



Mahragan Alkeraza

2010



English Edition

Gr. 3 - 6

English Edition



H.H. Pope Shenouda III

Pope of Alexandria



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INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2010

Through the Grace of God, the prayers of H.H. Pope Shendouda III and the guidance and blessings of H.G. Bishop Moussa, Bishop of youth, we are pleased to invite you to take part in the world's largest Christian competition with over a million participants from all parts of the world.

This year's Mahragan is promising to be another truly amazing experience for all participants. This event will include Coptic churches from all around the world.

Last year, around a million contestants participated in the Mahragan competitions, and about 106,000 participants from all age groups completed the final round of competition activities.

This included participants from Egypt, Sudan, and the Lands of Immigration (who represented about 10% of the total number of participants). His Holiness Pope Shenouda III honoured all by handing out trophies to the first place winners of the Mahragan Alkeraza 2009.

His Holiness was pleased with the work done in this service thanking the bishops, priests and servants who were responsible for making it happen.

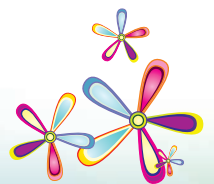
The Mahragan material was translated from Arabic to several languages including English, French, German etc. Children accounted for about 50% of all participants.

May the Lord use these activities for the glory of His Holy Name, in Egypt and abroad.

Always Faithful

The following are some suggested dates:

- Participants Registration Start Date: May 1st, 2010
- Expected Opening Ceremonies of the Mahragan: May 30th, 2010
- Participants Registration Closing Date: June 27th, 2010
- Expected Church-level Competitions: July - August, 2010



- Expected Regional-level Competitions: September 11th, 2010
- Expected National-Level Competitions: September 18th, 2010



Competition Rules

The Mahragan competition this year consists of seven age group:

1. SK – Grade 2
2. Grades 3 & 4
3. Grades 5 & 6 (Same book as Gr. 3 & 4)
4. Grades 7 & 8
5. Grades 9 & 10 (Same book as Gr. 7 & 8)
6. Grades 11 - University / English Adults
7. Arabic Speaking adults

The Competitions will be conducted at three different levels:

1. Church Level: This will be a team competition where each group will consist of 3 to 7 participants.
2. Regional Level: This will be a competition between the churches in each region. The top participants at the Church Level competitions will be invited to participate at the Regional Level.
3. National Level: This will be a competition between the regions. Top participants at the Regional Level competitions will be invited to participate at the National Level.

The spiritual competition, which is mandatory for all participants, includes 5 sections covering Bible, Dogmas and Church studies in addition to memorization.

Additionally, ten optional activities and sports competitions are also organized based on the age group of the participant. They are:

1. I am seeking my brothers
2. Research
3. Hymns & Tasbeha





4. Coptic Language
5. Drama & Mime
6. Praise & Music
7. Arts
8. Creative Writing
9. Multimedia & Technology
10. Sports

- Participants may choose to join different groups for each of the different activities and sports competitions available for their age group, based on their interests.
- Members of competing groups must be of the same age group.
- The Regional Level competitions and National Level competitions will be held on the second and the third weekend of September respectively (timetable to be confirmed and published at a later date.)

Anba Moussa, General Bishop

✙
My best wishes for a happy
and fruitful Festival

✙ Bishop Moussa
✙ 13 Feb 2010





In this book the spiritual material is divided as follows:

1. Be faithful in your spiritual life: your spiritual struggle, repentance and confession, prayer, bible reading, and attending the liturgy.

2. Be faithful in the rituals of the church: all her feasts, her fasts, her prayers, her rites, her daily readings, her weekly, monthly, and annual rites.

3. Be faithful in your talents: God gave us many gifts and talents, so invest them for the kingdom's sake. Invest your time and abilities in serving the poor, serving Sunday school, and many other services as written in Romans 12.

4. Be faithful with your family: your parents, grandparents, older and younger siblings, and your relatives.

5. Be faithful in your relationships: Christ didn't want to isolate us from the world so the bible gave us five characteristics for the believers to possess: to be the light of the world, salt of the earth, ambassadors of Christ, sweet smelling aroma and living epistle felt by everyone.

May the Lord bless and encourage this work, which is blessed by His Holiness Pope Shenouda the Third and his partners in the service the bishops, priests, servants and all those who laboured in Mahragan Alkeraza. May God bless this service with the prayers of our beloved shepherd, His Holiness Pope Shenouda. May God bless you all!



THE JEWEL OF MY HEART

1 - BE FAITHFUL IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

Amoun: Hey Saji, stop playing... I want to tell our friends who we are, where we are, and what we're doing here.

Mora: Can I tell them, please?

Amoun: Sure, go ahead.

Mora: Welcome, friends! My name is Mora Mahrous and this is Amoun, my brother, and this is Saji, Amoun's friend; they are both in Grade 6! I just finished grade 4, passed the exam, and graduated. Now I will be going to grade 5.

Dog barking "ruff ruff"

Mora: Don't worry, I will tell them who you are. This is Lucky our dog. I call him Lucky because he is my lucky charm. My friends this is my beautiful city Luxor. Our city is known for its Ancient Pharaonic ruins. People travel from all over the world to spend their vacation in Luxor and we go visit the temple every day. This is because my dad, Mahrous, is the Keeper of this Pharaonic temple. We greet the tourists in our city, hoping they enjoy their stay as we help them to the best of our ability. When the visitors leave and the temple is empty, we love to play. The best game to play here is hide-and-seek. Do you know why? It's because there are many statues, columns and hallways that allow me to hide from Amoun and Saji. Now it's Saji's turn to cover his eyes and count to 10.

They start playing hide-and-seek and Mora runs far away to hide from them. Saji cannot find her easily because, while Mora was running, she accidentally fell into a hole.

Mora: What is this weird place? Where am I?

In the meantime, Saji discovers where Amoun is. Amoun is easy to find since Lucky – who barks loudly wherever he goes – gave away Amoun's hiding spot. Mora, however, still could not be found.

Saji: Come on Amoun, help me find Mora! Where could she be?

After a long search, Lucky lifts his ears and hears a distant sound; he then darts and the boys chase after him.



Mora: Amoun, Saji, help me!

Amoun: Do you hear that?! That's Mora's voice. Let's go find her!

Saji: Lucky must be heading in the right direction! The voice is getting closer.
Suddenly, as they are running, they all fall into the same hole as Mora did.



Mora: You guys found me! Thank God you came, I was really scared! If I hadn't prayed and made the sign of the cross, I would have been scared to death.

Saji quickly takes out a large flashlight from his pocket, turns it on and looks around.

Amoun: Do you see that? There's a long hallway over there; let's go check it out.

They walk through the hallway. A while later...

Saji: This path is too long. I'd rather go back!

Amoun: We can't go back, we've already walked so far. Let's keep going and find out where this long hallway leads.
They arrive at a large room and find many bags.

Mora: I wonder what's inside these bags.

Amoun: Let's open one and find out!

He opens a bag.

Amoun: This one is filled with wheat.

Saji: This wheat is very dry and old; it looks like it's been stored here for a long time.

Amoun climbs on top of the bag and begins to slide.

Amoun: Come on, this is fun. Try this slide, guys!

Saji: Look! There's a door! Let's go see what's behind it.

Saji, Amoun, and Mora all peep through the door.

Amoun: Look who's sitting there! It's the great Pharaoh. But the room is very crowded!

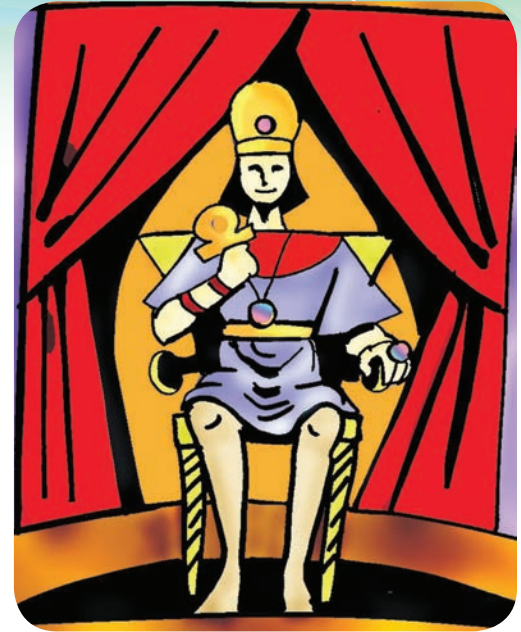




Mora: That's not Pharaoh. That's Joseph, Pharaoh's minister!

Amoun: I would have never imagined that Joseph was such a great man. He was responsible for all the wheat in the country and he distributed it to the people according to their needs.

Mora: And it seems like he was liked by all.



Joseph finished handing out the wheat to the people. He then placed his crown and gold chain on his throne, and returned to his palace to rest.



Amoun: Let's go have a look.

Mora: Wow, that's such a nice necklace.

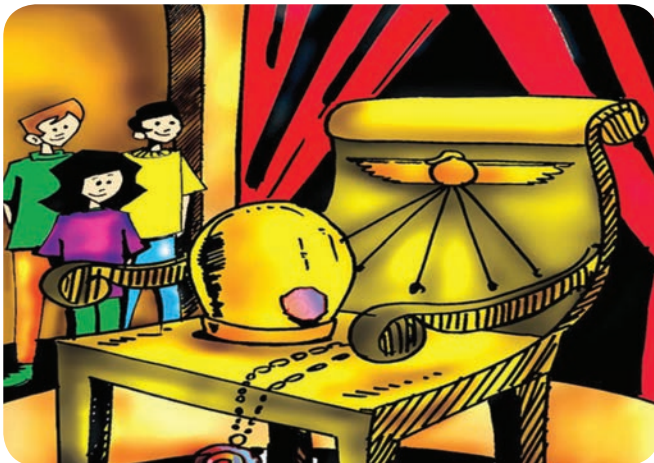
Saji: That's not a necklace, that's Pharaoh's gold chain which he gave to Joseph when he appointed him a minister over the land of Egypt.

Mora: I'm going to try it on!

Mora puts on the gold chain, and the jewel in it lights up and begins to speak.

Saji: Ruuuuun!!!!

Jewel: Don't be afraid. Joseph's jewels are five and





I know the secrets of his success. I am the Jewel of the Gold Chain that is closest to his heart and I will reveal his secret. Joseph knew God and loved him ever since he was a child. Joseph heard many stories and learned a lot from his father, Jacob. He kept his faith and his love for God even when he was in the land of Egypt.

Joseph was successful because God was with him in everything he did. "The Lord was with Joseph and he was a successful man." (Genesis 39:2).

Jewel: You too took something precious and you must take care of it.

Amoun: What's that?

Jewel: It's your nice white garments!

Suddenly the jewel becomes quiet.

Mora: Please, tell us more about these nice white garments.

But there is no answer... Mora takes off the jewel and puts it in its place; they all run back to the storage room.

Mora: How will we get out of here?

Amoun: I will get you out Mora. Saji, come with me. They pile up all the bags of wheat on top of one another and climb out of the hole. The kids live on the other side of the shore so they must take a ferry. Uncle Salama, Saji's dad, is the owner of the ferry which is named Salama 2010. Uncle Salama is a deacon and he knows the Holy Bible very well.

Saji: Dad, do I have nice white garments that I have to take care of?

Uncle Salama: Of course Saji. When we get baptized we each get a white garment. Our white garments represent the new and pure life that is given to us during baptism and we must keep it pure all our lives.

Amoun and Mora: Oh!! So that's what the Jewel meant!

Uncle Salama: Do you know how to take care of it? If we do anything bad, like swear, lie, or commit any other sin, we must quickly clean our garments from all





this bad stuff.

Mora: So we wash it!

Uncle Salama: Yes, wash it with repentance and confession. Repentance means standing in front of God and asking Him to forgive us.

Then I go and confess in front of a priest, and then my garment becomes clean once again, just like on the day I was baptized. To stay close to God, it's also important to pray and to read the Holy Bible, the daily message that purifies our hearts.

Mora: Actually, Uncle Salama, we do pray.



Amoun: But we don't read from the Holy Bible!

Saji: My dad, mom and I pray together and after prayer we sit and read the Bible together and my dad explains to us the chapter that we read.

Uncles Salama: How about you come with us today and we can read a nice story about the importance of God's word in our life?

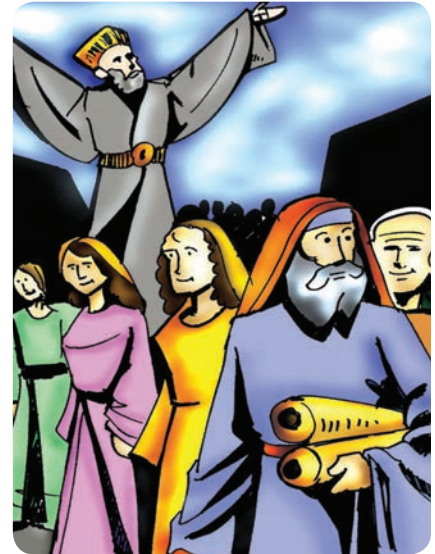


EZRA AND THE COLLECTION OF THE HOLY BIBLE



From the Book of Nehemiah, Chapter 8, Uncle Salama tells the following story: Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian King, fought against the Israelites in Jerusalem. God was upset with the Israelites people because of their sins and he allowed the King to conquer them. The King destroyed the city and the temple and took the people with him to Babel. This was the period of exile. They lived there for many years in prison waiting for God to have mercy on them and return them to their city, Jerusalem.

After many years, another King named Korash reigned. God moved his heart and he allowed the Israelites to return to Jerusalem and gave them everything they needed to rebuild their city, the wall and the temple. Many people came back. One of them was Ezra the scribe.



Ezra was one of those who led the people to come back from Babel to Jerusalem. His name was "the Scribe" because he kept the instructions of the Holy Bible. After they rebuilt the temple, Ezra gathered the people and read for them Moses' Books from the Scriptures. When they heard the word of God they wept because for so many years while they were in exile they had never heard the word of God. Ezra said to them, "Don't weep! Today is a great feast! For what is the benefit of going back to our city if we don't go back to God with all our hearts?" And he began to read to them God's word. They made a feast to the Lord for seven days and that is how this story ends.





Let's memorize this verse together:



MEMORY VERSE

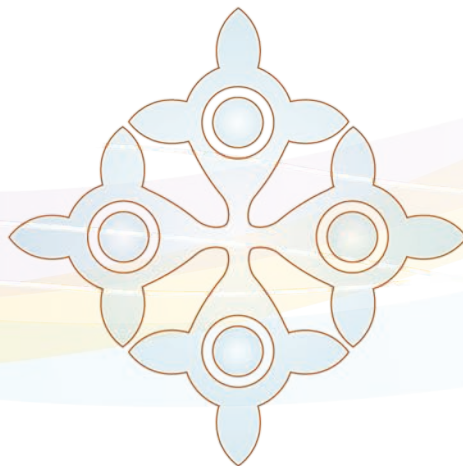
"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him"
(John 14:23).



In this nice verse, our Lord Jesus reminds us to memorize His words in the Holy Bible.

From that day on, Amoun and Mora knew the importance of reading the Holy Bible. Their family began to read the Bible together every evening.

