

6

GRADE TWO**INTRODUCTION OF THEMES**

Theme: History and Relationship with Other Churches

Lesson 1**THE BEGINNINGS OF ALL CHURCHES****Aim:**

1. To study the beginning of Christian Churches.
2. To learn how it is rooted in the Holy Spirit.

Bible Verse: Acts 1: 8a

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...”

Main Ideas:

The Mar Thoma Church is part of the universal Church; the church had its beginning on the day of Pentecost. On that day something unusual happened. The disciples gathered for prayer as told by Jesus. Then the Holy Spirit came down with the sound of a rushing mighty wind. Every one gathered there received the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit transformed these ordinary people with a new mission. Then they moved to various parts of the world with the good news of their Lord, the Savior of humankind. The coming down of

the Holy Spirit is regarded as the beginning of all the churches. As time went on new churches were formed that differed in practices and forms of worship but the church began on the day of the Pentecost.

Teaching Strategies and Activities:

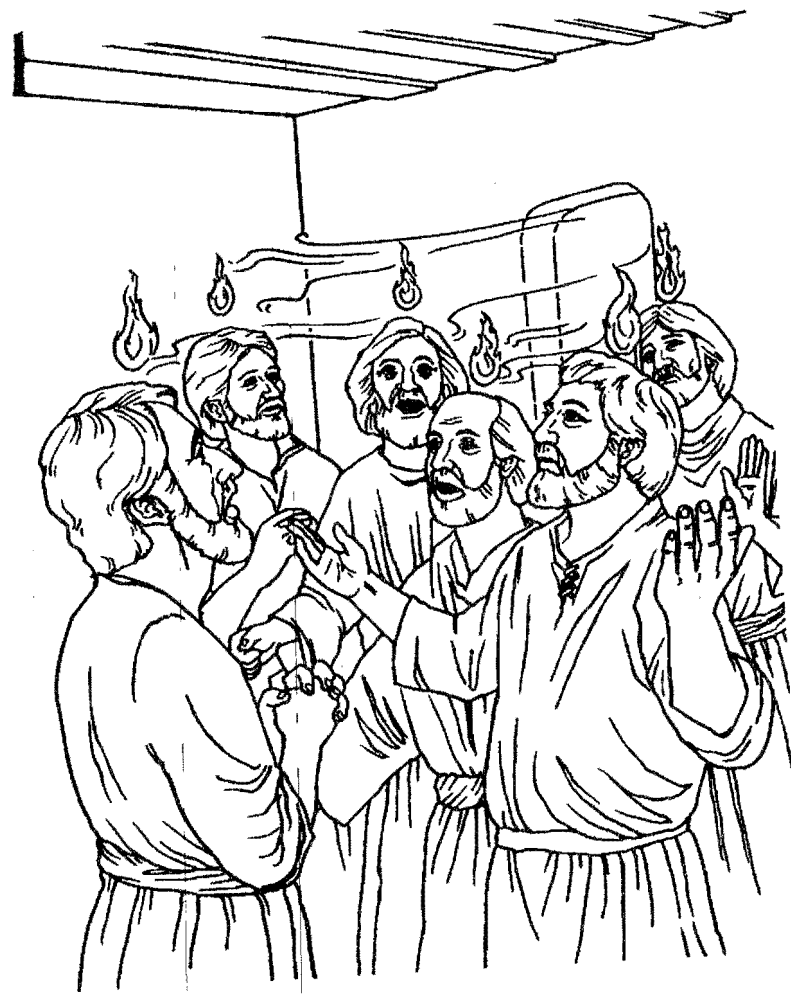
The teacher explains the concept of church and its beginning. Teacher can read Acts chapter 2: 1-4 and discuss the details of the Holy Spirit filling the believers. The church begins with this unusual event. The flames represent the Holy Spirit.

Materials:

Picture of disciples praying together and receiving the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion:

Our daily life is guided by the Holy Spirit just as He guided the early church. We need to pray to God and ask for the Holy Spirit. If we do it, we grow in Christ and receive guidance.



