

# Mahragan El Keraza 2022



English Edition

Grades 5-6



“ Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

2 Corinthians 13:11



# live in peace

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matt. 24:42)



**H.H. Pope Tawadros II**

Pope of Alexandria &  
Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark



**H.G. Bishop David**

Bishop of the Diocese of New York  
and New England



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## “Live in Peace” 2Corinthians 13:11

Through the prayers of H.H. Pope Tawadros II ...

Welcome Friends, my name is **Irene**. I am here to tell you wonderful news! My friends **Aghaby** (Host), **Happy** (Producer), **Agyon** (Photographer) and I just won the most amazing award: The best, youngest YouTubers. We were asked to make a short documentary for children about the **“Peacemakers.”** Now we will keep records of our journey in the making of this movie as a reminder for this great opportunity. We’d be very happy if you join our unique journey and learn wonderful stories and facts in the Mahragan this year. **“Live in Peace”** (2 Corinthians 13:11.)

### **1. Who is Stronger**

We will learn that offering love to everyone around us, and avoiding conflicts, can make peace. This is the meaning of the true peace.

*My Peace is a Divine Gift.*

### **2. The Promise of the Second Coming.**

We will learn that God fulfilled His promise through His incarnation and redeemed us through His resurrection. He ascended to Heaven to prepare a place for us. He promised to return and take us to live in eternal peace with Him.

*My Peace is from my Lord my Savior.*





### **3-The Divine Liturgy**

We will learn that our Coptic Orthodox Church in all the prayers teaches us how to enjoy peace. One of the most beautiful prayers in the church which is full of peace is the Divine Liturgy.

*My Peace is in My Wealthy Church.*

### **4-Anba Shenouda (Shenoute) the Archimandrite.**

We will learn that the life of prayers makes us feel eternal peace.

*I keep my peace through everything*

### **5-Elisha the Prophet**

We will learn how we should care for the peace of others, make peace with everyone and as a result we live in peace.

*I am at peace with everyone.*





## *My Peace is a Divine Gift*

**Irene:** September 21, is declared by the United Nations to be the International Day of Peace. It is a special day in the world. The wars stop, the conflicts halt for 24 hours in respect for the Day of Peace. But on a personal level this day is special for my friends and me, Irene.

After winning the YouTuber's award, we had a chance to make a special short documentary movie, about The Peace Makers Children Museum. The movie will be shown on the museum's opening day, on September 21, the International Day of Peace. I decided to record the events for our movie making adventure so I can keep all these great memories.

I will begin from the starting point which is the museum door two days before the opening day. I am meeting my friends there:

**Irene:** Good morning! How long have you been here for? Am I late?

**Happy:** Don't worry, we just came!

**Aghaby:** I am very excited about this





movie project.

**Happy:** So, Let's go! Agyon, are your cameras ready?

**Agyon:** All fully charged and ready to record. I even brought some extra batteries.

**Happy:** Let's take a few snapshots of the outside the museum!

**Irene:** I wrote down my initial ideas about the opening day. We can ask Aghaby to read it by the door. What do you think?

**Aghaby:** I am ready! Where is your script, Irene, so I can read it while Agyon gets his camera ready.

**Agyon:** Perfect, I am ready now!

**Happy:** Perfect! Aghaby, would you please stand here by the door?

Please stand here, by the door sign! Excellent! When you hear the word action you can start reading.

Ready, 3,2,1 ACTION!

**Aghaby:** From the doors of the Peace Makers Museum, we will start our new movie...

Narrator: After filming the movie introduction, the friends walked into the museum.

They were amazed by the beauty of the place, but in the first exhibition





they were all confused.

**Happy:** This is the first time I walk into museum exhibition and see 2 movies playing within the same room.

**Irene:** You are right! It's very hard to follow both movies. I can't record any notes about this museum room.

**Agyon:** What do you think if we set up a camera to record one movie and we can follow the events of the other? Later, we can watch what's on the camera.

**Aghaby:** Good idea!

**Agyon:** I'll set up the camera by this screen. We can watch the other one now.

*As soon as the movies began, the doors were closed. The movie was titled, "Who is Stronger?" The children began watching the movie.*







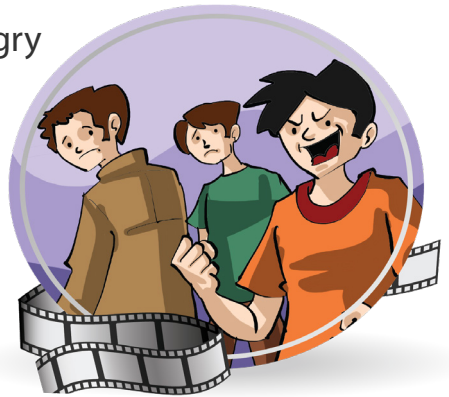
## Who is Stronger?

Narrator: The movie began with a fight between a group of boys: Kyrillos, Mina, and Tony.

**Kyrilos** (angrily): Stay away from me, Mina. You should keep your boundaries. I'll show you!

**Mina:** Please Kyrilos, calm down! You are angry now. Let's talk later when you're calm.

**Tony:** Mina, how can you be so calm while he's yelling at you like that? You should stand up for yourself and yell back at him. Now, he'll think he won the fight.



**Mina:** Exactly the opposite, Tony. I chose to be stronger than Kyrilos.

**Tony:** How can you be stronger if he is the one who yelled at you? He was much louder than you.

**Mina:** I am stronger because I was able to keep my inner peace, and I did not say anything that hurt others. I did not sadden God. It'd be easy to get angry and make others upset, however, it's much harder to control myself while I am angry. I know that Kyrilos will calm down, and he will





realize that he made a mistake. Then, we will be friends again. I responded exactly how I was taught at church from the great church fathers. They taught us the true meaning for inner peace and how to achieve it. Let me tell you a story about one of the church fathers:

## ***Moalem Ibrahim El-Gohary:***

One day Guirguis El-Gohary met with his brother, Ibrahim El-Gohary, and Guirguis was very upset because a man cursed at him on his way there. Since Ibrahim was a powerful man in the town, Guirguis asked him to deal with the man who cursed him. So that he may stop cursing at him every time he passed that way.

Ibrahim was a powerful man because he was the scribe for a prince. Ibrahim promised his brother that he will take care of this matter immediately, and the man will stop cursing at Guirguis.

The next day, Guirguis passed by the man again, but instead of cursing at him, the man met Guirguis cheerfully and honored him.





Guirguis went back to see his brother Ibrahim to inquire about what was done to the man who used to curse him to make him change his evil treatment towards Guirguis into this honorable treatment.

Ibrahim explained that he had sent a servant with some gifts to the cursing man. The servant said that

the gifts came from Guirguis El-Gohary. As a result, the man stopped cursing Guirguis because he thought that the gifts came from him.

**The stronger one is he who can avoid conflict, and prefers love and true peace.**





*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:9)*

*After the friends finished watching the first movie, Irene began to write down her observations of the filming process for the Museum Movie that they are filming. Then they went to watch the other movie that was playing at the same time. Agyon began to review the recording.*

*The second movie started with a photo from the Picture Book Bible open to the Book of Genesis and a reader was telling the events from the Bible.*

**Irene:** Oh, this story is from the Book of Genesis about "Isaac the Righteous and the Wicked Men" (Genesis 26:12-33)

## ***The Righteous Isaac and the Wells***

(From the second movie at the museum)

When Isaac was born, his father Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah his mother was 90 years old. Isaac was obedient to God and to his parents. He loved peace and quiet. When he was 40 years old, Isaac married Rebecca and after 20 years God answered their prayers and they had twins (Jacob and Esau.)





