

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit, one true God.**

**Glory to Him, and may His grace and mercy
be upon us for ever. Amen.**

M.J.S.S.A.

CLASS - VI

TEXTBOOK

Name:

Sunday School:

.....**Ph**.....

PREFACE

Dear Associates in Christ,

Malankara Jacobite Syrian Sunday School Association (M.J.S.S.A.) is functioning as a spiritual organization of the Church, with its headquarters at Puthencruz, in order that the children of the members of Jacobite Syrian Christian Church would nurture depending and fearing in God; they would realize and experience Christ and the light of Christ would enlighten the society through them; and they would become virtue-based citizens by learning the Bible, true faith, history, prayers and liturgy of the Church. On every Sunday, classes are conducted after the Holy Qurbana in a structured way having textbooks from Class I to XII.

Accepting the continuous request of our students, teachers, parents, Reverend priests and Their Eminences Metropolitans to revise the textbooks as per the needs of the present era, M.J.S.S.A. presents such a more attractive and student-centred textbook. This new curriculum tries to introduce Jesus Christ to our kids in various ways such as games, drawings, colourings, songs, and stories.

Masters of the Educational Department have given leadership in this challenging endeavour. M.J.S.S.A. is much obliged to Mr. T.C. Alias Master, Rev. Fr. Varghese Paul Thombra, Rev. Fr. Eldhose Karuthedathu, Rev. Fr. Jijo Varghese, Rev. Fr. Shaji Varghese, Rev. Fr. Jaison Blayil, Rev. Fr. Jyothis Pothara, Mr. Eldhose Mathew, Mr. A.G. Alias Master, Mr. Siju Paul, and Mr. P.V. George. Along with gratefully acknowledging the contributions of the Executive Committee Member Mr. P.V. Jacob as the Coordinator of the Curriculum Committee, M.J.S.S.A. appreciates the efforts of all the Curriculum Committee members. Sincere gratitude also goes to Smart Creations Angamali and Modern Graphics Angamali for the design works. M.J.S.S.A. presents this new textbook curriculum with authentic approval, after several discussions and meetings presided by the President of M.J.S.S.A. His Eminence Mor Aphrem Mathews Metropolitan.

For,

Executive Committee

Chev. M.J. Markose (General Secretary)

To the Parents

Dear parents,

“Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs” (St. Matthew 19:14). Children are the gifts of God. They are good. But today’s world leads human beings to evils. On one hand there are alcohol, drugs, overwhelming influence of media; and on the other anger, hatred, disobedience, and disrespect towards parents and elders... How far our kids are interested in spiritual matters...? Have you ever thought of it? What is its reason?

They have not received true divine feeling. Therefore, unless we grow them carefully today, we may have to regret tomorrow. This textbook is prepared to help the kids nurturing in spiritual experience as well as enhancing their knowledge. And this book becomes worthy, only when the lessons are taught in the intended way. Some activities could be done only with the help of parents. Your dedication and time are necessary for the kids to learn the lessons accurately which is taught on every Sunday. If so, we will surely be able to develop a generation which is filled with Divine Love.

To the Students

Numerous opportunities of colouring, singing, discussions etc. have been given to you in previous classes. Yet, from Class V onwards, you are responsible for doing various activities by reading the Bible. And therefore, you are requested to have your own copy of the Bible. The activities, given to you, are to be completed through preparing notes, stories, descriptions, elocutions, essays and portrayals after reading the Bible. Some activities could be done in the text book itself which but need to be written very carefully, while others could be completed and kept in a file after getting evaluated by your teacher. Please learn all the occasional prayers and songs by heart. Surely this activity oriented learning will enable you to proclaim Jesus boldly. As Jesus had grown in wisdom and stature in favour with God and humans, let us live gracefully before God and our fellow beings by enacting the teachings of Christ in our lives, holding firmly the Christian values, and by knowing our nature and society. Let us move forward by having the same mindset of Jesus Christ.

To the Teachers

Dear Teachers,

Introducing Christ in relation to our kids' day to day living circumstances, the new curriculum is prepared as child-centred. A lesson could be taught in two Sundays. Make sure that each child has his/her own copy of the Bible that s/he needs to prepare notes, descriptions, stories, elocutions, essays and portrayals based on the Biblical portion. There are enough spaces in the textbook itself to do some other activities. Besides, you are expected to give some short assignments too. Precisely, a child needs to be equipped to read the Bible thoroughly and to execute the viewpoints emerged from group discussions inherently. After proper evaluation and grading, you are also encouraged to keep their works in a file. In order to communicate the aims of a lesson to your students effectively, a prior learning of the biblical portion is inevitable. While explaining the Old Testament characters such as Esther, Ruth, Gideon etc., a description of the entire book is also desirable. A teacher's contribution is very much necessary in such activities which enable a child to realize the social commitment of the Scripture. Kindly make use of the textbooks of previous classes as references. Furtherly, make sure that the students write carefully and neatly in their textbook that they may experience the feel of 'my textbook' through their own talent of creative writing. May every child be able to see, know and experience Christ through your commitment as well as this activity oriented learning process of the Bible. Let us pray and prepare for the work in our Lord's vineyard.

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Part I

Prayer

Let us all revise Psalm 51 which we have learnt in Grade V.

(The teacher is requested to make sure that all the kids know it by heart.)

For the Intercession of St. Mary

O Virgin Mother, shield us from all menace that confront us and forbid from us the whirls and tides of this world. O Mother, since you have acceptance in the presence of God, pray that your intercession grant us forgiveness and mercy, heal the sick, bring relief to the afflicted and the return of those who are away to us peacefully.

For the Intercession of Saints

Martyrs, as in the time of deluge, when the righteous Noah protected the beasts that entered with him in the ark, let your intercession protect us from the tides and whirls that encircle this world.

