

Christian Religion and Moral Education

Class Eight



NATIONAL CURRICULUM & TEXTBOOK BOARD, DHAKA

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Christian Religion and Moral Education

Class Eight

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PREFACE

Education is the pre-requisite for the holistic development in our national life. To cope with the challenges of the fast changing world and to lead Bangladesh to the doorstep of development and prosperity, a well educated and skilled population is needed. In order to build up a nation imbued with the spirit of the Language Movement and our Liberation War, the secondary education aims at flourishing the talents and prospects inherent in the learners. Besides, the other aims also include expansion and consolidation of the basic knowledge and skills of the learners acquired at the primary level in order to make them fit for entry into higher education.

The aims of secondary education further emphasise on developing these learners as skilled and competent citizens of the country through the process of acquiring knowledge at the backdrop of socio-economic, cultural and environmental settings.

Keeping the aims and objectives of National Education Policy 2010 ahead, the curriculum at the secondary level has been revised. In the revised curriculum the national aims, objectives and contemporary needs have been reflected. Along with these expected learning outcomes have been determined based on the learner's age, merit and level of acquisition. Besides, efforts have been made to raise, starting from the level of moral and humanistic values down to awareness on history and tradition, the spirit of the Liberation War, passion for art-culture and literature, patriotism, feelings for nature and equal dignity to all irrespective of religions, caste, creed and sex. Efforts have also been made to apply science in all spheres of our life in order to build a nation advanced in science. Attempts are also there to make the learner capable of implementing the goals envisioned in Digital Bangladesh-2021.

In the light of the present curriculum almost all the textbooks at the secondary level have been introduced. While introducing the textbooks, the capacity, aptitude and prior knowledge of the learners have been taken into utmost consideration. While selecting the contexts and their presentation special attention has been given on the expansion of the learner's creative faculty. Adding learning outcomes at the beginning of each chapter, hints about the achievable knowledge of the learners have been given. By adding variety of activities, creative and other questions evaluation has also been made creative.

Following the modified curriculum "Christian Religion and Moral Education" textbook was written and it includes the call of life in the Bible and of loyalty and life-sketch of people called by God, in the background of student's expectations and attitudes of the changing realities at the dawn of the 21st century. The intent of this textbook was also to make students know the life of the saviour Jesus and his works, so that by believing in this salvation, they are inspired by His teachings of morality, spirituality, tolerance, generosity, non-communalism, and harmony.

Considering the challenges and commitments of 21st century and following the revised curriculum the textbook has been written. Therefore we welcome with our highest consideration any suggestions, both constructive and rationale as well for the further improvement of the book. Amidst huge activities needed for introducing a textbook, this one has been written within a very short span of time frame. We will continue our effort to make the next edition of this book more beautiful, decent and free from any types of errors.

We appreciate the endeavours of those who assisted very sincerely with their merit and hard work in the process of writing, translating, editing, illustration, introducing sample questions and printing of the book. We hope the book will ensure joyful reading and achievement of expected skills from the learners.

Prof. Md. Mostafa Kamaluddin

Chairman

National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Dhaka.

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CHAPTER ONE

The Holy Spirit

Earlier we have learnt about the Holy Trinity. We know that there is only one God but three persons. In this chapter we will learn about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit existed even during the creation. He is existing now and will remain forever. On the day of pentecost He descended on the Apostles and empowered them to be preachers of faith. The Holy Spirit is the Helper who makes us holy, strengthens and matures our faith.



The coming of the Holy Spirit

At the end of the chapter we will be able to:

- ☐ • describe the Holy Trinity
- ☐ • narrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles'
- ☐ • explain the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit
- ☐ • mention the blessings of the Holy Spirit in building true Christian
- ☐ • be inspired by the Holy Spirit to live sacred life

Lesson- 1: The coming of the Holy Spirit

Fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Apostles received the Holy Spirit. During these fifty days they were hiding together in fear. They spent the time in prayer. Some of them were planning to return to their previous trade. Some even went out with nets for fishing. The resurrected Jesus appeared before them several times. At first they didn't recognize Him but later they did. They were gaining faith on the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus encouraged them. He said, "Do not fear, I will send you a Helper, he will remind you of everything".

Ten days after Jesus was taken up to Heaven, on the day of the Pentecost, the disciples gathered together at one place. Suddenly they heard sound of a strong wind from the sky. The house where they lived was filled with that sound. They saw something like tongues of fire on their heads; their hearts were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. All of them started to talk in different languages with the power of the Holy Spirit.

There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious men who had come from many countries in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because each of them heard the believers speaking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, "These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? We are from Parthia, Media, and Elam; from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia; from Pontus and Asia, from Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and the regions of Libya near Cyrene. Some of us are from Rome, both Jews and Gentiles converted into Judaism, and some of us are from Crete and Arabia--yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!" Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, "What does this mean?" But others made fun of the believers, saying, "These people are drunk!"

But Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only nine o'clock in the morning. Instead, this is what the prophet Joel spoke about" (Acts 2 : 1-16).

Thus the Apostles received the Holy Spirit on the pentecost day. Though all present there misunderstood them, they were able to make them realize the fact. Being enlightened by the Holy Spirit they corrected the mistakes of people and made them understand that they were not drunk rather filled with the Holy Spirit. Their fear was gone by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Peter, who was filled up with fear of the enemies and was staying with other disciples in one room, now came out and spoke loudly in front of the crowd. He blamed the Jews for accusing Jesus falsely. His courage came from the Holy Spirit. The Spirit inspired Peter in order to reveal the fact. Because of Peter's teaching the truth many people were baptized on that day and received the Holy Spirit.

Task: Enlist the changes that took place among the Apostles after they received the Holy Spirit.

Lesson - 2: Inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Those of us who have received Baptism, Holy Communion and the Confirmation know the importance of these sacraments. Through these sacraments we have received the Holy Spirit and have become strengthened. In this lesson we will elaborately discuss about the Holy Spirit.

Through Baptism we are being marked with the sign of the cross. Besides, we start our prayers or works with the sign of the cross and remember the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit-together is one God, and this is the whole mystery of Holy Trinity. It is such a mystery that we cannot understand it very clearly. Whatever we understand, is possible by deep faith, prayer and love. God is Love (1 John 4:8). This love is revealed through God's creation, Jesus' redemption, Holy Spirit's inspiration and help.

The word "inspiration" is embedded in the Holy Spirit. Dictionary meaning of it is encouragement, zeal, enthusiasm; tendency of inner strength to do some particular work. In Christianity the inspiration is divine spirit which comes straight from God. God is Almighty and the Creator, source of all power and strength. He is the Lord of the Universe. From the period of creation He made a plan for the redemption of the human race. Step by step He revealed Himself through the Son and the Holy Spirit. The purpose of this revelation is that man can receive strength through the Spirit and redemption through the Son.

Saint Iranius says "Baptism gives us the grace of new birth in God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit. For those who bear God's Spirit are led to the Word, that is, to the Son, and the Son presents them to the Father, and the Father confers incorruptibility on them. And it is impossible to see God's Son without the Spirit, and no one can approach the Father without the Son, for the knowledge of the Father is the Son, and the knowledge of God's Son is obtained through the Holy Spirit."

St. Paul says, "No one speaking by the Spirit of God can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3). It is the Holy Spirit who strengthens our heart and inspires us to know God and deepens our faith. God Himself gives this Spirit to those who are weak in their hearts so that they may move towards Him. For this reason we need to keep relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit leads us to the Son and the Father. So the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

In the church we first receive the Holy Spirit through the baptism. In baptism we wash away the original sin, receive life, divine blessing, and then receive faith. Thus we get the identity of the children of God. In this way we are reborn. Through confirmation we receive the Holy Spirit and come to know about Christ. The Holy Spirit enlightens our hearts and helps us to know and believe the Son of God.

In the Creed we admit 'We believe in the Holy Spirit'. That means we believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity. He is united with the Father and the Son; he is from the time of beginning. He is worshiped and glorified along with the Father and the Son. He is in action from the beginning of plan of man's salvation.

His descending upon the Apostles is a sign of his active presence in the church. He is always inspiring us to walk on the true path. Being inspired by the Holy Spirit we call God our Father and acknowledge Jesus as our Savior. To live as believers the Holy Spirit gives us strength and courage. He gives us strength to face pain and sorrows, dangers and tests. He establishes unity, peace, justice in place of conflict and strife.

Lesson - 3: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Their Fruits

God has given different gifts to different people. Through His gifts we can know and guide ourselves properly. By His gifts we grow spiritually, form mentally, relate to church and society and become the chosen and beloved ones of God. Similarly God

has given power to do many welfare, like spreading the gospel, healing the ill, saving the sinners and so on. By all these we remain connected spiritually with God. Moreover, we remain in the bond of love and grow in love and welfare. All of these are gifts of the Holy Spirit. He flourishes in different ways in different souls.



Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Saint Paul says, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge. One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God's message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all these as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.

"Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. In the same way, all of us, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free, have been baptized into the one body by the same Spirit, and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink. For the body itself is not made up of only one part, but of many parts." (1Cor 12: 4-14)

In his letter Saint Paul said, "All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. In the church God has put all in place; in the first place apostles, in the second place prophets, and in the third place teachers; then those who perform miracles, followed by those who are given the power to heal or to help others or to direct them or to speak in strange tongues" (1 Cor. 12: 27-28)

The Holy Spirit himself is a gift from God. He has been given to mankind in many ways from the very beginning of creation. The Holy Spirit is the breath of God, which is the source of life and existence of every living being. Only for the Holy Spirit human beings, despite their sinfulness, are the images of God. They are saved and strengthened by God in different periods of time and they have received God as a gift. Thus they became complete; engage themselves in each other's welfare. From the Holy Bible we come to know about the mercy of the Holy Spirit.

Gifts of Holy Spirit are seven -

(1) Wisdom (2) Understanding (3) Counsel (4) Fortitude (5) Knowledge (6) Piety (7) Fear of the Lord. Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians that "Spirit produces - (a) love (b) joy (c) peace (d) patience (g) kindness (g) goodness (h) faithfulness (i) humility and (j) self-control. There can't be any law against such things as these". (Gal 5: 22-23)

Everything that is good and beautiful in our lives and character are the works of the Holy Spirit. All these good things are fruits of the Holy Spirit. He inspires us so that we can be filled up with His gifts; that we may be filled with His love, peace and happiness. Saint Paul has expressed these things to the Galatians. In the letter to the Romans he mentioned the names of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in many ways. These gifts are very beautiful and pleasant. Who would not want them! To be filled with the gifts of the Spirit is to be like Christ; it is becoming the citizens of heaven. We greatly desire to have as our own. They come only from the Holy Spirit.

Saint Peter said, "For this very reason do your best to add goodness to your faith, to your goodness add knowledge, to your knowledge add self-control, to your self-control add endurance, to your endurance add godliness, to your godliness add brotherly affection, and to your brotherly affection add love." (2 Peter 1: 5-7)

We cannot build up our own characters, without the help of the Holy Spirit. Saint Peter calls us to try relentlessly to make the qualities work in our lives. For this we have to depend fully on the blessings and mercy of the Holy Spirit because He inspires us to live on the way to religion.

There are twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit-

(1) Charity (2) Joy (3) Peace (4) Patience (5) Kindness (6) Goodness (7) Generosity (8) Gentleness (9) Faithfulness (10) Modesty (11) Self-control (12) Chastity

Task: Recall the names of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and write them down.

Lesson - 4: The Holy Spirit as the Consoler

The Holy Spirit revealed himself in many ways in the history of salvation. He was from the beginning of the earth as Father's breath. The ability to discern right and wrong comes from the Holy Spirit. He spoke through prophets, judges and rulers. Mary became the mother by the power of the Holy Spirit. He, through John the Baptist called people to change their hearts. Thus all those things happened by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not visible to our eyes or we cannot express Him by our logic. Presence and work of the Holy Spirit are clearly visible to us. He is the Spirit of truth. Through Him we come to know the truth.

Holy Spirit is known to us by many names. Jesus Christ called Him 'The Helper'. This means 'He is ready to stand for us all'. Before leaving the world Jesus promised His disciples to send 'The Helper'. He will be with them and guide them and that happened on the day of Pentecost he descended on the Apostles. He consoled them and gave power to forgive sins. So the Holy Spirit is the Consoler. Actually Jesus Himself is the first Consoler. He did not leave his disciples orphaned and scattered, rather he kept them together in peace.

In the Holy Bible, Saint Paul and Saint Peter called the Holy Spirit in different names. They called him as the Promised Spirit, Christ's Spirit, Lord's Spirit and God's Spirit. We see the presence of the Holy Spirit in church in different ways. In different sacraments we see his presence and work. Different objects like water, oil, fire, light, cloud, sign of the cross, palm, finger, and pigeon and so on. In all these we see the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. His grace is poured upon the human beings continuously through these signs. The Holy Spirit is our constant helper and consoler who guides us all towards the truth.

Task: Discuss in pairs and find out the cause of calling the Holy Spirit the Consoler.

Exercise

Fill in the blanks

1. The Holy Spirit is the _____ person of the Holy Trinity.
2. At first they _____ recognize but later did.
3. The Jews from many countries then ____ live in Jerusalem.
4. The word 'Inspiration' is _____ related to the Holy Spirit.
5. God has given us all different gifts or _____.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Holy Spirit comes from the Holy father and | • He inspired St. Peter |
| 2. Then in one room | • □ their fear was over |
| 3. Strengthen by the Holy Spirit | • □ the Son of God |
| 4. To reveal and spread the truth | • □ they used to live |
| 5. Jesus is all strength and | • □ he made a great plan |
| | • □ source of power |

Multiple choice questions

1. The Holy Spirit is the -
 - a. first person
 - b. third person
 - c. second person
 - d. one and only one
2. How did the apostles corrected the people?
 - a. By the inspiration of Holy Spirit.
 - b. By own power.
 - c. In the inspiration of spreading the gospel.
 - d. By self inspiration

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

After the completion of study, Nibir joined a buying house as a cashier. He works regularly and with responsibility. He rejects the provocation of money and doing wrong thing from his fellow workers, because he learnt about this at his childhood from his family.

3. Who guides Nibir?
- a. Prophets
 - b. friends
 - c. The Holy Spirit
 - d. teachers
4. This type of work of Nibir can make a simple person -
- i. spiritually strong
 - ii. mentally well grown
 - iii. God's beloved one.

Which one is correct ?

- a. i
- b. ii
- c. i and ii
- d. i, ii and iii

Creative questions

1. The Head Master of Sacred Heart School got immigration Visa and left for U.S.A. The Secretary of the governing body hon'ble Bishop asked senior teacher Mr. Sebastian to take the responsibility. The school was running in much disorder because of local goons. So he was hesitant in taking the charge and was also very scared. At home he prayed to God for strength and got courage and inspiration from God. Then the next day he consented to Bishop to take the charge of Headmaster.
 - a. Who descended on the apostles on the day of Pentecost?
 - b. Why did the Apostles start talking in different languages?
 - c. Explain which of the Holy Spirit's gift has become evident in Sebastian's work.
 - d. Do you think all the results of the Holy Spirit prevail in Sebastian's work-explain logically.
2. Mr. Roman Barmon and Mr. Peter Gomes are two famous persons of Krishnanagar Parish. Roman Barman is very much God fearing and good Catechist. For his godliness many people take his advice and get benefit. He always encourages people to lead an honest life. He serves the ill and prays for them. Besides, Patrick Gomes too try to pray with the drug addicts and help them by giving guideline. He arranges work for them and brings them to right path.

- a. Who lived in Jerusalem?
- b. Why do we trust in the Holy Spirit?
- c. By which inspiration does Roman Barman runs his work?
- d. Roman Barman and Patrick Gomes have got their power of good work from the same God. - justify the statement.

Answer briefly-

1. What is meant by the Holy Trinity?
2. How did the Apostles get the Holy spirit?
3. How are we marked by the sign of cross?

Essay type questions

1. Write about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity.
2. Narrate the incident of coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles.
3. Explain the Holy Spirit's gifts and its results.

CHAPTER TWO

Nurturing the Creation of God

God has created every single thing of the universe with His own hand. Everything was good and man was the supreme creation of all. He has the power to rule over everything. Not by enslaving but because of love God has given this responsibility to man to take care of everything. For this reason it is man's responsibility, his sacred duty, to take care of the wonderful creation.



God has created everything perfectly.

At the end of the Chapter we will be able to:

- • learn the need to nurture, preserve the creation and the means to do it
- • explain how through loving and caring the creation one can love God
- • explain from religious perspective the need to protect environment from pollution
- • feel encouraged to save creation from pollution

Lesson - 1: Nurturing and Protecting the Environment

The Mystery of creation plays a very important role in the plan of salvation. We have already learnt about God's goal of creating the universe. Through creating everything of the universe God has given it fullness. He is the Creator and the Supreme power; none can be compared with Him. His creation reflects uncountable love for the human race. All His creation is good and man is the best creation of all. Man has been given the power to rule over everything. Since God created everything for the betterment of man, he must, along with responsibility, take care of them all.

But in reality we have lost the supremacy. Before knowing how to take care and protect the creation, we need to know how it is getting polluted and being destroyed.

Task: Enlist five causes for pollution of the environment.

Lesson - 2: Pollution of the Environment

Goodness of creation is getting lost day by day. It is being ruined; losing its beauty. The reason behind is the human sin, specially their selfishness. Human beings are polluting the nature and the earth. From our discussions we will find many reasons of it.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari said, "If God created the human being before all other creations, they would have died the next day without the care from the nature". It is a very important statement but unfortunately we do not pay much attention to it, because we don't feel how much the creation takes care of us. So, we are using God's creation selfishly and wasting them.

At the very beginning relationship between God and man, and man and other creations was very good. Due to man's sin it has been distorted (Gen 3:14-23). Because of disobedience and selfishness man has been thrown out of the Eden Garden; darkness of sin came down upon man. One brother has killed another. This has polluted creation. So the soil of the earth has been soaked with blood and cursed.

For luxuriousness, greed, lust, lack of self-control, men are facing conflict and strife. Racism and misuse of religions have given rise to many wars. Many promising lives are lost and the world peace is hampered.

After completing the creation work, God took rest on the seventh day; but due to industrialization the world is not getting any rest. The intrusion on tranquility has become unbearable. Air, water, soil are regularly being destroyed because of indiscriminate use of nature's resources. The climate is changing. Every year it is getting warmer and thus becoming intolerable. So, the nature is facing adverse affect. During winter the temperature gets too cold and summer becomes scorching hot.

Indiscriminate deforestation makes the wildlife without shelter. Rivers are being filled up and dumping wastes are thrown into them. As a result fish and other water creatures are disappearing. Atom bombs and poisonous gases are polluting the air and make it heavy. It is bringing destruction and dangerous natural disasters. The curse and punishment of nature is coming on the human race. They are facing death.

