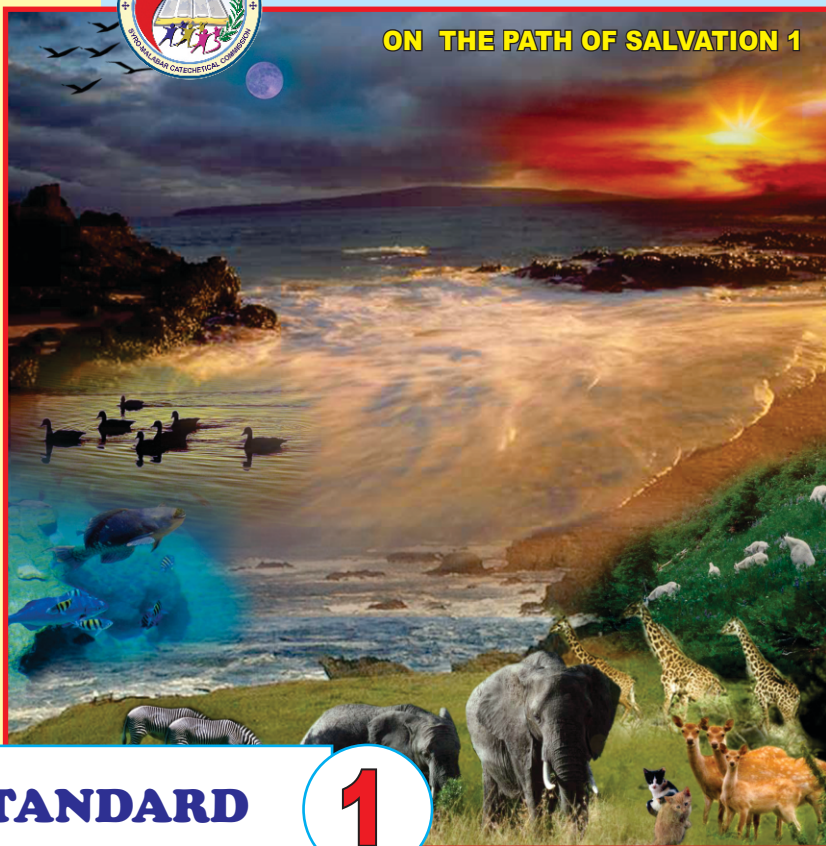


CATECHETICAL TEXT BOOK SERIES OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH

GOD THE CREATOR



ON THE PATH OF SALVATION 1



STANDARD

1

TEACHER'S HANDBOOK

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Standard - 1

GOD THE CREATOR



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PREFACE

Do you recollect the days of your Catechism classes during your childhood? What were the striking features of those classes? Shouldn't these children you are teaching now also get all that you received then? Don't you still remember the joyful experiences you had during Sunday school days? Shouldn't such experiences be given to today's generation as well?

Do you remember what you disliked about the Catechism classes of your childhood? Was there any experience that had diminished your interest in Sunday Classes? In that case isn't it necessary for us to take care not to have such unpleasant experiences for our children? In your attempt to impart faith formation to the first standard students sitting before you, the above-mentioned points have to be taken very seriously.

It is also important to bear in mind that the times are changing. Tremendous changes have taken place in the circumstances in which today's children live, not only in their aptitude but also in experiences. These have to be taken into account. At the same time, the very aim of faith formation is to concretize in children the unchanging God and the unchanging Christian truths in a world which is under the sway of perennial change. The text which you are going to teach will help you achieve this goal. What you have in your hand now is the Teachers' handbook specially prepared for your reference. This will undoubtedly help you become an able and efficient teacher by developing children's innate talents and at the same time solving their difficulties.

WHAT IS A TEACHER'S HANDBOOK? WHAT IS IT FOR?

A teacher's hand book is

- A supplement to text book.
- A pointer to teacher.
- An interpretation of the lessons.

A teacher's hand book is an aid to a teacher in many ways.

- To understand the lessons better.
- To teach the lessons correctly.
- To clear doubts regarding the text by one's own self.
- To give a satisfactory clarification to children's doubts.
- To organize classroom programmes efficiently.
- To identify answers to the questions.
- To make the optimum use of the text.
- To gather more information.
- To improve one's way of teaching.
- To introduce and implement the novel approach of the new text book.

Three questions arise with regard to teaching:

1. What is to be taught? What is the aim while teaching?
2. Whom to teach?
3. How to teach?

All teachers engaged in the process of imparting faith formation must seek answers to these questions.