After a while, there was a famine in the land, so Isaac and his family went to Gerar. Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in this land, and "I will be with you and bless you;" (Genesis 26:2) Isaac obeyed God and dwelt in Gerar. His heart was filled with peace because God was with him. They really needed water for their daily needs and for farming. The only source of water in that desert area was well water.



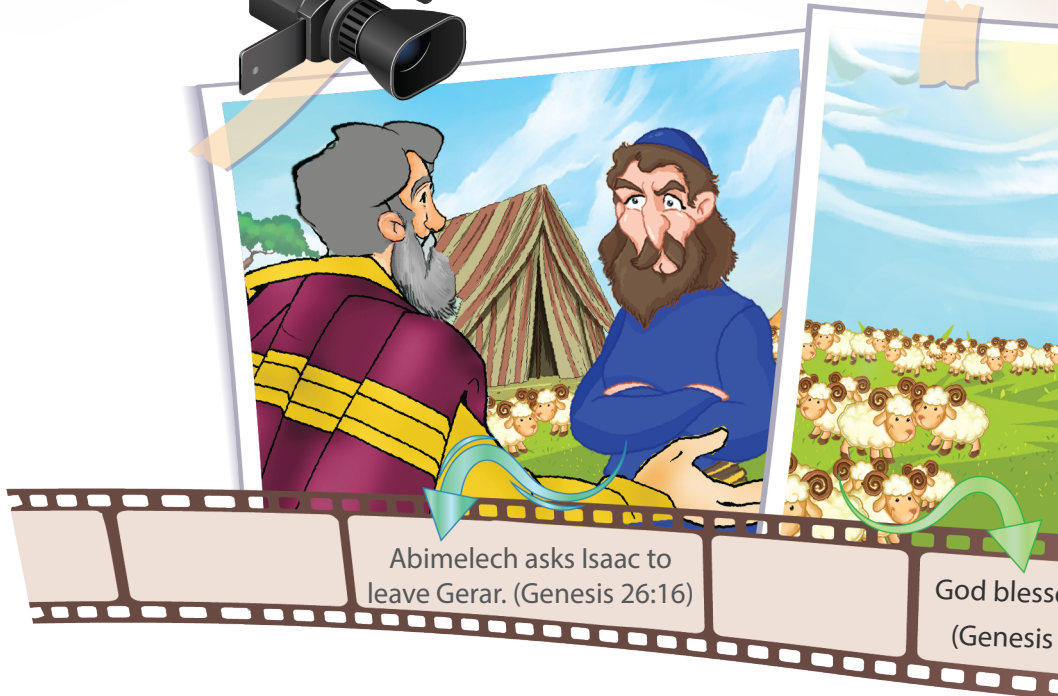
Even though the famine was severe in the land, God blessed Isaac.

He sowed in that land, and "reaped in the same year a hundredfold and the LORD blessed him." (Genesis 26:12) He began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very wealthy; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

So, the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which Isaac's father, Abraham's servants had dug, and they filled them with dirt.

And Abimelech the king of Gerar said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than us."



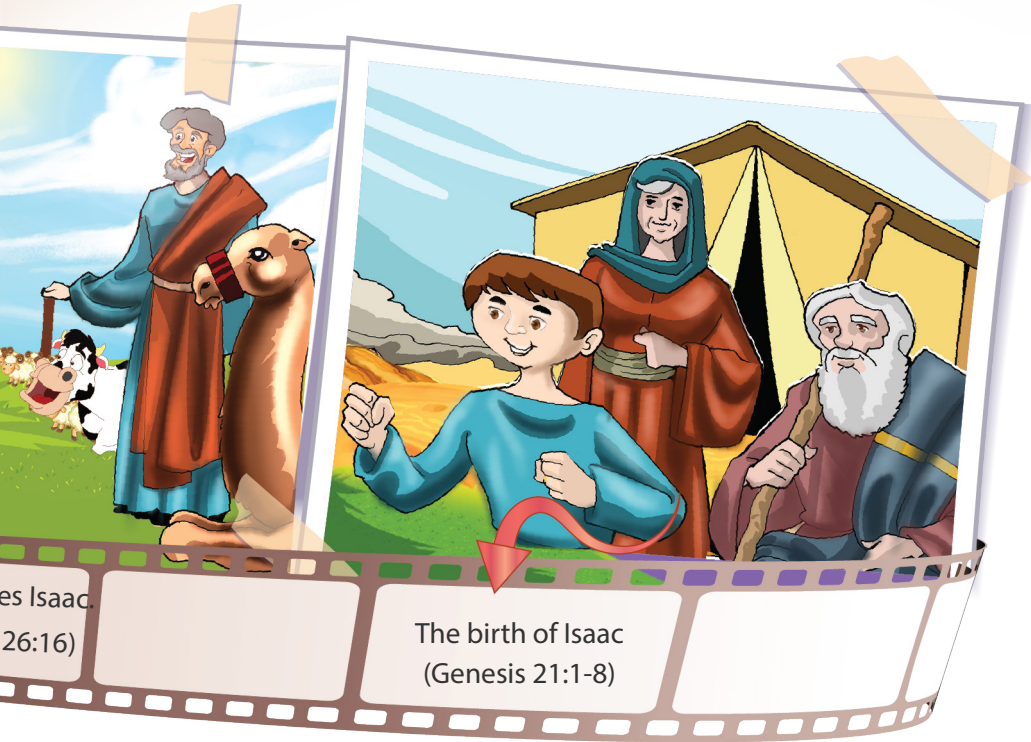


Isaac's heart was filled with peace. He chose to be stronger than the Palestinians. He wanted to be a peace maker and avoid conflict.

So, Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. He dug the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.

The herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." (Genesis 26:20) Isaac continued to look for water while making peace with the people of Gerar. Isaac moved from there and dug another well, and servants did not quarrel over it.





es Isaac  
(26:16)

The birth of Isaac  
(Genesis 21:1-8)

Isaac then went up from there to Beersheba. And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake." (Genesis 26:24)

Then Abimelech came with his friends from Gerar to see Isaac. And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you have sent me away from you?" But they said, "We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you. Let there now be peace between us, between you and us."

So, Isaac made them a feast, and they ate and drank. Then they arose early in the morning and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace. Isaac was a man of peace in all his dealings.