The environmental change has given rise to temperature. CO₂ got increased and so during the last few years many countries faced tremendous floods and landslides. Many countries had draught and wildfire, while earthquakes and tsunamis took place in many countries. All these adverse reactions of our mother nature took away many valuable lives.

According to climatologists Bangladesh is the most risky area now. She is going to lose her lower southern parts due to climate change. Already the affect of climate change has been observed in different shapes in Bangladesh. Untimely draught, flood, rise of the sea level, rise of temperature, increase of falsity, storm-cyclone, rise of harmful insects, land slides, etc. are increasing. Climate change caused water scarcity, malnutrition and different diseases. All these natural adversity and disaster increased the poverty of the country.

Task: Mention five ways to take care of the creation of God.

Lesson - 3: Keeping the Nature Free From Pollution

Due to pollution in the environment the wonderful creation of God is being destroyed gradually. Human beings are responsible for this destruction. In order to live healthy lives on earth our environment must be protected. The goodness of the creation must be secured and saved at any rate. It is the bounden duty of every person. The environment must be kept free from pollution by proper care and preservation. We ourselves can find some ways and means to do it. Some possible means have been mentioned below:-

- (1) The knowledge and science of nature is the source of human knowledge and science. Man has advanced a long way and discovered many new things. Nature is the source of all of its inspirations. Nature has given the information data, knowledge and strength. With wisdom from nature, human beings created new things. Even those are the gifts of the nature. When people will recognize this truth then they will be able to love the nature and be more encouraged to protect it.
- (2) Industrialization is stealing rest from the nature. The nature is becoming the worst exploited and persecuted. All the raw materials for the industries come from the nature. This is making air, water and soil polluted and dirty. Temperature is getting warmer and unbearable. Realizing these facts human beings must take care of the nature.
- (3) People in the modern age have become very selfish and self-centered. They do not hesitate to harm others' interests. They don't have time to consider others' prestige or interest. Now-a-days land dispute, terrorism, racism, homicides, harassment of people, torturing on weak, breaking of large families are alarmingly increasing. Small families are getting smaller. Day by day single families are increasing. Family bondage, affection, love getting lost. Family and society need to get back justice, peace, faith, love and care of others. Religion, culture and tradition have to be utilized properly. These can glorify the beauty of the nature.
- (4) A great number of people still today depend on the nature. They collect their food from the nature. They cultivate their land for which they depend on the nature. We need to have positive to help them. People now take over nature for self-interest, snatching their last belongings, driving them away from the lap of the Mother Nature. Even the nature is not being able to flow in its own course. Due to climate change poor people are being deprived and neglected. We have to think about them and ensure nutritious diet for them. We have to plant trees, cultivate the land, and protect forests, hills, increase fish and animal breeding.
- (5) People of all stages should be made aware about the global warming, climate change, protection of environment and morality. In order to make people aware we need to give more importance on education, seminar, discussion etc. Besides formal education we need to build awareness through media. We have to give more emphasis on human rights, child care, children's education, care of nature, reducing waste of water, river dredging, waste management law, use of solar

power, tree plantation and preservation. The way of recycling must be introduced and taught among all.

Task-1: Write the names of the tasks which you can do in your area to preserve the nature.

Task-2: Discuss in pairs the way we can properly honour people in families, schools and in society.

Lesson - 4: Loving God through Loving His Creation

We all know that creation is the foundation of the plan of salvation of God. "At the beginning God started to build sky and earth" (Cor 1:1). He is the Master of everything visible or invisible. He has given fullness to the universe.



Planting trees is the sign of love for creation

After He created all things "God created man in image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them". He saw everything was very good. By creating human beings God revealed His own glory. He established friendship with them so that only they can love and know Him.

Through the creation God has shown His love for human being. Because He is the source of love, He is love. He taught the human beings how to love each other. By caring and loving His creation we can express our love for the Creator.

To take care and govern the creation, human beings must protect its goodness and beauty. Otherwise he will fail to perform His duty. Governing and taking care of the nature is man's responsibility. It does not mean that he has to enslave, consume or destroy it. Human beings will take care of the Mother Nature and then the nature will take care of him.

As God told Moses from the burning bush, "Take off the shoes from your feet, because the land you're standing on is the holy land". (Ex 3:5) The same is true with the entire creation. One needs to go everywhere with the same feeling. Through loving and taking care of everything, including man, we can love our God. Thus will the best of creation be saved.

Task : "God can be achieved, not by looking after His creation but through His prayer - arrange a debating competition on this topic.

Exercise

Fill in the blanks

- a. By loving people God _____ (gave) responsibility on them.
- b. God took rest _____ (manipulated)
- c. For self interest _____ is being controlled.
- d. _____ source of love.
- e. _____ At the beginning _____ started creating sky and earth.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God has given the universe 2. Nurturing the creation of God is 3. There is no one else 4. For self interest we are 5. For natural calamity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • every one sacred duty. • its fulfillment (perfection). • poverty in Bangladesh is increasing. • like Him. • spoiling the creation of God. • getting lost. |

Multiple choice question

1. Who are mainly responsible for environment pollution?
 - a. nature
 - b. human beings
 - c. businessman
 - d. rich nation/countries
2. Why did God create human being at last ?
 - a. as human are the best creation
 - b. so that they get a beautiful world
 - c. for their love
 - d. to praise the Lord

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

Rima likes gardening and doing poultry. So she waters her flower garden, weed them out and feed the birds many times. She earns a handsome amount by selling flower, chicken and duck.

3. What does Rima's work reflect?

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. love for the creation | b. authority/loosing over nature |
| c. governing the nature | d. spreading self power |

4. The stem reveals :

- i. superiority of creation
- ii. love of God
- iii. best of creation

Which one is correct ?

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| a. i | b. ii |
| c. i and ii | d. i, ii and iii |

Creative questions

1. Arnab filled up a canal and constructed his house on it. He made beautiful furnitures by cutting down trees. But a dumped of plastic, polythin, domestic waste all around the house which made a bad condition. He loves to eat bird and so often goes for hunting bird and animals. He earns money by selling trees and animal skin.
 - a. Who has the responsibility to take care of the creator?
 - b. What is the cause behind the destruction of nature?
 - c. Explain what type of problem is created by Arnab.
 - d. In the light of the ext, what type of step will be taken by Arnab to refrain from his activities, give your opinion.
2. John and Jeny went to Gazipur "Prarthana Kunja" to attend a seminar. Seeing the environment there they exclaimed - "Wow, How beautiful!". All around the place there are many fruit trees and flower garden. The priest there said, "God has created all these". Later they went back home and formed an organization. Through this they stated helping the poor, assisting the sick, adult education, adult planting trees and so on. Their initiative stopped filling trees and hunting the birds. All the villagers became very happy at this.
 - a. Who is the main source of love?
 - b. How is the supremacy of creation getting lost?
 - c. What responsibility was carried out by John and Jenny - Explain.
 - d. "John and Jeny love and care God through work" - evaluate the statement.

Answer briefly

1. Why should people take care of the creation?
2. How is the beauty of nature being polluted?
3. How can we love God?

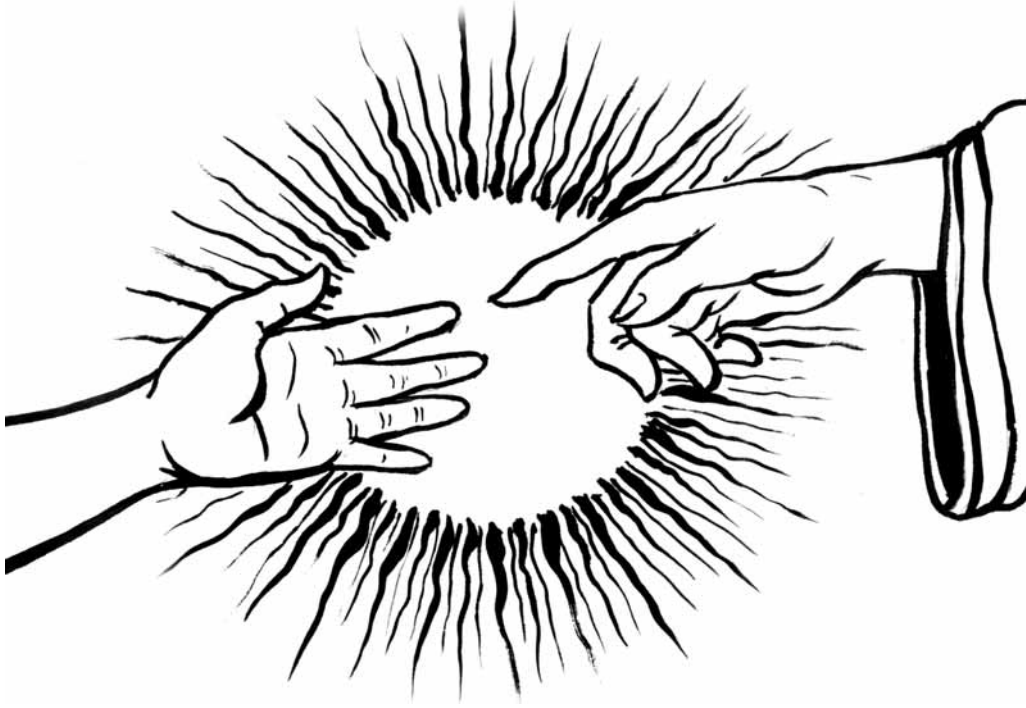
Essay type question

1. In which way can the creation of God be nurtured and preserved?
2. How can we show love to God by showing love to His creation? Explain.
3. What can be done to save the world from pollution?

CHAPTER THREE

God and Man

In the book of Genesis the description of creation shows that God has created everything one by one. After each day's creation God looked at them and saw everything was good. On the fifth day He said, "Let us make man in our image, to our likeness" (Gen 1:26). So God created man in His image. He gave them power to rule over everything.



Union of God and Man

At end of the Chapter we will be able to:

- explain the idea that man is co-worker of God
- narrate the relationship between God and man and between man and man and at the sametime be able to describe the need and outcome of this relationship
- explain the ways to maintain these relationships
- maintain good relationship with God by maintaining good relationship with man

Lesson - 1: Man as Co-worker of God

Man, the best creation of God is the expression of His love. He had a great plan behind this creation. He wanted to build a strong relationship with man and in this relationship He wanted to reveal Himself. He gave him supremacy and power to rule over everything. After creating man, He blessed him and said, "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds and all the wild animals (Genesis 1:28). These words of blessings reveal the goal of creation very clearly. We have come to know that God has created us to praise and glorify Him. Not only that He has also given him the responsibility of taking care of the creation. He has given him the right to become His co-worker. Now, we will learn about the way to become God's Co-worker. In other words we shall know the meaning of becoming co-worker:

1. To be the co-worker of God is an invitation. He needs co-worker to continue the work of creation. For this reason He always calls the people. So we can say that to be His co-worker means to be obedient and to respond to His call. When boy Samuel was called, Eli taught him to answer saying: "speak, Lord, your servant is listening". In the past He called the prophets and other people to be His representatives. He still calls us in the same way.
2. To be co-worker is to be leader. We can't see the invisible God but He has created man in His own image. He has given man wonderful qualities, knowledge and power by which human beings are leading countries and nations. Most of the leaders of the world are properly guiding to their respective nations.
3. God loves us but He is invisible. Through human beings and their mutual service and love, God wants to reveal Himself and His love. So, we can say God has given us some of His own qualities. By applying these qualities man represents God.
4. God has created man. He is the giver of life, protector and supporter. He protects and supports people through other human beings. For example, through doctors God cures and heals even various complicated diseases. Through parents He sends new life on earth. Thus they become His co-workers.

5. Jesus said, "I am not calling you slaves but friends". There is nothing more precious than sacrificing life for friends. From this we can understand that we are called to be friends of God and He shares everything with us. In the Old Testament Abraham is called "Friend of God".
6. Creating him in His own image God has given man the best gift 'freedom'. By using his freedom man dedicates himself for the service of God. Through the use of freedom in his own life man becomes the best co-worker of God.

Task: Share in your group, how you find yourself as God's co-worker

Lesson - 2: Good Relationship between God and Man in Eden Garden

When God created the universe, there were no plants or bushes on earth. God poured rain and watered the earth. But there was no one to cultivate the land. God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it, he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils and the man began to live. He named him 'ADAM' which means man.

After creating man and woman, God kept them in a wonderful tranquil place called 'Eden Garden'. He gave them everything for their joy and happiness. He gave them right to enjoy everything of His creation. All the trees of this garden were wonderful, the fruits of which were also very sweet. There was a tree in the middle of the garden, which was called the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

God gave man ownership of the garden and asked them to take care of it. He forbade man to eat fruits of that tree. God noticed that Adam was very lonely. He said, "It is not good for man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him".

Then the Lord God caused man fall into a deep sleep and while he was sleeping, He took out one of man's ribs and formed a woman from it. She became the companion of man. Adam understood that there was a deep relationship between him and the woman. Both of them were human beings. Both of them realized that they were complementary to each other but in the same way. So, they felt strong attraction to live a conjugal life. As human beings with the desire for each other they lived happily in close relationship with God in the heavenly bliss. They were naked but not embarrassed. Living in such relationship man and woman lived in relationship with God.

Task: Describe Adam and Eve's relationship with God in Eden Garden.

Lesson - 3: Relationship gets Broken

The peaceful relationship between God and man in Eden Garden made Satan very jealous. He started to look for the opportunity to destroy it. Snake was the most cunning of all. One day, Satan came to Eve in the guise of a snake and asked her, "Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?" "We may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden", the woman answered, "Except the tree in the middle of it. God told us not to eat the fruit of that tree or even touch it; if we do, we will die."

The snake replied, "That's not true; you will not die. God said that, because he knows that the day you would eat, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God and you know what is good and bad". The woman saw the fruit was good to eat and pleasant to the eyes, and ideal for gaining knowledge. So she took some of the fruits. She herself ate and gave to her husband, and he also ate. As soon as they have eaten the fruit, they realized that they were naked. So they sewed leaves of fig trees and covered themselves. They realized that they have disobeyed God and committed sin.

Hearing the footsteps of God they got scared and hid themselves behind the trees. Purity of their hearts is destroyed. So far they had simple, normal, peaceful relationship with God. Now the presence of God became unbearable to them. They started to feel shy in the presence of God and felt guilty. They got punished for their sins. Thus the fall of man came. The relationship between God and man is now destroyed. Adam blamed Eve for his sin and Eve blamed the snake. God punished man, woman and the snake. They were driven out of heaven and sent to earth. The door of heaven is now closed for them.

| |
|--|
| Task: Read Genesis Chapter-3 and act out the fall of man. |
|--|

Lesson - 4: Re-establishment of the Relationship

Despite God's love man has become unfaithful to Him repeatedly. Man started to live the sinful life in this world, but God wants to save him. He tried to rebuild the broken relationship with man; for this purpose He took steps again. He entered into the life of mankind. We will now learn about what steps God has taken to build the broken relationship between Him and man.

We have already learned that man has committed sin by being disobedient. God did not abandon him. He promised to send His son and redeem man from his sins. In order to send his Son to this earth He chose a nation called the Israelites. He called many individuals, kings, prophets to fulfill His plan and promise.

Abraham was made the father of the believers and the father of the chosen race. He established a covenant with him. God said to him, "Now I am establishing a covenant between you and me. I will make your descendants numerous".

The earth was filled with sins of man and God destroyed everything by flood. But He established a covenant with Noah and as a sign of this covenant God showed a rainbow on the sky. He promised not to destroy the mankind with flood anymore.

God called Moses to free the Israelites from the slavery of Egyptians. He led the Jews towards the Promised Land. On their way to Canaan they felt the presence of God in different ways. He said to the Israelites repeatedly, "you are my own people and I am your God".

Then He chose the kings and the prophets. He chose King David and later in this race was born the Son of God. Prophet Isaiah made the prophecy of the Savior's birth. The final stage of re-establishing the relationship is the birth of His Son as man. Jesus was born in the womb of a woman as descendant of King David. In order to redeem man from the slavery of sin Jesus willingly accepted the death on a cross. He rose on the third day. Thus overcoming the power of death Jesus rescued man from the clutches of Satan. He is the Messiah who re-opened the closed door. Through him God's promise and plan were fulfilled. The broken relationship between God and man has been re-established. Jesus is the new Adam. In order to preserve this relationship Jesus established the church and holy sacraments. Through baptism we get rid of original sin and become children of God. Through the sacrament of reconciliation our sins are forgiven and we become worthy of return to God.

In the history of mankind thus God saved man. Despite man's unfaithfulness, God Himself took steps to re-establish and maintain relationship with man.

Lesson - 5: The way of Maintaining Good Relationship Between God and Man and Between Man and Man

We all wish to live in peace and happiness always. At the same time we desire friends and companions. God has given man such an innate tendency. We all want to be acquainted with others. Even a child becomes happy to get one like it. God took the first initiative to establish relationship with us. The Son of God has come to this earth to be united with man. Now we will discuss how a good relationship can be maintained.

- (1) Communication: Relationship has to be maintained through communication. This can be done in various ways: for example through meeting others directly, talking to them personally, using different media like exchanging letters, email, phone calls, etc.

- (2) **Serving others:** The best way to establish and maintain relationship with God is to serve human beings and do acts of welfare for them. We cannot serve invisible God without serving visible human beings.



One image of God helps another

- (3) **Worship:** Feeling presence of God through regular prayer, meditation, taking part in liturgy, reading Holy Bible we can communicate with God. If we have good relationship with God we will also have the same with man. And on the hand if we have good relationship with man we will have the same with God.
- (4) **Faith and trust:** Mutual trust is very important element in good relationship. With mutual trust we can very easily improve our relationship. On the other hand having faith and trust in God our relationship with Him deepens.
- (5) **Honesty:** Honesty is the foundation of good relationship. When we remain honest in exchanging feelings and opinions we can maintain good relationship. We can never make good relationship with others through the means of tricks and deception and falsity.
- (6) **Acceptance:** We have both strengths and weakness. When we accept each other we become delighted. Through mutual acceptance we become very close to each other. We desire acceptance from each other. God accepts us in whatever way we are. That is why we can return to Him.
- (7) **Respect:** We build relationship with others through mutual respect. We can respect others by giving opportunity of expression of opinions, paying attention to others' opinions, by supporting others in different situations. Everyone is distinct and unique; respecting that also helps to improve relationship. God Himself respects everyone's freedom.

