

Mahragan Alkeraza 2013



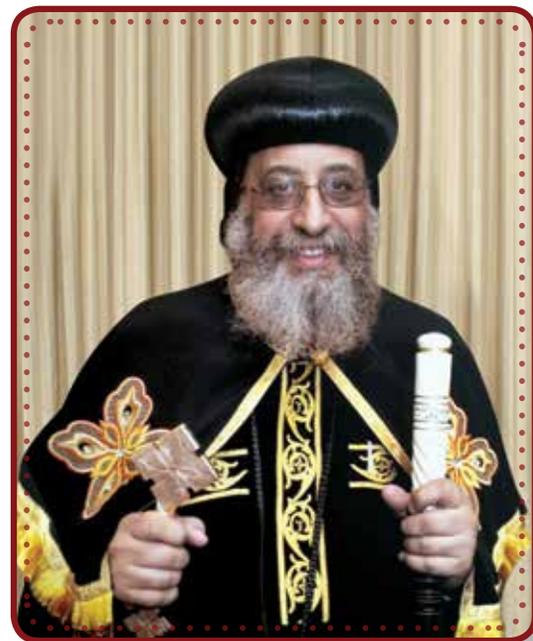
Come
To ME

English Edition SK

Come to Me... Come to Me...



H.G. Bishop Mina
Bishop of Mississauga, Vancouver
and Western Canada



H.H. Pope Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria &
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark

Come to Me...



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Come to Me... Come to Me...



INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2013

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first place winners, we were grateful for God's blessings. We were blessed in so many ways, as we had a chance to transform our lives through Christ. We were also blessed with a worldwide participation of 140 Churches representing more than 20 countries in the 2012 Mahragan Competition.

The theme for Mahragan 2013 is "Come to Me". This year, God is asking all of us to come to Him with all our senses:

1. My Eyes Are Looking Towards Him
2. My Ears Hear Him
3. My Mind Is Focused On Him
4. My Heart Rejoices In Him
5. My Hand Offers To Him

Come to Me...

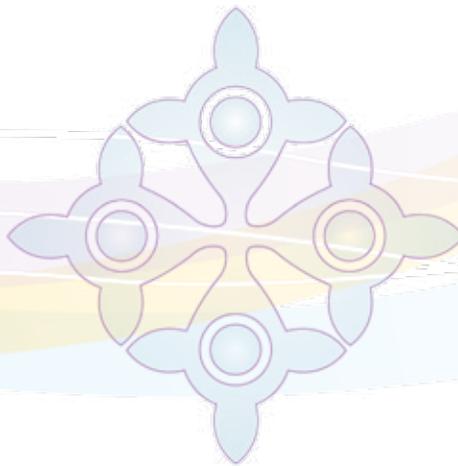


We hope all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless Mahragan Alkeraza this year and the efforts of all the participants and coordinators, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

✙ My best wishes for a happy
Festival

✙ Bishop Mousa





My Eyes Are Looking Towards Him



Cathy and Roby are playing in their backyard.

Roby: Cathy! Cathy, where are you?

Cathy: I'm here, in the playhouse. Join me!

Roby goes to see Cathy, hiding a present behind his back.

Cathy: Hi Roby, why were you calling me?

Roby: I just wanted to say Happy Birthday!

Cathy: Oh! Is this my birthday present? Thank you so much Roby! What is it?

Roby: Open it! I know you'll like it. Since this is what you wanted, I decided to save up and buy it for you!

Cathy opens the box. She finds a helium balloon pump and chocolate bars inside.

Cathy: Wow! I'm so happy! Now let's blow some balloons and watch them float up high.

Roby: Sure thing! We can play for a while, then go help mom prepare your birthday cake. Remember, we promised her!

They go inside the playhouse. Cathy starts to pump many balloons, then suddenly...

Roby: Watch out!

Cathy: What's going on? The playhouse is moving! We're flying! The balloons are making the whole playhouse float! I wonder how far these balloons will take us.





Roby: Oh my! What's that? Look, a bird is flying right beside us!

Cathy: Look at this cloud! We must be really high up!

Roby and Cathy keep on flying until...

Roby: The house stopped. Does this mean we're back home?

Cathy: What's going on? What happened?

Roby: The backyard looks really different!

Cathy: Where's dad's car? This one looks very different.

Ozo: You're right, this isn't your car. And, it's not your backyard either!

Roby and Cathy: Where are we? Who are you?!

Ozo: My name is Ozo. I'm the guard of the king of the planet Vaky. My rocket broke and I need chocolate to fix it. I have to return quickly to the king. He's sick and I have to be by his side.

Cathy: I have some chocolate in the playhouse. I'll go get it for you!

Roby: Wait, don't go! If you go inside the playhouse, it might fly away again!

