

## **FORM TWO**

**GOD MEETS US IN JESUS CHRIST**

**ST. LUKES GOSPEL**

### **OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH**

- The word Messiah comes from the Hebrew word ‘Meshach’ meaning ‘anointed one’.
- A Messiah is someone called, anointed and appointed by God to serve Him in a specific way.
- In the Old Testament, there were many Messianic prophesies that talked about the coming of a Messiah.
- A prophecy refers to a ‘prediction’ of what is to happen in future.
- The Messianic prophesies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

**NATHAN'S PROPHECY TO KING DAVID**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sam 7:3 – 17*

Nathan prophesied that the Messiah would;

- i. Be a descendant of King David.
- ii. Establish an everlasting Kingdom.
- iii. Rule over Israel forever.
- iv. Deliver Israel from her political enemies.
- v. Always be supported by God.
- vi. Be a great king whose kingdom will be kept strong.

## **ISAIAH'S PROPHECY ABOUT THE MESSIAH**

***Isaiah 7:10 – 16; 9:1 – 7; 53; 61:1 – 2***

- (i) The Messiah would be David's descendant/rule on David's throne.
- (ii) He would rule forever.
- (iii) He would be rejected and despised by many/ a man of sorrow/ suffering servant/ he would be treated harshly/ arrested and sentenced to death and executed in a shameful way. (Isaiah 53).
- (iv) He would be born of a young woman/virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
- (v) Messianic reign/rule would bring happiness/ joy to the Israelites.
- (vi) He would be wounded for people's transgressions/ would suffer for human sin. (Isaiah 53:5).
- (vii) Peace/prosperity would prevail during the Messianic reign (Isaiah 9:7).
- (viii) He would be called: (Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14);
  - Wonderful counselor.
  - Mighty God.
  - Everlasting father.
  - Prince of peace.
  - Anointed of God.
  - Immanuel.
- (ix) He would rule with Justice and righteousness (Isaiah 9:7).
- (x) He would have characteristics of 'Normal' human being/child. (Isaiah 53:2).
- (xi) His suffering would be through God's will/ it would be initiated by God. (Isaiah 53:10).
  - Isaiah 61:1 – 2 refers to the Messiah's character i.e.
    - (a) Filled with Holy Spirit.
    - (b) He has been anointed by God.
    - (c) Been sent to bring the good news to the poor.
    - (d) Been sent to bind up the broken hearted /bring freedom to the captives.
    - (e) Come to proclaim the year of favour from God.

## **JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY ABOUT THE MESSIAH**

### ***Jeremiah 23:5 – 6***

That God would raise David's descendant.

This king would:

- (i) Rule wisely.
- (ii) Advocate justice and righteousness.
- (iii) Save Judah from her enemies and ensure that the Israelites lived securely.
- (iv) Would be called 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

## **MICAH'S PROPHECY ABOUT THE MESSIAH**

### ***Micah 5:1- 5***

Micah the prophet predicted that:

- (i) He would be David's descendant.
- (ii) He would be born in Bethlehem; David's city.
- (iii) He would lead his people with authority and strength of God.
- (iv) He would bring the Israelites peace to fulfill God's promise to King David.

## **THE PSALMIST'S PROPHECY**

### ***Psalms 41:9, 110:1 – 2***

- i. The Messiah would be betrayed by his close associate which was fulfilled by Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.
- ii. He would rule from Zion.
- iii. He would be honored by God and rule as His representative on earth.
- iv. The messiah would enjoy God's protection and victory over his enemies.

## **THE CONCEPT OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT**

***Isaiah 53, 61:1-2***

Isaiah presents the servant of Yahweh as follows:

- (i) The servant will succeed in his work and will be highly honored.
- (ii) This success and honour will surprise many who have witnessed his suffering.
- (iii) The servant is despised, rejected and ignored by those who are with him.
- (iv) He has nothing attractive, very odd, ordinary and simple.
- (v) He is harshly treated, arrested and sentenced to death and killed.
- (vi) His body will be buried with bodies of rich men.
- (vii) He endures all done to him in humble silence.
- (viii) He accepts the sufferings which should have been received by others for their sins. ‘He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities.
- (ix) Through his suffering human beings are reconciled to God.
- (x) It was God’s will that the servant would suffer.
- (xi) His death is a sacrifice to bring forgiveness of sins.

## **THE CONCEPT OF THE MESSIAH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**Luke 1:26 – 38, 2:1 – 23, 23:1 – 35, 24:50 – 51**

‘Messiah’ is a Hebrew word meaning the ‘anointed one’.

In Greek it is Khristos.

***Jewish expectations of the Messiah were as follows:***

- (i) He would be a ruler from David’s line who would conquer and overthrow the Roman rule.

- (ii) He would be stationed in Jerusalem and other nations of the world would pay homage to him/appear in Jerusalem full of glory.
- (iii) He would be a perfect ruler through whom they would receive God's blessings, joy and peace. No more suffering and death.
- (iv) He would bring judgment to all the enemies of Israel.
- (v) He would be a ruler without sin and would not associate with the poor, sinners and non-Jews/gentiles.
- (vi) The Messiah would strictly follow the Law of Moses/ uphold Mosaic Law.
- (vii) He would conquer the enemies of Israel as a military ruler.
- (viii) He would avenge Israelite enemies.
- (ix) He would be born in a royal family.
- (x) He would lead Israel into economic/political prosperity.
- (xi) He would come after the return of Elijah.
- (xii) He would perform miracles and mighty deeds.

There are several references in the New Testament which show how Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah's coming. These are;

1. Luke 1:26 – 27: Old Testament prophesies that Jesus Christ would be born in David's lineage is confirmed when angel Gabriell was sent from God to a young woman i.e. Mary, Joseph's fiancée. Joseph came from David's lineage.
2. Luke 1:32: Nathan's prophecy that God would make David's descendant rule over Israel forever is affirmed by angel Gabriel during the annunciation. The angel said, '.....the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David and will reign over the house of Jacob forever.'
3. Isaiah's prophecy of the virgin conception in Isaiah 7:14 is fulfilled in angel Gabriel's message to Mary that she was going to conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit, Luke 1:35.
4. Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah would be named Immanuel in Isaiah 7:14 is fulfilled in Angel Gabriel's message to Joseph that Mary's son would be called Immanuel.

5. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the small town of Judah which was also the birth place of King David (Luke 2:5). This was in fulfillment of Micah's prophecy Micah 5:1 about a ruler of Israel whom God would raise up from the town of Bethlehem.
6. Jesus was hailed as the Messiah descended from David by the blind beggar of Jericho who shouted 'Jesus son of David! Take pity on me.' Luke 18:38. This was a fulfillment of Nathan's prophecy that was echoed by Jeremiah that the Messiah would come from David's family (2<sup>nd</sup> James 7:12 – 13, Jeremiah 23:5-6).
7. Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah who would bring salvation to the whole world (Isaiah 42:6, 46:13, 52:10) is echoed in Simeon's prophecy in the temple in reference to baby Jesus (Luke 2:29 – 32)
8. When Jesus taught in the synagogue in Nazareth at the beginning of his ministry, he quoted from Isaiah 61:12 to affirm that he was the messiah that Isaiah had talked about Luke 4:18 – 19.
9. Isaiah's prophecy about the messiah who would work miracles Isaiah 29:19, 35:56, 61:1 was fulfilled when Jesus turned water into wine at Cana in Galilee, raised the dead, cast out evil spirits and carried out a number of healing miracles. Through these miracles, Jesus was showing that the Messianic age had come.
10. Isaiah's prophecy of a suffering servant in chapter 53 is fulfilled through the passion and death of Jesus.

#### ***How Jesus suffered humiliation as a suffering servant***

- (i) He bore human sins.
- (ii) He delivered humanity by dying on the cross.
- (iii) He submissively bore suffering and disgrace.
- (iv) He was despised and rejected.
- (v) He was mocked and spat on.
- (vi) He was pierced and wounded in the sides.
- (vii) He was crucified with thieves.
- (viii) He was buried in a rich man's tomb.
- (ix) Through him God's everlasting kingdom was established.

- (x) He was innocent of sin and yet treated as a criminal.
- (xi) Through Jesus' wounds, many have been forgiven their sins as Isaiah put it '.....with his stripes we are healed.' Isaiah 53:

## **THE ROLE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

*Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; Luke 7:20-35.*

- John the Baptist was the link between Old Testament and New Testament.
- He prepared people for the Messiah's coming by asking them to repent and be baptized. He baptized people in the Jordan.
- John held a prophetic ministry and it is believed he had the power and spirit of ElijahLuke 1:16 – 17.
- He had similar characteristics of Elijah e.g. he lived an austere life of fasting and praying, ate honey and locusts and wore camel skins.
- He preached to the people about Jesus, Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world John 1:29.
- He introduced Jesus Christ to the people of Israel as the Messiah.
- John the Baptist baptized Jesus Christ. God revealed that Jesus was his son through the descent of the Holy Spirit and proclamation by his voice.
- John the Baptist condemned evils that were being carried out in Israel by Herod.
- He condemned the Pharisees for hypocrisy and the pagan Roman authority.
- John the Baptist broke the prophetic silence that had lasted over 400 years between Malachi and himself.
- He ushered people to the Messianic age.

Jesus referred to John as the greatest of all the Israelite prophets (Luke 7:20 – 25).

- He foretold that the coming Messiah was greater than him.

*Challenges John the Baptist faced during his ministry*

- (i) Preached in the wilderness.
- (ii) He was imprisoned for challenging Herod's behavior.
- (iii) Lived on locusts and honey in the wilderness.
- (iv) He led a solitary life.
- (v) He was beheaded.
- (vi) He was misunderstood to be the Messiah. Luke 3:15
- (vii) Rebuking Herod the tetrarch because of marrying Herodias, his brother's wife and other evils he had committed.
- (viii) Had a challenge in identifying Jesus as the Messiah. Luke 7:19 – 20
- (ix) Pharisees and tax collectors rejected the baptism of John / they hadn't been baptized by John the Baptist. Luke 7:30
- (x) He was falsely accused of /considered being demon possessed. Luke 7:33.

## **THE INFANCY AND EARLY LIFE OF JESUS**

### **THE ANNUNCIATION**

#### **Luke 1:5-56**

The annunciation is divided into two, i.e.

- (i) Annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist.
- (ii) Annunciation of the birth of Jesus Christ.

***Birth of John the Baptist is announced.***

### **Luke 1:5-25**

- In the time of Herod king of Judea, there lived a priest called Zechariah from the priestly family of Abijah.
- His wife was called Elizabeth.
- Both were righteous people but were childless and were already advanced in age.
- Zachariah was one day in the temple where he was offering on behalf of the people of God.
- An angel of the Lord appeared to him and stood on the right side of the altar.
- Zachariah was afraid, but the angel reassured him.
- The angel told Zachariah that God had heard his prayer and his wife, Elizabeth would bear a son.
- The angel then revealed the following about John;
  - i. He would be a source of joy to the parents.
  - ii. Many people would rejoice at his birth.
  - iii. He would be great at the sight of the Lord.
  - iv. He was not to take strong drink/ wine/ Nazirite.
  - v. He was to be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb
  - vi. Many Israelites would turn to God through him.
  - vii. He would have the spirit/ power of Elijah.
  - viii. He was to prepare the people for the Lord/ call people to repentance.
  - ix. He would turn the fathers' hearts to children/ bring reconciliation.
- Zachariah expressed doubts regarding the angel's message asking for proof since he and his wife were old.
- Zachariah was punished for disbelieving the angel's message/ the angel told him that he would be dumb until the day of John's birth.

- The congregation outside was wondering why Zachariah was taking too long in the temple.
- When he finally came out and could not speak to them, they realized that something divine must have happened to him in the temple.
- Zachariah made signs to them and went home

***Lessons Christians learn from the annunciation of the Birth of John the Baptist.***

- i. Christians should not doubt God's message.
- ii. Should be persistent, faithful and patient in prayer
- iii. Couples should be devoted to God.
- iv. Christians should call people to repentance as the mission of John the Baptist would be.

***Lessons Christians learn from the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth***

- i. Christians should be righteous/ upright/ blameless.
- ii. They should obey God's commandments / instructions.
- iii. They should persevere/ be patient.
- iv. They should serve God faithfully/ with commitment.
- v. They should be Prayerful.
- vi. They should depend on God/ ask God for their needs/ have faith in God.
- vii. They should believe God's word.
- viii. They should thank God for His blessings.
- ix. They should praise/ worship the Lord.
- x. They should desire to be led by the Holy Spirit.

## **THE ANNUNCIATION OF JESUS CHRIST'S BIRTH**

### **Luke 1:26-38**

- In the 6<sup>th</sup> month, angel Gabriel was sent by God to a young virgin called Mary from the village of Nazareth.
- Mary was engaged to Joseph, a descendant of King David.
- After the angel greeted her he told her that she was highly favoured and the Lord was with her.
- This greeting troubled Mary.
- The angel told her she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit in her womb and bear a son who would be called Jesus.
- Mary humbly consented to God's plan.
- The angel announced that the child would be:
  - i. He will be great and will be called the son of the most high.
  - ii. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.
  - iii. And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever.
  - iv. And of his kingdom there will be no end.
  - v. The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the most high will overshadow you.
  - vi. The child to be born will be called Holy /the son of God.
- He then informed her that Elizabeth; her relative was in the 6<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy and nothing is impossible with God.
- Then Mary declared that she was the handmaid of the Lord.

### **Similarities between the annunciation of the birth of Jesus Christ and John the Baptist**

- (i) In both, Angel Gabriel announced their births
- (ii) In both, the unborn were males
- (iii) In both, the conception was through divine intervention.

- (iv) In both, there was some element of doubt.
- (v) Zechariah and Mary were Holy and God fearing.
- (vi) Zechariah and Mary were both troubled and afraid.
- (vii) In both, the children were first borns.
- (viii) In both, the names of the children were given by the Angel before birth.
- (ix) In both, the mission of the children was given by the angel.

***Differences between the annunciations of the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ***

- i. John's birth was announced in the temple whereas Jesus' birth was announced to his mother at home.
- ii. The birth of John the Baptist was announced to his father whereas Jesus' birth was announced to his mother.
- iii. John the Baptist would be born through biological conception whereas Jesus' birth will be conceived by the Holy Spirit.
- iv. Zechariah doubted the angel's message due to old age while Mary doubted it because she was a virgin/young woman.
- v. Zechariah was given the sign of being dumb whereas Mary was given the sign of Elizabeth's pregnancy.
- vi. The angel announced that John will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord while it was announced that Jesus is Christ the Lord who will rule forever.

**MARY VISITS ELIZABETH**

***Luke 1:39-56***

The following is what took place when Mary visited Elizabeth;

- i. She entered Zechariah's home.
- ii. She greeted Elizabeth.

- iii. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greetings, the baby in her womb leaped.
- iv. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- v. Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry.
- vi. She blessed Mary and the child in her womb.
- vii. Elizabeth wondered why Mary the mother of her Lord has visited her.
- viii. Elizabeth informed Mary that the baby in her womb had leaped for joy in her greetings.
- ix. Mary responded by praising God/ she sang the magnificat.
- x. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months.

***Lessons learnt from the incident of Mary's visit to Elizabeth***

- i. Christians should visit relatives and friends.
- ii. They should visit the sick. They should fellowship/ share the word of God with others.
- iii. Christians should be a source of inspiration/ encourage others.
- iv. They should sing and praise God for His blessings.
- v. They should preach the good news to others.
- vi. They should give testimonies of God's great blessings in their lives.
- vii. They should practice humility in their lives.
- viii. They should pray for God's blessings in their lives.

***The differences between the work of John the Baptist and that of Jesus Christ***

- i. John the baptist was a forerunner/ prepared the way wheras Jesus fulfilled/ was the real messiah.
- ii. John the baptist preached mainly in the wilderness/ desert of Judah, while Jesus preached in the synagogues/ homes/cities/ towns/ Temple.
- iii. John the Baptist called people to repentance, while Jesus forgave/ died for their sins.
- iv. John the Baptist baptised with water/ while Jesus baptised with the Holy Spirit/ fire.
- v. John the baptist lived a life of Nazirite, while Jesus mixed freely with all people.

- vi. The emphasis of John the Baptist's preaching was on the promised messiah, while that of Jesus was about the Kingdom of God.
- vii. John the Baptist's message was direct whereas Jesus preached in parables.
- viii. While John the Baptist's disciples fasted, the disciples of Jesus ate and drank.
- ix. John the baptist did not perform miracles, but Jesus' ministry was full of signs/ wonders.

## **MARY'S SONG: THE MAGNIFICAT**

### **Luke 1:46 – 55**

- After the Angel's visit to Mary, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth.
- Then Mary sang a song called the magnificat.
- She highlighted the following:
  - i. Her soul was rejoicing and magnified God for being mindful of the humble.
  - ii. From then on, all generations would call her blessed.
  - iii. God had done mighty things for her.
  - iv. God's name is holy.
  - v. His mercy extends to those who fear him.
  - vi. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm
  - vii. He has scattered the proud.
  - viii. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones.
  - ix. He has exalted the humble.
  - x. He has filled the hungry with good things.
  - xi. He has sent the rich away empty.
  - xii. He has helped his servant Israel, and has been merciful to her even in the time of Abraham.

***Lessons Christians learn about God from the magnificat/ Mary's song.***

- i. God is almighty/powerful.
- ii. God is holy.
- iii. God is merciful.
- iv. God humbles the proud.
- v. God exalts the lowly.
- vi. God feeds the hungry/provides.
- vii. God is the source of all blessings.
- viii. God keeps promises/faithful.
- ix. God deserves praise.

**THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**Luke 1:57 – 80**

The following activities took place when John the Baptist was born;

- Elizabeth gave birth to a son.
- The parents of John were filled with joy and friends and relatives came to celebrate.
- On the eighth day, the boy was circumcised in accordance with the Jewish laws and traditions.
- They were going to name him Zechariah after his father in accordance to the Jewish law.
- But Elizabeth stated that the child should be called John, the name given by the angel.
- The people argued, “No one in your family has ever been named John.”
- They motioned to Zechariah to find out what he wanted to name his son.
- Zechariah asked for a writing tablet on which he wrote “His name is John.”
- Everyone was amazed.

- Right away Zechariah began speaking and praising God.
- All the neighbours were frightened because of what had happened and people kept talking about these things.
- Everyone who heard about this wondered what this child would grow up to be and knew that the Lord was with him.
- The Holy Spirit came upon Zechariah.
- He broke into a prophetic hymn; the *Benedictus*; Latin for blessed.
- Zechariah expressed his feeling of joy, gratitude and praise.
- He told the mission of his son.

In his song, the ***Benedictus***, he said;

- i. Praise should go to God of Israel for redeeming his people.
- ii. God had raised up a horn of salvation in the house of David.
- iii. This event had been prophesied by the Holy prophets.
- iv. God was going to save them from their enemies and all who hated them.
- v. He was going to show mercy promised to their fathers.
- vi. He was going to remember his Holy covenant with Abraham to rescue them so that they could serve him without fear and in holiness all their days.

*About John he said he would be:*

- i. Called the prophet of the Most High.
- ii. Be the herald of the Messiah.
- iii. Call people to repentance in order to bring back human beings to the right relationship with God.
- iv. Bring peace to men by showing them the messiah/ light of the world.
- v. He would give people personal ‘knowledge’ of their desperate need for salvation.

### ***Similarities between the Magnificat and the Benedictus***

- i. Both were songs of praises.
- ii. Both use Old Testament phrases.
- iii. Both share thematic and structural features.
- iv. Both were recited by people whom Angel Gabriel had been sent to.
- v. Both songs result from the news about the birth of baby boys.
- vi. Both are poetic.
- vii. Both songs talk about the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophesies.

### ***Ways in which Christians should respond to childlessness in Kenya today***

- Pray to God to bless their marriage with a child.
- Seek guidance and counselling on the issue and read the Bible for encouragement.
- Seek medical advice about it.
- The couple is exhorted to remain faithful inspite of the problem and accept it as God's will
- They should remain patient or be less anxious.
- They should also seek advice from experienced couples with children.
- Continue to uphold the church doctrine on marriage.
- They may adopt children or engage in charitable activities.

## **THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

### ***Luke 2:1 – 20***

- Took place in Bethlehem, Judea during the reign of the Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar.
- A census had been ordered by the emperor to determine the payment of taxes and those eligible for military recruitment.

- Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem; David's and Joseph's birthplace to be counted from their original home.
- Jesus was born in David's town.
- He is David's son and the promised Messiah. He must be born in a David's city to fulfill Micah's prophesy.
- While in Bethlehem, Mary's time to have her child came.
- There was no available place to rest for all the rooms were booked.
- The baby was born in a stable. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.
- The shepherd's were the first people to be told the good news about Jesus Christ.

***The visit of the Angel of the Lord to the shepherds on the night Jesus was born***

- i. The shepherds were looking after their flocks in the field at night.
- ii. The Angel appeared to them.
- iii. The glory of the Lord shone around them.
- iv. They were filled with fear.
- v. The Angel reassured them.
- vi. The angels told them about the good news about the birth of Jesus.
- vii. They were told where to find baby Jesus.
- viii. The angel gave them a sign on how to they would find Jesus.
- ix. There appeared a host of other angels singing/ praising God.
- x. The angels left them/ went back to heaven.
- xi. The shepherds went to Bethlehem/ found Jesus.

***Occasions when angels appeared during the annunciation of Jesus Christ and John***

- i. Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary during the annunciation of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- ii. Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah when he was burning incense in the temple to announce John the Baptist's birth.
- iii. Angel of the lord appeared to the shepherds bringing them the news about Jesus Christ.
- iv. A multitude of angels appeared singing praises to God during Jesus Christ's birth.

**ACTIVITIES THAT TOOK PLACE WHEN JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN**

***Luke 2:6 – 20***

- i. Mary the mother of Jesus wrapped Him in swaddling clothes.
- ii. She laid Him in a manger.
- iii. The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds.
- iv. A multitude of angels appeared singing praises to God.
- v. The shepherds hurried to see the baby.
- vi. The shepherds spread the news to many people.
- vii. The shepherds sung/ praised God after they had seen the baby Jesus.
- viii. The shepherds returned to their home/work.

***Ways in which Christians in Kenya express their joy for the birth of Jesus.***

- i. They sing or listen to Christian songs and carols.
- ii. They attend Christmas worship service or mass.
- iii. They partake of the Holy Communion or Eucharist.
- iv. They exchange gifts and cards of goodwill.
- v. They visit friends, relatives or invite them to their homes.