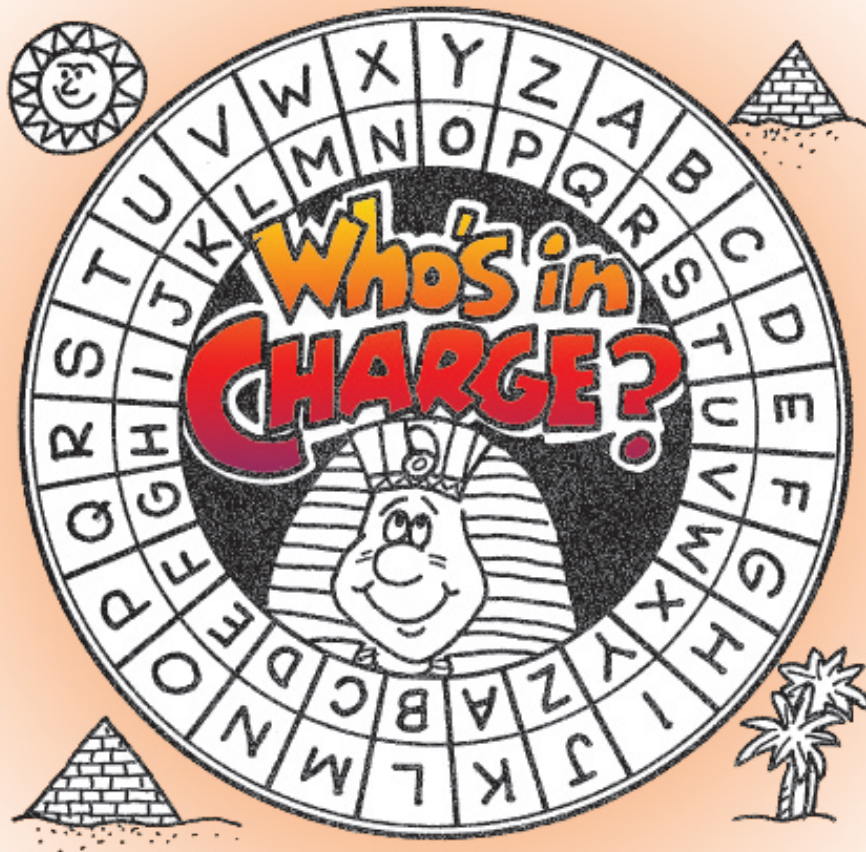
My friend, do you read the Holy Bible every day?



ACTIVITY

Joseph

In Egypt



Read Genesis 41:15-57 about Joseph in Egypt. Then use the code to solve the puzzle. Find the letter in the message on the outside circle. Match it with the letter across from it on the inside circle.

ZRKBKYR CKSN DY TYCOZR, "CSXMO QYN

RKC WKNO KVV DRSC UXYGX DY IYE,...

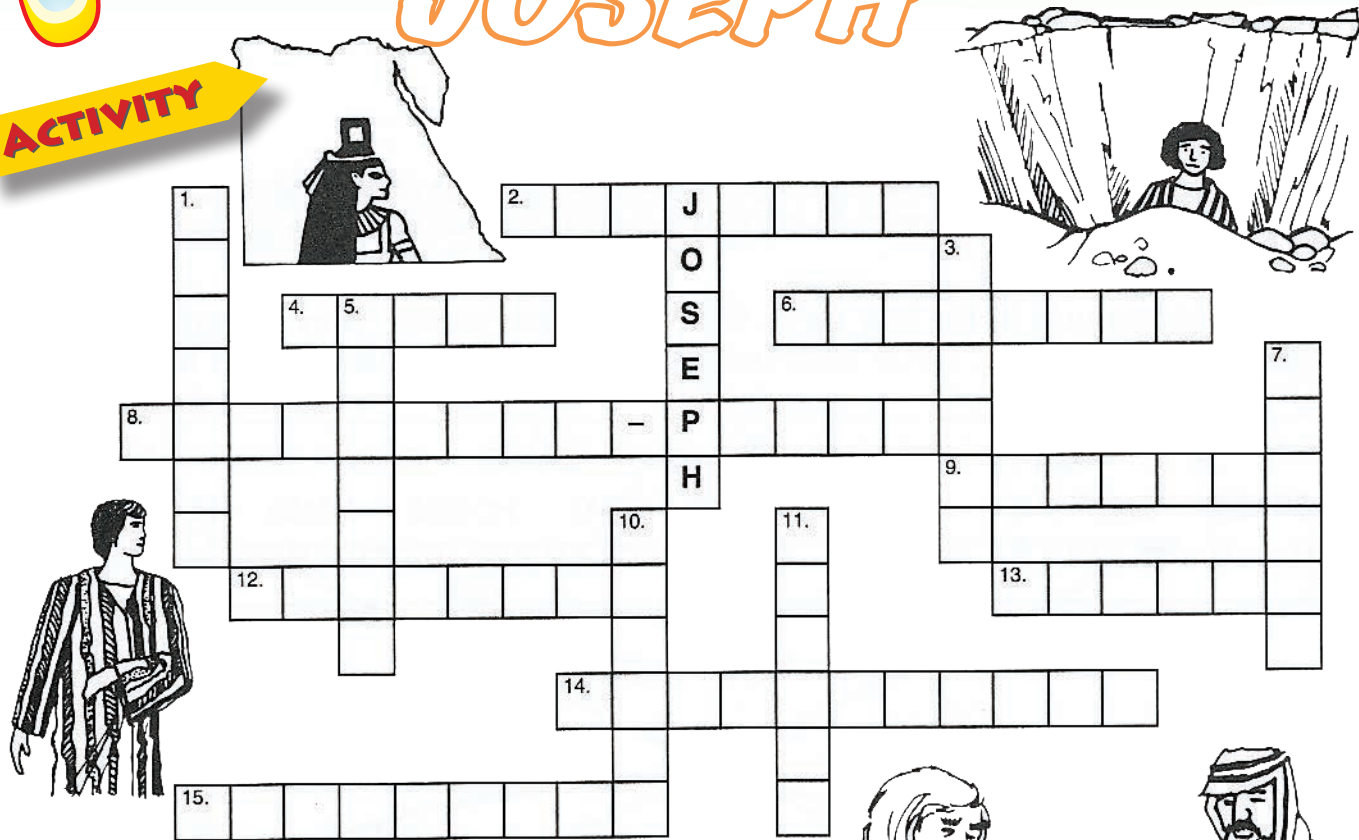
S ROBOLI ZED IYE SX MRKBQO

YP DRO GRYVO VKXN YP OQIZD."



Life of JOSEPH

ACTIVITY



Across

2. Brother (Genesis 35:24)
4. An official of the king who was imprisoned with Joseph (Genesis 40:1-2)
6. Joseph's eldest son (Genesis 41:51)
8. The name given Joseph by Pharaoh (Genesis 41:45)
9. Joseph's second son (Genesis 41 :52)
12. One of Pharaoh's officers, the captain of the guard (Genesis 37:36)
13. District in Egypt where Jacob and his family settled and remained until the Exodus (Genesis 46:28- 29)
14. The men who bought Joseph and brought him to Egypt (Genesis 37:28)
15. Age when Joseph was sold into slavery (Genesis 37:2)

Down

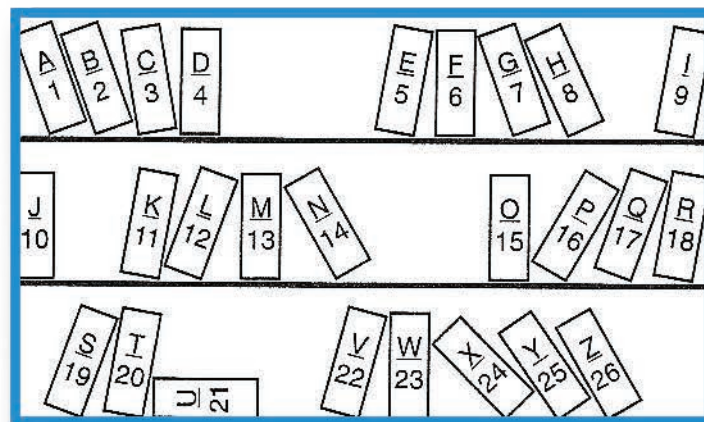
1. Title applied to the king of Egypt (Genesis 41 :41)
3. Joseph's mother (Genesis 35:24)
5. Joseph's wife (Genesis 41:45)
7. A general shortage of food (Genesis 41 :30)
10. Where Potiphar had Joseph placed in confinement (Genesis 39:20)
11. Name given to Jacob, Joseph's father (Genesis 35:10)

ACTIVITY

Ezra's Important Job



When the Israelites returned to Jerusalem to rebuild God's holy temple and the walls of Jerusalem, Ezra had an important job to do. Use the code written on the books on this bookshelf to find out what his job was. Check Ezra 7:25 to see if your answer is correct.



20	8	5	11	9	14	7	20	15	12	4
5	26	18	1	20	15	6	9	14	4	
10	21	4	7	5	19	1	14	4		
20	5	1	3	8	7	15	4	19		
12	1	23	19	20	15	20	8	15	19	5
23	8	15	4	9	4	14	20			
11	14	15	23	20	8	5	12	1	23	19



THE JEWEL OF MY CHURCH

2- BE FAITHFUL IN THE RITUALS OF THE CHURCH

Mora: Today is Sunday; we woke up early to attend the liturgy. Saji and Amoun were deacons but I stood beside my mom. I usually stand in the mass, listen carefully to the readings and sing the responses and hymns that I learned in Mahragan Alkeraza with the congregation. Today was Bashans 7 (Coptic Month) which is May 15th, the day that the church celebrates the departure of St. Athanasius the Apostolic. I heard his story in the Synexarium readings and Abouna told us his story in the sermon.



ACTIVITY

Complete the following:

St. Athanasius was born of Pagan Parents. His father passed away when he was still young. During his childhood, (3) _____ persecuted Christians everywhere. St. Athanasius watched as thousands of Christians were martyred and none of them denied their faith. His mom made sure he was well educated, so she enrolled him in the (4) _____

He was very successful in his schooling.

One day, (2) _____, the 19th Pope, was looking from the window of the Papal Residence, when he spotted some kids playing by the seashore. One of the kids was acting like a bishop and was baptizing his friends in the water and praying on them. He called this boy, and his name was Athanasius. He took him and cared for him, and after some time, he baptized him, with his mother's permission. After Athanasius finished his degree, he went to the wilderness and was a disciple of (1) _____ for three years.

Word Bank:

- (1) St. Anthony
- (2) Pope Alexandrous
- (3) Diocletian the Emperor
- (4) Theological School of Alexandria
- (5) 20th
- (6) 318
- (7) Christ
- (8) Nicea
- (9) The Creed
- (10) 325
- (11) Arius

The Pope sent for Athanasius to return to Alexandria. There, the Pope ordained him a deacon and appointed him to be his personal secretary. At that time, there was a man named (11) _____ who taught incorrect teachings against the Divinity of Christ. The Pope tried to advise Arius, but it was in vain. Arius continued to spread his incorrect teachings to everyone. Because of this, they called for a council, or a big meeting, and it was attended by many bishops from all over the world. It was held in the city of (8) _____ and it was attended by (6) _____ bishops in the year (10) _____ AD. Pope Alexandrous went to the council and took with him Athanasius. Despite his very young age at the time, Athanasius stood in front of all the bishops and defended the faith using many verses from the Bible. Athanasius said that (7) _____ is God, who took a human body and was born of the Virgin Mary. Athanasius responded to all the heresies of Arius. All the people were amazed by him and they called him the hero of God's church, and they excommunicated Arius and all who believed in his wrong teachings. During the council of Nicea, Athanasius wrote (9) _____ which is recited by all the Christians till today, and you will find in this Creed the foundation of our Orthodox faith. Athanasius was elected to preside over the See of St. Mark, as the (5) _____ pope. He was the youngest person to become Pope and the only one to be called "the Apostolic" because he kept the faith that we received from the apostles.



MEMORY VERSE

"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2)

Abouna: Just like our fathers the apostles delivered the correct faith, we must be faithful teachers in the church, pass down the faith to all around us and keep the faith of our fathers.

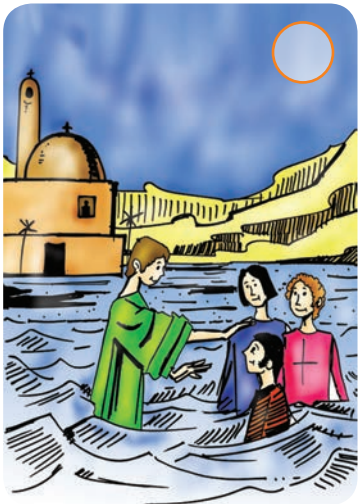
Mora (thinking aloud to herself): O How faithful was St. Athanasius who defended the faith and kept it strong for us.

Mora: Abouna taught us a new verse written by St. Paul to his disciple Timothy and I like it.

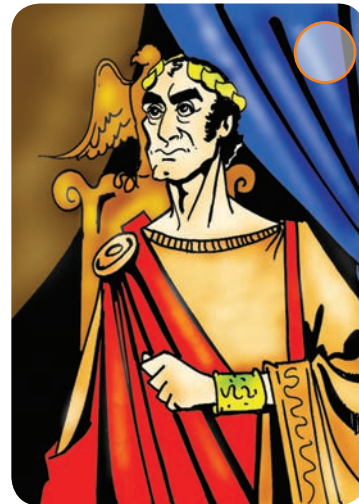


ACTIVITY

Help Mora order the events in Pope Athanasius' story, as Abouna told it.



It was said that
if it wasn't for
Athanasius, the
whole world
would have
followed Arius!





Mora: We prayed the mass and took communion.

Afterwards, the kids were running quickly to catch uncle Mahrous in order to go with him to work.

Uncle Mahrous: Are you kids coming with me? I'm very late to work.

Mora, Saji and Amoun: Of course we're coming!

Mora: How courageous was St. Athanasius defending his faith in front of all those people.

Uncle Mahrous: Indeed, St. Athanasius was faithful in his beliefs. You know guys, there came a time when they said to him, "The whole world is against you, Athanasius!" He replied with courage saying, "And I am against the whole world."

Amoun: He was faithful in keeping his beliefs and his faith. I want to be a faithful deacon in my church and defend my faith just like Saint Athanasius was a defender of the faith.

Uncle Mahrous: Amoun you remind me of Timothy the deacon and his wife Mora.

Mora: Timothy and his wife Mora? She has the same name as me!

Uncle Mahrous: I will tell you their story.

Timothy the deacon lived in the 4th century, during the time of persecution. He was responsible for the books of his church. One day, the Barbarians invaded the church and told him to give them all the books. He refused to give them anything. They pressured him through his wife whom he had only married a month earlier. Mora tried to convince him to give up the books and save his life from persecution and death.



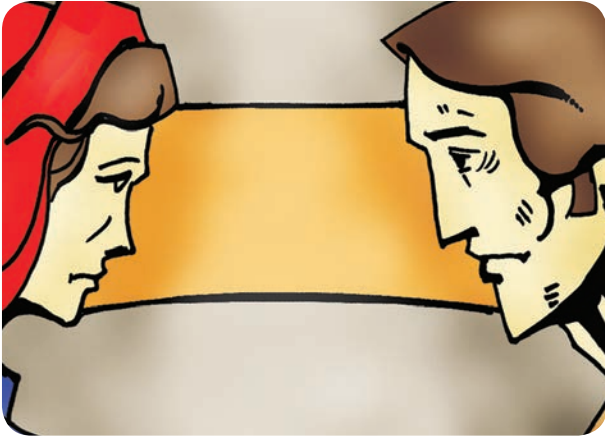
He convinced her that he must be faithful in keeping the books of the church and that it was more important than his life. Any sufferings they would suffer would be nothing compared to the crowns that would be prepared for them in heaven. Mora was convinced by his words and they bore all the sufferings and both received the crowns of martyrdom.





Saji: We now have another defender of the faith who gave up his life with his wife, to keep the holy books for us.

