**Week 6.**

**A. John the Baptist call for repentance. Luke 3:1-14, Matt. 1:1-12.**

John the Baptist was the Son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. He was the fore runner of Jesus. A forerunner prepares the way for a more superior officer, leader or master. He was a prophet who preached in the wilderness of Judea around river Jordan. He preached baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

As a forerunner of Jesus, John was to prepare the way for the expected messiah. When people came to be baptized, he told them to bring forth fruits meant for righteousness and the people responded by asking what they should do. He told them they should be generous with their possessions. To the publicans (tax collectors) who came and demanded what they should do, he told them not to collect more tax than is necessary. To the soldiers, John the Baptist said they should not be violent towards any man , nor accuse any one falsely ,in addition, they should be contented with what ever is their wages.

**B. Jesus calls for repentance. Mark 1:14-15**

Jesus message in his call for repentance was that every sinner should repent and accept the gospel of salvation. Turn to God and change their ways.

**Consequences of lack of repentance. 1 Sam4:10-21**

When God calls people or a nation to repentance and they refused, the effects or results is often deastrous. It comes in various ways such as punishment to the wrong doers. These punishment include;

1. Curse on the individual or his family.

2. Sickness or affliction with no remedy.

3. Corporal punishment etc; flogging by our parents, etc.

4. Suspension or expulsion from school.

5. It can also lead to hardened hearts.

6. Increased bondage to sin.

7. loss of blessings and rewards.

8. Socially, it can result in distrust and disrespect.

9. It may lead to a life lived in isolation and a sense of guilt the rest of one's life.

In the Bible, we have the family of prophet Eli the priest of God at Shiloh as an example of one whose children did not listen to the warnings of God's call to repentance.

Eli's two sons Hophnis and Phinehas were meant to assist their father as God's priests and take over from him, but they turned worthless as they often dishonored God and dispersed the law of God. They oppressed and abused the worshippers and slept with the women that served within the church court yards. Terrible was their sins before God.

A day came when the lsrealities went out on a battle against the philistines, and out of the 3,000 isrealitie killed by the philistines, Hophnis and Phinehas was among, the Ark of God was captured by the philistines. When a survivor who fled the battle took the news to prophet Eli , he fell backwards on his seat by the temple doors and died. The wife of Phinehas hearing the sad news went into quick labour and gave birth to a son whom she named Ichabod which means **\*"the glory has departed from lsreal"\*** the entire family of Eli died in one day due to lack of repentance.

**Moral lessons**

1. We must bear in mind that every sin has it's consequences and punishment.

2. We must pray to God to give us the powers to live above sin.

3. We all must respond to this call to repentance because we all have sinned and come short of God's glory.

4. We should endeavor to live holy at all time in order to retain the glory of God within and around us .

**Week 7: THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST**

**A. The Annunciation Isaiah 9;6-7, Matt. 1:22-23, Luke 1:30-33**

The Annunciation of the birth of Jesus Christ refers to the time when the angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the savior with out a physical sexual contact with her husband Joseph whom she was engaged to be married to. Mary heard, believed and accepted God's ordained plan towards mankind through her.

However, before the visit of the Angel Gabriel, in the old testament accounts there were prophecies made by some prophets like Isaiah in Isaiah 9:6-7 "**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace". (V.6),** Micah etc.

**B. The birth of Jesus. Matt. 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7**

In the Gospel of Luke, when Herod was king of Judea, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth in Galilee to announce to a virgin named Mary, who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, that a child would be born to her. The angel Gabriel announced that she was to name him Jesus, for he would be the son of God and rule over Israel forever. When the time of the birth drew near, Caesar Augustus commanded a census of Roman citizens, and Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem, the ancient city of David, as he was of the House of David. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Since there was nowhere for them to stay in the town, the infant was laid in a manger. Angels announced his birth to a group of shepherds who visited and worshipped him as Messiah and Lord.

**Week 8:**

**A. The visit of the Shepherds. Luke 2:8-20**

The evening Jesus was born , there were sherphed in the field taking care of their sheep, suddenly an angel appeared to them, declaring that he has brought a good news which would gladden their hearts, that in that same city of David is born to them a savior who is Christ the lord and, that they should hurry and would find a babe wrapped in a swaddling clothes laid in a manger. The angel guided them to the manger where Jesus and his parents were, getting there, they bowed and worshipped baby-Jesus. They left to their village with great joy and shared the news abroad.

**B. The visit of the wise men. Matt. 2:1-12**

Wise men from the East saw the star. The wise men studies star of people and by so doing know the greatness of men. They followed a star to Bethlehem, and went to king Herod palace to seek for direction to where the new born king was. On hearing that a special child who would become a great king outside his lineage was born, Herod becomes restless and sought from his carbinet men and the religious leaders to know how true the news he just got was.