1. Must know what faith formation is.

The basic purpose of faith formation is to help those who received the sacrament of baptism to grow in Christ by leading them to a perfect Christian faith and a mature Christian living. In order to achieve this, a true faith formation process will blaze the trail towards knowledge, experience and life of faith. The passionate words of St. Paul- 'the labour pain is experienced, till Christ is formed in you' should be the source of inspiration for our faith formation. The initial years of faith formation focus on the basic lessons to be imparted to children in the fundamental faith of the church, in the Holy Trinity and in the knowledge about sacraments. In this way we must grasp the essence of the question: what is to be taught.

2. Necessary to know children :

It is to children that we give faith formation. Therefore, we must have an idea of their age, nature, talents, drawbacks, interests and potential. Let us just think what abilities they have. What all can they do?

- Laugh
- Cry
- Think
- See
- Hear
- Run
- Jump
- Play
- Speak - and many more abilities like these. Now if we consider just one aspect, for example, their ability to speak- What are their possibilities that can be explored and expressed in class? Children will be able to do many things through spoken words. Let us jot them down.
- To tell stories
- To sing a song
- To ask a question
- To give answer
- To share a news with others
- To explain to others what they know
- To speak imaginatively
- To narrate an incident
- To complain
- To give instructions
- To narrate looking at a picture and so on.

Now the children who love to play can do many things through that activity. What are they?

- To understand instructions
- To obey the rules and regulations
- To react when the rules are broken
- To correct errors
- To express joy
- To express emotions
- To work in a team
- To participate in activities with enthusiasm.

There are many things like these to know about children .If teachers are aware of these teaching will be more meaningful.

There are many ways by which teachers can come to know of children –

- Interaction with children
- Keen observation
- Knowledge in child psychology
- Reading books.

3. Necessary to Know New Methods of Learning :

Times have changed. As we face a new environment today, a new set of children and a new text, we need to introduce new methods of learning. Novel ways of teaching need to be adopted.

As discussed earlier, many different abilities are there in every child. New methods of learning must be used to explore these abilities in children appropriately. Opportunities have to be made available to children who are keen on playing as well as doing work. The new text books are prepared with these thoughts in mind.

This book gives scope for numerous activities such as speaking, viewing, drawing, writing and playing besides listening. None of these is insignificant. Though they appear simple, each activity in some degree contributes to the growth of our children's

faith. It is necessary to use all the possible methods in our attempt to give our children Jesus and lead them to salvation He offers. Therefore faith formation teachers must constantly endeavour to grasp novel teaching methods. This teacher's handbook may help teachers to a certain extent to achieve this goal. A teacher must try to gain knowledge and experience with regard to teaching methods from all possible quarters.

The Special Features of the Activities:

If the activities that are introduced in faith formation class have to be successful, they must be different. Only then it will be fruitful. What are those special aspects? The activity that is introduced to facilitate learning should

- ☐ Arouse interest in children
- ☐ Suit the nature of the children
- ☐ Give freedom to children
- ☐ Be with a specific aim
- ☐ Be connected with the subject
- ☐ Be a time bound activity
- ☐ Be suitable for the standard of the children
- ☐ Be a challenging activity for the children
- ☐ Be an activity that can be evaluated by the teacher

Be it an activity given to children from the text or from teacher's handbook or an activity introduced by the teacher himself/ herself, the above mentioned aspects have to be borne in mind.

A teacher must pay attention to the following :

1. Make sure that every child has a text book with him/her. Instruct them in the beginning itself to buy it.
2. There are many opportunities for first and second standard children to draw and colour; therefore, all children must have sketch pens of different colours, colour pencils or crayons with them. Along with their text, children should bring these as well.
3. Drawing and writing in the text have to be done only in class.

This instruction has to be given to children well in advance. Children should use the text only as per the instruction of the teacher.

4. More activities, if necessary, can be given to children as home work. Instructions towards this have to be given to them very clearly. It is good to have a special notebook for children to draw, write and stick pictures. Considering situations and the interest of a teacher, these can be done.

As the lessons are introduced

Now that we have already thought about faith formation, children and new methods of learning, our attempt now is to analyze each lesson specifically. Special format is adopted for this purpose. It is as follows:

1. What children should understand

Through a lesson what a child is expected to grasp is mentioned here. They are categorized into three and presented. A teacher thus becomes very clear as to what the child should have grasped through that lesson. Besides answering questions and participating in activities, the following have to be acquired by children for their faith formation.

- Concepts
- Attitudes
- Habits.

All other activities done in class aim at acquiring these aspects by children.

2. The tools and techniques to enhance awareness that a teacher must use in class :

In order to present each lesson effectively various teaching tools have to be used. For first/second/third/fourth standards a teacher can carry to class items like pictures, charts and things that can be collected easily. Apart from the items listed in teachers' handbook, if other items are used, that are appropriate, it will be more beneficial to the students. Therefore, the indications given here may be taken only as a guideline.