- vi. They decorate their homes or churches during Christmass.
- vii. They buy and wear new clothes during the Christmass season.
- viii. They also prepare special dishes and serve drinks during Christmass.
- ix. Christians take rest from their normal duties to celebrate Christmass.
- x. Some hold Christmass concerts and drama.
- xi. They watch movies or films that relate the birth of Jesus.
- xii. They read christmass stories from the Bible.
- xiii. They help the needy or engage themselves in acts of charity.
- xiv. They repent and dedicate themselves to God.

## **THE DEDICATION OF JESUS**

*Luke 2:21 – 40*

The following activities took place during the dedication of Jesus in the Temple;

- i. Jesus was taken to Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord by His parents.
- ii. Simeon took Jesus up in his arms/ blessed the Lord.
- iii. Simeon said he was ready to die since he had seen God's salvation/ a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of the Israelites.
- iv. Simeon blessed the parents of Jesus.
- v. Simeon told Mary, Jesus' mother that the child was set for the fall and rising of many in Israel.
- vi. Anna gave thanks/ prayed/ spoke of Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
- vii. The parents of Jesus performed everything according to the law of the Lord.
- viii. Jesus parents returned home.

## THE BOY JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

**Luke 2:41 – 52**

The following are the activities that took place from the incident when Jesus was left behind by His parents in the Temple when He was twelve years old;

- When Jesus was twelve years old, He accompanied His parents to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast.
- They went to Jerusalem as demanded by custom.
- As they returned back after the festival, boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem.
- His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company, they went a day's journey.
- They looked for Him among His relatives and friends.
- When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.
- After three days they found him in the Temple sitting among teachers, listening to them and asking the questions.
- All who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and answers.
- When the parents saw Him they were astonished and His mother said to Him, “Son why have you treated us like so? Behold your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.”
- And He said to them “How was it that you sought for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father’s house?”
- They did not understand Him.
- He went down with them and came to Nazareth.

*Jewish traditions fulfilled in Jesus life.*

- i. Circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day.
- ii. Named Jesus.

- iii. His mother was purified after his birth.
- iv. Dedicated / presented to God in the temple.
- v. Parents offered a sacrifice of a pair of turtle doves/two young pigeons.
- vi. Obeyed his parents.
- vii. Celebrated the Passover festival at age 12.

***Qualities shown by Jesus when He accompanied His parents to the Temple at the age of twelve***

- i. He was obedient.
- ii. He was courageous.
- iii. He was knowledgeable/ intelligent/ wise.
- iv. He was respectful.
- v. He was cooperative.
- vi. He was patient.
- vii. He was honest.
- viii. He was assertive/ independent/ making independent decisions.
- ix. He was social.
- x. He was inquisitive.

***Lessons Christians learn from the incident when Jesus was left behind by His parents in the Temple***

- i. Christians should involve their children in prayer/ worship of God.
- ii. Christians should give clear instructions to their children in their day to day affairs.
- iii. Parents should be concerned of the whereabouts of their children.
- iv. Children should be taught the word of God/ the Bible.
- v. There should be communication among family members/ they should inform one another of their whereabouts.
- vi. Children should obey their parents.

- vii. Parents should love their children.
- viii. Christians should accommodate the views of the youth.
- ix. Christians should exercise tolerance/ forgiveness.

***Reasons why Mary took Jesus to the temple in His early life***

- i. To dedicate Him to God.
- ii. For her purification.
- iii. To receive religious instruction.
- iv. To expose Jesus to their religious faith.
- v. To observe the Passover feastival.
- vi. For His naming.
- vii. For circumcision.

***Ways in which parents develop their children's spiritual life***

- i. By having the children baptized/ participate in the sacramental life of the church.
- ii. Leading a righteous life for the child to copy/ being good role models.
- iii. Taking children to church for dedication/ thanksgiving.
- iv. By allowing him/her to interact with others e.g. Sunday school.
- v. By praying to God to guide the child.
- vi. By exposing the child to church activities.
- vii. By condemning the child's evil activities/correcting them.
- viii. By offering counseling services on spiritual matters.
- ix. Teaching them to read the Bible.

***Ways which show Jesus came from a poor background from the early life upto twelve years***

- i. His father was a poor carpenter.
- ii. His mother was an ordinary village girl.
- iii. He was born in a manger/ cattle shed/ wrapped in swaddling clothes.
- iv. He was born in a small town of Judah/ Bethlehem.
- v. The first people to visit him were shepherds who were lowly regarded.
- vi. He was revealed to Simeon/ Anna who were simple.
- vii. During his dedication the parents offered birds.
- viii. He grew up in Nazareth/ a town of low status.

***Reasons why children should take part in church activities***

- i. They are made in the image of God.
- ii. To follow the example of Christ who went to the Synagogue/Temple.
- iii. To prepare them for future roles as leaders.
- iv. To teach them religious beliefs/ practices.
- v. To lay a foundation for Christian morals at an early age.
- vi. Jesus taught that the Kingdom belongs to them/ He appreciated/ blessed children.
- vii. For the continued growth of the church.
- viii. To help develop/ improve their talents.
- ix. To give them an opportunity to socialise with others.
- x. To help them spend their leisure time positively.

***Ways in which Christians show respect to places of worship in Kenya today***

- i. They should maintain the cleanliness in the places of worship.
- ii. Christians should observe silence in places of worship.
- iii. Places of worship are treated with reverence; in some cases shoes are removed.

- iv. Christians dress in decent clothing as they go to places of worship.
- v. Order is maintained in places of worship i.e. only authorised people are allowed to talk or make announcements.
- vi. Posters, notices, decorations and flowers are always put to remind people that they are in a sacred place.
- vii. Constructing special places for worshipping God or dedicating them.

## **THE GALILEAN MINISTRY**

*John the Baptist and Jesus Christ*

*a) The preaching of John the Baptist*

*Luke 3:1-20*

- i. He told the people to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of their sins/ he asked people to prepare the way for the Lord.
- ii. He told them to be faithful/ obedient to God and not to have pride in Abraham as their ancestor.
- iii. He warned them of God's punishment on sin.
- iv. He encouraged the rich to share with the needy.
- v. He told the tax collectors not to steal/ be honest.
- vi. He told the soldiers to be contented with their wages/ stop greed.
- vii. He told the soldiers to stop robbing/ accusing people falsely/ should be truthful.
- viii. He told them that the Messiah who was to come after him was mightier/ he was unworthy to untie His sandals.
- ix. The Messiah would baptize the people with fire and the Holy Spirit.
- x. The Messiah would separate the good from the evil/ the evil would be punished.
- xi. He condemned Herod for his adulterous life/ marrying the brother's wife.

***The relevance of John's teaching to a Christian's daily life.***

The teaching of John the Baptist is relevant to Christians in their lives in the following ways;

- i. Christians should be fair and honest/just in their dealings with other people.
- ii. Christians should avoid being hypocritical in their societies.
- iii. Christians should know that God will judge us for our wrong doing.
- iv. Christians should repent their sins sincerely, seek for forgiveness and be baptized.
- v. Christians to make the world a better place to live in by avoiding corruption, immorality and hypocrisy at all levels in society.

***Reasons why Christians find it hard to apply the teachings of John the Baptist***

- i. They lack faith in God's word.
- ii. Division along tribal/ racial/ denominational lines affects unity among Christians.
- iii. Clinging to the past/ inability to abandon the old/ previous life style.
- iv. Negative attitude by the rich towards the poor/ needy.
- v. The influence of the mass media/ moral decadence in the society.
- vi. The emergence of cult leaders/ false prophets in the society/ lack of role models.
- vii. Some Christians lead hypocritical life.

***THE BAPTISM OF JESUS***

***b) Luke 3:21 – 22***

- i. All the people had been baptized by John.
- ii. Jesus was also baptized.
- iii. Jesus then started praying.
- iv. The heaven opened.
- v. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in a bodily form as a dove.

- vi. Then a voice came from heaven.
- vii. Then it said, "Thou art my beloved son with thee am well pleased."

#### ***The significance of the voice from heaven***

- i. The voice from heaven was a confirmation to Jesus that he was God's son and that God was with him and approved his mission.
- ii. The voice affirmed that he was the promised Messiah and that people should follow him.
- iii. The Holy Spirit descended from heaven and anointed Jesus for the Messianic work he was to do.
- iv. The Holy Spirit would give him courage and guidance in what he was to do.

#### ***Reasons why Jesus was baptized***

- i. To identify himself with humanity.
- ii. To recognize and confirm John's mission.
- iii. To introduce him to the public as the Messiah.
- iv. To receive the Holy Spirit, who was necessary for His mission.
- v. To be acknowledged by God as the chosen son who will save humankind.
- vi. To demonstrate his mission of shouldering worldly sins.
- vii. To demonstrate the Holy Trinity.
- viii. Baptism through the Holy Spirit confirmed the divine origin of Jesus.
- ix. Prepared Jesus for his mission.

#### ***Relevance of Baptism to Christians today***

- i. Through baptism one becomes a member of the church of Christ/body of Christ.
- ii. Through baptism, one receives the Holy Spirit who acts as a counselor and guides the new convert into spiritual life.
- iii. Baptism marks the death of the old self and the beginning of new life in Christ (death and resurrection of Jesus).
- iv. Jesus was baptized and Christians should emulate him and identify with him.

- v. One becomes a child of God.
- vi. A Christian achieves complete forgiveness of sins because water is symbolic of cleansing/purifying.
- vii. Prepares Christians for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- viii. Baptism is an example of the modern religious covenant between the Christian and God.
- ix. Baptism is a symbol of forgiveness.

## **THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS**

### ***Luke 4:1-13***

- i. Jesus was led to the wilderness where He stayed for forty days.
- ii. He ate nothing and therefore felt hungry.
- iii. The devil asked Him to command a stone to become bread if He was the son of God.
- iv. Jesus told him that man can not live by bread alone.
- v. The devil took Jesus up and showed Him the Kingdoms of the world and asked Him to worship Him, so that he could give Him everything.
- vi. Jesus told the devil that only God is to be worshipped/ served.
- vii. The devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and asked him to throw Himself down for God would command angels to command him.
- viii. Jesus told the devil that one should not tempt God.

### ***Relevance of Jesus' temptations to Christians today***

- i. Since Jesus was tempted, He fully understands your difficulties when we are tempted and is ready to help us.
- ii. God does not allow us to be tempted beyond our strength. When we face temptations He provides us with a way out.
- iii. Since Jesus was tempted, His followers should expect to be tested in their loyalty to Him.  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13.

- iv. Through temptations and trials, our faith to God is strengthened. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:7
- v. When we are tempted, we should turn to the Bible for guidance; Jesus quoted the scripture. It is important for Christians to know God's word.
- vi. We should seek the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit enabled Jesus to conquer the devil.
- vii. It is normal for the followers of Christ to be tempted.
- viii. When faced with difficult times, refer to the scripture, pray and fast so as to get strength and guidance from God.
- ix. We should be carefully not to engage in different forms of adultery and only worship the one true God.
- x. We should not allow material possessions to lead us to sin.
- xi. Christians should have total faith in and fully depend on God and not test Him e.g. when making personal requests.
- xii. Christians learn that power and authority cannot lead one to the kingdom of God. They should not worship anyone else except God.

#### ***Lessons Christians learn from the temptations of Jesus***

- i. They should be knowledgeable in scriptures/ biblical verses.
- ii. They should resist the devil.
- iii. They should have faith in God/ no temptation beyond their limit.
- iv. They should worship God alone.
- v. They should not put God to test.
- vi. They should desire to have the Holy Spirit.
- vii. They should not misuse the power of the Holy Spirit.
- viii. They should be content with what they have.

***Problems faced by new converts in the church today***

- i. They are sometimes not fully accepted/ integrated/ discriminated against.
- ii. The older Christians may not serve as role models.
- iii. They may not be involved in activities/ not given responsibilities.
- iv. They may be tempted to backslide to previous lifestyles/ rejection by family/ friends.
- v. Older Christians may expect them to change faster than they can.
- vi. Some experience problems of communication/ language barrier.
- vii. They may lack Guidance and counseling/ Christian literature to strengthen their faith.
- viii. In large churches, they get lost in the crowd/ not identified/ not recognized.
- ix. The financial demands of the church may be too much for them.
- x. Lack of assistance/ concern when a new member is in need.
- xi. Some get frustrated when their expectations are not met.
- xii. They may be given duties they may not manage.
- xiii. They may be rebuked embarrassed in public when suspected to be in the wrong.

**JESUS BEGINS HIS WORK IN GALILEE AND IS REJECTED IN NAZARETH.**

***Luke 4:14 – 30***

- i. Jesus came to Nazareth where He had been brought up.
- ii. He went to the synagogue as He usually did on the Sabbath day.
- iii. He was given the book of Prophet Isaiah when He stood up to read.
- iv. He opened the book/ found the place that was written about Him/ read it to the people.
- v. After reading, He closed the book, gave it to the attendant/ sat down.
- vi. Everybody in the synagogue looked at Him.
- vii. He told them that the scripture He had read was fulfilled in their hearing.

- viii. All people were happy with what He had spoken.
- ix. People wondered aloud saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?"
- x. Jesus told them that they would ask Him to do in His own country things He had done in Capernaum/ He told them that a Prophet is not accepted in his own country.
- xi. He told them that there were many widows in Israel during the time of Elijah but God sent the prophet to a widow in Zarephath/ God only healed Naaman the Syrian of leprosy during the time of Prophet Elisha.
- xii. They were filled with anger/ wanted to throw Him headlong/ down the cliff.
- xiii. Jesus passed through their midst and went away.

***Reasons why Jesus was rejected in Nazareth***

- i. He claimed that the prophesy of the Messiah by Isaiah was fulfilled in Him, the anointed one of God whom they had been longing for but the people of Nazareth expected a political Messiah.
- ii. Jesus did not perform the kind of miracles He had performed in Capernaum in Nazareth i.e. healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, casting out demons from those possessed and raising the dead.
- iii. The people expected Jesus to favour them over the other villages.
- iv. He annoyed his listeners when He told them that their fore fathers had rejected God's prophets by persecuting and killing them during Elijah's time.
- v. The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus for telling them that the Good News was first offered to Jews but they had rejected it so it would be made available to the Gentiles.
- vi. They knew His background well/ that He was Joseph's son and from an ordinary family though they had expected the Messiah to be a royalty.
- vii. Jesus compared the Jews unfavorably with the Gentiles when He said that Elijah and Elisha performed miracles among the Gentiles. So they felt insulted when He unfavorably compared them to them.
- viii. Jesus was accused of breaking the Sabbath law by healing on a Sabbath.
- ix. Jesus was accused of blasphemy since He claimed to be God's son and forgave sins.

## JESUS HEALS IN CAPERNAUM

*Luke 4:31-44*

He made Capernaum the centre for preaching the Good News in Galilee.

While in Capernaum he performed the following miracles:

(i) ***Healed a man with an evil spirit.***

- Jesus went to Capernaum and on the Sabbath began to teach the people.
- People were amazed at His teaching because His message had authority.
- In the Synagogue, He met a man who had an unclean spirit.
- The man with an unclean spirit cried to Jesus wondering what Jesus of Nazareth had to do with him/ whatever he had done to destroy him.
- The demoniac testified that Jesus was the Holy One of God.
- Jesus ordered the evil spirit in the man to be quiet and come out of him.
- The demon threw the man down in front of those present and came out without hurting him.
- Those who witnessed this were all amazed.
- They exclaimed that with authority Jesus was able to command evil spirits and they obeyed Him.
- The news about Him spread throughout the surrounding area.

(ii) ***Healed Simon's mother in law***

- Jesus went to Simon's house. His mother-in-law was suffering from a fever and Jesus was asked to heal her.
- Jesus commanded the fever to leave her and she was immediately healed.
- In the evening, people suffering from various diseases and demon possession were brought to him. He healed and exorcised demons from them.
- They were impressed by Jesus' authority and power and wanted to keep him in the area.

- Jesus made it clear that the Good News of God's kingdom is meant for all people.
- He continued preaching in the synagogue at Galilee.

***Lessons Christians learn about Jesus from His healing in Capernaum.***

- i. Jesus is God's son. He is the Messiah promised by Isaiah.
- ii. Jesus came to establish God's kingdom and destroy Satan's kingdom.
- iii. Jesus has power over evil spirits/demons.
- iv. Jesus has power to heal all sicknesses.
- v. Jesus came to save human beings from the slavery of sin. Christians should turn to him for total healing.
- vi. Jesus is merciful.

***Lessons Christians learn from Jesus' healing in Capernaum***

- i. Christians should proclaim the Gospel to others.
- ii. Christians should continue with the healing mission of Jesus through providing medical services/ training medical personnel.
- iii. Christians should show mercy to others.
- iv. Christians should use God's power to rebuke Satan.

**JESUS CALLS THE FIRST DISCIPLES**

***Luke 5:1-11***

- A disciple means learner/follower. In the Bible it is used to refer to the learners who followed a particular master to learn about religious matters.
- The call of the first disciples took place in the shores of L. Gennesaret/ Sea of Tiberius/ Sea of Galilee.

- Jesus was standing on the shore when a large crowd gathered to hear the word.
- He got into a boat belonging to Simeon Peter, a fisherman.
- When he finished teaching, he asked Simeon to throw their net into the water again to catch some fish.
- Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John had been fishing the whole night and caught nothing.
- Peter obeyed and let down their nets again and caught such a large number of fish that the nets almost broke.
- Simeon Peter was moved by the miraculous catch of fish.
- He fell on his knees before Jesus and urged him, ‘Go away from me Lord! I am a sinful man!’ Luke vs. 8.
- Jesus told Simeon Peter that he would be catching men.
- This meant that he was going to be one of the disciples of Jesus and will be winning people to God’s kingdom.
- James and John too were amazed at the miraculous catch of fish.
- The three of them left everything and followed Jesus.

***Lessons Christians learn from the call of the first disciples***

- i. Christians should preach the Good News to others.
- ii. Christians should respond to God’s call in obedience.
- iii. Christians should acknowledge their sinful state and repent.
- iv. Christians should work together as a team in the service of God.
- v. Christians should use the power of God to perform miracles.
- vi. Christians should use their talents to serve God.

### ***Reasons why Jesus faced opposition from the Pharisees in Galilee***

#### ***Luke 5:12 – 6:11***

- i. He touched a man with leprosy which was against the Jewish law.
- ii. He forgave sins which the Pharisees knew only God could do/ healed the paralyzed man.
- iii. Mixed/ ate with tax collectors who were known to be sinners.
- iv. Jesus made it clear to them that He had come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.
- v. His disciples did not fast, like those of John the Baptist which annoyed the Pharisees.
- vi. He challenged them to move from the old traditional order to the new one which He brought.
- vii. The disciples of Jesus plucked and ate grains on the Sabbath day which was unlawful/ He healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath day.

### ***Lessons Christians learn from the incident when Jesus faced opposition from the Pharisees in Galilee***

- i. Christians should not condemn those who are different from them.
- ii. Christians should show love to all without discrimination. The Pharisees and the scribes condemned Jesus for eating with tax collectors while he was in Levi's house.
- iii. Church leaders should make rules that promote the development/growth of the church. The Pharisees and the scribes had made ordinary people slaves of the law.
- iv. Christians should be ready to assist the needy regardless of the opposition they may face in the process.

### ***Ways in which church leaders can respond to those who oppose their work***

- i. Find out the causes/ reasons for the opposition.
- ii. The church leaders should pray for/ with them.
- iii. Explain to them the Gospel truth in a humble manner/ guide and counsel them.
- iv. Seek reconciliation through a third party/ another person.
- v. Involve them in decision making/ church activities.

- vi. Recognize their efforts in supporting the church matters.
- vii. Visit them in their homes/ fellowship with them/ preaching to them.
- viii. Assist them when in problems/ financially and materially.
- ix. Send them messages of encouragement.
- x. Change their approach to issues/reform where necessary.

## **THE CHOOSING OF THE TWELVE DISCIPLES AND JESUS TEACHINGS ON TRUE DISCIPLESHIP**

### ***(a) The choosing of the twelve disciples***

#### ***Luke 6:12-16***

- Jesus prayed the whole night for God's guidance and revelation before choosing the 12 disciples.
- He called his disciples and chose 12.
- They were to accompany him, teach his word and be witnesses to the Good news.

The 12 were:

(i)	Simeon Peter	(vii)	Mathew
(ii)	Andrew	(viii)	Thomas
(iii)	James	(ix)	James son of Alpheus
(iv)	John	(x)	Simon the Zealot
(v)	Philip	(xi)	Judas son of James
(vi)	Bartholomew	(xii)	Judas Iscariot

- The 12 disciples were to be witness to the house of Israel and to the rest of the world.
- Jesus Christ called the twelve disciples 'Apostles' meaning one who is sent. From the Greek word Apostolos meaning missionaries.

### ***Reasons why Jesus chose the twelve disciples***

- i. To form an inner group of personal assistants and followers.
- ii. They were to be his companions during his public ministry.
- iii. They were to witness the Good News of his saving acts to the whole world.
- iv. They were to help him with his work of salvation and teach his word.
- v. Jesus wanted to reveal his person and give them a new understanding of his Messiahship.
- vi. He was to train them to carry on his mission after his death.
- vii. The choosing of the 12 symbolized the reconstruction of the 12 tribes of Israel.
- viii. He chose the 12 disciples who came from all walks of life to represent the New Israel, /the church whose outlook would be universal.
- ix. The choice of the twelve disciples was a continuation of God's theme of election; aimed at restoring the broken relationship with humankind.

### ***Lessons learned from the choosing of the twelve disciples***

- i. Christians must be willing to carry on with Jesus Christ's work of spreading the Good News. They can do this through the ministries of preaching, healing and also community service.
- ii. Christians should always remember to consult with God in their undertakings. This can be done through prayer, retreats and bible study.
- iii. All Christians should witness for Christ.
- iv. Christians should undertake training in various aspects of Christian ministry in order to carry out Jesus' work effectively.

### ***Ways in which the Church is preparing the youth for leadership roles in the society***

- i. Providing them with education.
- ii. Appointing them as teachers of Sunday school.
- iii. Organizing seminars for the youth on leadership roles/ worship.
- iv. Assisting them to be self employed.

- v. Encouraging them to use their talents in church.
- vi. Providing them with guidance and counselling services.
- vii. Being role models to them.
- viii. Giving financial/ material support for their projects.
- ix. Assigning them duties to be carried out under supervision.
- x. Accomodating the views of the youth.