The scribes read through the scroll and saw the prophecies made ahead of Jesus birth and confirms so to Herod. To this, Herod requests from the wise men that once they finds the location of the new born king, they should come and tell him so that he too would go and worship him.

However, Herod secret plans was to send soldiers to go and kill Jesus. When they left the palace,the star appears again and leads the Magi to where Jesus was. Getting there they bowed and worshipped him and presents gifts to Jesus. **Matthew 2:11" And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh".**

At night the angel of God appeared to the wise men and warned them not to go back to Herod because he plans to kill the child. The wise men obeyed and returned home using another road.

**Week 9:**

**A. The values of virginity before marriage.**

Virginity means the act of keep one self free from sexual intercourse before marriage and outside marriage. It is your pride and purity as a child of God. Keeping your virginity is very important to God and brings great benefits to you as a person. Some of the benefits of virginity till marriage includes;

1. Free from STD’S: You will not contact diseases transmitted through sex.

2. HIV/AIDS: You will escape Human immune virus(HIV) that transforms into Acquired immune deficiency Syndrome (AIDs), which has no cure..

3. Guilt: Sex outside marriage brings guilty and shame. So avoid it.

4. Unwanted pregnancy: keeping your self away from sex helps girls to avoid getting pregnant and having babies they are not ready for, and boys from having a family they can not take care of.

5. Abortion and death: abortion is a sin, it's equal to committing murder , killing someone. Most ladies have killed a lot of children through abortion. Some in the attempt to carry out abortion have died in the process.

**Week 10: PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

**A. Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple. Luke 2:21-24.**

In accordance with the Jewish law, Jesus parents took him and presented him at the temple in Jerusalem, where Simeon and prophetess Anna made some remarkable prophecies about Jesus simultaneously. Simeon gave thanks to God who had kept him to see his salvation to the children of Isreal in form of Jesus the messiah. Joseph and Mary then returned to Nazareth after the service.

**B. Importance of the presentation.**

1. Jesus presentation at the temple was in accordance to Jewish law.

2. His presentation is a sign and tradition to parents to always bring their children to church for dedication..

3. It was the first recorded public appearance of Jesus, and in the temple of God.

4. Simeon and prophetess Anna remarks about Jesus was a strong message to his parents especially his mother, to prepare ahead of time of it's fulfillment.

5. His presentation showed how religious and law abiding his parents were.

**C. Prophecy of Simeon. Luke 2:25-35.**

Simeon was a devoured and dedicated servant of God, he was at the temple in Jerusalem when Jesus was brought by his parents for dedication. The bible describes him as a just and devout man, whom God promised that he would not see death till the Messiah (deliverer) comes. When Jesus was presented before God at the temple, being recieved by Simeon, on beholding Jesus , he made the following statements (prophecies) about Jesus;

1. A light to lighten the Gentiles, And the glory of thy people Israel.

2.Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against.

3. That a sword shall pierce through Mary's soul (referring to the pains she will suffer as a mother because of what will happen to Jesus) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

**Week 11**

**A. Prophecy of Anna. Luke 2:36-40**

There is no specified prophetic words recorded in credit to Prophetess Anna, the bible simply said in ‭**Luke 2:38 "And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem"**.

By this statement above, it could then mean that her prophecies aliens with that of Simeon.

**B. Significance of the prophecies of Simeon and Anna.**

1. Simeon and Anna's prophecies is a confirmation of the prophecy of Isaiah in Isaiah chapter 9.

2. It's also a prove that God fulfills every promises he made; Jesus was promised as a redeemer to mankind and his birth is the fulfilment. Also God promised Simeon through his angel that he won't see death untill he has seen the savior and it happened.

3. Their prophecies helped Mary the mother of Jesus to keep in mind what Jesus would pass through and prepare to embrace it when it would unvail.

4. Another significance to their prophecies shows the prove that Jesus was a special child.

5. Just as Jesus was dedicated in the temple of God, it becomes important that every Christian child at due time after delivery, should be brought before God and presented to him by God fearing men of God would by divine inspiration or revelation say something about the future of the child.

**C. Jesus’ understanding of family. Mark 3:31-35**

‭**Mark 3:35 "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother".** This was Jesus response to his biological mother and siblings request to see him while he was teaching at a certain place.

By this response Jesus was not trying to disown his relatives, how ever he was simply expanding the scope of those who are related to him. This is teaching us that as Christians ; every believer in Christ, not just our biological relatives or direct church members are our relations (mother and brethren)

**D. Jesus obeyed His parents. Luke 2:51-52**

**"[51] And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. [52] And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."** By this scripture, Jesus is instructing us as children to;

1. To be obedient to our parents and elders.

2. To be submissive to authorities above us.

3. That by being obedient, we can increase in wisdom, knowledge and fear of God.

4. We would be blessed by God and favoured by humanity.