

Mahragan Alkeraza 2013



Come
To **ME**

English Edition Gr 3-4

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



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



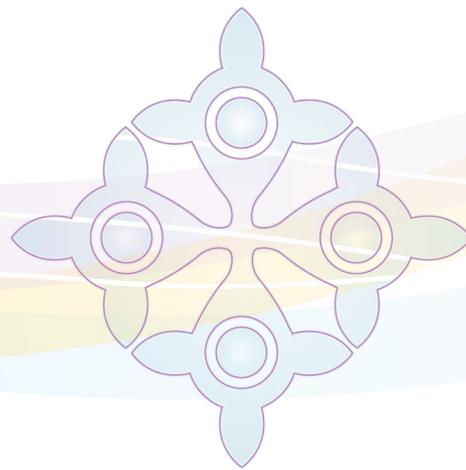
H.H. Pope Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria &
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark

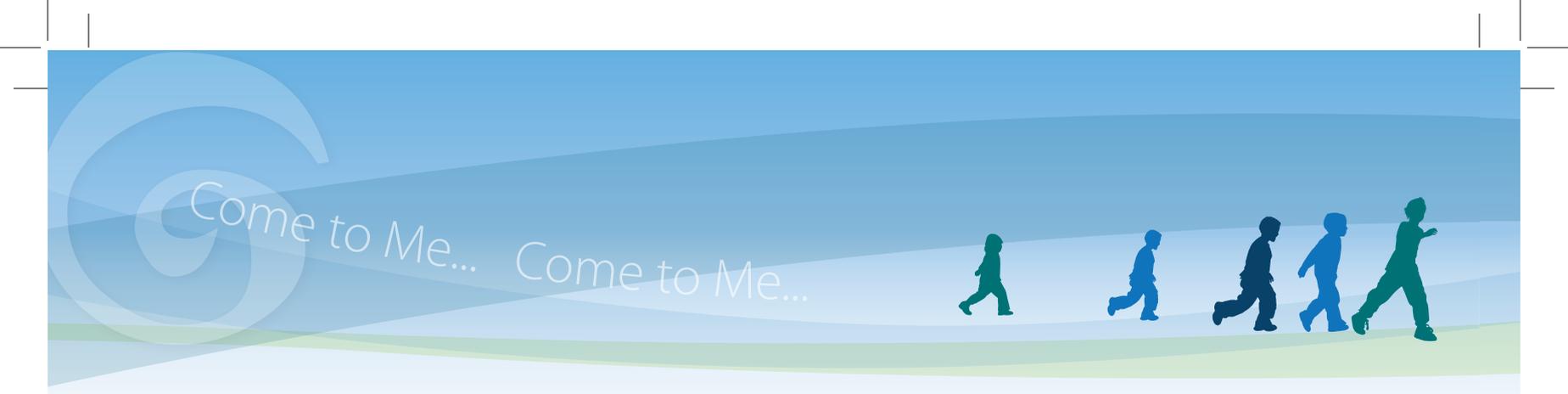


Come to Me...

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STUDY MATERIAL	PAGE
Introduction	4
One Step Takes Me To Christ	6
One Step Fills Me With Christ	12
One Step Keeps Me In The Church (The Intercession)	20
One Step Makes Me Rejoice In Christ	26
Take a Step For Christ	32
Memorization	36





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 transform our lives through Christ. We were also blessed with a worldwide participation, with over 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 step by step:

1. One Step Takes Me To Christ
2. One Step Fills Me With Christ
3. One Step Keeps Me In The Church (The Intercession)
4. One Step Makes Me Rejoice In Christ
5. Take a Step For Christ

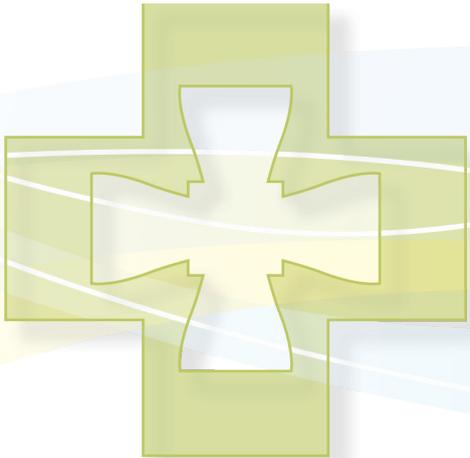
We hope all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage



everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless the 2013 Mahragan and the efforts of all the participants and the coordinators of the Mahragan activities, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

✠ My best wishes for a happy
Festival
✠ Bishop Mousa



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



1. One Step Takes Me To Christ

Raphy (Cup 1): It's been a very long day. The master of the house is finally leaving and the lights are turned off.

Danny (Cup 2): You're right! I'm very tired.

Danny and Raphy hear the voice of someone crying.

Danny: He's crying again! Just like last time, in the same dark corner, where no one can see him.

Raphy: Let him cry, or do whatever he wants, as long as he leaves us alone. He's so dusty, if he comes near us, he'll get us dirty too.



The crying gets louder and louder. So Bero, the teapot, goes to the dark corner where Gabby, the broken and dusty cup, is crying.

