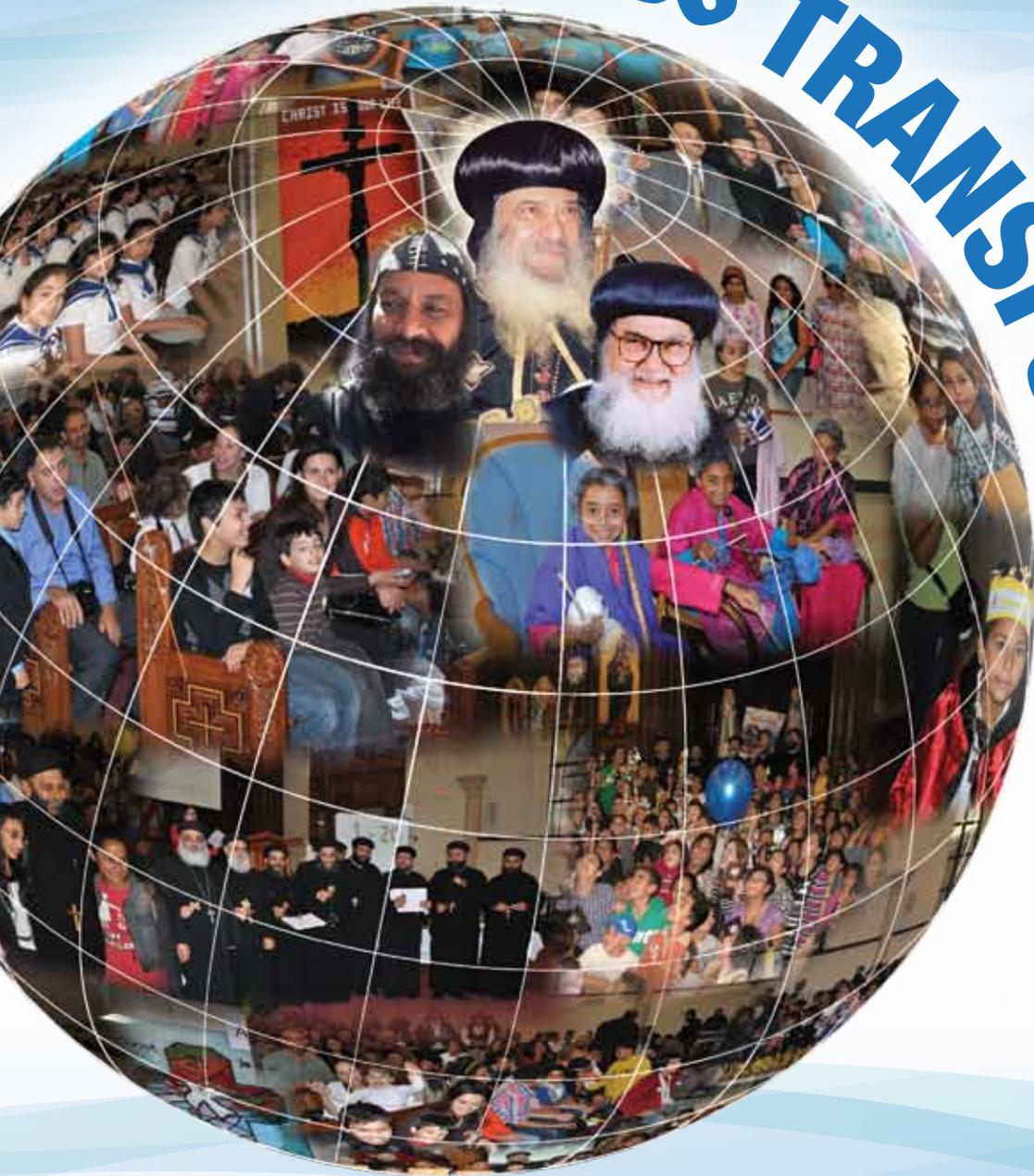


Mahragan Alkeraza 2012



Be TRANSFORMED



English Edition Gr. 3 - 4

H.H. Pope Shenouda III
Pope of Alexandria



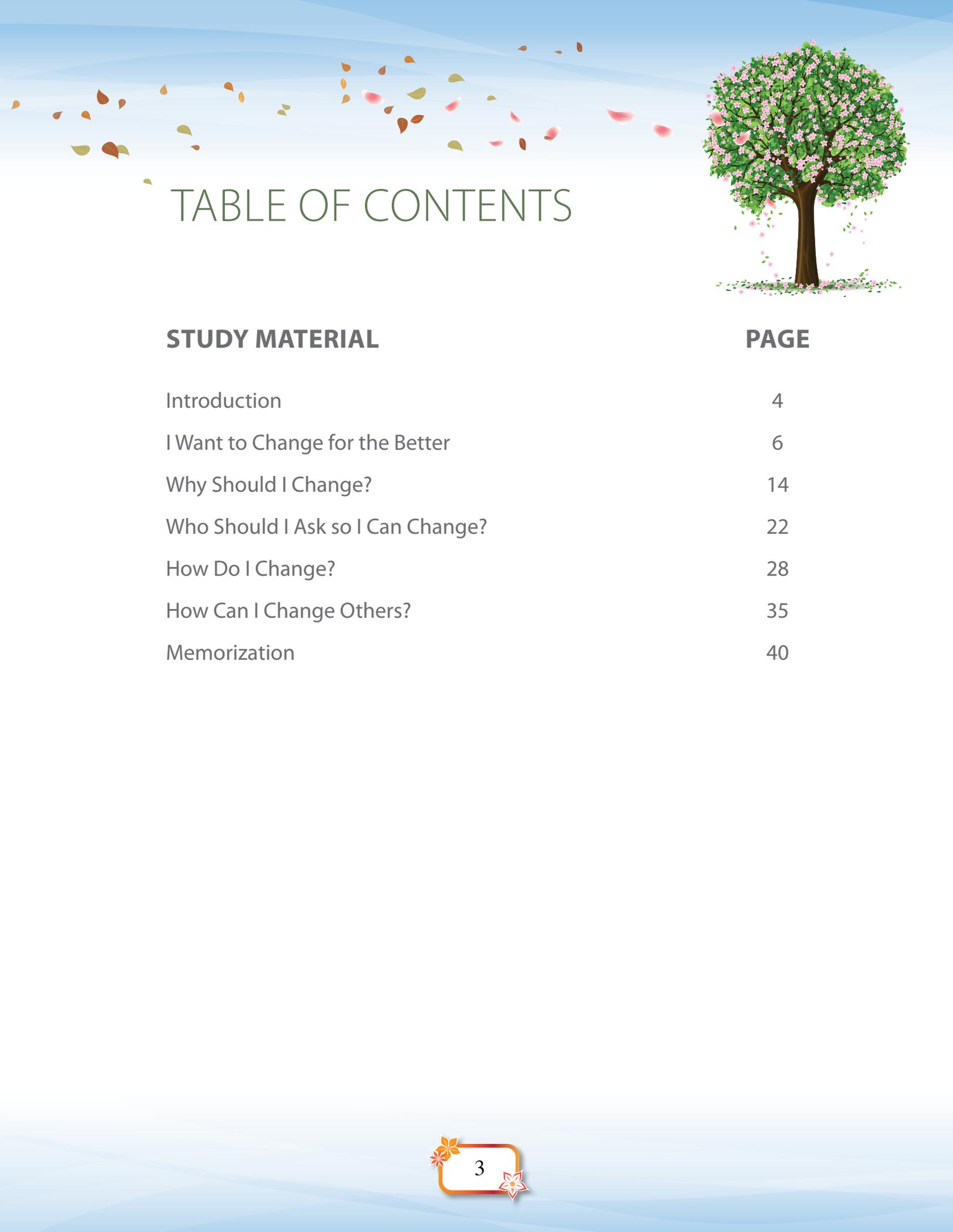


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Be Transformed

INTRODUCTION

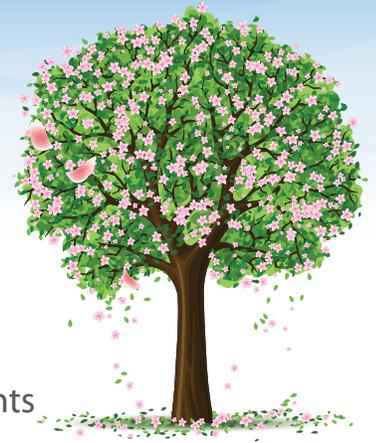
Mahragan Alkeraza 2012

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first place winners, we are grateful for God's blessings. We were blessed in so many ways, as we experienced Christ as our life and our role model. We were also blessed with a worldwide participation, with over 140 Churches representing more than 20 countries in the 2011 Mahragan Competition.

The theme this year is "Be Transformed". To be truly transformed, we need to answer the following questions:

1. Do I want to be changed?
2. Why should I change?
3. Who should I ask so I can change?
4. How do I change?
5. How can I change others?

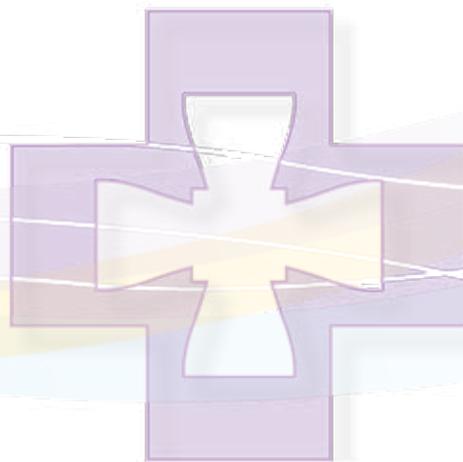
We hope all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.



May God bless the 2012 Mahragan and the efforts of all the participants and the coordinators of the Mahragan activities, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Shenouda III.

✠
My best wishes for a happy
Festival

✠
Bishop Mousa



I WANT TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

The summer break just started, and everyone is ready to have some fun. Bishoy, Raymond, Hannah and Phoebe can't wait to start the Mahragan competition this summer. This year, they decide to participate in the Drama competition and today is their first practice.

Bishoy: Hannah let's go! We're gonna be late. Michael, our sponsor servant, said we should be there at 5 sharp.

Hannah: Okay Bishoy, I'm almost ready.

Bishoy: I'll call Raymond to check if he's ready too.

Bishoy picks up the phone and calls Raymond.

Bishoy: Hello, hi Raymond. Are you ready? We don't want to be late for the practice.

Raymond: I'm ready. I'm leaving with Phoebe now. I'll see you in Church.

Hannah: Bishoy, I'm ready. Did you call Raymond?

Bishoy: Yes, he's meeting us with Phoebe in Church.

They arrive at Church and go to the theatre. They're so happy to see that their friend Joseph is participating in the drama competition too. As they greet each other, Michael enters the room.

Michael: Hey guys! I just want to welcome everyone to this year's Mahragan competition. Before we start our meeting, let's pray and ask for God's blessings.



After they pray...

Michael: This year, the title of our play is "A new way of living". We'll present it as a puppet show. I'll hand out the script and you can go to the storage room and pick the puppet that matches your role. Then, we can start our practice.

Everyone starts to read their role and pick up their puppet.

Bishoy: Hmm... Which one should I pick? This one! No maybe this one? Yes! This one is perfect! Oh no! It's ripped. It'll take a long time to be fixed. What should I do? Okay, I'll try to fix it so I can use it.

Bishoy starts to fix the puppet. He's determined to make it look nice so he can use it for the play. While he's working on it, Michael enters the room.