For the Intercession of Patron Saint

St. Thomas, your grace has astonished the heavenly beings. Your glorious name is praised on earth among us. Your good deeds have been counted worthy by your Lord Jesus Christ, and he has revered and upheld your memory. May your prayer be a refuge to us.

Prayer of Repentance

O God, the lover of those who are unblemished and upright, grant us perfection in our hearts. Remove from us all evil and malicious thoughts. O lord, open to us your merciful door, as you did to the thief. Accept our repentance as you had accepted the penance of the tax-collector and the sinful woman. O lord, you are merciful and pleased with those who turn to you in repentance as you graciously pardoned Peter who came to you after he had denied you. Lord, cleanse us from our sins and follies.

O Lord, we, the sinful, are sad about your dispassionate last judgment. When the great books of account are opened and our sins are read, let your grace strengthen us and let your mercy help us. Let our sins be pardoned. O Lord, we acknowledge our sins, have mercy on us.

For the Faithful Departed

Lord, grant good remembrance to the faithful departed who have received your atoning body and blood. Lord Jesus Christ, when you come gloriously with the company of angels, let our departed ones stand before you with praises. Moriyo rahem elain noo'adarain.

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of your mercy on our faces. Lord we confess that we are sinners, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, your love made you descend from your place to us that by your death, our death was abolished, have mercy upon us.

The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

We believe in one true God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of the same substance with the Father, and by whom all things were made, who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, + and was incarnate of the holy Virgin Mary, mother of God, by the Holy Spirit, and became man, + and was crucified for us in the days of Pontius Pilate, and suffered and died, and was buried, + and in the third day rose according to his will, and ascended into heaven, and sat on the right hand of his Father, and shall come again in his great glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the one living Holy Spirit, the life-giving Lord of all, who proceeds from the Father, and who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets and apostles.

And in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and we confess one baptism for the remission of sins, and look for the resurrection of the dead, and the new life in the world to come. Amen. Barekhmor Staumenkalos Kurielaison.

Wisdom Dots

What is Prayer?

Raising our minds to God, adoring His name, praising Him for all His mercies and requesting our needs humbly is altogether called Prayer.

Part II

Old Testament

1 GOD APPEARS TO MOSES

Bible Reference: Exodus Chapter 20

Bible Verse to Learn:

"I will show mercy to thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments." (Exodus 20:6)

Aims:

- ✿ To learn the Commandments of God
- ✿ To learn how to live according to the Commandments

Have you ever heard a priest reading a Bull in your church after Holy Qurbana?
Whose Bulls are usually read?

.....

.....

.....

List all the specific things you have noticed while reading a Bull:

E.g.: All faithful will stand in awe while reading a Bull.

What is the purpose of reading a Bull?

Bishops or other prelates of our church inform important matters to beloved faithful through their Bulls.

Likewise, Ten Commandments are the instructions given by God to Israelites, His own people, through Moses in order to live accordingly.

On their journey to Canaan, when Israelites had reached the valley of Mount Sinai, God commanded Moses to go up to the top of the mountain. When he reached there, God gave His **Ten Commandments** to Moses.



The commandments ONE to FOUR explain the relationship between God and Humans:

- ☆ I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other gods before me.
- ☆ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them.
- ☆ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.
- ☆ Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy; you shall not do any work on the day.

Find out the commandment to which I need to take the following pledges

| Pledge | Commandment |
|---|-------------|
| Worship the True God | 1 |
| Do not swear in God's name | |
| Attend the Holy Qurbana on every Sunday | |
| Give importance to God than wealth | |
| Do good to others | |
| Avoid boasting | |
| Go to Sunday School | |
| Counter superstitions | |
| Do not blame God | |

The FIFTH Commandment connects God and Humans:

- ☆ Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Are you doing? Mark ☒ for 'yes' and ☐ for 'no'

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Pray daily for your parents | |
| Lie to your parents | |
| Get angry to your parents | |
| Mock your parents | |
| Take care of your grandparents | |

TO REMEMBER

Matha Pitha Guru
Deivam
(Mother, Father, Teacher
God)

The commandments SIX to TEN describe the mutual relationship between humans:

- ☆ You shall not murder.
- ☆ You shall not commit adultery.
- ☆ You shall not steal.
- ☆ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- ☆ You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Your Pledges continue...

| Pledge | Commandment |
|---|-------------|
| Do not watch anything bad | |
| Do not be a plagiary | |
| Be happy with what I have | 10 |
| Do not steal anything from my neighbour | |
| Do not blame others | |
| Do not think badly | |

After receiving the Ten Commandments, Moses came down from the mountain. He had in his hands the two stone tablets made by God on which the commandments were inscribed by God's own finger.

Assignment

1. Lord Jesus has précised all the Ten Commandments in Two Commandments. Find out and write down those two from the New Testament (St. Matthew 22:37-40)

1.

2.

2. Write down an essay on 'Honouring your Parents'.

Answer the Following:

1. Write the Commandments which explain the relationship between God and humans?
2. Which is the Commandment that connects God and humans?
3. Write the Commandments which describe the mutual relationship between humans?
4. 'Do not swear in the name of God' - this is related to which Commandment?
5. Which Commandment to be obeyed in order to live long?
6. Which Commandment is related to the pledge - 'Do not be a plagiary'?
7. "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" - Which are the commandments?
8. Write down Exodus 20:6.

Wisdom Dots

How we can love God?

We can love God by leading a life obeying the commandments of God and the church.

What we should do while seeing a church or a cross?

We should draw the sign of cross saying devotionally, "Crucified for us, have mercy on us."