Mahrous: Our church is full of faithful saints who kept the faith for many generations. *Amoun, Saji and Mora arrive at the temple and start to play.*



They kept in mind the talking jewel and the golden chain that spoke and told them the story of Joseph and his faith in God. While they are playing, Saji suddenly stops.

Saji: Just as the jewel in the gold chain spoke, it's possible that the other jewels that Joseph had can also speak.

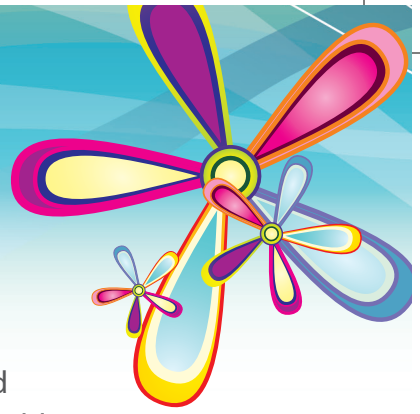
Amoun: Then let's go there and see.

They went down and were lucky to find the crown and the golden chain on the throne. Amoun ran and put the crown on his head. Suddenly, the jewel of the crown begins to shine and speaks.





Jewel: I am the jewel of Joseph's faith and I want to remind you of the story of Potiphar's wife. Potiphar loved Joseph very much and appointed him to be responsible over everything in his house. Potiphar's wife was evil; she asked Joseph to commit a sin with her but Joseph was not afraid and said to her courageously, "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has my master kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife."
Joseph was faithful in his beliefs like...



MEMORY VERSE

How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9).

Amoun takes the crown off his head.

Saji: Why did you do that? You should have waited for the jewel to tell us who his faith was like.

They go back thinking who the jewel was talking about.

Can YOU help them?

Of course ... Like Pope

And the deacon and his wife





Interpreting *Pharaoh's Dream*

ACTIVITY

A	!	E	%	I	(O	<	T	¢	Y	÷
B	@	F	^	L)	P	>	U	ø		
C	#	G	&	M	+	R	?	V	~		
D	\$	H	*	N	=	S	'	W	-		

" _____
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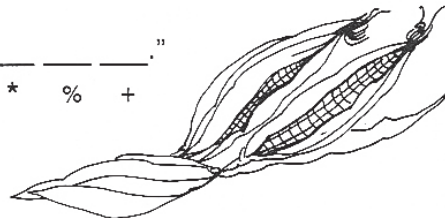
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Genesis 41:29-30a



3 - BE FAITHFUL IN YOUR TALENTS

THE JEWEL OF MY TALENTS



Mora: I wish we could continue the adventure and listen to the rest of the jewels.

Amoun: Joseph's ring had a small jewel. I'm sure it can tell us more.

Saji: But the ring is always on Joseph's hand. We won't be able to see him or hear what his jewel has to say!

Amoun: Let's go home then. What do you think Saji, do you want to come with us?

On the ferry, Saji asks his dad for permission to go to Amoun and Mora's house.

Mora: But where is Lucky? He didn't get on the ferry with us! Maybe he is with dad; he has the night duty at the temple. *After they have fun together at Amoun & Mora's house, Saji gets up to go home and Lucky comes running with gleaming eyes holding something in his mouth.*

Amoun: What have you got there Lucky?

To their surprise Lucky has Joseph's ring in his mouth.

Amoun: Oh! Joseph's ring!

Mora: How did you get that, Lucky?

Saji: How could you do that? How could you take something that doesn't belong to you?

The small jewel begins to speak in a quiet voice.

Jewel: Don't worry kids, Lucky doesn't know anything. He thinks he's helping you. I am the jewel of Joseph's faithfulness with the gifts and talents that God gave him.





God gave Joseph gifts and Joseph made good use of them. For example, He gave him the gift of interpreting dreams. When Joseph was in prison, the cup bearer and the baker each had a dream, and Joseph interpreted their dreams for them, and everything he said came true. When Pharaoh had a dream about the cows and the



wheat stalks, no one could explain those dreams except for Joseph. God helped him in explaining Pharaoh's dream and gave him wisdom to solve the famine problem. Pharaoh said, "No one will be able to implement this plan except Joseph because he is faithful."



And so it was that Joseph did not waste any time and built many warehouses. In each day of the bountiful years, he would store some wheat in the warehouses for the drought years that would come afterwards. He implemented the plan and saved Egypt and the surrounding countries. My advice to you is to be faithful in all your gifts and talents. Don't waste your time and start being faithful from your young age. Time is a very important talent that God gave us and He wants us to use it to do good works.



The jewel becomes quiet and lucky grabs her quickly to take her back because he felt that what he did was wrong. We asked each other, what do you think the jewel meant? What are the talents and how will we use them faithfully? But we didn't have an answer.

Saji: We have to stop thinking about these questions for a while because I'm really late and I have to go home right away. See you all tomorrow in Sunday school.

The next day we go to Sunday School in our church, the church of St. Mary.



We arrive right on time and Uncle Nour, the keeper of the church, is standing on a chair in front of the Iconostasis, cleaning the Kandeel, filling it with oil and lighting it.

Amoun: How are you Uncle Nour? I'd like to help you put oil in the Kandeel.

Mora: Why is there always a lit Kandeel in front of the icon of the Saints?

Uncle Nour: Because our Lord Jesus was in their lives and their lives were always full of light. They were the light of the world. As Jesus commanded, "You are the light of the world." Also, they are now filled with light in Heaven. You know my children, when I put the oil in...

Amoun: Please, tell us!

Uncle Nour: I think about how these saints were faithful in their lives. From their childhood, they didn't waste their time and they used their God-given talents well.

Amoun, Mora and Saji: They didn't waste their time and they made good use of their talents, again?!!!

Amoun: This is the same thing that Joseph's jewel ring told us! And we did not understand what it meant by talents and how to take care of them.

Uncle Nour: Talents are...

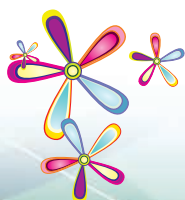
... certain things
that we are good at, that
God gave to every single one of
us. He asked us to use them faithfully
and wisely and to try, as much as we can,
to make our talents even better. We could
also use them to serve others; and no one
can say that they don't have a talent because
God gave each of us a talent and each person's
talent is different. It can be big or small, visible
or invisible, but they are all important for
our benefit and for those around us. We
must all search for them and find them
and know them and use them
faithfully.

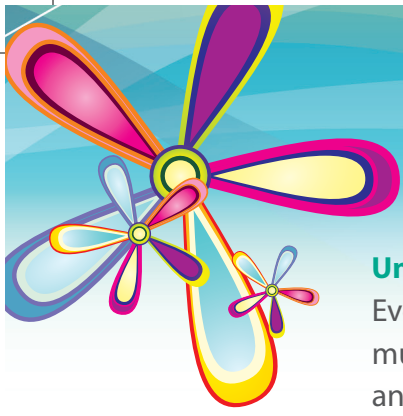


Mora: Just like Joseph did and was faithful in his gifts and talents that God gave him.

Uncle Nour: Good job, Mora!

Saji: But Joseph was big, he was able to use his talents. We're still just children. When we grow up, we can look for our talents and try to use them then.





Uncle Nour: Who said that, Saji? Even from such a young age, you must try to discover your gifts and talents so that they can grow with you and you can glorify God through them.



MEMORY VERSE

"And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15)

Just like the story of the child whom God gave a very big talent from the young age of 8 years old. He was very faithful in his talent because he used it wisely for the service of God.

Saji, Amoun and **Mora:** Who was that? Let's get to know his story from the Holy Bible.

Find the verse under each picture:

ACTIVITY



The Meaning of his name is "God Heals." He was a prince living in Jerusalem, in the Kingdom of Judah

(2 Kings 22:1-2)



His father is King Amoun, King of Judah. This king was evil and did not obey God (2 Chronicles 32:21-25). His grandfather Manasseh was also an evil King, but he repented in his last days

(2 Chronicles 33:13-16)



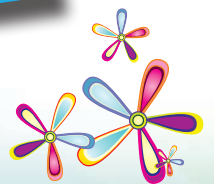
His mom's name is Jedidah, and she taught him the faith and the way of God since he was a child

(2 Kings 22:1-2)



When Amoun died, this young boy became king at the age of eight. At such a young age, he prayed to God to help him to use the talents with which God had entrusted him wisely

(2 Kings 22:1-2)





When he was 20 years old, he ordered the destruction of all the idols and the altars of the Baal
(2 Chronicles 34: 3-7)



When he was 26 years old, he renovated the temple of the Lord and purified the land. Because he was faithful in the little that he had, God blessed him with many blessings. While they were renovating the temple, Hilkiyah the High Priest found the Book of the Law and gave it to him
(2 Chronicles 34:8-18)



When the King heard the words of the Law, he tore his robes and was very upset because the people disobeyed God, and he read the Book of the Law to the people
(2 Chronicles 34:19-30)



The King and all the people of Israel promised to keep the Lord's commandments and be faithful to Him
(2 Chronicles 34:29-31)



Josiah removed all the idols from the Land of Israel
(2 Chronicles 34:33)



The King and the people were faithful to God all the days of Josiah's reign



After Uncle Nour finished the story of the great king and explained how he was faithful in the talents that God gave him from his childhood, it was time for Sunday school. We ran to our classes because it was the monthly fun day in which we play and do crafts in the class.



Miss Mariam (after explaining the parable):

Time is the most important talent that God gave to us and we have to use it faithfully. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to make good use of our time through the parable of the ten virgins. We have to be ready all the time. The Lord Jesus Christ is the bridegroom, and we are all waiting for His coming to live with Him in heaven. We must be prepared for His coming just like the five wise virgins didn't waste their time and kept their lamps filled with oil at all times. In the parable the oil refers to the good deeds that we should be doing all the time. Can you tell me some examples of

good deeds?

Saji: Prayer and reading the Bible.

Moura: Loving the poor and giving alms.

Marina: When my friend is sick, I go to visit him.

Amoun: To forgive those who sin against me.

Fadi: To obey our parents and help them at home.

Miss Mariam: Excellent children. If everyone is faithful using their talents, our Lord will definitely reward us for our faithfulness. And don't forget that He wants us to use our talents to help others.

He commanded us:



MEMORY VERSE

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10.

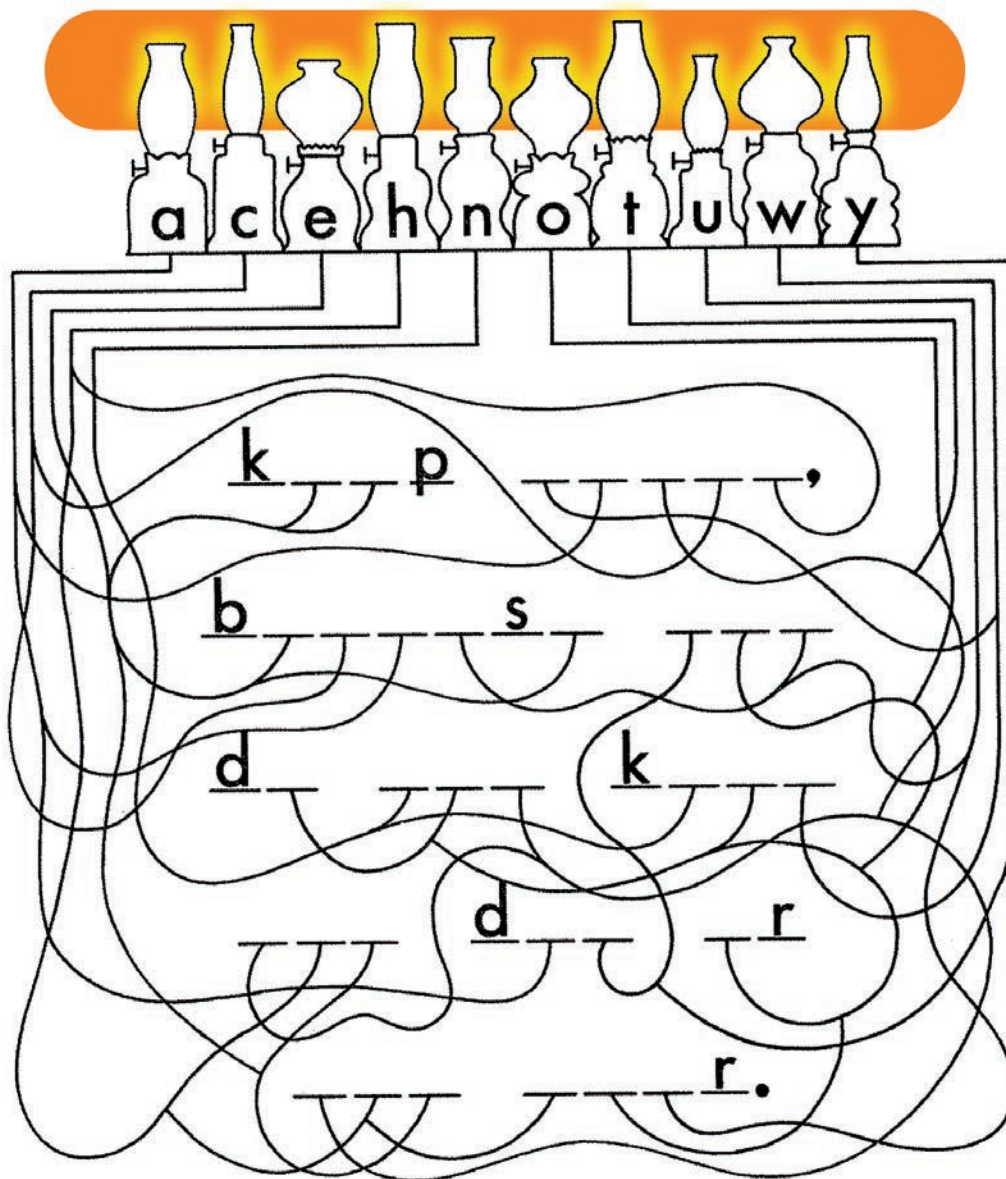


ACTIVITY

When *Will Jesus come?*

Follow the lines from the lanterns to the blank spaces and put the same letters in the spaces that are on the lanterns.

You will find out what we know about when Jesus will return. Read Matthew 25:1-13 to find out more.





Our Lord gives us 24 hours every day. We can do many things in this time.

Write under the pictures below how much time you would like to spend doing each of these activities.

ACTIVITY

Organize your time (*A cheque valued at 24 hours*)

Add up the time. And be careful: the day only has 24 hours.



Saji: Our adventures with the jewels are not over yet. Let's see what's next!!



4- BE FAITHFUL WITH YOUR FAMILY

THE JEWEL
OF
MY FAMILY



On our vacation we usually go to the temple. Today is a different day because we took a trip on a camel ride with some tourists. The tourists love to see the mountains and the beauty of the country. On our way there we met some bedouins, people who live in tents in the desert, drink from wells and tend to their sheep. We passed by a well and we saw them filling their buckets with water.

Amoun: Saji, what does this well remind you of?

brothers threw him in the well, even though all he was doing was checking up on them as Jacob, his father, had asked him to do.

After we finish our tour, we run to one of the warehouses and Amoun slides on the bags of old wheat. Suddenly one of the bags splits open and an old silver cup slips out of it. It seems to have belonged to a great man because it has a jewel on it.

Amoun: Watch out! This cup was inside the bag of wheat and it has a jewel on it.

While he is still speaking, the jewel begins to talk.

Jewel: Indeed I am a jewel of Joseph's faithfulness to his family and brothers. Joseph ordered his servants to put me in Benjamin's bag of wheat to let his brothers know that he was their brother and that he forgave them. *(Read the full story in Genesis 43:1 to 45:9)* He wanted them to come live with him in Egypt, but his brothers thought that he would punish them. He reassured them that he forgave them and said to them,



MEMORY VERSE

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done." (Genesis 50:20)





Eventually, Jacob and all his sons came to Egypt, and Joseph gave them the land of Goshan to dwell in. They lived there in love and peace.