Michael: Hey Bishoy, which puppet did you pick?

Bishoy: I chose this one.

Michael: Wow! This puppet was ripped, but you fixed it and made it look like new. Good Job! Bishoy, do you know that you have to have a strong will to be able to change anything in your life?



Bishoy: What do you mean?

Michael: If someone wants to change anything or learn something new, he has to have a strong will.

Bishoy: Really?

Michael: Yes, just like Nicodemus, and what he did with our Lord Jesus. Let me tell you his story...





Nicodemus Meets with our Lord Jesus

(John 3:1-5)

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. The Pharisees considered themselves righteous and the most knowledgeable in the Law of Moses. Many were surprised that our Lord Jesus was able to do all these miracles, and they wondered who He might be.



For Nicodemus, Jesus' personality was also a puzzle. He didn't know with what authority Jesus was doing all these miracles. So one day, he decided to go and meet Him.

Bishoy: Was he able to meet Him?

Michael: Yes, but he went at night, because he didn't want to be seen.

Bishoy: What did Nicodemus do when he met with our Lord Jesus?

Michael: He asked Him about everything that was

confusing him. He told Him, "We know that You are a teacher sent by God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Bishoy: What did Jesus tell Nicodemus?

Michael: Jesus' answer was very strange. It made Nicodemus change his thinking.

Bishoy: Change his thinking? Why, what did He tell him?

Michael: Our Lord Jesus told him: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

Bishoy: This is a very strange answer! What did our Lord Jesus want to teach him?

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Michael: He wanted to teach him something more important than what he was asking, which is, in order to enter the kingdom of God, we have to be born again. But Nicodemus understood something totally different.

Bishoy: What did he understand?

Michael: He understood that to be born again, the person has to re-enter his mother's womb.

Bishoy: Yeah, that's what I understood too. What did our Lord Jesus mean?

Michael: Our Lord meant that the new birth would be of water and the Spirit, not that the person would go in his mother's womb again. That's why He said:



MEMORY VERSE

"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

Bishoy: I'm confused. I understand that the second birth is different than the first birth in which a person is born from his mother. But what is the birth of water and the Spirit?

Michael: Baptism. That's the key to all sacraments. It changes us; it makes us children of God so we can partake in all the sacraments.

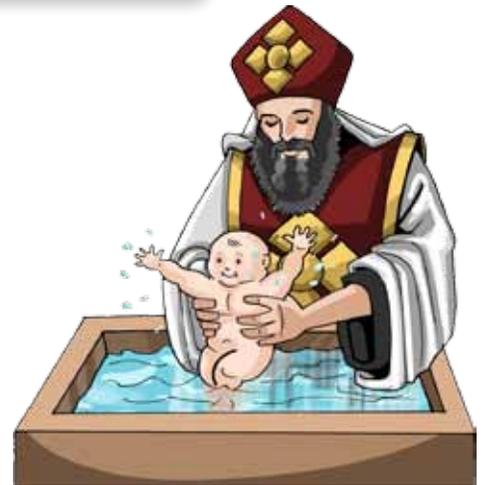
Bishoy: Did Nicodemus change his way of thinking about Jesus after he met with Him?

Michael: Yes, Nicodemus' view of Jesus changed. We know this because he defended our Lord Jesus in front of the Pharisees (John 7:50-52). He also anointed Jesus' body at His burial together with Joseph of Arimathea (John 19:39). He really wanted to achieve what Jesus told him.