2 Aaron

Bible Reference: Exodus Chapter 7

Bible Verse to Learn: "For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts." (Malachi 2:7)

Aims:

- ✿ To realize the priestly vocation
- ✿ To learn how to respect priests



Malankara Syrian Orthodox Theological (MSOT) Seminary

The place where priests are getting trained in our church.

Name the Vicar of your church? List his spiritual activities?

We respect our priests. Let us learn about **Aaron**, a model priest and his priestly services from the Bible.

Family History

- ⬆ *The name 'Aaron' means 'enlightened'.*
- ⬆ *Son of Amram and Jocheded in the Tribe of Levi.*
- ⬆ *Moses and Miriam were siblings.*
- ⬆ *Elisheba was his wife.*
- ⬆ *Had four sons – Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar.*
- ⬆ *Lived for 123 years.*
- ⬆ *Died at the summit of Mount Hor.*

Election

God said to Moses, "Bring near to you your brother Aaron, and his sons with him, from among the Israelites, to serve me as priests. Put on Aaron the sacred vestments and consecrate him by pouring the anointing oil on his head." Hence Moses anointed Aaron as a priest.

Qualities of Aaron, the High Priest

- ▲ Speak fluently – a good orator (Ex. 4:14).
- ▲ Courageously performed miracle before Pharaoh (Ex. 7:8-13).
- ▲ Interceded to God for Miriam and the people of Israel (Num. 16:46-48).
- ▲ Led Israelites along with Moses (Ex. 24:18)
- ▲ Blessed his people by entering into the Most Holy Place and worshipping God (Lev. 9:22).

After Aaron



After the demise of Aaron, his son Eleazar became the priest. Only the descendants of Aaron were ordained as priests, even during the time of Jesus. Priests used to offer animal sacrifice in the Old Testament times. When Jesus Christ sacrificed himself at Calvary, the animal sacrifice came to an end.

Priestly Succession



Lord Jesus has instituted the Holy Qurbana (Eucharist) at the House of Mark (Upper Room of Sehiyon) and entrusted his disciples to continue it. Through laying of hands by apostles to their successors, the church still endures the same priestly succession handed over by Christ to his disciples.

Assignments:

I. Learn the following songs by heart:

1. When the priesthood passed on down
Moses got it, Aaron too;
Moses passed it to Zachariah
Passed Zachariah on to John
John did pass it to our Lord
Christ ordained apostles twelve
They were sent forth by him
Passed it on throughout the world. Moriyo...

Aadhya-acharyathwam kaikond-
Aharon Mooshayodonnichu
Skariyaykkathu nalki Moosha
Skariya Yohannaneki
Yohannan Karthaavinnum
Kartha than Sleehanmaarkkum
Naana srushti vibha-
gangalkkeki Sleehanmaar. Moriyo...

2. High priest, reverend priests,
and deacons are appointed
On the earth and the church is
adorned by their hymns.

Melpattakkaar pattakkarodu shemmashanmaar
Erppad aakki Karthavivare bhoomi athinkal
Aniyichaar avar anisham thannude sabhaye ivied
Anavaratham cheithetti vasikkum sthithikal athaale.

II. Read Exodus 7: 8-13 and write down the miracle performed by Aaron before Pharaoh:

III. Prepare notes based on the lesson:

Who is a Priest? Explain the succession of priesthood?

IV. Answer the Following:

1. What is the meaning of the name 'Aaron'?
2. Which is the Tribe of Aaron?
3. Name the place where Aaron died and buried?
4. Name the person who anointed Aaron as a priest?
5. Who was the successor of Aaron, the High Priest?
6. Where did Jesus institute the Holy Qurbana?
7. Write down the song, 'When the priesthood passed on down...'?
8. Explain any two miracles performed by Aaron before Pharaoh?
9. Why we need to respect Priests? (Bible verse to Learn)

Wisdom Dots

**From where does the Holy Jacobite Syrian Church get its
Apostolic Succession?**

The Throne of Antioch, the Throne established by St. Peter is the source of
Apostolic Succession in our church.

3 GIDEON

Bible Reference: Judges Chapters 6 to 8

Bible Verse to Learn: "Gideon said to them, 'I will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you.'"

Aims:

- ✿ To realize the Divine Call and act accordingly like Gideon.
- ✿ To live humbly before God and fellow beings.

Write down the names of church prelates according to the order:

Patriarch:

Catholicose:

Diocesan Metropolitan:

Parish Vicar:

These church prelates are specially called to lead us in the way of the Lord. Likewise, in order to deliver Israelites from the oppression of Midianites, God specifically elected Gideon. (Midian is situated to the south of Israel and to the west of Saudi Arabia.) Even his name Gideon means 'mighty warrior'. During Israelites' harvest season, Midianites used to attack them and looted their crops. Being scared of the Midianites, the Israelites, therefore hid themselves away from their fields and cried aloud to God. Lord answered their plea by choosing Gideon as their judge and liberator.

Election by God

One day, when Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, an angel of the LORD appeared to him, sitting under an oak at Ophrah.



Angel: "The LORD is with you, you mighty warrior."

Gideon: "But sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?"

Angel: "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian; I hereby commission you."

Gideon: "But Sir, how can I deliver Israel? I am weak and least in my family."

Angel: "But I will be with you, and you shall win surely."

Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, named it 'Yahweh Slom' (the LORD is peace) and worshipped Him. Afterwards he took his mission and defeated the great army of Midianites just with the help of three hundred Israelites. He was aware that the victory was not because of his power, but only because of God's grace.



Israelites: "Rule over us, for you have delivered us out of the hand of Midian."

Gideon: "I will not rule over you, the LORD will rule over you."

Gideon was not willing to become the ruler of Israel. Instead, he went to his house, led a peaceful life and entered into eternal rest at very old age. Because of Gideon, Israelites were able to live peacefully for forty years.