Bero: Gabby, calm down. You cry everyday like this. Do you think this will solve your problem?

Gabby: My problem has no solution. I'm worth nothing. My hand is broken. I have lots of cracks in my body and I'm covered in dust. I look ugly! How can you ask me to calm down?

Bero: Can I suggest something to you? Will you listen?

Gabby: Sure!

Bero: Your problem can be solved if you come out of this dark corner.

Gabby: What's the point? I'm worthless. It's better if I just stay here.



Bero: You know, if you come out of this corner, the master of the house will notice you. He'll clean you and fix you.

Gabby: How can I come out? The other cups will make fun of me when they see me. The master of the house might throw me in the garbage. I'm never coming out.

Bero: You know your story reminds me of something that happened a long time ago. Let me tell you the story.

Gabby: What story?

Bero: It's the story of the leper. I heard the master telling it to his son John. Let me tell you what I heard...

Jesus Cleanses a Leper ***(Mark 1:40-45)***

Bero: The story is about a Jewish man who had leprosy. Leprosy is a very dangerous skin disease. The Jews thought this disease was the result of sins that the person committed and considered all lepers very sinful. So, everyone rejected them. Leprosy makes the skin look bad and because of that, lepers used to live outside the city so no one would see or touch them. If a leper had to go into the city, he had to keep his distance from others. It was very embarrassing and hurt their feelings.

Gabby: Of course this would hurt their feelings! It's better for them to stay away from everyone!

Bero: This leper heard about our Lord Jesus and how He could heal him. So, he decided to go meet Jesus. He wasn't embarrassed by his appearance and didn't care what others thought about him. He was focused on his goal to meet Jesus and be healed. The leper knelt down before Him and said, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."



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



Gabby: Really! He went to the Lord Jesus! What did Jesus do?

Bero: Good question! Actually, John asked his father the same question, and his father promised to answer him this evening.

In the evening, the master of the house returns home and sits with John to continue his story. Gabby and Bero listen very carefully.

Master: When the leper asked the Lord Jesus to heal him, Jesus had compassion on him. He touched him and said to him "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately, the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

John: He was cleansed?!

Master: Yes John, the leper was healed! Our Lord Jesus then asked him to go and show himself to the priest. He had to go to a Jewish priest to confirm his cleansing so he can participate in the prayers with the rest of the Jews.

Gabby: What a great story! I really liked that Jesus had compassion on the leper. When everyone was afraid to touch him, our Lord Jesus touched him, and made him better.

Bero: Gabby wait! The master is still speaking. Let's listen to what he's telling John.

Master: John let's follow the story of the leper step by step:

The leper knew that he needed to be healed.
He decided to go to the Lord Jesus.
He went to Jesus, knelt to Him, and asked to be healed.
Our Lord Jesus had compassion on him and healed him.
Our Lord Jesus asked him to go and show himself to the priest.





Master: This reminds us of an important Church sacrament, the sacrament of Repentance and Confession. This sacrament was instituted by the Lord Jesus when he told His disciples: "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven," (Matthew 18:18). After His resurrection, he also told them:

Memory Verse



"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:22-23)

The Holy Bible confirmed that the sacrament of Repentance and Confession was practiced at the time of the apostles. We see this in the book of Acts:

Memory Verse



"And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds." (Acts 19:18)

John: What do we do in this sacrament?

Master: The sacrament of Repentance and Confession has three stages: before confession, during confession and after confession.

John: What happens in the first stage?

Master: Before confession you have to, Pray and ask God to remind you of all your sins. Ask God to help you not to do these sins again. Apologize to anyone you upset.



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



Before you go for confession you have to be calm and wait for your turn with patience and respect because this is a holy sacrament.

Master: In the second stage, during Confession, You confess your sins to God in the presence of a priest with full honesty. Don't be shy and don't make excuses or blame others.

The priest then puts the cross on your head and prays the absolution. God will forgive the sins that you confessed.

Finally, in the third stage, after Confession,

You pray and thank God that He has forgiven you.

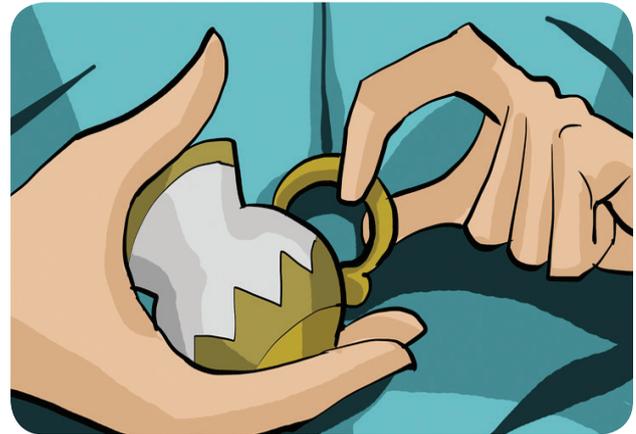
You ask God to help you not to repeat your sins again and to help you follow the priest's guidance.