Bishoy: That's an amazing story. It taught me that change begins with a strong will. I also learned that without the second birth, I cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

Michael: Exactly! Our Lord Jesus taught us that:

1. **Baptism is mandatory for our salvation. He said "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Mark 16:16**





2. **With baptism, we become children of God. St. Paul said, "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**



3. **Also with baptism, we receive forgiveness of sins.**

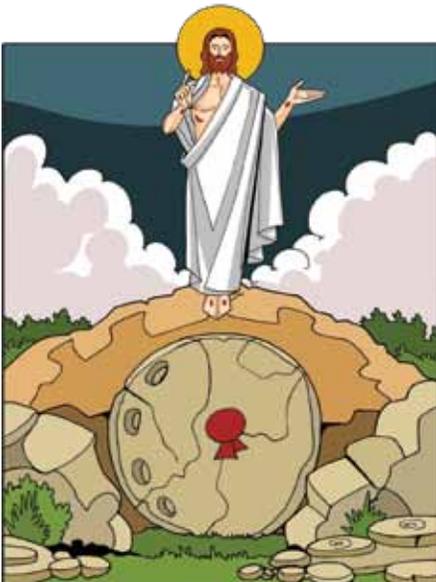
Bishoy: How? Isn't baptism for babies? I know that boys get baptized when they are 40 days old and the girls when they are 80 days old. What sins did they do?

Michael: Well, each person is born with the original sin, the one we inherited from Adam and Eve. This is what brought the sentence of death upon us all. But through God's redemption and His death on the Cross for our salvation, He took the sentence of death away from us and forgave us the original sin. So for us to deserve this redemption and forgiveness, we have to be baptized. St. Peter said in his sermon on the day of the

Pentecost, "Repent and let everyone 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)

Bishoy: Do you mean that when the baby is baptized, he receives a new life?

Michael: That's right! With baptism, we're born again. Our Lord Jesus through His redemption and death on the Cross, renewed our nature and gave us a new life, so when we're baptized, we deserve this salvation and this new life.



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Bishoy: That's why our Lord Jesus told Nicodemus, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God".

Michael: Yes, very good Bishoy. You got it. Let's do a comparison between the first and second birth.

FIRST BIRTH	SECOND BIRTH
Earthly	Heavenly
Of the body	Of the Spirit
From a man and a woman	From God and the Church. Jesus is our new father and the Church is our new mother
Born with the sentence of death that we inherited because of the sin of Adam and Eve	Through baptism, the sentence of death was taken away because our Lord Jesus died for us
Separated from God and couldn't live with Him	Our nature was renewed, and we could live with God and enter His kingdom



FIRST BIRTH



SECOND BIRTH



Jesus and *Nicodemus*



Activity

Number the following events in order from Baptism to Communion



Renouncing Satan



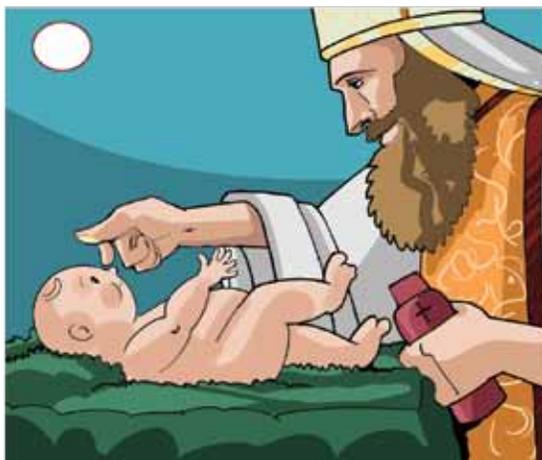
Immersing in water three times



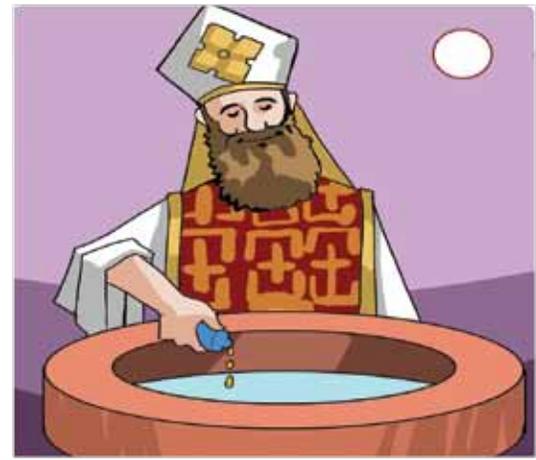
Partaking in the Sacrament of the Eucharist



Church rejoicing over the second birth of the child



Anointing the child 36 times



Sanctifying the water with Holy Myron

WHY SHOULD I CHANGE?

A few weeks later, only 15 days before the final performance, everyone is working hard.

Hannah: What do you think about my puppet?

Phoebe: It doesn't really fit your role. Were there any other puppets?

Hannah: No, I looked everywhere. I don't think I can perform then.

Phoebe: Don't say that! You should trust in God. We should be able to find something.

Raymond: Hannah's right! I still have to fix my puppet, and the group working on the decoration is very busy. We have only 15 days left. What are we going to do?

Phoebe: Guys! Don't lose hope. As long as we do everything with full honesty, God will look at our work and will solve all our problems.



At this point, Michael overhears them and enters the room. He sees how frustrated they are.

Michael: Why are you guys upset?

Hannah: It seems that we won't be able to participate in the competition this year.

Michael: Why? What happened?

Hannah: Nothing is done! We have so much to do and we don't have much time left.

Michael: Don't worry. You should trust in God. He will definitely help us as long as we're serious and sincere in what we're doing.





Hannah: How? I don't have any hope.

Michael: That's not right. Don't despair. If you keep thinking that way, you won't be able to finish your work. I'll go check on the group responsible for the decorations and make sure they finish on time. Don't worry.

Michael leaves the room, and Phoebe starts to encourage her friends to work hard and finish their work.

Phoebe: We have to have faith that God is with us even when the situation seems difficult. Our trust in God will make us feel stronger and He will help us and bless our work just like He blessed Abraham through all his life, because Abraham always trusted God.

Hannah: Abraham?

Phoebe: Come, I'll tell you the story of how he was always successful because he trusted in God's promises.

Abraham the Man of Faith

(Genesis 11-15)

The life of Abraham showed how much he had faith in God's promises. Although he encountered many difficult situations, his faith in God was great.

Hannah: Please tell me more about Abraham's life, so I can learn from his faith.

Phoebe: Abraham was born in a city called Ur of the Chaldeans. This was a very rich and well-known city. Abraham was living there with his father Terah and his brothers. He was married to a woman named Sarah. Abraham's faith in God was shown through his actions, not only his words.

Hannah: How?

Phoebe: Every time God asked Abraham to do something, he did it right away without questioning or delay.

Hannah: Like what?

Phoebe: God chose Abraham to be the father of His own people.

Hannah: Why Abraham? Why did God want to have His own people?



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Phoebe: God called Abraham because he was righteous in the eyes of God. Why did God want to have His own people? I don't know...

Michael enters the room.

Phoebe: Michael is here, let's ask him. Michael, do you remember the story of Abraham? I was telling it to Hannah, but she asked me a question, why did God want to have His own people?



Michael: Well, He wanted His own people for two main reasons. He wanted a faithful nation that believes in God and that would preach God's commandments to the surrounding nations that were living in sin. Secondly, God was preparing a nation from which our Lord Jesus would come to save the whole world from their sins.

Phoebe: Okay, now I understand. Can you please continue the story of Abraham?

Michael: God called Abraham twice. The first time He asked him to leave the city of Ur. Abraham went to the city of Haran with his wife Sarah, his nephew Lot and his father Terah.

