

ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL AND ITS RELEVANCE TO AFRICA TODAY.

WHO IS LUKE?

Luke was a Greek Missionary from the city of Antioch.

Luke was a gentile missionary he was a non-jew.

Luke was a Christian in the early church who is said to have written two books, the gospel of Luke and the act of app't apostles.

Luke was a medical doctor i.e. he was a physician.

Luke was a follower of Paul and travelled with him on different missionary journeys preaching the good news.

Luke was an artist according to some Christians writing in the early church.

Luke as an artist is said to have painted the pictures of the Virgin Mary and St. Peter the leader of the apostles.

WHY DID LUKE WRITE THIS GOSPEL?

Qn.

Account for the authorship of the gospel according to Luke.

for what purpose did Luke write this gospel?

Luke wanted his reader to receive the good news of Jesus Christ.

Luke wanted to strengthen Christians who were facing persecution because of Jesus Christ. In his gospel, he shows his readers that Jesus suffered but he was able to overcome.

Luke wanted to reveal Jesus' messiahship. In his gospel, he shows that Jesus as a messiah raised from the dead.

Luke wanted to show Jesus' divinity. In this gospel he shows

that Jesus is a supernatural human being who cast out demons and obeyed him.

Luke wanted to reveal Jesus' humanity, In his gospel Luke shows Jesus' birth and death like any other human being.

Luke wanted to show that Jesus Christ was the son of God, the son of God, the Holy Spirit came on him in form of a dove during his baptism.

Luke wanted to show that Jesus was a suffering messiah, In gospel he shows Jesus coming to die for sinners but not opp political government..

Luke wanted to show that Jesus was innocent before the Roman Authority, In his gospel, Luke shows that Jesus did not offend one although he was killed.

He wanted to show the displacement of Satan by the kingdom of God. In his gospel, Luke shows that the kingdom of God is present and his king Jesus Christ is present.

Luke wanted to show Jesus' love, care and constant concern for the suffering, In the gospel Luke shows Jesus feeding the hungry 5000 people as a sign of love, care and concern.

Luke wanted to show Jesus' fulfilment of the old Testament prophecies, the old Testament prophets like Jeremiah and Isaiah, had announced that great man in Israel would come and Luke shows that great man as

Luke wanted to confirm Jesus' resurrection, Some Jews called the Sadducees preached that when man died, he does not resurrect and Luke shows them that Jesus died, and resurrected.

Luke wanted to show Jesus' Parusia meaning the second coming

ascended to heaven and he is returning very soon.

THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST. [Luke 1:5-25]

In the days of king Herod of Judea, there lived a priest called Zechariah who belonged to a priestly clan of Abijah.

It was at this time, that the birth of John the baptist was announced by Angel Gabriel.

Zechariah had a wife called Elizabeth who also belonged to a priestly family.

Both of them were obedient to God and lived according to the law and command of God.

Both Zechariah and Elizabeth did not have children and they were too old to have a child.

One day, as it was Zechariah's turn to fulfill his priestly customs of burning incense at the altar in the temple, the angel of God Gabriel appeared to him.

The crowd of people was outside praying as Zechariah was standing on the right side of the altar when angel Gabriel appeared.

Zechariah was afraid and alarmed after seeing the angel where the incense was burning at the altar.

The angel told Zechariah not to be afraid because God had heard his prayers and that his wife was to become pregnant and bear a child whom he should give a name John.

The angel told Zechariah that John will be a great man in the Lord's sight and was going to drink no wine.

John was to be filled with the Holy spirit, the angel told Zechariah.

John was to go a head of the Lord like prophet Elijah and was to get the God's people ready for Him according to the Angel.

Zechariah refused to believe what the Angel was telling him because he and his wife were too old.

Zechariah was not to speak until what he had been told was true Gabriel told him.

When Zechariah's period of service was over, he went back home.

Later his wife became pregnant and she did not live the life for five months.

Elizabeth said to herself "Now at last the Lord has helped and taken away my public disgrace."

Ques.

What do Christians learn from the announcement of birth of John the Baptist? [See Lk 1:5-20]

Ans. Christians learn to live a holy life before God as Elizabeth and Zechariah lived upright in the sight of God even when they were children.

They learn to serve God as Zechariah in the temple serving as a priest when he received the announcement of the birth of John.

They learn to fellowship with others in church as all worshippers gathered at the temple when Zechariah had entered to do his priestly work when the angel appeared to him.

They learn to pray, as worshippers assembled and prayed outside the temple, Zechariah was inside doing his priestly work when the angel appeared to him.

he feared on seeing the angel.

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They learn to carry their problems to God as Zechariah carried his problem of childless to God through prayer.

They learn to announce the good news to non believers calling them to repent of their sins as John the baptist who was to be produced was to call upon people to repentance.

They learn to serve God faithfully as Zechariah served God faithfully even when he was childless.

They learn to believe in God's message, Zechariah failed to trust in God's message made him failed to speak until the promise of God was to be fulfilled.

They learn to believe in God's miracles as it was God's miracle to Elizabeth became pregnant as her ~~wife~~ had announced.

They learn to help those in need, As God helped Elizabeth who was in need of a child and she became pregnant.

They learn to ask God to remove / take away their public disgrace since God has removed Elizabeth childless.

On . .

Of what relevance is the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah in the temple to modern Christians today

Christians should live holy lives before God as Elizabeth and Zechariah lived upright in the sight of God even when they were childless.

They should serve God as Zechariah in the temple serving as a priest when he received the announcement of the birth of Jesus.

They should fellowship with others in church as all worshippers had gathered at the temple when Zechariah had entered to do his priestly work when the angel appeared to him.

They should pray to God as worshippers assembled and prayed outside the temple, Zecharia was inside doing his priest work when the angel appeared to him.

They should carry their problems to God as Zechariah carried his problem of childless to God through prayer.

Christian leader should encourage Christians to be strong in face of fear as the angel gave courage to Zecharia when he fears on seeing the angel.

They should announce the good news to non believers calling them to repent of their sins as John the Baptist who was produced here to call upon people to repentance.

They should serve God faithfully as Zechariah served God served God faithfully even when he was childless.

They should believe in God's message, Zecharia failure to trust in God's message made him failed to speak until the promise God was to be fulfilled.

They should believe in God's miracles, as God helped Eliza who was in need of a child and she became pregnant.

They should ask God to remove / take away their public life since God has power removed Elizabeth childless.

Show the significance / importance of the announcement of birth of John the Baptist to modern Christians.

It encourages Christians to live a holy lives before God as Eliza and Zecharia lived upright in the sight of God even when they were childless.

Childless

It encourages Christians to fellowship with others in church as worshippers had gathered at the temple when Zechariah had come to do his priestly work when the angel appeared to him.

It encourages Christians to pray to God, as worshippers assembled and prayed outside the temple, Zechariah wasmidt doing his priestly work when the angel appeared to him.

It encourages religious leader to encourage Christians to be strong in times of fear as the angel gave courage to Zechariah when he feared on seeing the angel.

It encourages Christians to carry their problems to God as Zechariah carried his problem of childless to God through prayer.

It encourages Christians to announce the good news to non believers calling them to repent of their sins as John the baptist who used to be produced was to call upon people to repentance.

It encourages Christians to serve God faithfully as Zechariah served God faithfully even when he was childless.

It encourages Christians to believe in God's message, Zechariah's failure to trust in God's message made him failed to speak until the promise of God was to be fulfilled.

It encourages Christians to help to those in need, as God helped Elizabeth who was in need of a child and she became pregnant.

It encourages Christians to believe in God's miracle, as it was God's miracle that Elizabeth became pregnant as the angel had announced.

It encourages Christians to seek and remove/ take away their public disgrace since God has removed Elizabeth's childless.

Qns.

"Now at last the Lord has helped me," He has taken my public disgrace.

- What prompted Elizabeth to say the above words? (2marks)
- Why did Elizabeth rejoice when she learnt that she was pregnant?
- Give reasons which made Elizabeth to say that the Lord has removed her embarrassment.

Elizabeth and Zechariah were too old to have a child hence the Lord has helped her and took away her public disgrace.

Elizabeth and Zechariah were childless hence her saying 'the Lord has helped and took away her public disgrace.'

Elizabeth and Zechariah had confirmed that she was pregnant hence saying that the Lord had helped her and took away public disgrace.

The Jews despised childless women hence Elizabeth saying it the Lord had helped and taken away her public disgrace.

Elizabeth had prayed to God for a child hence saying that Lord had helped me and taken away her public disgrace.

Childlessness was associated among Jews among the Jews hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken away my public disgrace.

The Lord had told Elizabeth and Zechariah through the angel that they were to have a child hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken away my public disgrace.

Elizabeth had regained her respect in the public hence saying

Elizabeth had fulfilled the purpose of marriage as producing children hence saying that the Lord has taken away my public disgrace.

Elizabeth had been proved fertile hence saying that the Lord has taken my public disgrace.

Elizabeth's neighbours and in-laws stopped abusing her barrenness hence saying that the Lord has helped me taken my public disgrace.

Elizabeth could no longer be divorced by Zechariah hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken away my public disgrace.

God had answered Elizabeth's prayer hence saying the Lord has helped me taken away my public disgrace.

Elizabeth and Zechariah could now have a ~~life~~ hence saying the Lord has helped me and taken my public disgrace.

Elizabeth and others were to be happy when the baby is born hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken away my public disgrace.

Elizabeth The boy was to be a great man in the Lord's sight hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken my public disgrace.

Elizabeth's child from birth was to be filled with the holy spirit hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken my public disgrace.