John: What happens if I repeat the same sins again after I confess them?

Master: You simply repeat the same steps again. God rejoices with your repentance and your return to Him. He confirms this when He says, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance," (Mark 2:17).

John: It really is a beautiful sacrament.

Gabby: Wow! The story of the leper taught me not to be afraid or shy. This helped him to be healed.



Bero: You too Gabby can be fixed.

Gabby: You're right! I've decided to leave my dark corner, so the master of the house can see me and fix me.

Gabby goes out with all the other cups. They are very surprised to see him all dusty and broken, but he doesn't care. The master of the house finds him. He cleans and fixes him, and he becomes his favorite cup.

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



2. One Step Fills Me With Christ

Raphy: Good morning everyone! Soon, it will be the day of the feast.

Danny: I'm so happy it's almost here. The master of the house will be inviting all his friends and family, and will be having a big party. They will be spending the day together and having lots of fun.

Gabby: The feast is next week, which means...

Danny: That we'll be having a celebration?

Gabby: No! It means that the master of the house will be buying a new set of cups and...

Raphy: Oh no! Does that mean that he'll be getting rid of us?



Danny: No, I don't think so. But why would he buy new cups?

Gabby: Because lots of people are invited to the feast, and he'll probably need more cups!

Raphy: This can't be good! Especially since the new cups will look way better than us! What are we going to do?

Bero comes in and the others update him about their problem.

Bero: You're right, we have a problem here!

Gabby: I have an idea that might help.

All: What is it?

Gabby: Since we're many, we can all go out and stand in front of the master. When he sees our big number



and our beautiful designs, he won't want to get rid of us!

Bero: Very good idea! Let's go!

Raphy: Do you think that's enough to convince him to keep us?

Gabby: Of course! Because this reminds me of a story that I heard from the master when he was reading the Bible with his family the other day.



Bero: Do you mean the story of Queen Esther?

Gabby: Yes, the story of Queen Esther and what she decided to do to save her people.

Raphy: Can you tell us her story?

Gabby: Sure, I'll use the picture Bible that John reads everyday.

Queen Esther and How She Saved Her People (Esther 3- 7)



Gabby: This happened during the time of the captivity of the people of Israel in a place called Shushan, which is the capital of the Persian Empire.

Raphy: What does captivity mean?

Gabby: It means their enemies took them from their own country and made them their slaves.

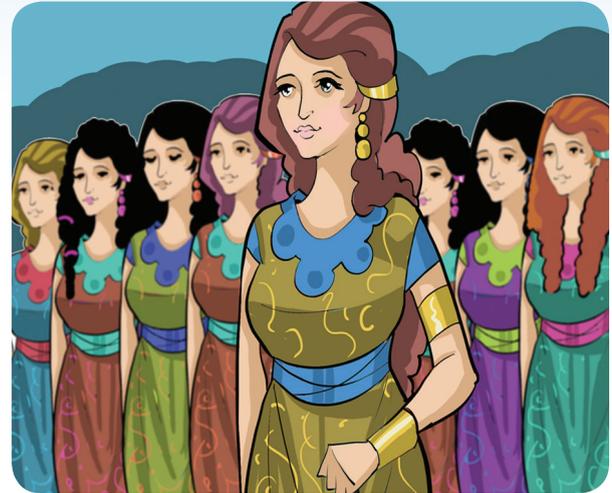
Bero: During that time, Queen Esther was born. Hadassah was her Hebrew name but she was better known as Esther. Esther's mother and father died, so her cousin Mordecai took care of her and raised her.

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



Gabby: Mordecai was a man who loved God so much. He raised Esther in the fear of God. He taught her how to love God and love her people. Esther was very obedient to him.

Bero: The king of the Persian Empire was King Ahasuerus. King Ahasuerus dethroned his wife Queen Vashti, because she refused his request to come in front of the officials to show her beauty.



Gabby: His servants suggested to bring all the beautiful young virgins of the city to the castle. The king could then pick one of them to be queen instead of Vashti. The king liked the idea. Esther was one of the young virgins that were brought to the palace.



Bero: Esther stayed there for a whole year with seven other young women. The king was to choose one of them to be his queen. Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background, because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so.

Gabby: Everyday, Mordecai paced in front of the court of the women's quarters, to check on his cousin until the day she was taken to the king. Esther found favor in the king's sight more than all the other women. So he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king made a great feast.

Bero: One day a man named Haman made a plot against Esther and her people.

Danny: Who is Haman?

Bero: Haman was one of the king's officials. The king loved him, made him chief minister, and ordered all the people to kneel down before him. All the people knelt down before Haman except for one man.

Gabby: Do you know who this man was? Yes, it was Mordecai. Mordecai loved God and obeyed His commandment not to kneel down before any one except God.



Bero: Because of this, Haman planned to get rid of Mordecai and all the Jews.

Raphy: How?

Bero: Haman went to the king and told him that the Jews don't obey the king and that he should destroy them. The king agreed and gave him permission to do whatever he wanted.

Gabby: So Haman wrote a decree, sealed it with the king's signet ring and sent it to all the king's provinces. In the decree, he set a date to destroy all the Jews, and the city was disturbed.