Hannah: Wait! He left his rich country to go to a place that he didn't know?

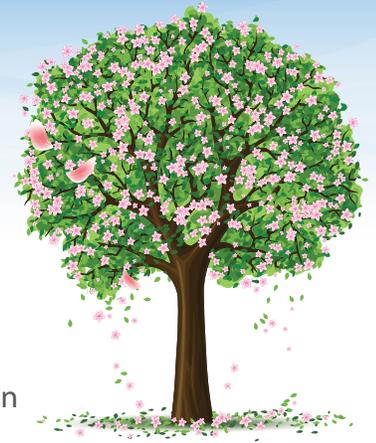
Michael: Yes. He trusted God and that's why he listened to Him. After he spent 15 years in Haran, God called him for the second time. This was after the death of his father Terah. God told Abraham to leave Haran and go to the land that He will show him. God promised Abraham that he will be a great nation and that He will bless him and bless his offspring. Abraham, who was 75 years old at the time, went to land of Canaan with Sarah and Lot. This land is now part of Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan (Genesis 12: 1-9).

Hannah: But he was getting old, and needed to settle down. The move would be okay if he was still young so this couldn't have been easy. What made him move again to a new place that he didn't know?

Phoebe: His faith and trust in God's promise made him change his whole life. When Abraham was in Canaan, God came to him in a vision and told him, "to your descendants I will give this land" and Abraham built an altar to the Lord to thank Him.



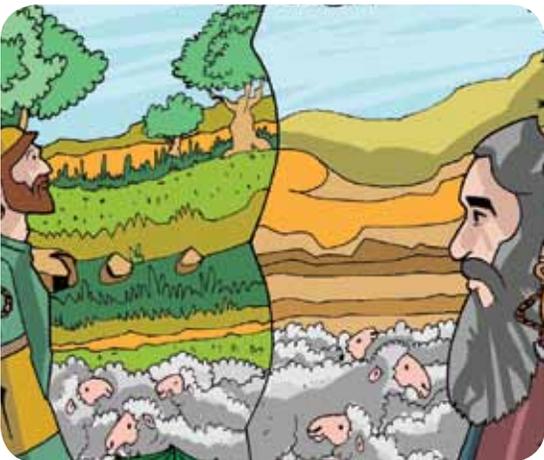
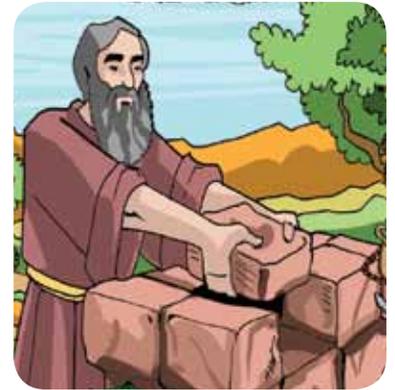
Michael: Abraham stayed in a place called Bethel in Canaan, where he built another altar to the Lord. He pitched his tent and stayed there. But there was a famine in the whole land so Abraham left Canaan and went to Egypt. After a while, he went back and stayed in Bethel. He lived there with Lot, his nephew.



Raymond: You know what part of the story I really like?

Michael: What's that?

Raymond: When there was a conflict between Abraham's shepherds and Lot's shepherds, Abraham tried to make peace because He trusted that God would take care of everything. He told Lot to choose the land that he likes and stay in it, and that he would go to the other side. Because Abraham left the choice in God's hands, God blessed him.



Hannah: How?

Michael: God promised Abraham that the land he sees would be for him and his descendants.

Hannah: Did Abraham have any kids?

Phoebe: No. But once again, Abraham had faith in God, Who promised him many times that his descendants will be as many as the stars in heaven and the sand of the sea.

Hannah: But Abraham was old. How could he believe that he can have kids at such an old age?

Michael: Because he always trusted God's words. That's why the Bible says:

MEMORY VERSE



"And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness" Genesis 15:6

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And you know what? Abraham kept on trusting the Lord until one day, while he was sitting at the door of his tent, three men



visited him. He didn't realize that it was God Himself with two of His angels.

He told him that next year, around the same time, Sarah would have a child and God kept His promise to Abraham.

At this time, Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old.



Hannah: Impossible! How can they have children at such an old age? I'm sure they were very happy that God kept His promise and that they had a child.

Phoebe: With God, nothing is impossible.

Michael: Let's continue. One day, God tested Abraham. He asked him something really strange.

Hannah: What did He ask?

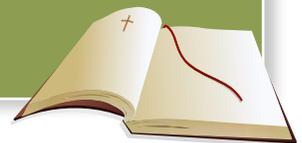
Michael: He asked him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice.

Hannah: Why such a harsh request?

Michael: God is merciful; He knew that Abraham wouldn't fail this test. God permitted this to show Abraham's faith and righteousness to the whole world.

MEMORY VERSE

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac... concluding that God was able to raise him up even from the dead" (Hebrews 11:17-19)



Abraham obeyed God. He took his son Isaac to offer him as a sacrifice. Since God is merciful, he provided a ram to Abraham to offer instead of Isaac, and he heard God telling him "Because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand of the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:16-18). The offering of Isaac is a symbol of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on the Cross for our salvation. Just as God came down to redeem us and to give us a new life, He provided a ram to redeem Isaac and He gave him a new life.

Phoebe: And that's why we call Abraham the man of faith.

Hannah: The story of Abraham is so beautiful. I learned from him why I must change. If I trust in God's promises and have faith, I can change for the better.

After they hear Abraham's story, the kids have hope and start to work very hard.





Moving Day

God led Abraham to a new land - a land of milk and honey. Can you help Abraham find his way through this maze? Use verses from Genesis 12 as a road map to follow.

1

He started his journey from Genesis 12:5.

2

He traveled through Canaan to a great tree of Moreh at Genesis 12:6.



3

He went further and camped in the hills between Genesis 12:8.

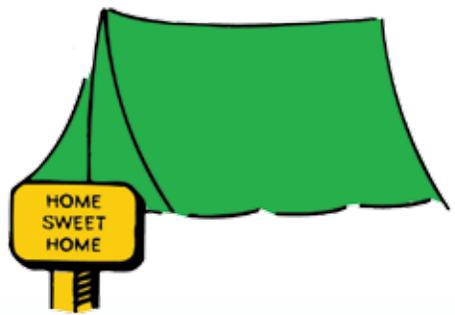


4

Then he traveled to the desert lands of Genesis 12:9.

5

He dreamed of the day he would pitch his tent in the new land God promised.



Activity

God's Promise To Abraham



Because Abraham demonstrated complete trust in God, the Lord restated His promise to Abraham. Complete the math problems to decode what God said to Abraham in Genesis 22:17-18.