Assignment

I. Let us meet two people. Please listen to what they are saying?

- ▲ I have gained everything only with my ability and wealth.
- ▲ The secret of my success is my own wisdom.
- ▲ I will live as I wish to.
- ▲ I don't have to fear anyone.



- ▲ Everything what I have is God's gift.
- ▲ Health to work and wisdom to think are given by God.
- ▲ God leads me every day.
- ▲ I will be thankful to God and my fellow companions.



Analyse the thoughts of these two individuals and prepare a short note without exceeding ten sentences regarding, "How I think and act."

II. Write from your own experience:

Divine Providence in My Own Life or Family

IV. Answer the Following:

1. Name the head of the church?
2. What is the meaning of the name Gideon?
3. Why did the Israelites hide themselves away from their fields?
4. Name the place where Gideon was beating out wheat?
5. What was name of the altar built by Gideon?
6. What was Gideon's reply, when the Israelites requested him to be their ruler?
7. What should be our thoughts before God?

Wisdom Tits

What will be the experience of a victorious soldier?

Being a lover of God and an obedient to God's commandments, a victorious soldier will attain the heavenly kingdom, that has been prepared by God for the righteous even from the beginning of the world which has been seen by no eyes, heard by no ears and imagined by no hearts.

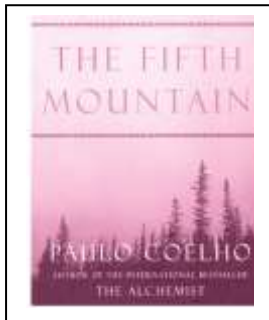
4 Elijah, the Lamp

Bible Reference: 1 Kings Chapters 17 & 18

Bible Verse to Learn: "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16)

Aims:

- ✿ To understand that Elijah is the intercessor for those who struggle from natural calamities.
- ✿ To realize that there is answer for every prayer in any distress.



Answer me , O LORD;
answer me O LORD;
answer me O LORD
and have mercy on me.

*Look at the above pictures and prayer.
Try to answer the following questions.*



1. This is the world famous novel written by Paulo Coelho. Do you know the name of the protagonist of this novel?
2. Invoking the Holy Spirit, this is the prayer said by priest in Holy Qurbano before reading the tubdens. Whose prayer is remembered here?
3. This is the chapel situated to the east of MJSSA Head Quarters in Puthercruz. In whose name, this chapel is constructed?

Have you got the answer? If not, read 1 Kings 17:1 and write it down.

So the answers for these three questions are the same. Let us all learn more about this important prophet Elijah.

When the Israelites were struggling with difficulties, God had appointed a great prophet named Elijah to strengthen and sustain His people. Having been mentioned many times in the New Testament, Elijah, even in the current era, receives a graceful position in human minds as a prophet of miracles.

Ahab was a king of Israel. Influenced by his wife Isabel, he had forsaken the true God and started to worship Baal. Furtherly, he began to persecute Israelites; and therefore, gradually many of them became the devotees of Baal. In order to impeding this movement and to lead the Israelites on right path, God had appointed Elijah. Elijah is also known as the intercessor for those who struggle from natural calamities.

One day God appeared to Elijah and said:



“Go from Samaria and turn eastward and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there. They will give you bread and meat in the morning and in the evening.”

Elijah had obeyed the commandment of God. As a punishment from God, there was neither rain nor dew in the land for two years. Even the wadi Cherith had dried up. Elijah prayed to God and He answered him, saying,

“Go now to Zarephath and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”

So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks.



1 Kings 17:10-24 narrates the conversation between Elijah and the widow. Precise the conversation and write it down:

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a purple border, intended for writing the conversation between Elijah and the widow.

Have you understood that the people of Zarephath were in great misery because of no rain? Yet, Elijah helped them to get out of their distress.



On his way to Jerusalem, when the ship in which St. Gregorios of Parumala was travelling got swept over by a furious storm, he interceded to Elijah and the sea got calmed. Expressing his gratefulness, St. Gregorios built a church in the name of Elijah at Kottayam.

Elijah was a prophet who prayed even in the midst of difficult circumstances and received answers from God.

One day Elijah told Ahab to summon the people from all over Israel, the prophets of Baal and the prophets of Asherah on Mount Carmel. So did Ahab and there assembled all the people and prophets. Then Elijah went before the people and said, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us." One bull was for the prophets of Baal to offer their god a sacrifice, while the other was for Elijah to submit God a burnt offering. The following incidents could be found in [1 Kings 18:22-39](#).

Read it aloud...

What did Elijah pray after placing the bull on the altar? *Write it down...* ([1 Kings 18:36,37](#))

"O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
....."

Remembering this prayer, priest amidst Holy Qurbana invokes the Holy Spirit three times to transform the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, saying, "[Answer me, O Lord.](#)"

The LORD answered Elijah. The fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw this, what did they say, falling on their faces? Write it down...

[1 Kings 18:39](#)

Elijah prayed to God in the midst of people with perplexed mindset. Even though he had to face lot of blames and criticisms, he nullified it by praying with strong faith. God answered him. Let us all have the courage to pray faithfully that God will answer us.

Answer the Following:

1. Who was Elijah?
2. Why did God elect Elijah?
3. What did God say to Elijah during the time of famine?
4. How did Elijah revive the widow's son at Zarephath?
5. Where did Elijah hide himself?
6. Was God please with Elijah's offering? How?
7. What did Elijah pray to God after placing the bull on the altar?

