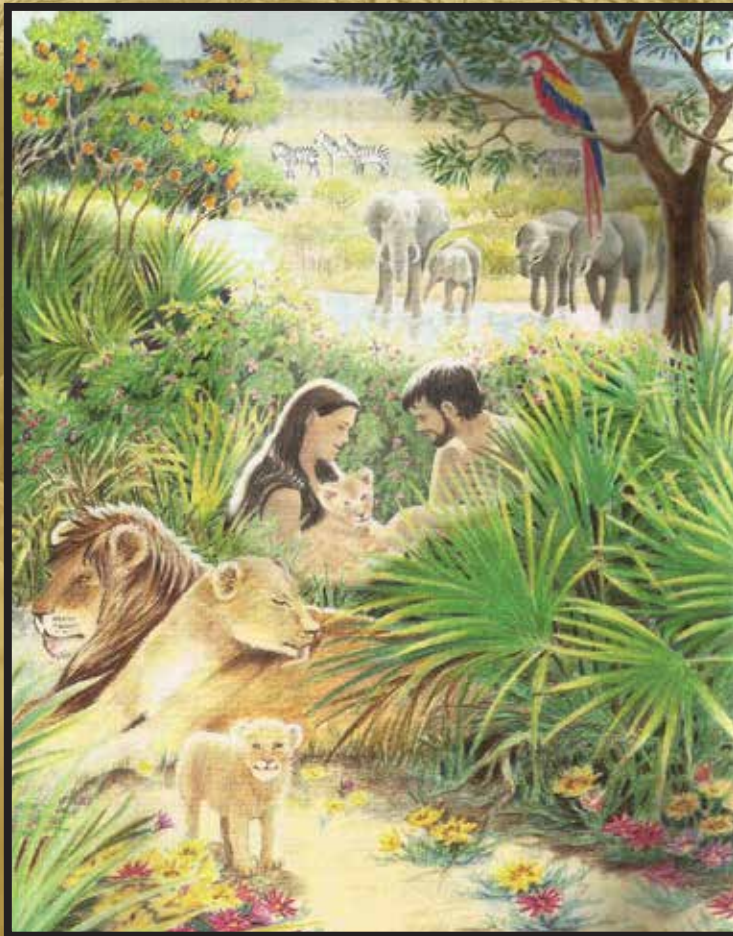


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Religious Education LEVEL 4

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UNIT 1: GOD'S GIFTS TO ME

1.1 How God created the world

Long ago, even before there was history, there was God. There has never been a time when He was not there. The Holy Bible tells us that there was nothing that was created before or without God. However, many people have different stories about how the world was created. But the true creation story is found in Genesis chapters 1-2.

However, despite the fact that every thing on earth and in the universe was created by God, there are also things that were created by man. Others are good while others are harmful to human life. For instance the landmines and the unexploded ordinances (UXOs) are some of the harmful things made by man. You should always report cases of landmines and unexploded ordinances to your cattle camp chiefs for proper action.

Reading from the Bible Genesis chapters 1-2, you can see the chronological sequence in the God's art of creation.

He first created the world with no shape and total darkness. So God separated the darkness from the light. He called the light **day** and the darkness **night**. This marked God's work on the first day.

Then on the second day, God made the **sky** like a great dome to separate the **water** under it from the sky above the water.

Then God commanded the waters below the sky to come together, and the land appeared. The dry land that appeared God called it **earth** and the waters gathered together and He called it **seas**. So God was happy of what He had created and He ordered "Let the earth produce all kinds of **plants** that bear grains and that bear fruits." This marked the end of day three.

Next God ordered shining objects to appear in the sky. They were to give light to the earth and to mark the years, the seasons and days. The two larger lights He named them sun and moon. The **sun** was to shine during the day and the **moon** during the night. The other small lights are the **stars** and they also shine during the night. This took place during the fourth day.

When God created all these things, He was so happy of the beautiful creations, but there were no living creatures in the world. Therefore, on the fifth day, God created fish and birds. He put into water all kinds of creatures that live in it.

Then God said let the earth produce all sorts of animals, both wild and domestic, the smallest and the biggest. You can name some of the wild and domestic animals you know.

Then He said, "Now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small". This means God made human beings in his own image. So when one kills a fellow human being, he/she has killed God's image.

So, on the sixth day, God created **human beings**. He created them male and female. God blessed them and said, they must have many children so that they could grow and live all over the earth and look after it. They were to take care of the animals, the birds and the fish.