Elizabeth's child was to bring many people in Israel back to their God hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken my public disgrace.

Elizabeth's child was to be a fore runner of the Lord (would prepare the way for the Lord) hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken my public disgrace.

Elizabeth's child was to be a prophet like Elijah hence saying that the Lord has helped me and taken my public disgrace.

Elizabeth's child was to teach people of Israel the way of righteousness
hence saying the Lord has helped and taken away my public disgrace

Elizabeth's child was to prepare people for the coming of the Lord
hence saying the Lord has helped me and taken away my public
disgrace.

* Elizabeth's child was to play a very important role in the ministry
of Jesus Christ hence saying the Lord has helped me and taken
public disgrace.

The birth of her child was announced by the angel Gabriel
hence saying the Lord has helped me and taken my public disgrace

The birth of Elizabeth's child was going to be a miracle hence
saying the Lord has helped me taken my public disgrace.

The name of her child was given by the angel Gabriel
before birth hence saying the Lord has helped me taken my
public disgrace.

Ques.

Give the similarities between Elizabeth and Sarah of the Testaments.

Both stayed until old age without a child.

Both their becoming pregnant was announced by

Both gave birth to male children.

Both their husbands were faithful to God.

Both their children were first borns.

Both their children were last borns.

Both their children played a big role in the history or future.

Both their neighbours were very happy of their delivery.

Both were Jewish women.

Both Elizabeth and Sarah were faithful women to God.

Ques.

1. Why is there joy when a child is born in African Tradition Society (A.T.S.)

2. Explain the role of children in A.T.S..

A new born baby expanded the family and the clan hence the joy when child was born.

A new boy born was said to be a replacement of the relative who died in the family hence the joy that relative has come back.

A new born baby helped the parents to be remembered when they died hence the joy when the child was born.

A new born baby was seen as a future source of labour to the farm hence the joy when a such a child was born.

A new born baby was seen as a source of bride price of a girl hence the joy when the child was born.

A new born baby was seen as source of defence to the family and community hence the joy if a boy was born.

A new born baby was seen as a source of prestige especially to the father in the family since the more children one had the more respect.

A new born baby was seen as a future source of receiving a leadership position in the society by the father since the more one had the more able he was seen to lead.

Children were seen as a symbol of culture since producing children was a common practice hence the joy when a new born.

Children linked the husbands and wife's parents hence the joy when there was a new born.

Children sealed marriage

Children united a man and women in the family hence the joy when a new born came.

Children were seen as a symbol of blessing from God, the god and the spirit of the family.

A new born baby was given a name of the dead relatives of family and in such a situation there was joy since the dead would be remembered through the ~~dead~~ borns.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CHRIST LK 1:26-38.

It was the 6th month of Elizabeth's pregnancy when an Angel Gabriel to Nazareth a town in Galilee.

God sent Angel Gabriel to a virgin young woman promised to marry to Joseph a descendant of David.

According to Luke, the virgin young woman's name was

Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "peace be with you! the Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you."

Angel Gabriel's message greatly troubled Mary and she wondered what the words meant.

According to the Angel, Mary was to become pregnant and give birth to a son who would be named Jesus.

Jesus was to be great and would be called "the Son of the most high". According to Gabriel

God would give Jesus the throne of his father David. Gabriel

Jesus would be the King of the Jacob's descendants and his Kingdom was to last for ever according to Gabriel.

But Mary asked Gabriel how she would become pregnant, yet she was a virgin.

According to Gabriel, the Holy spirit was to come upon Mary together with the power of God and make this happen.

Hence the Son Mary was to produce would be Holy and would be called the Son of God.

This would be possible according to Gabriel since even Elizabeth, Mary's relative was going to have a child, yet she was said to be barren.

If this was possible with Elizabeth then everything is possible with God.

At this point Mary said, "I'm the Lord's servant may your word to me be fulfilled."

On accepting the angel's word the angel Gabriel left Mary.

LESSONS CHURCH LEADERS LEARNED FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST [LKE 1:26-38]

Qn.

What do modern church leaders learn from the announcement of birth of Jesus Christ in [Luke 1:26-38]?

Modern church leaders learn to encourage Christians - facing it as Angel Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid when he became trouble that she was to become pregnant.

They learn to announce the good news of Jesus Christ as Angel Gabriel announced to Mary the good news.

They learn to trust in God's message from God's messenger unlike Mary who was not believing in Angel Gabriel's message of becoming pregnant.

They learn to believe in God's miracle unlike Mary who first doubted the miracle that she was to become pregnant and practice their Jesus Christ.

They learn to preserve their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit as Mary preserved her body as a virgin.

They learn to accept God's promises unlike Mary who appeared to doubt God's promise of her becoming pregnant.

They learn to show faith in God as Mary later said, "May it happen to me as you have said", which showed faithfulness to God.

They learn to obey God as Mary finally obeyed the Angel Gabriel's message and said, "May it happen to me as you have said".

They learn to do God's work given to them as Angel Gabriel's message given to him to Mary.

They learn to seek for the power of the Holy Spirit as they serve since it is that Holy Spirit by which Mary was to become pregnant.

They learn to surrender their lives to God when called upon as they surrendered her life to God by saying, "May it happen to me as you have said".

and no sex before marriage since it is such people that do this work such as Mary.

They learn to seek for blessing from God since He is the source of blessings which angel Gabriel announced to Mary that God had greatly blessed her.

They learn to seek for God's grace in their lives since Angel Gabriel showed that God was to be gracious to Mary as the source of grace that's why she was the ^{51st} one chosen of all women to be the mother of Christ.

Qns:

Of what relevance is the announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ to modern church leaders to day.

Modern church leaders should encourage Christians facing fear as Angel Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid when she became troubled that she was to become pregnant.

They should announce the good news of Jesus Christ as Angel Gabriel announced to Mary the good news.

They should trust in God's message from God's messenger unlike Mary who was not believing in Angel's Gabriel message of becoming pregnant.

They should believe in God's miracle unlike Mary who first doubted the miracle that she was to become pregnant and produce Jesus Christ.

They should preserve their bodies as temple of the holy spirit as Mary preserved her body as a virgin.

They would accept God's promises unlike Mary to who appeared to doubt God's promise of her becoming pregnant.

They should have faith in God as Mary later said, "May it happen for me as you said," which showed faithfulness.

They should obey God as Mary finally obeyed. Hit - Angel Gabriel's message and said, "Let it happen to me as you have said." They should do God's work given to them as Angel Gabriel did. God's message given to him to Mary.

They should seek for the power of the holy spirit as they served God since it was the holy spirit by which Mary was to become pregnant.

They should surrender their lives to God when called upon as surrendered her life to God by saying "May it happen to me as you have said".

They should value important religious teachings such as Virgin and no sex before marriage since it is such people that God is to do his work such as Mary.

They should seek for blessings from God since is the source of blessings which angel Gabriel announced to Mary that God had greatly blessed her.

They should seek for God's grace in their lives since Angel showed that God was gracious to Mary as the source of all that's why she was the only one chosen of all women to be the mother.

Q: What significant was the ^{annunciation of the} birth of Jesus Christ to modern leaders to day?

It encourages Christians facing fear as Angel Gabriel told Mary to be afraid when she became troubled that she was to become

It encourages them to announce the good news of Jesus Christ Angel Gabriel announced to Mary the good news that she

becoming pregnant.

It encourages them to believe in God's miracle unlike Mary who first doubted the miracle that she was to become pregnant and produce Jesus Christ.

It encourages them to preserve their bodies as temples of the holy spirit as Mary preserved her body as a virgin.

It encourages them to accept God's promise unlike Mary who used to doubt God's promise of her becoming pregnant.

It encourages them to show faith in God as Mary later said, "If it happen to me as you have said" which showed faithfulness.

It encourages them to obey God as Mary finally obeyed the Angel Gabriel's message and said, "May it happen to me as you have said."

It encourages them to do God's work given to them as Angel Gabriel took God's message given to him to Mary.

It encourages them to seek for power of the holy spirit as they served God since it is that holy spirit by which Mary used to become pregnant.

It encourages them to surrender their lives to God when called upon as Mary surrendered her life to God by saying "May it happen to me as you have said!"

It encourages them to value important religious teachings such as virginity and no sex before marriage since it is such people that God calls to do his work such as Mary.

It encourages them to seek for blessings from God since He is the source of blessings which Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that God has greatly blessed her.

It encourages them to seek for God's grace in their lives since

Angel Gabriel showed that God was to be gracious to Mary as source of grace that's why she was the only one chosen of women to be the mother of Christ.

Qn.

What did the angel Gabriel say about the baby who was to be born by Mary?

The baby to be born was to be called Jesus according to the Gabriel.

The baby to be born was to be from the line of David according to the Gabriel.

The baby to be born was to be a king according to the Angel.

The baby to be born was to be a king of Jacob's descendants for

His kingdom was to be everlasting according to Gabriel.

He was to be great according to the angel.

He was to be call the son of the Most High God according to

This baby was to bring salvation to the entire world according to the Angel.

MARY'S VISIT TO ELIZABETH [LK. 1:39]

Qn.

Relate or Describe or Narrate or Give an account of the incident or event or story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth in Luke 1:39.

After receiving the message from Angel Gabriel for producing Son of God, Mary went to the town in the hills of Judea to relative Elizabeth.

When she entered the house of Zechariah, she greeted Elizabeth.

Then Elizabeth was filled with the holy spirit.

In a loud voice, Elizabeth said, "you are the most blessed of all women!"

She Elizabeth said, "Blessed is the child you will bear".

Elizabeth wondered how the mother of the Lord would visit her.

Elizabeth told Mary that as soon as she heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb moved within her in joy.