Activities:

1. Write down the qualities of Elijah.



2. Knowing the Difference:

- | | | |
|---------|----|---|
| Elijah | :- | The prophet during the time of Ahab. |
| Elisha | :- | The prophet who was a disciple and protégé of Elijah. |
| Eli | :- | A priest and a judge of Israel before Samuel. |
| Elishah | :- | Son of Javan (Genesis 10:4). |

3. Write a short essay on PRAYER:

Hints:

- ⚙ What is Prayer?
- ⚙ Different types of prayer
- ⚙ Importance of Prayer
- ⚙ Praying for others
- ⚙ Lord's Prayer
- ⚙ Prayer of Elijah

PRAYER

4. Find out the references on Elijah from the New Testament and write it down.

May I help you?

John 1:25

Matthew 17:3, 10, 11, 12

Luke 4:24-26

James 5:17

Romans 11:2

Wisdom Dots

A beautiful novel written about Elijah by the world famous Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho is 'Fifth Mountain'.

Moses, Elijah and Jesus had observed lent for 40 days.

There is a tradition among the Jews. When they observe the Passover (Pesaha), they leave an empty chair for Elijah.

The Old Testament ends by the prophecy of Elijah's return (Malachi 4:5,6).

Write down the prophecy on Elijah's Return

Let us Pray

Through their fasting, Moses had received the stone tablets written by God and Elijah had pleased God. Blessed be the one who observe fasting, praying and pleasing God through their deeds with no jealousy, hatred and evil in his mind.

Amen.

Let us Sing Together

(Tune: Bhoovake namikkum ninne.../All the world adoreth Thee...)

Seeing the prayerful life and
Miracle deeds of Elijah,
Worshipped, praised and adored God
Beloved children of Israel - Haaleluyya.

Leading a life of prayer
Like the blessed Elijah,
No doubt heav'ns will be opened
We be blessed by Lord God - Haaleluyya.

5 The Brave Woman

Bible Reference: Judith Chapters 1 to 6

Bible Verse to Learn: "For the Lord is a God who crushes wars; he sets up his camp among his people; he delivered me from the hands of my pursuers." (Judith 16:3)

Aims:

- ✿ Be fearful to God; then God will be gracious.
- ✿ Depend upon God during trials and tribulations.

Have you ever seen this picture?

Have you learned about it in your school?



This is the picture of Joan of Arc, a mighty French girl lived in fifteenth century, who became a martyr at the age of 19. During the long running revolt of France against England, when everyone was scared of the war, she, having strong faith in God, courageously took over the leadership of French army. And she proved that depending on God's power would help to relieve the fear of failure than depending on one's ability. She also taught us to proclaim the love of God whilst pain

and difficulty.

Let us learn about a courageous Biblical character who lived long before Joan of Arc.

It was the twelfth year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar, the barbarous Assyrian king, made a war against Israel. Holofernes was appointed as the chief general of the Assyrian army. Even though fear and dread of him fell upon all the Israelites, they defended his army with their whole strength. But Holofernes was so brutal that he took the possession of all springs of water and seized Israelites' entire water supply; and hence the people started to faint because of thirst and famine.

The whole Israel gathered around their leader, Uzziah and the judges of the town and cried out with a loud voice, "Let God judge between you and us! Now surrender the whole town as booty to the army of Holofernes and to all his forces."

Having heard this, Uzziah replied, "Courage, my brothers and sisters! Let us hold out for five days more; but if these days pass by, and no help comes for us from our Lord God, I will do as you say."

Then women and children went back to their home, while men returned to their various posts to protect and watch over the town.

Now in those days, **Judith**, a God-fearing widow, wearing sackcloth and spending her widowhood in fasting, heard about these things. Sending her maid, she called the elders and said to them,



"What you have said to the people today is not right; you have even sworn and pronounced this oath between God and you, promising to surrender the town to our enemies unless the Lord turns and helps us within so many days. Who are you to put God to the test today? You cannot plumb the depths of the human heart or understand the workings of the human mind; how do you expect to search out God? No, my brothers, do not anger the Lord our God. Therefore, while we wait for his deliverance, let us call upon him to help us, and he will hear our voice, if it pleases him."



Being a consoling word to them, she continued,

"If we are captured, all Judea will be captured and our sanctuary will be plundered. We should not let them to do it. The Lord scourges those who are close to him in order to admonish them. Therefore, my brothers, despite everything let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

Uzziah, having heard her words, replied, "All that you have said was spoken out of a true heart. Now since you are a God-fearing woman, pray for us, so that the Lord may send us rain to fill our cisterns." Then Judith left the place along with her maid. Uzziah and the judges blessed her.

Judith cried out to the Lord and went on to Holofernes with her maid. She revealed herself to him and lied to him that they have left the Hebrews because they were about to sin against God and when they act upon, on that very day they would be handed over to you to be destroyed. And when she told him that, "My lord, I will remain with you; but every night I will go out into the valley and pray to God. He will tell me when they have committed their sins. Then I will come and tell you, so that you may go out with your whole army, and destroy them," he was pleased well and let her to do so.

On the fourth day, Holofernes invited Judith for a private banquet where they spent their time in eating food and drinking wine. Holofernes was greatly pleased with her, and drank a great quantity of wine and became dead drunk. Making sure that no one left there at that time, Judith, having prayed to God and strengthened herself, took Holofernes' sword that was hung there and cut off his head. Then she wrapped up his head and gave it to her maid who placed it in her food bag. Afterwards both of them went out together, as they were accustomed to do for prayer.

They passed through the camp, circled around the valley and went up the mountain and reached the Israelites. She described everything what was happened. Thus they realized that they were saved from Nebuchadnezzar. They worshipped God and gave him peace offering and thanksgiving offering. The fame of Judith had spread wide around that she came to known as a 'brave women'.