Thus the whole universe was created in six days. God had completed his beautiful work and on the seventh day He stopped working. On this day He rested and blessed this seventh day and set it apart as a day of rest. Since then the seventh day has been a special day of rest for people from their work and worship God on this day for the beautiful work He had done.

1.1 Qualities of people

From the first book of the Bible, which is *Genesis*, we have studied how God created the world and all the living things that are in it in six days. At the end of the sixth day, when God had created man and woman, it says: God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. *Gen 1:31*.

Activity

- Write down all the good qualities that you have seen in other people
- Compare your list with that of others.

So when you read *Gen 3:1-4*, this reminds us why we have good and bad qualities. This is simply because of the sin committed by the two grandparents of mankind Adam and Eve. But then the Bible tells us to repent to be forgiven of all the sins we have committed and believe and trust in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, in this unit we are going to look at some of the good qualities God has given us such as:

Love

All of the good qualities in human beings come from God. In which love is one of the most important gift to all mankind. First, let us think of the love that parents have for their children.

How would we have got on when we were small without our mothers' love?

An illustration of a mother breast feeding her baby in love



We love others because God loved us. If we say that we love God, but hate our brothers and sisters, we are liars. For people cannot love God, whom they have not seen, if they do not love their brothers and sister, whom they have seen. The command that Christ has given us is this: all who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Here, the mention of your brother and sister does not necessarily mean people you are born of the same parents, but all human beings are your brothers and sisters. 1 John 4: 19-21.

Peace

Most people desire to live at peace with their neighbors. This desire is one of the good qualities God has given us. Jesus said: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Mathew 5:9.

The apostles worked in harmony with one another, and this is a good example to us. In Galatians 2:8-10 we read Paul's words: for by God's power I was made an apostle to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the task of preaching the gospel to the Jews.

Courage

Courage is not the same as doing silly things or taking unnecessary risks. It means being brave when there is danger, even though we may feel afraid inside. For example, it would be foolish to swim in a fast-flowing flooded river, but if your small brother or sister was inside a burning house it would be very courageous to try to enter that house to rescue him/her. But Jesus immediately said to them "take courage! It is I don't be afraid" Mathew 14:27

Honesty

God is very serious about wanting us to be honest. This is what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 5:9-11.

A truthful witness gives honest testimony but a false witness tells lies. Proverbs 12:17

In the letter I wrote you I told you not to associate with immoral people. Now I did not mean pagans who are immoral or greedy or are thieves or who worship idols. To avoid them you would have to get out of the world completely. 2 Kings 12:15

1.1 Good qualities of human beings (I Corinthians 12:27-28)

Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers then the workers of miracles, also those having the gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Therefore, these good qualities are:

1. Teaching
2. Performing miracles.
3. Gift of healing
4. Gift of administration
5. Gift of helping others.

6. Gift of speech

The purpose of these gifts

1. To prepare God's people for service.
2. To unify the faith of God's people.
3. To mature the people spiritually.
4. To protect the people against false doctrine.
5. To protect God's people from sicknesses.

1.1 Using our abilities

God has given us all different abilities, which makes this world an exciting and interesting place to live in. just imagine what it would be like if we were all good at talking, but no one was good at drawing, singing, cooking or designing machinery! God has given us minds to think and to learn and to enrich each other's lives by using our abilities as well as we can.

Activity

What abilities has God given you?

Think of many abilities that you have and discuss them with your class.

UNIT 2: CREATION

2.1 Stories of creations in South Sudan

Most people who have been taught about the Bible accept the description of the creation story in *Genesis* as fact and they believe in it.

We have also read how some people called Scientists believe that human beings developed over millions of years from creatures that were not completely human. To them, we are only animals.

The scientists have no proof of their argument. That is why they came out the **theory of evolution**.

A theory is an idea that has not been proved. The fact is that there is someone who created the world and all that is in it. Of course, that someone is God.

Therefore, in the olden days countries surrounding Israel have their own creation stories too, which were similar to those of Israel. We in Africa have our stories of how the world came into existence.

In all these many stories obtained from different regions of the world have a lot of similarities, but the common thing in all of them is the belief that there is a supernatural power who controls the world.

All agreed that, supernatural power is God who knows what people do. But the understanding of that God differs from one ethnic group to the other.

In South Sudan, it is said that: When God had finished creating all things, he then stated to create the first man and woman out of the clay. He took clay the same way potters get clay to make a pot.

Because God made the first man and woman from clay, He was very close to them. He supplied them with every things they needed and even the knowledge of how to live. At the same time they were intended to live forever.

For this reason, God gave them three major gifts. The first gift was the gift of immortality, which is the gift of living forever. This means that death would not come near or touch them.