Cathy: Don't worry Roby. I'll be back in no time.

Cathy goes inside the playhouse to get the chocolate, and it starts to move. But Cathy isn't scared. She jumps out of the playhouse, ties it to the ground and gives Ozo the chocolate to fix his rocket.

Ozo: Wow! Weren't you scared to jump out of the playhouse?

Cathy: No way! Our Lord Jesus teaches us never to be scared, because His eyes are watching us and He always protects us. We too have to keep our eyes looking towards Him.



Come to Me... Come to Me...



Roby: By the way Ozo, we're not the only ones who don't get scared. We'll tell you the story of a saint who was very courageous. He wasn't scared of anything!

Cathy: Do you mean St. Choura?

Roby: That's right!

The Story of the Young St. Choura

Cathy: Choura was a young boy who lived in a suburb of the city of Akhmeem. He was a shepherd, which means that he used to take care of sheep. He used a wooden rod to protect them. While tending his flock, he would always pray a Psalm saying:



Memory Verse



"I will love You, O Lord, my strength."

Psalms 18:1

Cathy: One day, Choura was very sad because Arianos, the governor, came to Akhmeem with his soldiers and wanted the Christians to worship idols instead of the Lord Jesus. As he was tending his sheep, he met five soldiers. He told them very boldly: "I am Christian!"



Ozo: What did the soldiers do when Choura said that?

Roby: The soldiers took two of his sheep away. But since Choura was very courageous, he ran after them and took back his sheep.

When Arianos, the governor, heard what had happened, he became very angry. He asked, "How can this young boy who's only 8 years old do this to my soldiers?" He ordered that Choura be brought to him immediately.

Cathy: Choura was arrested and sent to Arianos. Arianos asked him, "What's your name?" Choura replied, "My name is Choura, and I am a Christian shepherd boy."

Roby: Arianos tried every possible way to make Choura worship idols, but Choura refused. He always repeated the verse "I love you, O Lord, my strength." Finally, Choura was martyred and received a heavenly crown.

Ozo: You're right! Choura was indeed very courageous. Now I understand. When you keep your eyes on our Lord Jesus, you're never scared.



Come to Me... Come to Me...



Activity

Young St. Choura





My Ears Hear Him

Ozo: Thank you for the chocolate Cathy. Now my rocket is fixed and I can go home.

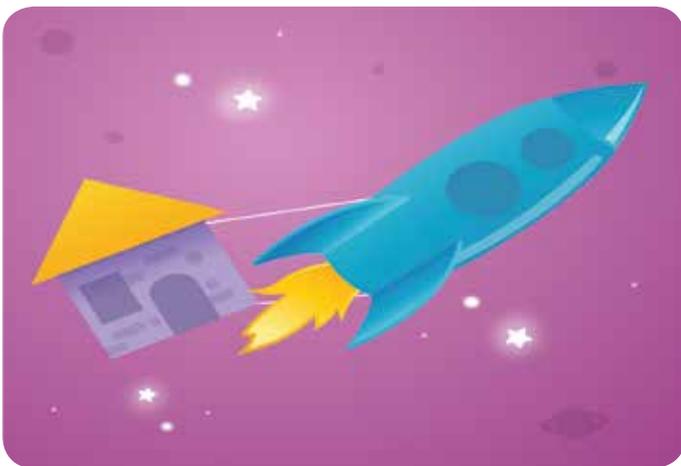
Cathy (*whispering to Roby*): Let's ask him to take us home with his rocket so we can be on time for my birthday.

Roby: Good idea! I'll ask him. Ozo! Can you please take us back home so we can be on time for Cathy's birthday?

Ozo: Of course! But wait, the chocolate we have is only enough to take me back to my planet.

Roby and Cathy: Oh no! Does this mean that we have to stay here? For how long?

Ozo: Don't worry, I won't leave you alone. Come with me on my rocket and tie your playhouse to it. We'll go to my planet first to fill up the rocket with chocolate and then I'll take you guys home.



Cathy and Roby do what Ozo tells them. On their way, Ozo starts to tell them about his planet.

Ozo: Our planet's name is Vaky. You know, you're the second visitors from planet Earth to come to our planet.

Roby: Wow! Who was the first visitor?

Ozo: It was a man who came a long time ago. He left us many cool things from your planet that we put in a special museum.

Come to Me... Come to Me...



Cathy: Can you take us to this museum?

Ozo: Of course!

Ozo leads Cathy and Roby to the museum.

Cathy: That's amazing! You have a lot of interesting things in this museum!

Ozo: Now I'll take you to a very important door. Our planet's history teaches us about this special door and a beautiful treasure we would find if we can open it. But no one has been able to open this door! That's why the king promised that whoever can open the door would receive a special prize.