Danny: This is a really big problem. You're right it's similar to our situation. But how did they solve it?

Bero: When Mordecai and the Jews heard about this decree they mourned, wept and fasted. When Esther heard that Mordecai was mourning, she asked one of her servants to find out why. Mordecai told him all that had happened and told him to ask Esther to go to the king and plead before him for her people.

Gabby: At first, Esther refused because according to the law, anyone who goes into the inner court of the king without being called by him would be put to death unless the king holds out his golden scepter.

Bero: But Mordecai told her that God would not forsake them and that God would save His people. Mordecai felt that this may be the reason God made her queen. So Esther told him to ask all the Jews in Shushan to fast for 3 days before she goes to the king.

Esther had strong faith in God and believed in the power of fasting and prayers. She said:

Memory Verse



"Fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day" (Esther 4:16)

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



Esther and her maids fasted as well.

Danny: Why would all the Jews fast?

Gabby: This problem affected all the Jews in Shushan. They had to fast together with one accord. Their unity helped solve their problem.

Raphy: We too, have to unite to solve our problem. What happened after that?

Gabby: Esther went to the king and found favor in his sight. The king held out to her the golden scepter that was in his hand and heard her request.



Bero: Esther asked the king to come with Haman to the banquet that she had prepared for him. After the banquet, she asked the king and Haman to come to another banquet the following day. She would then let the king know what she wanted.

Gabby: So Haman went out that day filled with joy and happiness. When he saw Mordecai at the king's gate, and that he didn't kneel before him, he became angry. He went home and told his wife who suggested that he have him hanged.



Danny: Is Mordecai going to die?

Bero: Don't worry, Danny. God cares for His children. Let me tell you what happened... That night, the king couldn't sleep; and he commanded his servants to bring him the book of the chronicles. This is a book where the daily events of the kingdom are recorded. While he was reading, he found out that Mordecai had saved the king from the servants that wanted to kill him. He asked "What honor and dignity had been done to Mordecai for this?"



Gabby: Now Haman had just entered the palace to ask the king to hang Mordecai. But before he spoke, the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?" Haman thought that the king was talking about him and that he wanted to honor him. So he answered the king, "Let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. Let the robe and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials; let him robe the man whom the king wishes to honor, and let him parade the man on horseback through the open square of the city, proclaiming before him "Thus shall it be done for the man whom the king wishes to honor."



Bero: To Haman's surprise, the king said, "Go do all of what you said to Mordecai!" So Haman did all this to Mordecai and returned home very upset. Then the king's servants hurried to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared. In the banquet, Esther told the king what she wanted.

Gabby: She asked him to save her and her people because their lives were in danger. And that Haman was the one who was threatening their lives. The king was very angry while Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life. Then the king's servants told him about the gallows that Haman had made for Mordecai. So the king ordered to hang Haman on them.

Gabby: After Haman's death, the king issued a decree allowing the Jews to defend themselves. So they defended themselves and were saved. They all rejoiced because God accepted their fasting and prayers. They celebrate this victory every year in a feast called "the Purim".



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

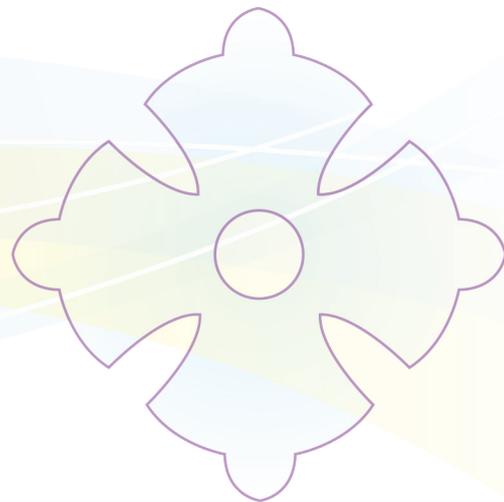


All the cups gather and stay on the shelves together so that the master of the house might see that they are many and that he does not need to buy new cups. The master of the house returns home and is surprised to see all these cups. Despite getting a new set of cups, he continues to use the old ones too.

Danny: The master was so happy to see us all together.

Raphy: He cleaned us and is preparing us for the feast.

Bero: That was a great idea! He's not getting rid of us!



Come to Me...



A Petition & A Request



Use the code to decipher the message by writing the opposite letter on the lines provided. Example: for the letter C, P would be the answer.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Wicked Haman plotted to kill all of the Jews throughout the kingdom of Persia. Queen Esther brought a petition to the king for her people. Use the code to discover Esther's request (Esther 3:5, 6; 7:1-4)



T E N A G Z^R z^L y v s r

"-----"

F N E^R z^L C^B R C^R Y

"-----"

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



3. One Step Keeps Me in the Church (The Intercession)



Raphy: Everyday is the same. The cup leader never asks us to do anything.

Danny: How long are we going to stay like this?

Gabby: Danny you're right! I'm bored now! Especially after being so busy during the feast.

Danny: Did you notice that ever since the cup leader arrived, we've been getting less work to do! He keeps giving the new cups all the work instead.