Songs, stories, games, skits and so on may be needed to teach a lesson properly. At least a mental preparation to this effect has to be there before going to class. These are also teaching tools.

3. Presentation of a lesson :

How to present a lesson, how to begin, what details are to be included etc are explained in this section.

In any case, the method of presenting a lesson by reading it from one end to another should be strictly avoided. A teacher should be able to start, continue and end a lesson in a way that appeals to children. Some indications to this effect are given in the section dealing with presentation of a lesson. Still if you come across a more attractive method, you may use it. Remember that maximum preparation is required for the presentation of a lesson.

Story telling, cartoons, dramatics, role play, songs, conversation, team work or any such method can be used for presenting a lesson. Still if the teacher can use some tools for which he /she has the talent or aptitude to use the class may be more interesting and more efficient. The lesson can also be presented by involving children in these activities.

4. Activities related to the lessons :

The instructions regarding all activities given in the lesson are incorporated in this section. Answers to the questions are also given. Let the children find out the answers to these questions on their own and also the answers to the personal response questions and write them. Teachers may assist them. Do not insist that the answers written by children should contain the exact words / sentences as seen in the teachers' handbook. Treat the answers given in the teachers' handbook as mere references for teachers to help the students in finding the answers. Teachers can refer to the handbook and help them with the answers that are difficult for them to find out. It is mandatory to complete all activities given in each lesson.

5. Correlated Activities :

These are activities that are not given in the lesson but can be introduced as per the wish of the teacher. It is appropriate to give, according to the situation, maximum number of related activities. Some other activities which are not there in handbook too can be used in class if available. More questions from the lesson are

prepared and added. It would be a good practice to keep these answers ready with the teacher. Remember that all the correlated activities are to be done in class as per the wish and the creative approach of the teacher.

The factors to be borne in mind for each lesson:

1. It is assumed that two classes (Sundays) may be needed to cover one lesson. Therefore, it may be appropriate to divide the lesson into two parts and prepare properly for each day. If possible it would be better to include lesson as well as activities on both days.
2. Children are expected to do all the activities in class and two days might be sufficient to do all these. Instructions for each activity need to be given very clearly and correctly. In case there is something which they have to do at home with the help of parents, it should be assigned to them on the first day so that they can complete it and bring it on the second day.
3. In all the lessons of the First Standard, a prayer (Let Us Pray) is added. They should be said by the children repeating after the teacher. Teachers have to train the children to say the prayers with piety joining hands.
4. Each lesson contains one or two songs (Let Us Sing). Children should be given the opportunity and time to sing them melodiously. They may sing them again alone or as a whole class or forming groups. Other songs and prayers which go with the lesson can also be given.
5. That which is meant for by hearting as far as possible, need to be done in class itself. It can be read out to them once or twice. Instructions can be given to study it individually or in a group. A small gift or a gesture of appreciation or applause may be offered to those who complete the task with focus and on time. It may be good to motivate them to study it with a slight competitive spirit and say it aloud in class.
6. What is given under the title 'My Decision' is the attitude and practice that have to be formed in a child. 'My Decision' in each lesson has to be explained to the child. It has to be impressed upon them. It is also necessary to find out how much of this decision they have implemented in that week.

7. The activities such as Bible Reading and 'My Bible verse' are meant for encouraging them in the Bible study and Bible reading. On the first day instructions have to be given to the children to read the Bible , write Bible verses and bring them to the class. It has to be checked in class by the teacher on the second day. While teaching the first lesson, the teacher has to carry the Bible(the complete one) to the class and read out to the students Genesis 1:26-31. Each student then will be asked to write one verse which they liked from this portion in their note book. They will do similar exercise in other lessons at home with the help of the parents after reading the Bible.

8. In most of the lessons there are opportunities for story telling. Teachers must try their best to tell stories in most of the situations. Sometimes children should also be given a chance to tell stories. Stories should be presented in such a lively manner that it arouses their interest and develops their curiosity and they get the main idea. In order to do this following points are to be taken care of :

- Narrate the story with all the minute details.
- Describe the characters and events in a picturesque manner.
- Use words and styles that are appropriate for children.
- Ask some questions during the narration.
- Complete the story with the help of children if possible.

Instead of telling story, it is necessary to find out stories with certain concepts that will enhance faith formation.

9. There are many opportunities in the text for conducting games. Do not miss these opportunities. It is good to find out more games for children. While introducing games in faith formation class following points have to be borne in mind :

- Games that are appropriate for the class atmosphere are to be chosen.
- Instructions is to be given correctly and clearly.
- Children should be told to follow the rules of the game strictly.

- Stress is to be given more to 'playing a game together' than winning or losing.
- Involvement of every child is to be ensured.
- It should be observed whether the goal is achieved through the game.
- The games are to be used as opportunities to evaluate the attitudes and habits of children and to correct them if necessary.