## **JESUS TEACHING ON THE QUALITIES OF TRUE DISCIPLESHIP**

### **Luke 6:20-49**

After Jesus Christ had selected the twelve, he taught them on the qualities of true discipleship during the sermon on the plain.

- i. *Perseverance in the face of persecution.* True disciples experience persecution on account of Jesus 6:22, 26a. Those who endure this suffering will receive external life.
- ii. *Unwavering faith in Jesus/deeply rooted in the faith.* True disciples had to have absolute faith. Jesus Christ warned them that they would be rejected by others but they were to trust in God to deliver them.
- iii. *Love for enemies.* Luke 6:27-28, 35. The disciples were to love their enemies. 6:31. This became the golden rule of Jesus. This love is called ‘agape’ meaning sacrificial love. It is gracious, determined, active and spontaneous.
- iv. *Obedience to Jesus’ teaching.* Disciples were expected to be obedient to the lordship of Christ.
- v. *Implementers of Jesus Christ’s teaching.* Luke 6:43-45. The disciples were expected to “bear good fruit.”
- vi. *They were to be generous.* Luke 6:30. The disciples were expected to be generous to all. Those who have are expected to share with those who don’t.
- vii. *They were to exercise self criticism.* Luke 6:41 – 42, before judging others/should be fair when passing judgment to others.

- viii. *The disciples were to show compassion to others/mercy.* Luke 6:36. The disciples were expected to be as merciful/as God since he is merciful to all people.

## ***THE SERMON ON THE PLAIN***

### ***Luke 6:17-49***

- After Jesus Christ chose his apostles, he came down the hill and stood on a level place. He gave a sermon to those present.
- The people had come to hear Jesus Christ's word and to receive healing from their diseases and also for Jesus to exorcise unclean spirits from them.
- He addressed various issues concerning the New Community/ The New Israel.
- The sermon on the plain consisted of five main parts, giving a description of the life of the 'new people' of God, i.e.

#### i. ***Blessings and woes.*** 6:20 – 26

Also referred to as the Beatitudes

Jesus Christ had a message for;

- The poor, rich.
- Those that hunger.
- Those that are full.
- Those who weep.
- Those who laugh.

#### ii. ***Love of enemies.*** (6:27 – 36)

- The followers of Christ are expected to 'love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who abuse you.' (vs. 27 – 28)
- The disciples were to love people unconditionally.

- iii. ***Judging others.*** (6:37 – 42)
  - The disciples are expected to acknowledge their own shortcomings before condemning the faults of others.
- iv. ***Evidence of Good Discipleship.*** (6:43-45)
  - True discipleship is seen in what a person says and does e.g. been generous and forgiving others.
- v. ***Hearing and doing.*** (6:46 – 49)
  - Disciples are expected to demonstrate total commitment to Christ and do His will.

***Lessons that Christians from the sermon on the plain***

- i. Christians should endure in suffering for Christ in order to inherit eternal kingdom.
- ii. Christians should love their enemies so as to help them to change their attitude.
- iii. Christians should examine their shortcomings before passing judgment on others.
- iv. Christians should preach the gospel in order to bring others to Christ.
- v. Church leaders should clarify the expected standards of behavior for their members.
- vi. Christians should not retaliate but should forgive as a way of promoting peace in the society.
- vii. Christians should be generous and share with the needy.
- viii. Christians should promote peace (Luke 6:29), this means that Christians should resolve their differences peacefully.

***Teachings of Jesus on the Sermon on the Plain on how human beings should relate to one another***

- i. Human beings should love one another/ their enemies.
- ii. They should practice sharing/help others/ be generous.
- iii. They should be merciful to each other/ kind/ compassionate.
- iv. They should not judge/ condemn others.
- v. They should forgive one another/ not revenge.

- vi. Pray for those who wrong them.
- vii. They should not discriminate against each other.
- viii. They should be good to those who hate them.

## **JESUS WORKS OF COMPASSION**

Works of compassion include the works of mercy for those in distress.

This chapter introduces Jesus' ministry to the Gentiles.

### ***Sinificance of the healing miracles of Jesus***

- i. The miracles were a sign of the presence of the Kingdom of God in the person of Jesus.
- ii. They demonstrated God's love for human beings.
- iii. They took away human pain/suffering.
- iv. People believed in His healing power/ had faith in Him.
- v. The miracles showed that physical healing symbolized spiritual healing.
- vi. They showed that the work of mercy must go on even on the Sabbath.
- vii. They demonstrated defeat and destruction of the work of Satan.
- viii. Jesus used the miracles to glorify God/ to show God's power.
- ix. He used them to show He was the son of God/ Messiah.
- x. They demonstrated the divinity of Jesus/ His divine nature.
- xi. They fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies.
- xii. They supplemented/ strengthened His teachings.
- xiii. They showed He had power over nature.
- xiv. They restored people to wholeness.

***What the miracles of Jesus teach Christians about His mission and ministry***

- i. They show Jesus' compassion to those who are suffering.
- ii. Miracles show Jesus as the Lord of life. He brings back to life those who have died/ He is the life and resurrection.
- iii. They show Jesus as the son of God and the promised Messiah of the O.T.
- iv. They affirm that Jesus came to save the world from sin/ Jesus is a universal saviour-saved both Jews and Gentiles.
- v. Miracles are a manifestation of God's love and concern for His people through Jesus Christ.
- vi. Miracles are an integral part of Jesus' teaching/ they supplement His teachings and preaching of the Word.
- vii. Miracles were performed as a response to the affirmation of faith on the part of those who are in need/ many who witnessed these miracles believed in Jesus.
- viii. Through miracles of healing, Jesus has showed His concern for the total well-being of humankind.

***(a) The healing of the centurion's servant.***

***Luke 7:1 – 10***

The miracle took place in Capernaum.

It involved a centurion whose servant was ill.

- The Centurion sent Jewish elders to request Jesus to come and heal the servant.
- The elders pleaded with Jesus to heal the servant, for the Centurion had built a synagogue for them.
- The Centurion believed that a word from Jesus would heal the servant.
- He felt he was not worthy to host Jesus in his house.
- Jesus marveled at the faith of the Centurion. Back home the servant was already healed.

- The faith of the Centurion healed his servant.
- Jesus in this miracle showed that his mission was for those who believed him regardless of where they came from.

***Qualities of the Centurion whose servant Jesus healed***

- i. Generosity.
- ii. Compassion/ love.
- iii. Caring.
- iv. Humility.
- v. Faithfulness.
- vi. Courageousness.
- vii. Respect.
- viii. Obedience.
- ix. Confidence.
- x. Responsibility.

***Lessons Christians learn from the healing of the Centurion's servant***

- Christian leaders should seek help from God.
- Christians should trust in God and Jesus always.
- Christians should humble themselves before Jesus despite their positions.
- Christians should serve all people equally without discrimination.
- Christians should support the spread of the word of God with their resources e.g. build churches.
- Christians should show mercy to the suffering
- Christians should Seek Jesus' help in case of trouble.
- Christians should use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to heal the sick.

- Christians should provide charitable services to the needy.
- Christians should assist to provide medical services.

***Lessons Christians learn about Jesus from the miracle***

- i. Jesus was merciful in His mission.
- ii. Jesus healed in response to faith.
- iii. His mission is universal.
- iv. Jesus is the Messiah/ Son of God.
- v. He has divine power to heal.

**(b) *The raising of the son of the widow of Nain***

***Luke 7:11 – 17***

- i. Jesus went to the city of Nain accompanied by His disciples/ crowd.
- ii. At the gate of the city, He met people carrying a dead man.
- iii. The dead man was the only son of the widow.
- iv. The mother/ widow was accompanied by a large crowd.
- v. Jesus felt pity for the widow/ told her not to weep.
- vi. Jesus touched the bier in which the body lay.
- vii. Jesus told the dead man to arise.
- viii. The dead man sat up/ began to speak.
- ix. Jesus gave the man to his mother.
- x. The people were filled with fear.
- xi. The people glorified the Lord.
- xii. Jesus' fame spread in Judea/ in the surrounding region.

### ***Lessons learnt about Jesus from the raising of the son of the widow***

- Jesus has power over death. By raising the son of the widow, He demonstrated that he is the giver of life.
- Jesus is the giver of life and hence the resurrection.
- Jesus is a great prophet. He is the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament i.e. sent by God to His people.
- Jesus compassionate to empathizes with the suffering. He saw the widow weeping and pitied her.
- Jesus' mission is for the weak and the suffering like the widows.
- Jesus is above ritual uncleanness. He touched the bier of the dead son although by doing this, he broke the Jewish ceremonial laws.
- He is the Messiah as he performed a miracle.
- He came to spread the word of God as crowds followed to hear him.
- He is the Lord/son of God.

### ***Lessons Christians learn from the healing***

- Christians should show mercy/compassion to the suffering and help them to meet their needs.
- They should discard traditional cultural practices that may hinder them from true Christianity.
- They should perform miracles using Jesus' power in them.

### ***How Christians continue with the healing ministry of Jesus***

- i. Praying for/ preaching to the sick.
- ii. Laying hands on the sick/ anointing them.
- iii. Providing guidance and counseling services.
- iv. Constructing hospitals/ health centers/ rehabilitation centers.
- v. Providing preventive/ curative drugs/treating the sick.

- vi. Paying for medical expenses for the sick.
- vii. Producing/ disseminating literature on health issues/ electronic media on health issues.
- viii. Preaching against evil/ causes of ailments that interfere with good health.
- ix. Providing food/ clothing/ shelter to the needy.
- x. Visiting the sick.
- xi. Training medical personnel.
- xii. Educating the masses through seminars/ workshops.

**(c) Assurance to John the Baptist**

**Luke 7:18 – 35**

- John had been imprisoned by King Herod for rebuking the king for his immoral acts.
- John sent his disciples to find out if Jesus was the Messiah who he had foretold.
- Jesus told the disciples to report what they had seen and heard Jesus do i.e.
  - i. restoring sight,
  - ii. The deaf hearing,
  - iii. The sick being healed,
  - iv. The Gospel being preached,
  - v. lame walked, and
  - vi. Lepers cleansed.
- These were the prophetic signs for the Messianic age.
- In his preaching to the crowd, Jesus described John as:
  - i. A man rejected by Jewish leader.
  - ii. A Nazarite.
  - iii. A messenger.
  - iv. A man living a simple life.

- v. A fore runner to the Messiah.
- vi. The greatest of the O. T prophet.
- vii. Those who confess to Christ in the new Kingdom are greater than John.
- Jesus hit at the Pharisees for not recognizing Him and John. They refused to listen to the Good News about the Kingdom brought by the two.

***Lessons Christians learn from the incident***

- i. Christians should have sincere trust in Jesus.
- ii. Christians should spread the Gospel even if people are opposed to them.
- iii. Christians should read the signs of the kingdom for themselves and make judgment.
- iv. Christians should struggle to get the Kingdom which is valuable than anything else.
- v. Christians should explain the truth about Jesus to those who are weak in faith.
- vi. Should acknowledge the works of God's servants.

***The aspects of John the baptist that Jesus praised***

- i. Jesus praised John the Baptist's unique strength and unshakable consistency.
- ii. He praised John's simple way of life and contrasted it with the luxury life of King Herod's court.
- iii. He described him as the greatest prophet.
- iv. Jesus said that John was God's own messenger.
- v. He described John as the one who ushered in the Kingdom of God/ forerunner.
- vi. John the Baptist gave hope to sinners who he called to repentance unlike the Pharisees who condemned and judged them.
- vii. Jesus said John is the greatest among all those born by women.
- viii. Jesus said he who is least in the kingdom of God was greater than John.

**(d) Forgiveness of the sinful woman**

**Luke 7:36 – 8:3**

- i. Jesus had been invited by a Pharisee for dinner.
- ii. While He was at the table a sinful woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment.
- iii. She stood at Jesus' feet weeping and wet His feet with her tears.
- iv. She used her hair to wipe the feet of Jesus.
- v. She kissed the feet of Jesus.
- vi. She then anointed the feet of Jesus with ointment.
- vii. The Pharisee who had invited Jesus questioned in his heart whether Jesus was a prophet.
- viii. Jesus knew the thoughts of Simon/ told him the parable of the creditor and debtors.
- ix. Jesus asked Simon who of the two debtors would love the creditor more.
- x. Simon said the debtor with more debt would love the creditor more.
- xi. He told Simon that the woman had shown much love because her many sins had been forgiven.
- xii. Jesus then told the woman that her sins had been forgiven.
- xiii. The other guests began to question who Jesus was to have the power to forgive sin.
- xiv. Jesus told the woman that her faith had saved her.
- xv. He told her to go in peace.

***Reasons why Christians should ask for forgiveness from God***

- i. To be at peace with God/ establish a relationship with God.
- ii. To show obedience to the teachings of Jesus.
- iii. To improve the relationship with others.
- iv. It gives them confidence to serve God.
- v. To acknowledge their weakness/ a sign of humility.

- vi. It shows their desire to lead a righteous life.
- vii. It is a sign of appreciation of God's mercy.
- viii. It is a way of self reproach.
- ix. It is a demonstration of their faith in God.
- x. So as to be forgiven by God.

***Lessons Christians learn from the story***

- Christians should seek Jesus for forgiveness.
- They should teach the Gospel to others.
- Christians should not discriminate against others.
- They should not condemn those working for God.
- They should be tolerant with sinners.
- Christians should not bar others from seeking salvation.
- Christians should avoid hypocrisy and self righteousness.
- Christians should humble themselves before God when seeking forgiveness.

**Note: Women were part of the ministry of Jesus.**

Those who were part of the ministry of Jesus were;

Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Susana were some of the women who accompanied and used their resources to support Jesus and His disciples in their ministry.

Jesus recognized their role in His ministry; He elevated the status of women in society contrary to traditional Jewish belief of their subordinate role.

***Responsibilities of women in the church today***

1. Teach Sunday school.
2. Preach as Pastors and Bishops.
3. Give tithes and offerings.
4. Pray.

5. Act as ushers.
6. Clean the church/decorate the church.
7. Run hospitality services in church e.g. feeding pastors and fellow Christians.
8. Women take care of young children in church.
9. They contribute money/ clothes/ food to less fortunate, needy.
10. Run income generating projects for the church.
11. They organize guidance and counseling programmes in the church/ guide and counsel members.
12. They are leaders in the church/participate in choosing leaders.

## **JESUS TEACHES IN PARABLES**

- A parable is a simple illustrative story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson(s).
- Some parables are referred to as allegories meaning that they are more detailed and elaborate e.g. parable of the sower, the parable of the wheat and tares and the parable of the rich land owner.
- A parable can have one or several meanings.

*Jesus used parables in his teachings for the following reasons:*

- i. To attract listeners because the stories were enjoyable.
- ii. It was a common teaching method at that time.
- iii. To make his listeners think for themselves and make individual judgment/to enable listeners to think critically.
- iv. To make it easy for the people to understand the complicated theme of the unseen kingdom.
- v. To avoid direct confrontations with the Pharisees, the scribes and the Sadducees.
- vi. To isolate serious and keen listeners from the rest of the group.
- vii. He was to keep His identity a secret until He finalizes His mission.

- viii. To fulfill the O.T prophecies.
- ix. This helped in shaping their attitudes to Jesus and in bringing them to a closer and a new relationship with him.
- x. The use of parables made the teachings of Jesus quite interesting. Jesus was a gifted teacher and story teller.
- 11. By using parables, those who heard would easily remember them and be able to refer to them.
- 12. Jesus used parables as a way of making them respond to the teachings.

***The characteristics of Jesus' Parables***

- i. Parables are stories.
- ii. They deal with familiar situations/ they are derived from familiar situations.
- iii. They are vivid/ short.
- iv. They lead to a climax/ they start simple but leading to the main objective/ main point.
- v. They marshal comparisons/ puzzles/ proverbs.
- vi. They present a parallel between spiritual reality and everyday happenings which is not immediately obvious/ they are told in relation to the kingdom of God.
- vii. Sometimes are related to a surprise element/ sometimes they end unexpectedly.
- viii. Some lack introduction.
- ix. They are usually unexplained/ they need to be explained/ had hidden meaning.
- x. They are told with a distinct objective/ purpose.
- xi. Allegorical elements are not excluded but not dominant.

***Reasons why a Christian in Kenya today may find it difficult to understand the parables in Luke's Gospel***

- i. Kenyan culture is different from that of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Palestine.g. Kenyans are not familiar with grape growing, use of wineskins and the four seasons.
- ii. The original setting or meaning has not been preserved and thus Christians lack clues to their meaning.

- iii. The parables often have to be explained and thus they lose their directness and immediate meaning.
- iv. The circumstances in which these parables were told are different.
- v. The Kingdom of God to which many of them relate is difficult and a controversial subject.
- vi. Many different meanings have been suggested; often these are allegorical and the alternatives are at times confusing.
- vii. Not all situations Christians we do know about the parables help them to understand and apply them e.g. the parable of the Patch and Wineskins designed to show that Judaism and Christianity could not be patched together. The connection is hard to see and one has to search for a comparable case in the Kenyan situation.
- viii. African story telling has social interpretation while parables of Jesus have spiritual truth.
- ix. The parables often take up Jewish ideas, concepts and traditions which are not familiar to Christians today e.g. the idea of Israel as a vineyard.
- x. Christians do not know what to do with the parables; should they just try to understand what they signified in the time of Jesus or in the early Church or try to see a message for themselves. The interpretation of the parables will depend on the individual understanding and position.
- xi. Vernacular translations of the Bible such as vineyard to “shamba” or garden may help in understanding the parable but distorts the original meaning of the parable.

**(a) *The parable of the Sower***

**Luke 8:4 – 15**

- Jesus told the parable of the Sower to a crowd who had come to listen to Him as He preached the gospel.
- He told them a story about a farmer that went to sow seeds. They fell on different soils as follows:
  - i. Along a path where they were trodden or eaten up by birds.
  - ii. On rocky ground where the plants dried up.
  - iii. Among thorny bushes, where the plant was choked up by thorns.

iv. On fertile soils, where the plant grew and yielded a hundred fold.

Jesus interpreted the parable in the following way:

- The seed is the word of God.
- The seeds along the path are those who have heard, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved.
- The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word receive it with joy, but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.
- The ones that fall among thorns are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares/ riches/ pleasures of life and their fruit does not mature.
- The ones in the good soil are those who on hearing the word, hold fast in an honest and good heart and bring forth fruit with patience.

***Lessons Christians learn from the Parable:***

- i. Christians should spread the word of God to others.
- ii. Christians should avoid worldly pleasures that may hinder them from true Christianity.
- iii. Christians should remain faithful to the word of God and blessings shall be given to them.
- iv. The spreading of the word of God faces many obstacles which lead to lack of spiritual nourishment.

***(b) The parable of a lamp under a bowl.***

***Luke 8:16 – 18***

Jesus used a parable to illustrate the work of the disciples. The parable is as follows:

- No one can light a lamp and cover it with a bowl or hide it under a bed.
- Instead they should put it on a stand to illuminate a room.
- Jesus is the light.
- The disciples are those on whom the light shines upon.
- The parable illustrates the work of the disciples.

- The disciples had a duty to pass on what they had learnt from Jesus to other people and not to keep to themselves i.e. the disciples had to spread the word of God.
- They had to have steadfast conviction so that they preach God's word to bear good fruit.
- Jesus cautioned the disciples that their mission involved "giving" in order to "receive" i.e. if they did not preach God's word and bear fruit they would loose even the little measure of spiritual knowledge that had been given to them. Therefore, those who lack faith cannot accomplish anything.
- The disciples would be blessed if they succeeded in their mission, with more knowledge. That those who have faith in Jesus shall be added and shall receive grace in abundance.

*Lessons learnt from the parable*

- Christians should strive to love the word of God.
- They should guide others to the light of the kingdom through the word of God; the truth will be revealed to the whole world.

### c). *Jesus' true family*

*Luke 8:19 – 21*

- Those opposed to his Messianic title wanted to use this occasion to ridicule him.
- Jesus reaction shows that true faith is spiritual not earthly.
- His family covers all people and not blood relatives.
- Jesus family comprises those who hear and act on his word.
- Christians form a family whose kingdom of God and Jesus is the head.

## THE MIGHTY WORKS OF JESUS

- The works of Jesus are called miracle.
- They form an integral part of the Gospel story.
- Miracles are acts of power whose purpose is to establish the Kingdom of God.

- They are extraordinary events that seem to go against the laws of nature e.g. Virgin conception, raising of the widow's son to life.
- These mighty works of Jesus reveal His person and Mission

The miracles of Jesus can be divided into four groups.

- i. Nature miracles - E.g, Calming of the storm, Luke 8:22-25
- ii. Raising of the dead - E.g, the raising of Jairus' daughter, Luke 8:46 – 56
- iii. Healing miracles - E.g,The healing of the Centurion's servant, Luke 7:1 – 10 and the cure of the paralytic Luke 5:17 – 41
- iv. Exorcism/casting out of evil spirits – E.g, the healing of the Gerasene Demoniac, Luke 4:31 – 37

### *The calming of the storm*

#### *Luke 8:22 – 25*

- Jesus got into a boat with his disciples.
- He told them that they should go to the other side of the lake and so they set out.
- As they sailed, Jesus fell asleep.
- A storm of wind came down on the lake.
- The boat was filled with water/ they were in danger.
- The disciples went and woke Jesus saying, “Master, master we are perishing.”

Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and the raging waters/ waves.

- The storm subsided/ ceased/ there was calm.
- Jesus asked the disciples where their faith was.
- The disciples were afraid/ they marveled.
- The disciples wondered who Jesus was that even the wind and water could obey Him.

### ***Lessons learnt about Jesus from the miracle***

- i. Jesus has power over nature.
- ii. He came to destroy the evil forces against human beings
- iii. Jesus was a human being i.e. He slept.
- iv. Jesus demands faith from those who follow him.
- iv. He is the Messiah who was to perform miracles.

### ***Lessons Christians learn from the miracle***

- i. Christians should stand firm in faith during trials.
- ii. They should turn to Jesus for assistance when faced with difficult situations.
- iii. Christians should rebuke evil forces in the name of Jesus.
- iv. Christians should come to the rescue of the less fortunate in the society.

### ***The healing of the Gerasene Demoniac***

#### ***Luke 8:26 – 39***

- Jesus and the disciples arrived at the land of the Gerasenes.
- They met a man who was demon possessed/ lived among the tombs.
- The man fell down/ told Jesus not to torment him.
- This is because Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit out of the man.
- Jesus asked the man his name.
- The man replied his name was *legion* which meant many demons.
- The demons in the man requested Jesus not to destroy them but to drive them into the pigs making them to drown into the lake.
- The herdsmen reported the incident in the town.
- The natives requested Jesus to leave for they had fear of Him.
- The healed man asked to accompany Jesus but was told to go and witness to others of his salvation.