Raphy: Why don't we tell him that we're upset and that we'd like to work too! He probably didn't mean it.

Gabby: Good idea! Let's choose one of us to go talk to him; someone who can speak on our behalf! Someone who can intercede for us!

Bero comes in and the cups tell him their plan.

Bero: Getting someone to intercede for us is a great idea! Where'd you get this idea?

Gabby: We got it from the TV show that the master was watching. At the end of yesterday's show, they announced that today's episode would be called "Who is your intercessor?" I liked the word "intercessor". Maybe we can watch today's show with the master. Let's go!



They all draw near the TV room to watch the show with the master.



Show Host: Welcome to our new show. Our topic today is “Who is your intercessor?” Our guests today are Father Mina the priest of St. Mary’s Church, and our friends Monica and Bishoy. Welcome everyone! We’ll start with a question to Abouna: What does the word intercessor mean?

Abouna Mina: I would like to welcome our audience. The word intercessor means mediator or someone who pleads on our behalf.

Show Host: Like the saints who pray for us in heaven?

Abouna Mina: Exactly.

Monica: Abouna can you please explain what the intercession of the saints is?

Abouna Mina: It’s the prayers and requests that they offer on our behalf because they love us. As the Holy Bible teaches us:



Memory Verse



“Pray for one another” (James 5:16)

The saints themselves asked people to pray for them. For example, St. Paul the apostle in his letter to the Thessalonians says, “Brethren, pray for us,” 1 Thessalonians 5:25. Also, in his letter to the Ephesians, he asks all the believers to pray for him that God may give him words when he preaches:

Memory Verse



“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit... for all the saints and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.” (Ephesians 6:18-19)

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



We all know that St. Paul was a great saint and performed many miracles. Yet he asked people to pray for him. We too ought to ask for their prayers. If we ask people who are on earth to pray for us, shouldn't we also ask the saints in heaven, who are closer to God, to pray for us? We do all this because we're all members of one body.

Bishoy: Abouna, what do you mean by "We're all members of one body?"

Abouna Mina: It means that as members of one body, we all feel for each other, we take care of each other, and we pray for each other. The Church is one body. Its head is Christ and we're all members in this body, whether we're here on earth, the struggling Church, or in heaven, the victorious Church. This is what gives strength to our Church. There are many examples of intercession in the Holy Bible. I'll give you two examples: one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.



Show Host: Please, go ahead.



Abouna Mina: In the Old Testament (Exodus 32: 7-14), at the time of Moses the Prophet, the people of Israel turned away from God. They made for themselves a golden calf and worshiped it. God became very angry and told Moses that He would destroy them. However, God is merciful and gave Moses a chance to intercede for the people. Moses pleaded with the Lord and prayed for the people of Israel. God accepted Moses' intercession and didn't destroy them.

Also, in the New Testament (John 2:1-8), at the wedding of Cana of Galilee, when they ran out of wine, St. Mary asked the Lord Jesus to help. Through her intercession, our Lord Jesus



told the servants to fill the jars with water. So, they filled six jars with water and then, our Lord Jesus told them to draw some out, and take it to the master of the feast. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made into wine, he found it better than the one that was served at the beginning. This was the first of Jesus' miracles.

Show Host: With this, we end our show for today. I would like to thank Father Mina and our friends, Monica and Bishoy. Thank you everyone! See you tomorrow for a new episode!

Raphy: What a great show! It taught us about the importance of having an intercessor that can help and pray for us!

Danny: The idea of an intercessor is wonderful! I believe that the best one to represent us in front of the cup leader would be Bero, the teapot, because he's close to him and he's also the eldest.

Bero goes and speaks to the cup leader who begins to distribute the job equally among all the cups. So, all the cups become busy and are no longer bored.



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



The Golden Calf

L Y P B G W O Q T B U C A P Y U G Y L L
R R U K D E A J N Z A U Y N B T C M U U
H F Y K P L L I D S I N N E D O Z A F W
I H F O C V V E R Z F J Q K B M H S L Q
D E K J S O C C G N F D U B P J K V Y N
Y L T Q S D R T A N T S Q C K N I R D I
E M G S P D A R Z K A M T P P K K Y H S
D G E P P Z L C U O Q J H L Y P R K P V
P M Y M R Z O J N P H T T A F I E W O U
U B G B X O Z W E O T A T G O H N L I U
G C M B O W M Y M B R E R U J S C W R A
I P A O S T F J D H A A D E W R V W F D
C M Q L L H A T W F U A A D S O C Z Y D
E W H H F Q M B Q V U U S D S W C O L W
U N V S L I Q N L I T E E W I G H A D T
R G V S W L S A X E T N S K A H R K F L
M K G R V D Q S I O T Q O I G G E U B A
K B S V L H V L T N D S M E W D M N E O
U Y N O J T P P A H D M R P A V Q U H A
Y K G N X Y B U L I Q N W I F B N D T P

AARON
ANGEL
CALF
CORRUPTED

DRINK
GOLD
MOSES
PLAGUED

SINNED
TABLETS
WORSHIP

Find the words listed above

Come to Me...



