his physical make-up was well-built. People who did not see him before would always mistaken him as younger than he really was. When someone would tell him that he looked younger than his age, he would respond by saying, "I am always young".

Charles always cherished the thought of going in the mission in abroad even when he was preparing to be a priest in the seminary. Therefore, he would always try to learn numerous new things and acquire various skills. In this way, he became a jack of all trades. He learned a little of many skills from gardening to cooking, plumbing to masonry, and even to be first-aid provider. During his seminary life he enjoyed taking part in the cultural programs and listening to guest lecturers in the university campus. He used to participate in programs that would be of help as a future priest. After his ordination, Charles Young was sent to the Foreign Mission Seminary in Washington D.C. in 1929. On 24 June, 1933 an impossible dream came true. Charles Young was ordained a priest along with his fellow seminarians on that day in the campus of the University of Notre Dame. After that he went to Syracuse to offer his first thanksgiving mass.

In October of 1933, the same year of his ordination, Charles Joseph Young, CSC, left his motherland to go to East Bengal for mission works. Before leaving for Bengal, he had three months in hand. He spent those three months raising funds for missionaries in different countries. On October 14, he left for East Bengal along with some of his fellow priests. In the group was also Father John Harrington, the first principal of Notre Dame College. The group left in a ship from New York. They stopped in Naples and Rome, and then in Mumbai and Kolkatha before reaching Dhaka on 25 November, 1933.

Lesson 3: Father Young in the Founding of Cooperative Credit Union

Father Young came from the wealthiest nation, the United States of America, to work in a poor country like Bangladesh (formerly East Bengal). He worked in Mymensingh area for a long time. He seriously thought of removing poverty from the lives of people and employed various methods to do so. At last, he understood that by cooperative credit unions this nation can change its luck. He was not interested in giving cash money to people. He did not even like this kind of work. He considered it more beneficial to help people stand on their own feet. He had firm belief that with determination, target, hard work and strong intuition, anyone could be free from the curse of poverty. Thus, he wondered about getting himself trained up to do this type of work. He understood that to work on co-operatives, he would need special knowledge and skills. When he was confirmed about this in his own self, he went to talk to Archbishop Graner, CSC. He convinced Archbishop Graner that they were not successful to bring people together merely by personal contacts. Now they understand that they need to bring dynamism in the people to unite them. In this way they need to come out of the society's present serious problems. For this special knowledge and skills are required.

Seeing the passion in Father Young about this idea Archbishop Graner sent him to Antigonish in Nova Scotia, Canada, to study about co-operative credit unions. Father Young studied there from 1953 to 54 for two years and returned to Bangladesh. On his return, he took the initiative to establish co-operative credit unions in Bangladesh (former East Pakistan).

Co-operative Credit Union

It is important to have a clear idea about co-operative credit unions. Credit union can be defined as a process of saving money with a sense of good-heartedness and getting loan at the lowest interest rate. It can also be a way to save the poor from taking loans from money-lenders who charge high interest. Some others think it to be the basis of a better and mature social system. According to Father Young, it is the foundation of a society practiced by the early Christians that was more beneficial and affluent. He used to say to form a society is to form the Church. This would help the local Church reduce its dependency on foreign donations and make them self-reliant in administering the parishes.

Birth of the First Christian Credit Union

After returning from Canada in 1954 Father Young started residing in the Archbishop's house. From here he used to travel to different parishes to conduct trainings for priests and lay people. During this time, the country was going through various critical situations such as riots, political unrest, floods, drought, cyclones, etc. one after another. Despite all of these, Father Young was not disheartened. His dream started coming true. Several preparatory meetings were held with lay leaders. All were convinced that everyone needs money and instead of going to others for it, we have to stand on our own feet. Later in 1955 the first credit union was established in Luxmibazar in the old part of Dhaka city. The first President was Bernard McCarthy and first secretary was Jonas Rozario. The co-operative credit union was named "Christian Co-operative Credit Union Limited". As a slogan they accepted the words of Father Young: "Neither for charity, nor for profit, but for service".