*"But counselors of peace have joy." [Proverbs 12:20]*



Abimelech and his friends make an oath of peace with Isaac. (Genesis 26:26-31)

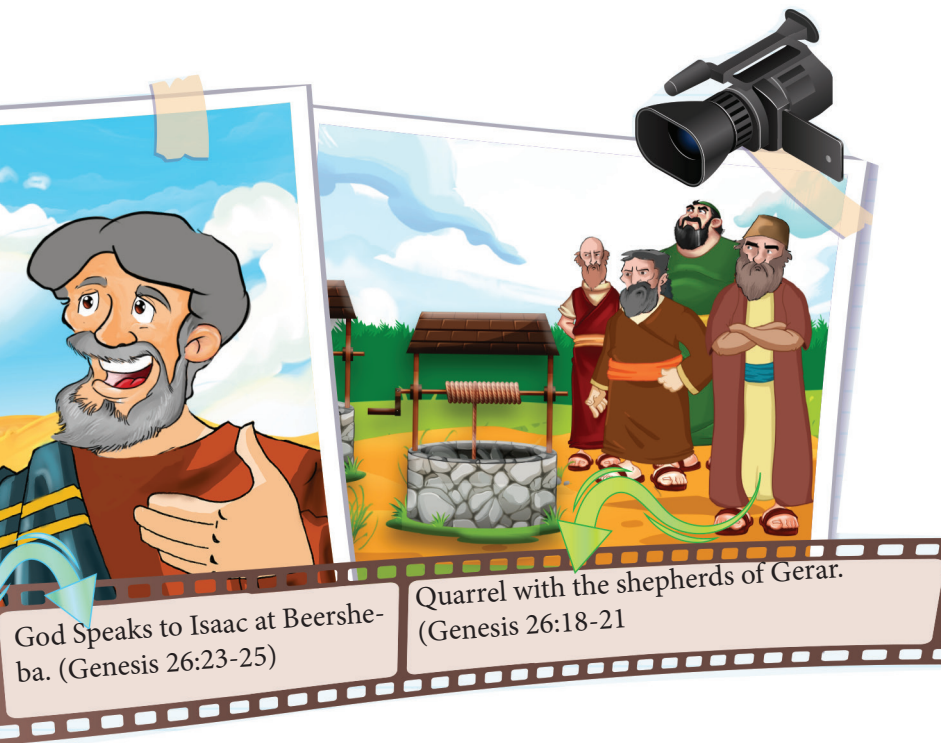






*After watching the second movie the friends gathered together to discuss their plan.*

**Irene:** Both movies were amazing. They both explain clearly the meaning of true peace which is avoiding conflicts.





## My Peace is From My Lord, My Savior

After matching all the words, the friends should be able to unlock the next room in the museum.

**Aghaby:** This museum has amazing theology.

**Happy:** Irene, were you able to take some notes on the movies and the matching game?

**Irene:** Of course, I typed a good report about the 2 movies and the game.

**Happy:** Perfect! Agyon, Let's record the next segment before we go to the next room. Ready, everyone? 3,2,1 Action!



After filming the report, the friends tried to move to the next room at the museum.

**Agyon:** That's strange! We completed the matching game but the next door didn't get unlocked!! Hmm...

**Irene:** Let's Ask Holly. Maybe he can help us.

**Holly:** How can I help you?





**Irene:** Well, the door to this room was supposed to unlock after we complete the game, but it didn't.

**Holly:** The door won't unlock unless you make a request to open it. To continue the trip, you must click the button that's next to the door.

**Agyon:** Oh yes, you are right! That button was red, but after we completed the game, it turned green. I'll click it.

**Irene:** Yay! it's opening, let's go to the next exhibition,

**Aghaby:** Huh!! This is an empty room!

**Irene:** Watch out! The door is closing.

**Aghaby:** What? Now we are locked in! Where is Holly. He can help us.

**Holly:** How can I help you, friends? I'll accompany you during your trip.

**Irene:** Why is this room empty?

**Holy:** Be patient.

*After a few seconds, the walls and the floors turned into a huge screen, The friends felt like they were teleported to a beautiful garden. While they were amazed by the scenery, a powerful sound shook the room saying the phrase:*  
**"The Promise!"**



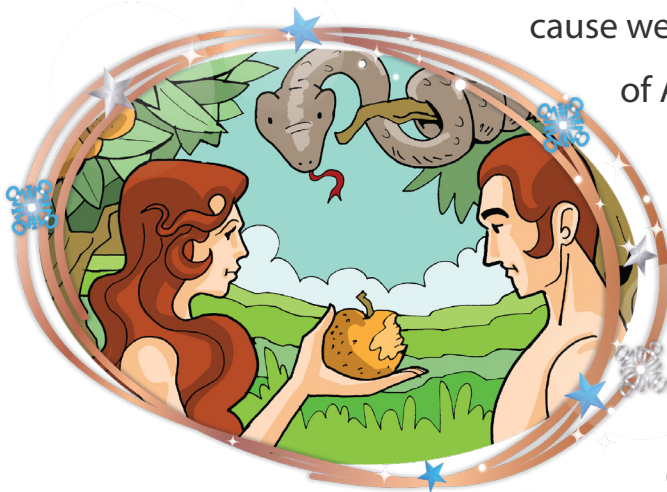


## *The Promise of the Second Coming*

After all the creation, God created man in His own image. "So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27) But man fell into sin by obeying the Serpent (the devil) and broke God's commandment. He ate from the tree that God commanded



him not to eat from. Adam fell into sin and so did all humanity because we were all the descendents of Adam when he sinned.



Adam's punishment fell on all humans born from him, from the first person till the last person to be born on this earth. Saint Paul said in his Epistle to the Romans

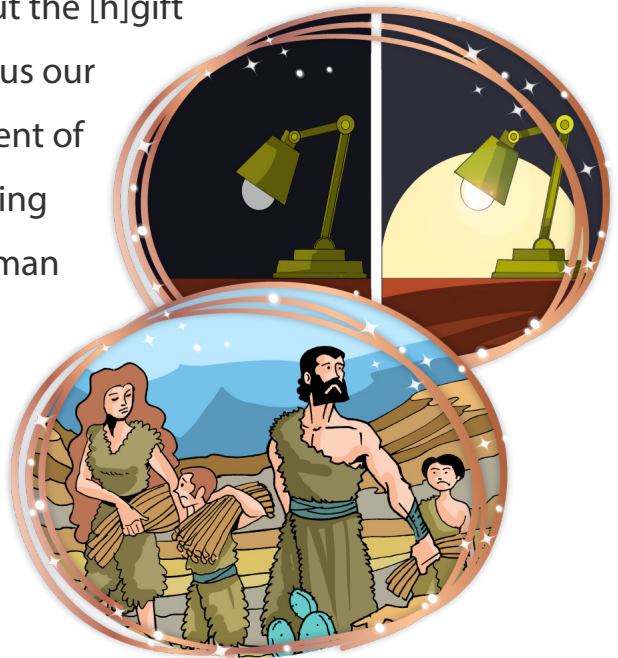




“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” (Romans 5:12) Every human being inherited Adam’s sin and its consequences.

## ***Consequences of Sin: The punishment of Death:***

The punishment of death fell on Adam and all his descendants. God said, “For the wages of sin is death, but the [h]gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) The judgment of death is a consequence of breaking the commandment. As a result, man was separated from God. Just as when a light bulb disconnects from the electrical power source, it does not give light.





## ***Man's nature was corrupted because of sin:***

Just like when someone eats toxic food, it can make them really sick and they'll need medicine to get better or else it'll kill them.



## ***Man was expelled from Paradise:***

Because of the sin man inherited from Adam, the punishment of death remained and his nature was corrupt.





In order to restore our lost life with God:

- 1- Lift the judgment of death from us.
- 2- Renew our corrupt nature.

Through God's great love and His justice, He gave us a promise that He  
will come and  
save us:

- 1- Jesus lifted the judgment of death
- 2- Renewed our nature and gave us a new life.
- 3- And as a result, we can gain our peace through the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.





This was the first Promise God gave us. The promise that He will be born of a Virgin and will conquer the devil.