Ozo takes Cathy and Roby to the door.

Roby: What a beautiful door! It has a picture of an Orbana on it.

Ozo: What did you say? Orbana? What? The door opened when you said "Orbana". Unbelievable. You guys deserve the king's prize.

When the door opens, Orbana begins to explain her story.



Orbana: I started off as a grain of wheat. Along with other grains of wheat, we were ground to become flour. We were then taken to a room where they bake the Orbana called "Bethlehem". The man who bakes the Orbana, took the flour and mixed it with water and yeast. He made me into a beautiful round dough while praying the Psalms. Finally, he stamped me with a special stamp and put me in the oven.

Ozo: You look really nice. But I don't understand all the drawings on you.

Roby: Oh I know! On the Orbana, there's a picture of a big Cross in the middle. The big Cross is surrounded by twelve small Crosses. There are also five holes in the Orbana. The letters around



the Crosses are Coptic and they mean “Holy God, Holy mighty, Holy immortal”.

Orbana: Well done Roby. That was an excellent explanation. But I’m a special Orbana because I’m one of the Orbanas of the Lamb.

Ozo: The Orbanas of the Lamb? What does that mean?

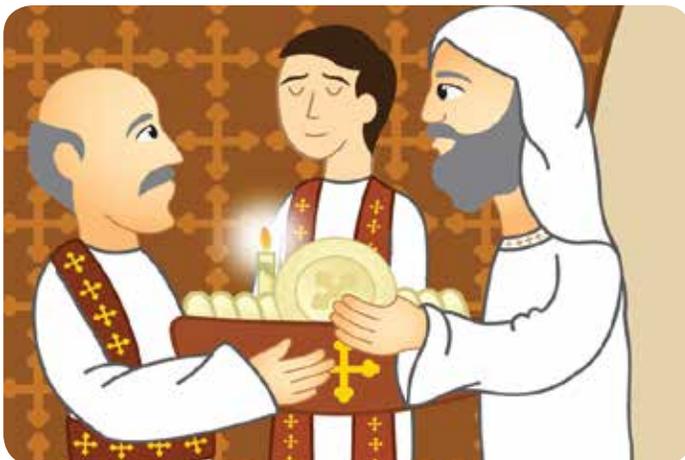
Cathy: The Orbanas of the Lamb are the Orbanas from which Abouna chooses the best one and puts it on the paten on the altar. Through Abouna’s prayers the Holy Spirit descends on it and it becomes the Body of Christ that we take during Communion at the end of the liturgy. This is exactly what our Lord Jesus did with his disciples when He said:



Memory Verse



“Take, eat; this is My Body.” Mark 14:22



Roby: That’s true. Our Lord Jesus Christ is among us on the altar, and the Church becomes like heaven with Jesus and his angels.

Orbana: That’s right Roby. When we stand in the Church and praise God, we become like His angels.

Come to Me... Come to Me...