Elizabeth blessed Mary for believing to be the one that God chose to be the mother of the Lord.

(Qn.

1. In what way was Mary's visit to Elizabeth unique?
2. How special was Mary's visit to Elizabeth?
3. Show the unique features in the conversation between Mary and Elizabeth.
4. What was strange in the ~~about~~ above visit of Mary to Elizabeth?

During the visit the baby in the Elizabeth's womb moved within her in joy when she heard Mary's greeting.

During the visit Elizabeth was filled with the holy spirit when she heard Mary's greeting.

During the visit Elizabeth told Mary that you are the most blessed of all women.

In the conversation, Elizabeth told Mary that blessed is the child you will bear.

In the conversation, Elizabeth wondered how Mary the mother of the Lord would visit her.

MARY'S SONG [Lk 1:46-56]

Explain the meaning of Mary's Song in Luke 1:46-56.

It meant God is the one to be praised since in her song, Mary said that her heart praised the Lord for choosing her of the low status to become the mother of the Lord.

It meant God remembers of low ~~status~~ status and raises them up above all people just as He chose Mary to be the mother of the Lord.

It meant God does miracles since he made Virgin Mary a Virgin young woman pregnant and she became the mother of the Lord.

It meant God is holy since He chose a virgin young woman to be the mother of the Lord.

It meant God has mercy to those who honour him since he made a virgin young woman become the mother of the Lord because she lived a humble life.

It meant God is powerful since according to Mary His mighty arm smote the proud and their plans.

It meant God chooses kings to his people especially those of low status by bringing down those of high status.

It meant God fills the hungry with good things and chase away rich with empty hands i.e. Of all who women, it is Mary of low status whom God chose to be the mother of the Lord.

It meant God fulfills his promises, Mary's baby boy was to be the King of the world as God had promised through prophet Isaiah that was to come.

It meant the child Mary was to produce was to be the King from the line of David, Jacob, Isaac and Abraham.

It teaches them to praise the Lord as Mary prayed God for choosing her of a low status to become the mother of the Lord.

It teaches them to seek for miracles from God who made Mary the young Virgin pregnant through the Holy spirit.

It teaches Christians to live a holy life as Mary lived a life of Virginity hence God chooses her to become the mother of Lord.

It teaches them to honour God since according to Mary, God is merciful to those who honour him.

It teaches them to be humble since according to Mary's song God scatters the proud and their plans.

It teaches them to carry their hunger to God who fills the hungry with good things and ^{chases} away the rich with empty hand.

It teaches them to believe in God's promises since according to Mary's song God fulfills his promises.

It teaches them to accept Jesus as the Messiah (Saviour) since Mary's songs shows Jesus as the Lord meaning saviour.

Qns. What do Burren mothers learn from Mary's song?

They learn to pray to God

Burren mothers learn to accept Jesus as the Messiah since according to Mary's songs shows Jesus as the Lord meaning saviour.

They learn to believe in God's promises since according to Mary's song God fulfills his promises

They learn to be humble since according to Mary's song God scatters the proud and their plans.

They learn to carry their hunger to God who fills the hungry with good things and chases away the rich with empty hands.

They learn to honour God since according to Mary, God shows mercy to those who honour Him.

They learn to live a holy life as Mary lived a holy life of Virginity hence God shows her to become the mother of the Lord.

They learn to seek for miracles from God who made Mary the young virgin pregnant through the holy Spirit.

They learn to praise the Lord as Mary praised God for choosing her of a low status to become the mother of the Lord.

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST. [LK 1:57-66].

Preacher

Relate or Narrate or Describe or Give an account of the birth of John the Baptist.

Time came for Elizabeth to have her baby and she gave birth to John as the Angel Gabriel had promised Zechariah.

Elizabeth's neighbours ^{had} ~~had~~ heard how merciful and good God had been to you.

They came and shared with her the joy God had brought her.

On the 8th day they came to circumcise the child.

The ritual of circumcising on the 8th day was followed by giving the child a name among the Jews.

So the neighbours and the relatives were going to name the child after his father.

The neighbours and the relatives said to her, "But you have no relative with that name!"

They then made signs to Zechariah the child's father to ask him for a name he would like to give to the child.

Zechariah asked for a writing tablet.

On the writing tablet, Zechariah wrote, "His name is John".

At that moment, Zechariah started speaking again and started praising God.

All these events made the neighbours and relatives to be filled with fear and people throughout the country of Judea who had wondered what the child John was going to be.

Ans.

What were special in the Birth of John the Baptist?

In the birth Zechariah who was speaking was able to speak again.

John's name was known to his mother and father alone.

John's name was special since no one among his relatives had such a name.

Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on the child's name, John, which surprised the relatives and the neighbours.

What do modern Christians learn from the birth of John the Baptist?

Modern Christians learn to rejoice with others as neighbors and relatives rejoiced with Elizabeth when she gave birth to John.

They learn to believe in God's miracle since first John's birth and to Elizabeth and Zechariah was a miracle.

They learn to have a stand in their lives as Elizabeth had a stand.

on the Child's name. John when the neighbours and relatives wanted name the child Zechariah.

They learn to name their new born babies according to God's will as Elizabeth and Zechariah named their child "John", the name the Angel had announced from God.

They learn to fulfill Christian rituals like baptism, as Elizabeth and Zechariah fulfilled the Jewish rituals of circumcision and naming.

They learn to believe in God's promises since the birth of John. Elizabeth and Zechariah was a promise from God.

They learn to praise God for his blessings to them as Zechariah praised God for the blessing of the child John to him.

They learn to fulfill God's commands as Elizabeth and Zechariah to God's command of naming their child John.

They learn to have faith in God as Elizabeth and Zechariah remained faithful to God until God gave them a child John.

They learn to spread the Good news about Jesus Christ just as the neighbours and the relatives spread the good news about the birth of the Baptist.

They learn to share their secrets with fellow Christians as Zechariah shared the name John with the neighbours and relatives by writing down on the writing tablets.

They learn to sing for God, songs showing their appreciation to God as Zechariah sang to God for giving him a son child and Israel prophet.

Jesus' birth happened during emperor Augustus Caesar as a ruler of the roman empire..

Emperor Augustus ordered for a census to be taken throughout the roman empire.

Everyone had to register himself back to his own town.

Joseph went from Nazareth, a town in Galilee to Judea, a town in Bethlehem, David's town, because he was a descendant of David originating from the city.

Joseph went to register with Mary who was to be married to him while they were there the time came for the baby to be born.

Mary gave birth to her first born, a son and wrapped him in strips of clothes.

Mary placed the son in the manger because there was no room for them inn.

There were some shepherds around who spent the night taking care of their flocks.

An angel of God appeared to the shepherds and the glory of God shone over them.

The shepherds became afraid but the Angel told them not to be afraid.

The Angel told the shepherds that it was because of the good news he had brought for them and that good news was to bring great joy to all the people.

The Angel said, "This very day in David's town your saviour was born, Christ the Lord.

As a sign that the saviour had been born in the town of David, the Angel told the shepherds, "You will find the baby wrapped in

stripes of cloth and lying in a manger."

After the Angel's words a great army of heaven's Angels appeared with the Angel singing and praising the Lord.

When Angels went back into heaven, the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem and prove what they had been told by the Angel.

They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger.

On seeing the baby, the shepherds told Mary and Joseph what the Angel had said about the child.

News about Jesus' birth spread and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said.

The shepherds went back praising God for what they had heard from the Angel and seen by themselves.

WHAT CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM JESUS BIRTH.

Christians learn to announce the good news of Jesus to non believers.

Just like the Angel announced the good news of Jesus birth to shepherds.

They learn to give courage to fellow Christians facing fear as the Angel told the shepherds not to be afraid when he appeared to them in heavenly glory.

They learn to praise God in times of joy and happiness as the army of heavenly Angels appeared with Angel Gabriel and praised God when Jesus was born.

They learn to preach the gospel of Jesus as the Messiah as the

They learn to believe in Jesus' divine nature since the events around Jesus Christ like the heavenly Angels singing and praising God who showed his divine character.

They learn to believe in Jesus' message of God from His messengers like priests and pastors as the shepherds believed the Angels' message and went to see Jesus Christ's birth.

They learn to believe in Jesus' human nature since events announce His birth showed he was a human being like any other since he was born.

They learn to trust God's promise since He fulfills them as He fulfilled the birth of Jesus by Virgin Mary.

They learn to seek for peace, joy and happiness brought by Jesus Christ the Messiah.

They learn to obey political leaders' commands in the society as Joseph and Mary obeyed to go and register as a command of Emperor Augustus Caesar.

WHAT SHOWS THAT JESUS' BIRTH WAS SPECIAL?

Qn.

How was the birth of Jesus Christ extra-ordinary.

Jesus' birth was announced by an angel.

Jesus' birth had been foretold by the prophets in the Old Testament.

Jesus' birth was brought about by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was born to a virgin young woman Mary.

Jesus was given a name before his birth.

Jesus' birth was started by God who sent Angel Gabriel to a virgin young woman Mary.

The angels appeared and sung glorifying and praising God
Jesus' mission was outlined even before he was born
He was born without the original sin of Adam and Eve.

Ques.

How was Jesus' birth similar to the birth of John the Baptist?

Both the birth of Jesus and the birth of John the Baptist were announced before conception by the angel Gabriel.

Both births were as a result of God's special revelations.

Both births were miracles since Jesus' mother was Virgin & John's mother was barren.

Both births the name of the baby was given in advance by angel Gabriel.

Both births, Jesus and John the Baptists were first borns

Both births the mother had natural birth

Both births the babies were male.