Someone else in the Bible did what Joseph did. He obeyed his father and went to see how his brothers were doing. Do you know who he is?

Amoun: Who could it be?

Can you help them find out who he is? It is the prophet, king and psalmist.

Saji: And after we found out who he was, we ran to dad to tell us the story.



David the singer, prophet and king and his love to his brothers

Uncle Salama: David was the youngest of eight brothers. His father asked him to tend his flock (1 Samuel 16:11). One day while he was tending the sheep in the wilderness, a lion and a bear appeared, and he wondered whether or not he should run away and leave the sheep all on their own.

Amoun: Of course he should run! Because the lion can kill him and his sheep.

Uncle Salama: No! David was not one to be afraid or escape from any danger and leave his flock to wild animals. David was faithful to his sheep. That's why he was called a mighty warrior (courageous man). David had trust in God's power; he loved Him and spent all his time praising Him, playing his harp and singing praises to Him. David went and killed the lion and the bear in order to protect his sheep. One day Jesse asked David to go to check up on his older brothers (Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah) who went to war with Saul the King, and he asked David to take with him food for them. He woke up very early in the morning because he wanted to make sure everything was okay with his flock.



(Read 1 Samuel 17:20-25)



David left his flock with...



When he arrived he left the food with...

That's what David did as he always had, because he was always faithful to himself and to his family. So, after Saul the King sinned and God rejected him, God sent Samuel the prophet to choose another king for his people, the Israelites. He was sent to Jesse to choose one of his eight children. God chose David, who was a faithful shepherd to his flock, to be a king and to look after God's people (1 Samuel 16:1-13). It was said about David,



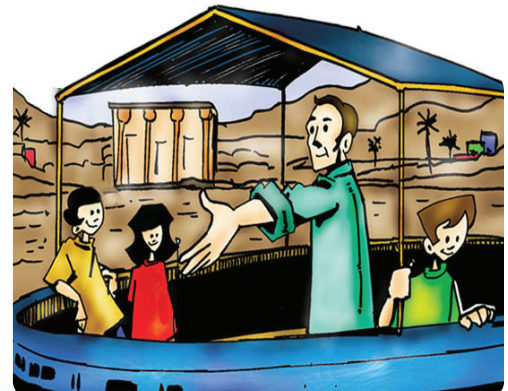
MEMORY VERSE

"I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." (Acts 13:22)

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much." (Luke 16:10)

After Uncle Salama finishes telling the story of David and his big heart for his brothers and family, he looks at his watch, and realizes time has flown by. He has to go immediately to clean the ferry to start his work, but something unfortunate happens. He asks Saji to come with him to clean the ferry but Saji's answer is disrespectful.

Saji: Oh man, is there no one else but me? I'm tired and I want to play with Amoun and Mora. You go on your own.





Amoun: That's not the right way to talk to your parents! Quickly go apologize to your dad and see what he wants you to do and I'll come help you. Come on! Go, hurry up!

Mora: Wait for me! I want to help Uncle Salama with you. Why are you taking all the blessings alone?

Saji: What blessings? I have to clean up the ferry and I'm not going to get anything in return!

Mora: No Saji, my mom taught me,



MEMORY VERSE

"Honour your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you."
(Deuteronomy 5:16)

This means that whoever obeys his parents God will be very pleased with him and give him many blessings as he did with Tobias, who obeyed his sick father and listened to his instructions.

Amoun: Oh I know Tobias, my Sunday school teacher told us about him.

Mora: Yes Amoun, let's tell Saji the story.

Everyone opens their Holy bible.

1. Our story is about a family who lived during the Assyrian exile. The father's name was Tobit, and the mother's name was Anna, and they had a boy, Tobias, the one whose story we're telling you Saji. This family lived in God's love and were very faithful in keeping His commandments.



2. After a while, Tobit became blind. He asked Tobias, who obeyed him all the time, to go to a man from their tribe, named Gabael, and to bring from him the money he had borrowed. Tobias answered, "I will do all that you ask me to do." His father told him, "Here is the record of debt. When you give it to Gabael, he will give you back the money he borrowed." Tobias obeyed his dad and went even though he didn't know where to find that man.





3. Tobias went around asking how to get to Gabael. On his way, he found a handsome young man who told him he knew where the man he was looking for lived. This young man was Archangel Raphael who was sent by the Lord to help Tobias, but Tobias didn't recognize him. Tobias took the young man home, and introduced him to his father who asked him to be with Tobias on his mission to get the money back. Archangel Raphael promised to be with Tobias until he returned back home safely. Then, the angel and Tobias went on their mission together.

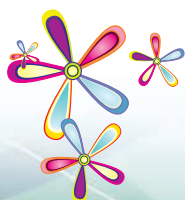
4. While they were travelling on the seashore, a big fish jumped out of the water. So, Tobias caught the fish and took its gallbladder, as the Angel told him, because he told him its gallbladder heals the sick and he can give it to his dad when they go back home.




5. On their way, they made a stop by one of their relatives whose name was Raguel. Tobias was introduced to him and ended up marrying his daughter, Sarah. Raguel was very pleased with this marriage because God blessed it.




6. After the wedding, Archangel Raphael went on his own to Gabael to take the money to bring it back to Tobit. Gabael was happy with the news of Tobias getting married and he went back with Archangel Raphael to congratulate Tobias for his wedding.





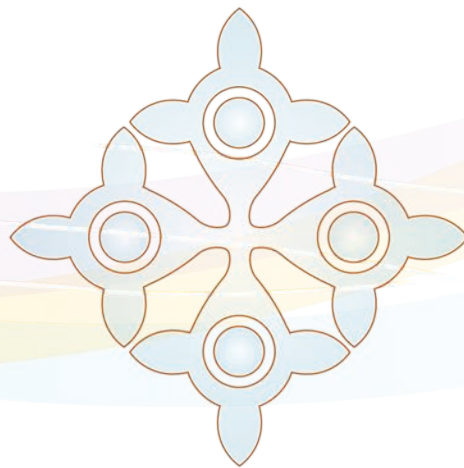
7. Tobias and his wife went back with Archangel Raphael to Tobit. Tobias prayed giving thanks to God for all that He had done with them on their trip. He took the gall bladder of the fish and put it on his dad's eyes and they were healed.



8. They all thanked Archangel Raphael who went with Tobias on the trip and finally it was revealed to them by God that he was Archangel Raphael. Because Tobias obeyed his parents and he was faithful in keeping God's commandments, as he was taught by his parents, the Lord rewarded Him by sending Archangel Raphael to protect him on his trip.

Saji: That's a very lovely story, and I really did learn a lot from it. I need to go apologize to my dad now for being disobedient. I'll clean the ferry with him and then catch up with you guys.

Mora and Amoun: WAIT! We're coming with you to help too.

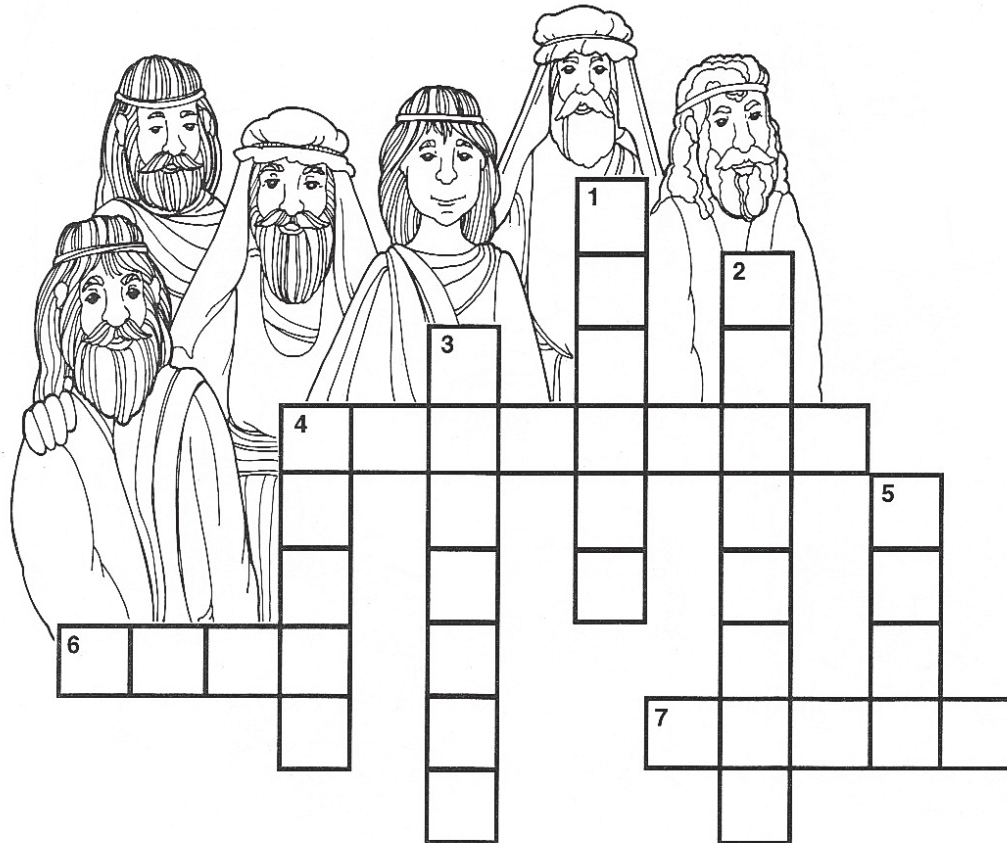


ACTIVITY

Joseph And his brothers



After you hear the story of Joseph and his brothers from Genesis 45, underline the correct answer for each clue. Then use the answers to fill in the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

4. What Joseph gave all his brothers (CLOTHING, EMERALDS, JEWELRY)
6. What Joseph did after revealing himself to his brothers (FLED, WEPT, DIED)
7. What God sent Joseph to Egypt to save (LIVES, MONEY, BAKER)

DOWN

1. Whom Joseph sent for (FATHER, MOTHER, UNCLES)
2. Brother to whom Joseph gave most gifts (BENJAMIN, ISSACHAR, MATTHEW)
3. Joseph sent his father provisions loaded on these. (DONKEYS, CANINES, CAMELS)
4. Pharaoh told Joseph to send these for the wives and children. (PLANE, CARTS, SLEDS)
5. When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, there were still this many years of famine to come. (NINE, FOUR, FIVE)





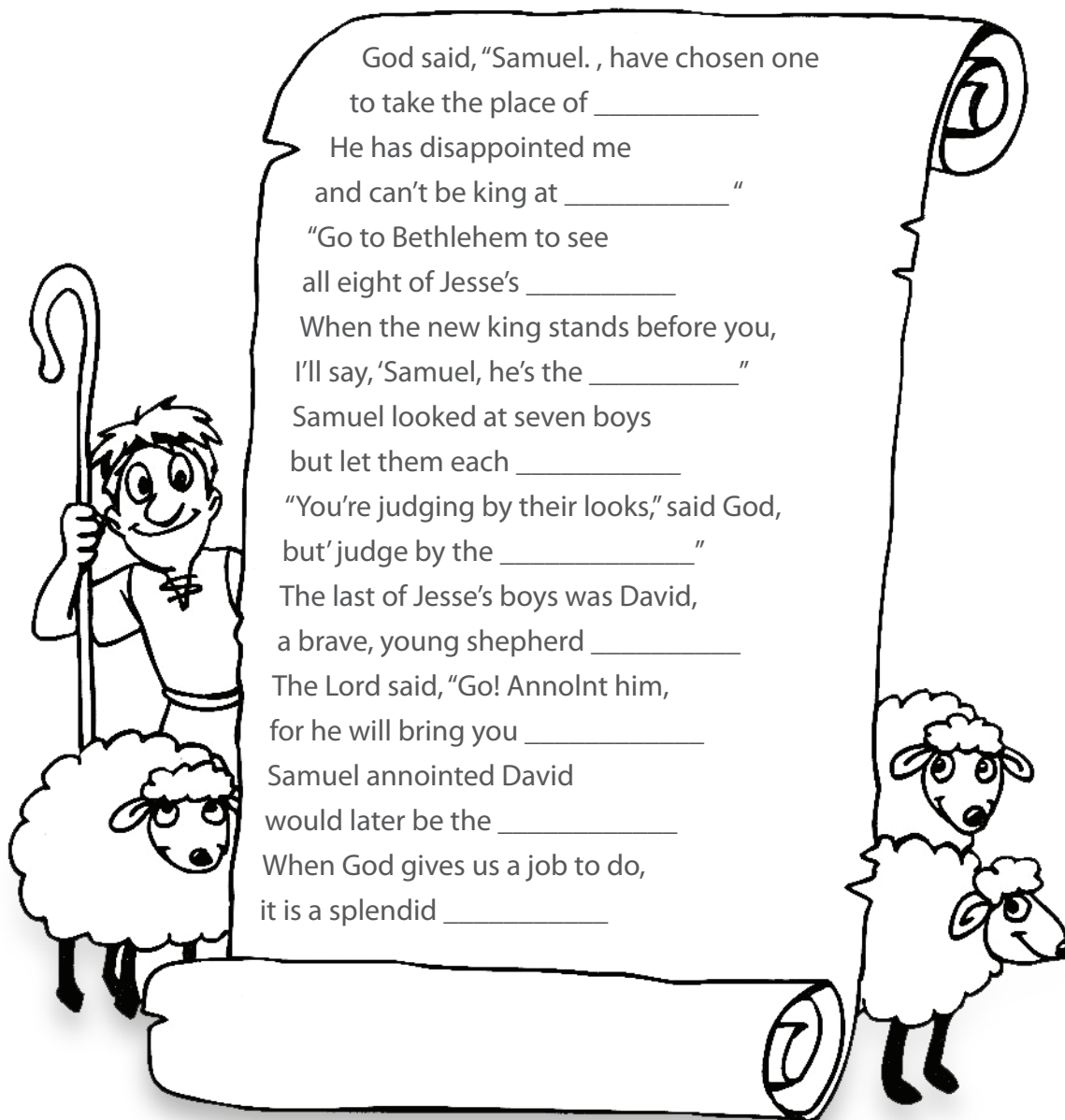
Chosen

By God

ACTIVITY

Samuel Anoints David as King -1 Samuel 16

This rhyme tells the story of how David became king, but all the rhyming words are missing! Choose a word from the word list that will help each line make sense. When you are finished, read the poem out loud together.



God said, "Samuel, I have chosen one
to take the place of _____
He has disappointed me
and can't be king at _____"
"Go to Bethlehem to see
all eight of Jesse's _____
When the new king stands before you,
I'll say, 'Samuel, he's the _____'
Samuel looked at seven boys
but let them each _____
"You're judging by their looks," said God,
but judge by the _____"
The last of Jesse's boys was David,
a brave, young shepherd _____
The Lord said, "Go! Anoint him,
for he will bring you _____
Samuel anointed David
who would later be the _____
When God gives us a job to do,
it is a splendid _____"

all
mall
Saul
call
run
sun
sons
one
depart
heart
apart
chart
toy
boy
joy
annoy
swing
ring
king
thing



5- BE FAITHFUL IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

THE JEWEL
OF MY
RELATIONSHIPS



One day, we go to the temple with a few tourists. One of the tourists points at the object that Pharaoh is holding in his hand, and he comments that it looks like a cross.

Saji: It's called the key of life. And in the Coptic language, it's called Onkh, because the old Egyptians always believed that there's a second life after death.