- He went into the city and proclaimed about the mighty works of Jesus.

***Lessons learnt about Jesus from the miracle***

- i. Jesus has power over Satan.
- ii. Jesus came to destroy satanic forces in the world.
- iii. Jesus mission was to bring glory to God.
- iv. Jesus is concerned also with psychological welfare of human beings.
- v. He came to liberate the captives.
- vi. He is the son of God and therefore the Messiah.
- vii. His mission faced challenges and opposition.

***Lessons Christians learn from the miracle.***

- i. They should fight to liberate themselves from satanic forces.
- ii. They should call on Jesus' name as a tool against satanic forces.
- iii. They should value human life because it is superior to that of other creatures.
- iv. Christians should testify to others what the Lord has done for them.
- v. Christians should not be an obstacle to the spread of the Gospel.

***The raising of Jairus' daughter and the healing of the woman with the flow of Blood***

***Luke 8:40 – 55***

**(i) *The raising of Jairus' daughter.***

- Jesus was requested by Jairus who was a leader of a synagogue, to go and heal his only daughter who was very sick (she was 12 years old).
- Jesus accepted Jairus' humble request but word came that the girl was dead and therefore no need to bother Jesus.
- Jesus asked Jairus to have faith and told mourners not to wail because the girl was just asleep.

- Jesus together with Peter, John and James and the parents of the dead girl, and entered the house.
- Jesus held the girls hand and commanded her to rise up to which she responded.
- Jesus requested that she be given something to eat.
- The miracle was to remain a secret.

***Lessons learnt about Jesus from the miracle***

- i. Jesus mission was to uplift the lowly like women.
- ii. Jesus is the Lord of life. He brings back to life those who have died. He is the Lord of resurrection and life.
- iii. He has mercy/compassion to those suffering e.g. raising back to life.
- iv. His mission as the Messiah was yet to be revealed to the public.
- v. He welcomes those with faith and responds to their needs.
- vi. He came to discourage those Jewish traditions that could be a barrier to eternal life like touching a corpse.

***Lessons Christians learn from the raising***

- i. They should be hopeful for eternal life.
- ii. Christians should have faith in Jesus' work
- iii. Christians should humble themselves before Jesus if they are to be rewarded.
- iv. Christians should assist those who are suffering.
- v. They should turn to God in prayer during times of hardships. They should be patient to witness the mighty works of Jesus.
- vi. They should be ready to be mocked and ridiculed as they serve the Lord.

**(ii) The healing of the woman with the flow of blood**

**Luke 8:40 – 48**

- i. As Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house, a large crowd followed and pressed against Him.
- ii. In the crowd was a woman who suffered from an incurable disease i.e. internal bleeding.
- iii. She had bled for twelve years.
- iv. She believed that just by touching the cloak of Jesus, she would be healed.
- v. She touched the fringe of Jesus' garment and immediately the flow of blood ceased.
- vi. Jesus asked who had touched Him.
- vii. All denied while Peter said there was a great multitude pressing on Him.
- viii. Jesus said that someone touched Him for He perceived power leaving him.
- ix. The woman came forward trembling and fell before Jesus and testified how she had received healing.
- x. Jesus told her "Daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace."

**Lessons learnt about Jesus from this miracle**

- i. Jesus has power to heal all diseases.
- ii. He is a merciful Lord ready to aid the suffering.
- iii. He heals in response to faith.
- iv. The healing demonstrates God's power in the person of Jesus.
- v. Jesus heals to restore people back to wholeness of life.

**Lessons Christians learn from the miracle**

- i. Christians should seek Jesus in times of trouble.
- ii. Christians should testify about what Jesus has done for.
- iii. Christians should show compassion to the sick by restoring their state.
- iv. Christians should advocate for the rights of marginalized groups in society.

- v. Christians should continue with the healing mission of Christ.
- vi. Christians should have practical faith in their lives.

***Ways in which Jesus uplifted the status of women according to St. Luke's Gospel***

- i. Jesus raised the only son of the widow of Nain from death.
- ii. Jesus forgave the sinful woman in Simon the Pharisee's house.
- iii. He healed the women who accompanied Him of infirmities or cast out evil spirits.
- iv. Jesus healed the woman who had been crippled on the Sabbath.
- v. He raised Jairus' daughter from death.
- vi. Jesus praised Mary for choosing to listen to the word of God while her sister Martha complained about work.
- vii. Jesus told the women who accompanied Him to the crucifixion not to weep and it was women who were the first to receive the news of His resurrection.
- viii. Jesus healed the woman who had the flow of blood for twelve years.
- ix. Jesus commended the widow who gave all her offering in the temple.
- x. Jesus visited the family of Martha and Mary.

***Ways in which Christians can eradicate cases of discrimination in the society***

- i. Educate people on the evils against discrimination.
- ii. Condemn those who practice discrimination.
- iii. Living exemplary lives or being role models.
- iv. Reporting cases of discrimination to the relevant authorities.
- v. Praying for the culprits to change.
- vi. Providing equal job opportunities to both genders.
- vii. Preaching love in the society.
- viii. Supporting the government in enacting laws that promote equality.
- ix. Rewarding marginalised groups that make a positive mark in the society.

### ***Lessons that Christians learn from the mighty works of Jesus***

- i. Jesus gives life/ has power over death/ thus Christians should have hope of life after death.
- ii. Christians should have faith; faith is necessary for healing.
- iii. Christians should approach/ seek God with humility.
- iv. Christians should be persistent in making requests.
- v. God answers requests/ Christians should turn to God for their needs.
- vi. Christians should be patient/ avoid desperation.
- vii. Christians should be compassionate to those suffering.
- viii. Christians should believe in Jesus' power through touching.
- ix. Christians should emulate Jesus' humility as they do God's work e.g. Jesus imposed silence as He raised Jairus' daughter.
- x. Jesus gives hope to those who are hopeless and thus Christians should not be desperate.
- xi. Christians should carry out their mission to all regardless of race, gender or status.
- xii. Jesus knows the needs of people personally, therefore Christians should ask for them.
- xiii. Christians should exercise courage when seeking solutions to their problems.

### **JESUS AND THE TWELVE DISCIPLES**

- Since the time they were chosen, the 12 disciples of Jesus went with them everywhere He went.
- They listened to His teachings and observed His mighty works.
- We shall look at how Jesus prepared his disciples for leadership. He wanted them to take up his mission of service after he left.

### ***The commissioning of the twelve disciples***

#### ***Luke 9:1 – 9***

Jesus commissioned the disciples to do the following;

- To preach the gospel of the kingdom.
- To heal the sick.
- To cast out devils/demons.
- To cure diseases.
- To give hope to the hopeless.

With the growing opposition against him Jesus knew that he would soon depart from his disciples. He therefore wanted them to take up his mission. He sent them with a number of instructions.

#### ***Instructions that Jesus gave to his disciples during the great mission***

- i. To take nothing for the journey i.e. staff, bag, money and not to have 2 tunics.
- ii. To stay in homes where they were welcome and eat what they were given.
- iii. To leave and shake off dust where they were not welcomed.

#### ***Lessons Christians learn from the commissioning of the twelve disciples***

##### ***Christians should:***

- i. Share in the mission of Jesus by availing the Gospel to all nations.
- ii. Care for the sick.
- iii. Provide for the upkeep of church leaders.
- iv. Make pastoral visits to the homes of Christians for fellowship.
- v. Offer hospitality to the evangelists in their homes.
- vi. Lead humble lives.
- vii. Pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- viii. Christians should be ready to face opposition in their work.

### ***The relevance of the commissioning of the twelve disciples***

- i. Disciples are supposed to have total trust in God/Must only rely on God for their provision.
- ii. Jesus gives power and authority to his disciples to heal and cast out demons.
- iii. The Kingdom of God entails total renewal of man's body and soul.
- iv. The work of the disciples is to spread the kingdom of God through the preaching of the gospel.
- v. Disciples must disassociate themselves from rebellious listeners.
- vi. Disciples must have no fellowship with those who reject the Gospel.
- vii. The disciple must treat the commission to preach the kingdom as a matter of urgency.

### ***The work of Missionaries today***

The work of missionaries today is:

- i. To preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God.
- ii. To heal the sick.
- iii. To win souls to the Kingdom of God.
- iv. To take care of the needs of the needy e.g. orphans, widows, street children.
- v. To give hope through the word of God.
- vi. To cast out demons.
- vii. To counsel people on family life issues
- viii. To provide moral guidance to the youth.

## **JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND**

**Luke 9:10 – 17**

- This was a nature miracle
- After the return of the 12 disciples from their mission, Jesus took them to a quiet place in the town of Bethsaida.
- A crowd of about 5,000 people followed him to whom he preached about the kingdom of God.
- The disciples requested Jesus to release the people to look for food.
- Jesus told the disciples to give the people something to eat.
- The disciples were in a dilemma because they did not have enough food to feed the people.
- Jesus told the disciples to organize the people into groups of fifty.
- He took five loaves, two fish, prayed for it, broke them and asked the disciples to distribute to the people.
- The crowd ate to its fill and left remains that filled 12 baskets.

***Lessons learnt about Jesus from the feeding of the 5,000.***

- i. Jesus is the Messiah offering the messianic banquet prophesied by prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 25:6).
- ii. Jesus is the bread of life.
- iii. Jesus has divine power.
- iv. Jesus provides for both physical and spiritual needs of people.
- v. Jesus has power over nature (multiplied loafs enough to feed 5,000 people)
- vi. Jesus had faith in God's providence.
- vii. Jesus had compassion for the needy.
- viii. Jesus prayer (Luke 9:16) points to spiritual feeding of the church in the celebration of the Eucharist (Last supper Luke 14:22 – 25).

### ***Lessons Christians learn from the feeding of 5,000***

- i. Christians should be willing to share what they have with others e.g. food, clothing, shelter, education, medicine.
- ii. Christians should not run away from problems but should be ready to face challenges as they occur.
- iii. Christians should always pray to God before doing anything e.g. before eating.
- iv. Christians should preach the gospel to others.
- v. Christians Should not be wasteful in the use of their food and other resources i.e. Jesus asked the left-over to be collected.
- vi. Christians should show mercy to those who are suffering e.g. by feeding them.
- vii. Church leaders should delegate duties as Jesus did, he asked his disciples to arrange the people and distribute food to them.
- viii. Christians should be very orderly people e.g. Jesus asked the people to sit down before they could be given food.
- ix. Christians should be obedient to their leaders; the disciples were always ready to take the instructions of Jesus without questioning.
- x. Christians should not only preach the gospel but also cater for people's social and economic needs e.g. run schools, hospitals and colleges.

### ***How the feeding of the 5,000 people prepared the disciples for their future work***

It made them know:

- That with God nothing is impossible
- Success in mission work entails providing people with both spiritual and physical needs.
- That as a preacher one must also be an environmentalist i.e. keeps it clean.
- That showing compassion is an essential element of Christian ministry.
- As a missionary one must not be lazy, he must keep on working as long as there is need.
- They learnt never to limit God as they work for him.

***Virtues Christians learn from the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000***

- i. Service to others.
- ii. Obedience.
- iii. Faith/trust.
- iv. Humility.
- v. Cooperation.
- vi. Thankfulness.
- vii. Carefulness.
- viii. Responsibility.
- ix. Kindness/ generosity/ sharing.
- x. Concern.
- xi. Respect.

**THE PERSON OF JESUS AND HIS DESTINY**

***Luke 9:18 – 27***

- Jesus asked his disciples two questions about his person and destiny.
  - (i) “Who do people say I am?”
  - (ii) “Who do you say I am?”
- The disciples’ response showed that people thought Jesus was either John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the great prophets of O.T.
- Jesus accepted Peter’s response that he was the Messiah of God.
- Jesus commanded the disciples not to reveal his Messianic identity because:
  - (i) It could be misunderstood to refer to a conquering Messiah in line with the Jewish expectations.
  - (ii) The Messiah was to suffer, be rejected, killed and on the third day be raised.

- (iii) The disciples had to wait until an opportune time when they would learn the true meaning of His Messiahship.
- Jesus assertion that he must suffer greatly meant that it was God's plan of saving humankind through suffering.
- Through the resurrection of Jesus, victory over human suffering and death will be realized.
- The disciples of Jesus were to share in his suffering through self-denial and being ready to loose their lives for Jesus.
- Jesus promises a great reward to those who remain faithful to him.

***The kind of Messiah the Jews expected***

- i. A political figure with immense authority.
- ii. A conquering Messiah that would liberate them from the Roman Rule.
- iii. To come from the house of David.
- iv. To come from a rich family background i.e. well known parents/royal family.
- v. One who would establish the throne of David in Israel.
- vi. One who would lead them into a time of great national power and prosperity.
- vii. One who would be a perfect king.

***The kind of Messiah that Jesus is to Christians***

- i. He is a saving Messiah.  
-Saved mankind from sin.
- ii. He is a forgiving Messiah.  
-He forgives the sins of man
- iii. He is a healing Messiah.  
-He heals sickness and diseases.
- iv. He is a reigning Messiah.  
-He established God's kingdom on earth.
- v. He is a triumphing Messiah.

- His death on the cross and resurrection was total over Satan.
- vi. He is a liberating Messiah.
  - He liberates mankind from satanic bondage demoniacs.
- vii. He is the anointed one.
  - His anointing breaks every yoke.
- viii. He is the foundation.
  - Christianity is based on His life and teachings.

## **THE TRANSFIGURATION**

***Luke 9:28 – 36***

The term transfiguration refers to transformation of Jesus' body into heavenly glory.

- Eight days after the great confession, Jesus took with Him Peter, John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.
- As He was praying, the appearance of His countenance was altered and His clothes became dazzling white.
- And behold, two men talked with Him, Moses and Elijah/ they spoke of his departure which was to be accomplished in Jerusalem.
- Peter, James and John were heavy with sleep and when they awakened, they saw the glory and the two men who stood who stood with Jesus.
- As the two men were parting from Him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master it is well that we are here, let us make three booths, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah” not knowing what he said.
- As he said this, a cloud came and overshadowed them and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.
- And a voice came out of the cloud saying, “This is my son, my chosen, listen to Him.”
- When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.
- They kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

### ***Significance of the transfiguration***

- i. Moses represented the law and this signified that Jesus' fulfillment of the O.T law, the Law of Moses.
- ii. Elijah represented the O.T prophets signifying that Jesus was the fulfillment of O.T prophesy.
- iii. The two O.T figures talked to Jesus about his passion and death signifying that God had approved the crucifixion of Jesus.
- iv. The Voice from heaven about the person of Jesus was confirming that Jesus was fulfilling the will of God.
- v. The entire episode was a confirmation that Jesus was the son of God.
- vi. The appearance of Moses was a confirmation that there is life after death and holy people when they die they go to heaven.
- vii. The episode signified that Jesus was about to be glorified through His death and resurrection.
- viii. The incident encouraged and strengthened Jesus to carry on with His mission through suffering and death.
- ix. The occasion taught the disciples the need for privacy in prayer.
- x. The appearance in heavenly glory strengthened the faith of the three disciples who realized that they were right in following Jesus.
- xi. The disciples experienced the presence of God which was manifested through the cloud.
- xii. The voice from the cloud taught the disciples that Jesus had to be obeyed and trusted.
- xiii. The disciples learnt that Jesus' mission was to establish the Kingdom of God.
- xiv. The incident prepared Peter for the future leadership of the church.

### ***Lessons Christians learn from the transfiguration of Jesus Christ***

- i. They should be alert.
- ii. They should not be selfish/ share God's secrets with others.
- iii. They should be prayerful.

- iv. They should enter the presence of God with great respect.
- v. They should learn to endure suffering.
- vi. They should live with hope that there is life after death.
- vii. They should be slow to speak/ learn more about Christ before they speak.

## **JESUS TEACHING ON FAITH AND HUMILITY**

***Luke 9:37 – 50***

Jesus taught on faith and humility as a way of preparing His disciples for the requirements they would need in their apostolic work. Jesus illustrated this in the following ways:

- The disciples were unable to heal a boy who had epilepsy because they lacked faith. Jesus cautioned them against their faithless state (Luke 9 – 37 – 43)
- The disciples had failed to understand Jesus' prediction that his mission will be effected through suffering, death and resurrection Luke 9:43 – 45.
- The disciples lacked humility by being concerned more about their greatness instead of being concerned with their duties as disciples Luke 9:46.
- Jesus used the humility and simplicity found in children to teach that these were the virtues needed to carry out apostolic work. This gives one greatness in the kingdom of and vs. 47 – 48.
- The disciples did not accept other people performing miracles in Jesus name because of their pride of being followers of Christ.

***Significance of Jesus' teaching on faith and humility***

- i. Christian churches should be united in their mission.
- ii. Christian leaders should humble themselves in serving the community.
- iii. Christians should recognize and accept faith-healing as mighty works of God.
- iv. Demon spirits recognize the authority of Jesus over them.
- v. With Faith in God, Christians have authority over demons.
- vi. Membership in Gods kingdom requires humility.

- vii. The one that is greatest in Gods kingdom is one who is humble.
- viii. Christians should show compassion to those who are suffering.
- ix. Christians must have faith accompanied by works.

***How Christians can express humility***

- i. By sharing material possessions with the needy.
- ii. By mixing freely with people of lower status regardless of their position.
- iii. Being available to offer communal service e.g. street cleaning.
- iv. By not boasting about their own achievement.
- v. By attributing all their achievement to the power of God.
- vi. By being available and ready to share the gospel in rural, semi-arid and inaccessible areas.
- vii. By blessing those who curse them.
- viii. By praying for their enemies.
- ix. By forgiving those who wrong them.

***Instances that proved that Jesus was a humble man***

- i. He never boasted about his divinity.
- ii. He was ready to forgive all who wronged Him including those who crucified Him.
- iii. He never argued with His accusers especially during the trial before the Sanhedrin, Herod and Pilate.
- iv. He left His glory in heaven be born of Mary so as to fulfill God's plan of salvation.
- v. He was available to listen to the teachings of the elders in the Temple when He was 12 years.
- vi. He entered each village and interacted with all classes of people e.g. lepers, women, poor, sick.
- vii. He shared all sorts of meals with His disciples.
- viii. He slept with His disciples in very humble circumstances.

ix. When He was born He was laid in a manger in a cattle shed.

## **INCIDENTS IN ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL WHERE JESUS IS DEPICTED AS A SON OF GOD**

- (i) At baptism Luke 3:22.
- (ii) At transfiguration Luke 9:35.
- (iii) During the annunciation Luke 1:32.
- (iv) During temptations in the wilderness Luke 4:3.
- (v) During Peter's confession.
- (vi) During exorcism at Capernaum Luke 4:34.
- (vii) During the exorcism at Gerasene Luke 8:28.

## **THE JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM**

### *Introduction*

- After the Galilean ministry, Jesus made up his mind and set out on his way to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51).
- He was determined to fulfill God's plan of salvation, through His suffering, death and resurrection.
- His journey to Jerusalem was important to Jesus because it is at this city that He would be rejected and killed by the Jewish religious authorities. (Luke 9:1 – 19:27)
- The journey took Jesus through the Samaritan villages. People of Samaria rejected Him in Galilee.
- On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus went through towns and villages teaching on matters of;
  - Discipleship.
  - The Kingdom of God.

- Wealth and poverty.
- He also healed the sick.
- His teachings encouraged his disciples to grow in faith.
- St. Luke's Gospel portrays the life of Jesus as a journey. It is a spiritual journey which takes him to Jerusalem where he suffers, dies and rises from the dead.
- The life of a Christian is also a journey that they follow Jesus until they receive eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

## **THE DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF DISCIPLESHIP**

*Luke 9:51 – 62)*

On His way to Jerusalem Jesus outlined the following duties to be fulfilled by His would be followers:

- i. Being a disciple of Jesus means self-denial and suffering i.e accepting homelessness and enduring hardship. vs. 58.
- ii. Discipleship means total commitment to Jesus and breaking family ties for the sake of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom vs. 59 – 61.
- iii. Discipleship requires voluntary sacrifices of one's life for the sake of Christ.
- iv. Discipleship necessitates readiness to face shameful and painful treatment on the account of Christ.
- v. A disciple of Christ must be ready to spread the Gospel vs. 60.

*The decision to follow Jesus gives privileges such as:*

- i. Enables one to be a member of God's kingdom.
- ii. Assurance of eternal life.
- iii. The joy of winning others to the kingdom.
- iv. Sharing with Christ in His mission.
- v. Being a member of those specifically called to serve Christ.

## THE MISSION OF THE SEVENTY TWO

*Luke 10:1 – 24*

- Jesus chose 72 disciples (70 in other versions) and sent them in twos ahead of Him to preach and heal.
- He informed them of the many people waiting to hear the Good news yet the disciples were few.
- He told them the urgency of the mission and gave them the following instructions:
  - i. The disciples were to pray for more laborers to be sent for the harvest was plentiful.
  - ii. The disciples were not to carry any purse/ bag/ sandals.
  - iii. They were not to salute anyone on the road.
  - iv. They were to say peace to any house they entered.
  - v. They were to remain in the same house and not to go from house to house.
  - vi. They were to eat/ drink whatever was provided.
  - vii. They were to heal the sick.
  - viii. They were to tell the people that the kingdom of God has come.
  - ix. They were to wipe of the dust on their feet against the people who do not welcome them.
- The success of the disciples' mission made Jesus happy; He saw it as a complete overthrow of Satan's Kingdom.
- Jesus rejoiced in the power of the Holy Spirit and praised God for His gracious revelation to the simple and humble disciples.

## A COMMITTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

**Luke 10:25 – 11:1 – 13**

*Commitment* means dedication and devotion to a certain responsibility.

- A committed person is one who feels obliged to perform his/her duties seriously.
- Jesus taught on what it means to be a committed follower by using the:
  - i. Parable of the Good Samaritan
  - ii. The story of Martha and Mary and in
  - iii. The teaching on prayer.

### **(i) *The parable of the Good Samaritan***

**Luke 10:25 – 37)**

- Jesus told the parable to answer the lawyer's question, "who is my neighbor?" In the Jewish understanding a neighbor was a fellow Jew and other people were enemies.
- A man was attacked while on his way to Jericho.
- A Levite and a priest passed him and did not help.
- According to Jewish law, it was forbidden for priest and Levites to come and contact with blood or a corpse because this rendered them unclean. This may explain why they passed by without helping the man.
- A Samaritan passed by and stopped to help the wounded man.
- He bandaged the wounds of the victim and took him to an Inn and met all expenses incurred.
- Jesus told the lawyer to behave like the Good Samaritan and help those in need.