Father Young giving training on credit union

They registered the credit union. Its registration number was 42. At the start its member was 60, and by the year end, the number increased to 110. Following aims and objectives were presented:

a) To grow the sense of frugality in the members;

b) To create a fund for income generation and future needs;

c) To sow the seeds of self-sufficiency and mutual benefit, and improvement of their socio-economic conditions.

The first credit union was moving ahead rather slowly. Its membership rose to 237 in 1959. On its 10th founding anniversary, its membership reached to 876. Most of the people in the city had their original home in a village. When they would go home at vacation times, they would tell others of the success stories of the credit union. For this reason, credit unions started spreading to all parishes.

Mr. Nidhan D'Rozario, in the third issue of "Co-operative News" (Shamobay Khabor), wrote that a clerk, a house-wife, a cook, a nurse, and a student were much benefited by joining the co-operative credit union. They were able to put their full trust in its administration.

Another far-sighted landmark fruit of father young was "The Co-operative Credit Union League of Bangladesh". In short it is called CCULB. It is the central organization of credit unions and was established on 14 January, 1979. At present, it has spread out to people of all faiths and different professions in Bangladesh.

Lesson 4: Role of Father Young in alleviating poverty

Father Young loved the soil and people of this country. His heart was deeply moved by the tears of the poor people of this country. He used to find Christ in the poor and the suffering people. He took his vows to serve God through serving His people. That is why he was seriously thinking how he could free the people from their suffering. He was a person of very strong principles. His deep-rooted belief was that poverty cannot be alleviated by giving alms. By helping people to stand on their own feet is the only way to do it. Thus, he took several initiatives to eliminate poverty from the people.

(a) Eliminating poverty at the parish level: Father Charles Joseph Young worked in Baoibada (Mariamnagar), Biroidakuni, Baromari, Ranikhong, etc. under present Mymensingh diocese for a long time. He united and inspired the people of those places. He ran a paddy-bank for the people of those areas. In 1964, people of those areas were victims of harassment, persecution and plundering. He strongly protested against those atrocities. With immense courage and intellectual sharpness, he helped those poor people live in their own homes. To face their privation, he distributed seeds, domestic animals, and money among the farmers. In this way he created examples of improving the lot of the poor people.

(b) Establishing Caritas: Long before the establishment of the present-day Caritas, Father Young started Caritas in East Pakistan. This Caritas was under the jurisdiction of the International Caritas of Rome. Father Young extended the

works of Caritas to many parishes of East Pakistan. At this time, Caritas used to conduct very few projects in a small scale. Some financial grants were given from Rome for this work. Instead of waiting for funds from Rome, he would inspire people in the parishes to contribute in these projects. Money from this fund would mostly be used for difficult or disastrous situations and for education.

(c) Role of Father Young in establishing CORR: On November 10, 1970, a devastating cyclone hit the Southern part of Bangladesh. Many people were killed by this. Thousands of people lost their near and dear ones, lost homes and crops. After many years Father Young had gone on home leave at that time. Before even a month could pass, Bishop Ganguly sent an urgent telegram to inform him about this cyclone and asked him to return immediately and start relief work. He returned instantly. No sooner had he came back then he dedicated his services for this helpless people. Along with Bishop Joachim Rozario, CSC, of Chittagong diocese and Father Benjamin Labbe, CSC, he founded an organization to distribute relief goods and rehabilitate people named CORR and started working. Before the loss of this cyclone could be overcome, liberation war started in 1971. Father worked for a long time side by side with the director of CORR and other staffs for the welfare and rehabilitation of millions of people affected by the war. This CORR later became Caritas Bangladesh and is working for the emancipation of suffering of poor people in many parts of the country.

(d) Establishing of NFP: Hardworking and learned planner Father Young devoted himself in solving the population problem in Bangladesh. He started to work with a view to bringing the population at an expected level through Natural family Planning. Sister Imelda, SMRA, helped him to do this work properly. NFP started its journey officially in 1983. It is one of the Caritas Bangladesh project now. It has a new name now called 'Community Health and Natural Family Planning' and is working for the benefit of the people. Deceased Father Young dreamt of planned families that will eradicate poverty.