Activities

1. Let us sing together...

Akhilam njaan aran-njittum

Daiva bhayathe mikach onnum

Njaan dharshichilla - thal snehathaale

Dhaarmikanaam Yousep aarnnu Misrem raajathvam

Mahithan Moosha vibhaagichaan vadiyaal varidhiye

Haananiya-adhyanmaar athinaal

Agniyil ninnum rakshithar aai

Thankathekkal athu kaamyam

Mathuvilum athu madhuram paaram

Deiva-araadhanaye - snehippon dhanyan.

(I have searched out everything; nothing found to be better than fearing God. By loving God, Joseph became the King of Egypt, Moses divided the sea with his staff, and Hananiah and the other two were rescued from fire. It is beautiful than gold and sweeter than honey. Blessed is the one who loves worshipping God.)

6 RUTH

Bible Reference: Ruth Chapters 1 to 4

Bible Verse to Learn: "Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Aim: To understand that 'salvation is for everyone'.



Map of the Journey of Elimelech



Exodus of Israelites

What are these pictures speaking to us? (Discussion)

Migration is as old as humanity. It happens even today irrespective of nations or lands. People leave everything and run away because of war, famine, communal riots, terrorist attacks etc.

In the days when the judges ruled Israel, there was a famine in the land. Crossing the Dead Sea, a family from Bethlehem in Judah migrated to dwell in the southern country of Moab. The book of **Ruth** narrates the journey and the then life of Elimelech, his wife Naomi and their sons Mahlon and Chilion. And this is one of the books in the Bible written in the name of a woman.

Find out and write the names of the other books

Moabites, who worshipped their god **Chemosh** and lived in its religious customs and traditions, did not know about the True God **Yahweh**. Yet, Elimelech and his family settled in this foreign land as immigrants and later on his sons Mahlon and Chilion got married to Moabite women Ruth and Orpah respectively.

After her marriage, Ruth came to know more about the True God. Nevertheless, the entire family had to face very difficult situations gradually that Naomi had lost her husband as well as her sons. Then she requested both Ruth and Orpah to go back to their own people. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and went to her home, while Ruth clung to Naomi and said,

"Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."



From these words, we could realize the depth of her confession of faith in True God.

When the famine was over, Naomi took Ruth and went back to Bethlehem, the place known as the 'House of Bread'. And that was the time of barley harvest in Bethlehem. Having reached there, Naomi met her relatives and shared all bitter experiences she had to face in Moab. She consoled herself by submitting everything to God, the 'omnipotent'.

In order to find her livelihood, Ruth wanted to go for 'gleaning the heads of grain'. Naomi let her to go, saying, "Go, my daughter". As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, a prominent and rich kinsman of Elimelech. From his servants, Boaz knew about Ruth; and granted her permission not only to glean and gather the sheaves, but also to drink water from the vessels of young slave men, if she had felt thirsty. Being thankful to him who had shown mercy to her though she was a foreigner, she bowed down before him. Boaz blessed her and said,



"It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!"

Boaz had gone to the city gate, met the elders there, and done the arrangements to redeem her. Then he became her redeemer in the presence of the elders and the entire people.

Let us hear the words of Jesus, our Redeemer:

"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for the redemption of many." (Matthew 20:28)



Boaz married Ruth according to the religious rite of Israel. God blessed them with a son and they named him **Obed**. Later Obed gave birth to Jesse, the father of David. And in this genealogy of David, has born our Lord Jesus Christ. Hence, Ruth whom was admired by Boaz as 'virtuous woman', had a significant place in the genealogy of Jesus.

Like Ruth, a foreigner yet believed in true faith through the family of Elimelech, was redeemed by Boaz, everyone who believes in True God will be saved and redeemed by Jesus Christ.

RUTH: A RIGHT MODEL



Activities:

1. Write a brief not on the topic given below:

'A Good Family' in my Imagination

2. In the fourth chapter, Ruth has been compared to various Biblical characters. Write down their names.

1.

2.

3.

3. Let us sing together *(Not to be learned by heart - from the service of Holy Matrimony)*

Moodupadam - vadi mothiram ivayaal

Thaamar vijayam - sambathichu

Pokkanavum kallum kavinayumaai

Vennan Golyathine Dhaaveedhum

Thaamar - uthamayaai moonnaal

Dhaaveed - unnathanaai moonnaal

Samrakshakanaam thrithvathe

Viswaasini paavana sabhayaal

Sthuthi geethathaal keerthikkunnu.

4. Answer the Following:

1. To which country did Elimelech migrate?
2. Which was the birthplace of Ruth?
3. What was the name of Moabite god?
4. Name Ruth's daughter-in-law who kissed her and went back home?
5. What is the meaning of the name 'Bethlehem'?
6. What was the name of Ruth's son?
7. Who was Ruth's husband?
8. Name the person who called Ruth a 'virtuous woman'?
9. Who were Elimelech's sons?

5. Explain the model given to us by Ruth?

Part III

New Testament

7 House of Mercy

Bible Reference: St. John 5:2-15

Bible Verse to Learn: "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6)

Aims: To realize that any feeble will be strengthened, if Jesus is with him.

*The Moment
the light of life
hits them.*



End of Awaiting Moments: The rescue team finds the boys stuck inside the cave. They are safe on a rock in the water-filled cave.

'When to go back? We are hungry.'

The boys stuck in underground cave were found first by the British rescuers John Volanthen and Rick Stanton. Breath taking moments, so as, were captured by one of them; and the Thailand force posted it on their Facebook page.