A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, E = 5, F = 6, G = 7,
H = 8, I = 9, J = 10, K = 11, L = 12, M = 13,
N = 14, O = 15, P = 16, Q = 17, R = 18,
S = 19, T = 20, U = 21, V = 22,
W = 23, X = 24, Y = 25, Z = 26

"I will surely $\frac{\quad}{5-3}$ $\frac{\quad}{6+6}$ $\frac{\quad}{4+1}$ $\frac{\quad}{10+9}$ $\frac{\quad}{11+8}$ you and
make your $\frac{\quad}{2+2}$ $\frac{\quad}{10-5}$ $\frac{\quad}{10+9}$ $\frac{\quad}{8-5}$ $\frac{\quad}{3+2}$ $\frac{\quad}{7+7}$ $\frac{\quad}{3+1}$ $\frac{\quad}{9-8}$ $\frac{\quad}{7+7}$ $\frac{\quad}{12+8}$ $\frac{\quad}{15+4}$
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will be $\frac{\quad}{1+1}$ $\frac{\quad}{3+9}$ $\frac{\quad}{12-7}$ $\frac{\quad}{5+14}$ $\frac{\quad}{21-2}$ $\frac{\quad}{7-2}$ $\frac{\quad}{12-8}$ because
you have $\frac{\quad}{25-10}$ $\frac{\quad}{9-7}$ $\frac{\quad}{11-6}$ $\frac{\quad}{15+10}$ $\frac{\quad}{2+3}$ $\frac{\quad}{10-6}$ $\frac{\quad}{7+6}$ $\frac{\quad}{1+4}$ "

WHO SHOULD I ASK SO I CAN CHANGE?

The final presentation is in a week. The kids are meeting everyday to practice and prepare everything for the presentation. One day, Raymond comes a little early and goes into the costumes' room. While he's there, Bishoy, Phoebe and Hannah come.

Raymond: Bishoy, what do you think about this costume? I'm not sure what my puppet should wear. Can you please help me?



Bishoy: You came to the right person. I think this costume is better.

Phoebe: No, Raymond's puppet has the role of a king. It can't just wear a shirt and pants!

Bishoy: Yes it can! Let's be creative. His puppet has to be distinct.

Phoebe: What are you talking about? Raymond, let's wait for Michael and ask him. He'll tell you what to do.

Bishoy: Listen to me. I'm the most creative one here. My advice will be the best for sure.

Phoebe: Don't listen to him. Michael is older than us and has more experience. Certainly his advice will be best.

But Raymond listens to Bishoy and doesn't wait to ask Michael.

Bishoy: Raymond, this is perfect! Very nice! Very creative!

Raymond: Yeah! The puppet looks great! Let's see how our friends are doing.

Bishoy and Raymond leave their puppets and go to check up on their friends. Suddenly, Bishoy's puppet, Semsem, comes to life and starts to complain to the other puppets.

Be Transformed



Semsem: What is this costume that I'm wearing? It's ugly. I'm supposed to play the role of a king. Why should I wear such a strange costume?

Papa: What's wrong Semsem? Why are you upset? What is this? Who dressed you like this?

Semsem: See Papa! See how Raymond dressed me? I'm playing the role of the king, why should I be wearing this?

Papa: Who told him to do this?

Semsem: He asked his friend Bishoy. I wish he had listened to Phoebe and waited for Michael. Michael would have told him the right thing to do and I would've been wearing something more suitable.

Papa: Don't worry Semsem. I'm sure when Michael comes, he'll change your costume and give Raymond the costume that matches your role. What Raymond and Bishoy did reminds me of a story that we played last year.

Semsem: What story? I wasn't part of the group last year.

Papa: It's the story of someone who went to take the advice of his friends and didn't listen to the older people who were more experienced. Let's play it for you. Do you all agree?

All the puppets: Of course!

Papa: Does everyone remember his role in the play? Let's start... 1,2,3 action...



Rehoboam Asks for Advice

(1 Kings 12: 1-16)

After the death of Solomon the son of David, Rehoboam his son reigned in his place. Look Semsem, all the people are coming to crown him. They all went to Shechem to make him king. After they crowned Rehoboam over the whole kingdom of Israel, a man named Jeroboam, who had a dispute with King Solomon, came with everyone to the king with a request.



Be Transformed



father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.

Rehoboam: Depart for three days, then come back to me. I'll let you know my decision.

Papa: Rehoboam went to consult the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he was alive.

Three puppets dressed as ministers come and stand in front of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam: I know that you were with my father and you saw how he dealt with the people. Now the people want to know how I'll treat them. How do you advise me to answer the people? Should I treat them like my father or lighten their burden?

Elder: If you'll be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.

Papa: Unfortunately, Rehoboam rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, just like Raymond did.

Three puppets dressed as youth, come and stand in front of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam: What advice do you give? How should we answer the people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?

Young man: You should tell them "my father chastised you with whips, but I'll chastise you with scourges".



Papa: They meant that he'll be tougher than Solomon his father. They thought that if Rehoboam gives them this answer, the people will be scared of him. When the people came back to Rehoboam after three days, he answered them aggressively. He rejected the advice of the elders and spoke to them according to the advice of his friends. This made the people angry.



A group of puppets: What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse.

Papa: All the people who didn't like Rehoboam's answer, followed Jeroboam. They split the kingdom, and formed the Northern kingdom, the "Kingdom of Israel". It was formed of ten tribes and they made Jeroboam king over it. The rest of the people, who were from the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin remained in the south and formed the Southern kingdom, the "Kingdom of Judah" and Rehoboam was their king. The end.



Semsem: Good Job! It's a beautiful play.

Papa: As you can see, if we need advice, we have to ask people who are older than us and have more experience. If Rehoboam had listened to the elders, the kingdom would have not been divided.

Semsem: You're right Papa. Oh look over there! It's Michael talking to Bishoy and Raymond.

Papa: That's right! He's asking Raymond to change your costume. He's telling him that he should ask older people when there's something that he doesn't know. He taught him a beautiful verse too.

MEMORY VERSE

"Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel." Exodus 18:19



Semsem: Papa, I'm so happy!

Papa: Me too. I'm happy to see that Raymond is listening to Michael and learned to ask older people for advice.





Seeking Advice

Rehoboam

FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

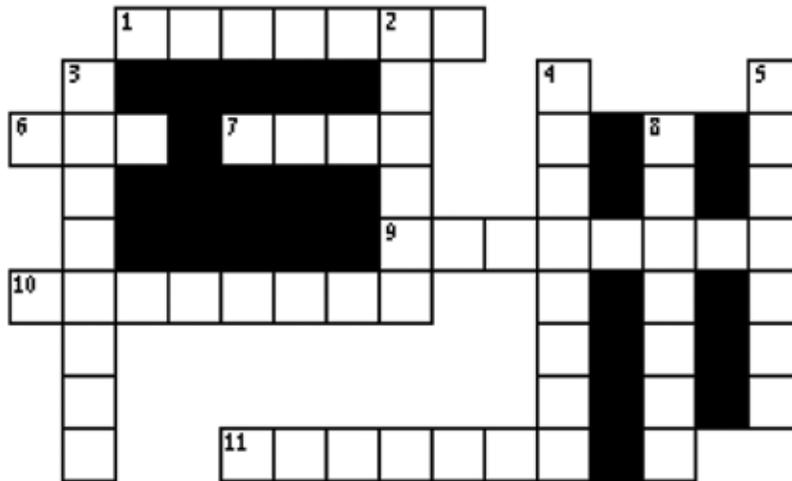
- REHOBOAM
- ELDERS
- WISE
- KING
- FRIENDS
- REBELLED
- ADVICE
- REJECT
- HUMBLED
- CONSTANT
- FAITHFUL
- EXAMPLE
- DECISIONS
- JEROBOAM

WORD SEARCH

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



The Divided Kingdom



- 1 ACROSS "Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor; and Solomon , seeing that the young man was industrious, made him the _____ over all the labor force of the house of Joseph." **1 KINGS 11:28**
- 8 DOWN "Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the _____ Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way." **1 KINGS 11:29**
- 5 DOWN "Then Ahijah took hold of the new _____ that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces." **1 KINGS 11:30**
- 6 ACROSS "And he said to Jeroboam, 'Take for yourself _____ pieces.'" **1 KINGS 11:31**
- 11 ACROSS The LORD said, "I will take the _____ out of his son's hand and give it to you- ten tribes." **1 KINGS 11:36**
- 9 ACROSS "Now _____ went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king." **1 KINGS 12:1**
- 4 DOWN "Then _____ and the whole congregation of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam." **1 KINGS 12:3-4**
- 2 DOWN "King Rehoboam consulted the _____, who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived." **1 KINGS 12:6**
- 3 DOWN "But he _____ the counsel which the elders gave him." **1 KINGS 12:8**
- 10 ACROSS So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam "and he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, 'My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with _____!'" **1 KINGS 12:14**
- 7 ACROSS "For the turn of affairs was from the _____, that He might fulfill His word." **1 KINGS 12:15**



HOW DO I CHANGE?