The second gift was the gift of getting younger again when old. This means when one got very old he/she could go to God and ask to become young again.

The third gift was that of resurrection. When in old age one did not want to become young again, then he/she could be allowed to die. But even when they died they would rise and live again.

These three gifts all had conditions attached to them. For people to live forever or to resurrect, they should not entertain or give shelter to death. God hunted death whenever it appeared. But one day a certain woman went to work in the garden. While she was busy weeding her garden death appeared suddenly. It seemed God was chasing death and when it reached the woman it asked for protection. The woman immediately agreed and allowed death to hide under her clothes. When God arrived, He asked the woman whether she had seen death. The woman denied that she had seen it. But, since God knows all things, he found out that the woman had hidden death. God then decreed/declared that people could keep death with them thereafter.

This is just one of the stories about creations, you can find out from your communities what people in your community know about the creation story of the world.

2.2 How we make use of God's creations

God did not stop work when he created the world. He continues to create through the hands of the human beings. The towns and cities we live in today are God's creation through human knowledge and skill. Today there are many beautiful houses built by human beings. There are tall buildings in the big cities of the world.

Therefore, God has given us so many skills and knowledge to proper use of his creations for instance the in the land there are so many minerals that we can extract for sale, we use the soils for growth of crops, the grass for grazing cattle, the rivers for getting fish to eat, the mountains for getting building materials and forests for getting timber for building also.

Read about 1 Kings 6 about how King Solomon built a temple in Jerusalem for worshipping God.

UNIT 3: JESUS CHRIST

3.1 The Sermon on the Mount

The gospel of Mathew records most of Jesus' powerful teachings. These teachings were collected and put under one title **The Sermon on the Mount**. Jerusalem is a hilly country, so it provided a good place for Jesus to stand or sit on a high place for everyone to see and hear him. Because Jesus came from God and is God, he always taught with authority and a large crowd eagerly listened to his teaching.

Jesus taught by examples and he wanted people to copy his example. He wanted his followers to live by the power of prayers. During that time the Pharisees had set rigid rules by which people were to live. But Jesus taught and showed that the life of his followers should portray God so that other people may believe in God. Read Mathew 5:1-48

True happiness

In his teaching, Jesus said that riches do not bring true happiness. Many people think that when one is rich and powerful he/she will be happy. A rich man/woman thinks he/she can command the respect of the people. Around us there are many rich people, but they are not happy at all. They have sleepless nights thinking about how to get richer because what they have does not satisfy them. Always, rich people want a little more while those who are not rich are contented with what they have. Sometimes the rich people even put away God from their lives and try to depend on their material things. People with many cows keep on thinking whether their cows will be stolen.

But Jesus taught that those who know that they are spiritually poor find true happiness because they rely on God in all that they do. Also those who are humble and live according to the rules of God find true happiness.

3.2 Christian values of peace and contentment

Practicing Christian values of peace

The word peace is found in both the Old and the New Testament. As we have studied in level 3, the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. So, in the original language of Old Testament, the word peace (Shalom in Hebrew) has a wider meaning than that which people associate with today. In the Old Testament, the word has a range of ideas, which include completeness, wholeness and well-being. The greeting salaam people greet each other with both an inquiry and a wish for a person's wellbeing.

In the Old Testament, peace is a state of well being which includes good health, prosperity, good relationships, living in harmony with all God's creation, and security. When you pray to God for peace upon an individual, a nation or church, it means you are praying for a wide range of God's blessings. For instance look at David's prayer for peace of Jerusalem in Psalms 122:6-9 includes the people living in that area.

"May those who love you prosper. May there be peace in your walls and safety in your palaces. For the sake of my relatives and friends I say to Jerusalem, "Peace be with you!" for the sake of the house of the Lord our God I pray for your prosperity."

Sin causes God's anger

When people sin they bring God's anger upon them. They lose fellowship they had with God. God's anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known Romans 1:18. So people have to reconcile to God so that the state of hostility they are in can be ended and a new state of peace is attained.

Peace is linked with the blessing of God. At the birth of Jesus, the angels sang and prayed that peace should prevail on earth among those with whom he is pleased. This is because Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He brought an everlasting peace, which is available to all people, and it will reach its climax at the end of the world.

Wars in the world

Many wars have been fought in the history of the world we live in. some of these wars have been very fierce and others not that serious but all the same many lives were lost. Two great world wars were fought this century and so many lives were lost. The Second World War was the most devastating war ever fought in recent history. Countries fight each other because of greed. Each country wants to have more territory and so this always leads to war. When you do not know God, you become greedy and a friend of Satan.