Picture: Nearly one hundred meters away, when the rescuing team moving forward, cutting through severe darkness using their torches, finds 13 boys sitting on a rock though fearfully but not panic. When light fell on his face, a boy: **Thank you.**

Rescuer (in English): **How many are you?**

Boys: **13**

Rescuer: **13, Brilliant.**

A boy: **Aren't we returning today?**

Rescuer: **Not today. We are just two reached here. Don't worry. Others are on their way, we reached here first, that's all.**

Boy: **What day is today?**

Rescuer: **Monday... It's been 10 days you guys are here. You are very strong, very very strong.**

Boy: **We feel hungry.**

Rescuer: **I know, I know. We'll come back, okay, will come back soon.**

Another Boy (In Thai): **Tell him that we are hungry.**

First Boy: **They told they knew it.**

Rescuer: **We've come, we've come.**

Another boy (In Thai): **We haven't eaten anything. We need food.**

First Boy (In Thai): **I've told them.**

Rescuer: **They will come tomorrow with food and doctor.**

Boys: **We're so happy.**

Rescuer: **We too.**

Boys: **Thank you, Thanks a lot!**

Where are you from ?

Rescuer: **England, UK**

Boys: **OH!**

Have you seen the friends fighting for their life? Let us appreciate the rescue team and pray for them.

Let us sing together:

Sthambithan aai muppathettand oru kattinmel
Bheekara vedhana poondum kidannarum nokkathu
Vezhchakkar koottalikalum vittu odi poi
Karthavavane sandharshippan aai ezhunnelli
Sheekram enetta kkattilum enthi
Santhoshathaal geham chernnaan
Dhainyatha kandu sukham nalkiya naadhan samsthuthyan.



Crippled for 38 years, a man was laid there in agony abandoned by his friends and relatives. Jesus came and healed him; and sooner he took his bed and went back home. Glory be to the Lord who had compassion on him seeing his misery.

The above song and the picture explain a miracle in the Bible. Let us learn about it.

One day Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, there was a pool, called in Hebrew **Bethesda**, which had five porticoes. And in these did lay a great multitude of sick people - blind, lame and paralysed. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain times into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well from whatever disease that person had. One man, who had been ill for thirty eight years, was there; and Jesus saw him.

Write down the conversation between Jesus and the sick person after referring the Bible (John 5:6-9).

Jesus:

Paralytic:

Jesus:

And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. But it was on a Sabbath day. According to the Jewish Law, no one should do anything on a Sabbath day. Therefore the Jews had an argument with the person who had been healed by Jesus.

Let us find out their conversation from the Bible: (John 5:10-13)

Jews:

The Man:

Jews:

The Man:

In the House of Mercy, could not be found a Merciful person.

At the time of the miracle, there was a huge crowd gathered up; and that was the reason why the healed man did not know Jesus. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him,



“See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

Then the man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

ACTIVITIES

1. Research

What are the values that we learn from this lesson?

Let's submit our needs before Jesus.

Be obedient to Jesus.

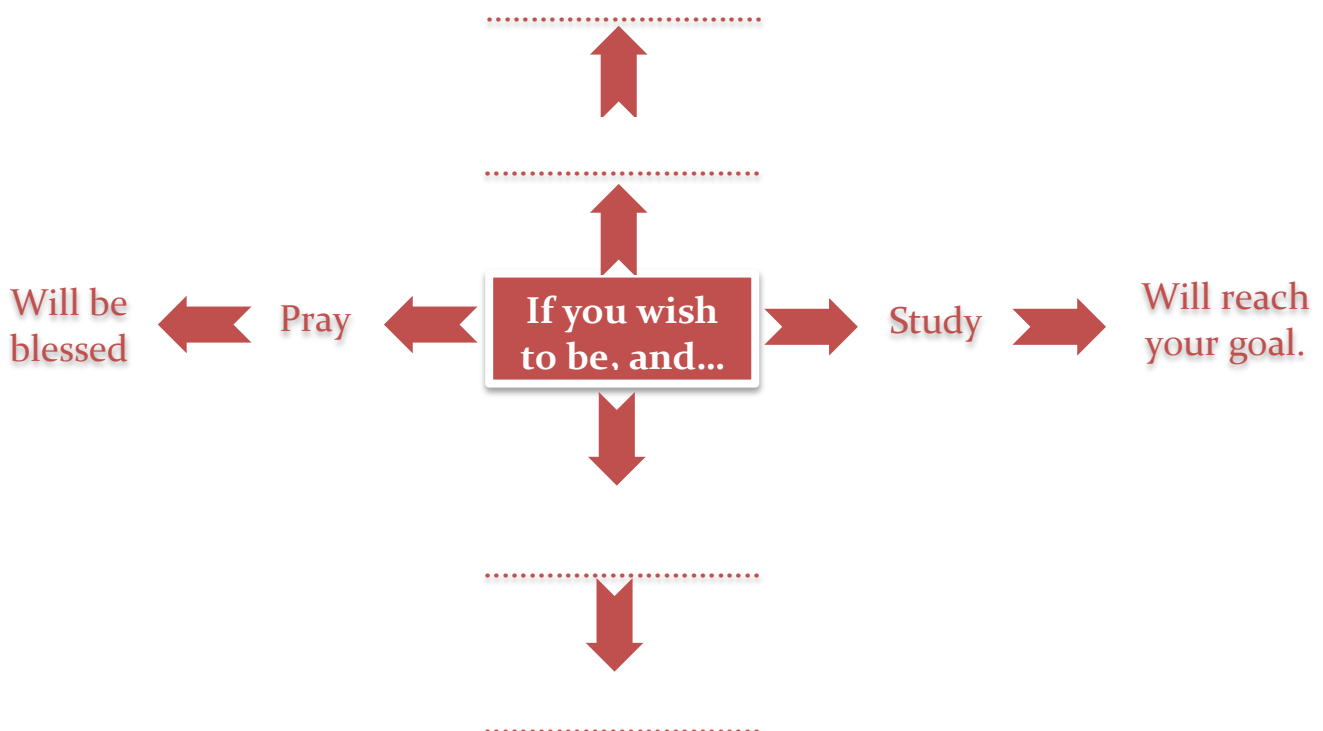
Be grateful.