Our friends dress their puppets with appropriate costumes. They want to start the practice but Joseph is missing.

Raymond: Where is Joseph? When I left him, he was still picking out a costume for his puppet. We can't start without him. Where did he go? We're late!

Phoebe: Maybe he's fixing his puppet.

Raymond: I'll go look for him.

Raymond goes to look for Joseph. He finds him sleeping next to the closet with his puppet in his hands.

Raymond: Joseph, what's wrong with you? You're here sleeping while we're waiting for you? Let's go, we can't start practice without you.



Joseph: Sorry, I slept because I didn't know what to do. My puppet is ripped and it needs to be fixed. I won't be able to use it for the presentation.

Raymond: Did you try to fix it?

Joseph: Fix what? If I fix it, Michael might not like it and I would have worked for nothing. That's why I decided to leave it the way it is and sleep until Michael comes. He can fix it for me. Anyway, my role is really small and not that important.

Raymond: How come? Every role, no matter how small it might be, is still important. We couldn't start our practice without you, doesn't that mean that your role is important?

Raymond and Joseph hear Michael calling all the kids for the practice. They all run to show Michael their puppets. Michael is very pleased with all their work. But when he sees Joseph's puppet...



Be Transformed



Michael: Joseph, your puppet's ripped, how can you work with it? Why didn't you fix it?

Joseph: To be honest, I was afraid you wouldn't like it if I fixed it. That's why I left it and I thought that when you come, you could do whatever you want with it instead of me working for nothing. It's not even worth the effort, because my role is so small.



Michael: Joseph that's wrong. Since you weren't honest with the work I gave you, I'll take your puppet and give it to someone else.

Joseph starts to cry and apologizes. All the kids go to Michael and ask him not to be upset with Joseph.

Joseph: I was really upset that you gave me a small role and I felt I wasn't as important as my friends, that's why I didn't bother.

Michael: I couldn't give you a bigger role than what you can handle. Even if your role is small, it doesn't mean that you shouldn't do it. The most important thing is to be faithful and do your best. I would have been very happy if you tried to fix your puppet. I would have helped you and taught you how to fix it, but what you did wasn't very honest. You remind me of the man who got one talent, and instead of working with it, he buried it.



Joseph: What does talent mean?

Hannah: What did that man do?

Michael: A talent is a gift that God gives each one of us. He asks us to use it, be faithful with it, and make it grow. No one can say he has no talents because God gave different talents to each one of us. Let's open the Bible and learn about the story of the talents.





The Parable of the Talents

(Matthew 25:14-30)

Jesus told this parable to His disciples to teach them how to be ready for His Kingdom. A man was travelling to a far country but before he left, he called his servants. To one he gave five talents, to another he gave two talents and to the last he gave one. The talent was about 10,000 Denarius, and the Denarius was the wage of a worker for one day (Matthew 20:2).



Joseph: Oh! That's a lot of money, but why didn't he give them all the same amount?

Michael: He gave each one according to his own ability, because he knows what each one can handle. For example,

would your father ask you to drive his car or would he ask your older brother? He knows that you're still young and you can't drive so he asks your older brother. Does that mean that he likes your older brother more?

Joseph: No, you're right, I understand.



Michael: After he gave each of them their talents, he went on his journey. The first servant worked hard with the five talents he had and made another five talents. Likewise, the servant who had received two talents gained two more.

Hannah: How about the last servant who received only one talent?

Michael: He went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Even though he didn't lose it, he didn't make any use of it. After a long time, the master came and called his servants to see how they did.

Phoebe: He must have been pleased with the first two servants who both worked hard and gained more talents.

Hannah: But was he happier with the first servant because he gained more talents?

Michael: No, in fact, the master gave them both the same reward, and told them...



MEMORY VERSE

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’” Matthew 25:21



The most important thing was that each one was faithful with what he got.

That’s why he praised them both. For example, if someone has many talents like acting, singing and drawing and another person has the talent of creative writing, and both work hard in using their talents, then their reward will be the same since they are...

All: Faithful with their talents.

Michael: Very good. But remember, those who have lots of talents shouldn’t be proud because since God gave them so many talents, He will ask them what they did with each one. And the ones who have fewer talents shouldn’t be upset, because if they make good use of their talents, they will get the same reward.

Joseph: What happened to the servant who didn’t use his talent?

Michael: His master was very upset. He took his talent and gave it to the one who had the most talents, because he was faithful.

Joseph: I was wrong in thinking that since my role is small, I shouldn’t put any effort. If I had done my job, you would have rewarded me exactly like my friends. I’m sorry Michael; I learned my lesson. It doesn’t matter how small your talent is, because God gives each one according to his own ability. The most important thing is to be faithful and use it well.





Be Transformed



Michael: Very good Joseph! I want you to understand from this parable that:

1. The master is our Lord Jesus Christ
2. The servants are each one of us
3. The Talents represent the different talents, responsibilities and skills that God gave us.
4. Different talents include:
 - **Personal talents:** drawing, playing music, singing, playing sports, reading.
 - **Time:** It is a talent that God gave all of us equally. We have 24 hours every day, so we must be organized with our time and set time to study, time to play, time to spend with friends and family, and most importantly time to spend with God.
 - **Our body:** It is a talent that we have to take care of.

What talent did God give you? Let's think about the talents we have, so we can make good use of them. Anyway, the practice is over for today. See you tomorrow at five. Everyone, go put your puppet in the closet and tomorrow we'll continue our practice.

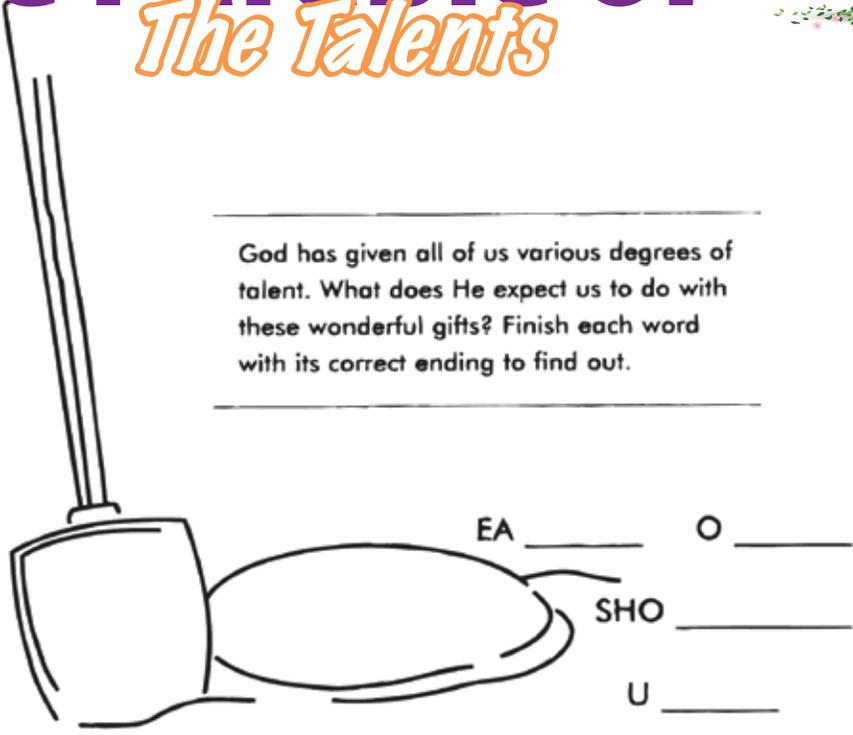
Activity



The Parable of *The Talents*

God has given all of us various degrees of talent. What does He expect us to do with these wonderful gifts? Finish each word with its correct ending to find out.