- (8) **Mutual understanding:** We can come to mutual understanding by discussing matters with others and accepting them. This helps to maintain relationship.
- (9) **Co-operation:** We gain strength and courage through mutual helps in the special distressed moments of our lives. We ourselves become happy and make others also happy by attending different joyful festivals. This also helps deepen our relationship. We are deeply related to God because He helps us in every different situation.
- (10) **Equality:** Our relationship with others deepens through respecting others regardless of young and old, rich and poor, male and female. We all are equal in the eyes of God.

Thus by loving their fellow beings people can establish and maintain good relationship with God.

Task: Make a poster showing how you maintain good relationship with others in your class. Then hang it somewhere for others.

Exercise

Fill in the blanks

1. We are forgiven our ____ sin through baptism.
2. Man was given responsibility to ____ on everything.
3. To get God's company and to develop bond with each other man ____lived.
4. Man came on earth after ____ from the heaven.
5. The foundation of good relation is ____.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. God has tried to build with man | • all the responsibility of creation.. |
| 2. Behind the creation of man | • a close tie. |
| 3. God has given man | • God had a great plan. |
| 4. God with the hands of doctors | • man came on earth |
| 5. Being driven from the heaven | • working to heal. |
| | • power to rule. |

Multiple choice questions

1. Who is called 'the friend of God' in the Old Testament?
 - a. Mosses
 - b. Abraham
 - b. Daniel
 - c. Elio
2. Why did God make man the owner of Eden Garden?
 - a. To rule
 - b. To fulfill the plan
 - c. For happiness and pleasure of human
 - d. For keeping purity.

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

Joy is the only child of his parents. He plays computer games and spoils time when his mother tells him to study. He abstains from evening prayer. He does not attend Sunday mass, does whatever he wants to.

3. Who was sent by God to turn man from this condition?
 - a. Mosses
 - b. Elio
 - c. Jesus
 - d. John
4. What might happen for such behavior of Joy?
 - i. deterioration/worsening relationship with God.
 - ii. deprivation of heavenly peace.
 - iii. chaos in family.

Which one is correct-

- a. i
- b. i and ii
- c. ii and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

Creative questions

1. Nikhil is very greedy. He grabbed the land of villagers and became very rich. He has built a huge house and decorated the house with many furnitures. Though he has riches he doesn't help anyone in their distress. The parish priest advised him to abandon this path and said, "God has taken many steps to teach people like you in the right path".

- a. What is the foundation of good tie?
 - b. What is meant by co-worker?
 - c. How is the tie between Nikhil and God? - Explain.
 - d. Justify/evaluate the statement of parish priest.
2. Mr. Jerom works as the head of an organization. For the betterment of the organization he appointed poor, skilled and hard-working workers. All of them carry on their responsibility very enthusiastically and happily. So, the organization was developed day by day. Mr. Jerom became very satisfied and grew interested to give more facility to his staff. He arranged for economic support and loan for the poor workers.
- a. Which image was followed to create man?
 - b. Why was the relationship between man and God destroyed?
 - c. For his work what will Mr. Jerom be to God?
 - d. Evaluate the statement ---

"Besides Mr. Jerom's work there are many tasks which help to establish good tie with God".

Answer briefly

1. Why did God create man in his own image?
2. What is meant by helper?
3. Why did Jesus establish the church and Holy Sacraments?

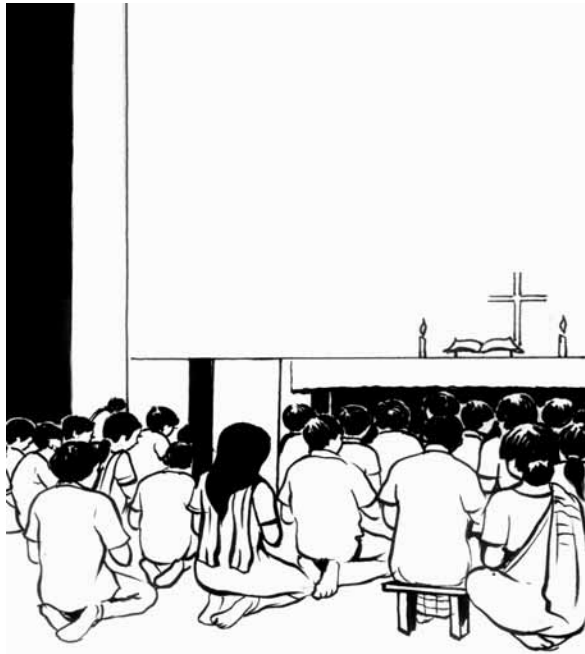
Essay type questions

1. How can man be God's assistant?
2. What is the importance of maintaining relationship between man and God?
3. Describe in your own words the tie of God with Adam and Eve in the Eden Garden.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Consequences of the Fall of Man

We have already learnt about the fall of angels and its results, different types of sins and its results, and the original sin by Adam and Eve. In this chapter, we will discuss elaborately about the fall of man. God punished man for his sin, but he did not destroy him. Now he has to struggle very hard but he has strong desire to be united with God. In one way man has attraction towards sin; on the other hand has eagerness for salvation. Through the lessons of the chapter we will think deeper and strengthen our trust in God.



Through prayer re-unite with and trust in God

At the end of the chapter we will be able to:

- ☐ • describe the struggle of life due to fall of man
- ☐ • describe the promise and plan of God for saving people
- ☐ • describe the quest for God by man
- ☐ • narrate the means to get rid of sins
- ☐ • depend on God at every state of life

Lesson - 1: Fall and Struggle of Man

God gave free-will to the man that he created. He placed in front of him the fruit of the tree of good and evil. God trusted man wanted that man willingly keeps away from sin. But he was tempted by Satan and disobeyed God. Consequently, he lost the trust of God. Hence, the sin that he committed is called the original sin. Thus he preferred to have his own will instead of God's. God created man in His own image but he did not realize the importance of it. He fell in the trap of Satan and wanted to be 'like God'. But it was not possible for him. This high ambition of him is the root cause of his fall.

The outcome of sin

By falling in sin Adam and Eve lost their original purity and lost the grace that he received from God. St. Paul says, "Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence" (Rom 3: 23). Because of sin our first parents started to fear God.

Before committing sin human beings had good relationship among themselves. He had good relationship between his body, mind and soul, and between man and woman. Because of sin this wonderful relationship was ruined.

- (1) Man had an influence of his spirit on his body and mind. He had strong spiritual strength but his spirituality vanished. Now his body and mind don't obey the instruction of his spirit.
- (2) An anxiety rose between man and woman. Because of sin man and woman started looking at each other with lust and became domineering.
- (3) Their solidarity with creation got ruined. Nature will no more be friendly with them. The soil of this earth remains cursed. He has to struggle, drop the sweat of his head to his feet and thus has to produce crop from the soil. The soil now produces weeds and thorns for him. Wild fruit is now his food.
- (4) Man will return to the dust by which he was created. That is, death entered into human history.
- (5) As a result of original sin the relationship among human being declined. They started to envy each other. Cain slaughtered his own brother Abel.

Man Falls into Struggle

In spite of his being a free person, because of the original sin of Adam and Eve, man is always under the spell of Satan. The result of the original sin is "the slavery to Satan, who has power over death." Man has an attraction towards evil which springs from within. This gives rise to incapability of understanding, and as a result, man makes many serious mistakes. These mistakes make life complex, troublesome and restless. His struggle with internal and external world also increases.

The serious struggle of human life is the result of his sin and various hesitations of his life. This struggle is his endless strive to defeat evil or sin and establish truth and good. A good or positive power is present in all people. Man wants to live honest life. Everyone loves truth and beauty but it is not always possible to establish truth and beauty.

The whole history of mankind is the struggle against evil power. According to Jesus this situation will exist in the history from the beginning to the end of the world. Truth has to be established through struggle. Through much struggle, sacrifice, depending on God's grace man receives the 'redemption' in life. St. Paul has explained human helplessness in this way: I do not do what I want to do, rather I do what I do not want to do. But we believe that by this unending struggle we have to reach the peak of freedom. This struggle is a test of the believers' faith and redemption. We experience the resurrected Christ through regular life and by defeating the evil power. Thus we experience the joy of overcoming death.

| |
|---|
| <p>Task: Share your experience in the group on how you experience a struggle between good and evil powers.</p> |
|---|

Lesson - 2: God's Promise and Plan to Save the Mankind

God is infinitely good and loving. All His works are great. His love for man is also infinite. Even though man fell into sin God did not abolish them from the earth. He also did not hate them either. The presence of sin in human history can't be denied. So God made a great plan to redeem them. He promised to mankind after they had become the sinners. He said that He would set mankind free from sin. This part (Gen. 3: 9, 15) of the Book of Genesis is called "the First Good News", because it has the first declaration about Messiah or Savior, the conflict between snake and woman and about the final win of her descendant.

From this promise we come to know about the coming of Jesus Christ, the new Adam, the Savior. He was obedient till his death on the cross. He compensated for Adam's

sin of disobedience. The name of the lady that is mentioned here is Mary, the Mother of Christ, the new Eve. Due to Jesus Christ's holiness and God's grace she was free from original sin.

A question rise in our mind that why God did not protect Adam from committing first sin. Saint Leo the Great said, "Christ's inexpressible grace gave us blessings better than those the demon's envy had taken away." Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote, "There is nothing to prevent human nature being raised up to something greater, even after sin; God permits evil in order to draw forth some greater good. Thus Saint Paul says, 'Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more'; and the Exultet sings, 'O happy fault, . . . which gained for us so great a Redeemer.'"

Christians always believe, "This world is created with the Creator's love and this love protects the creation".

Task: Share with others if you know of any incident that says how from any failure or anything negative something good has come.

Lesson - 3: Man in Search of God

Some basic questions in man's life are: Who am I? Where do I come from? Where will I go? Who has created me? Why did he create me? The wise men called these 'questions of life'. Man's quest for God begins from his questions of life. Man desires to find his own Creator and wants to be united with Him. He wants to feel the glory of God in his own life. He wants to taste God in order to see how good the God is. He has unquenchable thirst to find God in his own life. We also find the search for God in the Psalms.

In Psalms 63 it has been said,

O God, you are my God, and I long for you.

My whole being desires you;

like a day, worn out and waterless land,

my soul is thirsty for you,

Let me see you in the sanctuary;

Let me see how mighty and glorious you are."

Psalms 42 says---

As a deer longs for stream of cool water,
so I long for you, O God.
I thirst for you, the living God;
when can I go and worship in your presence?

Why do people look for God? God, the Creator Himself wants to come close to us. So, He gave us all these strong desires to be attached to man. He gave us such emptiness, which can be filled only by Him. Sea is the source of river water and again it goes back to the sea. Human life is like that. The source of our life is God and He is our final destination. We have come from Him and will return to Him. As long as we live, we live to glorify Him. So, we the human beings in every state of our lives, in every work, we feel the existence of God. We wish to see God, wish to fulfill His desire through all our works. By finding God we wish to be satisfied and complete.

From time immemorial, people of all religions search for God. Their prayer, meditation, reading holy books, doing good works, following religious rituals, serving man, gaining knowledge, going on pilgrimage or entering into religious life--all these are parts of searching for God. By loving God's creations and attaining holiness reflect love for the Creator Himself and gaining self-knowledge. We look for God everywhere, but He is within us. This knowledge of God made our national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam write:

You are in my heart always, O my God.
I look for you elsewhere, but in vain.
Like Spirit you are living in my heart.

Poet Rabindranath Tagore said:

I found you in my heart
Now I desire for nothing else.

Thus the way the endless search for God went on.

Task: Make a list of your way of searching for God. Share in your group the joyful experience of finding God.

Lesson - 4: Way of Redemption

God has created man so that man knows Him, obeys Him and live a happy life both in this world as well as in heaven. But man deprived himself by committing sin. They ruined their relationship with God. But God took the initiative to bring them back to right path. To be redeemed man needs the help of God and it is done through Jesus Christ. Besides, He has given the Law to human beings. Through that man will find God's grace and will be saved. Let's see now how we can be saved.

- (1) **Accepting Jesus as the Saviour:** God Himself promised that He would free mankind from the bondage of sin. He fulfilled His promise by sending His own Son. Jesus came into this world, proclaimed about the redemption, suffered and died on cross and on the third day rose from death. Thus He redeemed us. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one reaches the Father except by me" (John 14:6).
- (2) **Obedying the moral laws:** The Law of God plays a great role on the way of redemption. The Ten Commandments of the Old Testament and the commandment of love given by Jesus show us the way to redemption. One day a young man came to Jesus and asked, "My Lord, what should I do to achieve the eternal life?" Jesus replied, "If you want to enter eternal life, follow the divine rules". The best of these commandments is to love God and love your neighbours like yourself. By doing this we can be saved.
- (3) **God's grace and righteousness:** Grace of God and righteousness come from the Holy Spirit. By the power of the Holy Spirit we die to sin and achieve new life. The first grace of it is changing mind from sin and following in the footsteps of Jesus, expressing our eagerness for redemption, achieving the Holy Spirit and renewing our faith. All these depend on the grace of God. He provides it from His own life.
- (4) **Being members of the church:** To redeem His followers Jesus founded the church. The Holy Spirit is present in the church. There is administration of sacraments in the church. We receive grace through these sacraments. For instance, baptism frees us from original sin; the sacrament of reconciliation ensures forgiveness from sin. Besides, church's prayer, Eucharist and other means give us graces. In the life of the Christians the Church is the proof of Christ's redeeming presence.

(5) Serving others: In his letter Saint James said, "Brothers, what good is it to profess faith without showing works? Such faith has no power to save you" (James 2:14). Faith without good deed is useless. So for our redemption we have to work our best. It is a Christian's duty. At the Last Supper Jesus washed feet of His disciples. Through this He established an example of service for us all. By our service we can again achieve our holiness.

Task-1: Enlist the tasks you do to attain salvation.

Task-2: How do people seek God? Make a list in the group and present it.

E x e r c i s e

Fill in the blanks

1. Creating human in His image, God gave them ____ desire.
2. Before committing sin ____ a good relationship.
3. Cain killed his own brother ____.
4. All people have good or ____ quality.
5. To establish truth and ____ is not possible for all.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Allured by Satan human | • death entered. |
| 2. Because of sin | • we wish to feel the presence of God. |
| 3. In the history of mankind | • we wish to be complete. |
| 4. God is filled with goodness and | • this relationship was destroyed. |
| 5. Through all our work | • love. |
| | • disobeyed God. |

Multiple choice questions

1. Who killed Abel?
 - a. Adam
 - b. Cain
 - c. Abraham
 - d. Jacob
2. Why does good relationship decline?
 - a. because of sin
 - b. for lack of communication
 - c. for not giving importance to others
 - d. for evil

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

At childhood Milon was very sober and mild. Coming to high school he mingled with the naughty boys and became disobedient to parents. He doesn't study regularly or say prayers regularly. His behaviour makes it clear that he has grown lazy. As a consequence he failed in the annual examination.

3. Influenced by which nature Milon took the wrong path?
 - a. unawareness
 - b. impatience
 - c. nature of sinner
 - d. immoral haviour
4. Because of Milon's such livelihood he--
 - i. became scared of God
 - ii. deprived of divine grace
 - iii. lost the Holy blessing.

Which one is correct?

- a. i
- b. i and ii
- c. ii and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

Creative questions

1. Veronica was brought up in a poor family. She had to struggle hard for study. She prays regularly, goes to church, decorates alter, read the biography of saints and feels happy to lead a sacred life. Her parents wanted to marry her off but she did not agree because it will not admit her to help the people of the church. She wants to respond to God's call and stand by the poor. On the other hand her younger

brother Sujon was very fond of comfortable life. He doesn't like to suffer and disobey his parents. Once he fell sick Veronica advised him to give up the wrong way and be good.

- a. Who provoked man to disobey God?
 - b. Before falling in sin how was the life of man? Why was it like that?
 - c. Discuss by which work Veronica wishes to fulfill God's teaching.
 - d. "Confession and repentance have cured Sujon." Do you agree with it? Give your opinion.
2. Raju lost his father at an early age. His father and uncles had dispute over land much before his father's death which ultimately led to his father's heart attack. In his father's absence Raju struggles very hard to earn some daily food mean. On top of that it is difficult for him to be present and manage court fee 2/1 times a month. To get rid of this trouble he requests his uncles to give up the cases and get back to peaceful life. He prays to God to overcome this trouble. By dint of his talent and mild behaviour Raju managed to solve all these problems.
- a. What have we learnt from Adam and Eve?
 - b. How can we establish truth in this conflict ridden world?
 - c. In the light of the passage describe why Raju had to struggle at an early age.
 - d. "Raju feels the presence of resurrected Christ in his struggling life" --- give your opinion about this statement.

Answer briefly

- a. How did we learn about the original sin?
- b. Why did God rely on human?
- c. Why do people search for God?

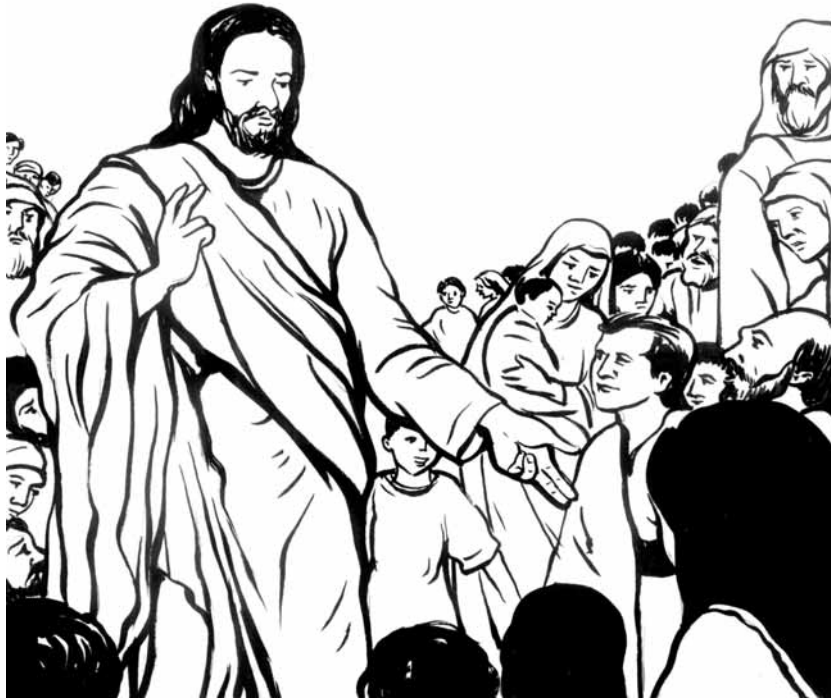
Essay type questions

1. Describe the struggle of human due to their fall.
2. What is the way to redemption?
3. In all situations of life how would you keep faith on God.