**“..it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis**

**3:15)** and He fulfilled His promise in the fulness of time. He was born from the womb of our mother Virgin Mary (The first coming of Christ) as He was incarnate, He filled the Earth with peace. On the day of His birth the angels praised saying, **“Glory to God**

**in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)**

After His Birth and while He was with us on the earth, He said that He will suffer, He will be crucified, he will die, and finally will rise from the dead (Matthew 20:18-19)

He also promised that when he ascends to Heaven, He will send the Holy Spirit the Comforter. “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26)

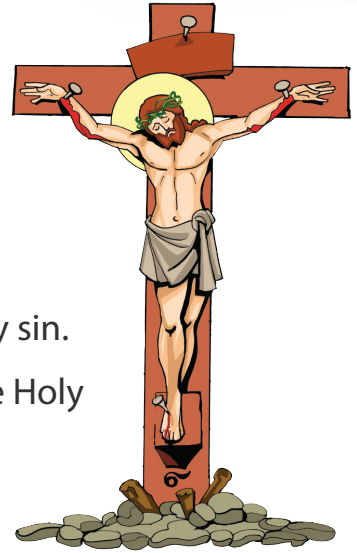






Christ truly fulfilled His promise to us.

- He saved us by being crucified in our place.
- He conquered death and Rose by the power of His Divinity on the third day.
- He lifted the judgment of death from us.
- He renewed our nature after it was corrupted by sin.
- He sent to us the Comforter and Established the Holy church.



As a result:

- We believe in the Lord Jesus.
- We are His children through the Sacrament of Baptism.
- The Holy Spirit dwells in us through the Sacrament of Myron.



- We Unite with Him through the Sacrament



of Communion.

- If we sin, we can repent and confess our sins.

In this manner we can proclaim that we accept His redemption.





## The promise of the Second Coming:

Christ promised, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2-3) And He confirmed His coming, "they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matthew 24:30)



As the Lord Christ ascended, the two angels confirmed that He will return at the end of days (The second coming) and the angels told the disciples, "who also said, "This same Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)





## ***What Does Heaven that God Prepared for us Look Like?***

And What's in it? Saint Paul says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Saint John the Beloved, in the Book of Revelation, said, In Heaven God will Be among us. We will live with Him eternally in the life of Praise filled with joy, love and peace. "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them." (Revelation 21:3)

In Heaven people will have spiritual, celestial bodies that are suitable for Heaven. Bodies that do not hunger or thirst and do not get weary or sick. There will be no sadness or tears.

The saints will be waiting in Paradise (the Victorious Church) and they will be joined by the believers who are ready, the ones who struggled on earth.





Life in Heaven will be eternal without sin (full of righteousness.) People would not bother each other, or hate each other. There will be no conflict, lying, or cursing. "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17)

As we long and wait to be in Heaven, we love and enjoy our life on earth. We do our best to fulfill our roles and witness to the Lord in front of men.

### **The Timing of the Second Coming:**

The disciple asked the Lord Jesus, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for



you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. (Acts 1:6-7) The Lord did not specify a time for the second coming because He wants us to be always ready.

He gave many parables so that we can understand how to be ready.

One example is, the "Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins."

(Matthew 25:1-13)

In this parable, Jesus explains to us how to be ready for His second coming. After a person is baptized and receives the Holy Myron, God's Spirit





dwells in the person and God's Spirit helps the person get to Heaven.

One must struggle in life to become like the wise virgins who kept their lamps full of oil.

- Each person has a choice to work hard to get to Heaven, or to underestimate the matter and relax without any striving. Choosing to avoid struggle can lead to becoming like the foolish virgins.

- Struggle means to strive to obey God's commandments, and practicing means of Grace:

- Prayers, fasting, alms giving, participating in the Holy communion, reading the Holy Bible, and other activities that helps man create a real relationship with God. As a result, our lamps will be filled with oil like the wise virgins.

At the end of the parable the Lord gave us a commandment. "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour [b] in which the Son of Man is coming." (Matthew 25:13)

This means that Christ will return on the clouds with the angels and the saints in a joyful manner to all His faithful children who are





ready to meet Him. When we are living in peace and ready to meet Him, we can always believe in His second coming and pray, "Amen, come, Lord Jesus."

*After this statement all the screens were turned off, and Irene wrote all the promises of God that were mentioned. They asked Aghaby to get ready to record the next segment in their movie about the new museum.*

**Irene:** Can we put the screens on again so Aghaby can have a good background for our recording?

**Aghaby:** (While looking at the camera) Now we know the meaning of the word "promise" which we heard earlier. Let's move to the next exhibition room to see what other surprises they have in this museum.





## My Peace is in My Wealthy Church

After completing the activity, the door to the next room was unlocked and the friends were ready to move on.

**Agyon:** The room décor is fascinating. All. The screens are separated and spread all around the room.

**Aghaby:** Did you see? Each screen has different words on it. I think these words are in a specific order.



“Preparing for Liturgy”, “The Offering of the Lamb”, “Liturgy of the Catechumens”, “Liturgy of the Believers”

**Agyon:** Yes, that’s the order of the Liturgy.

As soon as Agyon said the word liturgy, all the screens changed to show one word, “Irene.”

**Holly:** Each of the words, “Irene” will have an explanation as you click it. The children tapped the word, “Irene” on first screen.





## *The Divine Liturgy*

The beauty of our Orthodox Church is, that through the prayers, She teaches us how to enjoy peace. In all the church prayers the priest starts with the sign of the cross, and prays for blessing and peace for everyone. He says, "Peace be with you all."

The congregation responds, "And with your spirit."

The church teaches us that it is essential to pray for peace to come into our hearts.

That's a necessary litany in our church.

One of the most beautiful prayers in our church, that fills our hearts with peace, is the Divine Liturgy.

As we attend the Liturgy, we enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus with us. In the Liturgy we remember and live the life of Christ Jesus with all its details. (His suffering, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, and His second coming.)

**Agyon:** I think this exhibition will explain the events of the Divine Liturgy; And how it becomes the source of our peace.

**Holly:** That's right.

**Happy:** Great idea. Aghaby, your role is to tap the screens. Agyon, you will start recording. Irene, you will write down what you hear. Let's start!







# *Preparation for the Divine Liturgy:*

## **Personal Preparation:**



### ***1. Repentance and Confession:***

Everyone who sins must offer sincer repentancefor his sin. He must make the decision not to do the same mistake again. Then that person must go and confess his sins to God in the presence of the priest.



### ***2. Reconciliation with others:***

If a person is in a conflict with another, they must reconcile so that thers may be peace between them, they must admit their wrongdoing towards eachother.





## Church Preparation:



### ***3- Proper Clothing and Fasting:***

It is important that our clothing and our bodies be in their best appearance. Proper attire and a clean, washed body are important when going to the Divine Liturgy. We must also fast for at least 9 hours.



### ***Raising of incense:***

- The night before the Divine Liturgy
- The morning of the Divine Liturgy.

It is done to prepare the altar, the priest, and the people to receive the King of Peace in the Divine Liturgy.



## ***The Offering of the Lamb:***

1- Dressing for the Service: (Tunia) after the morning raising of the incense the priest and the deacons dress in their service tunias.



2- Book of Hours (Agpeya) Prayers:

The church begins to pray the Book of Hours which is full of psalms and prayers that give us peace. The offerings are present during that time because the psalms sanctify them.

3- Selection of the Lamb: The priest chooses the best kourbana (Bread) for the Lamb. He picks one that is perfect without any blemishes. During the selection of the Lamb the congregation and deacons pray "Kyrie eleison" 41 times. This way the church teaches her children to pray to God for the forgiveness of sins and to be worthy of the communion. All these prayers give us peace. Later, the priest stands by the entrance of the altar and he lifts the Lamb on his head. In this position, the priest asks for the peace of the church. He says, "Peace and edification be unto the One Only, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of God."