- AS
- ACE
- HERS
- SE
- D'S
- TS
- NE
- IOUS
- N
- FT
- RVE
- RMS
- EIVED
- EVER
- FULLY
- ULD
- E
- TERING
- CH
- O



EA _____ O _____

SHO _____

U _____

WHAT _____ GI _____

H _____ H _____ REC _____

T _____ SE _____ OT _____,

FAITH _____

ADMINIS _____

GO _____ GR _____ I _____

I _____ VAR _____ FO _____.

(1 Peter 4:10)



Use Your Talents



Don't bury your _____.

MERTSA

Grid for MERTSA: 6 boxes, with '1' below the 5th box.

GNAIED

Grid for GNAIED: 6 boxes, with '4' below the 4th box.

NEOMY

Grid for NEOMY: 5 boxes, with '5' below the 3rd box.

TSRVNEA

Grid for TSRVNEA: 7 boxes, with '2' below the 4th box and '6' below the 7th box.

AZLY

Grid for AZLY: 4 boxes, with '3' below the 1st box.

ANSWER:

Grid for ANSWER: 6 boxes, with numbers 1 through 6 below each box.

Unscramble the words then use the numbers to find the answer



HOW CAN I CHANGE OTHERS?

Everyone puts their puppet in the closet and leaves except for Phoebe.

Phoebe: This room is a mess! It needs to be cleaned and organized! Everyone left their stuff everywhere, but I can't clean all this alone. What should I do?

Michael enters the room and sees Phoebe talking to herself.

Michael: What's the matter Phoebe? Why are you here by yourself?

Phoebe: This room is so messy. I want to clean it but I don't think I can do it all by myself. It will take too long.



Michael: Let's start and when they see us working, they'll come and help us.

Phoebe: I'm really disappointed that my friends left the room this messy. They were supposed to stay with me so we can work together and leave together. We would have finished a lot faster.

Michael: You know Phoebe, the best way to change someone is to lead by example. When people see the change in your behaviour, they will also change. It's better to teach others through actions rather than words. The Bible teaches us:

MEMORY VERSE

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12





Phoebe: How can I teach someone with my actions?

Michael: Let's start cleaning this room and while we're working, I'll tell you the story of someone who changed people's lives by his actions.

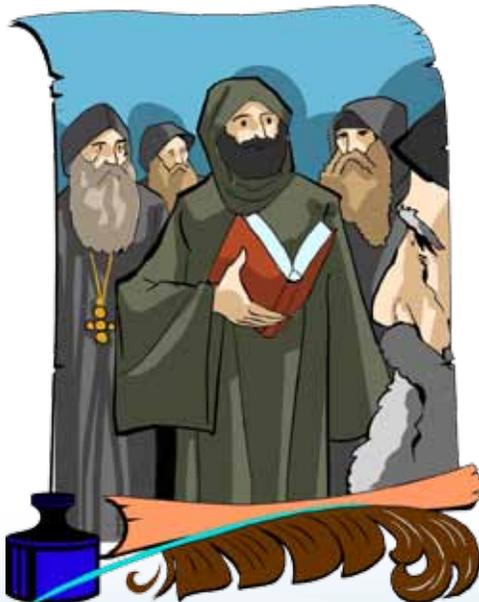
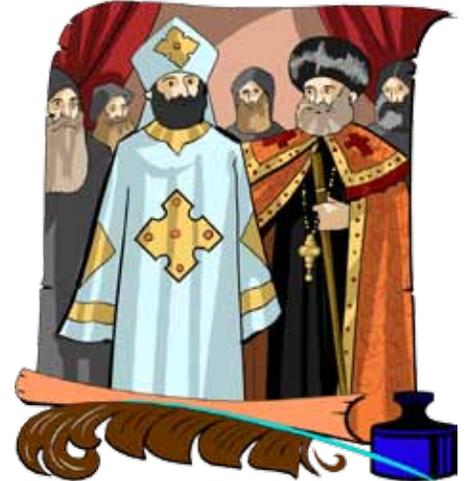
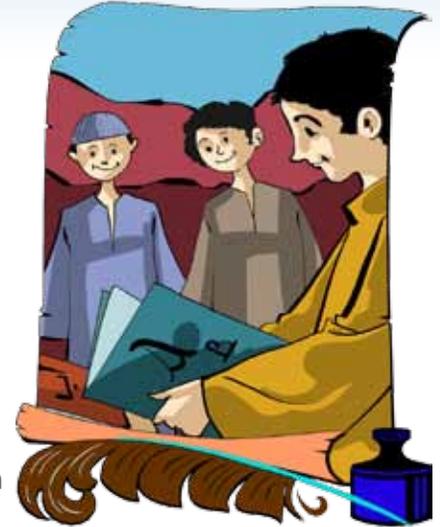
Pope Kyrollos IV the 110th Patriarch

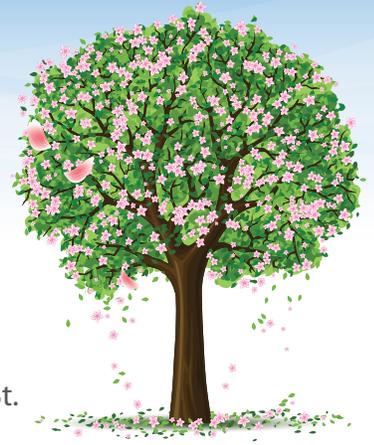
Pope Kyrollos IV had a very strong impact on our Coptic history. He was born in a small city called Ekhmeem. When he was a little boy, he learned Arabic and Coptic. He liked the monastic life, and when he was 22 years old, he went to the Monastery of St. Anthony. He was ordained as a monk by the name of David. He liked reading and studying the Bible and he would sit with the other monks and explain it to them. When Pope Peter VII (El Gawly, the 109th pope) heard about his righteousness, he ordained him as a priest.

When the abbot of the monastery departed, all the monks chose him to become the abbot of the monastery.

He started to do some changes and set new rules for the monastery, giving special attention to the education of the monks. He organized workshops for different religious, historical and poetical topics. He also made a class for the kids of the villages around the monastery to teach them Arabic and Coptic. Through his own actions, he was able to change his brothers the monks and the people in the surrounding area.

After the departure of Pope Peter El-Gawly, father David was ordained General Metropolitan because he loved and served everyone. Once again, he gave special attention to education and wanted to





change the education system in Egypt from single classes to schools. He built a Coptic School that had students from all religions. In the year 1854, he was ordained as the 110th Pope of the See of St. Mark under the name of Pope Kyrollos IV.

After his ordination, Pope Kyrollos IV was concerned about everyone in Egypt, and wanted them to change for the better. Here are some of the things he changed:

1- He completed the building of a second school. He offered the students all means of education free of charge so education became affordable to everyone, not only to the rich.