The Wedding At Cana

Activity



Can you spot the 20 differences between the two pictures?

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



4. One Step Makes Me Rejoice In Christ



Gabby: I worked really hard today. I think it's time for bed. Candle, please turn off your light.

Candle: Sure. But can you hold on for a minute! I'm a little worried about what's going on between the plates!

Gabby: Why? What's going on?

Candle: The old plates and the new plates aren't getting along.

Gabby: So? What's new?

Candle: Ya, you're right! Good night, Gabby.

Everyone goes to sleep but at midnight, they hear a noise. A plate breaks! They all wake up.

Bero: What's that noise? What happened?!

Gabby: Look Bero! There's an old, broken plate on the floor!

Bero: Oh no! Who broke it?

Candle: I saw everything! When everybody went to sleep, I saw a new plate pushing the old plate, and before I knew it, the old plate was broken on the floor.

Gabby: The old plate probably deserved it.

Bero: Gabby, what are you saying? The new plate did something wrong and you're encouraging him?





Gabby: I think the old plate was always bothering the new plate. That's why the new plate did that.

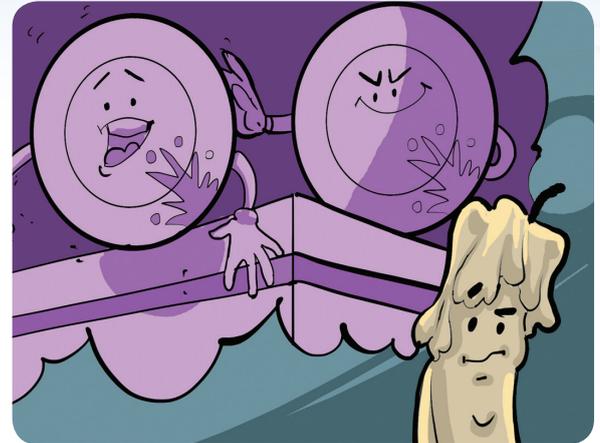
Candle: That's not right! Let me tell you a story that might change your mind.

Gabby: Okay! I like stories.

David and King Saul (1 Samuel 16-26)

Candle: This story took place a long time ago with the people of Israel. They asked God to give them a king to rule over them. So God chose Saul to become the first king of Israel. In the beginning, Saul obeyed all of God's commandments but that didn't last for long. That's why God decided to replace him. God asked Samuel to choose another king to rule over the people of Israel. So Samuel went to the house of Jesse the Bethlehemite where he anointed his youngest son, David, to become the second king of Israel.

David was a shepherd who loved to play the harp. God considered David to be a king but Saul and all the people still saw him as a simple shepherd. David felt that Saul was the true king of Israel. He honored him, respected him and addressed him as "master". Whenever Saul was troubled, David would play the harp for him, and Saul would feel better. That's why Saul liked him very much.



Gabby: So David and Saul got along. What's the problem?

Candle: The problem started after David, with the power and help of God, led the Israelites to victory over the Philistines by killing Goliath. Everybody rejoiced and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." This made Saul very angry and his feelings toward David began to change. He started to envy David and hated him to the point that he tried to kill him more than once!

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



Gabby: To kill him? Did David defend himself? Wasn't David the true king? He could've forced Saul to leave, and taken over the kingdom. That's what I would've done!

Candle: What happened was the exact opposite! David loved God and kept His commandments. That's why God helped him deal with Saul in a way that would surprise you.

Gabby: Surprise me? How?

Candle: David respected Saul very much, despite everything Saul was doing to him. He considered Saul the "Lord's anointed" because he was chosen by God to be the king. But Saul still wanted to kill him. One day, Saul heard that David was hiding on the hill of Hachilah, so he went with three thousand of his troops, to look for David. Saul and his troops camped near the place where David was hiding. At night, Saul and Abner, son of Ner, the commander of his army and the rest of the army slept inside the camp. Saul slept with his spear and his jug of water beside him.



Gabby: Excellent! Saul was sleeping! That was David's chance. He could've easily killed him!

Candle: Abishai, one of David's men, thought the same thing! He told David, "Let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth." But David refused and said:

Memory Verse



"For who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless? ...The Lord forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed." 1 Samuel 26:9-11



Gabby: David refused to kill Saul! What happened after that?

Candle: While Saul was sleeping, David took his spear and the jug of water that was beside him. This was to prove to Saul that David had the opportunity to kill him but didn't.

Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a far hill. Then he called to Abner accusing him of not guarding the king. He asked him, "Where is the king's spear and the jug of water that was by his head?" Then he told him that he took them from beside the king while he was sleeping.



Gabby: I don't understand! Instead of killing him, he blamed Abner for not guarding the king!