Three more points to remember:

1. Teachers' handbook has to be read carefully and completely. Analysis of each lesson has to be comprehended clearly. Reading the text books of Std 1, 2, 3, 4 and the analysis given for a lesson will definitely make the teaching exhaustive and efficient.
2. Thorough preparation of the lesson has to be done with the help of analysis given for each lesson. With proper lesson plan, teaching becomes much easier and focused. Lesson plan means deciding in advance what is to be given to children and in what way as well as what activities are to be done in class by children and so on.
3. It would be a good practice to write the lesson plan in a note book so that class can be conducted referring to it. It can be prepared as per each teacher's convenience and aptitude. Preparing teaching notes will help prepare better. Additional information and activities collected from various sources can be written in this book.

LESSON 1

How beautiful is the world

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- How beautiful is this world
- Diverse creation

2. Attitude

- A grateful attitude to God for creating this beautiful universe

3. Habit

- To thank God when you see flowers and living creatures.

II. Teaching aids:

- Pictures of flowers of different sizes and colours.
- Pictures of birds and animals children are familiar with.
- A picture of a child praying.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

The child looks with amazement and curiosity at the world he/she is living in. The child is amazed by the variety in colours, diversity in the flora and fauna. The teacher should explain the beauty of nature which is the co-existence of flora and fauna. The teacher should draw the child's attention towards the universe through pictures and explanation. What will happen if there is no sun? No fruits and vegetables? You can use such questions as a premise for discussion. From these explanations the child will be able to grasp that we need the universe and it

is God who has given it to us. The lesson should be presented in such a manner as to make the child imbibe the convictions, the attitude and the practice mentioned.

1V. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Join our hands

To make the children understand that it is appropriate to give thanks to God who created this beautiful universe. Show a picture of a child praying. Instruct the children to join their hands, close their eyes and recite a short prayer repeatedly.

2. Colour the picture

Colour the fruits in the basket with suitable colours.

3. Let us memorise

Teach children to memorise The Bible verses in the class itself by repeating verses and giving children an opportunity to present it in front of others. This practice should continue for other lessons as well. It will be better to familiarize children with the book of Psalms.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Act

Make the children stand in a circle. Let them say the name of their favourite colours and flowers. Explain that each child is like a different flower in a garden. Further they can be instructed to do certain actions like the blowing of the wind, swaying of the plants, fragrance all around, blossoming of flowers, etc.

2. Tell a story

Once there was a gathering of animals and birds to decide on who is the most beautiful among them all. Everyone expressed their abilities like fly, walk, sing, dance and run. Everybody has a beauty of their own. How beautiful it is! They lived happily ever after thanking God.

3. Imitate

- To imitate the sounds of animals
- eg. Goat- bleats (bae)
- Dog- barks (bow bow)

4. Draw a picture

Give children a chance to draw things they like.

LESSON 2

God Created Everything

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- God has created everything. He created it out of nothingness.

2. Attitude

- I will rely/depend on the almighty God.

3. Habit

- Everytime I come across any creation, I will pray in my heart; 'O God the creator, I praise you'.

II. Teaching aids:

- A chart containing pictures of different creations.
Paper boat, pearl necklace
- The whole Bible.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

The objective of this lesson is to create in the children the awareness that God is the creator of everything by looking at the beautiful universe. To make children understand that God is the only person capable of creating from nothingness; through examples like there cannot be a paper boat without paper, pearl necklace without pearl. It will be good to slowly (read out Genesis 1: 1-25 to the children.)

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Colour the picture

Help the children to colour appropriately the flowers, sun and trees.

2. Repeat

Teach children to memorise Bible verses in the class itself by repeating verses and giving children an opportunity to present in front of others.

3. Join our hands

Help the children to say the names of living beings and then invite them to praise God along with these beings.

4. Join the dots

Assist the children to join the dots carefully.

5. Let us memorize

Read out verses from the book of Genesis and then ask them to by heart it.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Prepare a chart

Make a chart on God's creation based on the pictures brought by the children.

2. Prepare a model

To make the children understand that God created from nothingness make paper boats, paper fan and paper animals.

3. Act

Enact God's creation.

4. Tell a story

Narrate the story of creation and ask the children to repeat the story.

5. Questions

1. Who created everything?
2. What did God create in the beginning?
3. What are the creations we see in the sky?
4. How did God create everything?

LESSON 3

God Created Man

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- God created me.
- God is the Lord of life.
- God loves me.

2. Attitude

- An attitude of gratitude and love towards the God who created me.

3. Habit

- I will remember God when I see others.