Activity

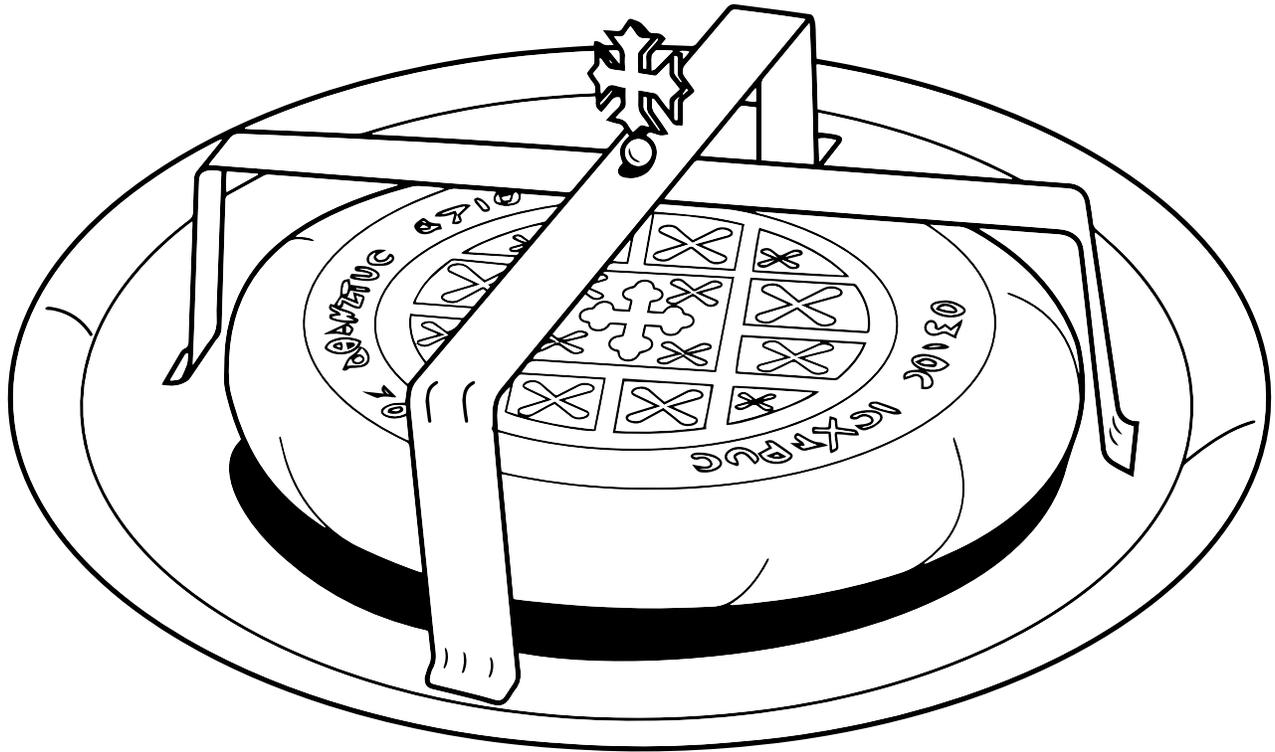
The Last Supper



Come to Me...



Orbana & Paten





My Mind is Focused on Him

Ozo takes Cathy and Roby to take their prize from the king because they were able to open the door.

Ozo: Now we're going to meet the king, but please be quiet because he's not feeling well. Your majesty, I would like to introduce to you Cathy and Roby who came from planet Earth. They were able to open the door in the museum.

King: I heard about what you did and I'm very happy. Here's your prize.

Roby and Cathy: We hope that you'll feel better soon your majesty.

Cathy: May our Lord Jesus Christ heal you.

King: Can the Lord Jesus Christ really heal me?

Cathy: Of course! Our Lord Jesus is God. He created everything around us. His word can heal the sick.

Roby: Your majesty, if you allow me, I want to tell you about a very nice miracle that our Lord Jesus did with the son of the nobleman when he was very sick.

King: Yes, please tell me about it. I would like to know what Jesus did.



A Nobleman's Son is Healed

(John 4:46 - 54)

Roby: The nobleman was living in a city called Capernaum when his son became very sick.

Cathy: When he heard that our Lord Jesus came to Cana of Galilee, he quickly began the long journey to see Jesus.

King: Why did he want to meet Jesus?



Roby: Well, the nobleman had heard of all the miracles that Jesus was doing and he wanted to ask Him to come to his house to heal his son. The nobleman told Jesus, "Please, come with me, my son is very sick." Jesus answered, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." The nobleman replied, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Finally, Jesus told the nobleman, "Go your way; your son lives."

Cathy: At that same moment, his son was healed!

King: How can he be healed with a word? The boy was healed even though Jesus didn't go to him! This is very strange.



Cathy: It's not strange at all! Our Lord Jesus is God. One word from His mouth does miracles. All we have to do is have faith and believe.

Roby: That's exactly what happened. The man believed what Jesus said to him and returned home.

Cathy: As the nobleman was on his way home, his servants met him and told him, "Your son lives!" Then he asked them, "When did he get better?" When they answered him, he realized that it was the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives."

Roby: Because of this miracle, the nobleman and his whole household believed. The Word of God is always fulfilled as He taught us:

Memory Verse



**"But the Word of our God stands forever."
Isaiah 40:8**

When Cathy and Roby finish telling their story, the king thanks them and they leave very happy with the prize.

Come to Me... Come to Me...



Activity

A Nobleman's Son Healed





My Heart Rejoices In Him



Cathy and Roby go with Ozo to get chocolate to fill up the rocket so they can go back home.

Cathy: Wow! All this chocolate! And who's sitting at the door of the chocolate room?

Ozo: That's Viko, the chocolate keeper.

Roby: He doesn't look very happy! How can someone be so sad with all this chocolate everywhere around him?

Ozo: You're right! This is the first time I see him this upset. Let's go find out what's wrong. Viko! Viko!

Viko: Who's there? Please leave me alone!

Ozo: Hi Viko, it is me, Ozo! I have visitors too.

Cathy: Hello Uncle Viko. I'm Cathy and this is my brother Roby.

Ozo: Viko, what's wrong? You look so worried and upset. What happened?

Viko: I'm upset because I have a problem and I don't know what to do. Everyday, it seems that more and more chocolate is missing and I don't know who's taking it.

Roby: Don't worry Uncle Viko, we'll try to find a solution. Cathy and I will try to help you find out what's happening to your chocolate.