Both births were announced for the salvation of their people.

Both births the parents were righteous and humble

Both births children were circumcised after eight days

Both births children were filled with holy spirit

Both births announcement took place during the first

State what a Jewish family was expected to do after the birth of a child.

A baby boy is supposed to be circumcised after 8 days.

At the time of circumcision, he would then be given a name.

The mother had to undergo the purification ceremony.

An offering, a lamb or a pair of doves or pigeons was to be taken to the priest in the temple 40 days after bearing a son.

The son was consecrated to God if he was a first born as a way of buying him back with ₦5 shekels.

Qn:

Relate or narrate or describe or give an account of the birth of the baby in African traditional religion known to you.

Among the Langi, the birth of the baby can be described as follows.

After 9 months of pregnancy, a Langi woman is expected to deliver.

During this period, she either stayed at the husband's home or she went back to her parents' home.

There, she was kept inside the house under the care of a midwife who was an elderly woman.

Men were not allowed inside the room she was to deliver from.

Only the pregnant woman and the elderly women were allowed in the room.

At delivery, the midwife could cut the umbilical cord and the placenta.

The umbilical cord was kept in the pot and later buried underground.

The women inside shouted for joy at delivery.

This made the elderly men outside know that the delivery was alright.

If then the child born was a boy, he was kept in seclusion for 3 days and if it was a girl for 4 days.

At the end of the seclusion, the mother of the baby was made to come out with the winnowing fan on her head.

She was taken to the granary where the child was passed under a granary to the other side of the elderly woman.

The name was given to the child. Immediately the child was born.

The name was usually given by one of the members in the club.

After seclusion, gifts of hens, goats were given to the elders whose names had been given to the child.

There was then celebration where people danced, sang and ate.

Ques:

How different is the birth of baby in the above community & the birth of Jesus in [Luke: 2: 1-2 b.]

While the birth of Jesus was dated by giving the political leader of time, the birth of a baby in the African traditional society lacked a date.

While Jesus' birth, emperor Caesar Augustus is named as one who ordered for a census, the birth in African traditional society was silent about any leader.

While Jesus' birth another ruler is named as Quirinius as governor of Syria in the birth of the African traditional baby, such a ruler is not mentioned.

While Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, a baby was born in the village in A.T.S.

While Jesus was born to Mary, who was promised to be married to Joseph, the baby in the African traditional society was born to a man and a woman who were already married.

While Mary and Joseph were both in Bethlehem to be registered as descendant of David when Jesus was born, the birth of the baby in the African traditional society, a man was not allowed to be near.

While Mary gave birth to her first son in Jesus' birth, the birth of a baby in the African traditional society was followed by the birth of many children.

While Jesus was laid in the manger where animals stayed and were fed, a new born was laid in pieces of cloth in the house in African traditional society.

While the birth of Jesus is written down in the bible the birth of a baby in African tradition lacked records of its happening.

While Jesus' birth was announced by an angel, a new born baby in A.T.S was announced by elderly women in child of birth.

While a bright shining star shown at the birth of Jesus, the candle or a piece of wood shown at the birth of the baby.

THE DIFFERENCES BTN THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST AND JOHN THE BAPTIST.

While Jesus was conceived by the holy spirit, John the baptist was conceived by his father Zechariah.

While Jesus' birth was announced by the angel to her mother Mary, John the Baptist's birth was announced by the angel to his father Zechariah.

While Jesus' birth announcement, the angel went to the village, John the baptist's birth, the angel appeared in the temple

While Jesus' birth announcement, the angel appeared to Mary a young girl, John the baptist's announcement, the angel appeared to Zechariah whose wife Elizabeth who was old.

While Mary did not ask for a child, Elizabeth and Zechariah for a child from God.

While John the Baptist lived a public life, Jesus lived a private life.

While John the baptist's announcement came first, Jesus' announcement came late.

While Jesus' birth was to bring sorrow to Joseph, who was going to Mary, John the baptist's birth was to bring happiness to the son Zechariah.

Mary was a village girl while Zechariah was a priest.

Jesus is presented (dedicated) in the temple (Lk 2: 22)

JESUS IS PRESENTED (DEDICATED) IN THE TEMPLE [Lk 2: 22]

When the day came for purification according to the law Moses, Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus in Jerusalem present him to the Lord.

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to consecrate him to the Lord.

They offered the sacrifice of the pair of doves as the law of Moses required.

During this time, Mary also performed the purification rituals as required by the law of Moses.

In Jerusalem, there lived a man named Simeon who was very upright.

The holy spirit was always with him and he look forward to a time when the Lord would comfort Israel.

Simeon had been assured by the holy spirit that he would not die before seeing the messiah of the world.

He was led into the temple by the same holy spirit and at that time, the parents brought the child Jesus into the temple to fulfill the requirements of the Law of Moses.

Simeon then took the child in his arm and blessed God saying "Now Lord you have kept your promise and you may let your servants go in peace!"

"With my own eyes I have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all people".

"A light to reveal your will to the gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel".

Mary and Joseph wondered at what was said about the child.

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, "This child is chosen by God for the destruction and salvation of many in Israel."

There was also a prophetess known as Anna the daughter of Phanuel who was a committed worshipper and she never left the temple.

When Anna saw Jesus, she gave thanks to God and spoke
as one who would bring redemption to Jerusalem.

Many and Joseph treasured all these words in their hearts.

Having fulfilled all that was required by the law of Moses,
went back to their home town Nazareth in Galilee.

There Jesus grew and was filled with wisdom and grace of
Lord was upon him.

Qns.

What do Christians learn from Jesus' presentation or dedication
to the temple?

They learn to fulfill God's laws, as Mary and Joseph took
dedicate him as God's law required.

They learn to cleanse themselves physically and spiritually, as Mary
herself as required by the laws of Moses.

They learn to live an upright life, as Simeon lived an upright
life in the temple at Jerusalem.

They learn to spare time for God in the temple, as prophet Anna
spent the temple during her life time of serving God.

They learn to seek for the holy spirit to inspire them when
as Simeon had the holy spirit inspiring him when serving God.

They learn to fulfill religious rituals like Baptism, holy communion
like Mary went to the temple at Jerusalem to fulfill the ritual
purification as required by their law of Moses.

They learn to live and celebrate God's prophecies.

They learn to fellowship in church, as Anna left the temple during the time of service.

They learn to accept Jesus as the messiah of the world since prophet Simeon announced that he was the messiah of the world.

They learn to dedicate their children to God, as Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus to God in the temple of Jerusalem.

They learn to pray to God everyday, as prophet Anna used to pray to God all time in the temple at Jerusalem.

They learn to worship God everyday, as Anna worshipped God all the time in the temple.

They learn to fast, as Anna always fasted in the temple of Jerusalem as the prophet of God.

Ques.

How relevant is Jesus' presentation (dedication) in the temple to modern Christians?

Christians should fulfill God's laws, as Mary and Joseph took Jesus to dedicate him as God's law required.

They should cleanse themselves physically and spiritually, as Mary purified herself as required by the laws of Moses.

They should live an upright life, as Simeon lived an upright life in the temple at Jerusalem.

They should ~~spend~~ time for God in the temple, as prophet Anna never left the temple during her life time of serving God.

They should seek for the Holy Spirit to inspire them when serving God, as Simeon had the Holy Spirit inspiring him when serving God.

They should fulfill religious rituals like Baptism, holy communion, etc.

like Mary, went to the temple at Jerusalem to fulfill the ritual. They purification as required by the law of Moses.

They should live and celebrate God's prophecies, as sinners live that seek the word of God fulfilled in his life.

They should fellowship in church, as Anna left the temple during the time service.

They should accept Jesus as their Messiah, of the world since p^{re}simeon announced that he was the messiah of the world.

They should dedicate their children to God, as Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus to God in the temple of Jerusalem.

They should pray to God everyday, as prophet ~~Pray to God~~ worshipped all the time in the temple.

They should worship God everyday, as Anna worshipped all the time in the temple.

They should fast, as Anna always fasted in the temple of Jerusalem as the prophet of God.

THE BOY JESUS AT 12 YEARS IN THE TEMPLE [Lk 2: 41-62].

Every year, the parent of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the celebration of the passover.

When Jesus was now 12 years old, he accompanied his parents to Jerusalem to celebrate the passover.

When the festival was over, they returned home but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem.

The parents were unease that Jesus had remained in Jerusalem.

They realized that Jesus was not with them after they had travelled

~~Jesus~~ They thought he was in the company of the relatives and friends.

So they travelled the whole day and then started looking for him among
in their relatives and friends.

When they could not find him, they were forced to return to Jerusalem.
After looking for him and on the 4th day, they found him in the temple.

While in the temple, Jesus was in the company of the teachers of the
law listening to them and asking them questions.

His intelligent questions and answers amazed the teachers of the law.

The parents of Jesus were very surprised when they found him in the
temple.

Mary asked, "Why have you treated us like this? We have been terribly
worried trying to find you."

Jesus answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't
you know that I had to be in my father's house?"

Mary and Joseph did not understand Jesus' answers.

Jesus left with them and returned to Nazareth with his parents
where he was obedient to them.

His mother kept all these things in her heart and Jesus grew both in wisdom
gaining favour with God and people.

What do parents in the church today learn from the event of
the boy Jesus in the Temple?

*Parents learn to take their children for religious education, as
Mary and Joseph took Jesus with them to celebrate the passover
festival.*

They learn to show care for their children in case they are lost, and Joseph got concerned as parents and looked for Jesus when he lost from them.

They learn to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection as their own ceremony; just as Mary, Joseph and other people went together with Jesus to celebrate the same festival.