II. Teaching aids the teacher should carry:

- Family photo
- The model of a house
- GOD = LOVE (written in bold letters)

III. Presentation of the lesson:

The children should understand that the God who loves them is the God who gave life to them. An artist can mould and make models of man, animals; etc but cannot give life to it. God is the only person who can give life. God is the Lord of life. God has created us in his image and likeness because he loves us. Children should understand that it is God who created everyone in their family. Teaching aids can be utilized for this purpose.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Who all are there in my house?

Uncle, aunt,

2. Colour the letters and rewrite

Pay attention to see whether the children are rewriting correctly over 'God loves me'. Use different colours for each line so that it remains in the minds of children.

3. Repeatedly write

Repeatedly write 'God is the Lord of life'.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Affix a photo

Affix a child's family photo in their diary.

2. Act

Dramatize the scene where God gives man life.

3. Questions

1. What is the name of the first man?
2. Who is the first woman on earth?
3. How did God create man?
4. Who is the Lord of life?

LESSON 4

God Created Everything For Man

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- God created everything for me.
- Even if my parents forget me, God will not forget me.
- I must love God.

2. Attitude

- The greatest virtue is to love and be thankful to God who loves me.

3. Habit

- Everytime I experience God's gifts and good things, I will pray saying- 'Thank You God for giving me this'.

II. Teaching aids:

- Carry tangible items that can be seen, heard, felt and eaten or its equivalence (eg. tape recorder)
- Create a chart showing the difference in gifts received from God and parents.
- Stories emphasizing God's love.
- A picture of a mother carrying a child.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Have a discussion with children on how there is parental influence in day-to-day life. These are the people who fulfill the needs of the children. A child is always dependent on others from morning to evening. But the God loves me more than my parents. God gives me everything I need. Since God has created everything for me, I should love God. We should thank God. The child is to develop this attitude from this lesson.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. My friend and me

Tell your partner /friend about objects created by God. Leave children independently for sometime. Give them adequate time. More children can be given an opportunity.

2. Group writing

Make the children sit in a group and write down names of creation such as sun, moon, flowers, fruits, animals, stars, seas, sky, water, etc. If they write something different, motivate them.

3. Memorise

Show the children the picture of a mother carrying a child. Also read out the verses from book of Isaiah in the Bible.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Let us write the names

As in Page No. 24, stick pictures of the varied living things and write their names in the centre.

2. Tell a story

Minu's mother was very loving. She gave her everything, took her everywhere, sang songs for her, told her stories- Minu tells everybody about her mother- She cannot stay away from her mother and her mother cannot stay away from her they lived happily. 'Even if a mother who loves so much forgets her child, I will not forget you' concept can be explained to the children through this story.

3. Questions

1. Who loves us more than our mother and father?
2. Write the names of 5 things that God has created for you.

LESSON 5

God Is Our Father

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- God is my father
- God takes care of me.

2. Attitude

- I trust in the God who takes care of me.

3. Habit

- Prayer: O my Guardian Angel, take care of me always.

II. Teaching aids:

- A picture of the Guardian Angel
- Other pictures showing God's protection for His children.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Children know who is a father. As you start the discussion include concepts like father goes to work, earns money to secure his family. Elaborate on the various perspectives of protection by looking at the picture on page No. 25. through which children will be able to understand that it is God who provides food and safety. The children should feel that they are in God's hand & God has given guardian Angels to help and protect us from all dangers.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Can you help them reach their homes?

Familiarise the children with the first set of pictures. Make them understand how each being is protected differently.

2. Can you run and reach there?

Let the children do this activity by themselves. If they fail guide them accordingly.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Tell the situation

Elicit from the children situations when the guardian Angel comes to protect.

During travel, sickness, accidents, studies, play, etc.

2. Let us pray

Acquaint children with short prayers to their guardian Angel. Clarify the above situations to children.

O Guardian Angel, protect me during this journey.

3. Questions

1. Who protects the plants and animals around us?
2. Who is the father of all?
3. Who has God given to protect us?

LESSON 6

Praise Be To God

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- God our creator is worthy to be praised.
- We ought to praise God at all times
- Praising God through prayers and Hymns

2. Attitude

- I praise God always

3 Habit

- Before I do any task, I pray- 'Praise you Jesus'

II. Teaching aids:

- Pictures depicting morning and evening
- Create chits with the following praises- Praise you Jesus, Praise you God for your blessings, Praise you God for giving me the intelligence to study, etc.
- Pictures of various musical instruments

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Make the children realize that it is their duty to praise God who has created and protects them. Highlight to the children instances when man praises God and simultaneously make them aware that it is their duty to praise God for the blessings he showers from morning to night. We can praise God through prayers and songs. Heaven, angels and saints constantly sing praises to God.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Praise the Lord

Make the children aware that the angels are always praising in the presence of God. Divide the children in to small groups and let them sing 'Halleluiah'. We can show pictures of different musical instruments and sing the song more lively.