Viko: How can you help me?

Cathy: Uncle Ozo, can you please prepare the rocket while we try to help Uncle Viko. We're very late for my birthday.





Roby: But Cathy, if we stay any longer, we won't be able to help mom prepare your birthday cake.

Cathy: Don't worry about that Roby. We have to help Uncle Viko.

Ozo: Don't be upset Viko, Cathy and Roby are really good. I'm sure they'll find a way to help you. They even opened the door in the museum. I wish I could stay too but I have to go prepare the rocket.

Roby: Cathy, let's pray and ask God to help us solve this problem.

Roby and Cathy stand up and pray.

Roby: Since some of the chocolate is missing, then someone must be taking it without Uncle Viko seeing him.

Cathy: That makes sense Roby, but who would do this? And how can we find out who it is? I have an idea! Let's do what Daniel did with the king of Babylon.

Roby: That's an excellent idea! Very good Cathy!

Viko: But who's Daniel?

Cathy: We'll tell you his story.

Daniel and the Priests of Baal

(Apocrypha - Extended Book of Daniel 14:1-21)

Cathy: Daniel loved God so much, and he always rejoiced in Him. Daniel was very close to the king of Babylon because he was very honest and faithful in everything he did.

Roby: In Babylon, there was an idol called Baal. The people of Babylon worshipped this idol thinking that he was a god. They also offered him food and drink.

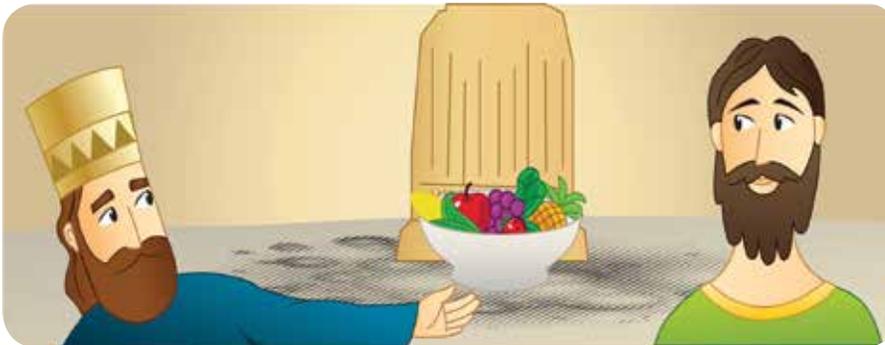
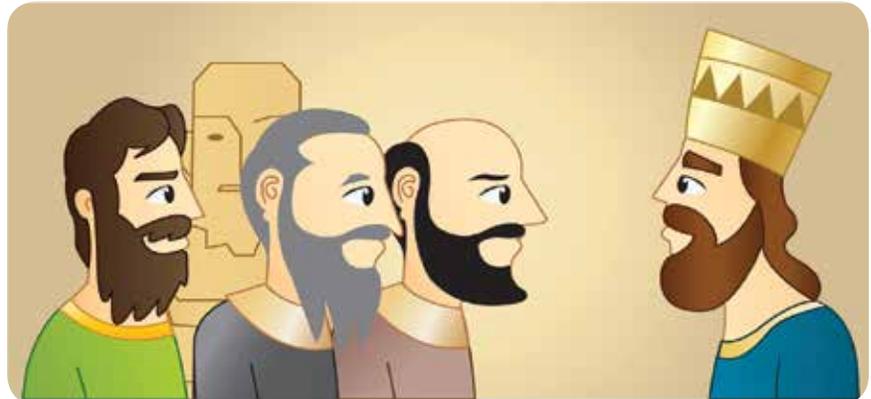
Cathy: Everyday the king would go and worship his god Baa,l but Daniel worshiped the true God whom he





loved. One day, the king asked Daniel, "why don't you worship Baal?" Daniel explained, "I don't worship idols made by man, I worship the true living God who created heaven and earth!"

Roby: So the king asked him "Don't you believe that Baal is a living god? Can't you see how much he eats and drinks each day?" Daniel laughed and said, "Baal is a statue; he's clay inside and bronze outside." The King was very angry and he called the priests of Baal and demanded, "Tell me who eats all this food that we put in front of Baal!"