4- Prayer of Thanksgiving: The church begins all the prayers by the Prayer of Thanksgiving. In this prayer we ask for peace as we pray, "grant us to complete this holy day, and all the days of our life, in all peace with your fear." Then The priest covers the chalice and the paten with the prospherin or the cover of the alter.

It is a symbol of the rock that was placed at the entrance of Christ's tomb.

On the abrosfareen, the priest places a triangular handkerchief symbolizing the seal at the tomb's door. At the end of the selection of the Lamb, the priest stands at the altar entrance.





## *Liturgy of the Catechumens:*



1- The deacons start to read the readings from the "Katamares." This part of the Liturgy is called Liturgy of the Catechumens. Through the readings we feel God's presence with us, as our hearts become filled with peace.

### *The readings:*

- Pauline Epistle: Saint Paul's Epistles.
- Catholic Epistle: The Epistles of Sts Peter, James, Jude, and John.
- Praxis: part of the Book of Acts.
- Synaxarium: The life of the saint of the day.
- Psalm and Gospel
- The Sermon
- The Creed: After the sermon all the people proclaim the Orthodox Creed in a loud voice.





### ***The Prayer of Reconciliation:***

The priest starts the Prayer of reconciliation where he tells us how God reconciled the Heaven with the earth.

Then the deacon responds, "Pray for perfect peace, love, and the holy apostolic kisses."

When God fills our heart with His peace, we are able to reconcile with others. A sign of reconciliation is a holy kiss.

The deacon says, "Greet one another with a holy kiss."

The prayer of reconciliation explains the reconciliation with Heaven, with ourselves and others.

After that the prospherin (chalice and paten cover) is lifted.

It symbolizes the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. The congregation then says "Through the Intercessions..."



## *Liturgy of the Believers:*



1- After the Prayer of Reconciliation, the Liturgy of the Believers begins. Another name for this Liturgy is the Anaphora (Raising the Oblations).

Three Phrases are said in this section:

- The Lord be with you all.
- Lift up your hearts.
- Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Also in this part, the Priest is telling everyone that we will be in the presence of Heaven, so we should not speak to others or get distracted.





2- After that the Priest prays and describes to us the scene of those who are praising around the throne of God, so we can also join them. We say, "The Cherubim worship You," The priest then says, "Agius, Agios, Agios." And starts to tell the story from the beginning of the creation to the second coming of Christ.

At this time, we remember the incarnation.



### ***3- The Institution***

***Narrative:*** In this section the priest explains the process of which Christ founded the sacrament of Holy Communion. He established the sacrament on Covenant Thursday. The priest signs the Cross on the bread and the chalice 3 times. He says, "He gave thanks, blessed, and sanctified." He also explains the condition for entering into Heaven, which is taking communion.







**4- The Epiclesis** is one of the holiest parts of the Liturgy. It's the time of the invocation of the Holy Spirit. The priest invites the Holy Spirit to descend on the bread and wine, turning them into the true Body and Blood of the Lord. The Holy Spirit also descends on all the people who are present to sanctify them and make them ready for Christ to enter and live within them. As a result, He gives us all peace.



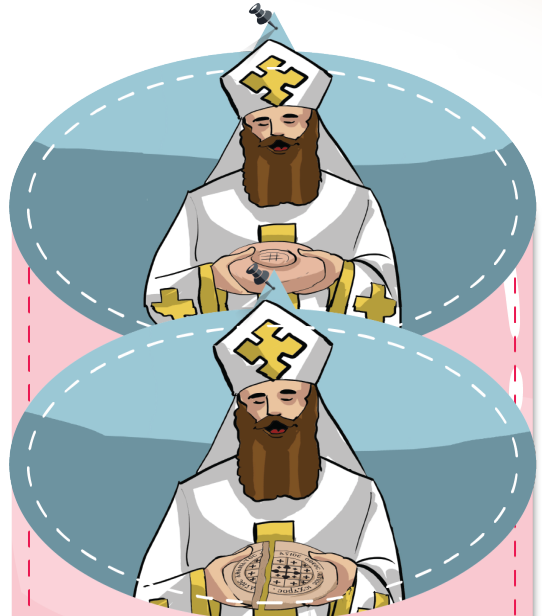
**5- The Litanies:** After the Epiclesis, and with the presence of the Lord Jesus on the Altar in His true Body and Blood, the priest prays the litanies (meaning supplications or requests.) One of the litanies is the Litany of Peace; in it the priest prays for the peace of the church. "Remember, O Lord, the peace of Your one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church."





## **6- The Commemoration of the Saints:**

The heavenly join the earthly during the Liturgy, so the priest mentions many saints. We pray for the Heavenly and they pray for us. After the commemoration of the saints the priest says, "grant us Your peace unto the end."



## **7- The Fraction:**

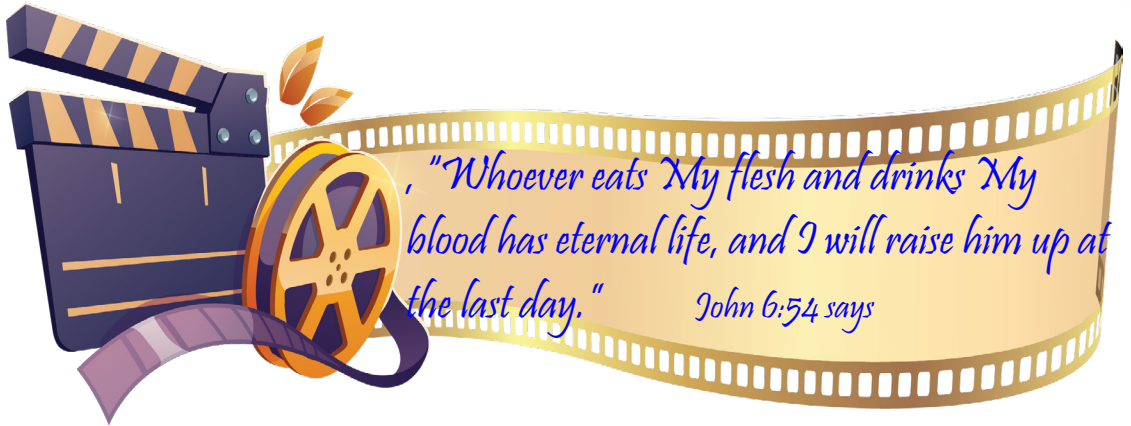
After the Commemoration of the Saints, is the Fraction. The Fraction means the breaking of the Holy Body (the bread that has been changed into the Body of Jesus Christ) This symbolizes the suffering of Christ on the cross. Then the priest prays the Lord's Prayer and recites the Confession Prayers which confirm that the priest is holding the true body and blood of Christ. The deacon responds, "The peace and love of Jesus Christ be with you."





**8- Communion:** This is the last part of the Liturgy. The communion is when the priest, the deacons and the congregation receive the Body and Blood of Christ. After communion the priest dismisses the people saying, "Christ our God, King of peace, grant us Your peace, establish for us Your peace, and forgive us our sins. Depart in peace. May the peace of the Lord be with you."





**Irene:** Our church has beautiful rites of the Liturgy which are full of peace. I wrote everything down so we can record our next segment. Let's solve the activity so we can unlock the next door!