The Disciples gathered in one room to receive the Holy Spirit represented by flames

GRADE TWO

INTRODUCTION OF THEMES

Theme: Worship: Faith and Practices of the Church

Lesson 2

WORSHIP: DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYERS

Aim:

To learn to pray at different occasions

Bible Verse: Philippians 4: 6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Main Ideas:

Prayers form an important part of our worship. We begin our prayer by praising God for all His mercy and blessings (adoration). Then we admit our mistakes and ask God for forgiveness (prayer of confession. Example, Psalms 51). We give thanks for all that he has given us (thanksgiving). Also, we pray for our needs and for others. We remember the poor, the sick, the suffering and other needs (supplication). When we pray we keep our eyes closed so that we will not be distracted by looking here and there. We need concentration when we pray which is our communication with God. God, the Father hears our prayers.

Teaching Strategies and Activities:

Encourage children to pray in class. Teach short prayers. Use the "*Order of Worship, Prayers and Hymns*" and select some prayers in it. When another person prays, we say "Amen" at the end and it means that we agree with the prayer.

Materials:

Picture of people praying in the church.

Conclusion:

In prayer we communicate with God, calling Him as our Father. He listens and answers our prayer.

GRADE TWO

INTRODUCTION OF THEMES

Theme: Christian Sacraments

Lesson 3

OPTIONAL SACRAMENTS

Aim:

To understand what the optional sacraments are and how they are different from the dominical sacraments.

Bible Verse: James 5:14

Is there anyone who is sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Main Ideas:

In the previous classes we have studied Baptism and Holy Communion. They are called dominical sacraments because the Lord Jesus instituted them. The two sacraments related to them are Confirmation and Confession. Confirmation follows Baptism and Confession precedes Holy Communion. The two sacraments that are repeated are Confession and Holy Communion. The other three sacraments out of seven are called optional sacraments. They are Marriage, Ordination and Unction (anointing the sick). These are optional because the members of the Church may receive them by their personal

choice. Our parents and grandparents are united through the sacrament of Christian Marriage in the Church. God chooses each one of them for the other and we should be thankful to the Lord for getting them as our parents. The priest or bishop unites them in the name of the Lord to lead an ideal Christian family life. We are really proud of being a part of that family. Ordination is a sacrament for those who are called for special ministries such as priests and bishops. Our Church selects them and gives proper education and guidance to prepare them to receive this sacrament. After a few years, one of the bishops ordains them. Unction is the occasion to anoint the sick with Holy oil after special prayers.

Teaching Strategies and Activities:

Recall the two dominical sacraments studied in previous classes, Baptism and Holy Communion. Then present two related sacraments: Confirmation and Confession. Finally, present the last three, considered optional. Ask several specific questions to find out the observation of children on these sacraments. Make use of some pictures in the study.

Materials:

Pictures related to sacraments (ordination, marriage etc.).

Conclusion:

A sacrament is a way of receiving God's grace. It is a visible sign that helps us to experience God's blessings. The optional sacraments are not compulsory to all believers.

GRADE TWO
INTRODUCTION OF THEMES
 Theme: Uniqueness and Central Values

Lesson 4
FORMS OF MINISTRY

Aim:

To understand the different types of ministry in our church.

Bible Verse: Mark 1:17

Come, follow me, Jesus said, "I will make you fishers of men"

Main Ideas:

All Mar Thoma Church members are called for the Lord's ministry. Some are in the ordained ministry while others are in lay ministries spreading the gospel as evangelist. The ordained ministry consists of deacon, priest and bishop. Metropolitan is the senior and head of the bishops as well as that of the church. The priest is the vicar of parishes. The deacon helps achen in the worship. Laity is also given a responsible position in the administration of the church.

Teaching Strategies & Activities:

Teacher shows a group photo of the bishops, Achen and others. Children should differentiate them by their appearance. The teacher explains the role of each as they do their service in

and for the church. Also, the teacher asks questions about the role that all people have during a worship service. Teacher concludes by saying that we are all "called" to continue in the Lord's ministry. The equal importance of ordained and lay ministry is a unique aspect of the Mar Thoma Church.

Materials:

Photos of Bishops, Achens and lay people.

Conclusion:

There are various types of ministry. The Mar Thoma Church is unique in giving due recognition to both ordained and lay ministry.

GRADE TWO

INTRODUCTION OF THEMES

Theme: Mission and Ministry of the Church

Lesson 5

HELPING OTHERS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

Aim:

To learn how to be part of the community service program in the Christian spirit.