Civil war

In our country, several wars were fought and the recent one has been the two civil wars between the Sudan and South Sudan. The Any-Nya war was fought for 17 years before the church intervened and negotiated peace between the warring parties. In 1972 a peace deal was reached and the civil war stopped. The church was the peacemaker. In family or tribal fights there are some people who act as peacemakers.

Those people always intervene to settle disputes between individuals or tribes

An illustration of a man separating two people fighting



Peacemakers always find themselves in awkward and hostile situations and many peacemakers are killed in the process of restoring peace in the community, family or nation.

3.3 Contentment

Everybody has to be contented with what he he/she has. When John the Baptist preached to the people in the territory of Judea, many people of different backgrounds came to listen to him. He preached to them according to their situation.

To the tax collectors he said, "Do not take more than is legal." He said this because at that time the tax collectors were taking more money from the people than what they gave to the government. Even though the government set a standard amount of tax, those collecting the money could double that amount. They gave the government what was legally required and kept the balance for themselves. This is what is known as corruption.

An illustration of soldiers getting money from travelers by force



Rough soldiers

In many countries, soldiers are very rude. They take things from people by force. Probably the money they get as salary is not enough so they need to find some extra money from somewhere. In other countries, soldiers are not paid at all or if they are paid, it takes several months for them to receive their salary. This leads them to steal or rob things from the citizens.

Therefore, to be contented with what you have is a Christian value. If you are contented with what the number of domestic animals you have, God will bless them and they will not get finish. But if you acquire more cows through raiding from other people in order to have more, God will not bless them. You should work hard to get what you want rather than stealing from someone. Be contented with what you have.

Contentment means to feel satisfied with what you have.

3.4 Murder

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago. Do not murder and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment. But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his or her neighbor will be subject to judgment. But anyone who says to his brother Raca is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says you fool will be in danger of the fire and of the hell.

The murders will not inherit the Kingdom of God therefore Jesus teach the believers to refrain from murdering to inherit the Kingdom of God and God be with them.

3.5 Revenge

You have heard that it was said, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but I tell, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him your left cheek. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well, if someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

When we are wronged often our first reaction is to get even, instead Jesus said we should do good to those who wrong us. Our desire should not be to keep score, but to love and forgive. This is not super-natured and only God can give us the strength to love like he does. Therefore, if someone robbed your animals do not go and rob his also.

3.6 Suffering for the truth

In John chapters 15 and 16, Jesus warned his disciples that the world would not accept them because it had already rejected him.

"I have told you this so that you will not give up your faith. You will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time will come when anyone who kills you will think that by doing this he is serving God. People will do these things to you because they have not known either the Father or me." John 16:1-3

Since the time when Jesus lived on earth, many thousands of Christians have suffered torture and death because they followed Jesus Christ.

In the days of the Roman Empire, many Christians were torn apart by lions while the crowd watched and cheered. Hebrews 11:38 tells us that "The world was not worthy of them".

When the rulers of Russia were communists, it was forbidden for parents to teach their children about God. Teachers would sometimes trick small children into telling them what their parents had been saying to them at home. Children of Christians would be taken into government run orphanages and the parents sent to prison.

In Muslim countries, it is forbidden for Christians to preach to Muslims, or for Muslims to become Christians.

What about Christians in South Sudan? Do they have to suffer for the truth that Jesus is our savior? There are many non-Christians living in South Sudan who may try to persecute Christians. Keep your conscience clear, so that when you are insulted, those who speak evil of your good conduct as followers of Christ will be ashamed of what they say. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if this should be God's will than for doing evil 1 Peter 3:16-17.

UNIT: 4 THE BIBLE

4.1 Christian and traditional African practices

Biblical marriage

Read what the Bible says about marriage: Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to live alone. I will make a suitable companion to help him'. Then the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep, and while he was asleep, God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the flesh. He formed a woman out of the rib and brought her to him. Then the man said, "At last, here is one of my own kind-Bone taken from my bone, and flesh from my flesh. 'Woman' is her name because she was taken out of man."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one. "So they are no longer two, but one. No human being must separate, then what God has joint together." Genesis 2:21-24

A married woman is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives; but if he dies, then she is free from the law that bound her to him.

To all people, married and single, the apostle Paul writes: The body is not to be used for sexual immorality, but to serve the Lord. 1 Corinthians 6:15-16

Traditional marriage

The Bible does not give more details about marriage ceremonies or the bride price, although the bride price was there in the Old Testament. There are many cultural differences. What you see as Christian practices may only be western culture e.g. the bride wearing a white dress which is not African in nature. Traditionally, the white dress signified that the bride was a virgin, but it is always not true as it is something adapted from the western culture.