CHAPTER FIVE

Principle Themes of the Preaching of Jesus

Jesus came to this world to redeem the human race according to the plan of His Father. Through His preaching and miracles Jesus taught various things. His teachings have the direction to lead a life of beauty, truth, equality, justice, peace and love. Through His words He prepared man for redemption. This chapter will highlight the original essence of the words of Jesus.



People gathered around Jesus

At the end of the chapter we will be able to:

- narrate the main themes of Jesus' preaching
- discuss the Kingdom of God, the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Last Judgment, resurrection of the dead, the Temple of Jerusalem, the Law of the Jews, punishment, the poor, message and mission of the Holy Spirit, and inseparability of marriage trust in the words of Jesus and take part in the mission of Jesus as much as possible for us

Lesson - 1: Kingdom of God

All human work has a goal. A work without reason cannot be called a human work. The education that we are getting now has its goal. For example, this education will help us growing up as full-fledged human person, we will work for the country, we will show other people the way to better life, and so on and so forth. Whether we eat, take rest, play, obey the elders etc. have their goals.

Jesus Christ also came to this world with a specific goal - to redeem all the nations of the world. He came to spread the Kingdom of God through love, service, forgiveness, compassion, sympathy, equality, justice and peace. So, He boldly said that the Kingdom of God is near at hand. He wanted people to change their mind and prepare for entering into heaven. Jesus is the one who introduced the Kingdom of God in this world and it is through Him that one day this Kingdom will be fulfilled.

But many people misunderstood Jesus. They considered Him to be just an earthly king and His kingdom to be an earthly one. So His disciples James and John requested Him to let them sit one on His right side and another on his left side, when He launches His Kingdom. They failed to understand that God's Kingdom is equally for all and everyone has the right to be member of it. There is no question of who will be on the right or who will be on the left. We all are equal there. In that Kingdom we are all kings and at the same time we are subjects of the King.

Task: We all sing together the Tagore's song: We are all kings in our King's Kingdom".

Lesson - 2: The Ten Commandments

Rules and regulations make people disciplined. They help people to lead a beautiful and simple life. For this reason all societies have certain rules and regulations. These help them to live disciplined and peaceful life.

In the beginning, when He created the universe God gave us some natural laws. On Mount Sinai He gave Moses the Ten Commandments for the Israelites. We have already learnt about them and their explanations.

Task: One by one five of students will say the Ten Commandments memorized.

Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments and said that there are two central commandments. Thus He explained the inner meaning of the Ten Commandments. He said that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our must, with all our mind and with all our strength. And at the same time we must love our

neighbours as ourselves. Therefore, it is clear that Jesus gave fulfillment to the Ten Commandments by two kinds of loves: love for God and love for the neighbours. Love is the one that is in the center of everything. All of the Ten Commandments can be observed through these two kinds of loves. It is through love that we can come to God and at the same time we can stand beside our brothers and sisters. For this reason Jesus has mentioned only of two kinds of loves.

Task: Discuss in groups how we can lead our life according to the Ten Commandments.

Lesson - 3: The Beatitudes

Everybody wants to be happy. If we carefully observe activities and life-style of the individuals we will find it that the aim of everyone's life is to be happy. It seems that all are living their lives to be happy in their lives. But we need to know that all kinds of happiness are not permanent. Happiness can be worldly and heavenly. Worldly happiness lies in the pleasure and luxury. All these are sensual. On the other hand the heavenly pleasure can be achieved by sacrificing life for each other. We enjoy it by heart and preserve it for the next world. Jesus, in the beginning of His preaching described about some of the ways to achieve the heavenly pleasure. They are eight in number and also known as the Beatitudes.

The Sermon on the Mount:

1. Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the kingdom of heaven belongs to them!
2. Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!
3. Happy are those who are humble, they will receive what God has promised!
4. Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!
5. Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!
6. Happy are the poor in heart; they will see God!
7. Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them children.
8. Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

Through the Beatitudes Jesus showed the way to happiness in this world and in the other world. By living life according to the Beatitudes we will be able to attain peace of mind and spread it among all.

Lesson - 4: The Last Judgment

Human beings are either rewarded or punished for their deeds in this world; they see this reward or punishment either in this world or in the next world. People will build their future in this world. They will be judged according to their works. We, all Christians believe in The Last Judgment.

On the Last Judgment the Son of Man will come as King and all the Angels with Him, He will sit on the royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before Him. Then He will divide them into two groups, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the righteous people on His right and the others on His left. Then the King will say to the people on His right, 'Come you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the Kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.

Then He will say to those on his left, Away from me, you that are under God's curse. Away to the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels! I was a stranger but you would not welcome me in your homes, naked but you would not clothe me. I was sick and in prison but you would not take care of me. These, then, will be sent off to eternal punishment but the righteous will go to eternal life.

So, it is clear to us that all of us must face the judgment day. We will be judged by the charity that we have shown to our brothers and sisters, to the least ones.

| |
|--|
| Task: Enlist the task to gain eternal life. |
|--|

Lesson - 5: The Rising of the Dead

We have come to this world and a day will come when we will have to leave it. We have to leave behind all our near and dear ones. Since no one desires death, a question may rise in our mind: Why is there death? What happens after death? What is our destination? A kind of anxiety works behind all these questions. That is why we have much anxiety with regard to death.



Resurrection of Jesus Christ

We believe in the resurrection of the dead. Jesus died and after three days He resurrected. By rising from the dead He promised to us that one day we also will rise. In His preaching life He taught us about it. The Jews believed about it but the Sadducees did not. Once, in response to a question of the Sadducees He told very clearly about that there is resurrection. After the resurrection we will not remain like the people of this earth, rather we will be like the heavenly angels. For these reasons the disciples could not first recognize Jesus after His resurrection. Jesus said, "God is of the living, not of the dead". One day all of us will rise. Through death we will be united with God. That is why death for the Christians should not cause sufferings but happiness.

Lesson - 6: The Temple of Jerusalem

People of all religions make a place for their worship. Muslims have mosque, Hindus have temple, Buddhists have pagoda and Christians have church. All these places bear the signs of the Creator's presence.

During the time of Jesus Christ the Temple of Jerusalem was the centre of the Jewish worship. At different occasions and festivals they used to gather there. Jesus was also respectful towards that temple. Forty days after this birth Joseph and Mary dedicated Him in that temple. At the age of twelve He was lost in the Temple and later He was found again. This event reminds us that He would be busy with His Father's duty. Every year during the Sabbath day He used to go to the Temple.

This place is the house of God where all the religious people will come and pray. Once when He found the traders turned that place into a marketplace, He drove them away, turning down their things. He never allowed its purity gets spoilt.

Jesus also said about the body-temple. He said that our bodies are temples of God. He said about demolishing the temple (heart) and in three days build a new one. Many people misunderstood Him but He made the Temple of Jerusalem one of His central points. This is the place where He totally surrendered Himself to the will of His Father.

Lesson - 7: The Law of the Jews

All the religions have their respective rules and regulations. Through sincerely observing those the followers of that particular religion express their loyalty. Actually, by observing those religious laws people can be guided to remain in good path and come closer to God.

There were many obligatory laws for Jewish people. Many people thought Jesus had come to annul all those laws. But he Himself said, "Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teaching of prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teachings come true. Remember that so long as heaven and earth last not the least point nor the smallest detail of the law will be done away with --- not until the end of all things. So then, whoever disobeys even the least important of the commandments and teaches others to do the same, will be least in the Kingdom of Heaven. On the other hand, whoever obeys the Law and teaches others to do the same, will be great in the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5: 17-19)

Jesus Christ has asked us to be more sincere in observing the laws. His teachings are stricter in this respect. He said, "You have heard that people were told in the past, 'Do not commit murder anyone who does will be brought to trial'. But now I tell you: whoever is angry with his brother will be brought to trial, whoever calls his brother 'You good for nothing!' will be brought before the Council, and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to the fire of hell". (Matthew 5: 21-22)

Through Jesus everything got completion. Therefore, those who observe the laws and teach others to do the same will be considered great in the Kingdom of Heaven. These laws help us to enter into the eternal life. The Jews used to observe them literally. Jesus gave them internal and spiritual meanings. Jesus' law is the law of love.

Task: Discuss in groups, why laws should be observed.

Lesson 8: Peace

Everyone longs for peace. He struggles just for a little bit of peace or happiness. Many of them cross a long way to find peace.

Jesus is the 'King of Peace'. Thousands of years before His birth, different prophets prophesied of peace and termed Him in this name. He is the 'Supreme Counselor' King of universal peace.

In his preaching He spread peace among people. He said, "I am leaving peace for you, it is my own peace". After resurrection He appeared to his disciples and said, "Peace be with you". Yet the peace given by Jesus is not the same as the worldly peace. It is of sacrifice and giving by which we all may have peace.

Jesus has reconciled man with God and made the church the symbol of this unity, because He Himself has come on earth to bring peace. He declared, "Happy are those who work for peace, they shall be called children of God".

Task: Enlist the steps that should be taken to ensure peace at home and in school.

Lesson-9: The Poor

Jesus started his preaching on the mountain by saying, "Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them!" In spite of being the Son of God, He came into this world in a very simple way. He was born of a very simple virgin called Mary. She gave birth to Him in a manger in a very poor situation.

Jesus came to the earth in a very simple way to proclaim good news to the poor. At the Synagogue of Nazareth He read from the book of Isaiah and declared clearly about His arrival, "The Spirit of the God is upon me, because He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind to set free the oppressed". (Luke 4: 18) He had chosen His apostles from the poor people. The people whom he had shown hope were the

deprived, the tortured, the poor, the persecuted, the widows, the sick, the cripples. He said the truth of eternal life has been revealed to poor and simple people to make the wise ones ashamed. He called everyone to be like little children. If we cannot be like little children we will not be able to enter into the eternal life.

Lesson - 10: The message and mission of the Holy Spirit

While leaving the world, Jesus promised to his disciples that He would not leave them orphans. He will send the true Spirit who will lead them to the path of truth. His message will guide them and His power will help them in spreading the Good News to the people.

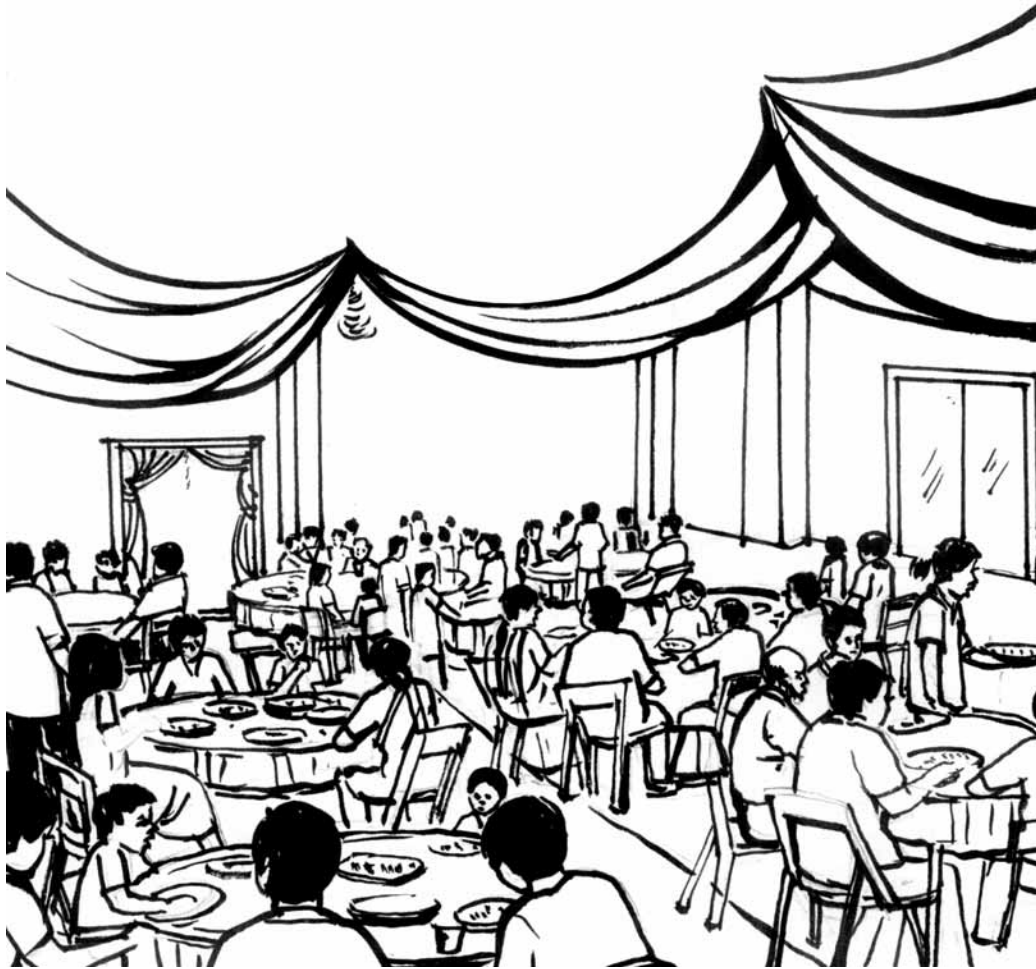
Whenever the Father sends His Word, He also sends his Spirit with it. Through His Son the Word of God came to us. The Holy Spirit makes us understand that although the Son and the Spirit are different they are undivided. We find Christ in both visible and invisible ways but the Holy Spirit Himself reveals it. Jesus said when you have to face the rulers and the leaders in the synagogues how would you protect yourself? You should not worry about it. At that moment what you have to say will be taught by the Holy Spirit. His words will be the guiding force. This Spirit will make us children of God. His work is to join us with God and help live a Christian life.

Task: Prepare a report on the Apostolic work that your parish is involved in.

Lesson - 11: The Inseparability of Marriage

The blessing of marriage is held between a female and male. They take vow to staying together for the rest of their lives. Priest remains the witness. God Himself brings them together. For this reason they stay together. Only death can separate them, nothing else.

God has created man male and female so that they may live together and be complete. By creating male and female and by the sacrament of marriage God has shown the deepest love. God Himself is the one who formulate this love between a male and female. Marriage is not merely a social or cultural contract. Marriage is not to be broken but for an everlasting contract. Scripture reminds us that, "They are not two, but one body".



Invited guests at the wedding feast

Jesus has given importance to the conjugation of love in married life. He took part in a marriage ceremony with his mother at Cana. His presence discloses that wedding would be the sign of Christ's presence. The original plan of God to unite man and woman has been taught by Jesus Christ. He did not impose anything tougher than the Law of Moses. He said, "Let no one separate what God has joined".

Exercise

Fill in the blanks

1. We believe in ____ of death.
2. The temple is ____ house.
3. God's law is ____ law.
4. Christ is ____.
5. Jesus has ____ the love of conjugal life.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. The words of Holy Spirit would be | • the kingdom of God is yours! |
| 2. Happy are the poor | • is for all. |
| 3. The words of Holy Spirit | • the power of spreading gospel. |
| 4. God's Kingdom | • love your God and neighbour. |
| 5. With all your heart and soul | • will be the guide. |
| | • has told about the love. |

Multiple choice question

1. Jesus was resurrected after--
 - a. two days
 - b. three days
 - c. four days
 - d. five days
2. How can we be close to God?
 - a. through love
 - b. through blessing
 - c. through donation
 - d. by following rules

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

Mithun is weak in study but God fearing and helpful. Very easily he gets close, solves the conflict with others, and works for the down-trodden. Observing him many are encouraged to work for society.

3. What does Mithun's work reflect?
 - a. worldly kingdom
 - b. God's kingdom
 - c. spreading power
 - d. nurturing the creation
4. Mithun wishes to establish -
 - i. love, welfare
 - ii. forgiveness, peace
 - iii. affection, sympathy
5. Which of the following is correct?
 - a. i
 - b. ii
 - c. i and iii
 - d. i, ii and iii

Creative questions

1. Apu and Topu are the children of rich family. Apu is disobedient, neglects study, comes back late at home, does not read the Holy Bible and say prayers. On the other hand Topu prays regularly and fears God, helping and serving others. Observing him Apu repents and changes his mind. Now both of them live a simple life, eat plain food and dress decently. Both of them pray and help the poor, helpless, widows. They spread Good News to the sick people. They started to work for the actual truth of Gospel among the common people. So people started growing spiritually.
 - a. For whom the God's kingdom is?
 - b. How can we get pleasure?
 - c. Where do Apu and Topu live?
 - d. In the light of the text evaluate the statement that the light of God has influenced them.
2. Sanjit always speaks the truth, because he fears God. Regularly he reads the Bible and says prayer. He helps his destitute neighbours by giving money, food, dress and counseling. He comes forward if anyone falls sick and takes them to hospital. Seeing his enthusiasm the parish priest told Sanjit "God bless you". (you may prosper) But he always considered himself smaller.
 - a. Who will sit at God's right side?
 - b. Why do we believe in resurrection?
 - c. Explain what's been revealed by Sanjit's work?
 - d. What can be the result of Sanjit's work? - Explain.

Answer briefly

1. For which particular work Jesus came to the world?
2. What is the inner meaning of the Ten Commandments?
3. What would you achieve following the ways of pleasure?

Essay type questions

1. Write in your own words about 'The Kingdom of God'.
2. What are the ways to pleasure?.
3. Write about resurrection.

CHAPTER SIX

Peter's Response to God's Calling



Saint Peter

Jesus chose the Twelve as His companions in His work of preaching. He called them and they also became disciples by responding to that call. He named them as disciples or apostles. Because they were sent to everywhere in the world. Saint Peter was the chief among the apostles. In this chapter, we would try to be beloved disciples of Jesus by elaborately discussing about the calling and response of Saint Peter and by following the example set by Saint Peter.

At the end of the Chapter, we will be able to:

- explain the calling of Peter and his response to Jesus' calling
- describe the delegated responsibilities upon Peter by Jesus
- describe Peter as the foundation of the Christian Church
- describe the story of becoming witness of the resurrection
- explain about Peter's power of binding and opening
- explain about Peter's confession as Messiah
- be inspired for becoming worthwhile disciple of Jesus

Lesson 1: Peter's Calling and Response

Jesus has come into this world for fulfilling the redemption-plan of God the Father. He let all know the message of redemption and called them so that all may walk in the righteousness shown by Him. He has exhibited the path of the Kingdom of Heaven. The work of preaching this message was not an easy one. He even had to sacrifice His life for this. But he clearly told, He is the way, the truth and the life. None can go to the Father except through Him.