Candle: Don't be surprised. Don't forget that David's heart was according to God's own heart. He didn't return evil for evil. When Saul heard David talking to Abner, he recognized David's voice and realized what David had done. So he said to David, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more," 1 Samuel 26:21. David gave Saul his spear back, but he didn't expect Saul to reward him or even forgive him. He said to Saul:

Memory Verse



May the Lord repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness" 1 Samuel 26:23

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



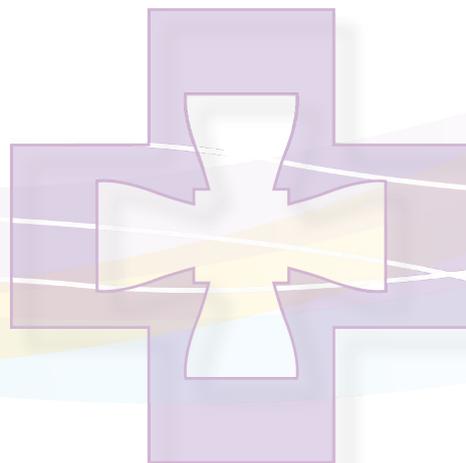
Saul praised David and ordered his soldiers to go back to the city.

Bero: Gabby, I hope you learned that when we treat our enemies with kindness, we can change them!

Gabby: You're right! David was wonderful. I like that he was able to love his enemy and forgive him and didn't lose his respect for him.

Candle: So Gabby, what do you think about what the new plate did?

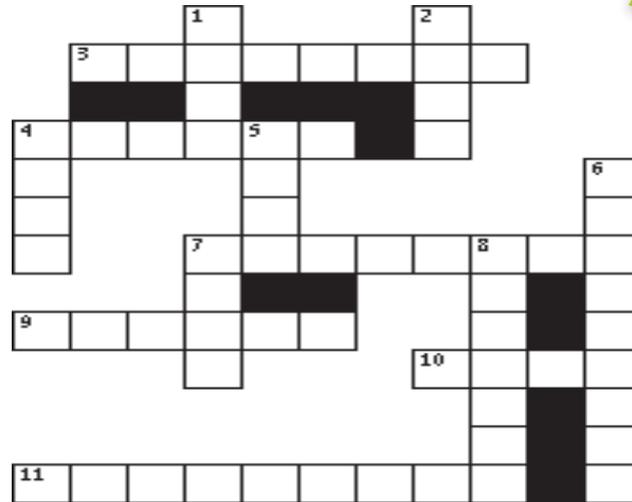
Gabby: The new plate must apologize to the old plate! He should collect the pieces and fix him. And he should learn to love everyone! He needs to learn how to forgive, even if somebody bothers him. I'm sorry Bero and Candle, I was wrong.



Come to Me...

David Spares Saul's Life

Activity



- 5 DOWN "_____ sought David every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand." **1 SAMUEL 23:14**
- 4 ACROSS "David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a _____." **1 SAMUEL 23:15**
- 8 DOWN "A messenger came to Saul, saying 'Hurry and come, for the Philistines have _____ the land!' " **1 SAMUEL 23:27**
- 9 ACROSS "Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, 'Take note! David is in the Wilderness of _____.'" **1 SAMUEL 24:1**
- 10 ACROSS "Saul came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a _____." **1 SAMUEL 24:3**
- 1 DOWN "David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's _____." **1 SAMUEL 24:4**
- 11 ACROSS David called out to Saul, "Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD _____ you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you." **1 SAMUEL 24:10**
- 6 DOWN "Then he said to David: 'You are more _____ than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil.'" **1 SAMUEL 24:17**
- 7 DOWN Again "Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him to _____ David in the Wilderness of Ziph." **1 SAMUEL 26:2**
- 7 ACROSS "David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay _____ within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head." **1 SAMUEL 26:7**
- 2 DOWN "Take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his _____ and let us go." **1 SAMUEL 26:11**
- 4 DOWN "Saul said, 'Indeed I have played the _____ and erred exceedingly.'" **1 SAMUEL 26:21**
- 3 ACROSS "The LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD'S _____" **1 SAMUEL 26:23**

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



5. Take a Step For Christ



Bero: I hope we all learned a lesson from this story, let's go back to sleep.

Candle: I can't sleep now, the plates need light.

Gabby: But the plates are so far!

Candle: I learned to serve others as much as I can.

Gabby: But your light is not very strong, it won't reach them.

Candle: I'll do my best to serve others.

Gabby: Serve others! What do you mean?

Candle: Do you know the story of St. Verena?

Bero: Of course, it's a very nice story. It teaches us the importance of serving others.

St. Verena and serving others

Bero: Saint Verena was born to Christian parents in the Theban region (modern day Luxor in Upper Egypt) in a city called "Garagoss". Her name means "Good Fruit". St. Verena loved the Lord Jesus very much and used to pray regularly, read the Bible and attend the divine liturgies.

Candle: St. Verena liked to serve others. She sewed vestments for the priests and deacons. She also cleaned the Church and swept its floors. She loved to serve in the



Come to Me...



Church and visit the prisoners. Everybody was happy with her service and her love for others. She was always looking after the people's need and putting lots of effort in the service.

Bero: She served outside Egypt as well. She went with the Theban Legion to serve in Switzerland in Europe.

Gabby: What is the Theban Legion?