## *I Keep My Peace Through Everything*

**Happy:** Ready, Agyon?

**Agyon:** Honestly, I am not.  
The cameras are dead. I need  
to charge them.

**Happy:** There are many  
outlets here please use it to  
charge your cameras.

**Agyon:** Thanks, but I have a  
different problem. It seems  
that we lost the footage that we filmed earlier. I can't seem to find it on  
file.

**Happy:** What will you do now?

**Agyon:** I have my data backed up on the cloud. It will take me 15 min-  
utes to retrieve it.

**Happy:** That's awesome! It's always a  
good idea to back up your information.

**Irene:** That's true, any electronic device  
won't work if you disconnect it from the power  
source. Just like us, if we stop praying, we resem-  
ble to electronic device; we won't be able to function.





**Agyon:** I don't get it! What do you mean?

**Irene:** I'll send you a link to a movie I made last year about prayers. It will help you make a connection between the two concepts.

Prayer: is the connection between us and God. Through prayers we feel God's presence with us. Prayers are not

words that we utter without under-

ing, it is a conversation with the One we love. Through prayers we lift our hearts and minds to God and we speak to Him knowing that He listens to every word we say. The best time is the time spent with God through prayer.





Always pray means:



Many people experienced the power of prayer in their lives. One example is the great saint, Anba Shenouda the Archimandrite. He always prayed, and prayers were the main source of peace in his life. It helped him become the source of peace for everyone around him.





## ***Saint Shenouda (Shenoute) the Archimandrite: (Synaxarium 7th of Abib.)***

### **His Birth:**

Before his birth, his mother saw a vision of Saint Mary telling her that she will have a son and to name him Shenouda. St. Mary told her that he will be a great saint for the Lord. The vision came true and he was born on the 7th of Beshans, in the city of Shandaweil, Akhmim. His father was a farmer, who owned flocks of sheep. Both his parents were righteous believers. His uncle was Anba Pegol, the abbot of the Red Monastery in upper Egypt. This monastery was founded by Anba Pachomius.



Because his parents were righteous, Saint Shenouda learned to pray, fast and attended church regularly. He learned the love of God at a very young age. God became the source of peace for Saint Shenouda.

Saint Shenouda loved solitude from a very early age. When he was 9 , his







righteous parents asked their shepherds to teach him how to take care of the sheep and to send him back home before nightfall. The boy used to give his food to some shepherds and spend all his day in fasting, then on his way home he would spend a long time in prayers. He always returned home very late.

His father was worried about his son's late return, so he asked the shepherd to secretly follow the saint. The shepherd saw the saint standing near a well on the road praying for a long time. The saint's hands were bright and the scent of incense filled the place. The shepherd told the parents.



The next day Saint Shenouda's father accompanied his son not to the shepherds, but to his uncle Abbot Pegol, founder of the Monastery to help him grow in virtue.

His uncle joyfully welcomed the family. St. Shenouda's father asked Abbot Pegol to bless the boy, but the Abbot held the boy's hand, put it on his head, saying, "I am in need of this boy's blessing for he is a chosen vessel of Christ, who will serve Him faithfully all his life..."

The Abbot gave Saint Shenouda a room (cell) and treated him as one of





the monks, regardless of his young age.

Saint Shenouda began a new life at the monastery enjoying prayers, worshipping God with humility and strength.

Abbot Pegol watched the child Shenouda grow in virtue. One night an angel told Anba Pegol, "go see Shenouda in the morning. You will find him next to the Eskeem (a long belt decorated with crosses).



This Eskeem was blessed by Christ. Pray and put the Eskeem on Shenouda. The child will be great, and a father for many people."

Anba Pegol did as he was told by the angel. Saint Shenouda became a monk and grew in the Lord. He spent long hours in prayers and fasting until sunset.

Once Anba Pigol and Anba Beshay (another monk at the monastery) heard a voice from heaven saying, "Shenouda has become the Archimandrite."

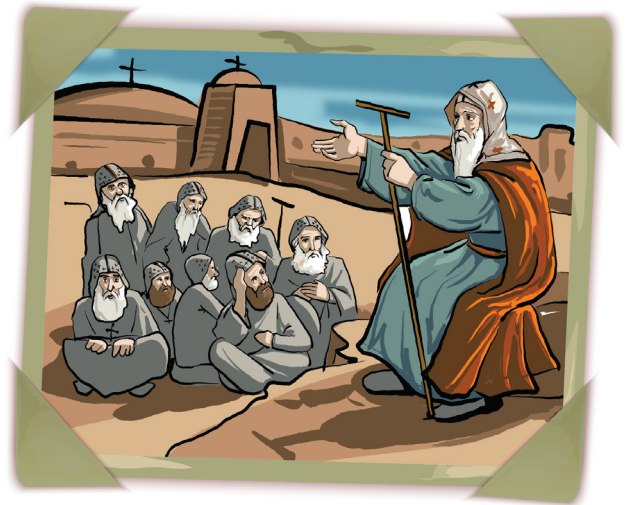




When Anba Pigol departed, Saint Shenouda, went to live in solitude in the desert for 5 years. Later, the monks chose him to be the Abbot after the departure of the leader of the monastery at that time had passed away.

### **Anba Shenouda Cared for the Monastery and Monks:**

- He built a new monastery (The White Monastery.)
- He encouraged the monks to study the Holy Bible and work hard.
- He encouraged the monks to use their talents to do work in the monastery.
- He encouraged the life of solitude.
- The monks increased in numbers during his leadership years. He was abbot for 2,500 monks.
- He also built monasteries for the nuns. They were 1,800 nuns.
- He cared for the Coptic language. He spoke Coptic all the time and he also wrote all his letters in the Coptic language.





## **Anba Shenouda Cared About Serving the People:**

- He opened the doors of the monastery for the lay people to come for prayers and to get the help they need.

- Every Saturday and Sunday about 1,000 people visited the monastery.

He was giving sermons and teaching the people.

- He built many churches in the neighboring towns.

- Anba Shenouda was a good speaker. People were taxed so much so Anba Shenouda used to defend the poor in front of the judge or the ruler so they do not get taxed too much.

- Once there was a famine so he allowed lay people to move into the monastery. He fed them with love until all the bread in the monastery ran out. Anba Wisa, the disciple of Anba Shenouda, told him that they ran out of bread. Anba Shenouda went to pray, so Saint Paul





appeared to him, and he had a loaf of bread in his hand. Saint Paul told him that Christ had blessed this loaf. Please put it in the pantry of the monastery, so you don't run out of bread again. Anba Shenouda did what Saint Paul said. Anba Weesa the disciple went to the pantry and he was surprised that it was overflowing with bread. After that, the monastery continued to feed the people till the end of the famine.

### **He Protected the True Faith:**

Anba Shenouda accompanied Pope Cyril I the Pillar of the Faith the 24th pope to Ephesus for the trial of Nestorius. The heresy of nestorius was surrounding the nature of Christ, he also refused to refer to St. Mary as the Theotokos. For this reason, our Coptic Church emphasizes in the Liturgy that, "His Divinity parted not from His humanity for a single moment nor a twinkling of an eye.



The church also established the Introduction to the Creed, "We exalt you the mother of the True Light."