Lucky starts jumping up and down trying to grab our attention because he wants us to follow him somewhere else, of course you know where! It's as though he knows there is something very important that we have to see. We follow him and we see Joseph again, for the last time, riding on a Pharaonic chariot holding the key of life. The key of life has on it the last jewel. The jewel lights up and starts talking loudly just like all the other jewels had.

Jewel: Joseph was faithful with the little, so God rewarded him and made him to be master over the whole land of Egypt. He was a very faithful man in his life with God, with his talents, with his time, with his father, brothers and family, in the house of Potiphar and even in prison.

Mora: Just as God rewarded Joseph for his faithfulness, He rewarded Belteshazzar, because he was faithful his whole life.

Saji: Who is Belteshazzar?

Mora: That's the name that the chief official gave to Daniel. Saji, do you know his story?

Amoun: Don't worry Saji, I will tell you his story.





Daniel and his faithfulness with God and the people

Daniel was one of the descendents of the king of Judah. He was exiled by the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, from Jerusalem after it was destroyed. The king ordered the chief of his court officials, Ashpenaz, to bring for him the exiled princes who would serve the king in his palace. The king told the chief of his court officials to prepare these princes for three years, after which they would serve the king. Throughout the three years the princes were served with nutritious food and wine. Daniel was one of the chosen princes. Although Daniel was a stranger in Babylon, he remained faithful to the Lord's commandments.



MEMORY VERSE

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank."
(Daniel 1:8)

Daniel asked Ashpenaz to allow him to eat only vegetables and to drink water instead of wine. Ashpenaz agreed and said he would test Daniel and his friends for ten days. After the ten days, Ashpenaz found Daniel and his friend in better health than those who ate the royal food. At the end of the three years, God gave Daniel and his three friends wisdom and grace in the eyes of king Nebuchadnezzar. So, they were selected as the best men (Daniel 1:17-19).





Daniel continued being faithful to God. Later, when king Nebuchadnezzar had troubling dreams, he called the magicians and sorcerers to interpret his dreams, but they were unable to. So he ordered the execution of all the wise men, including Daniel and his friends. (Daniel 2:12-13). When the soldiers arrived with their swords at Daniel's house, Daniel went to the king and asked him to give him time to figure out his dreams and their interpretations. The king agreed and throughout all this, Daniel still remained faithful to God (Daniel 2:17). Daniel returned to his house with his three friends and prayed to God. At night, God revealed to him the same dream that the king had dreamt. The Lord also revealed to him the meaning of the dream. Daniel rejoiced and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "Praise be to the name of God, forever and ever." (Daniel 2:20). The next day, Daniel explained the dream to the king and because he was faithful to God, he testified that it was God who revealed to him all this knowledge (Daniel 2:17, 28). The king gave Daniel and his



friends many gifts and promoted them to be in charge over all the wise men of Babylon. Daniel continued being faithful in his work in the kingdom and in how he dealt with the people (Daniel did not accept any bribes, was never dishonest, nor did he ever plot against anyone).

A few years passed by and the kingdom had many more rulers. Daniel aged and became an elderly man, but he always remained very faithful. After king Nebuchadnezzar, came another king, king Belshazzar. One day that king threw a big banquet, and during the feast, suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote strange words on the wall, near the lamp stand in the royal palace.



King Belshazzar sent for Daniel to interpret the writing. After Daniel interpreted the writing, the king rewarded him (Daniel 5:29). King Darius reigned after king Belshazzar and he made Daniel one of the three highest administrators in the entire kingdom, overseeing 120 senior officials. Daniel was so faithful in his work that king Darius thought of promoting him to oversee the whole kingdom.





The other ministers were upset. So, they persuaded the king to release a decree forbidding anyone to ask anything from any god or any man, except from the king only, for thirty days. Daniel heard about the decree and at that time he was a very old man - 90 years old- and yet he still remained faithful to God. He went home to his room upstairs where his windows open towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had always done (Daniel:10). Then these jealous ministers went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help, paying no attention to the king's decree. So they went and told the king what they saw, and the king had to order Daniel to be thrown in the lion's den. But, the Lord sent His angel and he shut the mouths of the lions.



Amoun: So as you can see Saji, Daniel lived a faithful life and so we must also do the same.

After the story is done, we run because we are late. Once we get back, we find our dad, Mahrous, looking for us everywhere.

Uncle Mahrous: Where were you kids? I looked for you everywhere! What's going on? This isn't the first time I look for you everywhere and can't find you. Where do you go?

Saji: Uncle Mahrous, I will tell you what's going on!

The kids tell Uncle Mahrous the story of Joseph and the five jewels.

Uncle Mahrous: What are you kids talking about? You must have been dreaming!

Amoun: No dad, come with us to see for yourself the hole that leads to the storage area where we saw Joseph and the jewels.

Uncle Mahrous: What hole, my son? I've been in this temple my whole life, and I've never seen any holes - you must have been dreaming.

So they lead Uncle Mahrous towards the hole but, there was a big surprise waiting for them there was no hole to be found anywhere!!!



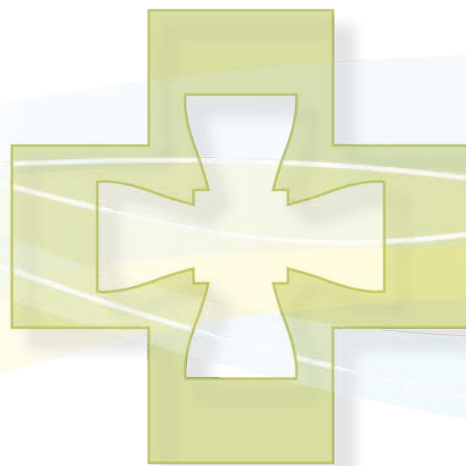


Finally, my friends, if we remain faithful here on earth not only will God give us earthly rewards but He will also give us the heavenly crown, to live forever with Him, and to hear His voice saying,



MEMORY VERSE

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." (Matthew 25:21)





The King

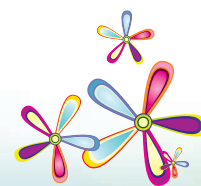
Learns a lesson

ACTIVITY

Read Daniel 4:30-37. Read each sentence below. If the sentence is true, color the circle in the TRUE column. If the sentence is not true, color the circle in the FALSE column.

Read the colored letters, then the uncolored ones to find a message.

	True	False
1. God said Nebuchadnezzar would lose his royal authority (v. 31).	O	L
2. The king was driven away from the people (v. 33).	N	L
3. He had to eat birds and fish (v. 33).	P	L
4. His nails grew like bird claws (v. 33).	Y	O
5. At the end of the time, he looked up to heaven (v. 34).	G	W
6. He refused to honor and glorify God (v. 34).	E	O
7. His honor as king was restored (v. 36).	D	R
8. His advisors took over his throne (v. 36).	F	I
9. He became greater than before (v. 36).	S	U
10. He said that God's ways were not just (v. 37).	L	A



ACTIVITY

Safe!

Daniel and the Lions' Den



The story of how God protected Daniel in the lions' den is one of the most exciting stories in the Bible! See how many of the words listed you can find in the word search puzzle.

S	L	E	E	P	D	T	A	I	D
N	S	D	A	R	N	I	U	D	E
M	A	A	D	A	N	I	E	L	N
E	N	D	V	R	I	T	U	I	S
D	G	R	A	E	S	J	G	O	D
E	E	L	I	U	O	K	I	N	G
S	L	P	R	A	Y	D	A	S	N
I	S	T	O	N	E	K	L	A	W

ANGEL
DANIEL
DEN
GOD
KING
LAW
LIONS
PRAY
SERVANT
SLEEP
STONE
TRUSTED





The King

Learns a lesson

ACTIVITY

Daniel and his friends ate good food!

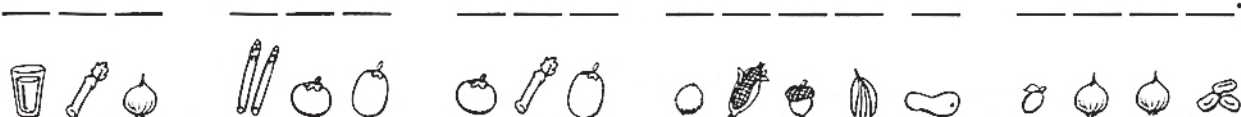
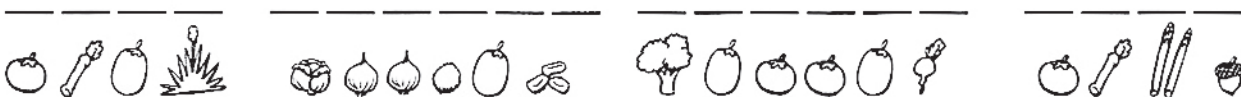
Daniel and his friends were training to be servants of King Nebuchadnezzar. The king wanted his servants to be healthy, strong, and smart, so he fed them the same kind of food he ate himself.

But Daniel said, "Please let us eat only vegetables and drink only water for ten days. Then compare us with other young men who eat the king's food. See for yourself who looks healthier."

Decode the message below to find out what happened.



A B D E F G H I K L M N O R S T U W Y



Memorization

1 Thessalonians 5:14-26
(New King James Version)



¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to any one, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. ²⁵ Brethren, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

MATTHEW 25:1-13

¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ "And at



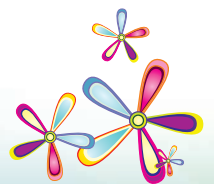


midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. ¹¹ "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Psalm 47

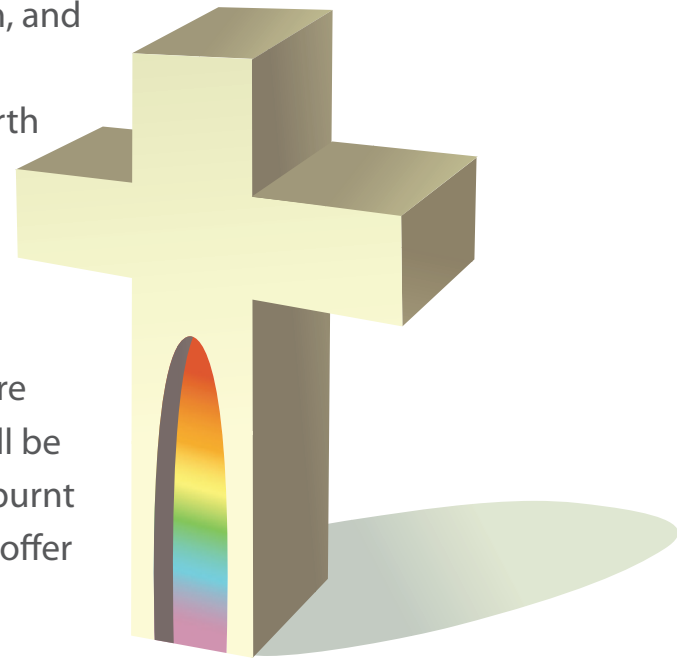
Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples Shout to God with the voice of triumph!
For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth. He
will subdue the peoples under us, And the nations under our feet. He will
choose our inheritance for us, The excellence of Jacob whom He loves. God
has gone up with a shout, The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing
praises! For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises
with understanding. God reigns over the nations;
God sits on His holy throne.
The princes of the people
have gathered together,
The people of the God of
Abraham. For the shields of
the earth belong to God; He
is greatly exalted.



Psalm 51



Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your loving kindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.



Activities



I am seeking my brothers

Research

Hymns & Tasbehah

Coptic Language

Drama & Mime

Praise & Music

Arts

Creative Writing

Multimedia & Technology

Sports



"I am seeking my brothers"



If each one of us could bring four people with him to church, how many would we be?
We would become an even larger family in one church.
Here are two different situations; which one would you choose?

1 st situation	2 nd situation
God asked the older brother: "where is your brother" and he answered: "I do not know, am I my brother's keeper." Gen 4:9	A man asked the younger brother: "what are you seeking" so he said "I am seeking my brothers." Gen 37: 16

How would you respond in a similar situation? There is no doubt that the younger brother's answer in the 2nd situation sounds better. Joseph, the "younger brother" did not like to stay at home by himself, so he went out to seek his brothers. He walked down many roads and lost his way, but at the end he found them. We ask that you not join the Mahrangan by yourself this year, but rather "seek your brothers", including those who do not attend church regularly as well as people in your school, and those in your neighbourhood who perhaps do not receive much attention from anyone.

1. You can pay them a quick visit, give them a phone call, send them an email or text message, etc... Bring them with you to the church and introduce them to Abouna or your servant who will welcome them into our community and help them participate in the different activities offered in the Mahrangan. This is a form of outreach and it can be very effective in drawing people closer to our Lord Jesus Christ and the church.
2. Ask your servant to fill out the required form and send it to us by July 1st (you can acquire the form from one of the Mahrangan servants).

There will be a certificate of recognition for each participant and special gifts to the participant(s) who bring as many people as they can to the Mahrangan.





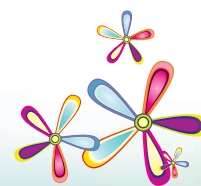
RESEARCH

Description:

The Research Competition is a forum for participants to share their research, exchange ideas, and improve their communication skills while competing for prizes at the Mahragan.

Guidelines:

1. Choose one of the topics below and make sure to relate it to the theme of the Mahragan 2010 "Always Faithful"
 - a. Daniel The Prophet
 - b. Ezra
 - c. St. Athanasius The Apostolic
 - d. Josiah The King
 - e. Queen Helen
 - f. Saint Marina
 - g. The Journey of The Holy Family
 - h. Names of Jesus Christ Throughout The Bible
 - i. The Parables of Jesus
 - j. The Ten Plagues
 - k. Solomon The Wise
 - l. Archdeacon Habib Guirguis
2. The research paper should be no less than 750 words and no more than 1200 words long.
3. The participant(s) may work individually or in groups of no more than 3.
4. The research may be presented in the form of a poster, a brochure or as an essay
5. All research papers must be the student's original work. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited. A bibliography also needs to be included at the end of the paper.
6. The research papers that are selected to compete nationally will require oral presentations and a discussion of the topic. At that final level, the competitors will need to provide the judging panel with three copies of the original research.
7. Participants will make use of the presentation of the research to defend the evaluation categories of the written material (refer to the Evaluation Criteria below).





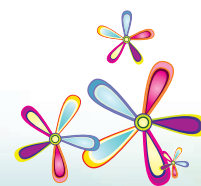
CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Organization	Information is very organized with well-constructed paragraphs and subheadings.	Information is organized with well-constructed paragraphs.	Information is organized, but paragraphs are not well constructed.	The information appears to be disorganized.
Amount of Information	All aspects of the selected topic are addressed.	Most aspects of the selected topic are addressed.	Several aspects of the selected topic are addressed.	Few aspects of the selected topic are addressed.
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1- 2 supporting details and/or examples.	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples are given.	Information has little or nothing to do with the main topic.
Paragraph Construction	All paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Most paragraphs include introductory sentence, explanations or details, and concluding sentence.	Paragraphs included related information but were typically not constructed well.	Paragraphing structure was not clear and sentences were not typically related within the paragraphs.



