

LESSON 1

Church: The People Chosen by God

I. Preface:

By calling Abraham, God chooses Israel as his own people. Similarly in the New Testament church is the community of people which God formed and made His own. Just as our forefathers responded to God's call through their faith and obedience, we being the children of the church, also must respond to this call. This lesson should be presented in such a way as the students would get this message.

II. Objectives of teaching this lesson:

1. Conviction

- By calling Abraham, God chooses Israel.
- Through the covenant on the Mount Sinai God made them His own people. In spite of their unfaithfulness God kept His promises.
- Church is the chosen people of the New Testament.
- Church is the assembly of people specially chosen by God in order to complete his salvific mission.
- In the Last Supper Jesus established the new covenant by transforming bread and wine into His own body and blood.
- Jesus sealed the covenant with His sacrificial death and resurrection.

2. Attitude

- Having received the call to the status of God's children through Jesus, we should realize His salvation and sonship in our lives.
- We should be proud that we have become the members of the church.

3. Resolution

- I will try to live in love, purity and innocence in the presence of God.
- I will actively participate in the activities of the church.

III. Teaching Aids:

The enlarged pictures given in the text book comparing the covenant in the Old Testament and the covenant in the New Testament, The Bible, The Documents of the Vatican Council, and 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' (Malayalam)

IV. Presenting the lesson:

Introduce the lesson through an activity of 'Find and Read': The teacher announces the verse numbers related to the choosing of Israel (Gen. 12: 1-2, 7, 8 & 15:6). The student who locates those verses first is asked to read out. Ask a few questions based on the passage and begin with the lesson.

a. Tell a story:

Narrate in the form of a story the history of Israel from the call of Abraham till the covenant on the Mount Sinai.

b. Explain the chart:

The Old Covenant The New Covenant & Israel & the Church

1. Liberation through Moses Liberation through Jesus
2. From the slavery of Egypt From the slavery of sin
3. Old Passover New Passover
4. The Blood of the Lamb The Blood of Jesus
5. To Canaan To the heavenly Jerusalem
6. Covenant on the Mount Sinai Covenant at the Last Supper
7. People led by Law People led by the Holy Spirit

V. Lesson-based activities:

a. Meditate up on the word of God:

Read Eph. 1:3-14 and meditate on it for a few moments.

b. Memorise a Verse:

By-heart Eph. 1:4 and write it on a chart paper to display in the class.

c. Let us pray:

Pray all together.

d. My Resolution:

After reading silently tell the resolution loudly.

e. Think with the church:

The objective of this section is to introduce the decree of the second Vatican Council. As far as possible try to read out excerpts from the decree itself.

f. Know the Mother Church:

This section is added to this lesson in order to make up for our inability to accommodate the history of the church. You may present this part by adding more details from 'Bharatha Sabha Charithram' by Rev. Dr. Xavier Koodapuzha, chapter 4.

g. Answers

1. Page 10
2. Page 11
3. Page 12
4. Page 13
5. Page 13

VI. Supplementary activities:

1. Write a poem or draw a picture expressing your sense of pride in being a member of the church.
2. Summarise the redemptive history of Israel.