2- He instituted 12 schools in total, of which two were for girls. Thus, Pope Kyrollos IV was the first one to institute schools for girls. He was successful in introducing the idea of equality between man and woman in work and education.

3- Pope Kyrollos IV realized the need of a print shop to print schoolbooks and Christian books for the Church instead of the handwritten

ones. He bought a printer from Italy. This was the second print shop in Egypt.

4- He gave special attention to the building of new Churches and the reconstruction of the old ones.

5- He also played an important role in the reconciliation between Egypt and Ethiopia at that time. He went to Ethiopia and negotiated with their king. He was successful in his mission, and the Church actively participated in what was good and profitable for Egypt.





That's why he was called
"The Father of Reform". He
died at the age of 46.

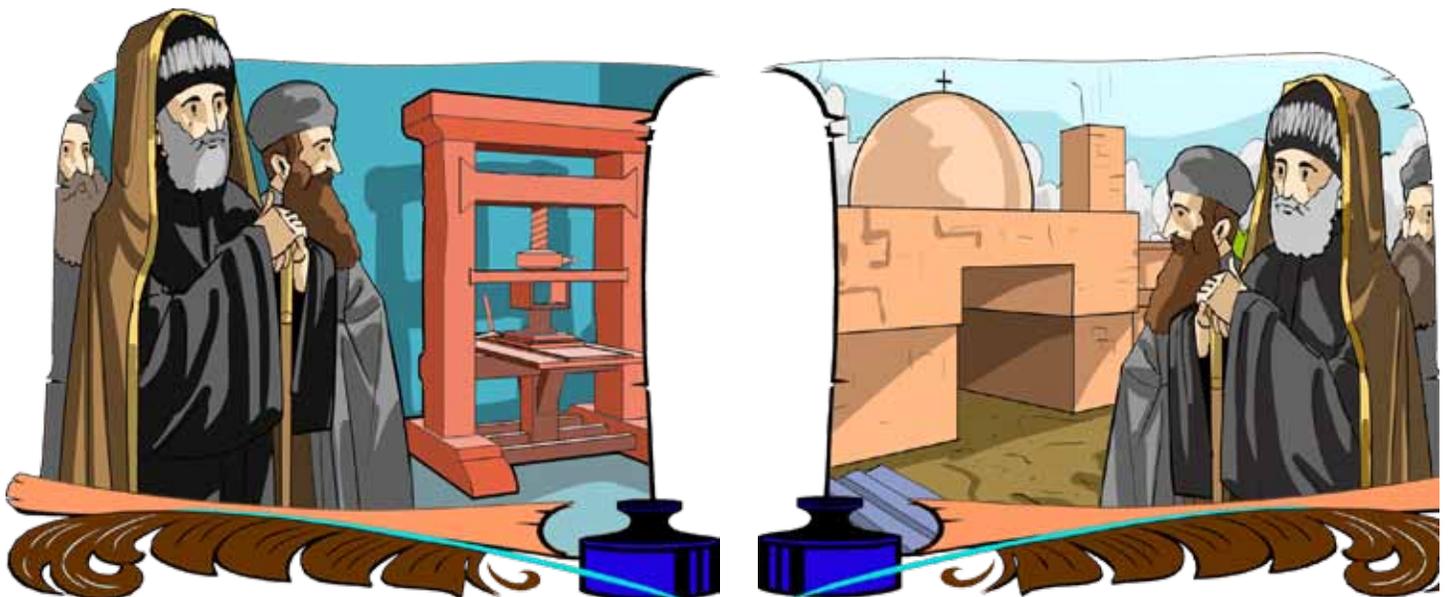
After Michael finishes the story of Pope Kyrollos IV, Raymond, Hannah, Bishoy and Joseph come. When they find them cleaning the floor, they help out until the room is clean. Michael and Phoebe are able to change their friends' actions by their example. Finally the day of the presentation comes and everyone is ready. They present their play, and the judges like it. During the awards ceremony, as they wait to receive their medals, they start discussing what they learned from their experiences.



Bishoy: I learned that if I want to change I have to have a strong will, like Nicodemus. He wanted to change a thought that he had and to learn something new.

Hannah: I learned that trusting in God's words and promises can change my whole life like the story of Abraham and how his faith changed his life.

Raymond: I learned that to change, I need to take someone's advice. I have to choose the right person, one who has experience so I can get the right advice, not like Rehoboam who got the wrong advice.



Be Transformed



Joseph: I learned that I can change by knowing my talents and using them, not like the servant who had the one talent.

Phoebe: I learned that through my good deeds and behaviour, I can change others just as Pope Kyrollos IV changed the people around him.

Finally, Michael stands and thanks all the kids for their faithful and hard work. He is proud that they are able to follow the verse

MEMORY VERSE

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” Romans 12:2





I. Litanies – Prime Prayer

O true light, that enlightens every man that comes in the world, You have come into the world through Your love for mankind. All creation has rejoiced in Your coming, You have saved our father Adam from the deception and delivered our mother Eve from the pangs of death, You have given us the spirit of son-ship. We, therefore praise and bless you saying:

Zoksapatri ke Eiyou ke agi you epnevmaty.

(Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit)

When the morning hour dawned upon us, O Christ Our God, the true light, let the enlightened senses and bright light shine within us, and do not let the darkness of pains overcome us. That we may praise You with understanding, with David saying: “My eyes have awoken before the morning hour, that I may meditate on Your sayings” Hear our cries according to Your great mercy and deliver us O Lord our God, through Your compassions.

Kenin kea a-ee Ke-ic-touce e-on-ace ton e-nonton e-onon. Amen

(Both now and forever and unto the age of all ages. Amen)

You are the honoured Mother of the Light. From the rising of the sun to its setting, they offer unto you glorification, O Mother of God (Theotokos), the second heaven, for you are the bright and unchanging flower, and the Ever-virgin Mother, for the Father chose you, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed you, and the Son took flesh from you. Therefore, ask Him to grant salvation to the world which He has created, and deliver it from tribulations. Let us praise Him with a new song and bless Him. Both now and forever and unto the age of all ages. Amen

II. Verses that support the sacrament of the Eucharist

1- Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of Eucharist:

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying “This is My body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of Me” Luke 22:19

Be Transformed



2- Getting ready for communion:

- Repentance: "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup." 1 Corinthians 11:28
- Reconciliation with others: "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24

3- Abide in Christ as His truthful promise:

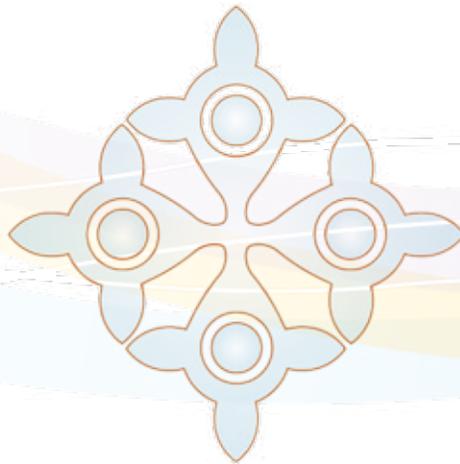
"He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him" John 6:56

4- Give unity of heart and soul to all those who partake of the Eucharist:

"For we though many, are one bread and one body: for all partake of that one bread" 1 Corinthians 10:17

5- A promise of eternal life as our Lord said:

"Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" John 6:54



Activities



Hymns & Tasbeha

Coptic Language

Drama & Mime

Arts

Creative Writing



Sports

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