*Characteristics of true discipleship of Jesus from the parable of the Good Samaritan*

- i. Having practical knowledge and understanding of God's commandments.
- ii. Readiness to help the needy.

- iii. Willingness to share resources selflessly with others.
- iv. Showing solidarity with those who are suffering.
- v. Freedom from cultural/ traditional restrictions.
- vi. Readiness to serve all irrespective of the race/ religion/ status/gender.
- vii. Should be compassionate/ loving to the needy.
- viii. Kindness and generosity to others.
- ix. Shows pity and mercy to those who are suffering.
- x. Obedience to God's commandments.
- xi. Readiness to risk life for the sake of others.

**(ii) *Jesus visits Martha and Mary***

***Luke 10:38 – 42***

- On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus visited Martha and Mary who were sisters in their house.
- While Martha was busy with preparing a meal Mary sat at the feet of Jesus listening to His teaching.
- Martha complained to Jesus that Mary had left her to do all the work.
- Jesus answered her by saying “Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things but just one thing is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her”. (Vs 41 – 42)

***Jesus response to Martha brings out the following teachings of a committed follower:***

A committed follower should:

- i. Create time to read and listen to the word of God. They should attend church services/fellowship with others.
- ii. Ensure that the worries and commitments of daily life do not override their commitment to God's word.
- iii. Women are called to be disciples of Jesus by participating in Ministry. They can be ordained as ministers or begin ministries.

- iv. Pastors/priests should make pastoral visits to the homes of their members.
- v. Christians should support the servants of God in their ministry by providing material support.
- vi. One who gives priority to spiritual nourishment than to material needs.
- vii. One who does not discourage others who are committed to the word of God and are ready to serve Him.
- viii. One who is not prevented from serving God by their daily chores.

**(iii) *Jesus' teaching on Prayer***

***Luke 11:1 – 13***

Jesus taught His disciples on how to pray using the Lord's Prayer and the parable of the friend at midnight.

The Lord's Prayer has six petitions

***Addressing God as “Father” (Abba in Aramaic).***

- Christians should establish an intimate relationship with God by addressing God as their father.

***Honoring God's Holy Name – Hallowed be thy name.***

- Jesus honored his father by accepting His life and Ministry.
- A Christian should give God full glory, honour and praises.

***Declaring the Kingdom of God – Thy Kingdom come.***

- God's kingdom is the rule of God in hearts of people. The petition asks God to establish His rule/peace in people's hearts.
- Christians should always allow God to rule their hearts so that we are blessed with his presence all the time.

***Asking God to provide our daily needs – Give us each day our daily bread.***

- Jesus lived in confidence that God provides. This petition means that God can be trusted to provide for our individual needs.
- We should ask God for our daily needs in order to admit that we are dependant on Him.

***Asking God to forgive our sins as we forgive others*** – Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive every one who is indebted to us:

- We can trust God to forgive us for all the wrongs we commit.
- God will forgive us if we also forgive others.
- Jesus acted as an example for Christians on forgiveness. He prayed His father to forgive those who crucified him as they did not know what they were doing.

***Pleading with God not to bring temptations*** – And lead us not into temptation.

- The disciples must endure so that they are not overcome by temptations.
- This petition implies that God might allow people a time of trial or temptations.
- When faced with trials, God will provide us with victory over satanic temptations.
- Prayer gives us strength, courage and will to face all challenges.

### ***Parable of a friend at midnight***

#### ***Luke 11:5-13***

- A person went to a friend at midnight to ask for bread to entertain unexpected visitor.
- The friend did not want to wake up; nevertheless he did wake up and gave the man everything he needed.

In this story Jesus taught His disciples about;

- i. Hospitality
- ii. Need to be concerned with the well-being of others.
- iii. The need to persist in prayer.
- iv. That God answers prayers

- He encouraged his disciples to “Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you”. Vs 9
- Jesus is emphasizing that Christians should pray at all times without ceasing for God will grant their requests.
- Jesus concluded by saying if earthly fathers will give good things to their children, God will give us much more including the Holy Spirit, if we ask him.
- From the Lord ’s Prayer and the parable of a friend at mid-night a committed follower should:
  - i. Acknowledge God as our father and address all prayers to Him.
  - ii. Pray at all time and persistently.
  - iii. Have faith that God answers prayers.
  - iv. Be willing to forgive others.

***Reasons why Christians pray***

- i. To show their dependence on God.
- ii. To express the power/ greatness of God/ adore/ honour God.
- iii. They pray to ask for their needs/ seek guidance.
- iv. Through prayer, they confess their sins/ ask for forgiveness.
- v. To thank God for His faithfulness/ goodness/ blessings.
- vi. Prayers relieve fears/ anxiety/ worries.
- vii. It is an instrument in which the work of Satan is destroyed.
- viii. To communicate with God/ have fellowship with God.
- ix. To follow the example of Jesus.
- x. It is a command from God/ a sign of obedience.
- xi. To intercede for others.
- xii. To seek protection from God.

***The relevance of Jesus' teachings on discipleship to Christians today***

- i. Christians continue to evangelize and ensure that the gospel reaches all people.
- ii. Christians should not tire in evangelizing even in the face of hostility or resistance.
- iii. Jesus encouraged His disciples to bless those who rejected their mission.
- iv. Christians have a duty to take care of the servants of God. Jesus urged the disciples to receive support from the people they evangelized to.
- v. Christians should be involved in the healing ministry of Jesus in all its dimensions e.g. through exorcism and deliverance, medical care, restoration of relationships and pastoral care.
- vi. Christians have the assurance of God's power to overcome evil.
- vii. Christians should be humble and acknowledge God's power in their fight against evil.
- viii. They should tolerate people from different backgrounds.
- ix. Christians should rely on God's providence/ their needs.
- x. Christians should be practical in what they teach about Jesus.

***USE OF GOD'S POWER TO OVERCOME EVIL***

***Luke 11:14 – 36***

**(a) *Jesus and Beelzebul***

***Luke 11:14 – 23***

- Some people had watched Jesus drive out a demon from a dumb man.
- When the demon came out, the man started speaking.
- The crowds were amazed.
- However, some people accused Jesus of using the power of Beelzebul.
- Others asked for a sign from heaven to test Him.
- Jesus knew their thoughts and told them a house divided against itself will fall.

- He said Satan cannot be divided against himself for his kingdom will fall.
- Jesus asked them by whom their followers would drive out demons if He drove out demons by Beelzebul.
- Jesus talked about a strong man guarding his house and his possessions would be safe until a stronger man overpowers his guard and takes away his possessions.
- He said that whoever was not with Him was against Him.

**(b) *The return of the unclean spirit: Luke 11:24 – 28***

The Christians should not give Satan a chance to reoccupy their hearts but allow the Holy Spirit to permanently guide them.

**(c) *The sign of Jonah Luke: 11:29 – 32***

The sign of Jonah and queen of Sheba illustrates that pagans were able to recognize God's presence unlike the Jews who have rejected Jesus and fail to see God's saving power in him.

If the Jews refuse to listen to Jesus who is greater than Jonah and the Queen of Sheba, God will reject them and the Gentiles will receive God's salvation.

**(d) *The light of the body (Luke 11:33 – 36)***

Jesus used the parable of the lamp and lamp stand to show that He is the light that God offers to His people.

To refuse the light by seeking for a sign is to prefer darkness. His message is seen as the light to shine to others.

***From the above incident Christians learn that:***

- i. Jesus has power to drive out demons. His power is stronger than that of Beelzebul, the chief of demons.
- ii. God's power is greater than Satan's.
- iii. When a demon possessed person is healed he/she should be filled with the Holy Spirit to avoid repossession.
- iv. Christians should be light of the world by being good role models.

- v. Christians should proclaim the Good news to others.
- vi. Christians should trust in Jesus as their savior.

## JESUS' TEACHINGS ON HYPOCRISY WEALTH AND WATCHFULNESS

**Luke 11:37 – 12:1-12**

*(a) Fearless confession without Hypocrisy.*

**Definition of Terms:**

**Hypocrisy**

- Means being insincere, dishonest or pretending.
- It is pretending to be good and displaying oneself to be perfect.

**Confession**

- Refers to an act of a person admitting that they have done wrong or committed a mistake and then asking to be forgiveness.
- It also means to acknowledge one's sins and guilt in the light of God's revelation and to seek forgiveness.

**Honesty**

- Refers to a state of being sincere, trustworthy and upright.
- An honest person is fair and just in character and behavior. Such a person tells the truth.
- God expects us to be honest in our dealings with people.
- He also expects us to confess our sins and be sincere in everything we do.

**(i) Jesus attacks the hypocrisy of Pharisees and teachers of the Law**

**Luke 11:37 – 54, 12:1 – 3**

- Jesus was invited to a Pharisees home to eat with him.
- The Pharisees noticed that he ate without washing his hands.

- Jesus used this incident to teach the disciples on the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

***Reasons why Jesus attacked the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the Scribes***

- i. The washing of hands, cups and dishes was done ceremoniously.
- Jesus responded by informing them that it was more important to pay attention to issues of charity than external appearances/emphasized outward cleanliness as opposed to purity of heart.
- ii. Jesus criticized the Pharisees on their tithing habits. They paid one tenth of seasoning herbs such as mint and rue which was meant to support the work of the priests and Levites but they neglected justice and the love of God. Jesus made it clear that practicing religious rituals without right would never lead to salvation.
- iii. The Pharisees loved the reserved seat in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in market places. They desired to be noticed as righteous people.
- Jesus criticized the teachers of the Law/scribes.
- iv. They were experts in the Mosaic Law and had all the information on what a person was expected to do and what they were not allowed to do. But they failed in their primary duty of making the people to understand the true interpretation of the Law of God.
- v. Jesus accused the teachers of the Law of behaving like their ancestors who persecuted and killed the prophets; likewise Jesus anticipated His own Martyrdom
- vi. They over burden the people with strict observance of the laws and traditions.
- vii. They persecuted and killed the prophets and messengers.
- viii. They misinterpreted the Mosaic Law and; therefore denied the fine knowledge of the will of God.
- ix. They lacked humility and despised others.
- x. They knew the commandments but didn't apply them appropriately.
- xi. They followed Jesus with an intention of trapping him.
- xii. They followed traditions of elders as opposed to the golden rule/love of God and neighbor.
- xiii. They misled others.

**(ii) Jesus' teachings on confession**

**Luke 12:8 - 12**

- After addressing the Pharisees, Jesus taught His disciples the following on fearless confession:
  - i. They should not practice hypocrisy.
  - ii. They should fearlessly be loyal to God in spite of the consequences.
  - iii. They should not say anything evil against the Holy Spirit.
  - iv. They should rely on the Holy Spirit in times of persecution.
  - v. They should confess their loyalty to Jesus publicly without fearing the consequences.
  - vi. They should display a high degree of honesty.
  - vii. They should obey God.

**JESUS' TEACHINGS ON MATERIAL POSSESSIONS, WATCHFULNESS AND READINESS**

**(a) Material possessions:**

**Luke 12:13 – 34**

- Jesus taught the correct attitude towards material possessions. He demonstrated by telling the parable of the Rich Fool.
- The Rich Man had harvested a good crop from his land.
- He realized that his barns/stores were not big enough to take in the entire harvested crop.
- He decided to pull down the old barns so that he could build bigger ones.
- He would then store the crop in the new barns and was aware that it would take care of him for a long time.
- He would then tell himself, “take life easy eat, drink and enjoy yourself.” vs. 19 (b).

- Unfortunately he did not live to enjoy his wealth because the same night God told him “you fool! This very night you will give up your life then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?” (V. 20)

***Teachings from the parable***

- i. The disciples should not put their trust in material wealth but in God who controls their lives.
- ii. The disciples should not worry about food, clothing or what they will drink but trust in God’s providence. They should seek the Kingdom of God first before their personal needs.
- iii. The disciples should seek God’s kingdom for them to be rewarded in heaven.
- iv. Greed for material possession can lead people to forget about God’s care and providence for them.
- v. The rich should use their wealth to serve and glorify God.
- vi. Material possession is temporal and cannot give eternal life. They give false sense of security.

***(b) Watchfulness and readiness: Luke 12:35 – 39***

- To be watchful is to be alert, attentive and on the look-out.
- Readiness implies a state of preparedness, eagerness and willingness.
- Jesus taught His disciples on watchful and readiness by using the following illustrations:

***(i) Watchful servants: 12:35 – 40***

- They should be ready for the second coming of Christ, which will be unexpected.
- When Jesus Christ returns he will be gratified and will reward the vigilant servants.

***(ii) Faithful or unfaithful servants: 12:41 – 48***

In this parable Jesus explains that:

- The disciples should be wise and faithful stewards during their master’s absence.
- The faithful servants will be promoted to higher status when their master returns.

- The unfaithful servants will be punished.

(iii) *Understanding the signs of the time: 12:54 – 56*

- The disciples should be watchful for signs of the Kingdom which were present in the person of Jesus.
- They should make personal decisions to follow Jesus.

(iv) *Jesus the cause of Divisions: 12:49 – 53*

- The coming of Jesus brought unity and division. It distinguished faith from doubt. It may have caused divisions among members of the same family.
- The disciples were cautioned to work out for division that would arise as a result of their loyalty to Jesus.

(v) *Making peace: 12:57 – 59.*

- A watchful person will do his best to settle disputes with the other person before getting to court.
- This means a person should make peace with God before the Day of Judgment.
- Therefore the coming of Jesus demands that each person makes a personal decision either to follow or not to follow His teachings.

#### ***Relevance of Jesus teachings on watchfulness and readiness to Christians***

- i. They should follow God's commandments and the teachings of Jesus/they should accept Jesus as Lord and savior.
- ii. They should accept suffering on account of their faith in Jesus Christ.
- iii. They should confess their sins and seek forgiveness.
- iv. They should act responsibly and be ready for the second coming of Jesus by providing service to God and other people.
- v. They should be committed followers of Jesus by accepting his Baptism.
- vi. They should continue with preaching the gospel to those who have not heard it.
- vii. They should be able to identify God's presence among Christians.

## **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

### ***The growth of the Kingdom of God***

**Luke 13:1 – 35**

Jesus illustrated his teachings about the Kingdom of God through parables, miracles or public teachings.

- (a) *In His preaching* Jesus stated that repentance of sin was a requirement to the entry into the Kingdom. (13:1 – 5)
- (b) *In the parable of the unfruitful fig tree.* (13:6 – 9)
  - i. Jesus came to give sinners time to repent so as to get the kingdom of God.
  - ii. Jesus brought spiritual nourishment for those who want to inherit the kingdom.
  - iii. The kingdom of God starts from an insignificant and humble state and grows gradually to bear fruits.
- (c) *In the healing of a crippled woman on Sabbath.* (13:10 – 17)
  - i. The kingdom of God is to grow through liberating people from bondage of sickness brought by Satan.
  - ii. The Jewish leaders who are opposed to the Sabbath healing will be shut out of the kingdom.
  - iii. In the Kingdom of God, saving human lives overrides the demand of the Law.
  - iv. The kingdom will grow from those who demonstrate mercy for the suffering as Jesus did.
- (d) ***In the parables of the Mustard seed (13:18 – 19) and Yeast (13:20 – 21)***

The following are the teachings of Jesus on the growth of God's kingdom based on the parables of the Mustard seed and the Yeast;

- i. The kingdom of God starts from a humble beginning.
- ii. It grows to greatness and becomes big though gradually.
- iii. The kingdom of God is universal/all nations of the world come together.
- iv. The Kingdom of God offers protection to those who enter it.

- v. The effect of the Kingdom will always be manifest.
- vi. The Kingdom of God grows secretly in the hearts of human beings.
- vii. The kingdom of God works mysteriously transforming the lives of those who join it.

**(f) *Jesus' teaching about access to the kingdom (13:22 – 31)***

- i. The kingdom of God has challenges for those who enter it.
- ii. It is for those who are determined and committed to work for Jesus.
- iii. The kingdom is not a guarantee for the Jews but, the Gentiles have higher chances of entering than them.
- iv. The time to enter the Kingdom is so short that one has to make a quick decision and repent.
- v. Everyone should try to enter the kingdom of God.
- vi. The kingdom of God will be established through Jesus' death and resurrection in Jerusalem.
- vii. Earthly rulers have no powers to stop the establishment of the kingdom of God.
- viii. The proponents of the Kingdom of God have been persecuted by the Jewish leaders and therefore will be punished by God.
- ix. The Kingdom of God grows on happiness not on suffering like the sick.

***Reasons why a person should be converted to Christianity***

- i. To have eternal life/ enter heaven.
- ii. To turn away from sin/ seek forgiveness.
- iii. To enjoy God's blessings/ peace.
- iv. To be a witness of Jesus' death and resurrection/ it's an acceptance of the great mission.
- v. To serve God/ be ambassadors of God's Kingdom.
- vi. To enter into a personal relationship with God.
- vii. To be the light of the world.

- viii. To acquire a new identity.
- ix. To escape judgment/ going to hell.
- x. To identify with a spiritual/ social group.
- xi. To escape suffering caused by sin in the world.

***Jesus anticipates His rejection***

**13:31 – 35**

- Jesus was advised by some Pharisees to go elsewhere because Herod wanted to kill Him.
- Jesus responded by telling them to tell Herod that He would continue with His journey to Jerusalem performing healing miracles and driving out demons for the following 3three days(Vs 33) and that it was not right for a prophet to be killed anywhere except in Jerusalem.
- Jesus refers to Herod as a “fox” indicating that Herod was cunning. Herod is also portrayed as a murderer/ Killed John the Baptist.
- Jesus lamented over Jerusalem for it repeatedly killed the prophets and messengers that God had sent.
- Since Jerusalem will reject Jesus, God will abandon Jerusalem and its Temple (vs. 35).
- Jerusalem was the religious centre for Jews and a seat of authority.
- Jerusalem will be the site of the death of the Messiah.

**A GREAT FEAST FOR ALL WHO ARE PREPARED**

**(a) *Jesus Heals a sick man. (Luke 14:1 – 6)***

- One Sabbath of one of the leading Pharisees invited Jesus to his house for a meal.
- While in the house, a man whose limbs were swollen came to Jesus for healing.
- On seeing him, Jesus asked the Pharisees and teachers of the law “does out Law allow healing on the Sabbath or not?” (vs.3b).
- The Pharisees did not respond to the question.

- Jesus reminded them that “if anyone of you had a son or an ox that happened to fall in a well on a Sabbath, would you not pull him out at once on the Sabbath itself?” (vs.5)
- Jesus went ahead to heal the man.
- This healing was a manifestation of the presence of God’s kingdom.
- This healing brought more tension between Jesus and the Pharisees; Healing on a Sabbath was considered work and therefore breaking the law.

**(b) *The invited guests (Luke 14:7 – 14)***

- While Jesus was in the house of the leading Pharisee, he noticed that some guests were choosing the best places at the table.
- He taught them that when invited to a wedding feast, they should not take seats of honour. They could be embarrassed when honoured guests arrive and take up their places.
- He taught that one should take the lowest place.
- Those who notice you and elevate you to the seats of honour.
- Jesus remarked that “for everyone who makes himself great will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be made great”. (vs.11)
- Jesus taught that one should not only invite ones relatives, friends, neighbours or the rich for they are likely to invite them back.
- He advised them to invite the underprivileged such as the poor, crippled, the lame, the blind for one would be more blessed than if he invited his friends and relatives.

***The teachings that Jesus made to the guests at the Pharisees house***

- i. Saving a life can be done on the Sabbath.
- ii. It is well to respond to an emergency even on the Sabbath.
- iii. Human life is more important than the animals which the Pharisee accept to rescue on the Sabbath day.
- iv. It is good for one to humble himself/ sit in a lowly place when invited.

- v. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled/ those who humble themselves will be exalted.
- vi. It is blessed to invite the poor/ maimed/ lame/ blind to feasts instead of one's relative/ friends who can invite him/her in return.
- vii. Those who do good for the less fortunate will be repaid during the resurrection of the just.

**(c) *The parable of the Great Feast /Great Banquet.***

**Luke 14:15 – 24**

- The invited guests failed to show up by giving last minute excuses. They were held by social and economic issues.
- The host called in the low class people from the streets to celebrate.

***Reasons why Jesus used the Parable of the great feast in his teaching***

- i. He wanted to explain that invitation to God's Kingdom is open to many.
- ii. He wanted to show that the Jews were given the first chance to be part of God's Kingdom, but they rejected.
- iii. He wanted to show that people reject God's call due to material possession/ family commitments which can be a stumbling block to one's spiritual life.
- iv. He wanted to show that the Gentiles/ outcasts are called to God's Kingdom to replace the non responding Jews.
- v. He needed to explain that God's invitation/ call is extended to all people/ God offers universal salvation.
- vi. In order to show that it is important for all people to honour God's call irrespective of their status/ background.
- vii. So as to explain that those who refuse/ do not accept God's call will not receive blessings of God's Kingdom.
- viii. He wanted to challenge the Jews/ Pharisees who counted themselves as righteous yet they failed to respond to God's call.

**(d) *The cost of Discipleship.***

**Luke 14:25 – 35**

To follow Christ entails repentance and forgiveness of sins and also greater sacrifice such as:

- i. Denouncing family attachments vs.26.
- ii. Total surrender of ones possessions to the growth of the kingdom.
- iii. Accepting to suffer and die for Christ.
- iv. Total commitment to the word of God such that one cannot turn back.
- v. Being ready to preach the Gospel and heal the sick.
- vi. Leading exemplary lives.
- vii. Maintain their Zeal for following Jesus. Being the salt of the world i.e. His disciples must bring flavor and taste to the others and must also bring healing to others.

**RETRIEVING THE LOST**

**Luke 15:1 – 32**

Jesus used the three parables of the lost to challenge the Pharisees who accused Him of mixing with sinners and outcasts.

**(a) *The parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4 – 7)***

A shepherd lost one sheep and was left with 99. He abandoned the 99 and went searching for the lost one. On finding it, he was happy and organized for a celebration with friends. Jesus stated that God rejoices over repentance of one sinner than many righteous ones who do not need repentance.

God does not want any of his children to get lost.

**(b) *The parable of the Lost Coin. (Luke 15:8 – 10)***

- A woman lost a coin out of ten coins.
- She lit a lamp and searched tirelessly for it.
- When she recovered it she was happy and called her friends to join in the celebration.

- The angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents.