2. Weave a chain

Let the children use beads of any colour they like and encourage them to say 'Praise to God'.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Sing Halleluia

2. Let us pray

Let the children close their eyes, fold their hands and sit quietly. Let them say whatever activities they have done and practice them to praise the Lord.

- God we praise You for giving me peaceful sleep in the night.
- God, We praise you for giving us the intelligence to study.
- Ask the children to repeatedly say, God, we praise You.

3. Draw pictures

Tell the children to draw or stick pictures of different musical instruments and explain that we can use these instruments to praise God

4. Questions

1. Who protects us?
2. What are the different occasions we praise God for?

LESSON 7

God With Us

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- Jesus is God's Son who took human form.
- God became one among us.
- Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.

2. Attitude

- We should love Jesus who took the form of a man for us.

3. Habit

- Pray O Infant Jesus, I love you

II. Teaching aids:

- Picture of the Holy Family
- Picture of a manger

III. Presentation of the lesson:

God the creator, the protector, and who loves us became one among us. It is Jesus, Son of God who took human form. Explain to children the story of Jesus's birth and all the things associated with it. Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem. Christmas is the birthday of Jesus. Familiarise the children about Mary and Joseph with the help of pictures. Remind children about the Christmas season and explain to them the festivities including christmas tree, christmas star, cake and santa claus.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Colour the picture

Let the children choose colours of their choice but ensure that children understand the meaning of the sentences before hand.

2. Christmas tree

Help the children to use a variety of colors.

3. Let us memorise

Show the gospel of St. John to the children

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Jesus in the crib

Draw a crib and stick a picture of Infant Jesus in it.

2. Create

Ask the children to make a Christmas card. Also ask them to collect Christmas cards that they have received and show it to their friends.

3. Act

Enact the scene of nativity

4. Collect

Instruct the children to collect Christmas carols.

5. Questions

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. When is the birthday of Jesus?
3. What is the name of Jesus's mother?
4. What is the name of Jesus's foster father?

LESSON 8

Mary, The Mother Of God

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- Mary is the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.
- Jesus mother is our mother as well.
- Mother Mary helps us when we are in need.

2. Attitude

- We should see Mother Mary as our own mother and seek her intercession.

3. Habit

- I will pray- ' O my Mother, I trust in thee'.

II. Teaching aids:

- A picture of Mother Mary
- Rosary

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Introduce Mary, the mother of Jesus to the children. Jesus' mother is our mother as well. We call Mary as our mother. Explain to children about the Annunciation. Then teach the children the prayer- Hail Mary. The children should understand the significance and the power of this prayer. The rosary can be introduced. It will be appropriate to share with the children about blessings received through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Let us pray

The children should learn the Hail Mary prayer. The children should be made aware of the significance of this prayer.

2. Will you colour?

The children can use any colour. Tell the children that these flowers are a gift to Mother Mary.

3. The Rosary

Ensure that the children are praying- O my Mother, I trust in thee, while colouring the rosary.

4. Let us memorise

Explain to the children St. Luke 1:38.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Rosary

Ask the children to have a rosary of their own. Also teach them how to recite a rosary.

2. Let us see pictures

Familiarise the children with different pictures of Mother Mary.

3. Tell a story

Tell children stories related to Mother Mary like those of Jacinta, Lucy and Francis etc.

4. Questions

1. What is the name of the angel who appeared to Mother Mary?
2. What do we call Mary the mother of Jesus?
3. Who is our heavenly mother?

LESSON 9

Jesus, Who Obeyed His Parents

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- Jesus when young obeyed his parents
- Jesus likes me when I obey my parents as well as my elders.

2 Attitude

- To have an attitude to always obey my parents and my elders.

3. Habit

- I will obey my parents and my elders.

II. Teaching aids:

- Pictures of children doing small chores.
- 'I WILL OBEY' written in big and bold handwriting.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Through a discussion with the children about their family, introduce the concept of holiness. Based on the story of the prodigal son, highlight the consequences of disobedience. Similarly the disobedience of Adam and Eve can be explained. On the other hand Jesus was obedient to his parents and helped them. He grew up in the likeness of both God and man. Jesus also likes us when we obey our parents. After writing 'I will obey', ask the children to suggest whom all they will obey. Discuss with children instances where they can help those at home and outside and make note of it on a board or a chart paper.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Win the game and get the prize

The prize will be awarded for obedience. The children have to go through the maze carefully, If they make a mistake they have to come back and start from the beginning.

2. Helping my parents

Fetch a glass of water, folding clothes, picking up waste food, setting the bed, etc can be undertaken. Encourage children if they have something to say other than these.

3. Name of my parents

This exercise is for homework. The teacher has to check this homework in the next class.