He chose some companions for accomplishing this difficult work of preaching the message. He called them, equipped them and sent everywhere for spreading the message. He transformed them as courageous and strengthened by sending the Holy Spirit upon them on the Eve of Pentecost. This group of companions were many in numbers. From them He specially chose twelve, and named them apostles or disciples. Because they were the witnesses of the preaching, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

These twelve apostles came to close connection with Jesus in different times and situations. Perhaps they were known to each other from childhood since they were from the same locality. On the other hand, Jesus might become known to them for His missing in the temple, conversation with the scribes, and the miracle He performed at a wedding house in Cana. The disciples would perhaps know Jesus as audiences of these events. Some might even hear about Jesus from John the Baptist. As a result, the willingness to see Jesus or becoming closer to Jesus was already implanted in their hearts.

At that time small cities or residences were built near the seashore. And Jesus preached His message by traveling these cities and ports of the seashore. Boats, boatmen, fishermen were the means of Jesus preaching. The inward desire of the disciples of seeing Jesus was fulfilled when Jesus went to preach in their own areas. As a result, they met Jesus directly. Peter was also among them. There the final call for becoming His disciples was offered. Saint Luke wrote this excellent incident in the Gospel written by him.

The fishermen could not catch any fish in their nets through the whole night (Luke 5: 1-12). For them that night was very bad and tiresome. Peter jumped near to Jesus when he saw Him in the shore in that morning. They shared about their adventure as a failure. In that situation, Jesus told Peter, "Take your nets to the deep sea and caste your nets." The command of Jesus seemed illogical since they failed and became tired after the whole night. Even though there was hesitation in him, Peter obeyed Jesus for deep trust and confidence upon Him. They casted their nets in the sea. What a surprise! There were so many fish that the nets were almost torn! They had to ask help from other fishermen and huge fish were caught.

The disciples saw in their own eyes what they heard about Jesus before. That was really a miracle. They became surprised. There was more wonder when they heard Jesus' calling as "From now on you would catch only men." A wonderful event happened in the lives of the fishermen. They did not only catch fish. Now their lives have been caught by Jesus. They were no more the fishermen of fish, rather became fishermen of men. That meant, from then on they became the companions of the missionary life of Jesus. The wonderful incident was that they became the companions of Jesus but forsaking their nets, boats, fish, parents, relatives and everything they had. Peter was among them.

What a wonderful power did Jesus have! How easily he freed Peter from his daily routine works and appointed him in the service of God. Peter's mind was attracted by the word and eye-sight of Jesus. He did not have any chance to flee from there. That was an excellent calling - a spiritual calling; the calling for serving God Himself. Peter started following Jesus by leaving everything to respond to that calling.

Task: Play a drama on the event of Peter's response to Jesus' calling.

Lesson 2: Delegation and the Foundation of the Church

Saint Peter was from Bethsaida of the province of Galilee. His another name was Simon. Jesus named Simon as Peter, which means "rock". The name of Simon Peter was Jonah. Andrew was his other brother who later became Jesus' disciple. They were fishermen by profession. Peter and Andrew used to catch fish in sea with James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Jesus healed the mother-in-law of Peter, from which, we might conclude that Peter was married. But whether his wife was alive or dead, there was no indication.

Simon Peter was the chief one among those whom Jesus called. Jesus suddenly called Peter while fishing in the sea. Peter became the chief of the disciple-group by responding to Jesus' call.

Once Jesus wanted to check the disciples, so he asked them to say what people said about who Jesus was. After having their answer, He asked them what they themselves think about Jesus. Peter among the disciples uttered, "You are the Savior, the Son of the living God." (Matt 16: 13-20). Peter was the one among the disciples, who could know Jesus as Savior and confessed accordingly. That was not an ordinary matter. Saint Peter upheld a deep truth on faith. Peter expressed the redemption plan of God the Father; he confessed his deep faith upon Jesus through this. He has also expressed the true identity of Jesus through this.

Jesus became happy by Peter's answer. He commended Peter with thanks and blessed him. He justified the name of Peter as rock. He chose Peter and told, "You Peter, and I will build my church upon you. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matt 16: 17-20).



Jesus is handing the key of the Kingdom of Heaven over to Peter

Jesus once questioned Peter for purifying his faith, "Peter, do you love me?" Jesus asked Peter this same question three times. And Peter answered three times, "Yes Lord, I love you." In response, Jesus told, "Take care of my sheep." (John 21: 15-17).

Jesus equipped Peter slowly through these conversations so that he could accept the responsibility. A huge task was handovered to Peter. Jesus delegated this great task for his faith and confession on Jesus. "Take care of my sheep" - that was a big task which was delegated upon him.

Peter became the chief of the disciples and leader of the church. Peter was the first Pope of the church. The keys of the Kingdom of Heaven was offered only to Peter. Peter was the witness of many works of Jesus. All the disciples could not go too close to Jesus but only Peter and two other disciples were with Jesus. As for example, during Jesus' transfiguration in the mountain and Jesus' remorse in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him.

Peter was a good speaker. Peter advanced in different situations and spoke as spokesman of the disciples. Many times, Peter replied to different questions of Jesus. Peter could not give right answer. So there was weakness in his faith. He was almost drown while walking on water. Peter resisted Jesus when He was washing the feet of the disciples. Peter cut the ear of a soldier by his sword during Jesus arrest in Gethsemane. Peter refused Jesus to a slave woman three times for fear of his life.

We see the faith of Peter as weak in some areas. Once Jesus was walking upon water. Peter told, permit me so that I may walk upon water and come nearer to you. Jesus agreed. But in the middle of the way, Peter began to drown. Jesus then told him, "You of little faith. Why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14: 31). Jesus equipped him instead of the weakness of his faith. He provided him strength and courage and as a result on the day of Pentecost Peter delivered strong message on the resurrection of Jesus and accused Pharisees. Five thousand men became believers and were baptized. Peter as the chief of the church upheld his faith and preached about Jesus until his death. He became the foundation of the church by properly fulfilling his delegated responsibility.

Task: Prepare a list of the places in the Bible where Saint Peter preached the message.

Lesson 3: Saint Peter as the Witness of the Resurrection

Saint Peter became not only the foundation of the church, but he was also the witness of the resurrected Christ. Saint John described in the Gospel that, Saint Peter was the first entering into the empty tomb of Jesus (John 20: 1-9). Although John saw the empty grave first but he did not enter there. As the chief and foundation of the church, he waited for Peter and offered the opportunity first to Peter.

After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples several times and Peter was present in all of Jesus' appearances. Peter understood the message of the resurrection before His death, and that became a reality now. Peter believed that Jesus really resurrected.

Saint Paul, in his different epistles preached on the resurrection of Jesus. He expressed everywhere that Jesus appeared first to Peter and then to other disciples and then appeared to many men. Saint John, in the last chapter of his Gospel, wrote on the nice conversation between Peter and the resurrected Jesus.

Peter refused Jesus three times. In reverse to three refusals, Peter confessed three times that he loved Jesus. And Jesus reminded Peter three times, "Take care of my sheep." As the chief of the church, Jesus reminded the responsibilities and duties to Peter.

Peter obeyed the commands of the resurrected Jesus by the expense of his life. He took the leadership of the church. He led the selection process of choosing Matthias in place of Judas Iscariot. Since the number of devotees grew rapidly in the early church, the disciples were spending most of their time in the distribution of food. Their preaching became slow. So under the leadership of Peter, the disciples chose seven deacons for social work. Peter delivered lectures as their spokesman in different events. Such as, Peter was the first one delivered his lecture on the day of the dissension of the Holy Spirit. Then he did not have any fear. Peter resolved any conflict raised among the disciples. Peter was imprisoned for preaching about the resurrection. But due to his faith, he was miraculously freed from the prison. Saint Peter performed many miracles in the name of the resurrected Christ. Once one crippled beggar begged to Peter in front of the entrance door of the temple. Peter replied, I have neither silver nor gold, but I give you just what I have. I say in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise and walk. Immediately the crippled man became healed.

Once Peter was of little faith, but now he became strong through his meeting with the resurrected Christ. On the day of the Pentecost, he delivered his lecture with courage and preached about the story of Resurrected Christ. That day three thousand men believed Christ and were baptized by his lecture. He taught about faith as the chief of the whole church. He even preached up to Rome. At last, Saint Peter sacrificed his life on the cross. Saint Peter chose the death of anguish flowing his Master and sacrificed his own life to guard the faith.

| |
|---|
| Task: Share with the group about the things of Peter's life which inspire you. |
|---|

Exercise

Fill in the Blanks

1. St. Peter was the chief among the ____.
2. Jesus involved Peter in the service of God by freeing him from the daily ____.
3. Peter was a ____.
4. ____ people became believers through receiving sacrament after hearing the speech of Peter.
5. Peter was the ____ Pope of the church.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. The words of Jesus' mouth, the eye-sight | • preached on the resurrection. |
| 2. Peter in response to Jesus' calling became | • attracted the mind of Peter. |
| 3. Peter as the chief of the church | • embraced the faith. |
| 4. Peter denied Jesus | • three times. |
| 5. St. Paul in his different letters | • the chief of the disciple-team. |
| | • confessed that he loved Jesus |

Multiple choice questions

1. How many companions did Jesus choose for his preaching ministry?
 - a. Three persons
 - b. Four persons
 - c. Ten persons
 - d. Twelve persons
2. The phrase "Take your nets to the deep sea" means --
 - a. Spiritual calling
 - b. The calling of becoming skilled fisherman
 - c. The calling to become obedient
 - d. The calling to be humble

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

The father of Manik is in bed for his sickness. He realized that he would not live long. So he called four of his children to distribute his property and explain their responsibilities and duties. He advised his eldest son to take care of all the other brothers and to stand beside them in their need. Because he saw the way Manik was condoling the whole family after his mother's death. For that reason, the father was sure that Manik would come forward to help in any kind of family problem.

3. What could be the result of taking responsibility by Manik?
 - a. The development in relationship b. The increase of dependence
 - c. The growth of mental power d. Being strong in morality
4. Which virtue of Peter is seen in Manik?
 - i. Sense of responsibility
 - ii. Trustworthiness
 - iii. Faithfulness

Which One is Correct?

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| a. i | b. iii |
| c. i and ii | d. ii and iii |

Creative questions

1. **Stimulator - 1** : Prodip is a priest. The villagers give attention to his words very eagerly and apply in their works. The astrayed people of the village repent and return in the way of Jesus by obeying the words of the priest.

Stimulator - 2 : Shomir is a businessman. He has been suffering from illness for a long time. He did not recover even after visiting many doctors. At last, he went to the priest to share everything and the priest advised him by saying, "You would get healed if you put your faith upon God." Then Shomir said, "I have been praying for a long time, but did not see any result."

- a. Who descended upon the disciples in the Day of Pentecost?
- b. Why did St. Peter sacrifice his life on the cross?
- c. Which virtue of Peter flourish in Shomir? Explain.
- d. Do you think that the character of Peter was reflected both in Prodip and Shomir? Give your opinion with reasons.

2. Jibon is a businessman. He could not prosper well through his business. One day he went to the church and shared everything openly to the priest. The priest gave some advices. He saw good results by following the advices of the priest. Then he would go to the church regularly, attend prayer. He would take initiative in different religious activities, cooperate others. By seeing this behavior, the priest called him to preach the message of Jesus. Jibon responded to the calling of the priest.
- What was the name of Simon Peter?
 - What do you understand by the word "apostles?"
 - Which teaching of Jesus was reflected in Jibon? Explain.
 - Evaluate the saying "Jibon is the reflection of Peter."

Answer briefly

- What do you mean by "apostles."
- How did Peter perform miracles?
- How did Peter preach the word of the resurrected Christ?

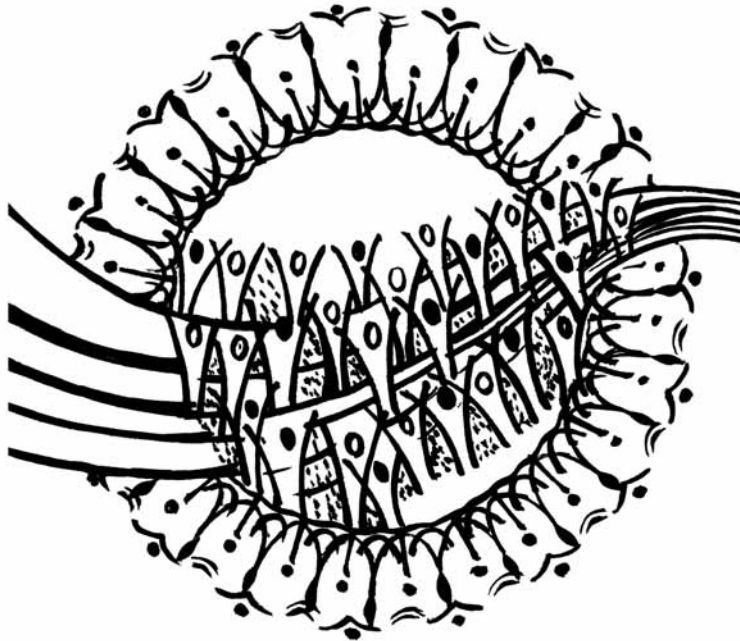
Essay type questions

- Describe the story of Peter's response to Jesus' calling.
- Describe the fruit of the speech of Peter.
- Analyze the statement "Peter is the witness of the resurrection."

CHAPTER SEVEN

Christian Church

We have come to know about the Christian Church as the Church of Christ. Christian devotees live together in a bond of loving union centered around Christ. Christian Church is the expression of cordial union of men. In this chapter, we would learn about the existing close and intimate relationship of Christian Church with Christ. We would try to know the relationship of the body with Christ as the Head by comparing the head and other organs of human body. We would also discuss on how we could be organs of this church.



Jesus is the Head of the Church. We are organs of the church

At the end of the Chapter we will be able to:

- ☐ •☐ describe the church as the body of Christ
- ☐ •☐ explain the role of Christ as the Head of Christian Church
- ☐ • analyze the role of the Christian devotees as the organs of the Body of Christ
- become interested to perform our own responsibilities as inevitable organs of the church

Lesson 1: Christian Church as One Body

Each one of us knows more or less about our own body. As human we have one body. How nicely God has created our body! He placed each part exactly where it should be. Our body is one, but with many organs. All organs are connected to the body.

Task: Draw a picture of a human body in your own note book so that the picture could be used to represent the Christian church. Which part of the church would you like to be and what kind of work you would like to do if you could become that part?

The Body of Christ

Christian church is the body of Christ. Whoever is connected with Him after responding to His call, they are very closely united with Him. Whoever believes in Christ, the life of Him flows into his body-mind-spirit. The Christian church becomes invisibly but in reality linked with the sufferings of Christ and glory through the holy sacraments. Christian church is associated with the death and resurrection of Christ through the sacrament of baptism. Through the sacrament of the Lord Supper, the Christian church receives the Body of Christ practically. Through this, the Christian church becomes united in a bond with Christ and each other. Jesus said, whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, he dwells in me and I live in his heart.

This unity of the devotees of the Christian church with Christ as body generates brotherly love and revives all to live in this love or the bond of unity. St. Paul said after comparing this unity with human body that our body is one but there are many parts and all parts consist of the body. So in this way, all of us become the parts of the same body through the baptism by the same power of the Holy Spirit. So the source of us is one. We are one in Christ. For that reason, he said, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. I am the vine, you are the branches." (John 15: 4-5),

Task: Make a list of the works which we do by using our head and then present the report from each group. Write in a paper all the names of the works from the report and hang in the wall.

Lesson 2: Christ as the Head of the Body

There is a chief or first part in everything. That could be in terms of number. And that could be in the area of importance or role. Father or mother is the head of the family. His or her role as head of the family is huge. The head is the chief part of human body. This may not be possible to say all the works the head does for human body.

The Head of the Church is Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the Christian church. He is superior to all in His Father's glory for His connection with the Father. He has established His Kingdom through His Father. Christ gathers us in the mystery of His deliverance. For this reason, we enter into the mystery of His life. We have been joined with His sufferings through our connection with Christ as the Head. We have partaken into the fellowship of sufferings so that we can be glorified in His glory.



We can grow through joining with Christ as the Head. For that reason, He gives different gifts and cooperation to church as His body. We proceed to have salvation through that cooperation. We help each other. In this way, Christ as the Head and church as the body build the whole Christ.

Task: Show a relationship of the works of the head you have found in group discussion with Christ as the Head of the church.

Lesson 3: Different Organs of the Body

We have different parts in our human body. Each part has different function. St. Paul said that our body is not made with only one organ. There are many organs in the body. The works of these different parts of human body are also different. God did not place all organs in one place. He has placed the organs in different fitting and proper positions according to His choice. One part is not less than another in terms of importance. None of the organs can say that it does not need the other. If one part experiences pain, all the parts are in pain. On the other hand, if one part is honored or delighted, other parts also become delighted.

Task: Prepare a list of the works we do by our eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, feet through group discussion and present the report by each one from each group. Write in a paper all the names of the works from the report and hang in the wall.

The Parts of the Church

Like the human body, the Christian church is one body and like the parts of the body, each devotee is a part of the church. St. Paul said, Those God places in different positions in the church, the first among them are apostles, then prophets, then teachers; Then there are those whom He has given the power of doing miracles or the power of healing or special gift to help others or special power of leadership or the power of speaking in other languages, again to others the power of interpreting other languages. So this is true that God has sent man with different gifts. God wants man to be faithful to those gifts and work accordingly. Each one has to accomplish the work for which he or she has been given or whom He has sent for into this world.

Task: Show the relationship of the different parts of the church with the functions of the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, feet etc. you have found in your group discussion.

E x e r c i s e

Fill in the blanks

1. The Christian Church is the representation of ____ union of man with Christ.
2. Our body is one but there are many ____ of it.
3. One can come into the fellowship of the death and resurrection of ____ Christ through the sacrament of baptism.
4. In that way all of us have become the parts of the same body through the ____ in the same power of the Holy Spirit.
5. So our ____ is one.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. God so marvelously | • the body of Christ |
| 2. All parts are | • the head |
| 3. The chief or master of a family is | • made of only one part. |
| 4. The head of human body is | • has created our body |
| 5. St. Paul said that our body was not | • the father or mother |
| | • connected with the body |

Multiple choice questions

- What is Christian church?
 - The Body of Christ
 - The Spirit of the Trinity
 - The house of Christian devotees
 - The Pastoral center
- Through which sacrament, does the Christian church become united with the death and resurrection of Christ?
 - The Sacrament of Baptism
 - Marriage
 - The Priestly Garment
 - Healing

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

Both of the parents of Shuma are professionals. Her father is involved with different organizations and cooperatives, who also cooperates in different works of the church. He can solve the problems efficiently. For these reasons, his decision in any matter of the family is considered as the final decision and opinion.

- What is expressed through the role of Shuma's father?
 - The role of Christ
 - The contribution of the family
 - The role of the priest
 - The contribution of the church
- Through accepting the decision of Shuma's father, all in the family receive--
 - Prosperity
 - Salvation
 - Cooperation

Which one is Correct?