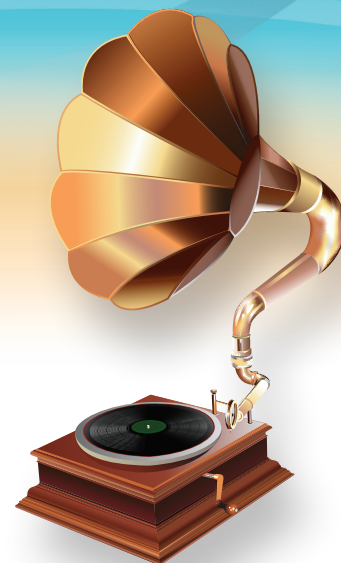


Diagrams & Illustrations	Diagrams and illustrations are neat, accurate and add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are accurate and add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are neat and accurate and sometimes add to the reader's understanding of the topic.	Diagrams and illustrations are not accurate OR do not add to the reader's understanding of the topic.
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.
Sources	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format.	All sources (information and graphics) are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format.	Some sources are not accurately documented.
Neatness	Work is neatly done.	Work has one or two areas that are sloppy.	Work has three or four areas that are sloppy.	Work is Illegible.

Points Earned: _____ **÷ 32 possible points x 100 = Grade:**



HYMNS & TASBEHA



Description:

This competition is intended to encourage the participants to learn the beautiful hymns of our church, gaining some insight into our church's heritage.

There are 3 levels in this competition: Level 1, Level 2 and gifted level. The material to be studied for the competition is included below.

Level 1

1- The Hymn after the Prayer of Reconciliation "Hiten Nepresvia": It is prayed after the prayer of Reconciliation in the Liturgy of St. Basil and in it we ask for the intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary.

ՅԻՏԵՆ ՆԻՔՐԵՑԲԻԱՆ ԴԵ
ԴԵՕՏՈՔՈՑ ԵԹՈՂԱԲ ՄԱՐԻԱ ՍՈՑ
ԱՐԻՁՄՈՒՄ ՈՒՆԱՆ ԱՍԻՇԱՅ ԵՅՈՂ ԴԵ
ՆԵՆՈՅԻ.

Through the intercessions of
the Theotokos, Saint Mary, O
Lord, grant us the forgiveness
of our sins.

Hiten epresvia ente te
theotokos ethoab Maria
epchois ari ehmot nan empi
koevol ente nen novi.

ԴԵՈՒՍՄԻՏ ԱՄՈՔ Օ ՔՐԻՍՏ ՆԵՄ
ՔԵԿԻՈՒՄ ՆԱՏԱԹՈՑ ՆԵՄ
ՍԻՍՆԵՄԱ ԵԹՈՂԱԲ ՇԵ (ԱԿԻ)
ԱԿՇՈՒՄ ԱՄՈՆ.

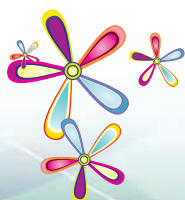
We worship You, O Christ,
with Your good Father and
the Holy Spirit, for You have
(come) and saved us

Ten ouosht emok
opiekhrestos nem pekiot en
aghathos nem pi epnevma
ethoab je aki aksoti emon.

ԵԼԵՕՑ ԻՐԽՆԻՑ: ԹՎԻԱ ԵՆԵՇԵՈՑ.

A mercy of peace, a sacrifice
of praise.

Eleos erineec: thecia enicios.





2- The Hymn of the Cherubim : This praise is prayed before the institution narrative and it is the praise of the Cherubim and the Seraphim in Heaven Saying "Holy, Holy, Holy etc"

Νι Χερουβιμ σεοτωψτ ὑμμοκ:
νεμ νι Σεραφιμ σετῶοτ νακ:
ετωψ εβολ ετζω ὑμμοκ:

The Cherubim worship You,
and the Seraphim glorify You,
proclaiming and saying:

Ni sheroubim ce oosht emok
nem ni serafim ce tioonak:
evoshevol efgo emos:

Χε ἅγιος ἅγιος ἅγιος: Κῆριος
σαβαωθ: πληρης ὁ οὐρανός κε
ἡ γῆ: τῆς ἁγίας σου δόξης.

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord of
hosts. Heaven and earth are
full of Your holy glory."

Je agios agios agios: kerios
savaot: pleerees o ooranos ke
ee gee: teec agias so
zoksees.

3- The Nativity Gospel Response: The Nativity Gospel Response is prayed after the reading of the Gospel.

Οὐριοτ ἀγψαι ζεν νιμανψαι:
ἄνιμαζος μωψι ἡςωψ: ψα
ἡτερενοτ εβηθεεμ:
ατοτωψτ ὑποτρο ἡνιέων.

A star appeared in the East,
and the wise men followed it,
until it let them to Bethlehem,
and they worshiped the King
of ages.

O cio afshai khien ni manshai:
animagos moshi ensof: sha
entef eno ebethleem: avoosht
em eporo enni eon.

4- The Verses of the Cymbals for the Nativity: They are verses prayed with the cymbals after the thanksgiving prayer during the Raising of Incense of Matins and Vespers.

Πιζινμιςι ὑπαρθενικον: οτοζ
νινακχι ὑπνευματικον:
οτῶφρηι ὑπαρadoxon: κατα
νιςων ὑπροφητικον.

The virginal birth, and the
spiritual emissions, are an
amazing wonder, according to
the prophets.

Pi jen mici em parthenikon:
ooh ninakhi
emepnevmatikon: oeshfiri
emparazokson: kata ni
esmee emeprofitikon.

Χερε Βηθεεμ: ἑπολις
ἡνιπροφητης: θεταγμες Πχς
ἡζητς: πιμαζενατ ἡδδαμ.

Hail to Bethlehem, the city of
the prophets, where Christ
was born, the second Adam.

Sheri Bethleem: etpolis
ennieprofitis: thi etavmes
pekhristos enkheets:
pimahesnav en Adam.





Level 2

1- The Hymns of "Have Mercy": Je nainan & Eleeison are prayed in the Liturgy of St. Gregory in Coptic and Greek. We ask our Lord Jesus Christ to have mercy on us.

Χε ναι ναν Φ† πενσωτηρ.

Have mercy upon us O God
Our Savior.

Je nai nan efnoti pen soteer

Χε ναι ναν Φ† πενσωτηρ.

Have mercy upon us O God
Our Savior.

Je nai nan efnoti pen soteer

Χε ναι ναν Φ† πενσωτηρ.

Have mercy upon us O God
Our Savior.

Je nai nan efnoti pen soteer

Κτρίε ἐλεῆσον

Lord have mercy.

Kirie leyson

Ελεῆσον ἡμᾶς ὁ Θεός ὁ
σωτὴρ ἡμῶν.

Have mercy upon us O God,
Our Savior.

Elison emas o theos o soteer
emon

Ελεῆσον ἡμᾶς ὁ Θεός ὁ
σωτὴρ ἡμῶν.

Have mercy upon us O God
Our Savior.

Elison emas o theos o soteer
emon

Ελεῆσον ἡμᾶς ὁ Θεός ὁ
σωτὴρ ἡμῶν.

Have mercy upon us O God,
Our Savior.

Elison emas o theos o soteer
emon

Κτρίε ἐλεῆσον.

Lord have mercy.

Kirie leyson

2- The Epiphany Gospel Response: Fai Pe pihieeb: This is prayed after the gospel reading in Epiphany.

Φαι πε πιζιβ ντε Φ†:
φηετωλι ὑφνοβι ὑπικοςμος:
φηεταϑινη νοταπ νσω†:
ερεϑ νοζεμ ὑπεϑλαος.

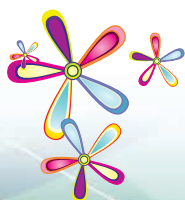
This is the Lamb of God, who
carried the sin of the world,
who brought a horn of
salvation, in order to save His
people.

Fai pe pi hi eeb ente
efnoti: fietoli emefnovi
empikosmos: fietafini
enotap ensoti: ethref
nohem empeflaos.

Αλληλοια αλ: αλληλοια
αλ: Ἰης Χς πωρηι ὑΦ†:
αϑβιωμς ζεν πιορδανης.

Alleluia Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Jesus Christ the Son of
God, was baptized in the Jordan.

Alleloia, alleloia, alleloia,
alleloia, Esous piekhrestos
epshiri emefnoti afetchi
oms khien pi yordanis.





Φαι ἔρε πῶον ἐρῖρεπι νὰϛ:
 νεμ Περῖωτ ἡὰτὰθος: νεμ
 πιΠνεῦμα ἑῶν: ιςχεν ἱνοῦ
 νεμ ὡα ἔνεε.

This is He who is worthy of
 glory, with His good Father, and
 the Holy Spirit, both now and
 forever.

Fai ere pi o ou ereprepi
 naf : nem pefiot en
 aghathos: nem pi
 epnevma ethoab: yes jen
 tino nem sha eneh.

Χε ἑςμαρωοῦτ ἡξε Φῖωτ
 νεμ πῶηρι: νεμ πιΠνεῦμα
 ἑῶν: ἱ Τριας εἰτῆκ ἔβολ:
 τενοῦωῡτ ἡμοος τενηῶον
 νὰς.

Blessed be the Father and the
 Son, and the Holy Spirit, the
 perfect Trinity, we worship Him
 and glorify Him.

Je efesmaraot en je efiot
 nem epshiri: nem pi
 epnevma ethoab: ti etrias
 etjikevol: ten o osht emos
 ten tioonas

3- The Hymn of Ospereen: "Ospereen" is prayed after the prayer of " Those O Lord"

Ὡςπερ ἦν κε εἶτε εἶστιν ἀπο
 γενεὰς ις γενεὰς κε πάντας
 τοὺς ἑῶνας τῶν ἑῶνων:
 ἁμην.

As it was and shall be, from
 generation to generation, and
 unto all the ages of the ages.
 Amen.

Ospereen ke este esteen apo
 genias yes genias ke pandas
 tos eonas ton eoonon ameen.

4- The Kiahk Doxology: The word "Doxology" is driven from the Greek word "Doxa" which means glory and the word "Doxology" means (glorification). The Doxologies are prayed during the Raising of the Incense of Vespers and Matins

Κε γὰρ αἰῶναςαἰ εῶβηῖ: ὦ
 πιζαῦμα ἡχεροῦβιμικον:
 Παλασε νὰδῖσι ἀν ἔνεε:
 τενεῦμακαρίζιν ἡμο.

For if I speak about you, O
 cherubimic throne, my tongue
 will never get tired, from
 blessing you.

Ke gharai-shan sajee ethve-ti,
 opi-harmun-sherobi-mikon,
 palas nakhisi an eneh, ten-er-
 makari-zeen emo.

Χε οντως γὰρ ἱναῡενῆι: ὡα
 νῖὰνλενοῦ ἡτε πῆι ἡΔαῖνδ:
 ἡταβῖ ἡνοῦση ἔβολῖτοτῖ:
 εῶρῖαἰ ἡπεταῖο.

+ For indeed I will go to, the
 house of David, to acquire a
 voice by which, I can speak of
 your honor.

Je ondoss ghar ti-na sheni, sha
 ni-avleio ente ep-ee
 enDaveed, enta-chen-o-
 esmee evol-he-totf, ethre-
 sajee empe-taio.





Χε ἃ Φτ οἰ ερατφ: ᾔεν
 νιῶω ἢτε φλοῦδα: αϥτ
 ἢτεϥμῃ ᾔεν οῦθεληλ:
 ἃτφρλῃ ἢλοῦδα ῥοπϥ ἐρος.

For God has stood, at the
 borders of Judea, and joyfully
 gave His voice, which the
 tribe of Judah accepted.

Je a Efnouti ohee eratf,
 khenni-thosh ente ti-Iode-a,
 afti entef esmee khien o-
 thelel, a-etfelen-Ioda shopf
 eros.

Ἰφρλῃ ἢλοῦδα τε
 φπαρθενος: ἡετασμιϥ
 ὠπενσωτηρ: οῦοῦ οἷ
 μενεσῃ ἡρεσμασϥ: αῶοῖ εῶι
 ὠπαρθενος.

+ The Virgin is the tribe of
 Judah, who gave birth to our
 Savior, and after His birth, she
 remained a virgin.

Etvely en-Iotha te ti-
 parthenos, the-etas misi
 empen-soteer, owoh on
 menensa ethris-masf, as-ohe
 es-oi em-parthenos.

Ἐβολ γαρ ζιτεν φφωῃ: ἢτε
 γαβριηλ πιασσελος: तेनत ने
 ὠπιχερετισμος: ὠ φθεοτοκος
 Ὑαρια.

Along with the voice, of
 Gabriel the Angel, we send
 you greetings, O Mary the
 Mother of God.

Evol ghar hetin ti-voni, ente
 Ghabriel pi-angelos, ten-ti
 nem-pi-shere-tesmos, o ti-
 theotokos Maria.

Χερε νε ἐβολ ζιτεν φφ:
 χερε νε ἐβολ ζιτεν γαβριηλ:
 χερε νε ἐβολ ζιτοτεν: χε
 χερε νε तेनδῖϥ ὠμο.

+ Hail to you from God, hail
 to you from Gabriel, hail to
 you from us, we magnify you
 saying "Hail to you."

Shere ne evol hetin Efnouti,
 shere ne evol hetin Ghabriel,
 shere ne evol he-to-ten, je
 shere ne ten-chisi emmo.

Πιασσελος εῶν γαβριηλ:
 αϥριϥεννοτϥ ἢφπαρθενος:
 μενεσῃ πιασπασμος:
 αϥταχρο ὠμος ᾔεν πεϥσῃ.

Gabriel the holy Angel,
 announced to the Virgin, and
 after the greeting, he
 strengthened her saying.

Pi-angelos ethowab Ghabriel,
 afhe-shennofi enti-parthenos,
 me-nensa pi-aspasmos, af-
 tagro emmos khien pef-sajee.

Χε ὠπερερζοτ Ὑαριαμ:
 ἄρεξιμ γαρ ἢοῦδμοτ: ᾔατεν
 φφ ζῃππε γαρ τεραερβοκι:
 οῦοῦ ἢτεμιϥ ἢοῦωῃρι.

+ "Do not be afraid Mary, for
 you have found favor with
 God, behold you will conceive,
 and bring forth a Son."

Je eper-erhoti Mareiam, ari-
 jimi ghar en-o-ehmot, khaten
 efnouti hepe ghar tera er-
 voki, owoh es-emisin-o-shere.





Եզէ՛՛ր՛ ռազ յ՛նչե Սօ՛՛ս Փ՛՛ր:
 անփօրո՛սո՛ս յ՛նչե Դաւի՛Դ
 քազա՛ր: զնա՛նքօրօրօ չե՛ն ինի
 յնա՛կա՛ւ: ցա՛ չնչ, յ՛նչե ինչնչ.

"And the Lord God will give Him, the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house, of Jacob forever and ever."

Ef-eti naf enje Ep-shois Efnouti, empi-ethro-nos ente Daveed pefiot, efna er-oro ejen ep-ee en-Iakob, sha eneh entepi-eneh.

Եթե՛ փա՛ զեն՛՛րօր՛ ռե՛: շա՛
 Թեօ՛տո՛կո՛ս յ՛նչո՛ր ռի՛ւն:
 ա՛ր՛շօ՛ Է՛Սօ՛՛ս Է՛րի չա՛ւ:
 յ՛նչա՛ ռեննօ՛ւ ռա՛ն Է՛ւօ՛ւ.

+ Wherefore we glorify you, as the ever-Theotokos, ask the Lord on our behalf, that He may forgive us our sins.

Ethve fai ten-ti o-oo ne, hos theotokos enseio niven, mati-ho e-Ep-shois e-ehrei egon, entef ka nen novi nan evol.

Չե՛ր ռե՛ օ՛ ի՛Սարթե՛նօ՛ս:
 ի՛օրօ ա՛ւի յնա՛նի՛ն: Չե՛ր
 ի՛օրօրօ յ՛նչե ինչե՛նօ՛ս:
 ա՛ր՛չփօ ռա՛ն յԵմմա՛նօրի՛ւ.

Hail to you O Virgin, the very and true queen, hail to the pride of our race, who gave birth to Emmanuel.