**(c) *The parable of the lost Son (Luke 15:11 -***

- A man had two sons.
- A younger son asked for his share inheritance. The father shared out his property between the two sons.
- In a foreign country, the younger son spent all his wealth on luxuries and on immorality.
- He resorted to a humble job of looking after pigs to earn his upkeep.
- Feeling that the life he was now living was disgraceful he regretted the decision he had made by leaving home.
- He opted to go back home and apologize to his father so that he could be hired as one of the servants.
- He was received with great joy by the father who dressed him in new clothes and held a celebration to mark the occasion.
- He was happy the son had come back alive.
- The elder son was unhappy because he had never been honored by his father yet he had remained loyal.
- The reaction of the elder son was rebuked by the father who gave reasons why they were to celebrate.
- He assured the elder son that what he had was his.

***Reasons why Jesus used the parable of the Lost Son in His teaching***

- i. To encourage sinners to accept the word of God.
- ii. To show the consequences of loose living.
- iii. To encourage people to realize their sinfulness/ be willing to repent/ reconcile.
- iv. To teach God's love for all people/ kingdom of God is for all people.
- v. To show God' unconditional forgiveness.
- vi. To warn against judging others/ condemning others.

- vii. To teach His audience the need to welcome repentant sinners.
- viii. He wanted to encourage families to live in harmony.

***The qualities of God from the parable of the prodigal son***

- i. God is a God of freedom i.e. He has given human beings the freedom to choose as the father granted the wishes of the younger son.
- ii. God responds to the wishes, prayers and requests of human beings as the father listened to the wishes of his son
- iii. God is a loving father i.e. God's love is unlimited as the father loved his sons.
- iv. God is always concerned about the lost or sinners as the father was looking forward to the return of His son
- v. God is merciful or compassionate and ready to receive those who repent as the father welcomed his son.
- vi. God is happy and rejoices when the repentant sinner goes back to Him or when the lost are found as the father celebrated the return of his son.
- vii. God is forgiving as the father forgave his son.
- viii. God does not discriminate against some people just as the father did not discriminate any of his children.
- ix. God is generous as shown by the fact that the father gave a portion of his property to his younger son and told the elder son that all that he had was his.
- x. God is mysterious. The older son could not understand why the father was doing what he was doing.
- xi. God provides each individual's needs as the father asked his servants to place a ring on his son's finger and provide him with new clothes.
- xii. God knows and understands each individual's needs as the father knew the needs of his sons.

***Lessons Christians learn from the parable:***

- i. Christians should repent their sins/confess them.
- ii. They should accept and correct sinners in their daily lives.

- iii. Christians should rejoice over repentant sinners.
- iv. Christians should avoid self-righteousness.
- v. Christians should not be jealous.
- vi. Christians should not judge others for God the final and true judge.
- vii. Christians should preach and win more people to God/ Christians should put every effort to seek the lost just like shepherd left the 99 sheep to seek one that was lost.
- viii. Following Jesus is a personal choice.
- ix. The young son came to himself and decided to go to his father to ask for forgiveness and acceptance. Individual effort is required by Christians in following Jesus.

## **JESUS TEACHING ON WEALTH AND POVERTY**

***Luke 16:1-32***

Jesus used two parables to teach about wealth:

- 1. The parable of the shrewd manager
- 2. The parable of the rich man and lazy vs.19 – 31

Jesus brings out the following teachings on wealth and poverty.

- i. Wealth should be acquired in the right manner.
- ii. Wealth is a gift from God/ God given.
- iii. Wealth should be used to serve God/ expand God's Kingdom.
- iv. Those who have wealth are only stewards.
- v. Those who have wealth should share it with others/ help the needy/ poor.
- vi. Poverty is not a result of sin/ the poor can also enjoy God's blessings.
- vii. Wealth can be a hindrance for one to enter into the kingdom of God.
- viii. One cannot serve God and mammon/ wealth.
- ix. We cannot satisfy all human needs/ cannot answer human quest for salvation.

- x. Those who have wealth should avoid extravagance/ prodigality/ luxury.
- xi. Earthly wealth is temporary.
- xii. Those who have wealth should use it responsibly.

***The relevance of Jesus' teaching on wealth and poverty to Christians***

- i. We should accept that there are people who have been blessed by God with riches. Others are poor and lack basic needs like food, shelter and clothing.
- ii. It is their Christian duty that the rich should share their wealth with the needy.
- iii. The rich Christians should not love their riches more than God.
- iv. Christians are expected to use their wealth to maintain God's work e.g. tithing honestly.
- v. Christians should seek spiritual wealth more than material wealth. Spiritual wealth is eternal and material wealth is temporal.
- vi. The rich who oppress the poor are condemned.
- vii. The poor should accept themselves as they are God's children/God loves them/ they should use their talents in God's work.

***Ways in which Christians use their wealth today***

- i. To promote the spread of the Gospel.
- ii. To assist the victims of disaster-hit areas.
- iii. To build homes for destitute.
- iv. To provide medical services.
- v. To promote education and training.
- vi. To give offerings and tithes to the church.
- vii. To create employment opportunities.
- viii. To invest money in community projects.

### ***Ways in which people misuse their money***

- i. Using it for intoxication or engaging in alcohol and drug abuse.
- ii. Indulging in immoral practices such as prostitution or extra-marital sex.
- iii. Using it to buy luxuries e.g. expensive clothes and cars.
- iv. Using money in gambling or in dangerous sports.
- v. Using money to frustrate, exploit, or oppress others.
- vi. Using the money to bribe in order to get out of legal problems e.g. bribing judges and magistrates.
- vii. Using money to buy positions, power or status.
- viii. Wealthy people giving a lot of money to their young children who cannot use it responsibly.
- ix. Using money to lure others e.g. young people to engage in immoral practices.

### ***Reasons why Christians should not involve themselves in gambling***

- i. Gambling enables one to get money/ wealth without working for it.
- ii. In gambling, one's gain leads to another person's loss.
- iii. It creates bitterness in the one who loses.
- iv. The Bible condemns gambling/ unfair interests.
- v. It involves taking advantage of the ignorant players.
- vi. There is no security on the wealth/ money puts on gambling.
- vii. It is addictive/ can become a compulsive habit.
- viii. It can interfere with family budget/priorities / can cause misunderstanding in the family/ friends.
- ix. It can lead to violence/ loss of life.
- x. It can lead to stress/ illness.
- xi. It can lead to poverty.

xii. Its time wasting at the expense of productive work.

## THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS ON THE POWER OF FAITH

*Luke 17:1 – 37*

- Faith is complete trust/confidence in someone/something.
- Faith is absolute trust in the truthfulness of God's providence.
- Jesus taught that people are likely to commit sin. If a person makes others to sin, 'It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.' vs 2.
- Jesus told his disciples to forgive those who wrong them constantly.
- He said that if the disciples had faith as a mustard seed, they would command a sycamore tree to uproot itself and grow in the sea. People require faith the size of a mustard seed to make possible what seems possible.
- Do Jesus taught that a servant's duty is to serve his master and can only relax when there's no work to do.
- The disciples were being reminded not to relax but to continue working tirelessly as God's servants. If they have faith they would understand that they owe everything they have to God.
- As Jesus Christ was on his way to Jerusalem, he met 10 lepers. They stood at a distance and shouted 'Jesus, Master have mercy on us.' Jesus Christ told them to go to the priest for examination. On their way to the priest, one of them on realizing that he had been healed ran back praising God. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man who came back was a Samaritan and Jesus Christ wondered why only the foreigner came back. Jesus Christ acknowledged that the Samaritan had faith and told him 'rise and go your way your faith has made you well.' Jesus commended him for his faith making him a good example to the rest.
- Some Pharisees asked Jesus when 'the kingdom' of God would come. Jesus told him that the kingdom would not come in a way that can be seen. Those who accepted Jesus and his teachings had already received the kingdom. Jesus refers to the kingdom of God as an inner experience. He also refers to the kingdom of having come through him. Faith is God send.

- Faith is necessary to discover the power of God's kingdom within us. The Pharisees lacked enough faith to enable them see that the kingdom had come in the person of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom was right under their noses, yet they couldn't see.

***Teachings of Jesus Christ on the power of faith***

- i. Faith strengthens Christians to overcome temptations.
- ii. Gives power to forgive others when they sin against us.
- iii. Enables the disciples to perform miracles.
- iv. Enables the disciples to perform their duties freely without expecting any material reward.
- v. Breaks cultural barriers.
- vi. Enables one to seek help from Jesus Christ.
- vii. Faith in God enables us to show gratitude to Him for His blessings.
- viii. Faith enables Christians to experience God's kingdom in their hearts.
- ix. Lack of faith in Jesus Christ leads to punishment.
- x. The power of faith in Jesus Christ leads to healing.

***The significance of faith in Christian lives today***

- i. God expects Christians to obey and have absolute faith in Him which enables us to serve Him.
- ii. Christians should have faith in Jesus Christ by following His teachings and doing His will. Faith is the foundation of salvation.
- iii. Christians should be fully committed to Jesus so that faith can continue to be strengthened/strengthen the faith of others around us.
- iv. Christians should have faith to be able to forgive others who wrong us.
- v. Faith enables Christians to serve God in whatever they do without reservation.
- vi. Faith in Jesus Christ brings healing, peace and restoration.
- vii. Enables Christians the power of God's kingdom.

- viii. Enables Christians to inherit God's kingdom.
- ix. Enables Christians to work miracles in Jesus Christ's name.
- x. Enables Christians to overcome temptations.
- xi. Enables Christians to endure suffering.

## **PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER**

**Luke 18:1 – 14**

**(a) *Parable of the widow and the unjust judge (18:1 – 8)***

- The woman approached a judge to grant her justice and mercy from her adversaries/enemies.
- The judge didn't listen to her because he had no fear neither for human beings nor God.
- The woman had nowhere else to obtain help apart from the judge. She therefore persistently demanded for her rights from the judge.
- The judge eventually granted the widow's request.
- The parable teaches that:
  - (i) Prayer should be offered persistently to God.
  - (ii) God will answer when we persistently pray.
  - (iii) Prayer should be offered in faith.

**(b) *Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. (Luke 18:9 – 14)***

- Two men went into the temple to pray, a Pharisee and a tax collector.
- The Pharisee praised himself in prayer.
- He said he was holy/ better than others/ tax collector.
- The tax collector also prayed but could not lift his eyes to heaven.
- The tax collector beat his breast saying he is a sinner/ asked for forgiveness.

- It was the prayer of the tax collector that was accepted/ that was justified.
- Jesus concluded by saying that whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

***Teachings on prayer from the incident:***

- (i) Prayer should be said in humility
- (ii) Prayer should be addressed to God.
- (iii) Should be brief and precise
- (iv) Should be said with sincerity.

***Lessons Christians learn from the parables***

- i. Should acknowledge that they are sinners and should seek for forgiveness through prayer.
- ii. Should approach God with humility.
- iii. Should avoid spiritual pride and self righteousness.
- iv. Should always confess their sins honestly as we pray.
- v. Should be persistent in prayer.
- vi. Should not condemn/ judge others.
- vii. Should pray for deliverance of justice globally.

***Reasons why Christians pray***

- i. To show their dependence on God or faith in God.
- ii. To express the power, greatness, adoration or honour of God.
- iii. Through prayer, they confess their sins and ask for forgiveness.
- iv. They pray to ask for their needs and seek guidance.
- v. To thank God for His faithfulness, goodness and blessings.
- vi. Prayer helps to relieve fears, anxiety or worries.
- vii. Prayer is an instrument through which the work of Satan is destroyed.

- viii. They pray to communicate with God or fellowship with God.
- ix. They pray in following the example of Jesus.
- x. It is a command from God; a sign of obedience.
- xi. They pray to intercede for others.
- xii. To seek protection from God.

## **THE WAY TO SALVATION**

**Luke 18:15 – 19:1 – 27**

**Salvation:** The process of being delivered from sin.

Jesus Christ was the following parables and incidences to teach about salvation:

**(i) When he met little kids (18:15 – 17)**

- Parents brought their children unto Jesus for blessings.
- The disciples prevented them from Jesus Christ.
- The Savior rebuked his disciples and welcomed the kids for blessings.

**Lessons:**

- Salvation is for the simple, humble, innocent and trusting like little children.
- Christians should humble themselves and trust in God and have faith, to attain salvation.

**(ii) The parable of the rich fool (Luke 18:18 – 30)**

- The young ruler came to Jesus Christ seeking confirmation of having eternal life. He had a lot of faith in himself.
- He told Jesus that he had kept the commandments since he was a young boy. To make him surrender to God, Jesus told him, ‘One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven and come follow me.’ (vs. 22)
- When the rich man heard this, he went away sad.

In this parable Jesus Christ teaches that salvation demands;

- i. Obedience to God's commandments.
- ii. Not trusting in wealth.
- iii. Using the wealth acquired to serve others.
- iv. Cutting off family ties for the sake of the kingdom.

**(iii) Foretelling his passion (18:31 – 34)**

- Salvation will be achieved through the suffering (passion).
- The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives Christians hope for eternal life.

**(iv) Healing of the Blind Beggar near Jericho (18:36 – 43)**

- Salvation is for those who show faith in Jesus Christ like the blind man.
- Salvation also requires a deliberate effort to receive God's love.
- Persistence is also required. Christians should be persistent in their faith in God to achieve eternal life.
- Christians should not hinder others from seeking salvation.
- Christians can attain eternal life through showing compassion by our acts of mercy to those in need.

## JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

***The conversion of Zachaeus***

***19:1 – 10***

- Zachaeous was a tax collector. He was short in stature and had climbed up a tree to see Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ saw him, loved him and offered to visit him.
- He believed in Jesus Christ. He was ready to refund to the people what he had cheated out of them four times and give half of his wealth to the poor.

***Salvation requires:***

- i. Repentance.
- ii. Deliberate effort.
- iii. Faith.

**THE PARABLE OF THE TEN POUNDS/TALENTS**

***Luke 19:11 – 27***

- A man of nobility travelled to a far country. He gave each of his ten servants 10 pounds to trade in and make profits for him.
- All made some profit except one who kept his money.
- Upon return, he rewarded all the faithful servants.
- He rebuked the unfaithful servants and took away the money he had given him.

***The parable teaches the following on salvation***

- i. Salvation is for those who use God-given talents.
- ii. Salvation is for those who remain faithful.
- iii. Salvation will reach its ultimate fulfillment with the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- iv. Christians will be rewarded in heaven according to their performance.

***Relevance of Jesus Christ's teaching on salvation to Christians today***

- i. Christians should believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ. To seek eternal life, they are expected to repent their sins for forgiveness.
- ii. The death of Jesus Christ and his resurrection makes it possible for Christians to receive eternal life.
- iii. To enter God's kingdom, Christians have to be humble.
- iv. Christians also learn that wealth should not be a barrier to inheriting eternal life.
- v. Christians should use wealth to serve the needy.

- vi. Christians should obey God's commandments so as to receive salvation.
  - vii. Christians should use their ability/talent to glorify God.
- Christians should be ready to give an account.

## **THE JERUSALEM MINISTRY**

### **THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM**

*Luke 19:28 – 40*

- Jesus sent two of His disciples.
- They were to go into the village where on entering they would find a colt tied on which on which no one had sat.
- They were to bring it back to Jesus.
- If anyone asked them why they were untying it they were to answer “The Lord has need of it”
- They went and found it as He had told them.
- As they untied it the owner asked why they were untying it and they answered “The Lord has need of it.”
- They brought it to Jesus and laid garments on it and set Jesus on it.
- As Jesus rode along they spread their garments on the road.
- As they approached Mt. of Olives the whole crowd began to rejoice and praised God with a loud voice saying “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to the Highest”
- Some Pharisees in the multitude asked Jesus to rebuke the disciples for rejoicing thus.
- Jesus answered “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

### ***Teachings from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem***

- i. Jesus fulfilled Zechariah's prophesy in the Benedictus hymn as a victorious Messiah.

- ii. The use of a colt meant that he was a humble messiah.
- iii. Jesus Christ's acknowledgement of the praises addressed to Him as the king means that His identity as the messiah could no longer be kept secret.
- iv. The triumphant entry was considered by the Pharisees as a threat to the Roman government; and their position as the religious leaders.
- v. The triumphant entry also meant that Jesus Christ was now ready to accomplish His mission/establishing God's kingdom from Jerusalem.
- vi. His entry showed that Jesus Christ was about to establish a kingdom of peace and not a political one.

***Lessons Christians learn from the incident***

- i. Christians should prepare and be ready to receive Jesus in their lives like the crowds of people who escorted Jesus to Jerusalem.
- ii. Christians should be channels of peace in their communities.
- iii. Christians should be humble and be of service to others like Jesus Christ.
- iv. Christians should expect opposition as they evangelize and should never lose hope.
- v. Christians should thank and praise God for His intervention in their lives as the multitude that followed Jesus Christ into Jerusalem did.
- vi. Christians should be bold as they witness like the crowd that followed Jesus Christ did by declaring Him king.

**THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE**

***Luke 19:41 – 48***

- On the entering Jerusalem, Jesus wept over it. He saw it rejecting Him as the Messiah and bringing judgement/punishment on herself.
- He wept over her failure to recognize their role in God's plan of salvation.
- Jerusalem was truly destroyed in 70AD by the Roman army.

- After weeping over the city, He entered the temple and protested against the buying and selling that was taking place in there. People had subverted the use of the place.
  - He drove away the sellers because they had made the place a hideout for thieves hiding the real purpose of the temple which was ‘the house of prayer.’
  - The temple was being misused through:
    - (i) Cheating in business.
    - (ii) Prophets practiced hypocrisy
    - (iii) Practicing social and racial discrimination in the court yard.
- Jesus drove away the traders symbolically by replacing the chief priest. This incident illustrates that the people weren’t ready for ‘the coming of the Messiah’. It showed Jerusalem’s lack of preparedness for the day of God’s visitation in the passion of Jesus Christ.

### ***Lessons learnt by Christians***

- i. The house of God should be respected and be used appropriately.
- ii. Exploitation of a congregation should not be allowed in God’s house
- iii. Christians should pay more attention to inward righteousness than the external observance of rituals.
- iv. Evil practices should be condemned in the church and the society at large.
- v. Christians should be ready to face opposition from those who are against our actions and words.
- vi. Christians should practice the virtue of honesty in their dealings.
- vii. Christians should not discriminate against one another on the basis of denomination, ethnic groups etc.
- viii. Christians should prepare themselves for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

### ***How Christians show honour and respect to places of worship***

- i. Through Church offerings.
- ii. Contributing to the establishment and maintenance of church structures.

- iii. Keeping the places clean.
- iv. Respecting those responsible for maintenance i.e. church leaders.
- v. Attending worship services.
- vi. Condemning evil practices that take place in the church.

## **JESUS' CONFLICTS WITH THE JEWISH LEADERS**

### ***Luke 20:1 – 47 – 21:1 – 4***

During his Jerusalem ministry, Jesus Christ centered His teachings at the temple. He got into conflict with the Jewish religious leaders on.

#### ***(i) Question about jesus Christ's authority***

##### ***Luke 20:1 – 8***

- The Jewish religious leaders questioned Jesus Christ on the origin of his authority.
- The question intended to:
  - (a) Find a charge of blasphemy against him, if He answered that it came from God.
  - (b) To discredit him before the crowd if He said it came from man.
- Jesus Christ challenged Jewish religious leaders to state by whose authority John the Baptist preached.

#### ***(ii) Parable of the tenants***

##### ***Luke 20:9 – 18***

- Jesus Christ used the parable of the tenants to accuse the religious Jewish leaders for rejecting God's prophet and planning to kill God's son (Jesus Christ).
- God's punishment and judgement would befall them for their rejection.
- Jesus Christ anticipated his death would be at the hands of the Jewish religious leaders. Consequently the kingdom of God would be taken away from them and given to the disciples.

*(iii) Payment of taxes to Caesar*

*Luke 20:19 – 26*

- Jesus was asked the question on whether it was right paying taxes to the Roman government.
- If Jesus Christ approved of the payment of the taxes, He would fall into problems with the people who hated paying taxes to the Romans.
- If Jesus Christ disapproved of tax payment, He would be accused of treason.
- He asked His questioners to reproduce a silver coin and state whose name and image was on it.
- When they said the emperor's, Jesus Christ answered them to render to Caesar things that are Caesar's and to God things that are God's.
- Jesus Christ meant that by having the silver coin in their possession, it meant that they had already accepted the Roman government.
- They had a duty to pay tax because they were benefiting from the same government.
- They had a duty to be loyal to God and also had a duty to be loyal to the state.

*(iv) Question on resurrection.*

*Luke 20:27 – 40*

- The Sadducees didn't believe in resurrection. They came to Jesus Christ with a hypothetical case intended to make resurrection look foolish and unrealistic.
- They wanted to know whose wife the woman would be during the resurrection when she had married seven brothers who died without bearing children.

Jesus Christ confirmed that there is resurrection but explained:

- (a) There is no marriage in life after death.
- (b) Resurrection is an assurance that there is life after death.

- (c) The resurrected life is different from the earthly life.
  - (d) The righteous will resurrect and live eternally.
  - (e) Those who would resurrect would be like angels and their bodies would be transformed into spiritual bodies.
  - (f) Those who will resurrect will become children of God.
- Jesus Christ challenged the saducees that they didn't understand about resurrected life yet it was implied in the writings of Moses whom they had quoted.

**(v) *The question about the Messiah***

***Luke 20:41 – 44***

- The Messiah has both human and divine nature
- The Messiah is an exalted being as it would be evidenced in the events following Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

**(vi) *The hypocrisy of the scribes***

***Luke 20:45 – 47***

- Jesus Christ warned his disciples to beware of the hypocrisy and exploitative nature of the teachers of the law; such as:
  - (i) Took pride in wearing outward special religious garments (robes).
  - (ii) Liked being greeted with respect in market places.
  - (iii) Seeking places of honour in the synagogue(s) and banquets/ feasts.
  - (iv) Making long prayers intended to make people notice them, as righteous.
  - (v) Taking advantage of widows and robbing them of their property.
- Jesus Christ warned his disciples to safeguard against the danger/risks of such pride.
- Jesus Christ's direct attack of the teachers of the law provoked conflict between them and him.

**(vii) *The widow's offering***

***Luke 20:1 – 4***

- Jesus Christ condemned the offerings of the rich Jewish religious leaders but was in praise of that offered by the widow.
- The widow made self-sacrifice by giving all she had while the Pharisees were giving to show off what they had.
- Jesus Christ defended the dignity of the poor and showed that their contributions are highly accepted and honoured.

## JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT ESCHATOLOGY

### ***LUKE 21:5 – 38***

- Eschatology is the study of the end times. These are events/activities that will happen leading to the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- The real coming of the Son of man is called the ***Parousia***.
- Eschatology comprises of forms of apocalyptic teachings of Jesus Christ while at Jerusalem/during the Jerusalem ministry.
- Jesus Christ's teaching was to provide hope.
- He foretold that signs would mark the end times. The signs would be;
  - (i) Destruction of the temple.
  - (ii) People would come claiming to be Jesus Christ.
  - (iii) Wars between nations.
  - (iv) Natural calamities/disasters, famine, drought, plagues.
  - (v) Strange celestial beings would come from the sky.
  - (vi) Jesus Christ's disciple would be arrested, persecuted and imprisoned.
  - (vii) Disciples will be betrayed to the authorities, by close relatives and friends and will even be put to death.
  - (viii) Disciples would be hated on Jesus Christ's account.
  - (ix) There will be eclipse of the sun and moon.

- (x) Strong waves disrupting the sea.
- (xi) Fainting of people from shock as they observe the terrible signs.
- (xii) The son of man would appear in glory after these signs to take His faithful ones.
- Jesus used the parable of the fig tree to show that his coming would be reality and so they were not to lose hope.
- Jesus Christ warned his disciples to be watchful and be prepared at all times because he would return unexpectedly.

***Relevance of Jesus Christ's teaching in eschatology to Christians today***

- i. Christians should look forward with hope to Jesus Christ's second coming. Nobody knows the time or the hour not even Jesus Christ Himself.
- ii. Christians should not listen to false prophets who may lead them astray.
- iii. Christians should continue to pray so as to receive encouragement and protection from/ against evil.
- iv. Christians should live righteous lives while waiting for the second coming of Jesus.
- v. Christians should stand firm in their faith so that they can't be swayed and led astray by the false prophets.

***Elements from Jesus' teaching on Eschatology which needs emphasis among Christians today***

- Jesus' coming is always imminent and signs are happening. Christians should therefore not keep rejecting or ignoring every development that heralds the end of the world.
- The end is not yet and Christians should be careful not to be fanatical.
- Disasters should not be interpreted as the end of the world.
- The quality of life should be kept in mind when preparing for Parousia.
- The end includes the end of one's physical life.
- Those who love Jesus will look forward to the end, because it is a joyful end of God's glory.
- The terror and dread should not be exaggerated since there is an element of joy.

### ***How Christians should prepare themselves for the Kingdom of God***

- i. By repenting their sins.
- ii. By doing the will of God or obeying the word of God.
- iii. By participating in the sacramental life of the church e.g. being baptised.
- iv. By praying and fasting.
- v. By evangelizing or preaching the Gospel to win others for the Kingdom.
- vi. Living according to the demands of one's vocation.
- vii. Living an exemplary life e.g. being forgiving and loving.
- viii. Trusting in God or having faith in God.
- ix. Thanking and praising God for what they are and what they have.
- x. Doing works of charity or mercy e.g. helping the poor.
- xi. Christians should be ready to endure suffering i.e. taking the cross and following Jesus.

## **THE PASSION, DEATH AND RESSURECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

### ***The last supper Luke***

#### ***Luke 22:1 –38***

(i) The plot against Jesus Christ (Luke 22:1 – 6).

- The Chief priests and scribes (teachers of law) were trying to find a way of putting Jesus Christ to death secretly.
- Judas Iscariot, through Satan's influence, went to the chief priest, elders and officers of the temple guards and told them he could betray him to them.
- They offered to pay him some money.
- Judas accepted their offer and started looking for a good opportunity to hand him to them without the people knowing about it.

- The chief priests and the scribes had been waiting to arrest Jesus Christ. They were however afraid because of his popularity gained among the people.

***Reasons which made Judas Iscariot betray Jesus***

- i. Greed for money/ material possession.
- ii. It was God's will for the fulfillment of the scriptures to be realised.
- iii. Judas was unable to overcome/ conquer the power of the evil/ he was tempted by satan/Diabolos.
- iv. He was looking for fame/ recognition.
- v. He was unhappy with Jesus' activities.
- vi. He was an informer of the religious leaders.
- vii. He was expecting a political Messiah yet Jesus was a spiritual Messiah.

***Preparation and celebration of the Last Supper***

***Preparation***

- Jesus Christ sent Peter and John to prepare for the last supper.
- He instructed the two disciples to go into the city /Jerusalem.
- He told them they would meet a man in the city carrying a jar of water.
- Jesus Christ told them that they should follow the man into the house he would enter.
- Once in the house, the disciples were to ask the house holder to show them the quest room.
- Jesus told the disciples that the house holder/ owner would show them a large furnished upper room.
- He instructed the disciples to prepare the room.
- The disciples prepared the meal.
- Jesus and the 12 disciples sat down in the prepared room.

## *Celebration of the Last Supper*

### **Luke 22:15 – 3**

- Jesus sat with His disciples at one table.
- He told them that He had desired to have the meal with them.
- He took the cup, gave thanks and asked the disciples to share.
- He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave to them.
- He explained to them the meaning of the bread and wine (bread His body, wine His blood) that would seal the New covenant.
- He commanded the 12 to hold to the ritual in remembrance of him.
- He informed them that he would be betrayed by one of them.
- He taught the disciples qualities of a good leader, good leadership i.e. humility and service to others.
- He told Simon he would be tested by Satan/He informed him that He had already prayed for him.
- He asked Simon to strengthen others in their faith.
- Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him three times before the cock crowed.
- He recommended the disciples to acquire swords in preparation/have their own provisions/ requirements/belongings.

### ***How Jesus Christ gave the Passover a new meaning***

- The bread represented his body which would be broken for their sake to save them from sin (disciples).
- The wine represented the blood of Jesus which would be shed for salvation's sake.
- The cup represented God's new covenant with his people
- Jesus here is the new sacrificial lamb replacing the old Passover lambs that were sacrificed on the night of the exodus.

The sacrificial offering of the body and blood of Jesus Christ was done once and for all.

### *Significance of the Lord's Supper to Christians today*

- It can be severally referred to:

The Holy Communion,

The Holy Eucharist,

The Lord's Table,

The Holy Mass.

### *Reasons why Christians take part in the Lord's Supper*

- i. Through it they remember the death of Jesus as a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.
- ii. The ceremony is a form of thanksgiving for God's love/ redemption plan.
- iii. It is a time that Christians reaffirm/ renew their faith in God/ bind themselves in the new covenant.
- iv. It gives Christians an opportunity to repent/ ask for forgiveness of sin.
- v. It unites the believers/ they fellowship/ share with one another.
- vi. The partakers experience the presence of Christ through the sharing of the bread and wine which represent His body and blood respectively.
- vii. It is a sign of obedience to Christ who commanded to do it now in His memory.
- viii. Through it Christians anticipate the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- ix. It is a foretaste of heavenly banquet/ heavenly feast which Jesus promised His disciples.

## **PRAYER ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES**

### **Luke 22:39 – 53**

The following events took place on the Mount of Olives before the arrest of Jesus;

- i. Jesus told the disciples to pray.
- ii. Jesus moved a distance away from the disciples.

- iii. Jesus knelt down and prayed.
- iv. An angel from heaven strengthened Him.
- v. The disciples fell asleep.
- vi. There came a crowd led by Judas one of the twelve disciples.
- vii. Judas wanted to kiss Jesus.
- viii. One of the disciples cut off a slave's ear.
- ix. Jesus healed the man's ear.
- x. Jesus asked the religious leaders why they had come to arrest Him as if He was a criminal.

***Judas betrayed Jesus by:***

- Accepting to come up with a plan on how to get him.
- Accepting a bribe to betray him.
- Looking for an opportune moment to hand him over to the chief priest in the absence of the crowd.
- Leaving the company of other disciples.
- Leading the chief priest and temple guards to arrest Jesus.
- Identifying Jesus with a kiss.

**This incident demonstrates the following qualities of Jesus;**

- Was a peaceful Messiah.
- Was merciful.
- His work was opposed.
- Had wisdom.
- He was a miracle performer.

***Lessons Christians learn from the incident Jesus went to pray with His disciples on Mount Olives***

- i. They should be prayerful.
- ii. They should put God's will first/ desire God's will to be done in their lives.
- iii. Prayer helps one to overcome temptations/ difficult situations.
- iv. They should depend on God for strength/ support.
- v. They should encourage others in their weaknesses.
- vi. They should be ready to suffer for God's sake.
- vii. They should be watcful/ alert for the enemy strikes when they least expect it.
- viii. They need to have close friends/ associates that one can lean on.

**The denial of Jesus by Peter**

**Luke 22:54 – 62**

- After Jesus was arrested that night and taken to the chief priest's house, Peter followed Him from a distance; a sign of caution and fear.
- He joined a group of people who were warming themselves at the court yard. A maid and two other people identified Peter as one of Jesus' disciples.
- Peter denied Jesus three times in fulfillment of Jesus prophesy.
- After the cock crowed, Jesus looked at Peter who wept bitterly showing his guilt and remorse; a sign of repentance.

***Peter denied Jesus for the following reasons***

- i. Peter was afraid of being arrested/ killed.
- ii. He was overcome by the devil/ Satan.
- iii. His denial had been predicted by Jesus.
- iv. Peter was confused by the turn of events.
- v. He was disappointed by the fact that Jesus did not fight back.

- vi. He lacked faith in Jesus.
- vii. He had no support/ solidarity with other disciples.

***Lessons Christians learn from Peter's denial:***

- i. Christians should be remorseful and repent when they sin.
- ii. Christians should depend on God for strength for them to make proper decisions.
- iii. Christians should stand firm in their faith no matter the circumstance.

## JESUS' TRIAL

### **Luke 22:66 – 71**

- After the arrest, the men guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.
- Jesus was first tried before the Jewish leader.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Trial before the Sanhedrin: Luke 22:66 – 71**

- The Sanhedrin was the supreme Jewish ruling court.
- Compromised of 70 members representing different religious groups i.e.
  - i. Saducees
  - ii. Scribes
- Was chaired by the High priest. It basically met at day time to deliberate on cases.
- Before the Sanhedrin, religious accusations were brought against Jesus Christ, that is;
  - (a) Jesus had called Himself the Christ.
  - (b) He claimed to be the son of God.
  - (c) He equated Himself to God / blasphemy.

They asked him two questions

- (a) Whether he was the Christ and Jesus replied ‘If I tell you, you will not believe and if I ask you, you will not answer.’

- (b) Whether he was the son of God and he answered them, ‘You say I am.’
- Jesus was convicted of blasphemy and referred to Pilate; The Roman Ruler.

### **2nd Trial before Pilate: Luke 23:1 – 5**

- Pilate was the Roman governor in charge of Judea.
- Before Pilate, only political accusations were raised as follows:
  - (a) Jesus had incited people to revolt against the Roman authorities starting from Galilee to Jerusalem.
  - (b) Jesus opposed payment of taxes to Caesar.
  - (c) Jesus had claimed to be king (treason).
- Pilate asked Jesus whether he was Christ the king of Jews. Jesus replied, ‘you have said so.’
- Pilate found Jesus innocent. He therefore sent him to Herod (governor of Galilee) who was Jesus Christ’s governor in Galilee. Herod was in Jerusalem at the time.

### **3rd Trial before Herod: Luke 23:7 – 11**

- Herod was curious to see Jesus and the miracles he had heard Jesus performed. So he only made fun of him and referred him back to Pilate.

### **4th Jesus before Pilate**

- Pilate wanted to release Jesus. However, the crowd loudly demanded for Jesus death.
- He confessed to the religious leaders that he hadn’t found Jesus guilty of any crime. Neither did Herod. He preferred to have Jesus beaten and released. The crowd instead demanded the release of Barnabas. He finally sentenced Jesus to death.

*A summary of accusations made against Jesus during His trial (Luke 22:66-23:1-23).*

- i. Jesus called Himself the Christ.
- ii. He claimed to be the son of God.
- iii. He was inciting people with His teaching.
- iv. He was opposing the payment of taxes to Caeser.

- v. He had made Himself King of the Jews against the Roman authority.
- vi. Jesus had stirred up the people to revolt.
- vii. He was equating Himself to God i.e engaging in blasphemy.

***Ways in which Christians can respond to false accusations***

- i. Praying for them/ pray for oneself.
- ii. Take courage.
- iii. Should not revenge/ retaliate against the accuser.
- iv. Seek Biblical guidance/ seek divine intervention.
- v. Should not give up/ not discouraged.
- vi. Love the accuser/ immitate Jesus.
- vii. Do good to them.
- viii. Stand by the truth.
- ix. Avoid confrontation either verbal or physical.
- x. Forgive those who accuse them falsely.

## **THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS**

***Luke 23:26 – 43***

- This was a form of execution meant for the worst criminals.
- Jesus carried his cross but on the way the soldiers found Simon of Cyrene whom they forced to carry the cross with Jesus.
- Multitudes accompanied him, including women who were wailing.
- Jesus told them to go and instead cry for themselves and their children. The place of the crucifixion was called the place of the skull situated on a hill outside Jerusalem.
- Here he was crucified between two criminals who were thieves.

- Jesus prayed for his executioners saying ‘Father forgive them for they do not know what they do.’
- The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots. He was mocked by rulers who asked him to save himself and others probably the two criminals since he was the king of the Jews.
- One of the criminals crucified with him asked him to save himself.
- The other criminal rebuked his colleague and asked Jesus to remember him when He died. Jesus promised the repentant thief that he would be with him in paradise that day.
- A notice was put on the wood above Jesus which had the words ‘This is the king of the Jews’

***Lessons learnt about Jesus Christ from the repentant thief.***

- i. Jesus was sinless/ innocent.
- ii. Jesus is the Messiah/ Lord/Son of God/Savior.
- iii. Forgives sin/ offers salvation to the repentant.
- iv. Gives eternal life/ the life and the resurrection.
- v. Rewards those who have faith/those who trust in him.
- vi. Jesus is worth our praises/honour.

***Steps taken by the Jewish leaders to make sure that Jesus was put to death***

- i. They paid Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus.
- ii. They brought false accusations against Jesus/ they accused Jesus of blasphemy which was punishable by death.
- iii. They hurriedly tried him at night before people knew what was happening.
- iv. They framed a treason charge against Jesus when He appeared before Pilate/ accused Him of sedition/ political chargege/ they accused Him of refusing to pay tax.
- v. They blackmailed Pilate into accepting their demands to have Jesus crucified.
- vi. They organized a mob to shout for the death of Jesus/ shouted for the release of Barabbas.

- vii. They crucified Him dead when they got permission from Pilate/ they nailed Him on the cross when permission was granted by Pilate.

***A summary of events that took place between the trial and crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 22:66-23:43)***

- i. Interrogation before the Sanhedrin (Jewish High Court) where Jesus was asked whether He was the messiah to which He said the son of man will triumph and He was found guilty of blasphemy.
- ii. They took Jesus before Pilate and accused Him of perverting the nation, forbidding people from giving tribute to Caeser and calling Himself king; Pilate asked Him whether He was the king of the Jews to which He confirmed but Pilate took no crime in Jesus. They insisted that Jesus was inciting people throughout Judea/ Galilee.
- iii. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod since He belonged to his jurisdiction and Herod was happy to see Jesus. He questioned Him but with no answer. The Chief Priests accused Him vehemently. Herod and the soldiers mocked Him, dressing Him in gorgeous clothes and sending Him back to Pilate.
- iv. Pilate called all the Chief Priests, rulers and people and told them that he had not found Jesus guilty. He wanted to chastise Him and release Him. They cried out that Jesus should be crucified and Barrabas released. Their voices/ loud cries prevailed. Pilate released Barrabas as Jesus was condemned.
- v. Jesus was led to the cross and on the way they seized Simon of Cyrene and laid the cross on him to carry.
- vi. Jesus turned to the multitude and asked them not to weep for Him but for themselves/ their children because of the bad days ahead.
- vii. Jesus was crucified with two thieves, one on the left and another on the right.
- viii. Jesus said “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”
- ix. They cast lots to divide His garments as the people stood by, while the rulers scoffed at Him, telling Him to save Himself if He is the Messiah.
- x. The soldiers mocked Him, offering him vinegar saying, “You are the king of the Jews, save yourself and inscribed over Him “This is the king of the Jews.”
- xi. One of the criminals asked Jesus to save Himself and also them, but the other one rebuked him saying they were being punished justly for their deeds, but Jesus was

innocent. He told Jesus to remember him in His kingdom and Jesus promised to be with him that day in paradise.

#### ***Ways in which Christians should respond to false accusations***

- i. Should pray for them/ pray for oneself.
- ii. Should take courage.
- iii. Should not revenge or retaliate against the accuser.
- iv. Seek biblical guidance or should seek divine intervention.
- v. Should not give up nor be discouraged.
- vi. Should love the accuser in immitating Jesus.
- vii. Should do good to them.
- viii. Should stand by the truth.
- ix. Should avoid confrontation either verbal or physical.
- x. Should forgive those who accuse them falsely.

## **THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST**

### ***Luke 23:44 – 49***

- As He died He prayed, ‘father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!’ Having said this, He breathed His last.
- Extraordinary things happened between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> hour:
  - (a) Darkness enveloped the whole land for three hours.
  - (b) The temple’s curtain tore into two implying:
    - (i) All people would now approach God directly through Jesus.
    - (ii) A new universal religion for everyone was established bringing an end to Judaism.
    - (iii) The Old Testament sacrificial system is no longer necessary.

### *Reactions of the people to the death of Jesus*

- (i) The multitudes returned home beating their breasts as a sign of grief vs.48
- (ii) The centurion (A Roman Army Officer) accepted that Jesus was a righteous man vs.47
- (iii) The women watched from a distance vs.49

## **THE BURIAL OF JESUS**

### *Luke 23:50 – 56*

- Joseph of Arimathea requested Pilate for permission to burry the body of Jesus.
- He was a wealthy and honoured member of the Sanhedrin.
- According to the Jewish custom the remains of an executed criminal remained unburied or were but in a dishonoured place.
- Joseph was courageous enough to ask for the body for burial. He was a secret disciple of Jesus and absent from the Sanhedrin meeting that tried Jesus. He wrapped Jesus Christ's body in linen clothes and laid it in a new tomb. A large stone was then rolled across the entrance. The Galilean women had followed closely and identified where the body was laid.
- Then they returned and prepared spices and ointment. On the Sabbath, they rested according to the commandment.

## **THE RESURRECTION**

### *Luke 24:1-53*

#### **Witnesses to the resurrected/ risen Christ**

*(i) Testimony of the holy women i.e. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and others. (Luke 1:1-12)*

- Very early the following morning the women brought their spices to the tomb where Jesus Christ had been buried.

- The stone to the entrance had been rolled away. Two men dressed in dazzling apparel appeared to the women and asked why they were looking for the living among the dead.
- They reminded the women that Jesus had predicted what would happen but they neither understood nor accepted.
- The women went back and reported to the eleven disciples what had happened. They could not believe.

***Reasons why the deciples found it difficult to believe that Jesus had resurrected***

- i. The message was first taken to them by women who were regarded lowly in the society; hence seemed an idle talk.
- ii. They had witnessed the helplessness of Jesus at the time of crucifixion, hence had lost hope in Him.
- iii. They had witnessed the burial/ could not imagine how the stone could be rolled away from the tomb.
- iv. They felt ashamed for having denied/ betrayed Him, hence wished that it was not true.
- v. They had not understood the teaching of Jesus which indicated He would resurrect on the third day.
- vi. It was a new experience they had never seen/ heard of people coming back to life after death on their own.
- vii. They lacked faith in the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- viii. They had expected a political messiah who was to die in dignity/ not to resurrect.

***(ii) Appearance to the two disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13 – 35)***

- This was Cleopas and another disciple who is not named. The two were walking from Jerusalem heading back to Emmaus discussing the events that had taken place.
- To them, the death of Jesus was the end of a prophet on whom they had a lot of faith whom they expected to be the Messiah i.e. someone who would have set them free from enslavement.
- They could not understand Jesus Christ suffering and death and resurrection.

- Jesus joined them but they never recognized him. Jesus went into a house where he shared a meal with them, took bread, broke it and gave thanks. They then recognized him.
- They went back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples about the resurrection but they found that they had already been informed by Peter.

**(iii) *His appearance to his disciples (Luke 24:36 – 43)***

- Jesus appeared standing among his disciples in a bodily form. The disciples were scared thinking he was a spirit.
- They touched him to confirm that he was the same Jesus who had been nailed on the cross. He ate a piece of broiled fish.

***Reasons why Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection***

- i. He wanted to strengthen their faith.
- ii. So as to comfort them.
- iii. In order to empower them to serve.
- iv. He wanted to reassure them that He was the messiah.
- v. So as to commission them to be his witnesses.
- vi. He wanted to tell the about the coming of of the Holy Spirit/ wait for the Holy Spirit.
- vii. So as to bless them.
- viii. In order to confirm to them that the Old Testament prophesies had been fulfilled.
- ix. He wanted to confirm to them that He was alive/ had power over death.
- x. He wanted to represent to them the correct interpretation of the suffering of the Messiah.

**(iv) *He appeared to Simon peter (Luke 24:34)***

This is clear evidence that Jesus truly resurrected.

- (v) Jesus showed the disciples His hands and feet and told them to handle Him for He was not a spirit.
- (vi) Jesus was given a piece of broiled fish and He took it and ate it before the disciples.



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# THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS...

## The third person in the trinity

The power of Christ that the suffering servant of Yahweh was empowered by the spirit of God to be able to endure all the sufferings and challenges he faced during his mission.

He also helped Christ to carry out his ministry successfully and withstand temptation by the devil while he was in the wilderness.

The Old Testament prophets and the disciples of Jesus Christ were guided and empowered by the spirit of God. The holy spirit was instrumental in the salvation of God's chosen people right from old testament times and the new testament times to date.

Holy Spirit also helped the prophets in the Old Testament to perform miracles, deliver Gods messages and withstand hostility.

The spirit of God used during creation.....``and the spirit of God was moving over the face of waters``.(genesis 1;2),Let us make...Genesis 1;26

The one who gives gifts like healing and prophecy

## The Holy Ghost and also the spirit of God

## **TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST ON THE ROLE OF HOLY SPIRIT**

Jesus Christ received the of God at His baptism which led him to the wilderness, strengthened him to overcome temptations and guided him throughout his public ministry.