Lesson 5: Father Young is still alive

Father Charles Young died on 14 November, 1988. Many years have already passed for not remembering him, but people have not forgotten him. Instead, people remember him even more these days. Many more institutions / organizations are named after him. Caritas, Credit Union, Natural Family Planning --- all these are not only surviving, lives of innumerable people are

being influenced by them. As the meaning of his name is 'ever young', so are his works. These works are spreading fast to all corners of the country.

Father Young Foundation

Father Young Foundation is the largest and the most important memorial in his honour after his death. In 1991 it started as "Father Young Memorial Fund" and in 1995, its name was changed to "Father Young Foundation". Its objectives are to:

a) Take steps to spread the idea of credit union to the poorest and most neglected groups and help them improve their conditions;

b) Provide technical support for expansion and improvement of credit unions for its active continuation;

c) Help in the development of new leadership in the credit unions;

d) Recognize and reward the best credit union, best cooperator, and best worker publicly.

Some further steps were taken such as,

e) That all credit unions in Bangladesh will declare Father Young as the founder of credit union movement.

f) Preserve the grave of Father Young at Tejgaon Church with due dignity.

g) Encourage the credit unions in the country to name their offices or hall rooms after Father Young.

Credit Union's first president Bernard L. McCarthy wrote:

I feel very proud to have chosen me as the leader of the fifteen day labourers that were hired to dig the ground for putting the foundation stone of the credit union. That amazing person Father Charles Young, CSC, who sowed the seed of an idea to build a union, was very challenging for us. It was not easy to dig the trench for putting the foundation stone. But the deep faith of our people and then service after service, and more service, by piling up one over another, we were able to build the gigantic mansion. We, the founders, pay our due respect to you all because you shouldered the responsibility to keep the credit unions alive and helped its gradual growth.

Sample Questions

Multiple Choice Questions

1. How was Father Young in his works in life?

   a. humble
   b. enthusiastic
   c. young
   d. inspiring

2. What was the meaning of formation of society for Father Young?

   a. forming the local society
   b. forming the local groups
   c. forming the local Church
   d. forming local leadership

Read the following passage and answer questions 3 and 4

Rajat is weak in mathematics. He is habitueted to solve problems coping from others, in his classroom. His friend Samir notice this and helped him understand mathematies. Eventually, Rajat overcomes his fear of math and becomes proficient.

3. Due to Samir's initiative, Rajat can be –

   a. self-reliant
   b. courageous
   c. self-controlled
   d. intellectually bright

4. Which of Father Young's virtues are reflected in Samir's actions?

   i. Removing ignorance
   ii. Offering cooperation
   iii. Providing true help

Which of the following is correct?

a. i & ii

b. ii & iii

c. i & iii

d. i, ii & iii

Creative Questions

1. Besides family duties, Collins does a lot of social development works. Last year after the tornado, Collins went to some remote areas to distribute clothing, food, water and other necessary things to the affected people. His presence inspired the people to live again. Collins comes forward to help the village people to get education. He took steps to repair the damaged schools and colleges of the area and requested funds from various donor agencies for this work.

a. Where did Charles' elder brother work?

b. " Father Young is ever young? " What is meant by this sentence ?

c. Works of which organization of Father Young did inspire Collins? Explain.

d. Do a comparative discussion of the works of Father Young and Collins.

2. Anima, a resident of Pahartali, is deeply religious and has strong moral values. She teaches people to be frugal and self-reliant. She helps by collecting surplus income from local people and forming a cooperative society. This society provides loans on easy terms to its members during times of need.

a. What is full name of the organization CCULB?

b. What kind of work does Caritas do for the people of Bangladesh?

c. Works of which organization of Father Young inspired Anima?

d. Evaluate „The role of Anima and Father Young in poverty alleviation" in light of your textbook.

Short Answer Questions

1. Why did Father Charles think of forming a cooperative Credit Society?
2. Why did Father Charles not want to help people with cash handouts?
3. Why did poor people love Father Charles very much?

THE END

2026 Academic Year

Class Seven : Christian Religion Studies

বাকসংযমী মানুষই যথার্থ মানুষ।

– বাইবেল



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