They learn to make pilgrimages to holy places like "Namugongo" with their children just as Mary and Joseph went with Jesus for the passover festival.

They learn to accept Jesus as a messiah since Jesus' interaction with the teachers of the law shows that he was more than an ordinary one at his age hence he was the messiah.

They learn to fellowship with other Christians in church, just as Mary and Joseph went every year for the passover fellowship to Jerusalem.

They learn to unite both the mother and father in showing concern and concern for their children just as both Mary and Joseph did when looking for Jesus who had got lost from them.

They learn to bring up their children in God fearing way, As Mary and Joseph took Jesus for the passover ceremony to bring him up in God fearing way.

They learn to allow their children spend sometimes in the church with God just as Jesus wondered why they his parents were concerned yet he was in his father's house.

They learn to pray to God, as Mary and Joseph went to Jesus to attend the passover as part of prayers to God.

Jesus for me

They learn to allow their children accompanying them in church for prayer on Sunday, just as Mary and Joseph allowed Jesus to accompany them for the passover in Jerusalem.

They learn to teach their children to respect their church leaders by listening to them, just as Mary and Joseph brought up Jesus in a way he could be sent listen to the teachers of the law with respect.

They learn to discover the abilities and gifts of their children unlike one Mary and Joseph who never discovered Jesus' messiahship as he was growing up.

They learn to put confidence in their children as they grow up so that they can approach church leaders freely and ask them questions about the kingdom of God in order to understand it.

Ques.

i. What relevance is the above event

a) To parents in church to day?

b) To christians in church to day?

c) To religious leaders in church to day?

Parents in church should

- take their children to religious celebration
- show care for their children incase they are lost
- Celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection at their passover ceremony
- Make pilgrimages to holy places like Namugongo shrines with their children
- accept Jesus as a messiah
- Fellowship with other christians in church
- Unite both the mother and father in showing care and concern for their children

→ bring up their children in God fearing way
→ let their children spend sometime in the church with God.

- Pray to God
- Allow their children to participate in annual religious and others like chamas.
- allow their children accompany them in church for ~~on~~ Sunday
- teach their children to respect their church leaders by listening
- discover the abilities and gifts of their children
- Put confidence in their children as they grow up so that they can approach church leaders freely and ask them about the Kingdoms of God in order to understand it.

2. Of importance is the above events

- To parents in church today?
- To Christians in church today?
- To religious leaders in church today?

The above events encourage parents

- to take their children for religious celebrations
- to show care for their children because they are lost
- to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection as their passover
- to make pilgrimages to holy places like Namugongo shrine
- children:
- to accept Jesus as a messiah
- to fellowship with other Christians in church
- to unite both the mother and father in showing care and love to their children
- to allow their children spend sometimes in the church with them
- to pray to God
- to allow their children to participate in annual religious and others like chamas.
- to allow their children accompany them in church for ~~on~~ Sunday
- to teach their children to respect their church leaders by listening

to discover the abilities and gifts of their children.
to put confidence in their children as they grow up so that they can approach church leaders freely and ask them questions about the kingdom of God in order to understand it

3) Explain the challenges parents face today in bringing up their children

Some children always disobedient to their parents hence parents face such disobedient from those children.

Some parents face poverty when bringing their children today hence some fail to pay school fees.

Children or some parents are spoilt by negative peer influence through smoking, stealing, taking alcohol.

Some parents are too busy at work with almost no time for their children which is a challenge.

Children of some parents involved in immoral activity like showing naked bodies recorded in films of pornography.

Some parents have poor health hence are unable to bring up their children well.

Some children have lost traditional moral values like knelling while greeting elders or visitors and maintaining their virginity.

Western cultural influence have affected the morals of children hence some dress in mini-skirts and "see through dresses".

Pornography of naked women on televisions and in newspapers which children watch and read about is another challenge facing the parents.

Human sacrifices made on some children affect parents of such children.

Kidnap of children affects parents who are so busy with work and yet can not afford baby sitters.

Some parents are challenged by sports betting where some involved school fees in such practices.

Some parents fear to talk to their growing children at adolescent about life experiences.

Parents face infant mortality rate where their children die under age.

THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST [Luke 3: 1-20]

John the Baptist began his preaching during the reign of emperor Tiberius Caesar when Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea.

Herod was the leader of Galilee and now Jesus was coming to 30 years age.

John the Baptist the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth received the message from God when he was in the desert of Judea.

He lived a holy life in the desert and he was referred to as the second because he had power, spirit, fire given to him by God.

Qn

1. Explain the content the Baptist's preaching [Lk 3: 1-20] / Give what John preached about.

2. Give an account of the teaching and preaching of John the Baptist [Lk 3]

3. Explain the message John the Baptist gave to the listeners of his time.

NB:

The following answers help the above questions

John the Baptist told his listeners to turn away from their sins and repeat

He told them to be Baptized and God will forgive their sins

He told them that he came to announce the man for Jesus as his son

He told the people that they should not rely on the good life of their ancestor Abraham to save them.

He told them that they must produce their own lives acceptable to God.

He told the people to share their property so that if one has too shirts, should give one to a person with none and one with food to the do the same.

He told the people that if they don't repent, Judgement from God was near.

He told government workers not to cheat the people they serve.

He told government workers not to abandon their work but to do it honestly.

He told soldiers not take away money from anybody by force.

He told soldiers not to accuse anybody falsely.

He told soldiers to be content with their pay.

He told the people that he was a humble man and he came to baptise with water.

He told the people that a great man was arriving who would baptise them with the holy spirit and fire.

He told King Herod to stop his evil marriage with Herodias the wife of his brother Philip.

How did John the Baptist prepare the way for the Messiah?

He called upon the Jews to repent for their sins and be ready for the Messiah who was coming.

He condemned the Jews boasting that they were descendants of Abraham and yet they were not as faithful as Abraham was in one way of preparing them for the Messiah.

John told the Jews to make all roads straight as they prep.
for the messiah who was coming.

He told the rich to share with the poor so that one with two
gives one shirt to a person with none as they prepare for the me-
siah who was coming.

He told tax collectors to stop being corrupt and be content with
pay as they prepared for the Messiah who was coming

He told the Jews to practice Justice as they prepare for the messiah
was coming.

He told the Jews that he was baptizing them with water but the
one who was coming was to baptize them with the holy spirit and fire

He told the Jews the time of messiah had come as the Old
scriptures had said.

He told the people that he was not greater than the messiah
extent that he was not good enough even to untie His sandals.

He baptised Jesus Christ in the river Jordan which proved
Jesus was also a human being like any other human being
would have doubted him.

He advised people to live holy life and do what is right
prepared for the messiah for who was coming.

He introduced Jesus Christ to the crowd after baptising him
told them that He was the Lamb of God and Saviour of all men.

He introduced Jesus to his disciples and even handed over some
to him and they became the first disciples of Jesus.

How relevant is the preaching of John the Baptist to Christians today?

Christians should repent of their sins as John the Baptist told the people to repent from their sins as they waited for the Messiah.

They should be content with their pay or work as John the Baptist told the government workers to be content with their pay.

They should accept baptism the Christians' ritual Jesus Christ Himself went through.

They should baptise new converts to Christianity as John the Baptist baptised the Jews who repented from their sins.

They should share clothes, food, money with those with none as John the Baptist told the people with two shirts and food to share with those with none.

They should prepare hearts ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ the messiah as John told the Jews to prepare ^{all} roads straight for the coming of the Messiah.

They should accept Jesus as their Messiah who was declared by God's voice ^{with} baptism that Jesus was the son of God.

They should condemn evil like stealing, homosexuality in society as John the Baptist condemned tax collectors for over charging the people.

They should be fair unlike tax collectors of John the Baptist's time who were over taxing the people.

They should fight social justice in the society as John the Baptist stood for social justice by telling tax collectors and soldiers to be fair to the people.

They should believe in the holy trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit who appeared to the people when Jesus was born.

baptised.

They should live holy lives as John the Baptist told the people to live and do what is right.

Ques.

How does John the Baptist appear to be like Prophet Elijah.

He dressed in animal skins - like prophet Elijah

John the Baptist had a fearless character by attacking King Herod managing Herodias his brother's wife as Elijah was fearless by attacking Jezebel a foreign woman who was not on

John the Baptist lived a life of speaking the truth and like who had faced the truth of managing Herodias his brother's wife just as Elijah told Naboth the truth of grabbing Naboth's vineyard and managing foreign woman.

His food was locusts and honey like Elijah whose food was the same

John the Baptist lived more in the desert like Elijah lived in the desert

John the Baptist never married like Elijah never married.

John the Baptist was persecuted by king Herod the political leader just as Elijah was persecuted by king Ahab of Israel.

John the Baptist was the preacher of the message of God as Elijah was the kingdom of God as Elijah was the preacher of the message of God

John the Baptist was the great man in the sight of God as Elijah was a great man in the sight of God.

John the Baptist was filled with the spirit of God just as Elijah had the spirit of God on him.

John the Baptist was born from a poor family like Elijah was born from a poor family.

Qn.

What can Christians learn from the life of Mr. John the Baptist.

Christians learn to speak without fear when facing sinners as John the Baptist spoke out without fear when facing King Herod who was in marriage with his brother's ex wife Herodias.

They learn to dress upright to show the glory of God in them just as John the Baptist dressed upright.

They learn to eat and drink holy foods by God which doesn't bring shame to them like alcohol just as John the Baptist would not feed on such unholy diet.

They learn to spare time for God just as John the Baptist spared time for God in the desert.

They learn to preach a convincing message to sinners just as John preached a convincing message and people accepted Baptism.