Bero: It's a group of strong and courageous Christian soldiers. They're called Theban because they are from Thebes in Luxor. The legion consisted of 6600 soldiers. Their leader was St. Maurice, who was well known for his courage and honesty. During the reign of Emperor Diocletian, the emperor sent the Theban Legion to Switzerland in Europe to defend the Roman Empire. St. Verena accompanied them as a nurse to help the wounded soldiers and prepare food for them. She always talked to the soldiers about our Lord Jesus and His love for everyone. Her service was a source of joy for all.



Candle: But when the Theban Legion headed back to Egypt, she stayed in a small house in Switzerland where she sewed clothes. She also started to help people and talked to them about Jesus. Many people believed because of her. She also took care of the sick, gave them medicine and prayed for them that the Lord Jesus may heal them.



Bero: When the governor of the city found out she was Christian, he put her in prison. In prison, she prayed continuously, trusting that God would not forsake her. Suddenly, the governor got very sick. He asked St. Verena to pray for him because he heard that her prayers healed

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



many. She prayed for him and asked God to heal him, and right away he became well. She even served the governor who caused her lots of trouble and put her in prison.

Candle: The governor was very happy and thanked her. To repay her for her kindness and good deed, he asked that she be released from prison. She spent the rest of her life serving the people of the city. She took care of the children and taught them stories from the Holy Bible.

Bero: St. Verena was a source a joy everywhere she went. She served everyone with gladness. She put a lot of effort into everything she did. St. Verena was a great servant who served many people in the Church, the Theban Legion, the sick, the needy and the children. She even served the governor who put her in prison by praying for him, remembering always what St. Paul said:



Memory Verse



“Nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

Gabby: That’s a great story! I learned that I should serve others as much as I can.



Come to Me...



St. Verena



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



Gospel of the prime prayer – this prayer remind us of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We pray it when we wake up in the morning to thank God for the day that He is giving us and to praise Him for His resurrection from the dead.

Gospel John 1:1-17

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, [c] and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



Verses to confirm the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and that it is essential for our salvation:

There is no salvation without baptism:

"Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." John 3:5

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16

Our Fathers the apostles baptized on the day of the Pentecost:

"Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"" Acts 2:38

The baptism of Lydia the seller of purple:

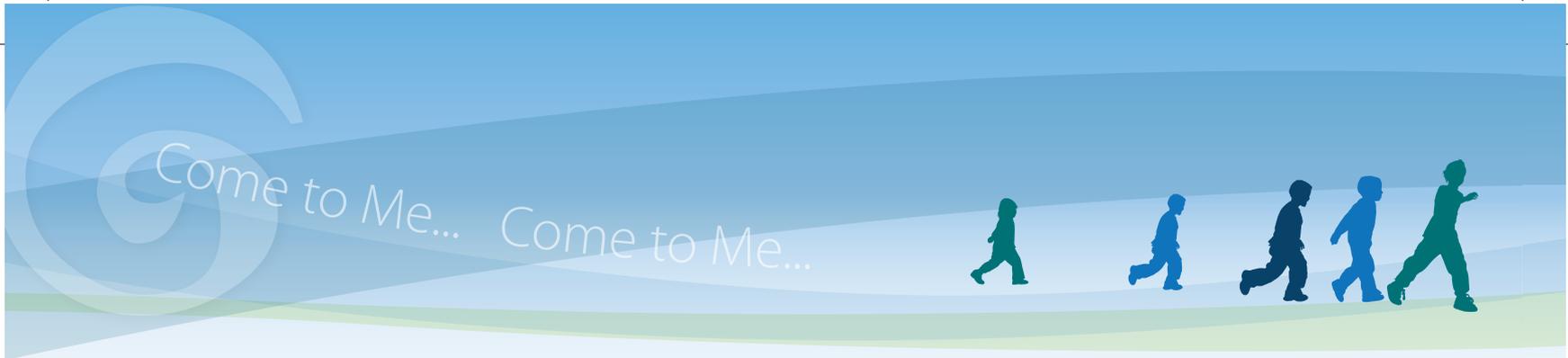
"And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' So she persuaded us." Acts 16:15

The baptism of the Philippian jailer:

"And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized." Acts 16:33

Immersion in the name of the Trinity:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19



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

Baptism through immersion:

“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.” Matthew 3:16

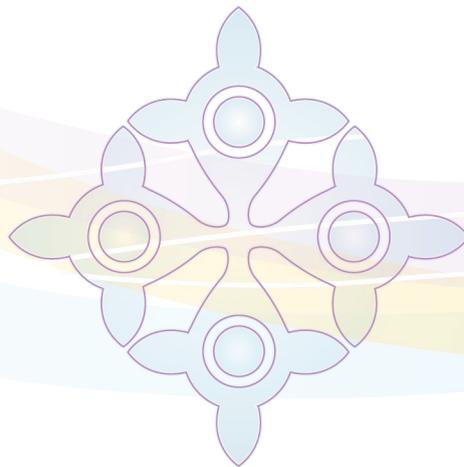
“Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead” Colossians 2:12

Through baptism we become children of God:

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:26-27

Importance of baptism for children:

“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14



Come to Me...

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