No more sinning.

Jesus will help those in despair.

The weak will be strengthened by Jesus.

2. Do you want to be?



3. Along with your parents, go to a bedridden sick person. Inquire about the details of his disease, prepare a note and present in the class:

(Clues: Disease condition, Caretaker, Medicines, Food, Prayer etc.)

4. Where was the Bet'hesda pool situated? What was its peculiarity?

5. What did Jesus ask the sick person lying nearby the pool?

6. Jesus was the one who saw the person again in the temple. What could have been it so?

7. What did Jesus say when he had seen the person again? Why? (John 5:9-14)

8. "If Jesus is along with, the weak will be strengthened" - Discuss in a group, prepare a note and submit to your teacher. (Use the clues: *From your everyday life *Testimony of Saints *The Sick persons healed by Jesus etc.)

9. Hi! See the Difference:

a. **Bethsaida**: A village in Galilee, which was the birthplace of Peter, Andrew and Philip. At the shore, the fishermen used to catch fish from the Sea of Galilee using their nets; and therefore this village was known as 'the village of nets'. It is also called the 'House of Fishing'.

b. **Bet'hesda**: A pool situated in Jerusalem. It had five porticos where multitudes of diseased people stayed in. It is also known as the 'House of Mercy'.

Wisdom Dots:

Beth - The second alphabet in Hebrew language which means 'house' or 'place'.

Bethlehem - "House of Bread"

Bethania - "House of Figs"

Bethel - "House of God"

Let us Pray:

O Lord, our God! we beseech you. Come for our aid. Hear our plea and have mercy on our spirits. Lord! we do not want to go away from you. Yet our sins have expelled us out from your sight, may your compassionate love enable us to enter in your presence. Amen.

8. Ethics of Patience

Bible Reference: St. Matthew 18:22-35

Bible Verse to Learn: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)

Aims:

- ✿ To have a heart of helping others.
- ✿ To make patience a habit in life.

Listen to a conversation in the Bible:

"Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

"Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times."

Answer the following: (Clue: St. Matthew 18:20,21)

a. Who is asking the question?

b. Who is answering the question?

Have you got the answers? Paste the pictures of both of them at the given space above.

There is a reason behind this question and answer. In ancient past, the Jews taught to forgive their enemies for three times. Yet, the question was whether to forgive for seven times. But the reply was to forgive without boundaries and conditions.

Then Jesus says a parable about the Kingdom of Heaven from which we could learn the great lesson of patience and kindness.

One day a king wished to settle the accounts of debts with his slaves. One slave who owed him ten thousand 'kakreen'* (money/talents) was brought to him; and as, he could not pay, the king ordered him to make the payment by selling all his possessions including his wife and children. During that ancient period, it was quite usual to sell and buy humans; and that was the reason why the king ordered so. Suddenly, the slave fell on his knees before the king, saying,

"Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."

And out of pity for him, the king released him and forgave him the debt.

Later the same slave, on his way back to home, met one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred 'denarii'.* Seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe me". Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him,

"Have patience with me, and I will pay you."

But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. Seeing what had happened, the other fellow slaves went and reported it to the king. Then the king summoned him and said to him,

"You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?"

And in anger the king handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. Then Jesus said,



"So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The wicked slave's repentance was only for his own benefit. If he was good enough, he could have given the concession to his friend, same as what he was granted. He did not realize the kernel message to forgive others as his king had forgiven him. If we don't forgive our brothers, God will not forgive us.

This parable is related to the Kingdom of Heaven, where the king represents God. When God shows his mercy and patience to us, we should not boast of it; lest it may lead us to lose the heaven. Let us grow forward by forgiving wholeheartedly the mistakes and shortcomings of others and also by helping them generously. And for that, let us follow the path of Jesus Christ.

"Paropakaaram Punyam; Paapame Parapeedanam."
"Helping others is meritorious, and hurting others is a sin."

Activities:

1. Let us pray:

**"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from the evil one."**

* One Kakreen = Rupees 3700 approximately

* One Dinarai = 60 Paisa approximately

2. Let us sing together:

"Anyonam slomo nalkin
Karthavin slomo nammil
Vaasam cheitheedattennum
Thammil chumbikkenam naam
Thal slomoyum thal shainoyum
Namme kaakkatt-ennaalum."

"Let us give peace from our hearts,
Now and all eternity.
May Lord's peace dwell in our hearts,
Let us kiss all from our hearts.
His peace and calm, protect us
Now and all eternity"

3. Fill up the Table:

| Merits of Patience | Demerits of Impatience |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☆ Friendship will be sustained | ☆ Homely peace will be disturbed |
| ☆ Metal Health will be improved | ☆ Conflicts will be emerged |
| ☆ | ☆ |
| ☆ | ☆ |
| ☆ | ☆ |

4. Let us share our experience:

- ✿ Your parents have showed patience to you in many occasions.
- ✿ You also have forgiven others.

Prepare a note on your experience without exceeding one page and hand it over to your teacher.

5. Find out the answers:

1. What is the core message of the parable of the king and the two debtors?
2. Why is this parable being mentioned as a parable related to the Kingdom of Heaven?
3. Why did the king punish the wicked slave?

WISDOM DOTS

- ✦ What does the Creator God do for us?

God, our creator loves us and provides everything according to our need.

- ✦ What should we do?

We need to obey His commandments and love Him.

- ✦ Does God know our activities?

Yes. God knows everything that we do in our daily life. When we do good, God rejoices; and when we do evil, God laments.