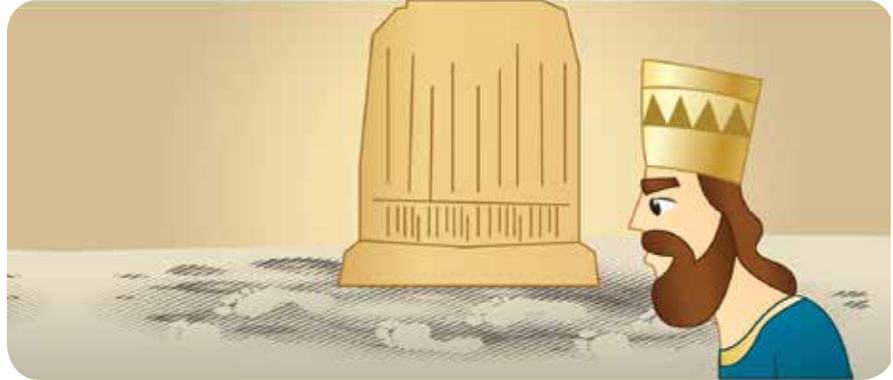
Cathy: The priests told the king, "We will go out, and you, Your Majesty, will put the food for Baal. Then lock the doors and seal it with your personal seal. Tomorrow, when you come back, you will find that everything has been eaten by Baal and that Daniel is wrong."

Roby: Do you know why the priests were so confident? Because they had a secret entrance which they used regularly to take the food and eat it. Daniel thought of an idea to make the king know what the priests were doing since he was sure that the statue didn't eat the food. So Daniel asked his servants to bring ashes to spread on the floor.

Cathy: When the priests were gone, and the king set out the food for Baal, Daniel's servants spread the ashes all over the floor of the temple. They then left the building, shut the door and sealed it with the king's seal and went away.



Roby: That night, as usual, the priests came in from the secret entrance with their wives and children and ate and drank everything. When the king and Daniel came back very early the next morning, the king made sure that the seals were intact. The king then opened the door and taking one look at the table exclaimed, "You are great, O Baal!"



Cathy: Daniel laughed and said, "Your Majesty, look at the floor where we spread the ashes." The king replied, "I can see footprints! That means that someone came in." The king was very angry and he arrested the priests who confessed that they had a secret entrance that they used to come through to eat the food. The king punished the priests and gave the statue to Daniel to destroy.



Viko: That's an excellent idea! Daniel was very wise.

Roby: Yes, he was. He did exactly what God teaches us:

Memory Verse



**"My son be wise and make my heart glad."
Proverbs 27:11**



Roby: Let's go Uncle Viko, we know what we need to do now.

They go inside the chocolate room and spread chocolate powder on the floor in front of the door, exactly as Daniel did with the ashes. Viko waits outside, then suddenly...

Cathy: Roby, can you hear this noise? I think someone is trying to get into the chocolate room. Let's hide so he doesn't see us.



Roby: Look Cathy, he's taking the chocolate! I'm going to catch him before he escapes.

They catch the man and call Viko.

Roby and Cathy: Uncle Viko! Look, we caught the man who was taking the chocolate!

Viko: What! You were taking the chocolate? Guys, this is the king's cook!

The Cook: What happened Viko?

Viko: Well, the chocolate was disappearing and we thought that a stranger was stealing it.

The Cook: I'm so sorry Viko! I didn't mean to cause any problems. Everyday, the king was asking me to make some chocolate desert. I couldn't find you to take your permission, so the king told me to help myself with all the chocolate I needed. He said that he would tell you.

Everyone laughs, relieved that the problem was solved. Ozo then comes back after filling up his rocket with chocolate.