- a. i
- b. i and ii
- c. ii and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

Creative questions

1. The Headmaster of the school is well informed about the efficiency of work and ability of all teachers. He delegates all responsibilities of the school to all according to their ability. Sometimes he gives more responsibilities to one or two teachers. For this the teachers delegated become unsatisfied and tell the Headmaster, "Why are others assigned less responsibilities, aren't they also the teachers of this institution?" The Headmaster says, "The school is a social institution and all are the members of the same family. All of the family members do not perform the same job. Each one has different responsibilities. So all in the family are equally important."
1. Who could be identified as the Head of the Christian Church?
2. "I am the vine, you are the branches" - Explain the statement.
3. Which area of the Christian Church is expressed through different responsibilities of the teachers?
4. "The catalyst teachers are like organs of the church." - Evaluate the quotation.

Answer briefly

1. What does it mean by Christian Church?
2. Why is Christ the Head of the Christian Church?
3. How the Christian Church becomes united with the death and resurrection of Christ?

Essay type questions-

1. Explain the role of Christ as the Head of the Christian Church?
2. Analyze the role of the Christian devotees as different parts of the Body of Christ.
3. Describe in your own language how one could be interested to perform one's own responsibilities as the inevitable part of the Church.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Miracles and Divine Kingdom of Jesus

We know about the miracles of the Lord Jesus. We have also seen the list of the miraculous works. We also know, the Lord Jesus has established the Divine Kingdom by His miraculous works. In this chapter, we would learn deeper knowledge about the Divine Kingdom and play the active role in spreading the Divine Kingdom.



The first miracles of Jesus at the wedding house in Cana

At the end of the Chapter we will be able to:

- explain the meaning of the Divine Kingdom
- describe about the parables of Jesus
- describe about the calling of men by Jesus for becoming active in spreading the Divine Kingdom through the miracles written down in 8th and 9th Chapters of Matthew
- respond to the calling of Jesus in spreading the Divine Kingdom.

Lesson 1: Divine Kingdom

We have heard of many stories of different kings and queens, and come to know about their lives and kingdoms through reading books. Any kingdom should have a definite kingdom or land and people, ministers and soldiers. The king always works for protecting his kingdom and takes all measures so that the people may live in happiness and joy. The king has the responsibilities of ruling the whole kingdom. On the other hand, the people have also the responsibilities and duties toward the beauty and prosperity.

Jesus Christ has come into this world to establish a beautiful kingdom where justice, peace, joy, love, forgiveness, fellowship and other special qualities would prevail. God loves all men. So He wanted to establish that kingdom of love in this world through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has come into this world to establish the will of the Father. He has wanted to establish Divine Kingdom through His serving life and message.

The Difference between Worldly Kingdom and Divine Kingdom

In the beginning we would see some characteristics of the worldly kingdom and then we would see those of the Divine Kingdom. We would be able to do a comparable discussion between these two kingdoms.

The Worldly Kingdom

We understand a definite geographical land or area for worldly kingdom. Whatever is in that geographical land is included with this kingdom. There are qualities like justice, peace, joy, love, etc. in the worldly kingdom. But there are also dominion, greed, selfishness, jealousy, contempt, division, etc. along with the above qualities. Our kingdom or worldly kingdom is with these good or evil aspect.

The Divine Kingdom

The Divine Kingdom is the Kingdom of God. God wanted to establish a kingdom and that is the Divine Kingdom. God has established this Kingdom through the Lord Jesus. The Divine Kingdom is not a definite land surrounded with a boundary like the Worldly kingdom. This is the Kingdom of love, joy, justice, forgiveness, fellowship and cooperation. The Lord Jesus Christ has begun His preaching by saying that the Divine Kingdom of God is near. So He called everyone to repent and believe the Gospel. Jesus Christ Himself is the visible symbol of the Divine Kingdom. The full representation of the Divine Kingdom has come only through Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has shown the path of entering into the Divine Kingdom through His message. He did not show the path through His message but he also lived accordingly and has inspired us to live that type of life.

| |
|---|
| Task: Discuss in a group of two on how you may work for the Divine Kingdom |
|---|

Lesson 2: Parables of Jesus

There are things which cannot be expressed by language. And then the example or parable is used. For example, since the size of the earth cannot be expressed wholly so parable is used to say that the earth is round like orange. Jesus has given the parable of the Prodigal Son to mean the limitless forgiveness of the Heavenly Father. Even though the whole meaning is not expressed through using example or parable, but still the close meaning of the subject can be possibly given.

The invitation of Jesus Christ to enter into the Divine Kingdom comes through the example or parable, which is characteristically used in His teaching. For that reason, the Lord Jesus Christ has used different symbols or parables to communicate the meaning of His preaching about the Divine Kingdom to common people. He also called to take a decision even though people were invited to attend the feast of the Divine Kingdom. You have to leave all of wealth, relatives, luxury, etc. for entering into the Divine Kingdom.

Different Symbols or Parables

The symbols or parables of Jesus Christ are like mirror for us. These talk about our lives. The Lord Jesus has used many parables or symbols to express the mystery of the Divine Kingdom.

The Parable of Weeds and Wheat

He has compared the Divine Kingdom with the wheat and weeds sown in the soil. A farmer has sown the seed of wheat in his land. But when all were sleeping, the enemy sowed the seed of weeds in the wheat field. Since both the plants of the wheat and weed look alike, both started to grow. When the kernel started to sprout, then the weeds have been identified. So the workers informed the master about this. They asked permission to pull the weeds. But the master did not give them permission. He allowed both to grow. Because the master was afraid that the workers would root up the wheat while pulling the weeds, and the wheat harvest would result a loss. He told them to wait until the harvest time came. During the harvest time, he told the harvesters to collect the weeds and burn those and later stock the wheat in the barn.

The Parable of Mustard Seed

To mean the Kingdom of Heaven or the Divine Kingdom, Jesus used the parable of Mustard seed. Once a farmer sowed the mustard seed in his land. The mustard seed is small than other seeds. But its plants grow bigger than others. Then it grows like a big tree. Even the birds of the air may perch in it.

The Parable of Yeast

Jesus used the parable of yeast to mean the Divine Kingdom. He said, the Divine Kingdom is like that yeast. A woman started to mix it with fifteen kilograms of flour, until all have been fermented.

The Parable of Hidden Treasure and Pearl

Jesus said, the Divine Kingdom is like treasure hidden under the ground. One man found that and hid that there again. Then he went joyfully and sold everything he had to buy that land.

Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like precious pearl. One merchant was wondering to find precious pearl. As soon as he got one very precious pearl, bought that pearl by selling all whatever he had.

The Parable of Net Full of Fish

The Lord Jesus compared the Divine Kingdom with a net. A net was casted into the sea and all kinds of fish were caught. When the net was full, the fishermen drew the net up on the shore and there good fish were collected in the basket but the bad ones were thrown away into the sea.

Task: Prepare a list of the symbols about the Divine Kingdom in real life and present that to the class.

Lesson 3: Workers of Divine Kingdom

Every able man has to live on any kind of work. As for example, St. Paul said, all should be settled down and should earn the bread they eat (2 Thessalonians 3: 12). The Lord Jesus sent His disciples in different places and said, "The worker deserves his wages" (Luke 10: 7). So whoever works is a worker. In this, we all who do our own responsibility and duty are workers. God has sent man into this world with different responsibilities and duties. For that reason, different men live on different kinds of work. We do different kinds of work to live on this world and again we do some works for the after-life. Some of these are for personal necessity and some are for spreading the Divine Kingdom through our different works of service.

There is a great need of workers for the Divine Kingdom. Jesus was saddened by seeing the crowd around Him. They were distressed and tired, like a flock without shepherd. He became compassionate toward them. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field" (Matthew 9: 37).

But for working in the Divine Kingdom, Jesus' appeal was different. All are called for this work. But few are elected. Once a teacher of the law came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go. Jesus replied, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head" (Matthew 8: 19-20). Again another one came to Jesus and told, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father. But Jesus told him, Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead" (Matthew 8: 21-22).

As soon as Jesus asked Matthew, the tax collector to follow Him, he immediately left the tax office and went with Jesus. Jesus has accepted the invitation at Matthew's house. By seeing that, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law started grumbling about different things of Jesus. Jesus responded, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and then learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9: 12-13). So this is seen that, all men are equally called and elected for the work of the Divine Kingdom. But those who already consider themselves holy, they do not have the humility to enter into the Divine Kingdom.

Task: Meditate personally and write about your own experience how you hear the call of Jesus to spread the Divine Kingdom.

Lesson 4: Response to Jesus' Calling

To call means to summon. Man names man to identify man. God calls man by that name. Man calls another man for expecting attention. We focus to someone who calls us. Not only that, we try to respond to his call.

Jesus Christ formed a team of twelve disciples in the beginning of His preaching. He called these twelve as apostles. Apostles meant the ones who were sent. Jesus called them from different professions. On the other hand, many followed Him after hearing His message.

As response to Jesus' call, the first disciples followed Jesus by leaving everything behind. Peter, James, John and Andrew, were fishermen by profession, they left their only means of boat and nets to their companions and fathers and followed Jesus. The tax collector Matthew, a man of this profession for a long time, followed Jesus after he left his profession of tax collection, and accepted Jesus and invited Jesus in his home. Not only these twelve followed Him. People in groups joined with Him to listen to his message.

The Selection of the Twelve Apostles

Jesus prayed for the whole night and decided to appoint the Twelve among all of His disciples. Then He chose them. He called the twelve whom He chose. He gave them

the power of healing the sick and casting unholy demons. They were - Simon, who was also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector, James and Thaddaeus, the sons of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who later handed over Jesus to the enemy.

Our Calling

Like the first disciples, Jesus has been calling us regularly. Like the first disciples, all of us do not have to follow Him by leaving everything. He at this time calls us to live according to his teaching, and to walk in His ways. But this is not easy to live according to His direction. So He said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." He also said, "If anyone loves his father and mother, brothers and sisters and relatives more than me, he is not worthy of me."

Task: Write who you would follow Jesus after realizing your personal call.

Exercise

Fill in the blanks

1. Jesus has come to establish ____ Divine Kingdom by serving life and His message.
2. The Divine Kingdom is the Kingdom of ____.
3. The parables or symbols of Jesus Christ ____ for us.
4. God has sent man into this world with different ____.
5. The word 'apostle' means the one who is ____.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Calling means | • at Matthew's House. |
| 2. For entering into the Divine Kingdom | • by Judas. |
| 3. Both good and bad forms | • needs humility. |
| 4. Jesus was handed over to the hands of enemies | • the Divine Kingdom. |
| 5. Jesus accepted the invitation | • summon. |
| | • the worldly Kingdom. |

Multiple choice questions:

1. What is the symbol of weeds for?
 - a. Evil
 - b. Weakness
 - c. Peacelessness
 - d. Separation
2. How to enter into the Divine Kingdom?
 - a. By accepting the worldly wealth
 - b. By honoring relatives
 - c. By sacrificing luxury
 - d. By saving

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

Sumona and Mohona going to class IX are good friends. Both are busy in their study and cooperate others. But Rina from the same class as they are, bothers them much, says bad words, dresses immodestly and encourages others to do the same. Other students in the class by being influenced by her creates disturbances in the class. When all gave objection against Rina and suggested to expel her from the class, the Headmaster told, "Wait until the result is announced."

3. Which parable does the behavior of the Headmaster teach here?
 - a. Net full of fish
 - b. Mustard Seed
 - c. Weeds
 - d. Yeast
4. The summary of the saying of the Headmaster in light of the parable is:
 - a. The time of the Last Judgment
 - b. The end of the year
 - c. The time of announcing result
 - d. The time of arrival

Creative questions

1. Bijoy and his friends collect subscriptions from the road. In this way, he gathers lots of wealth at his home. Once the Father came to visit his home and said, "Leave these and follow me. You would work for the Lord." Bijoy left all his long-standing works like leaving his collection of subscriptions and he works with the Father. Later Bijoy distributed his wealth to the poor. He invited the Father in his own home. Later he preached among the meek and poor, and to the sad ones and serve others.
 - a. What kind of men are those who hears and obeys the message of Jesus?
 - b. Explain - what does the Divine Kingdom mean?
 - c. Which area of the life of Matthew, the tax collector has been expressed in the works of Bijoy?
 - d. Discuss a comparative study between Bijoy and Matthew.

2. The uncle of Anu is a rich man, so his uncle would hate them. His cousins would quarrel with other for the dispute of the land. Anu would think by seeing this, that why do the people do all these? Anu has seen that the Chairman of his village would live with great power, occupy the land of others by force and persecute without any cause. These wrong-doings would hurt Anu. Anu grew older slowly and he restored the houses of the distressed upon his ability, started a medical center for giving health service. In this way, Anu inspires all to walk in good path.
 - a. Whose house did Jesus accept for invitation?
 - b. Why is the calling of God important in our lives?
 - c. The characteristics of which kingdom is seen in the Chairman of Anu's village - explain from the text book.
 - d. The characteristics of the Divine Kingdom and the Worldly kingdom are noticeable - give your comments according to the text book.

Answer briefly

1. What is the meaning of the Divine Kingdom?
2. What should we do to follow to the call of Jesus?
3. What is the inner meaning of the parable of the net full of fish?

Essay type questions

1. Compare between the Divine Kingdom and the worldly kingdom.
2. How do we work to spread the Divine Kingdom?
3. Write the parable of the weeds and wheat in your own language.

CHAPTER NINE

Justice, Peace and Self-Control

We need a Christian society enriched with human, moral and religious virtues in the age of flourishing of human civilization and globalization. Justice is a need for a universally global community on Christian faith for living life as shown by Jesus and through building model Christian family. We must co-exist with all others for building the society of justice, for the need of peaceful life leading and for this self-control must be demonstrated among all. If we grow with these virtues, our personal lives and societal environment would be full of happiness, which is expected by all.



The balance is the symbol of justice

At the end of the Chapter we will be able to:

- explain the idea of justice
- describe the teaching on justice in the Holy Bible
- identify the areas of establishing justice in family and society
- explain the importance of justice in bringing peace in society and state
- describe the teaching on self-control in the Holy Bible
- explain the necessity of self-control in own life
- explain the importance of self-control in building peaceful and orderly society
- To become interested in establishing justice and peace in own life, family and society.

Lesson 1: Justice

Justice is a moral virtue. This is called moral virtue because whomever has this virtue becomes a man of moral character. Justice is the continuous and unshakable willingness of giving back whatever belongs to God and neighbors. So justice is of two kinds - justice toward God and justice toward man. The justice toward God is called 'religious virtue'. The justice toward man shows respect to other's rights and stirring eagerness of reconciling in human relationship. As a result, an equality is developed which is related to the welfare of person and society. The subject of justice is mentioned in the Bible many times. The deepest virtue of justice is always thinking habitually and rightfully; and maintaining honesty in behavior toward neighbor.

The special aspects of justice:

1. Becoming accurate, reasonable, proper or considerate;
2. Becoming relevant to the traditional moral regulations or following those;
3. Becoming obedient firmly to moral obligations;
4. To be faithful to the human and divine law;
5. Following honesty in maintaining good relationship with others;
6. To be faithful in behavior and giving opinion and matching with reality;
7. To be honest, faithful and neutral in activities.

Doing justice means working right things for others. Justice comes from righteousness. Keeping justice in heart means enlightening oneself with human values. Justice is such an important virtue which comes from the Creator God.

Task: Record where justice is seen and not seen; and present through posters.

Lesson 2: Teaching about Justice in the Bible

God is just. We hear about this in the Holy Bible. We hear from the Prophet Isaiah saying, "Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!" (Isaiah 30: 18). We see the same thought in the Psalms. There it says, "The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love." (Psalms 33: 5). The Prophet Isaiah also says, "Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: The law will

go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations." (Isaiah 51: 4-5). "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and inequity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them." (Isaiah 61: 8).

The just God raises His nation with justice i.e. in the right way. He says by comparing the people of His nation with the flock of sheep, "I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice." (Ezekiel 34: 15-16).

The distressed shall get justice from the just God. We hear from the Psalms, "I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy." (Psalms 140: 12). But Jesus criticizes the Scribes and Pharisees. Because they do not obey justice. He says, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices - mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness." (Matthew 23: 23).

We see in the Book of Acts that, God would bring justice in the world, "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17: 30-31). So just man has been commended in the Book of Psalms, "Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right." (Psalms 106: 3).

The just God wants His people grow in justice, "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6: 8). God further says about the pure justice, "This is what the LORD Almighty says, 'Administer justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'" (Zechariah 7: 9). God wants that His servant establishes justice in his own country, "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations." (Matthew 12: 18). So if none comes by hearing his call, yet he alone has to follow the justice, "Follow justice and justice alone, so

that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you." (Deuteronomy 16: 20). God reminds His servant, so that he can establish justice for all, "Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow." (Deuteronomy 27: 20).

Isaiah says, "Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees; to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless." (Isaiah 10: 1-2).

Task: Write a summary on justice from the examples of the Bible.

Lesson 3: Establishing Justice in Family and Society

Jesus said in the fourth saying of His Eight Beatitudes, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." (Matthew 5: 6). Righteousness means justice. Those who are hunger and thirsty for establishing righteousness, meaning there is sincere desire in those mind for establishing righteousness and try their hundred percent, they are blessed in God's eye. St. Tomas Aquinas said, "Justice is continuous willingness to refund the due to the creditors." "Worthy to have" means two-fold debts. The first one is the debt to man and the second one is the debt to God. Jesus once said, Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." (Matthew 22: 21). If we can meet these two debts, then only true justice would come.

First we see how we may meet the debt to God. We may take the following steps to refund the debt to God:

1. Always fulfilling God's will and work according to his will. We may know the will of God through our conscience. If we work by abiding the conscience, we may walk in God's will. If we really become thirsty for walking in God's will, then the desire of obeying His will would flow from our hearts. Our Lord Jesus would always obey the will of His Father. Because He was thirsty and hungry to obey the will of the Father. Jesus said, "The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone. For I always do what pleases him." (John 8: 29). He also said, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." (John 4: 34). Jesus emphasized the will of the Father while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. He said, "While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, 'Your mother

and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.' He replied to him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' Pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers.'" (Matthew 12: 46-49).

2. The will of the Father is revealed through our daily responsibilities and duties. Those works could be little or big, we have to try our best to do those well. We may walk in the way of holiness through obeying those. Through those we may give to the Father what is his.
3. God has given some virtues to us all. If we may be productive by properly flourishing those, then we may give to the Father what is his. We may remember here the parable of Jesus. The person who got five hundred dinaris, he multiplied that upto one thousand. The person got two hundred dinaris also multiplied upto four hundred. So the master commended them both. But the person who got one hundred dinaris, he hid those inside the hole. The master punished him. We have to increase the gifts which have been given by God. Then only we would be able to refund His due.