### *The Holy Spirit is divine*

*The Holy Spirit would be sent by God after his ascension*

Jesus teachings on the role holy spirit

*The Holy Spirit reveals the truth about God*

*The Holy Spirit acts as counselor*

*The Holy Spirit is comforter to believers*

*The Holy Spirit is an advocate to believers*

*The Holy Spirit guides believers*

*Holy Spirit enables disciples to witness for Jesus Christ*

*Holy Spirit enables believers to worship in spirit and truth*

*The Holy Spirit acts as teacher who teaches the believers*

*The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ and God*

*Holy Spirit gives believers courage*

*Holy Spirit judges believers*

*The Holy Spirit will continue with Jesus work of forgiving sins*

*The Holy Spirit is a companion*

***Question; in groups of five discuss Jesus teachings on the role of Holy Spirit***

### **THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

*Revealed God's message*

*Exposed people secrets*

*Inspired people to pray and speak in tongues*

*Gave people power to perform miracles*

*Provided guidance in choosing disciples/leaders*

*Empowered people to persevere persecution*

*Strengthened people to preach*

*Enabled Christians to live in unity and strengthened believer's faith.*

### BACKGROUND OF PETER

- **He was one the twelve disciples**
- **He was the first disciple to be called**
- **He accompanied Jesus wherever he went**
- **He acted as spokesperson for the disciples**
- **He was originally called Simon**
- **Jesus called him caephas meaning ‘the rock, the stone’**
- **He denied Jesus three times**
- **He repented after denying Jesus**
- **He was instrumental in the appointment of of Matthias the successor of Judas Iscariot**
- 

### PETERS MESSAGE ON THE DAY OF THE PENTECOST: Acts2;1-13

- **Pentecost is Greek name for the Israelites festival of wheat harvest which was celebrated 50days after the Passover. Also known as feast of weeks.**
- **It commemorated the day God gave the commandments to Israelites through Moses. In the New Testament it is held to celebrate and remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and followers of Jesus Christ. Before ascending to heaven Jesus Christ told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would empower them to go to the world and be Jesus witnesses.**
- On that day the disciples were gathered in a room when suddenly a voice came from the sky which sounded like a strong wind flowing and filled the room
- The disciples looked and saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread and touched every one
- They were all filled with Holy Spirit and talked in other languages.

- Some people thought the disciples were drunk but peter defended them by saying they were not drunk.....acts2;6
- On that day,many believers were baptized increasing the group by about 3000 people.
  - Describe events of the day the Pentecost
  - Outline peters message on the day of pentecost

*FACTS ABOUT PETERS MESSAGE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST: Acts2;14-40*

1. *Peter said the disciples were filled with the holy spirit*
2. *He said they are not drunk*
3. *He said Jesus was the son of God*
4. *Gods power was seen by the miracles, signs and wonders performed by Jesus Christ*
5. *Jesus had been killed by the Jews because of their wickedness*
6. *God raised Jesus Christ back to life*
7. *Jesus Christ was a descendant of David*

*Facts about peters message on the day of Pentecost.;acts2;14-40*

8. *Jesus ascended to heaven and He is at the right hand side of God*
9. *Jesus is God Christ the messiah*
10. *Peter called upon people to repent their sins so as to be forgiven*

*The people were to be baptized by Jesus name.*

**Signs of the holy spirit on the day of the Pentecost**

- Presence of tongues of fire

Disciple's speaking in tongues

- Strong/powerful wind
- Noise from the sky

- Baptism of many people[conversion of many people to Christianity- about 3000 people

#### CONTRIBUTION OF APOSTLE PETER TO THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY CHURCH

- Preached on the day of the Pentecost converting 3000 people to Christianity
- Carried out healing miracles that attracted many people
- Condemned evil practices in the early church
- Clarified the Gentile commission to the early church
- He baptized the first gentile to the early church[Cornelius]
- He appointed deacons to care for the widows

#### LEADERSHIP QUALITIES SHOWN BY PETER ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

- Courage
- Wisdom
- Commitment
- Principled
- Knowledgeable
- God fearing
- Creative
- Ability to defend his colleagues
- Care for the needy

- Prayerful

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CHRISTIANS TODAY**

- ✓ Christians learn that they need to devote to the teachings of Jesus Christ just like the apostle who met daily for fellowship and prayer
- ✓ Christian's learn that holy spirit unify believers the same way it unified disciples from different backgrounds and nations
- ✓ Christians learn that it is important to be obedient like who obeyed the instructions of Jesus Christ
- ✓ We also learn that baptism of the Holy Spirit is important for every Christian.
- ✓ They learn the holy spirit help in spreading the word of God the same way he helped the disciples to bring more people Christ
- ✓ Holy Spirit helps Christians to be bold and courageous in preaching the gospel. The apostles were bold enough to face persecutions as they were spreading the gospel of Christ.

### **PAUL`S TEACHINGS ON THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT first Corinthian's 12,13 and 14**

**Spiritual gifts are extraordinary favors' given human beings by God**

**They are special talents to be used for the service of others and not for one's personal benefit or gratification**

#### **THE NINE GIFTS OF HOLY SPIRIT**

- ❖ *WISDOM*
- ❖ *KNOWLEDGE*
- ❖ *FAITH*
- ❖ *HEALING*
- ❖ *SPEAKING IN TONGUES*

## *THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*

- ❖ *PERFORMING MIRACLES*
- ❖ *PROPHECY*
- ❖ *DISTINGUISHING OF SPIRITS/DISCERNING*
- ❖ *INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES*

## *IMPORTANCE OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*

### ➤ The gift of wisdom

Ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice according to God's will.

This makes one to expound and make deep understanding. It enables Christians to make right decisions on matters concerning the church.

Helps Christians realize who God is and his purpose for human beings. It also assists them to interpret spiritual truth and make appropriate judgment's

### ➤ Gift of knowledge

Ability to have an in-depth understanding of a situation or spiritual issue. Gives Christians revelations and understanding of the kingdom of God without being taught about them.

It enables Christians to understand basic facts about Jesus and his mission

It enables the apostles to spread the word of God. Some Christians have the gift of understanding of the scriptures can distinguish what is biblical and what is not.

### ➤ The gift of faith

Refers to confidence in God's help which inspires us to undertake difficult tasks. It is also being able to trust in God and encouraging others to do so. It is the strong conviction that helps Christians perform miracles. Prophet Elijah used the gift of the Holy Spirit during the Mount Carmel.

### ➤ Gift of healing ;acts 3;1-10

Refers to powers to heal all forms of sickness miraculously by invoking the name of God

➤ The gift of performing miracles

This is using Gods powers to perform signs and wonders that give authencity to Gods word. This power demonstrates the saving power of Christ. They are the product of the spoken word of God.....psalms 33:6

➤ The gift of prophecy

To proclaim a message on what will happen in future. The gift edifies, exhorts and comforts believers. It is divinely inspired and anointed utterance. It is also the ability to interpret God`s word and relate it to His people. It enable Christians fore tell future as revealed to them.

➤ The gift of distinguishing /discerning spirits

Ability to determine whether or not a message or a person or an event is truly from God. Ability to identify the source of spiritual gifts, whether it is from Holy Spirit or evil spirits. Peter was blessed with the gift of discernment and it enabled him to know that Ananias and Sapphira lied to Holy Spirit.

➤ The gift of speaking in tongues. /glossolalia

Ability of some people to utter static and unintelligible speech. It is also to convey a message or utter words of a language that is unknown to the person uttering the words. The Holy Spirit energizes the tongue guide to guide believers through language and music.

➤ The gift of interpreting tongues

Ability to understand and interpret messages of those speaking in tongues. It is translating what is being spoken by those with the gift of speaking in tongues to others in a language they can understand.

### **TEACHINGS OF ST PAUL CONCERNING THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

- Gifts should be used for the service of others and not for one's personal gains and gratification.
- Gifts should be used for building of the church.
- There is only one Holy Spirit that manifests its presence by conferring a variety of spiritual gifts to the believer.
- Just as the human body has many parts playing different roles so does the holy spirit.

- Gifts are meant for the unity of the church.
- **Love** is the greatest of all gifts and should be demonstrated by loving others.
- Gifts are works of power which comes from God.
- All gifts are the same and none is more important than others.
- Gifts should be used rightly for the mission of God and for the good of the Church.

**Ways in which the gift of love is supreme over other gifts according to st Paul**

- ✓ The gift of tongues becomes nothing but meaningless noise when unaccompanied by love.
- ✓ The gift of prophecy or knowledge is not of any value without love.
- ✓ Neither faith is so strong as to move mountains nor generosity so great to give ones possession nor does martyrdom mean nothing without love.
- ✓ Love contains virtues.

**QUALITIES OF LOVE ACCORDING TO ST PAUL[first corinthians:13]**

- Love is patient and kind
- Love is not arrogant or rude
- Love is not jealous or boastful
- Love does not insist on its own way
- Love is not disrespectful in its dealing's
- Love is not deceitful or irritable
- Love bears all things
- Love is eternal
- Love believes, hopes and endures all things
- Love does not rejoice in wrong but rejoices in the truth.

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS ACCORDING TO ST PAUL.**

- ❖ Must be exercised in an orderly manner in order to contribute the community
- ❖ In any one meeting, not more than two or at most three people may speak in tongues.
- ❖ Those who speak in tongues should not speak at the same time but one after the other.
- ❖ The one who has the gift of interpretation should explain the message to the congregation.
- ❖ If there is no interpreter available the person with the gift of tongues should refrain from speaking in tongues or do it private.
- ❖ Only three prophets should speak at the assembly using the gift of prophecy. The other members should listen and assess what the other prophets are saying.

## **CRETARIA FOR DISCERNING THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** matthew7:15-26

*First corinthians12:1-3 Galatians 5:16-20*

***The following are the methods used to distinguish true spirits from false spirits***

***a. R Loyalty to jesus/conformity to the faith.***

*No one can say ‘Jesus is lord ‘except by the holy spirit*

*One who manifests aspitual gift must also acknowledge Jesus Christ truly from his heart.*

***b. the test of love***

Divine love is the crown of character. To discover whether or not a spiritual gift has the Holy Spirit as its author, Jesus Christ says the exercise of the holy spiritual gifts must lead to the harvest of fruits of the Holy Spirit.

***c. The doctrinal test***

The holy spirit, by whose inspiration the scriptures were written cannot contradict that which it wrote. Prophecy or message in tongues should always be in agreement with the scripture's

***d. One who is under the influence of the holy spirit should be able to recognize jesus as lord and saviors***

***e. One who is under the influence of holy spirit is known by its acts{he/she will act and behave according to the teachings of the Bible.***

***Discuss ways in which you can show love in the society according to Paul teachings.***

## **WAYS IN WHICH THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE BEING MANIFESTED IN THE CHURCH TODAY**

- *Some Christians have the gift of knowledge and wisdom. It enables them to understand and interpret God's message. They are also able to guide other Christians in making right decisions while handling difficult issues.*
- *Some Christians have the gift of healing. This guides them to heal the sick through prayer and faith in God.*
- *The gift of speaking in tongues. Today in most churches it is believed that those who speak in tongues are believed to have received baptism of the Holy Spirit.*
- *The gift of discerning of spirit. It helps Christians to distinguish between manifestation of the Holy Spirit and that of evil spirit. The gift also helps leaders to choose ministry teams or suggest people to recruit for ministry roles.*
- *The gift of prophecy. Used to proclaim messages from God. Also in condemning evils such as corruption, bribery and ethnicity. It is also used to tell people of God's future plans for them. It has greatly helped in evangelization.*
- *Gift of faith. This gives them confidence to believe in God's promises, power and judgments.*
- *Love as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is depicted when Christians show concern for others. This is through visiting the sick, helping the poor and needy and assisting the orphaned.*
- *The Holy Spirit enables Christians of different denominations to work together in unity for development of church.*
- *Strengthens them with other gifts of the Holy Spirit.*
- *It gives Christians courage to speak the truth even when in difficulties.*

## **THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** Galatian's 5:16-26

Christians are known by the fruits of the Holy Spirit which includes,

- ❖ Love
- ❖ Joy
- ❖ Peace

- ❖ *Kindness*
- ❖ *Patience*
- ❖ *Goodness*
- ❖ *Faithfulness*
- ❖ *Self control*
- ❖ *Humility*

The challenge for Christians is to choose between having faith in Christ who became human being and gave himself for the life of the world or chose the values which are the desires of the flesh which include;

- **Immorality**
- **Idolatry**
- **Sorcery**
- **Jealousy**
- **Anger**
- **Disagreements**
- **Drunkedness**

**Those who belong to Christ have crucified their weak human nature with all its passions and desires.**

#### **WAYS IN WHICH THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE BEEN ABUSED IN CHRISTIAN CHURCH TODAY**

1. Cheating that one has a certain gift of the holy spirit.
2. Commercialization of the gifts of the holy spirit. People are asked to pay money before they are prayed for or healed.
3. Unscrupulous Christians may impart demonic powers on the innocent faithful.
4. False interpretation of the Bible/prophecy.
5. Some Christians who possess the gifts of the Holy Spirit develop pride/superiority complex.
6. Distinguishing one's self as a person with special call with an intention of exploiting others.

7. Wrong use of the gifts of the holy spirit where faithful's gets to the ecstasy or trance that may lead to injuries.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH IN KENYA THAT SHOW THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WORKING AMONG CHRISTIANS.

- *Praying*
- *Bible study*
- *Speaking in tongues*
- *Fruitful decision making to an individual or the church.*
- *Singing and dancing for the lord*
- *Condemning sins*
- *Giving offerings to the church*
- *Celebrations of sacraments*
- *Bringing of new converts to church*
- *Patrol care and counseling*
- *Helping the needy or the poor.*
- *Cooperation between different churches.*
- *Writing Christian literature*
- *Confession of sins*
- *Preaching or teaching the word of God*

DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN SHOW LOVE IN THE SOCIETY ACCORDING TO THE TEACHINGS OF PAUL.

*How the gifts of the holy spirit brought disunity in the church at Corinth.*

- a. People who had the spirit of speaking in tongues despised those who did not have. They felt this was the main work of the Holy Spirit and looked down upon those who did not have.

- b. There was competition involving speaking in tongues. Believers were competing in speaking louder longer and in different languages.**
- c. One who spoke in tongues to the congregation without an interpreter could not be understood.**
- d. People did not show love which is eternal to one another as they used the gifts of the holy .**
- e. There was disorder in the church worship at Corinth; they were trying to outdo each other in manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit like; prophecy, speaking in tongues, singing and revelation.**
- f. They used the gift for their own personal benefits instead of growth and development of the church. Some even demanded payment before healing the sick while others were boastful and arrogant.**
- g. According to the church at Corinth the only way one could prove that he or she had the gifts of the Holy Spirit was by speaking in tongues. Those with gifts of wisdom, prophecy or knowledge were despised.**

### QUESTIONS

1. What can Christians learn from the story of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of the Pentecost?
2. Identify some of the ways Christians demonstrate the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
3. State the symbolic signs of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.
4. Identify the elements of the fruits of the Holy Spirit and briefly explain their importance to Christians.
5. Discuss Paul's teachings on the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the church at Corinth.
6. What was the significance of the out pouring of the Holy Spirit to the twelve disciples?
7. Describe ways in which gift of the Holy Spirit are used in the church today.
8. Explain the criteria for discerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
9. Explain Paul's teachings on gift of speaking in tongues.

## **UNIT:2 THE UNITY OF BELIEVERS**

Refers to oneness of those who have faith in Jesus Christ as their savior.

The togetherness of Christians.

Those who believe in the salvation of Christ and therefore they have new life.

**Believers are like the Israelite's who were the chosen people of God in the Old Testament. The Israelites were united by the fact that they were united by the fact that they were descendants of Abraham and were recognized by the sign of circumcision. In the new testament they are known by different names.i.e, christiansbrethen, disciples,faithfuls,church, the saints.**

Due to the fact that this group consisted of converts from various social and cultural backgrounds, it was necessary that they learn how to accommodate and tolerate each other.

New Testament refers to oneness of those who have faith in Jesus as unity of believers.

In the New Testament we are known by different names:

- Christians
- Faithful's
- Disciples
- Believers

Christians in the new testament are united through baptism.

*They are the assembly of the people of God.*

Christians demonstrate unity by holding joint prayer sessions.

Man is made in the image and likeness of God and have common destiny.

Yahweh is the God of all Nations.

Jesus death brought death brought redemption to all.

According to John, God loved the whole world

Jesus sent his disciples to the world to preach.

### **WAYS IN WHICH JESUS DEMONSTRATED UNITY DURING HIS MINISTRY**

- He chose the twelve disciples from different backgrounds.
- He fed the five thousands people
- He healed the centurion servant
- He mixed with the tax collectors
- He preached good news
- He visited women disciples[Marth and Mary]
- He invited everybody to Gods kingdom.
- He ate the last supper with his disciples
- He died for sinners.

*The new testament illustrate the concept of unity of believers using various images or symbolic expressions like;*

1. The body of Christ
2. The people of God
3. The church
4. The bride
5. The vine and the branches.

**I. The people of God refer to; first Peter 2;9-10**

**In the Old Testament; the term people of God referred to;**

- a. Descendants of Abraham who were Israelites.**
- b. They believed in Gods promises to Abraham.**
- c. They were circumcised i.e. prerequisite for one to become a member of Abraham and Gods family.**

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE;**

- *Those who follow God and his teachings*
- *Those who have faith and commitments to the commandments of God*
- *Those who believe in God*
- *They are the chosen race*
- *The royal priesthood*
- *The holy nation*
- *They are special people because God has preserved them Himself. They are chosen so that they may proclaim the wonderful acts of God to the world.*
- *Their destiny is no longer of this world but in their eternal home/heaven.*
- *They share in the resurrection of Christ by not engaging in evil acts but promoting peace and prosperity.*
- *They stand out among others by living righteous life*
- *They are united with God through his son Jesus Christ*

## **Ways in which Christians can exemplify the new people of God**

- Helping the needy
- Being role model
- Spreading the good news
- Praying for themselves and others
- Condemning injustice
- Sharing wealth with the needy
- Giving offerings
- Singing and dancing
- Forgiving those who offend them
- Being humble

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE OF GOD**

- I. They are the chosen race**
- II. They are the chosen people**
- III. Are chosen to proclaim Gods wonderful acts/deeds**
- IV. They are royal priests**
- V. They are a holy nation**
- VI. They are believers in Christ**
- VII. They have the responsibility of declaring the mighty works of God.**

Christians are followers of Jesus Christ and form a corporate identity as **being divinely chosen**;

- ✓ *They are united with God through Jesus Christ who died on the cross so that they could attain salvation.*
- ✓ *They commit themselves to God by believing in Him and devoting their lives to Him.i.e leading holy lives*
- ✓ *They preach the word of God to all people and call people to repentance as they baptize them*
- ✓ *Being a holy nation they strive to lead holy lives as they have been called to serve God*
- ✓ *They are Gods owns people because he chose them by sending His own son to die on the cross and redeem them from sin bondage*

## **THROUGH JESUS CHRIST DEATH, GOD INITIATED ANEW COVENANTAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE.**

### **THE BODY OF CHRIST** REFER; *first corinthians12;12-27,EPHESIANS4;1-12*

*St Paul uses symbolism of body of Christ;*

1. The church is the body of Christians
2. Each part is essential to the proper functioning and growth of the body.
3. Each person is important in the body of Christ
4. Christian's depend on each other and works in the unity for the common good of each other.
5. Members of the church have been called to serve in several church ministries. Ie *pastors,teachers,evangelists and prophets.*

### **THE BODY OF CHRIST**

- Believers are members of the church.

- Believers have been baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit.
- The function of each believer is necessary for the well-being of the church
- Different members have been blessed with different spiritual gifts which should be used to enrich the church and glorify God.
- Believers share the same rights and privilege in the body of Christ.
- Just as human body is one with different parts Christian should remain united.
- Believers should lead their lives according to their call with *lowliness, patience, meekness and eagerness to maintain the unity of the spirit.*
- *They are encouraged to have virtues which promote unity among themselves; ie humility. Gentleness and patience.*

**Noteby:**

**Elements of unity centered on the trinity of God; that should exist among believers are;**

- **One body which is the universal church**
- **One spirit that dwells in the church.**
- **One baptism**
- **One God and father of all nations**
- **One lord Jesus Christ who is the head of the church.**

**Question ;how can Christian's preserve the unity of believers?**

***Find out what Christian's share as the body of Christ.***

***How Christian's can apply/exemplify unity of believers.***

1. As one body they are to unite and use their abilities for the welfare of the church.  
Ie.evangelize, prophecy and preaching.
2. The body of Christ is made up of different parts just like our physical bodies are made up of hands, ears, mouth, stomach etc.
3. Some parts may be prominent and much of the work they do is not always obvious, but we cannot undermine their importance.*first;corinthians12;13*

4. There is no division among Christian's since all members of the body of Christ are one, if one member suffers, then everyone suffers.

### **THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES; john15:1-5**

#### **Old testament.**

In the Old Testament God was the vine dresser while the Israelites were the vine. God had planted the vine [Israelites] and God looked after her Israelites very well but Israelites did not produce good results.

#### **New testament.**

Jesus Christ used analogy of the vine and branches to bring importance of unity of believers.

God is the vine dresser while Jesus Christ is the vine and Christians are the branches.

Christians are encouraged to bear fruits by remaining faithful to Christ.

God as the gardener breaks off the branches that do not bear fruits.

Christians who fail to be faithful will be pruned and thrown in the fire and burnt, just like the dead branches are thrown into the fire.....john15:2

Christians should remain faithful {united in Christ}

Christians should love one another as Christ loved them.

Christians are expected to obey Gods commandments; just as Christ was obedient to his father.

**Jesus Christ links all Christians to God and therefore they should abide in Christ as he is the only way they can bear good fruits.**

QUESTION; Discuss lessons that Christians learn from teachings of the vine and branches

### **THE CHURCH{THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD} reference Ephesians5;21-32**

A building where believers go to worship

Refers to a universal group of believers who profess the Christians faith.

In the New Testament it refers to worldwide community of Christians who follow and believe in Jesus Christ.

- *People who belong to the lord or community of believers*
- *Just as husband wife come together from different backgrounds so do members of the church who should live in harmony with one another.*
- *Christ has authority over the church just as the husband is the head of the home*
- *Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the church*
- *Husbands should love their wives the same way they love and care for their bodies*
- *The bond that exist between husband and wife is expected to be demonstrated by members of the church.*
- *Believers should love one another for the sake of unity in the church.*
- *Christians are called out of sins to live as anew assembly of God.*
- *Christians are equal in Gods eye.*