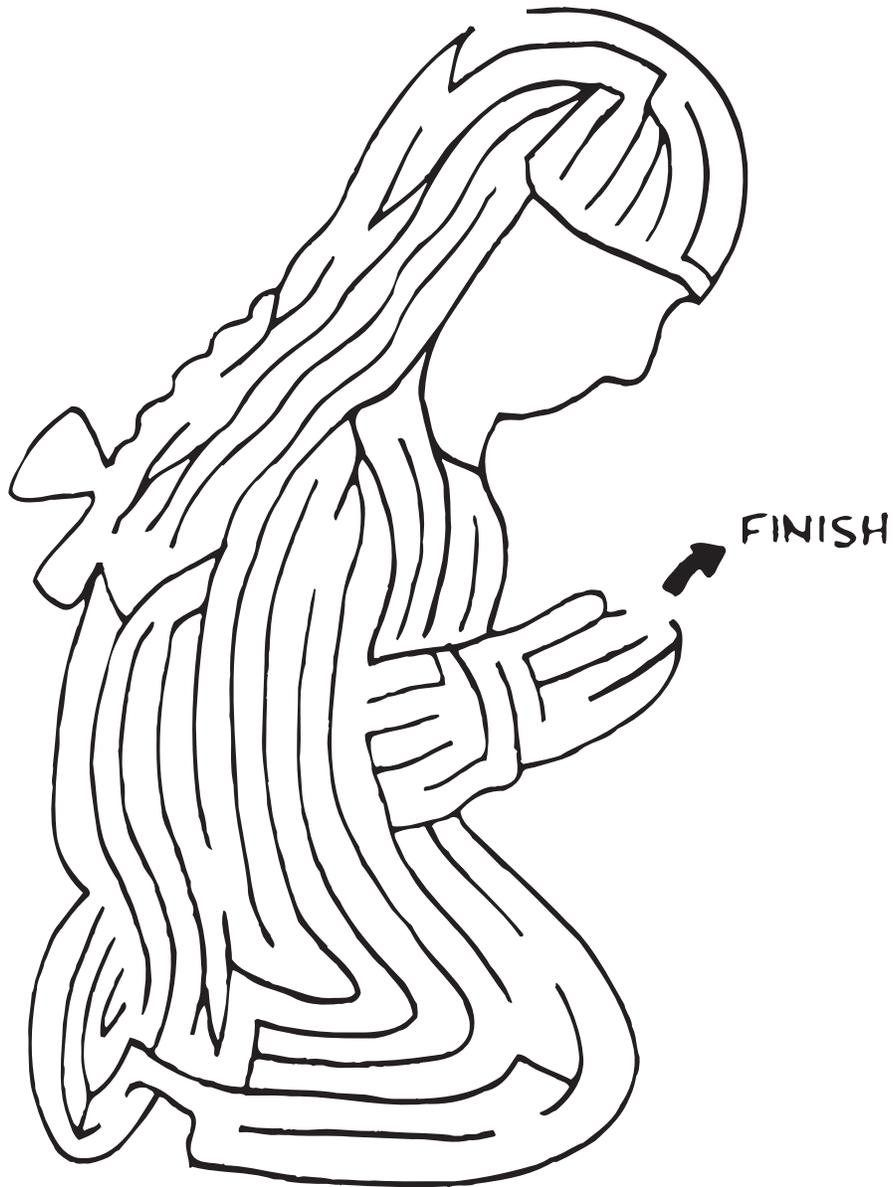
Come to Me... Come to Me...



Activity

Daniel Prays to God

START

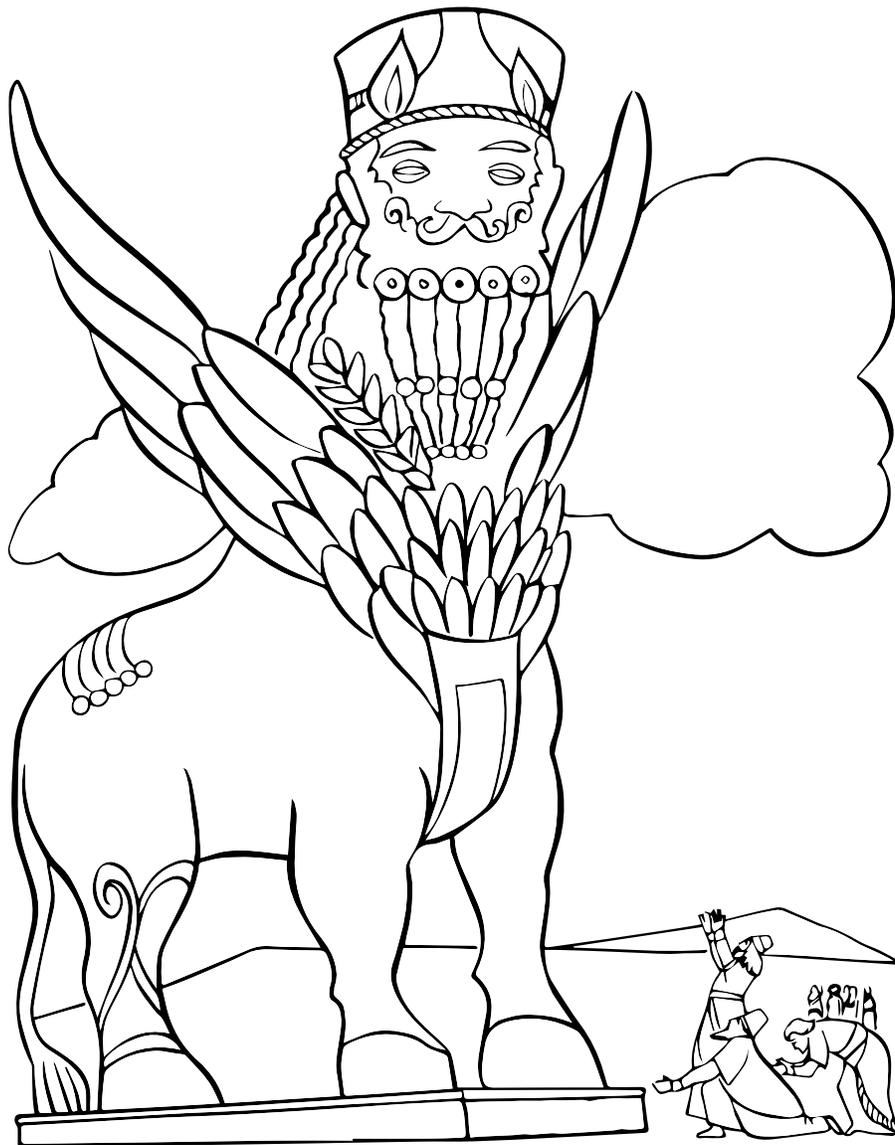


Find the path from START to FINISH.