4. Draw the correct face

The teacher has to guide the children carefully by giving clear instructions and reading out clearly. Help the children accordingly.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Act

The child has to enact the faces based on the situations given by the teacher. For example, when you disobey your teacher the child can act as if he is crying.

2. Listen to a story

The story of the prodigal son from the Bible can be read out.

3 Tell a story

Arun- disobedient- says I will do it later- likes the river- mother tells him not to go alone- he goes without being noticed - one day - the river was overflowing - mother reminded him again - he disobeyed - got caught in the current

- fishermen saved him - he drank stomach full of water - was hospitalized - the consequence of disobedience is danger he understood.

4. Questions

1. Before whom did Jesus grow up in favour ?
2. Where did Jesus live?
3. Who is the role model for obedience?

LESSON 10

Jesus, Who Went To The Temple

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- The boy Jesus went to the temple with his parents. Church is the house of God.

2. Attitude

- Just like Jesus, I too will go to the church to worship God.

3. Habit

- When inside the Church, I will not play or talk to anyone.

II. Teaching aids:

- A chart consisting of the people and things associated with the Church.
- An outline of the story where Jesus visits Jerusalem during the Passover feast.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Children should go to Church along with their parents. Feasts will be fresh in the minds of the children. Discuss with children about bible reading, homily and other spiritual rituals. Explain to the Children that we go to the Church because God dwells there. The importance of the tabernacle and altar lights should be ingrained in the children. It will be beneficial to spend some time in Church with the children. Tell children about the holiness of the Church and tell them to behave appropriately. Tell children the story when Jesus drives out vendors from the temple premises.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Colour the following

Help the children to colour the image of the Church to make it beautiful.

2. Select the right word

The answers should be written only after eliciting these responses aloud from the children.

3. Can you show the way?

Find out the way to Church by using their favourite colour.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Write the names

Ask children to write the names of the churches they have visited.

2. Can you find?

Ask children to search for the statues of Jesus in the Church and help them while they do it.

3. Draw a picture

Let the children draw the picture of a church but keep in mind that the beauty and perfection of the Church is not of importance.

4. Questions

1. Which is the dwelling place of God?
2. Why did Jesus go to the temple?
3. With whom did the boy Jesus go to the temple?

LESSON 11

Jesus, The Son Of God

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- Jesus is the Son of God.
- The spirit of God is the Holy Spirit.
- Through baptism, we become the children of God.

2. Attitude

- Growing in pride knowing that I am the daughter/son of God.

3. Habit

- Every night before going to sleep, I will praise the Holy Trinity in thanksgiving.

II. Teaching aids:

- Cut out of a cross
- A picture of the Holy Trinity
- A picture of a child being baptized.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

This is the first time children get to know of the Holy Trinity. Children are already aware that Jesus is the Son of God. Children should be able to grasp that God's Spirit is the Holy Spirit. Explain in detail the baptism of Jesus. A dove is not the Holy Spirit rather the Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove should be made clear to the children. Also explain to the children about the descending of the fire in the textbook. We have become the children of God through baptism. When Jesus received baptism, God and the Holy Spirit were present. Similarly when we received baptism, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were present.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Repeatedly write

Write the following sentence repeatedly in different sizes and colours. Instruct the children accordingly.

2. Make the sign of the cross

Explain to the children the power of the cross. After placing the left hand on the chest, place your right hand on the forehead when saying: In the name of the Father, and when saying the Son, on the chest, and when saying In the name of the Holy Spirit on both the shoulders and when saying Amen, fold your hands in reverence. Pay attention to every child while making the sign of the cross.

3. My baptismal name

With the help of parents write their baptismal names and tell them to say it the next class.

4. Colour the picture

Colour the cross with the appropriate colours.

5. Pray the Glory be

When praying the Glory be, one praises the Holy Trinity. One should pray this by folding hands in reverence.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Make a cross

Make a cross with the help of different articles like pearls, shells, stones, grains, etc

2. Let us find

Find out where all has the cross been installed

3. Questions

1. Who is the Son of God?
2. Who is God's Spirit?
3. What did Abba father tell about Jesus?
4. In whose name do we make the sign of the cross?

LESSON 12

Jesus, Who Loves Children

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- Jesus loves all children.
- Jesus blesses all those who go to Him.

2. Attitude

- I love Jesus who loves me.

3 Habit

- I will offer flowers before the statue of Jesus daily.

II. Teaching aids:

- In bold letters write Luke 18: 16.
- Tell a story, the part where children are brought to Jesus.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Show them Luke 18: 16 and read loudly. Children might have seen priests praying for children imposing their hands upon them. Similarly mothers too had brought their children to be blessed by Jesus. Jesus likes innocent children. Anytime one meets Jesus, He blesses us. Jesus loves all children. When we present this lesson, the child should be able to personalize the habits and attitudes that are intended from this lesson and that will enable them to go to Jesus.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Write names

Columns are made for 6 names only. However, if children want to list down more names let them write two names in one columns.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Receive blessings

Let children draw the picture of Jesus's 'blessing hand' and write down their names under it.