They learn to die for the truth just as the John the Baptist's head was cut off because of the truth.

They learn to baptise new converts to Christianity just as John the Baptist baptised those who repented of their sins.

They learn to do missionary work as John the Baptist did the work of preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

They learn to walk upright in the sight of God as John the Baptist walked upright as the prophet of God.

They learn to seek for God's holy spirit on them as they serve him just as John the Baptist had the holy spirit on him as he served God.

They learn to accept Jesus as their saviour just as John the Baptist prepared people to accept Jesus the Saviour.

They learn to humble themselves before Jesus the messiah just as the Baptist he meant free to enter Jesus' sandals as He came (as. John baptism which was a sign of humbling himself).

They learn THE BAPTISM OF JESUS [Lk 3: 21 - 22].

When Jesus was about 30 years old He came to John the Baptist to baptise him.

John was baptising people in the river Teth Jordan.

As Jesus was being baptised, the heavens opened and the holy spirit came down upon him in form of a dove.

A voice from heaven was heard saying "You are my own dear son, I am pleased with you".

SIGNIFICANCE / IMPORTANCE OF JESUS' BAPTISM.

Jesus' baptism showed him as a good example to the rest of us who also came and accepted baptism by John the Baptist.

His baptism showed that He approved of John the Baptist's mission hence it revealed that He respected John the baptist's work.

It showed that Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament scriptures, also as the messiah Old Testament prophet like Israhel had announced.

It showed his divine nature since as he was being baptised, the heavens open which showed him as a super human being.

It showed his human nature since he was baptised by John the Baptist like other people were baptised by the same person.

"You are my own dear son, I am pleased with you". God showed his love for Jesus.

It associated Jesus with the sinners he had come to save.

It showed the holy trinity of God the father, God the son and God the holy spirit where the voice from heaven represented God the father, the dove, God the holy spirit and Jesus God the son.

It showed Jesus' willingness to die for the sins of mankind since John the Baptist immersing Jesus in water to showed that in future he was to die.

It showed Jesus' future resurrection since his coming out of water having been immersed by John the Baptist meant that he was to die but would resurrect.

It started Jesus' ministry publicly and officially since many people who were around saw him being baptised and went to tell others about what they had seen.

It showed that the kingdom of God was present since its king Jesus had now come and was now being baptised.

It empowered Jesus for his temptation in future since immediately after his baptism, the holy spirit he had received led him into the desert where he was tempted.

It showed Jesus as the messiah since as he was being baptised God's voice from heaven showed him as a special son of God.
NB:

Explain the meaning of Jesus' baptism in (LK 3: 21-23) for the above points using the words "Jesus' baptism meaning".

Ques;

1. Jesus was sinless but he went to John the Baptist to baptise him. Why?
2. Why was Jesus baptised by John the Baptist?
3. Jesus did not need to repent of any sins
a) Why then did he go to John the Baptist to baptise him.

b) Explain the importance of the ritual of baptism to modern Christians (church today).

N.B:

All the above questions (1-3) need the following answer.

Jesus wanted to show a good example to the rest of the people who also came and accepted baptism by John the Baptist.

Jesus wanted to approve of the John the Baptist's ministry hence going for John's baptism to show respect to his work.

Jesus wanted fulfill the old Testament scriptures about him, as the prophet where old Testament prophets like Isaiah had announced the coming of the great man.

He wanted to show his divine nature since he was being baptised the heaven opened which showed him as a super human being

He wanted to show his human nature since he was baptised by John the Baptist like other people were baptised by the same person.

Jesus wanted to show God's love for him since through the voice from heaven "You are my dear son. I am pleased with you". God showed his love for Jesus.

Jesus wanted to show himself as a son of God when the voice from heaven said "You are my dear son. I am pleased with you".

Jesus wanted to associated with the sinners he had come to save since these sinners were around being baptised by John the Baptist.

Jesus wanted to show the holy trinity of God the father, God the son and God the holy spirit since the voice heaven represented God the father, Jesus God the son and the dove God the holy spirit.

Jesus wanted to show his willingness to die for the sins of man first since John the Baptist immersing him in water meant that he

future he was to die.

Ques: What did Jesus wanted to show his future resurrection since coming out of water having been immersed by John the Baptist meant that in future he would resurrect.

Ans:

What was the significant form of the voice from heaven "You are my dear son. I am pleased with you" at Jesus baptism?

The voice confirmed that Jesus was God's dear son.

The voice showed that Jesus was the messiah of the world.

The voice represented God the Father during Jesus' baptism.

The voice showed that God approved of Jesus' mission of saving sinners.

The voice called upon people who were at the baptism to accept Jesus as the messiah.

The voice proved that Jesus' mission and work was willed by God.

The voice showed that Jesus was divine in nature and was not just an ordinary person.

The voice showed God's love for Jesus as his son.

The voice showed God's unity with his son Jesus Christ.

SIGNIFICANT OF THE DOVE FROM HEAVEN DURING JESUS' BAPTISM.

Ques:

Explain the importance of the dove at Jesus' baptism in Luke.

The holy spirit in form of the dove confirmed that Jesus Christ was divine.

The holy spirit in form of the dove at baptism empowered Jesus to start his ministry.

The holy spirit in form of the dove anointed Jesus Christ to start his mission on the Earth.

The holy spirit in form of a dove empowered Jesus to fast in the desert for forty days and night.

The holy spirit in form of the dove empowered Jesus to face temptation in the desert while fasting.

The holy spirit in form of the dove empowered Jesus to win satan's temptations in the desert.

The holy spirit in form of the dove at baptism empowered Jesus in future to heal the sick.

The holy spirit in form of the dove of baptism empowered Jesus to cast out demons from people.

The holy spirit in form of the dove of baptism empowered Jesus in future to raise the dead to life.

The holy spirit in form of the dove of baptism empowered Jesus in future to feed the hungry people.

The holy spirit in form of the dove of baptism empowered Jesus to accept suffering in order to save sinners.

The holy spirit in form of the dove of baptism empowered Jesus in future to accept death in order to save sinners.

Ques

"You are my own dear son, I am pleased with you."

ii) Explain the significance of the above words of Jesus' baptism.

What is the meaning (importance) of the above statements of Jesus' baptism?
NB:

i) Significance (importance) equal = showed

iii) Meaning = meant

Holy Trinity = God the father, the son, and the holy

The statements confirmed that Jesus Christ was the messiah.

It showed that Jesus Christ was a son of God.

It showed that Jesus Christ was loved by God as his son.

It showed that Jesus Christ was God the son as part of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

It showed that God approved of Jesus' mission of saving mankind.

It showed Jesus' unity with God his father.

It also called upon people who were present at baptism to obey Jesus the son of God.

It showed God's determination to support Jesus in his mission of saving mankind.

It showed Jesus as a divine being.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM TO CHRISTIANS TODAY?

Baptism helps a Christian to receive a Christian name in some Christian churches like Anglican and Catholic church.

It helps a Christian to receive other Christian sacraments like confirmation in some other Christian churches.

It cleanses Christians physically and spiritually as the followers of Jesus hence becoming a new creature.

It washes away one's sins as a follower of Jesus Christ and one becomes a new creature.

It unites a Christian with other Christians as followers of Jesus Christ to become one family.

^{sin} It makes one reborn from the original of Adam and Eve hence becoming
reborn a new creature holy and free from sins

to show It is a sign of one's faith in Jesus Christ as his follower.
^{their faith}

to die It is a sign of a Christian accepting to die ~~up~~ together with Jesus Christ
^{together with} who also died and was buried.
^{Jesus Christ}

It is a sign of a Christian accepting to resurrect together with
Jesus Christ who died and resurrected.

It helps Christians to receive the Holy Spirit to guide them in their
new life as followers of Jesus Christ.

as a sign of their obedience to Jesus' example who was also
baptised.

to show them as holy ones of God through Jesus Christ

to prepare them for Jesus' second coming since it shows
him as his follower who is waiting for him.

to prepare them for the heavenly kingdom which Jesus Christ
went to prepare for those who accept and follow him.

to empower them to face persecutions and such challenges they
face in their lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

to replace circumcision It replaces circumcision as an outward sign. A Christian must go
through to become a child of God and a descendant of Abraham.

to show them as new Israelites It shows Christians as the new Israelites who have accepted
Jesus Christ as their messiah.

Qns-

1. Why are Christians baptised?

2. Account for the ritual of baptism in the church today?

Christians are baptised to receive a Christian name in some churches like Anglican and Catholic churches.

They are baptised to receive other Christian sacraments like Confession in some Christian churches.

They are baptised to cleanse them spiritually and physically as the follower of Jesus hence becoming a new creature.

They are baptised so that their sins are washed away as a follower of Jesus Christ and one becomes a new creature.

They are baptised so that they unite with other Christians as follower of Jesus Christ to become one family.

They are baptised to be reborn from the Originalosis of Adam and Eve hence becoming a new creature holy and free from sins.

They are baptised to show their faith in Jesus Christ as his follower.

They are baptised to die together with Jesus Christ who also died and resurrected.

They are baptised to revive the Holy Spirit to guide them in their new life as follower of Jesus Christ.

They are baptised as a sign of obedience to Jesus' example who was also baptised.

They are baptised to show them as a holy ones of God through Jesus Christ.

They are baptised to prepare them for Jesus' second coming since it shows him as his follower who is waiting for him.

They are baptised to prepare them for the heavenly dinner which Jesus went to prepare for those who accept and follow him.

They are baptised to empower them to face persecutions and such challenges they face in their lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

They are baptised to replace circumcision as an outward sign & Christian must go through to become a child of God and a descendant of Abraham.