Now we may discuss about the due to man. We may refund the debt to man in the following ways:

1. My family, society and church where I am living, those who are living surrounding me, I can pay back their dues through properly doing my assignments.
2. We may refund the due of others by showing them respect and honor.
3. We may refund the dues to others also by giving recognition and dignity of the faith and thoughts of others.
4. We may pay back the dues by proving ourselves as honest in our thought, word and work and by becoming open-minded men.
5. This could be through man or directly, whatever we get from God everyday, we may give back the dues to others for showing our gratitude.

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| <p>Task: Write in two columns the steps you may take to build the relationship of justice with God and man.</p> |
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Lesson 4: Peace as the Result of Justice

All people of all countries on earth want peace. God also wants to give peace to all people. For that He has sent His only begotten Son into this earth. The Prophet Isaiah said before long of His birth as human, "Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan - The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, alight has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9: 1-6).

We can see from the above passage - man became distant from God because of sin. Man failed to give what was due to God, meaning man failed completely to be obey and love Him. But God is just. He now shows His mercy to reduce the burdens of hardships of man.

We have learnt, the result of justice is peace. Because we know, justice is giving whatever is due to others. We have also seen, justice is done if we give to God what is due to God and to man what is due to man. In this way, the relationship of justice with God and man is established. As from this, peace is the result. Now there is nothing to accuse against others. All are happy.

We have also seen in the Scripture reading that, God Himself initiated the steps to restore the relationship as nicer with man. He Himself sent His Son. God the Son died on the cross for delivering us from the shadow of sin. In this way, He has reconciled the relationship between God and man. There is no distance any more between God and man. We now have to try so that our relationship with God never becomes destroyed. That we do not distant ourselves by our sins.

Another thing we have to keep in mind is that, we must always maintain our relationship with man rightly. Whenever we give our debts back to man, then our relationship of justice with man survives. For this justice, peace prevails.

Task-1: What kind of steps may you undertake to maintain peace in your own family?

Task-2: Find out the ways of establishing peace personally and collectively through group discussion and present those findings.

Lesson 5: Self-Control

Self-control is the ability of controlling own emotions and resist the reaction to different things. In other words, we say this as the realization of self-discipline. Perhaps some may think that man's behavior is limited by self-control. But that is not real. If this is used in wisdom and common sense, self-control may work as a strong tool for acquiring self-development and success.

Self-control is beneficial in the following ways:

1. This helps us abstain from the works of self-destruction like by drugs addiction or from the way of stepping into wrong ways;
2. This helps us in keeping authority in our own personality and building balanced life;
3. This keeps us away from excessive works that helps to control immotions;
4. This does not allow helpless feelings and reduces the dependence upon others;
5. By self-control, we are able to control mental and immotional feelings. This helps to bring peace in mind;
6. This helps us to keep our temper cool and to avoid the negative thoughts and feelings.;
7. Self-control firms our sense of self-dignity, firmness, inward strength and will power;
8. This enables us to take the responsibility of our own lives;
9. This reproduces us as responsible and trustworthy men.

There are barriers instead of the benefits of self-control. Those are:

1. Our lacking of proper knowledge about self-control is a big barrier;
2. Difficult and uncontrolled immotional reaction;
3. Expressing reaction by seeing only the external signs, but without thinking the context;
4. Lacking the sense of discipline and will power;
5. Lacking the will of changing ourselves and bringing developments;
6. Seeing self-control as means of limiting behavior.

Lesson 6: Teaching about self-Control in the Bible

We have a valuable learning from Joseph in the Book of Genesis. Joseph's brothers were jealous to Joseph. They wanted to kill Joseph. But at last they sold him to the merchants of Egypt. The merchants sold him to the Chief of King Pharaoh.

Joseph was given all responsibilities of the house of the Chief. Joseph was a tall and handsome youth. After a few days, his master's wife became attracted to him. She tempted him for very bad works. But Joseph always said "no." In this, the master's wife spread rumor and slander against Joseph to avenge him. As a result Joseph has been imprisoned. But Joseph was faithful in his principle.

We see that the teaching of St. Paul was completely fulfilled. St Paul said, "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside the body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. therefore honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6: 18-20).

Daniel was a young man. There were three other youths with him, Hananiah, Shadrach and Mishael. The king would send delicious food from his table for them. But they would eat vegetables but not those from King's table. They got good health and sharp knowledge by eating only vegetables. They became the most intelligent in the whole kingdom. That was possible for them. Because they learnt self-control.

We can get the best example of self-control from Jesus Christ. We see from the Holy Bible that Satan took Jesus in the wilderness after His baptism. There He fasted for forty days and forty nights. Without any food He became very thirsty and hungry. In that situation, Satan came to test Him. Jesus was able to overcome all tests through the power of prayer. Jesus told Satan - "Away from me, Satan." At that very moment, Satan left Him.

Task: Find out the ways through group discussion how the learning about self-control is applicable for the present age; and present those through posters.

Lesson 7: Self-Control in Personal and Family Life

Man cannot live like an island, because man is social being. He has to live in fellowship with others. Those who live with him are also social like him. So he has to maintain social behavior. Man has to control his own behavior and attitude for living with all others in peace and discipline. He has to keep himself undisclosed to give supremacy to others.

Primarily each person has to build relationship with other family members, friends outside family circle and different known persons. If we want to live together, we can strengthen our relationship by exchanging. Whoever emphasized in giving than receiving are very much happy. Because those who emphasizes in receiving than giving become indebted to others. So there is no delight in heart. For that reason, one has to learn to control oneself in spite of very willingness for receiving.

Self-control between Husband and Wife

Husband and wife start living together since the wedding day. They live together for their whole life. Both of their personalities are different. Their structure of behavior and attitude is also different. Because of these differences, there is always something to say against one another easily. But because of their commitment to live together, they control themselves and consider many things excusable. As a result, their quarreling started to lessen. In this way, their marriage relationship becomes nice and sweet. Due to the comments made by husband and wife against one another, misunderstandings are normal. For that sometimes they have to keep quiet. Here self-control is needed.

Self-control among Parents and Children

One of the sweetest relationship on earth is the relationship between parents and children. But the child sees divisions and quarrellings in the family many times since he lives in one family. When the child started to grow older, then there are many changes in his body. As a result the change happens in his mind too. Often times, the temperament of the children becomes rude. At this time, mother and father have to show maximum patience, they have to be very patient to the children. Father and mother have to wait for long to see growing self-confidence of the children. At this time they need self-control. For example, if the parents scold for anything wrong done by the children or beat them physically, then the relationship with their parents becomes ruined. In this way parents should behave with their children with patient attitude until the children becomes adult and behave responsibly.

Self-control among Brothers

Brother normally become excited in their childhood or adolescence. They argue, even engage in quarreling. They cannot understand how to talk with logic and the significance of accepting the logic easily. Whenever parents are absent, then the eldest one comparatively should demonstrate himself as more responsible and patient and play the role of the parents. Then they have to be patient. At this stage the self-control is grown in them because of the word and behavior of the older ones. Because, if the children fail to show self-control, the parents, teachers or any seniors rebuke them. Then children start practicing self-control so that they do not have to face this type of rebuking. In this way, self-control, becomes firms among them.

If there is an environment of quarrelling among the older ones, someone has to show self-control earlier than another. And then the environment become normal again.

Self-control among the known ones outside the Family

Each of the family members has to build friendship with the people outside the family for their study or work purpose. This is possible to speak openly or argue if necessary among the family members, but with outsiders or friends, that much is not possible. In these cases much self-control is necessary. In this way self-control is grown in each person. For example, this is seen to react when parents rebukes or scolds, but this is not possible with the office boss. In this case, much self-control is needed.

Close relationship of one person with another depends much on self-control. The more self-control is shown in giving opinion or communication, the deeper the relationship becomes. In this way self-honor is also grown.

Task: Write how is self-control in personal life beneficial for the society.

Lesson 8: Planting self-Control in Heart

1. I have to discover where in my life I need to show self-control. The possible areas could be as follows:
 - a. Eating
 - b. Rest
 - c. Conversation with man
 - d. Slander

- e. Smoking
 - f. Sports
 - g. Behavior with babies
2. From the above aspects (e.g. anger, grudge, dissatisfaction, frustration, delight, fear) what kind of emotion should I control more?
 3. What kind of thoughts and faith push me into that kind of behavior?
 4. We would think upon the following items each at a time. In this way we would think on the subjects many times, specially in the moment when I have to show my self-control.
 - a. I take myself once or twice silently that I have control upon my thought and feeling.
 - b. I have strength inside me to be passionate in selected ones of my thoughts and feelings.
 - c. Self-control awakens internal strength inside me and helps me to win.
 - d. I can control myself in any moment of showing reaction in any matter.
 - e. I myself am the owner of my behavior.
 - f. I can control my feelings gradually.
 - g. God has given me the strength to lead my life.
 - h. Everyday the strength of controlling my thoughts and feelings is growing.
 - i. I see delight in exercising self-control.
 5. Now I imagine that I am exercising self-control. I try to remember any case when I failed to show self-control in the past. Now I imagine that I am able to show self-control in the same incident.
 6. If I exercise this properly, the power of self-control would increase. This is most important step of planting self-control in my heart.

Self-control is so important to us that, we may be able to overcome frightening, addiction, and unexpected behavior. With this, the relationship with man grows, patience and endurance also grow. In this way we may win over big situation in life, great acquiring becomes possible and the life becomes full of delight.

Task- 1: Find out the ways how you may plant self-control in your heart and note down in your paper.

Task- 2: Determine and present what are the ways of planting self-control in the lives of those whoever are lacking.

Exercise

Fill in the blanks

- a. The justice toward God is called ____.
- b. The Just God raises His nation with ____ or properly.
- c. "I will look after my sheep with ____".
- d. ____ will is also revealed through our daily responsibilities and duties.
- e. As human we all are ____.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Implanting justice in heart | • means that the poor would get justice |
| 2. We through our conscience | • the source of our life |
| 3. All of us have been given | • was jealous upon Joseph |
| 4. The Lord Jesus is | • may know God's will |
| 5. The brothers of Joseph | • some gift by God |

Multiple choice questions

1. What is the meaning of righteousness?
 - a. Peace
 - b. Love
 - c. Self-control
 - d. Justice
2. Why does God call some of His people as His own children?
 - a. for bringing peace in the lives of the people
 - b. to show mercy to the poor
 - c. Because they bear persecution
 - d. Because they honor people

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

There was a teacher named Benedict in Duttapara Primary School. He served as teacher in that school for a long time. Suddenly he became ill with severe disease but the headmaster asked him to leave the school without paying the savings of his provident fund. When the priest of the parish came to know the matter, he called Benedict and paid all his money including the provident fund.

3. Which virtue was shown by the priest?
 - a. Justice
 - b. Mercy
 - c. Compassion
 - d. Sympathy
4. For the work of the priest, God would-
 - i. look after him.
 - ii. embrace always.
 - iii. offer bigger responsibility.

Which One is Correct?

- a. i
- b. i and ii
- c. ii and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

Creative questions

1. Ruma is from a poor family. Since her family condition is bad, she took a job as maidservant at a house. The house-wife would leave money and precious gold jewelries openly in front of Ruma to test her. But Ruma has never touched those things. The house-wife found that Ruma did not have any desire toward those things. Even Ruma never tasted any good food available in that house. She would take those food which were left for her. Being very pleased, the house-wife proposed to donate enough money to build a nice house at their home. Ruma thanks the house wife for her nice proposal but she did not receive that donation.
 - a. What does a man expecting the whole world lose?
 - b. How may we find peace?
 - c. Explain in light of the textbook about which Christian virtues are proven through the behavior of Ruma?
 - d. "Ruma would be able to cloth Christ as her new clothes" - Do you agree with this statement? Give your opinion.

2. Robi Palma is an ideal union council member. He performs the development works of the area, expanding the education, control the drugs, etc. skillfully. He has never given shelter of any wrong thing. He never thinks of his own popularity for doing justice. In his area, there is a family where two brothers always quarrel for many issues. The disagreement rose on the issue of equal distribution of their paternal land property. The elder is not willing to give equal right since the younger one is step-brother. The member Robi called for a meeting to resolve the matter. He told the elder one, "You would not receive enough blessings from God if you do not give equal portion of land to your younger brother."
- Where do we learn the lesson of self-control from?
 - Why is establishing justice important before establishing peace?
 - Discuss the quality of Robi Palma by which he played a prominent role in restoring relationship between two brothers.
 - Do you think that the family bond of two brothers would be endangered? Give your reasons.

Answer briefly

- What is the meaning of Justice?
- What does it mean by owing to God?
- What do you mean by self-control?

Essay type questions

- Describe the teaching on justice from the Bible.
- Explain the importance of self-control in your own life.
- Explain the importance of self-control in building a peaceful and disciplined society.

CHAPTER TEN

Theotonius Amol Ganguly as the Servant of God

Theotonius Amol Ganguly heard the call of God in his childhood. By responding to that call, he chose priestly life to serve God and man. The church has bestowed the title "Servant of God" for his faithfulness in priestly service until his death. He has become like a holy saint to the Christian believers of Bangladesh. He has sacrificed his life for the service of man and God as priest, archbishop and educationist. In this way he has become a model to us. To many he was like a living saint. We would try to realize the importance of sacrificing ourselves and becoming holy men in the service of Christian Church by reading the life of Ganguly who was slow-steady, calm and humble in nature but extraordinarily meritorious.



Theotonius Amol Ganguly, the Servant of God

At the end of the Chapter we will be able to:

- describe the childhood life of Archbishop Ganguly
- describe the priestly life of Archbishop Ganguly
- describe the role of Ganguly as Bishop and Archbishop
- describe his contribution in education and building youths
- explain the role of Ganguly in the Liberation War
- become interested in humanitarian work

Lesson 1: Birth and Childhood of Archbishop Ganguly

In the beginning of the twentieth century, a new star rose in the life of Bangladesh Christian church. The place of the rise of this star was Hasnabad village of Nawabgonj Upazilla. Theotonius Amol Gomes, the second son of Nicolas Gomes and Romana Gomes was born on 18th February 1920. The day was the Ash Wednesday. Amol was the second among the three sons of Nicolas and Romana. The name of the eldest son was Xavier and that of the youngest was Bimol. Amol was baptized as an infant at Hasnabad Church on 26th February 1920 after eight days of his birth and he was named as Theotonius Amol Gomes. Later the whole family took the title of Ganguly instead of Gomes. God sent Theotonius Amol Gomes as the head of the church. Today this great man has become Heavenly Archbishop Theotonius Amol Ganguly, CSC. In brief we address him as Archbishop T. A. Ganguly.

His father addressed him as 'Theton' affectionately. On the other hand, his grandmother would be delighted to see the brilliance of the little child Theotonius. So his grandmother addressed him affectionately as 'Teton'. Day by day the name given by grandmother started to reveal through the works of Theotonius i.e. his cleverness and brilliance of knowledge attracted all.

Parents Nicolas and Romana used to have happy family life with three sons. Father Nicolas was in Calcutta at that time for his service. And mother Romana was at home and very careful in the education of the children. She emphasized on religious, moral and humanitarian sides along with their school academic curriculum. She would encourage her sons to attend the mass every day. Theotonius Amol Ganguly received the sacrament of laying hand on 9th June 1930. All of the three brothers were meritorious. All of them studied at a well-reputed school near their home named Bandura Holy Cross High School. Xavier, the eldest went to Calcutta to live with the father. There he took degree in medicine and started practicing. Bimol, the youngest completed his matriculation from Bandura High School and went to Dhaka to attend college.

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| <p>Task: Write about an ideal family in your area, from which at least one child served the church as response to God's calling.</p> |
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Lesson 2: Entrance into Seminary and Ordination in Priesthood

Parents of every ideal family bring their children with great care and they see dream of their children. Nicolas and Romana also saw dream about their three children. But their dream about Theotonius was different. They have demonstrated huge interest and faithfulness in sending their son Amol to play a role of servant by attending mass every day. So they imagined that their son would some day become priest. And the truth was that Amol's goal was toward that.

Theotonius Amol got admitted at Bandura Holy Cross High School after his completion of class three from Hasnabad Primary School. Theotonius, meritorious in study and naturally of sharp memory stood first in every class at Bandura school. Step by step, he entered into Bandura Little Flower St. Teresa Seminary while he was in class seven.

Special recommendation was necessary for the entrance into seminary. The Pastor-Priest would know that Amol would attend the mass regularly and serve as steward. So Pastor-Priest of the Diocese strongly recommended Amol. Amol entered into Little Flower St. Teresa Seminary in January 1937. The seminary and the school were situated in the same compound. The school was led by Holy Cross brothers and the Directors of the seminary were Holy Cross fathers.

Theotonius Amol started his school education and seminary life simultaneously. Everything was going on well. Theotonius also participated in playing drama, singing, and playing football along with his study. His reputation started to grow as was his study. He was very careful in following the rules of the seminary. So all the directors would love him much. He passed matriculation examination (presently SSC) with credit in 1940 securing his first position in every class.

In July 1940 Theotonius attended Saint Albert Seminary in Ranchi of North India. There he completed two years of his Juniorate. After that, he studied Philosophy for two years from July 1941 to 1943. Then he studied Theology from 1943 to June 1946. He became faithful friend of all for his merit, humbleness, politeness, godly-fear and prayerfulness. At last in 1946 when he was only 26 years old, he was ordained as priest on 26 June in 1946 after his study at Saint Albert Seminary in Ranchi.

After being ordained, Father Theotonius returned to Dhaka. He was welcomed by his own Hasnabad Parish. He was assigned as Assistant Director of Bandura Seminary. There he would teach some theological subjects. He accepted and performed that responsibility gladly.

Lesson 3: Entrance into the Congregation of the Holy Cross

The Congregation of the Holy Cross was established in France in 1835. The priests, brothers and sisters from this Congregation came to Bangladesh (the then East Bengal) in 1853. They started their work from that time on. They preached the message of God in Dhaka, Chittagong, Mymensing and Sylhet, they established innumerable schools, colleges and vocational institutes. Father Theotonius Amol Ganguly saw the priest from the Holy Cross from his childhood. He saw them in his own parish Hasnabad; also at Bandura Seminary. He heard the call of God to sacrifice his life to serve God and man by becoming a priest. He became priest due to that call. But another matter excited him much. That was the unified life of the priests at Holy Cross. So he did not get permission to attend the priesthood of the Congregation of the Holy Cross even though he wanted to. Because the church authority was very cautious in increasing the number of the national priests. But he was told by the church authority that if anyone after becoming priest wanted to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross, would be checked.