Shere ne o ti-parthenos ...

Ինչօ՛ ա՛րենմե՛ւ: օ՛
 ի՛քօստա՛ի՛ս Է՛տենօ՛ր:
 ռա՛րեն ինօ՛ս Ի՛ի՛ս ի՛ի՛ս:
 յ՛նչա՛ ռեննօ՛ւ ռա՛ն Է՛ւօ՛ւ.

+ We ask you to remember us, O our trusted advocate, before our Lord Jesus Christ, that He may forgive us our sins.

Ten-ti-hoo ari-penmevee ...

Gifted Level

1. The Hymn of Tenoweh En sok: Prayed in the Midnight Praise after Aripsaleen. We could pray it in 6 different tunes: Annual, Kiahk, joyful, fasting days, fasting weekends and Palm Sunday tunes.

Ինօրե՛ յնօ՛ւ ձեն ինչի՛ տի՛ր: զենչօ՛ր
 ձա՛տե՛ն: օրօ՛ զենկօ՛ր յնա՛ ինչօ: Փ՛ր
 անքի՛ն ռա՛ն .

We follow You with all our hearts, and we fear You, and we seek Your face, O God do not forsake us.

Ա՛ւա՛ յարի՛ս ռեմա՛ն: կա՛տա զեմե՛տի՛կի՛ս:
 ռեմա՛ կա՛տա ինչա՛ յնչե ինչա՛: Սօ՛՛ս յարի՛ս
 օրօն .

But rather deal with us, according to Your meekness, and according to Your great mercy, O Lord help us.





Μαρε τεηπροςευχη πενηνηβ : ι̇ ε̇πωωι̇ υ̇πεκ̇υ̇θο
: υ̇φρη† η̇θανβ̇λιλ̇ η̇τε θ̇ανωι̇λι : νεμ
θ̇ανμασι̇ ευ̇κενι̇ωο̇τ .

May our prayers ascend unto You, O our Master, like burnt offerings of lambs, and fatted calves.

Υ̇περη̇ρωβ̇ω η̇†δια̇θηκη : θ̇η̇ε̇τακ̇σε̇μνη̇τς
νεμ̇ νε̇νιο† : Α̇βρα̇αμ̇ Ι̇σαακ̇ Ι̇ακωβ̇ : Π̇ι̇ς̇λ̇
πε̇ε̇θ̇† η̇τακ̇ .

Do not forget the covenant, which You have made with our fathers, Abraham Isaac and Jacob, (Israel) Your holy one.

̇̇μο̇υ̇ ε̇Π̇ος̇ η̇ι̇λα̇ος̇ τη̇ρο̇υ̇ : η̇ι̇φ̇η̇λη̇ η̇ια̇σ̇πι
η̇λα̇ς : ε̇ως̇ ε̇ρο̇ϗ̇ μα̇ω̇ο̇υ̇ η̇α̇ϗ̇ : α̇ρι̇ζο̇ν̇ο̇ β̇α̇ς̇ϗ̇
ω̇α̇ η̇ι̇ε̇νε̇ε̇ .

Bless the Lord all you nations, the tribes and all kinds of tongues, Praise Him and glorify Him, above all forever.

̇̇ω̇β̇ε̇ υ̇Π̇ος̇ ε̇ρ̇η̇ι̇ ε̇χω̇ν : ω̇ π̇ι̇ς̇ η̇α̇λο̇υ̇ η̇α̇σι̇ος̇
: ̇̇ε̇δ̇ρα̇κ̇ υ̇ι̇σα̇κ̇ Α̇β̇δ̇ε̇να̇σ̇ω̇ : η̇τε̇ϗ̇χα̇ νε̇νη̇νο̇β̇ι
η̇α̇ν̇ ε̇βο̇λ̇ .

Pray to the Lord on our behalf, O three saintly children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that He may forgive us our sins.

2- The Hymn of John the Baptist: Oran en shoo shoo: It is prayed after the Pauline reading in the Liturgy of the water in the feast of the epiphany and after the Praxis response on the feast of St. John the Baptist.

Ο̇τρα̇ν̇ η̇ω̇ο̇υ̇ω̇ο̇υ̇ πε̇ πε̇κρα̇ν̇ : ω̇ π̇ι̇ς̇ϗ̇ς̇ε̇νη̇ς̇
η̇ε̇μ̇μ̇α̇νο̇υ̇η̇λ̇ : η̇θο̇κ̇ ο̇υ̇η̇ι̇ω̇† θ̇ε̇ν̇ η̇η̇ε̇θ̇†
τη̇ρο̇υ̇ : Ι̇ω̇α̇ν̇νη̇ς̇ π̇ι̇ρε̇ϗ̇ω̇μ̇ς̇ .

A name of pride is your name, O relative of Emmanuel, for you are great among all the saints, O John the Baptist.

̇̇βο̇σι̇ ε̇η̇πα̇τρια̇ρχ̇η̇ς̇ : κ̇τα̇ι̇νο̇τ̇
ε̇η̇π̇ρο̇φ̇η̇τ̇η̇ς̇ : ε̇ε̇ υ̇πε̇ ο̇το̇ν̇ τ̇ω̇ν̇ϗ̇ θ̇ε̇ν̇
η̇ι̇χι̇νη̇μ̇ι̇ς̇ : η̇τε̇ η̇ι̇ζ̇ιο̇μ̇ι̇ ε̇ϗ̇ο̇ν̇ι̇ υ̇μ̇ο̇κ̇ .

You are higher than the patriarchs, more honored than the prophets, for no one born of women, is as great as you.





Competition guidelines:

Level 1 and 2

- 1- The church can participate in either one or both levels.
- 2- No team will be allowed to participate in more than one level.
- 3- No participant is allowed to perform with more than one team.
- 4- Each team should not be less than 5 participants.
- 5- All of the hymns must be recited in Coptic.
- 6- **Level 2** participants are expected to recite the hymns from mind, with no external help.

Gifted Level

- 1- This is an individual competition.
- 2- The church can participate with any number of individual participants in this level.
- 3- Participants in this level will recite from mind with no external help.

Evaluation Criteria:

For each hymn, in any level:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1- Hymn introduction/ description | 10% |
| 2- Accuracy of memorization | 30% |
| 3- Consistency in speed and rhythm | 20% |
| 4- Proper articulation and pronunciation | 20% |
| 5- Spirituality of the performance | 20% |



Coptic Language



Description:

This competition is intended to encourage the participants to learn the original language of our church, gaining some insight into our church's heritage. The goal of this competition is to have the participants i) know how to read and write all the letters in the Coptic alphabet; ii) memorize the Lord's prayer in Coptic and iii) memorize the psalm responses for different occasions with the meaning of the words.

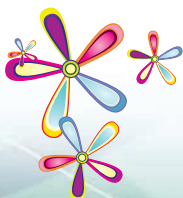
Competition Guidelines:

The participation in this competition is individual. The material to be studied for the competition is included below.

1- The Coptic Alphabet

Letter	Name	Pronunciation
Α α	Alpha	a
Β β	Vita	b, v
Γ γ	Gamma	g, gh, n
Δ δ	Delta	d, th
Ε ε	Eey	e
Ϝ ϝ	So-ou	-
Ζ ζ	Zeeta	z
Η η	Eeta	ee
Θ θ	Theta	th, t
Ι ι	Yota	i
Κ κ	Kappa	k
Λ λ	Lola	l
Μ μ	Mey	m
Ν ν	Ney	n
Ξ ξ	Exi	x
Ο ο	O	o

Letter	Name	Pronunciation
Π π	Pe	p
Ρ ρ	Ro	r
Ϛ ϛ	Seema	s
Ϝ ϝ	Tav	t
Ϟ ϟ	Epsilon	i
Ϡ ϡ	Phi	f
Ϣ ϣ	Key	k, dh, kh
Ϥ ϥ	Epsi	eps
Ϧ ϧ	Omega	au
Ϩ ϩ	Shai	sh
Ϫ ϫ	Fai	f
Ϭ ϭ	Khai	kh
Ϯ ϯ	Hori	h
ϰ ϱ	Jenja	j, g
ϲ ϳ	Cheema	ch
ϵ Ϻ	Ti	ti





2- The Lord' Prayer (ΧΕ ΠΕΝΙΩΤ)

3- Χε Πενιωτ ετ ζεν νιφνοτι : μαρεϋτοϋβο ἵχε πεκραν μαρεσι
 ἵχε τεκμετοϋρο: πετεζνακ μαρεϋωπι ἡϕρη† ζεν τφε νεμ
 ζιχεν πικαζι: πενωικ ἵτε ρασ† μηϋ ναν ἡφοοτ: οτοζ χα
 νηετερον ναν ἐβολ ἡϕρη† ζων ἵτενχω ἐβολ ἵνηετε οτον
 ἵταν ἐρωοτ οτοζ ἡπερεντεν ἐζοτν ἐπιρασμοc: αλλα ναζμεν
 ἐβολ ζα πιπετζωοτ: ζεν Πιχρηcτοc Ιηcουc Πενβοιc χε θωκ
 τε †μετοϋρο νεμ †χομ νεμ πιωοτ ψα ἐνεζ Δμην.

3a- Psalm response for different occasions

Occasion	Psalm Response
Nativity	Δαλληλοτια ᾱλ: Ιηcουc Πιχρηcτοc πωηρι ἡϕνοτ† αcμαcϋ ἵχε †παρθενoc ζεν Βηθαεεμ ἵτε †λοτδεα κατα νιcμν ἡπροφητικον: ᾱλ ᾱλ
Entering the temple	Δαλληλοτια ᾱλ: Ιηcουc Πιχρηcτοc πωηρι ἡϕνοτ† αcψε ἐζοτν ἐπιερφει: ᾱλ ᾱλ
Epiphany	Δαλληλοτια ᾱλ: Ιηcουc Πιχρηcτοc πωηρι ἡϕνοτ† αcβιωμc ζεν πιλορδαηηc: ᾱλ ᾱλ
Annunciation	Δαλληλοτια ᾱλ: Ιηcουc Πιχρηcτοc πωηρι ἡϕνοτ† αcβιcαρζ ἐβολζεν †παρθενoc: ᾱλ ᾱλ



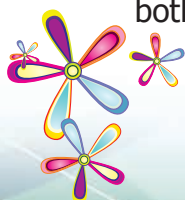


3b- Meaning of the words

Word	Meaning	Pronunciation
Ιησους	Jesus	Esous
Πιχριστος	Christ	Piekhrestos
Πωηρι	The Son	Epshiri
Φνοϋ†	God	Efnoti
Ασμαςϭ	Was born	Asmasf
†παρθενος	The virgin	Tiparthenos
ἕεν	In	Khen
Βηθαεεμ	Bethlehem	Bethele-em
Αϭψε εἶτρον	Entered	Afshe ekhon
Προφητικον	The prophetical	Eprophetikon
Πιςμἡ	The voices	Niesmi
†Ιουδαεἰ	The Judea	Tiyouzi-a
Πιερφει	The temple	Bee erfe
Αϭβιωμς	Was baptized	Aftshi oms
Πιlorδανης	The Jordan	Bi yourzanees
Ποϋρο	The king	Epouro
Ἦτε ἔωοϣ	Of the glory	Ente Ep-o-ou
Αϭτωνϭ	Rose	Aftonf
Εβολ ἕεν	From	Evol khen
Πνεθμωοϣτ	The dead	Ni es mo oot
Πιεχοοϣ	The day	Pi eho-oo
Μαζωομτ	The third	Mah-shomt

Evaluation Criteria:

The evaluation of this competition will be carried out in a written test format, and offered in both English and Coptic letters.





DRAMA & MIME

Description:

This competition is intended to foster good ethical, social and Christian values through the presentation of drama and/or mime performances.

Competition Guidelines:

1. The competition must be in one of the following stage production forms: full play, skit, operetta or mime.
2. The production should be drawn from our church spirit, its values and traditions.
3. In the evaluation of the productions, emphasis will be placed on: innovation, effectiveness and positive messages.
4. The story line should not be in the form of a sermon or a lesson.
5. All production effects such as music, light, sound effects, props etc...should be used in moderation.
6. The use of flammable materials is prohibited during the production.
7. The production should not exceed 20 minutes.

Evaluation Criteria:

Evaluation of the production will be based on the following aspects, as follows:

Script	15
Acting	30
Direction	25
Sets	10
Costume and props	5
Lighting	5
Makeup	5
Music	5
TOTAL	100





Praise & Music

Description:

Praising God is not just a group activity. The teachings and traditions of our church fathers clearly show how praise is considered directed prayers to heaven, and how God's presence could be felt during prayer and true praise which comes from the heart.

Competition Guidelines & Evaluating Criteria:

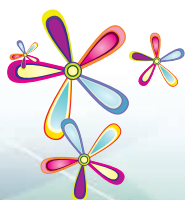
The Praise and Music contest will be divided into 3 competitions: Choir, Solo or Instrumental.

Choir Performance:

1. Teams should consist of 5 people or more.
2. Teams are encouraged to include the "Always Faithful" theme in their performances, and are required to present the Mahragan anthem at the beginning of their presentation.
3. A pamphlet must be prepared and 5 copies are to be presented to the judges on the performance day. The pamphlet should include the following: Church name, Team / Group name, Age(s) and all of the song's lyrics.
4. The choir performance must not exceed 15 minutes.
5. Each performance can include one of the old heritage songs (3 minutes only, regardless of its original length). Teams can select a few lines of the song(s) to stay within the timeframe. Each performance can have 3 additional short songs for a maximum of 15 minutes in total.
6. Lyrics must be chosen carefully to ensure that the song reflects our church's beliefs, values and traditions.
7. All teams are required to present in harmony and unity reflecting a prayerful spirit throughout all performances.
8. Sound equipment problems will not result in any mark deductions. The choir should continue to perform and present normally.

Solo Performance:

1. This is a separate competition and does not form part of the choir competition.
2. In a solo performance a single contestant is required to present part of a song with or without music. This is different from a solo performance within a choir.





3. It is possible to present a duet (a couple of singers) only if they are presenting in unison, and not a dialogue.
4. The solo performance must not exceed 3 minutes.

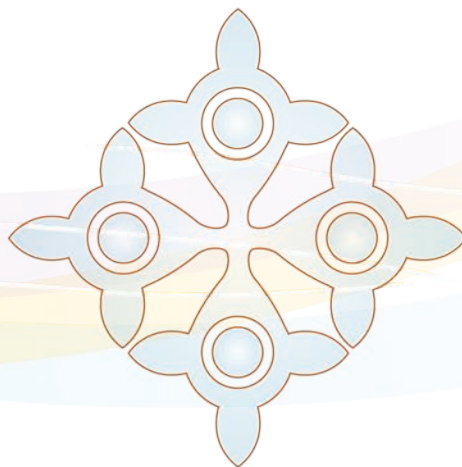
Playing musical instruments:

1. Participants may choose to do a solo performance on a specific musical instrument, perform within a group, or write a musical composition.
2. The Musical Instrument performance must not exceed 3 minutes.
3. The musical piece maybe selected from a heritage song, hymn or new song.
4. Avoid presenting heavy style / wild dancing music that is inconsistent with the spirit of our church or the atmosphere of praise which this musical exercise is meant to create.