They are baptised to show them as the new Israelites who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Messiah.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS CHRIST (LK 4:1).

Jesus returned from Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and he was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert.

He stayed in the desert for forty days and nights.

In all the forty days, Jesus was in the desert and ate nothing.

The devil said to Jesus "If you are the son of God, command this stone to become bread".

But Jesus answered "It is written, Man shall not live by bread only, but by every word of God."

Then the devil took Jesus up the high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world.

"I will give you all this power and wealth" It has been

If has been handed over to me and I can give it to any one I choose.

"All these will be yours if you worshipped me."

Jesus answered "The scripture says worship the Lord your God and serve only him".

Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and set him on the highest point of the temple.

The devil said to him, "If you are the son of God throw yourself down from here".

* For the scripture says "God will order his angels to take good care of you".

"They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones".

But Jesus answered, "The scriptures says, 'do not put the Lord your God to the test'".

Then the devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, and left him for a while.

SIGNIFICANCE (IMPORTANCE) OF JESUS' TEMPTATION IN THE DESERT (LK 4:1).

Qn.

1. Explain the significance of Jesus' temptation in (LK: 4:1)
(what the temptation showed).
2. What was the importance of Jesus' temptations in the desert?
(what it showed).
3. Show the meaning of Jesus' encounter ^{with} the desert-devil in the desert (what it meant).

Jesus' temptations showed that he was divine since he stayed in the desert for 40 days but ate nothing.

It showed that Jesus was human since he became hungry like any other human being after staying in the desert and ate nothing.

It showed that Jesus was the messiah since he stayed in the desert for forty days eating nothing but preparing to come and save sinners.

It showed the messianic secrecy of Jesus since he was tempted in the desert alone hiding away his messiahship from the rest of the people.

It showed that Jesus was identifying himself with the sinful man by offering himself to suffer in order to save that sinful man.

It empowered Jesus to be ready for future temptations in his ministry where he was to face forces of satan trying to oppose him.

It showed Jesus had come to defeat the devil and would even defeat future forces of satan opposing him.

It showed that Jesus was the suffering type of messiah since his temptations in the desert involved suffering.

It showed Jesus obedience to the will of God his father since he had the option either to accept the devil's temptation or to remain committed to God's will of saving sinful man.

It meant the starting battle between Jesus the son of God and the forces of satan.

It meant the importance of the holy spirit in Jesus' ministry, which the holy spirit Jesus had received during the baptism and it enabled him to overcome satan's temptations.

It meant that being tempted is not a sin but it is only a sin when a person accepts the demands of the temptations.

It meant Jesus' Unity with God his father who empowered him to use scriptures and won the devil's temptations.

NB:

Why was Jesus tempted.

- Jesus was tempted to show his divinity.
- Jesus was tempted to show his humanity.
- Jesus was tempted to show his messiahship.
- He was tempted to show his messianic secrecy.

He was tempted to identify himself with sinful men he had come to save.

He was tempted to empower him for future temptation he would face during his ministry.

He was

He was tempted to show that he had come to defeat the devil.

He was tempted to show that he was a suffering type of Messiah.

He was tempted to show his obedience to God's will.

He was tempted to show the beginning of the battle between him and satanic forces.

He was tempted to show importance of the holy spirit he had received at the baptism.

He was tempted to show his unity with God his father.

He was tempted to show that being tempted is not a sin.

NB:

The above points should be explain using the explanations above.

HOW IMPORTANCE / SIGNIFICANT IN JESUS TEMPTATIONS TO MORDER CHRISTIANS.

Jesus' temptations encourages christians to remain strong and win temptations facing them.

His temptations encourages them to fight and resist temptation of any nature such as poverty, hunger etc.

This temptation encourages christians to use God's word and scripture to overcome temptations as Jesus used God's word to win the devil in the desert.

His temptation encourages christians to fast as one way of seeking for God's power to win temptations.

His temptation encourages Christians to face temptation without fear as Jesus faced the devil without fear in the desert.

His temptation encourages Christians to call upon Jesus' name during their temptations to stand by them since he was able to win temptation.

His temptation encourages Christians to resist all tricks through which the devil passes to tempt them such as free school fees, money, food etc.

His temptation encourages them to ask God for the holy spirit to inspire them win over the devil temptations just as Jesus himself had been filled with the same spirit of God before temptation.

His temptation encourages them to have self control as far as their human desires are concerned such as the desire for political power, food etc.

It encourages to accept temptations as part and parcel of their lives as they were part and parcel of Jesus' life.

It encourages them to have more faith in God since even when Jesus faced temptations in the desert, he remained faithful to God his father.

It encourages them to resist ^{idol} worship as Jesus resisted worshipping the devil.

It encourages Christians to guard against their desires for material things or possessions or property so that they can drive away the devil who can lead them through into sin through those things.

WHAT LESSONS DO CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM JESUS' TEMPTATION?

Christians learn to remain strong and win temptations facing them as Jesus won temptations brought to him by the devil.

They learn to fight and resist temptations of any nature such as poverty and hunger.

They learn to use God's word and scriptures to overcome temptation as Jesus used God's word to win the tempter, devil in the desert.

They learn to fast as one way of seeking for God's power to win temptation

They learn to face temptations without fear as Jesus faced the devil without fear in the desert.

They learn to ~~face~~ call upon Jesus' name during their temptations to stand by them since he was able to win temptations

They learn to resist all trials through which the devil ~~powers~~ to tempt them such as free school fees, money and food.

They learn to ask God for the Holy spirit to inspire them win over devil's temptations just as Jesus' himself had been filled with ^{some} holy spirit of God before temptations.

They learn to have self control as far as their human desires are concerned such as the desire for political power, food etc.

They learn to accept temptations such as part and parcel of their lives as their part of Jesus' life.

They learn to have more faith in God since even when Jesus faced temptations in the desert, he remained faithful to God his father.

They learn to resist ~~off~~ worship as Jesus resisted worshipping the devil.

They learn to seek for help and guidance, deliverance from God during temptations of the devil as Jesus sought help of God to overcome the temptations.

NB:

Relevance of Jesus' temptations to the modern church

They should remain strong and win temptations facing them.

They should fight and resist temptations of any nature.

They should use God's word and scriptures to overcome temptations.

They should fail as one way of seeking for God's power to win temptations.

They should call upon Jesus' name during their temptations to stand by them.

They should resist all tricks through which the devil passes to tempt them.

They should ask God for the holy spirit to inspired them to win over the devil temptations.

They should have self control as far as their human desires are concerned such as the desire for political power.

They should accept temptations as part and parcel of their lives as they were part and parcel of Jesus' lives life.

They should have more faith God.

They should resist idol worship as Jesus resisted worshipping the devil.

They should guard against their desire of material things.

Qn.

1. What kind of temptations do students face in their process of studying at school?

2. Show the temptations confronted by students.

Students face the temptations of having sex before marriage yet God prefers sex in marriage.

They face the temptations of abusing drugs such as marijuana, shisha which makes their bodies unclear.

They face the temptation of pornography which materials are unchristian.

Stealing

Sneaking out of school without permission.

Joining the worship of false beliefs.

Using school fee for personal needs.

Homosexuality.

Lesbianism.

Joining bad group of friends.

Prostitution.

Falling in love with sugar mamas.

Bullying and teasing.

Lusting.

Ques.

I identify the occasions in st Luke gospel when Jesus was tempted.

In the desert, Jesus was tempted just before he began his public ministry.

In the garden of Gethsemane (Luk 22: 42), Jesus was tempted by the devil to give up the mission of dying for sinners.

During crucifixion Jesus was tempted to give up by the people who were abusing saying save yourself.

During his transfiguration when Peter wanted to build three tents so that they could remain on the mountains. (LK 9: 23)

When he was asked to prove that he was the son of God in his home town (LK 4: 23).

When sons of Zebedee asked him to destroy the inhospitable Samaritan by calling fire from heaven just like Elijah did (LK 9: 54).

When he was asked questions to trap him like the questions on payment of taxes.

When Jesus was hungry after 40 days in the desert and the devil asked him to turn stones into bread and eat.

When the devil told Jesus to bow down and worship him and return get power and wealth.

When the devil told Jesus to jump from the highest point of the temple.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus to perform a miracle to prove that he was a son of God.

When Jesus' brother and sister, mother came wanting to take out of the congregation.

When Jesus and his disciples walked through a field of corn and ate some on the Sabbath which was evil.

Qns.

Explain the positive and negative effects of the temptation to modern Christians.

Positively, temptations have the following effects to Christians.

They strengthen the Christians' character to become strong and overcome those temptations.

Temptations increased a Christians' faith in God

They bring a Christian to God by committing himself to God for help.

They encourage Christians to pray to God.

They make Christians humble before others.

They encourage Christians to read the Bible and know more about ^{the word of} God.

They encourage Christians to maintain holy lives.

They encourage Christian to work hard so that they get what ever they want and over come temptation.

Temptations encourage Christians to take Jesus' example by accepting to be tempted and resist.

However, negatively temptations affect the Christians in the following ways:

They may lead a Christian into more sinning especially when they are defeated by the temptations.

They may make a Christian to lose faith in God thinking that God no longer cares.

Some temptations force a Christian to completely turn away from God especially when they have greatly sinned.

Temptations bring misery and suffering to Christians.

Temptations spoil the relationship between a Christian and God because when man accepts temptation become a sinner.

Temptations lead to enmity among Christians especially those who attempted to harm others.

Temptations promote laziness to those Christians who are unable to resist them and end up committing more evil like stealing.

Temptations force some Christians to cast God.