The presence of Anba Shenouda in the council had a big impact on de-

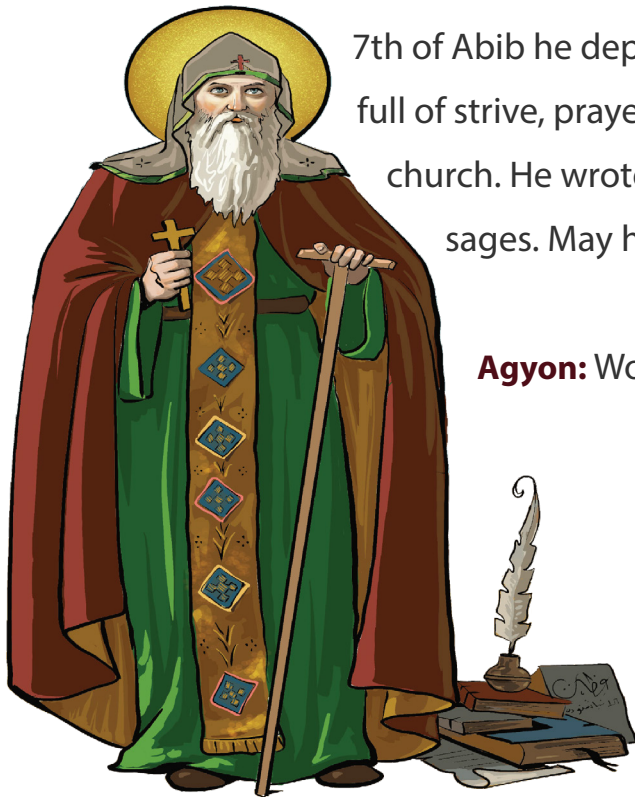




fending the true faith against the heresy by using verses from the Bible. After the council, Nestorius was excommunicated, and he was exiled to Akhmeem next to the Monastery of Anba Shenouda, where Nestorius did not have a chance to mislead anyone.

Nestorius continued to try to teach the wrong faith but he was unable to mislead the people. Anba Shenouda was an excellent teacher, and taught his people the right faith. Nestorius remained in Akhmeem till he died.

Anba Shenouda reached a high spiritual level. On the 7th of Abib he departed in peace after a long life full of strive, prayers, and monastic service for the church. He wrote many books and spiritual messages. May his prayers be with us, amen.



**Agyon:** Wonderful video!





## *I am at Peace With Everyone.*

*The friends were able to answer all the questions, and Agyon was able to retrieve the data from the cloud. So, the group was ready to continue their journey in the museum.*

**Agyon:** Too bad! This is the last exhibition in the museum. I am really enjoying the place.

**Irene:** That's so true. This place is amazing and very entertaining.

**Agapy:** Let's go to the next room while the door is unlocked.

**Happy:** Wow! What's this huge painting?

**Irene:** I don't think this is a painting. Maybe it's an interactive screen.

**Holy:** Yes, Irene. That's an interactive screen. You can use this special electronic pen to write on it.

**Agyon:** True! It looks like we have to fill in the blanks.

**Irene:** Oh! There is a Bible reference on top of each blank space. I guess we have to use the reference to find the verse.

**Happy:** Let's look up the first reference.

**Agapy:** This reference speaks about Elisha the prophet. Let's write Elisha as a title.





Narrator: As soon as they wrote Elisha in the tile space, the screen became bright. A green circle was displayed. Holy explained to them that this is the "Help Button." They can click it to listen to the story. So the friends clicked the screen to start filling in the blanks.

After the death of King Solomon the kingdom split into two:



- Northern Kingdom ( Kingdom of Israel) - its capital was Samaria. It had 10 of the tribes of Israel. The kings were wicked. This kingdom was taken captive and enslaved by the Assyrians.

- Southern Kingdom (kingdom of Judah) - its capital was Jerusalem. It had 2 tribes of Israel, Judah and Benjamin. Its kings were mostly wicked but some were righteous. It was taken captive and enslaved by the Babylonian Empire.

- Some countries who did not know the Lord were neighboring these 2 kingdoms. For example, the kingdom of Aram. There were many wars between Israel, Judea and the neighboring people.

- During those days, God would send His prophets to teach the people so they can repent their sins and return to Him. Two of the prophets of the Northern kingdom were Elijah and his disciple Elisha.







- Our hero today is Elisha the Prophet.

*The children were asked to open their Bibles so they can look up the verses for the story of Elisha.*

1- 1 Kings 19: 19-Let's meet the heroes

2- 1 Kings 19:2-21 – The character traits of our hero.

3- 2 Kings 2:2- What did Elijah ask? What do Elisha do?

4- 2 Kings 2-4-Who were the 3 groups of people? What did they tell Elisha?

5- 2 Kings 2:9 – What did our hero ask for?

6- 2 Kings 2:14 – What did the mantle do to the water?

7- 2 Kings 2:15 – Who are these people and what are they saying?

8- 2 Kings 4:1-2 – This mother seems to have a big problem? What did she do?

9- 2 Kings 4:3-4 – Where did they get all the pots?

10- 2 Kings 4:5-7- When did the oil stop?

11- What do we learn from this mother?

12- 2 Kings 4:17 - Why is this woman happy?

13- 2 Kings 4:34-35- What is Elisha doing?

14- 2 Kings 4:42- What are they distributing?

15- 2 Kings 4:34- Can you count the people?

16- 2 Kings 5:2-3- Who is this hero?





17- 2 Kings 5:14 How many times did he submerge himself in the water? What happened after?

18- 2 Kings 5:20 – Where is this from, Gehazi?

19- 2 Kings 6:6 – Why is the fish surprised?

20- 2 Kings 6:16- Our army or the enemies?

21- 2 Kings 6:18-19 –Who are they? Where are they going?

22- 2 Kings 6:20 – Eyes were opened.

23 - 2 Kings 6:23 A feast was prepared.

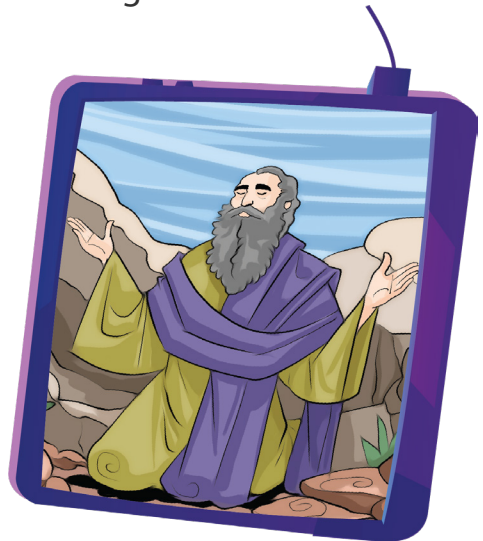
## ***Elisha the prophet***

### ***Synaxarium 20 Baoula***

Our next hero is Elisha the Tishbite. The meaning of his name is, “my Lord is my salvation.”

The Lord spoke to Elijah the Prophet as he was praying on the Mountain of Horeb, and asked him to anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat from the town of Alamut as prophet in Elijah’s place.

“So Elijah departed and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth.

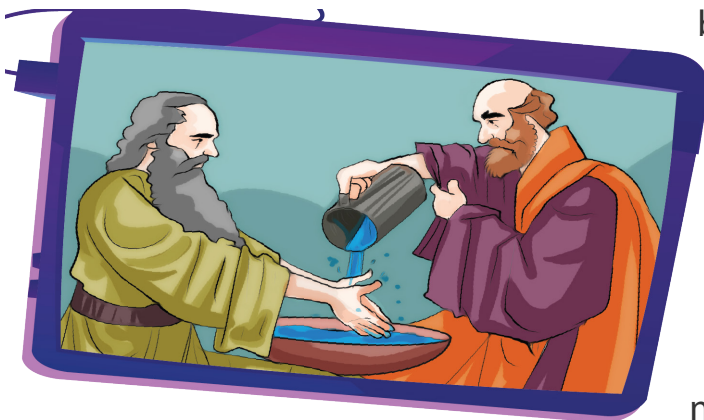




Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you. And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant."