Come to Me...



Daniel Refuses to Worship Idols





My Hand Offers to Him



Roby and Cathy greet Viko, and leave with Ozo to go back home.

Roby and Cathy: We're finally home!

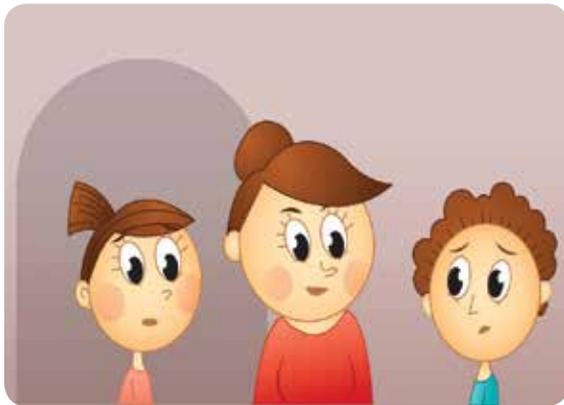
Roby: Let's go see mom. We're very late!

Cathy: Mom, we're here! We came to help you prepare my birthday cake.

Mom: Where were you? You're very late! We won't have time to prepare the cake.

Roby: We're so sorry mom! I can explain.

Roby and Cathy tell their mom about all their adventures.



Cathy: That's exactly what happened. We chose to help Uncle Viko even if it meant that I would have a birthday without a cake.

Mom: I'm really proud of both of you. You chose to help others with love even though you knew you would be late for something very important to you. You remind me of the story of David and the Egyptian man.

Roby: A new story! Please mom, tell us about it!

David saves an Egyptian man

(1 Samuel 30:1-16)

Mom: David and his men were away from their city for three days. When they came back, they found that their enemies, the Amalekites, had invaded the city. The Amalekites took all the



people of the city to make them slaves. David was very sad, but he prayed and asked the Lord, "Shall I go after them? Shall I overtake them?" God reassured David, and told him that he will overtake them and recover all that was lost. So David and his men went after the Amalekites.

Cathy: He had to hurry because he didn't have much time!

Mom: That's right, he was in a hurry. But he had to stop!

Roby: Stop! Why?

Mom: His men found an Egyptian man who was sick. The man couldn't move because he had not had anything to eat or drink for three days.

Roby: Three days without food or drink? He must have been very tired, hungry and thirsty!

Mom: Yes he was. That's why David and his men stopped, even though they were in a hurry. They offered him food and drink until he felt better.



Cathy: That's really nice of David!

Roby: He couldn't leave without helping someone who was not feeling well.

Mom: Because he helped the Egyptian man, God rewarded him. Do you know how?

Roby: How? Tell us!

Come to Me... Come to Me...



Mom: The Egyptian man was a servant of an Amalekite. He took David down to the Amalekites because he knew where they were staying. So David had victory over his enemies and was able to recover all that the Amalekites had carried away and returned to his city.

Roby: That's a beautiful story!

Mom: And now I have a surprise for you! Because you helped others with love exactly like David did with the Egyptian man.

Cathy: What's the surprise?

Mom: I'll ask your dad to buy the chocolate cake that you like on his way home.



Memory Verse



**"Through love serve one another."
Galatians 5:13**

Come to Me...



David & The Egyptian Man



Come to Me... Come to Me...



Come Let Us Worship

O come, let us worship: O come, let us ask Christ our God.

O come, let us worship: O come, let us beseech Christ our King.

O come, let us worship: O come, let us entreat Christ our Saviour.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God, our God, through the intercessions of the Holy Virgin Mary and all Your Saints, preserve us, and bring us to a fresh start. Have mercy upon us according to Your will forever.

The night has passed away, we give thanks unto You O Lord, and we ask You to keep us this day without sin, and deliver us.

Come to Me...



Activities



Hymns & Tasbeha

Coptic Language

Arts

Creative Writing

Sports

For more information about Mahragan activities please visit the Mahragan website at: www.mahragan.ca



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Canadian Coptic Centre
1245 Eglinton Avenue West
Mississauga, ON
L5V 2M4

P: 905-567-4032
F: 905-567-3618
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info@mahragan.ca