JESUS BEGINS HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY IN GALILEE AND HE IS REJECTED IN NAZARETH [4:14-30].

As a faithful Israelite, Jesus attended a service in the synagogue.

The service involved prayers & readings from the law and prophet, a sermon, its explanation and a blessing.

Any one of high learning could be invited to read and give a comment on the reading.

Visiting rabbi / teacher were often given the honour of addressing the congregation

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did.

He stood up to read the scriptures and they handed him the book of prophet both Isaiah.

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found it was written "The spirit of the Lord is upon me and he has anointed to bring good news to the poor,

To proclaim liberty to the captives and to give a new sight to the blind,

To free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy". [Isaiah 61:1-3]

After reading the passage, Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down.

All the eyes of those in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Jesus then started to explain the text and said "Today this prophetic words have come true in you listen!"

He continued to explain about the kingdom of God all were amazed

REASONS WHY JESUS WAS REJECTED IN NAZARETH

Jesus was a suffering Messiah yet Jews expected a political Messiah hence rejecting him

Jesus performed miracle in Capernaum yet he didn't perform miracle in Nazareth his own town leading to his rejection.

Jesus called himself son of God and yet no one in Israel expected to call himself son of God since the Jews knew that God was one and he didn't have a son leading to his rejection.

Jews in Nazareth expected Jesus to favour them over other villages only to be surprised Jesus performed miracles in other villages like Capernaum and not in Nazareth hence his rejection.

Jesus told the Jews in the temple that their forefathers had rejected God's prophets by persecuting and killing them during the time of Elijah which annoyed the Jews hence rejecting him.

Jesus came from a very poor family of Mary and Joseph the carpenter yet Jews expected the messiah to come from a very rich family hence rejecting him.

Jesus associated with gentiles saying they are the people he had come to save yet the Jews expected the Messiah to be only for the Jews hence his rejection.

Jesus associated with sinners such as prostitutes and tax collectors which lowered him as the Messiah hence causing his rejection.

Jesus' close friends were people of low status like some of his disciples were fishermen yet Jews expected a Messiah of high status hence his rejection.

Jesus violated the mosaic laws concerning the Sabbath when he healed the sick on Sabbath yet Jews didn't expect any Jew to do any thing on Sabbath hence they rejected him.

Jesus condemned pharisees and scribes as sinners fit for eternal destruction which made scribes to urge such Jews to reject him.

Jesus supported his disciples to work on Sabbath when they picked corns in the garden as they were passing which appeared that he was supporting the breaking of the law of Sabbath hence his rejection.

Jesus supported his disciples not to fast yet the disciple of the Pharisees and John the baptist were fasting hence his rejection.

Jesus claimed to forgive sins yet according to the Jews God alone had power to forgive sins hence according to them Jesus was committing sins.

a sin blasphemy (taking up God's power, authority and position).

Jesus' disciples never followed Jewish customs like one time they never washed their hands before eating food leading to the rejection of Jesus their master.

Jesus cleansed the temple chasing out all the people who were selling from it yet to them this was the source of income leading to his rejection.

Jesus called Jewish religious leader hypocrites because they were emphasizing Mosaic laws yet they weren't following them in reality which annoyed them hence rejecting him.

Jesus was becoming more popular than the Jewish religious leaders because of the many miracles he was performing hence rejecting him because of taking away their followers.

Jesus used extraordinary authority in his preaching which attracted many listeners to him compare to Jewish religious leading to his rejection.

Jesus indirectly attacked Jewish religious leaders like in the parables of the wicked tenants where he showed them as killers leading to his rejection.

Jesus said that for one to enter in the kingdom of heaven, he himself has to take up his cross and follow Jesus and such conditions look so hard leading to his rejection.

Jesus said that even gentiles and foreigners would be saved yet according to the Jews salvation was only for them hence Jesus' rejection.

Jesus didn't have a wife yet some Jews gave great respect to marriage hence rejecting him.

Qn:- How do people

How DO PEOPLE REJECT JESUS TODAY?

By not believing in him whereas some say Jesus was a leader of the Jewish not Africans.

By fighting against the church leaders where some people grab and sell church land.

By practicing witchcraft yet a Christian is supposed to worship God alone the father.

By being corrupt yet according to Jesus his follower should live upright life.

By working on Sunday yet according to Jesus that is God's day for resting.

By committing adultery yet according to Jesus, his follower's body is a temple of the holy spirit.

By committing murder yet according to Jesus one who follows him must not kill.

By hating others yet according to Jesus one following him must love others the way he loves himself.

By stealing yet according to Jesus one following him shall not steal.

By embezzling church funds yet according to Jesus one who follows him must serve as a good example to those people he leads.

By disrespecting parents yet according to Jesus one following him shall respect his parents and his days in life would then be many.

By sport betting.

By gambling.

By kidnapping.

By abusing drugs.

HOW DO CHRISTIANS EXPRESS THEIR FAITH IN JESUS TODAY?

By loving their neighbours since Jesus ordered his followers to love their neighbours as they love themselves.

By praying to God on Sunday since Sunday is God's special

pray for Jesus' followers.
By reconciling with their enemies just as Jesus reconciled with those who put him on the cross.

By forgiving those who sin against them since Jesus taught a prayer for his followers to forgive those who sin against them.

By giving offerings in church to promote the well being of the church of Christ just as Jesus praised the widow who offered.

By participating in worship in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

By reading the holy scriptures about the Kingdom of God and Jesus the Messiah.

By helping the needy such as street children and orphans as a way of expressing love for one another.

By receiving holy sacraments like baptism, confirmation as followers of Jesus Christ.

By fasting to show the commitment to Jesus who also fasted.

By eating the bread and taking the wine as the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

JESUS CALLS THE FIRST DISCIPLES.

(MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH (LK 5:1-11).

Qn.

Who is a disciple?

The word disciple means a follower in the Bible.

The word disciple refers to learners who followed a particular master to learn more about religious matters or scriptures eg John the Baptist some of whom became the first disciples of Jesus Christ (John 1:35-51).

Jesus chose his disciples from among the many people who followed him to listen to his teachings.

Ques

1. Describe the story of Jesus calling the first disciples.
2. Give an account of the miraculous catch of fish in (Luk 5: 1-11).
3. Relate the incident of the calling of the first disciples of Jesus.

One day Jesus was standing on the shores of lake ~~Genesaret~~ from he taught the word of God to the people.

The lake had fresh water and it was a favourite lake for the fishes.

While people crowded around Jesus, eager to listen to the word,

The fishermen had left their boats on the shores and were washing their net.

Jesus got into one of the boats which belonged to Simon Peter, he sat in it and taught the crowd.

When he had finished teaching, he asked Simon to cast the nets into the sea for a catch.

But Simon answered, "Master, we have worked hard all night long and caught nothing.

But if you say so, I will let down the net."

Then Simon, James and John sons of Zebedee let down their nets.

They caught such a large number of fish that their nets almost broke.

Simon Peter was deeply moved by the miraculous catch of fish.

He fell on his knees before Jesus and said "Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful man."

James and John, two other apostles, were at the miraculous catch of fish.

Jesus told Simon not be afraid because from that time on, he would be catching men.

Here Jesus meant that Simon was going to be one of his disciples and would be winning souls for the kingdom of God.

The three men Simon, James and John left everything and followed Jesus becoming his first disciples.

Ques:

What do Christians learn from the call of first disciples of Jesus.

Christians learn to obey God's voice and call just as Simon, James and John left everything and followed Jesus as a sign of obedience.

They learn to humble themselves before God just as Simon Peter humbled himself on his knees before Jesus and declared himself a sinful man.

They learn to confess their sins before God through Jesus Christ just as Simon declared himself a sinful man before Jesus on his knees.

They learn to accept God's call regardless of their background since God calls any body of his choice the same way he called Simon, James and John who were just fishermen through Jesus Christ.

They learn to associate with all people regardless of status, just as Jesus associated with all people including Simon, James and John who were just fishermen and people of low status.

They learn to fish sinners to Christ just as Simon, James and John were called by Jesus to begin fishing men for the kingdom of God.

They learn to show faith in God just as Simon showed faith in Jesus by saying "but if you say so, I will let down the net".

They learn to repent of their sins just as Peter knelt before Jesus and said "Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man"; which was a sign of repenting.

They learn to search for God's miracles through Jesus Christ who made Simon, James and John catch such a large number of fish that their nets almost broke.

They learn to co-operate when preaching the gospel, just as Simon, James and John were called to assist Jesus in catching men for the kingdom of God.

They learn to have hope through Jesus Christ since with him everything is possible just as he ~~met~~^{made} Simon, James and John to catch a lot of fish having failed the whole previous night.

They learn to work in order to eat just as Simon, James and John working through fishing before Jesus called them to be fishers of men.

They learn exercise self sacrifice as they serve God just as Simon, Jon and John left everything including their fish, nets, boats and their families and followed Jesus.

Qn.

In what ways does the church today prepare people to serve God?

By baptising the people. Religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By giving confirmations to people. Religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By providing catechism to people. Religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By taking people to religious seminars; Religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By ordaining as priest, religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By encouraging people to get married, religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By training people in Bible scriptures, religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By constructing houses for brothers and sisters, religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By organising youth conferences, religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By encouraging the people to help the needy, religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By telling people to turn away from their sins, religious leaders

prepare people to serve God.

By encouraging people to exercise honest and justice, religious leaders prepare people to serve God.

By encouraging people to exercise Christians love, religi among themselves

On

- a) They pulled the books up on the shoulders, left everything and followed Jesus (Luke 5:1-11).
- b) What does cost of discipleship means?