"And so it was, at the end of Elijah's life, when they had crossed over the river, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

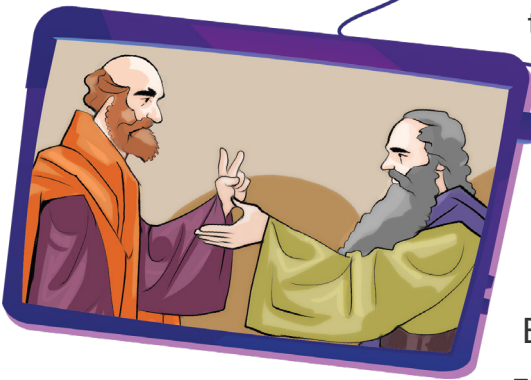


So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." Then





it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.



And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So, Elisha saw Elijah no more.

Elisha was very sad, he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.

He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back.

Narrator: After the children heard this story, they checked all the Bible references and wrote down all their notes.

Later they saw an image of 2 women, so they wanted to know their stories. So, the children clicked the green button to hear the next story.



Elisha did 2 miracles: One for a poor woman, and the other for a rich woman. These miracles granted the women joy and peace.





## Elisha and the Widow's Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7)

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming



to take my two sons to be his slaves."

So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels

from ev-

erywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."



So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out.





Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So, the oil ceased. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest."

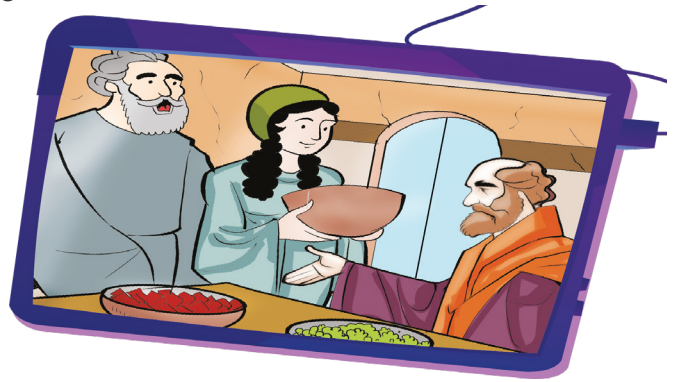
This miracle was a reason for peace and joy for the poor woman.





## **Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son (2 Kings 4:8-37)**

Later, Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food. And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.



Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there. Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him. And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'"





She answered, "I dwell among my own people."

So he said, "What then is to be done for her?"

And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old."

So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway. Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!"

But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her. And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers. And he said to his father, "My head, my head!"



So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother." When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died. And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out. Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back."







So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath."

And she said, "It is well." Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you." And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman! Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' "

And she answered, "It is well." Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me." So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"

Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child."

And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her. Now Gehazi





went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened."

When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So, he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." So, she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

*At the end of the 2 stories, the children checked the Bible references and wrote down their notes.*

*Later they saw another picture, so they wanted to know the story.*

**Irene:** Let's click this button! Elisha was really a great prophet.

During the time of Elisha, there were many wars between Israel and the king of Aram. Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and





he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." So, Elisha sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which Elisha had told him. Thus, he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

Therefore, the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"



And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak" in secret for his Lord reveals it to him.

So, the king said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him."

So, they said, "Surely Elisha is in Dothan."

Therefore, the king sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. And when the servant of Elisha arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And the servant said to Elisha, "My Master! What shall we do?"

Elisha answered:





*"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."*

*(2 Kings 6:16)*

Then the LORD opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. Elisha taught his servant a lesson about how we should live in true peace no matter what the circumstances are. We should feel the presence of God with us all the time.

So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

Later, Elisha said to the army, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to





Samaria. For their war was with the king, not with Elisha himself.

So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, “LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see.” And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?”

But Elisha answered, “You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So, the two kingdoms lived in peace many years after that without any wars. Elisha was a peace maker.

*After this story the children searched the Bible verses and wrote their notes.*

**Agyon:** All the lights are lit on the painting now. It looks amazing. Let’s take a selfie next to it.

**Happy:** After our selfie, we should shoot the last segment in our movie. Are we ready? 3,2,1 ACTION





Memorization

PSALM 124

THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD

Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion: he who dwells in Jerusalem shall never be moved. Mountains are round about her, and the Lord is round about His people, from this time and forever. For the Lord shall not allow the rod of sinners to be upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous might stretch forth their hands to iniquity.

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their heart. But those who turn to stumbles, the Lord will banish with the workers of iniquity; peace be upon Israel. ALLELUIA.





Memorization

## GOSPEL OF THE 11TH HOUR

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE (CH. 4 :  
38-41)

And He arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they requested Him concerning her. And He stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and served them.

When the sun was setting, all those who had any sickn with diverse diseases brought them unto Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, "You are Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak: for they knew that He was Christ.

Glory to God forever. Amen.





Memorization

## Litanies of the 11th Hour

1. If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where shall I, the sinner, appear? The burden and heat of the day I did not endure because of the weakness of my humanity. But, O merciful God, count me with the fellows of the eleventh hour. For, behold, in iniquities I was conceived, and in sins my mother bore me. Therefore, I do not dare to lift up my eyes to Heaven; but rather, I rely on the abundance of Your mercy and love for mankind, crying out and saying, "God, forgive me, a sinner, and have mercy on me."

## Δοξα Πατρι κε Υιω κε αςιω Πνευματι

2. Hasten, O Savior, to open to me the fatherly bosoms, for I wasted my life in pleasures and lusts, and the day has passed by me and vanished. Therefore, now I rely on the richness of Your never ending compassion. So, then, do not forsake a submissive heart which is in need of your mercy. For unto You I cry, O Lord, humbly, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before You, and I am no longer worthy to be called Your son, so make me as one of Your hired servants."







## Κε Νῦν κε ἀὶ κε ἰς τοῦς ἑὼνάς τῶν ἑωνῶν: ἀλλην

3. Every iniquity I did with prudence and activity, and every sin I committed with eagerness and diligence, and of all torment and judgement I am worthy. Therefore, prepare for me the ways of repentance, O Lady the Virgin; for to you I appeal, and through you I seek intercession, and upon you I call to help me, lest I might be put to shame. And when my soul departs my body attend to me, and defeat the conspiracy of the enemies, and shut the gates of Hades, lest they might swallow my soul, O you, blameless bride of the true Bridegroom.





Memorization

## Absolution of the 11th Hour

We thank You, our compassionate king, for You have granted us to pass this day in peace, and brought us to the evening thankfully, and made us worthy to behold daylight until evening. O God, accept our glorification which is offered now, and save us from the trickeries of the adversary, and abolish all the snares which are set against us. Grant us, in this coming night, peace without pain, or anxiety, or unrest, or illusion; so that we may pass it in peace and chastity, and rise up for praises and prayers. And thus, at all times and everywhere, we glorify Your holy name in everything, together with the Father, who is incomprehensible and without beginning, and the Holy Spirit, the Life-Giver, Who is in one essence with You, now and at all times, and unto the ages of all ages. Amen.







**COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE**  
**DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW ENGLAND**

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