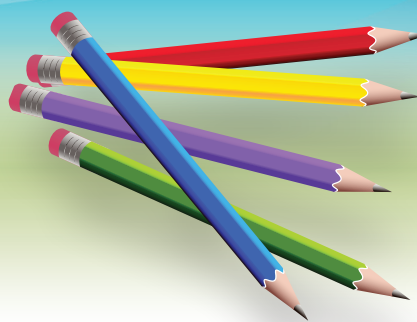
Evaluation Criteria:

The evaluation will be based on 3 main criteria:

1. Main Message and Purpose (30%)
2. Performance (40%)
3. Music Tunes and voices (30%)



Arts



Description:

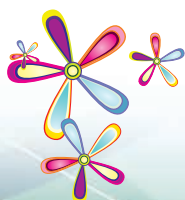
This competition is intended to foster artistic creativity within a Christian context while competing with fellow Mahragan participants.

Guidelines:

1. Choose one of the projects below and make sure to relate it to the theme of the Mahragan 2010 "Always Faithful"
 - a. Dry Media: Any two dimensional work, including but not limited to drawing, done with dry media such as pencil, pastel, conte crayon, charcoal, crayon, etc. or combination done on paper or other flat surfaces.
 - b. Oil/Acrylic Painting: Any oil based or synthetic based (such as acrylic or alkyd) painting done on a two-dimensional surface such as canvas or hardboard.
 - c. Photography: Any image created by the use of camera, whether film or digital. Images must be printed on paper no smaller than 8x10 inches.
 - d. Sculpture/Carving: Two or three dimensional sculptural work created by carving or modeling. May be figurative or non-figurative.
 - e. Wet Media Painting: Any water based media such as transparent watercolor, opaque watercolor, water based tempera or any combination of these done on a two-dimensional surface. Includes acrylic thinned down to the consistency of watercolor done on paper.
 - f. Woodwork: Wood pieces formed by the use of mechanical aids such as saws, sanders, etc. This includes furniture, musical instruments, tools, toys, etc. whether functional or decorative.
 - g. Handcraft: Any handmade item with artistic emphasis that does not fit into any other category.
2. The art project is to be presented in a suitable manner for competition level.
3. All art projects must be the original work of the presenter and should reflect his or her creative ability and cannot include any printed or copied images from books, magazines, catalogues, newspapers, the internet etc....
4. The participant(s) may work individually or in groups of no more than 3.
5. Only one project is to be presented by the same participant or group.
6. All works must be done by the competitors without any assistance from the servants.
7. At the final presentation, all works must be clearly labeled with the name(s) of the competitor(s), their grade, church name, and a brief explanation of the project.

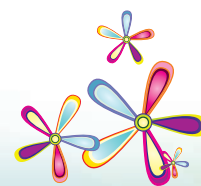
Evaluation Criteria:

Evaluation of the production will be based on the following aspects, as follows:



CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Elements & Principles of Design Demonstration that instruction and concepts are understood.	Planned carefully. Made several sketches, and showed an awareness of the elements and principles of design. Chose color scheme carefully; used space effectively.	Artwork shows that the student applied the principles of design while using one or more elements effectively. The space is filled adequately.	Student did the assignment satisfactorily, yet shows lack of planning and little evidence that an overall composition was planned.	Assignment was completed and turned in, but showed little evidence of any understanding of the elements and principles of art. There is no evidence of planning.
Creativity/ Originality Inventiveness, expression of ideas and imagination.	Student explored several choices before selecting one. Generated many ideas, tried unusual combinations or changes on several ideas; made connections to previous knowledge. Demonstrated outstanding problem-solving skills.	Student tried a few ideas before selecting one, or based his/her work on someone else's idea. Made decisions after referring to one source; solved problem in logical way.	Student tried one idea and carried it out adequately, but lacked originality. Substituted symbols for personal observation; might have copied work or ideas.	Student fulfilled the assignment, but gave no evidence of trying anything unusual.
Craftsmanship/ Skill Neatness, precision, care.	Artwork was beautifully and patiently done; it was as good as hard work could make it.	With a little more effort, the work could have been outstanding; lacks the finishing craftsmanship and neatness.	Student showed average craftsmanship; adequate, but not as good as it could have been; a bit careless.	Student showed below-average craftsmanship; lack of pride in finished artwork.

Points Earned: _____ ÷ 12 possible points x 100 = Grade



Creative Writing



Description:

The creative writing competition includes two categories: Poetry and Short Story.

Poetry is a rhymed or unrhymed verse of not more than 16 lines which develop a central theme or image. A short story is a fictional piece of no more than 2000 words which utilize setting, plot, and characterization to reveal an implied theme.

Competition Guidelines:

1. At the final stage of the competition, submit two copies of your work. Each copy must contain a plain, undecorated title page clearly indicating your church, your name and telephone number, and the title of your work.
2. No participant is allowed to submit more than three entries per competition. Submissions from the previous year should not be resubmitted.
3. Do not plagiarize.
4. Outstanding work may be featured on the Coptic Orthodox Youth Media (CYC) channel, or the festival's web site and magazine.

Evaluation Criteria:

Criteria for evaluating poetry

1. Idea and purpose – **10%**
 - The idea has to be serious and must have a purpose.
2. Creativity and Choice of words – **10%**
 - New way of treating an issue
3. Clarity and Brevity – **10%**
 - The vocabulary must be clear and easily understood. Use of archaic language should be avoided.
4. Rhythm – **20%**
 - Creates musical echo appropriate to the intention of the poem
5. Use of figurative language – **10%**
 - Using allegorical or metaphorical language to illustrate the main idea.
6. Grammar and composition – **10%**
 - Vary your syntax





7. Efficiency in producing the desired effect upon the reader – **10%**
 - No unnecessary phrasing
 - Don't use words just to fill out the missing rhythm
8. The overall effect of the poem – **20%**

Criteria for evaluating stories

1. Idea and purpose – 10%
 - The idea has to be serious and must have a purpose.
2. Creativity and Choice of words – 10%
 - New way of treating an issue
3. Clarity and Brevity – 10%
 - The vocabulary must be clear and easily understood. Use of archaic language should be avoided.
4. Arrangement & Flow of Sentences – 20%
 - Creates natural flow of events, or creative arrangement of events that inspire interest or intrigue
5. Use of figurative language – 10%
 - Using allegorical or metaphorical language to illustrate the main idea.
6. Grammar and composition – 10%
 - Vary your syntax
7. Efficiency in producing the desired effect upon the reader – 10%
 - No unnecessary phrasing
8. The overall effect of the story – 20%



MULTIMEDIA & TECHNOLOGY



Description:

This competition is intended to foster the creativity and technical ability of the participants and to utilize the latest technology in serving God in a Christian competitive context.

Competition Guidelines:

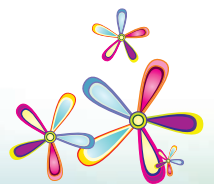
1. Choose one of the projects below and make sure to relate it to the theme of the Mahragan 2010 "Always Faithful"
 - a. Graphics: Create 5 computer images to emphasize one of the jewels of the "always Faithful".
Suggested Programs: Photoshop or Twisted Brush
 - b. Web Design: Design a 5 page website. The website may include images and/or music and all pages should be related. Suggested Programs: FrontPage or WebDwarf
 - c. Multimedia: Create 3 songs or hymns. Songs must adhere to our Orthodox belief. Suggested Programs: Windows Movie maker or PowerPoint
 - d. Computer Game: Create any Christian computer game. Suggested Program: Game Maker 8
2. All projects must be the original work of the participant and should reflect his or her creative ability without the help of family or servants.
3. The participant(s) may work individually or in groups of no more than 3.
4. Only one project is to be presented by the same participant or group.
5. At the final submission, the project must be handed on CD and cannot be submitted by email.
6. All resources used should be consistent with our Orthodox beliefs, whether images, movies, songs or data. All references should be included.
7. During the final presentation, the competitor must bring his/her own laptop ready to run the multimedia for marking.
8. Any programs equivalent to the suggested programs may be used.



Evaluation Criteria:

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Topic/Content	Covers topic completely and in depth. Includes properly cited sources and complete information. Encourages readers to know more.	Includes essential information with most sources properly cited. Includes enough elaboration to give readers an understanding of the topic.	Includes some essential information with few citations and few facts.	Includes little essential information and one or two facts.
Technical Capability	Includes at least 5 or more graphics or 5 or more animations and several advanced features, such as video.	Includes at least 3 or more graphics or 3 or more animations and several advanced features, such as video.	Includes fewer than 3 graphics or 3 animations and several advanced features, such as video.	Includes fewer than 3 graphics or 3 animations and no advanced features, such as video.
Mechanics	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization are correct. No errors in the text.	Includes 3-5 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Includes 5-9 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Includes more than 10 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.
Oral Presentation Skills	Communicates ideas with enthusiasm, proper voice projection, appropriate language, and clear delivery	Communicates ideas with proper voice projection. Adequate preparation and delivery.	Some difficulty communicating ideas, due to voice projection, lack of preparation, or incomplete work	Great difficulty communicating ideas. Poor voice projection. Little preparation or incomplete work.

Points Earned: _____ ÷ 16 possible points x 100 = Grade:



SPORTS



Description:

The sports competitions emphasize sportsmanship, teambuilding skills and fun. It can be an enjoyable way to get to know and spend time with different church members. Other objectives of this competition include encouraging participation in the Mahragan and creating opportunities to develop and discover talent. Remember, **winning is about so much more than the final score.**

Competition Guidelines & Evaluation Criteria:

General:

1. All players should only compete in their respective age groups and respective sex group (i.e. boys will compete with boys and girls with girls).
2. Each church can participate with one to three teams for each sport at the Regional level.
3. A form will be provided for each competition to be completed by each team providing the names of all the team members and their school year.
4. The player who demonstrates non-Christian behaviour (i.e., becomes verbally abusive towards others, or uses inappropriate signs, etc.) will be dismissed from the competition and his or her team will complete that game with one less teammate.
5. If a player is penalized during a game he or she will not be permitted to play the next game.
6. The referees' decisions are final and should not be disputed. In the case of a valid objection a formal complaint should be presented to the central committee.
7. Any team who is not punctual, or does not demonstrate Christian behaviour will automatically be disqualified.
8. The competitions will be organised on a league basis with semi-finals and finals, for each sport.

Relay (for Grades 3&4 only)

1. Each team must have at least 3 players and up to a maximum of 6 players.
2. Competing teams must have equal number of players.
3. Each player will run about 30 meters and back, passing the baton to the next player on his or her team. This will be repeated until all of the players on the team have had a turn.
4. The team that completes the relay in the least time wins.





Soccer

1. Each team consists of 4-6 players, depending on field size, with 2 optional substitutes.
2. Each game will run for 10 minutes on each half, with an intermission of no more than 2 minutes.
3. If the two teams tie in the game, then penalty shots will be played.
4. Substitutions will be allowed at any time during the game, but only two substitutions are allowed per game.

Volleyball (for Grades 5&6 only)

1. Each team consists of 6 players with 2 optional substitutes.
2. Games will be played up to 3 sets of 15 points for each set; the team that wins 2 sets is the winner.
3. If in a set the teams tie at a score of 14 then it's a deuce. The winning team must win by 2 points.
4. Players within each team must rotate positions in a clockwise manner each time it is their turn to serve the ball.

Basketball (for Grades 5&6 only)

1. Each team consists of 5 players with 2 optional substitutes.
2. Each game will run for 10 minutes on each half, with an intermission of no more than 2 minutes.
3. If the two teams tie at the end of the game, there will be an overtime of 5 minutes and the team that scores the most points wins.
4. Substitution will be allowed at any time during the game.

Table Tennis

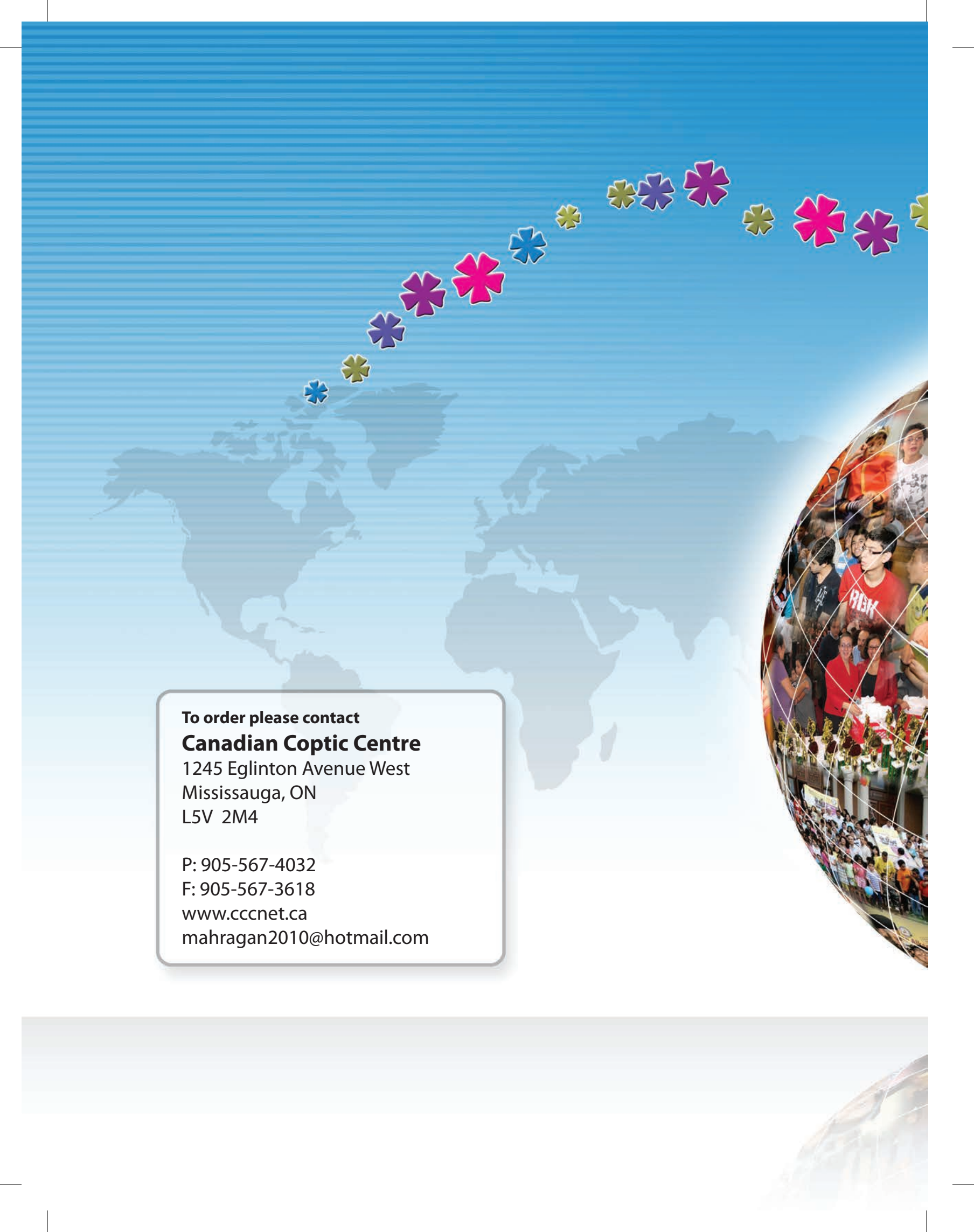
1. Each team consists of 3 players and 1 optional substitute.
2. Each team will play a "singles" game followed by a "doubles" game. Should there be a tie, another singles game will be played.
3. Each game will consist of 3 sets. The winner of 2 sets (for the singles or the doubles) wins the game.
4. No player is allowed to play more than one "singles" game.
5. The team winning 2 out of 3 games is the winner.
6. Each team is allowed only one time-out.

Chess (for Grades 5&6 only)

1. Each team can consist of 2 or 3 players and 1 optional substitute.
2. The team that wins 2 out of 3 games is the winner.
3. Each player should only play one game. The only exception is when the team consists of only 2 players; in this case the player who plays the first game can play the third game if required.







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