2. Enact

Let children present in the form of a role play the story of Jesus blessing children.

3. Collect pictures

Let children collect pictures of Jesus with children.

4. Questions

1. Why did mothers get their children to Jesus?
2. What did Jesus tell his disciples?

LESSON 13

Jesus, Who Teaches To Love

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- Jesus loves everybody
- Greatest manifestation of Jesus' love was the death on the cross.
- Like Jesus, I am obliged to love everybody.

2. Attitude

- Like Jesus I should love everybody.

3 Habit

- In the morning, I will prayerfully make the sign of the cross.

II. Teaching aids:

- Pictures of children helping others
- Write in bold letters- 'I WILL HELP'.
- A picture of Jesus death on the cross.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Take children through the rituals of maundy thursday. It is in memory of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, a mark of his love. Jesus loves everybody. He consoles everyone who comes to Him (narrate some miracles). At the end, Jesus died for us on the cross (show them a cross). Tell children about the saving power of the cross. Explain to children the long form of the sign of the cross. We should love others just like Jesus- this central concept should be a conviction for the children.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Make the solemn form of the sign of the cross

Make children understand that the sign of the cross saves us from enemies. Place the left hand on the chest, with the thumb finger of the right hand, draw the cross on the forehead, then on the lips and then on the chest (from head to down and from left to right). Then follow the sign of the cross method described earlier.

2. Tell about Mother Teresa's life in brief

V. Correlated Activities:

1. I will help

Holding the card- I WILL HELP, discuss with children situations where they can help.

2. Share

Give children the chance to share about instances when they have helped.

3. Questions

1. What did Jesus do to be a role model of love and service?
2. Who is the mother who loved the poor like Jesus?

LESSON 14

Jesus, Who Teaches To Pray

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- Jesus always used to pray to his Father.
- 'Our Father' is the prayer taught by Jesus.

2. Attitude

- One should pray daily during important events.

3. Habit

- I pray when I get up in the morning as well as when I go to sleep in the night.

II. Teaching aids:

- A chart containing the 'Our Father' prayer.
- The song form of this prayer.

III. Presentation of the lesson:

Prayer is indispensable to our lives. We pray to God. Jesus used to always pray to his Father. (Narrate instances when Jesus prayed) We should also pray like Jesus always. What all things we can pray for! (Make children say these responses) Our Father is the prayer taught by Jesus. Show them a chart, pray slowly by saying each word clearly and giving necessary explanation when needed would be beneficial. It is advisable to take the children to the Church and spend some time in prayer.

IV. Activities related to the lesson

1. The prayer Jesus taught us.

Explain to the children the importance and power of this prayer because Jesus taught this prayer. Some sentences may need explanation to the children: Train the children to say the prayer with concentration and devotion.

2. Fill the columns

- when I get up in the morning
- before studying
- before meals
- before going to sleep.
- in sickness
- before going to school

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Write and pray:

Instruct children to write 'Our Father' prayer in their book by taking help from the text book.

2. Questions

1. Which is the prayer taught by Jesus?
2. When did Jesus pray?

LESSON 15

Heaven, The House Of God

I. What children should understand:

1. Conviction

- God dwells in heaven.
- Our aim is to reach heaven.
- Jesus leads us to heaven.

2. Attitude

- We should always live aiming to reach heaven.

3. Habit

- I will live doing good deeds.

II. Teaching aids the teacher should carry:

- Chart containing - 'Heaven is my home'.
- Parables and pictures of heaven.

III. Presentation of the lesson

Remind the children of God's love. God created us. He gave us life. He loves us. Father gave us Jesus. To be with God- to be in heaven- Jesus helps us. Those who do good deeds on earth will go to heaven. Angels constantly keep praising God singing holy holy. Saints and martyrs dwell in heaven. If we live according to Jesus, we too can be in heaven. We can always be with God. Give children examples of heaven.

IV. Activities related to the lesson:

1. Write the names

Children have been taught their baptism names. Encourage them to write it. Also ask them to write names of saints and angels they know. Give them the required help.

2. Write in different sizes and colours

Let children use the colour of their choice. It will be better if different colours are used as well as written in different sizes.

V. Correlated Activities:

1. Saints in heaven

Collect the baptismal names of your friends. In doing so enhance their knowledge about saints in heaven.

2. Enact

Enact parables of heaven through role play.

3. Questions

1. Who leads us to heaven?
2. Where does God dwell?
3. What is the meaning of being in heaven?
4. Which is our house?
5. How can we reach heaven?

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