He worked at Bandura Little Flower Teresa Seminary for one year. Then the Archbishop of Dhaka Archdiocese sent him to Notre Dame College in the United States of America. There Father Theotonius earned the degree in Philosophy. After that, he earned his Ph. D. in 1951. He decided to join the Congregation of the Holy Cross during his study. He wrote a letter to the Archbishop for securing permission. Finally he got permission.

After securing his Ph. D. Father Theotonius Amol Ganguly entered into the Novitiate of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. The Novitiate was situated at the campus of Notre Dame College. Father Ganguly prepared himself for his vow after one year of following strict rules and sacrifice. Then Father Theotonius Amol Ganguly took three vows - in poverty, obedience and celibacy according to the Constitution of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. In this way he was involved with the Congregation of the Holy Cross. After his vows, he returned to the country.

Perpetual Vows: After the Novitiate, the sayings of taking vows were uttered in Latin. Then he renewed his vows three times for the next three consecutive years. Those were also done in Latin. After three years of fulfillment, he took perpetual vows. The day was 26 October 1955. The ceremony of the perpetual vows through a gorgeous mass was held at three in the afternoon at Ramna Cathedral.

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| Task: Share about your own calling with each other through group discussion. |
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Lesson 4: Working Life of Father Ganguly as Missionary

The disciples sent by Jesus for preaching were called apostles or missionaries. Even today the church has been continuing that work of the apostles. The work of the church is sending. Some of the works Father Ganguly was engaged are here mentioned:

Father Ganguly as Teacher: Like the apostles Father Ganguly was a missionary. He was always ready to move anywhere he was sent. After the return from his study and Novitiate to his own country, Father Theotonius Amol Ganguly was given a cordial and delightful grand welcome at St. Gregory's College at Laxmibazar in the evening of the 26th October 1952. It was announced on that day that, he would teach Logic at St. Gregory's College (presently Notre Dame College). Father Ganguly accepted the assignment as his ever-known nature.

The man who was delighted in giving than to receive was not the one to sit without doing anything. Teaching was the area of his excitement. He became busy with the co-curricular activities by his own effort along with the teaching. He never wanted that students would immerse themselves only in text books. So he initiated to stage a mini drama on the occasion of St. Lawrence anniversary on 9th August 1953. St. Lawrence was the adopting father of Archbishop Grener.

Once St. Gregory's College was relocated from Laxmibazar to Motijheel. Father Ganguly was then involved in supervising the construction works. In 1954, the college was moved to the new campus and given new name. Now this is known as Notre Dame College. Father Ganguly was engaged with Notre Dame College from the beginning. He assisted Father Tim CSC in debate competition. He also served as one of the judges. The responsibilities he served up to 8th December 1958 were: (a) Director of Studies, (b) Prefect of Religion, (c) the Spiritual Director of Legend of Mary, Editor and Publisher of Bangla bulletin Mukur, (d) Council Member of fathers house in the college. Besides, he was assigned to prepare questions in Latin since he was efficient in Latin and all through these he served skillfully and cheerfully.

Vice Principal and Principal Father Ganguly

Father Theotonius Amol Ganguly was appointed as Vice Principal of Notre Dame College on 1st November 1958. The task of the Assistant Superior was also bestowed along with his college responsibilities. He was assigned the responsibility as the Chief of guarding discipline of the college on the 14th of the same month. He welcomed all of these and obeyed with skillfulness. He got the position of a publication named Harvest on 1st May 1959. On 29th May of that year, he became the Vice Principal on permanent basis.

Father Ganguly got the temporary position as the Principal on 12th April 1960. The permanent position as Principal was given on 30th April of the same year. Well-reputed Notre Dame College started her new journey with her first-ever national Principal through Ganguly's service.

Archbishop Ganguly as Pastor

Then the classes of Notre Dame College were off during the weekend of Saturday and Sunday. Father Ganguly and other fathers would involve themselves in church ministry after maintaining the college routine. Specially they served as priests during the Sunday mass. By this, a refreshing godly motivation was vibrant in the mind of these priests. Often times, the diocesan fathers went to quiet meditation and other works so the parish was left vacant. Fathers from Notre Dame College would specially assist on Sunday mass and other works.

The voice of Father Ganguly was very melodious and affectionate. He was able to sing Bangla and English songs by reading the notes. He led songs during the Holy Saturday at Ramna Cathedral on 17th April 1954. He also assisted pastors and priests by singing during mid-night Christmas carol at Rangamatia Parish on 24th December of the same year. At that time the road communication was very bad. Sever trouble had to be faced for moving from one place to another. People then used to walk, ride horse or bicycle. Father Ganguly during that time used to ride bicycle to travel to the almost every parish of Nagori, Rangamatia, Mottbari, Dhorenda Shulpur, Golla, Tuitai and Bhawal and Atharogram as well. In this way, Father Ganguly went to many places along with his important responsibilities at Notre Dame College. Impassable path or unfavorable weather could not stop him.

Contribution of Father Ganguly in building youths: Father Theotonius Amol Ganguly was a work-loving upright man. He would find joy in working. So he would counsel the youths at Notre Dame College so that they might see direction in fulfilling their dreams and difficult chapters of reality of young age.

Father Ganguly always tried to emphasize the ways in building youths in the area of morality. So he emphasized in flourishing personality of youths and embolden them by his spiritual advice. He would also lead quiet meditation for the hostel students in the same order. He led a two-days long quiet meditation for the hostel students on 20th and 21st August in 1954.

He presented a written proposal of solving the problems of youths to the meeting of the diocesan pastors and priests held at Ramna Cathedral on 15th December 1954. He led another quiet meditation for the hostel students on 24th July 1955.

Lesson 5: Ganguly in the Position of Bishop and Archbishop

Right after four days of his installation as the Principal of Notre Dame College, Father Theotonius Amol Ganguly came to know through a letter sent from the Pope John XIII that he has been nominated for the position of bishop. Father Theotonius Amol Ganguly CSC became well known in Dhaka and almost everywhere in the country. In the meantime he acquired huge experience in the administration of educational sector. Some of the virtues in his personality were rightful consideration, humbleness, brotherly love, Christ-like patience, etc. His superior and all staff in the college such as fathers, teachers, office assistants, learners - all with him noticed his special qualities and they also realized that he would someday be able to perform bigger responsibility in future. All started dreaming that Ganguly one day was going to have big responsibility. For this, bigger and bigger responsibilities were assigned upon him. Very soon the dreams of all have come to a reality.

Theotonius Amol Ganguly was privileged to achieve the first-ever glorious position of bishop among all Bengalis worldwide. His selection as bishop, ordination as bishop, promoting as archbishop - all those were very significant in the history of the church.



At that moment, that was an unprecedented and unheard occasion so the joy knew no bounds.

The news was published in the Pakistan Observer and a Roman newspaper named Osservatore Romano. This was also informed that, Cardinal Agagianian himself would ordain Ganguly as bishop on the 7th. In the meantime the 7th October 1960 approached. Cardinal

Agagianian arrived in Dhaka. The installation ceremony of bishop was held in the warm afternoon at Ramna Cathedral with innumerable priests, brothers, sisters, national and international guests and Christian devotees present.

All parishes of Dhaka archdiocese, Notre Dame College and other institutions welcomed newly ordained Ganguly. Then the turn of his ministry began. His first responsibility was to serve as Assistant Bishop of Dhaka archdiocese. In those days, persecutions rose to grow in different ways in the temples of Mymensing, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrokona, Kishoregonj, Tangail and other districts. In that, Archbishop Lawrence Grener, CSC criticized Pakistan government. As a result, Archbishop Lawrence had to leave the country in November 1965.

Ganguly in the Position of Archbishop

Archbishop Grener expected that the government would permit him again to come back to the country. So the Pope ordered him not to leave his position as archbishop. By this time, Archbishop Ganguly started to work as Administrator of Dhaka Archdiocese. Archbishop Grener could not return to this country any more. At last, he submitted his resignation to the Pope on 3rd December 1967. And from that day on, Archbishop Ganguly was positioned as the permanent Archbishop of Dhaka Archdiocese. Although his installation ceremony was held on 21st January 1968. The Dhaka Archdiocese began to function nicely under his leadership.

The foreigners was in the prominence of church for many years. Now the national-led leadership commenced. For this Archbishop Ganguly had to face difficult situation. One of the major difficult problems was insufficiency of money flow. Despite that, he led the church by his strong hand. He was a simple person. He could not offend anyone. He had never become angry to anyone. For this, many would not favor him very much. So he was worried for these reasons. But we knew that God chose him for this task. And God did not forsake him alone.

Lesson 6: Role of Archbishop Ganguly in the Liberation War of Bangladesh

The glorious history of great Liberation War of Bangladesh is known to all patriotic citizens. During those war-trodden days, in the crisis of nation, Archbishop Ganguly played a very courageous role.

The rulers of the West Pakistan lost in the election but did not leave the power. On the contrary, they started killing the armless people of the East Bengal, looting their wealth, and setting their houses ablaze. For fear of lives, millions of Bangladeshis took shelter in India. During that crisis moment, Archbishop Ganguly sent an urgent note to all fathers, brothers and sisters. He informed through the note, we could not be quiet observers in the midst of our national crisis. All had to engage themselves to ease the distress of the people. He said that all mission schools must give shelter for the shelterless suffering people.

He also decided that, a statement should be prepared and handed over to the Pakistan government on behalf of the churches of East and West Pakistan. An appeal would be made to the government to stop the genocide. So he went to West Pakistan. But immediately after his reaching there, he was briefed that the government rather would become furious toward the Christians. So he returned.

Archbishop Ganguly informed the Pope Paul VI about the distress and persecution of countless people. The Holy Pope Paul sent a condolence letter to Archbishop Ganguly, the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of East Pakistan, for all bishops, priests, priestly candidates and people of East Pakistan and appealed international leaders for ending of such war.

Pope Paul VI summoned all people around the world to observe a day of prayer on the 10th October Sunday for establishing peace throughout East Pakistan. He also requested all to repent for on-going serious crime and make negotiations. Archbishop Ganguly accordingly ordered all the fathers of all parishes through a letter so that all parishes took steps to take actions according to the Pope's message.

For the strategic contributions of the Archbishop Ganguly, all people in respect of religion-color-caste were blessed through the churches of Bangladesh. At last, the day of 16th December 1971 brought expected victory, the glorious freedom of the Bengali nation. The heart of the people of this country became overflowed with gratitude.

India offered assistance by providing training and arms to our freedom fighters and finally to our army. For this our victory was ensured within only 9 months. Even after the victory Indian army stayed in our country for one more month for ensuring the security and until everything became calm. At that time, General Officer Commanding of Indian Army was Brigadier R. N. Misra. At that time, the wave of joy were flowing everywhere. The churches in newly-born Bangladesh were in double joy - in one hand the Christmas was approaching and on the other, the joy of gaining independence. Archbishop Ganguly arranged a welcome ceremony on the occasion of the World Peace Day for both Bangladesh Army and Indian Army on behalf of the church on 2nd January 1972. On that occasion, dignitaries, ministers, officers and soldiers and Brigadier R. N. Misra of India and many others attended. Archbishop Theotonius Amol Ganguly, CSC read a written lecture on the welcoming ceremony and the Fifth World Peace Day.

Archbishop Ganguly in his speech said, "I congratulate the Indian army and our freedom fighters from my heart with deep respect and gratitude. Because you have restored comfort and peace in our Bangladesh. So today we are receiving you as our guests with overflowing joy. How should we forget those who have sacrificed their lives generously to bring justice and peace in our country? Our sincere prayer, may merciful God adorn them with worthful reward."

Lesson 7: Eternal Journey

Archbishop Ganguly would always keep in his mind that one day he had to go to never-ending sleep. The vow for which he had become priest and hermit, the promise he was ordained as bishop, he had to spend his utmost strength for fulfilling that faithfully. His journey had come to an end today, his continuous advancement toward his goal had come to an end. He tried to apply his best effort even to the point of death to solve the duties and burdens bestowed upon him. He became sick many times but recovered, he reminded himself about his duties upon his shoulder. He restored hope in his mind by repeated prayer whenever he became frustrated.

Everyday he ate food and drank from the hand of the angel of the Lord and in that way he passed a long path. Today his holy funeral procession ended. The time had come for him to sleep in eternal rest at the lap of God the Almighty. Those too who worked beside him could not imagine anything. His unbroken journey had stilled all on a sudden. So he could not say anything during his departing. He could not leave any message of condolence for anyone.

Father Charles Gillespie CSC and Sister Proggya, SMRA were with him during the moment of his death. We came to know from the writing of Father Gillespie that, Archbishop Ganguly fell into sudden illness at 3:45 pm on Friday, 2nd September 1977. He experienced severe chest pain. Father Gillespie and Sister Proggya rushed toward the hospital by a car. On the way his condition worsened. He died before reaching the hospital.

A great mourning began in the Christian society of the whole country. All bishops of our country came to Dhaka. Countless devotees also rushed to see their dear archbishop. Next day, a great mass was held during the funeral on 3rd September. The then Bishop Michael Atul D'Rozario, CSC from Khulna played the role of chief priest and Father Tomas Zimmerman, CSC delivered an exhortation. Then Archbishop Ganguly was buried in front of the Archbishop Building.

Lesson 8: Archbishop Ganguly as God's Servant

Archbishop Theotonius Amol Ganguly, CSC was the first-ever Bengali bishop of Bangladesh. He not only stood first in each class, he was cordial in all his works, duties, vowed life, and relationship and cooperation with all men. He was so dear to all for his decision making like courageous and wise, thought-conscience and prudent man. Whoever had come to his closeness, was privileged to be the living witness about him.

This great scholar Archbishop Ganguly died on 2nd September 1977. Death could not erase him from the mind of his devotees. Still now hundreds and hundreds devotees gathered at his grave to celebrate his death anniversary. After his death, the new building of Notre Dame College had been named after Archbishop Ganguly. The only Teachers Training College established by the Catholic Church in 2009 had been named as Archbishop T. A. Ganguly Teachers' Training College. The Most Reverend Paulinus Costa presented to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints under Honorable Pope on behalf of the people about the increasing devotion to him. At the same time, he also appealed to begin the process of including Archbishop Ganguly for the canonization of sainthood.

The matter had been considered as very important to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints under the Honorable Pope. For extensively increased deep devotion and respect of the devotees of Heavenly Archbishop Ganguly, he was given a special title as "The Servant of God" during his 29th death anniversary of the archbishop after the approval of the Honorable Pope and special arrangement of Dhaka Archdiocese.

A tribunal was formed for classifying 'the Servant of God Archbishop Ganguly' into the Beatification on 2nd September 2006. This committee would proceed with the Beatification process. This is our prayer that God would glorify this devoted saint in heaven and everywhere on earth.

Exercise

Fill in the blanks

- a. Theotonius Amol Ganguly received the Sacrament of Laying Hands in ___ A. D.
- b. For entering into the seminary, the special ___ from the pastor-priest was necessary.
- c. The disciples sent by Christ for preaching the message were called ___.
- d. Like the apostles and disciples, Father Ganguly was also a ___.
- e. Father ___ was involved from the very beginning of Notre Dame College.

Match column 'A' with column 'B'

| A | B |
|--|--|
| 1. God sent Theotonius Amol Ganguly | • the authority of the church was very careful. |
| 2. For multiplying national priests | • as the chief of the church. |
| 3. The Entering into the Little Flower Teresa Seminary was | • in 1937. |
| 4. The work of the church is | • the work of sending |
| 5. Archbishop Ganguly among the Bengalis was | • in 1940. |
| | • earned the glory of becoming the first Bishop. |

Multiple choice questions

1. In which year, the Archbishop Ganguly was born?
 - a. 1918
 - b. 1920
 - c. 1921
 - d. 1922

2. What was the reason for the church to bestow the Archbishop Ganguly the title of "God's Servant?"
 - a. Cleverness
 - b. Prudence
 - c. Restlessness
 - d. faithfulness

Read the following part and answer questions no 3 and 4

Sumon is a meritorious student. Since his boyhood, he has been showing strong interest for study. He goes to school regularly. He completes the class works and home works properly. He participates in the competitions of music, acting, drama, delivering speech, debate programs.

3. The quality of Archbishop Ganguly seen in Sumon is
- i. Sense of discipline
 - ii. Prudence
 - iii. Cooperation

Which one from the followings is correct?

- a. i
 - b. i and ii
 - c. i and iii
 - d. ii and iii
4. Sumon through his qualities may be-
- a. established in life
 - b. friendly
 - c. the person of everybody's discussion
 - d. the person of compassion

Creative questions

1. Sharon is a social worker. He went to the district of Panchogor and noticed that, the children at their age of 15-23 years walk independently. They neither attend at church prayer meeting nor other religious meeting. They are mostly found in addiction, making fun, joke, pursuing subscriptions, quarreling, etc. She founded an association for their development. She organized seminars every month for the moral development of the children and teaches them on the results of church prayer, family prayer, solitary meditation. Sometimes she also makes arrangements for solitary meditation. Through these, the children were able to find the real path of their lives.
- a. Who is the first Bengali Archbishop of Bangladesh?
 - b. Why did the Archbishop Grener return to his homeland?
 - c. By which qualities of T. A. Ganguly, was Sharon inspired to do her works?
 - d. Draw comparisons between the works of Sharon and T. A. Ganguly.

2. John was born in a poor family. He struggled from his very childhood for his growing. He had extraordinary merit and talents. He has given much encouragement, help and cooperation to the students by his teaching profession. Then he established an organization named as "Welfare Association". The goal of the association was to offer free medical assistance, help free of cost and giving small loans. He continued preaching along with his work. Through this, each of the youths and men-women was benefitted. The Christian Society by being pleased for his work selects him as the chief of the "Christian Oikya Parishod."
 - a. In which year, was Father Ganguly appointed as the Principal of Notre Dame College?
 - b. Why couldn't the unfavorable climate dominate Father Ganguly?
 - c. Which quality of Father Ganguly is seen in John? Explain.
 - d. The Christian Church can see T. A. Ganguly in John - do you agree with the statement? Give your own opinion.

Answer briefly

1. Why did the church give Bishop Theotonius the title "the Servant of God?"
2. Write about the childhood of the Archbishop Ganguly.
3. Why had the Archbishop Grener have to leave the country?

Essay type questions

1. Discuss on how Father Ganguly enter into the Congregation of the Holy Cross.
2. Discuss on the contribution of Father Ganguly in the expansion of education and in building of youths.
3. Record the role of the Archbishop Ganguly in the Liberation War.

END

2013

Academic Year

8- Christian

অন্তরে যারা পবিত্র—ধন্য তারা
—বাইবেল

দেশকে ভালোবাসো, দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য কাজ কর
— মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা



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