Bible Verse: Mathew 22:39

“Love your neighbor as yourself”.

Main Ideas:

Community service is a very important part of Christian life. Not everyone is the same or has the same things. Some people in this world are less fortunate than others. It is the responsibility of those who have more to take care of those people who do not.

Jesus taught us to serve others. He served everyone in every community. He went from place to place healing and performing many miracles. After Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples also served their communities.

Teaching Strategies and Activities:

1. Do you sell candies to raise money for your school? Is your church doing something to help others (e.g. Soup kitchen, food drive, cloth drive etc)? Did your Sunday school take part in the walk-a-thon organized by the diocese? Do you take part in any other fund-raising efforts (cancer, diabetes, etc)? Move on to the example of Jesus who sacrificed His life for the others. What is the motivating factor in helping others? Other examples can be mentioned in our church context. Earthquakes in India and other places, floods and other natural disasters in different parts of the world and how our church is involved in these efforts can be explained.
2. Create a plan in class for a one month fund-raising. Ask the students to figure out how to raise money? For what cause they would donate.
3. See attached puzzle.

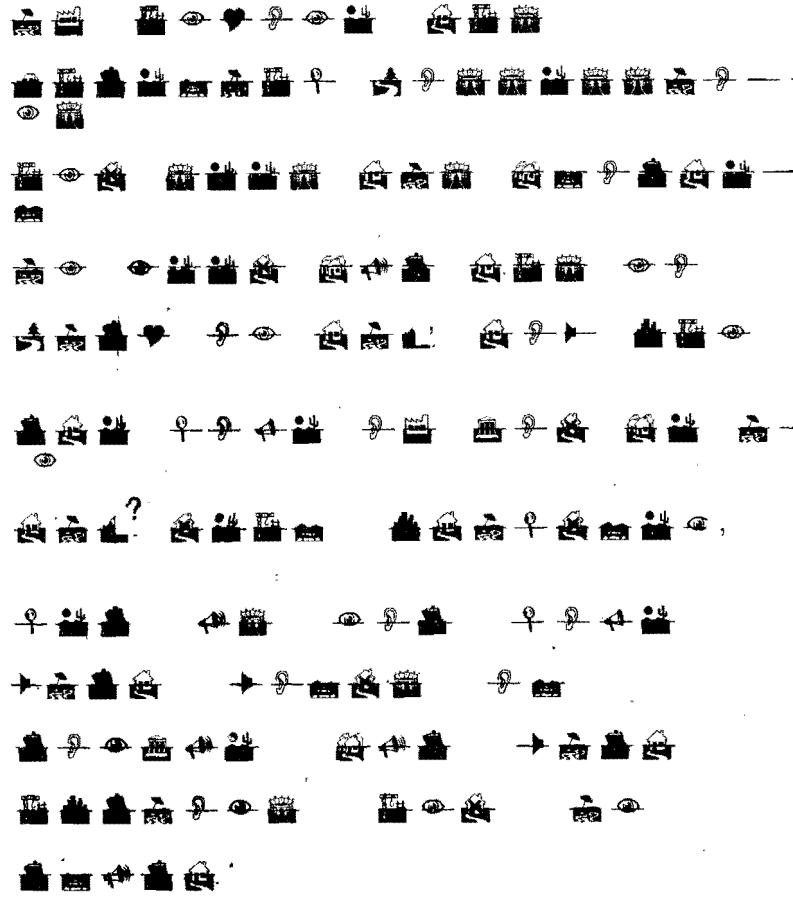
Materials:

Students bring materials related to community service.

Conclusion:

Follow the example of Jesus in reaching out and helping others.

Grade Two: Solve the "secret" passage below and circle which portion in the Bible it is from:



A	
B	
C	
D	
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Please circle the correct passage from which the encrypted puzzle comes from:

Psalm 23:4 Romans 12:1-2 Ephesians 2:4-9 1 John 3:17-18

ANSWER:

IF ANYONE HAS MATERIAL POSSESSIONS AND SEES HIS BROTHER IN NEED BUT HAS NO PITY ON HIM, HOW CAN THE LOVE OF GOD BE IN HIM? DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR TONGUE BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN TRUTH.