In the traditionally marriages, polygamous marriages are allowed though the Christian practices discourage it. A man is free to marry many wives so long he should care for all his wives and children. And the wives should continue to submit to their husband as the head of the household.

What might differ a lot with Christian marriage is the amount of bride price paid in the traditionally marriages, how it is performed differ a lot from the Christian one.

4.2 Moral values in the Christian life

In every religion there is a moral code, which is set to regulate the life and behavior of its members. Every individual is expected to live to that set standard. The same applies to the Christian religion. Christians are expected to live to a standard that shows that they are a people set aside. They are expected to follow the examples that Jesus has shown while he was on earth. In the Christian life, there are many moral values of behavior but we shall study a few of them only there such as:

Being merciful

Being merciful is one of the characteristics of God. We can see this characteristic of God through his son Jesus Christ. Jesus is God but he became man so that he can show the mercy of God towards us. During his lifetime, Jesus always showed mercy to the people. One example of this is found in Mathew 9:35-38.

God is merciful to those who do wrong or sin if they repent. God's children are therefore, expected to be merciful like the Father. They should give help to those who are disadvantaged. These are the orphans whose parents are dead, widows, the persecuted, those who are displaced and the poor. Jesus said you have to be very careful when you are giving this group of people something. Do not give to them in public and do not boast about it.

Trustworthy

To trust in any person means to rely on him and to have faith in him/her. In schools, learners trust their teachers. When the teacher is near, they do not fear anything, they feel safe. They also obey their teachers because the teachers give knowledge to them. Children trust their parents and have faith in them. When danger comes, a child runs to the mother or father for protection.

4.3 Patience

Patience is a quality that develops inside human beings. It is one of the qualities the Holy Spirit develops in the life of Christians. Patience is endurance and long suffering through trials. It is that character which develops in Christians when they learn to stay with people and things that annoy or test them.

Christians exercise patience through love, joy and forgiveness. Sometimes you can expect something or pray for it but it never comes, then you should not start to worry and be impatient. Ask God to give you patience.

Jesus is a good example of endurance and long-suffering. He endured the humiliation caused to him by his enemies. He was insulted, beaten and lastly killed. As children of God, you must be prepared to endure insults.

4.4 Honesty

Honesty is an attitude of trustworthiness. And it is being sincere to yourself and to anybody. People who lie to others, cheat others are always not honest.

For instance, when your parents send you to the nearby shop to buy a kilogram of sugar and you decided to buy $\frac{3}{4}$ and use part of the money for buying suits for yourself. Here if your parents ask you why the sugar looks less than 1 kilogram and you insist that it is a full kilogram. You are a disobedient child who is not honest.

4.5 Love

Like honesty, love is an attitude of kindness towards others whether friends or enemies. Parents love their children and look after them very well. They bring them up to grow into responsible people in the future.

God is our Father and as a father he loves us. The love He has for us originates from his own will. This means, He loves us because He chooses to love us not because we deserve his love. The love God for us is seen through Jesus Christ. Throughout his life, Jesus did many good things. He taught people about God and his love to the people in the world. He helped those in need; he fed the hungry and healed the sick. All these Jesus did free of charge; he did not take any money from the people.

Jesus also did relieve mankind from the burden of keeping the Ten Commandments by summarizing them into a few of them as:

The first commandment: "Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with your entire mind and with all your strength".

The second most important commandment is: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Mark 12:30-31.

4.6 Thanksgiving and celebrations

All of us have many things to be thankful for. Take a few minutes now to list the things God has done for you. Read Psalms 34:1-2

Both Christians and traditional religions have times of special thanksgiving and celebrations. In some communities there special ceremonies for thanksgiving formed after harvest of grains. For example among the Avokaya, a woman does not eat in her husband's house for the first one year of marriage. She had to plant and harvest her own grains and then a thanksgiving feast is held to allow her to eat in her husband's home. Among the Dinka, the period from October to December is the time for conducting marriages. It is also the time for youth dances and initiation ceremonies.

Christians bring some of their harvest to the church for an annual special harvest festival service. The gifts are then shared with the poor. It is good to be happy, and especially good to be thankful to God. Proverbs 17:22 tells us, "Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time".

Everyone is very happy when a child is born. In traditional society, a feast may be held when a child is named. In the church, a special service may be held to dedicate that child to the Lord, and pray for the parents as they seek to bring the child up in a godly way.

In some churches, children are baptized even one they are too young while others wait for the children to decide for themselves. In churches that practice baptism of children, there is a later occasion called confirmation when after receiving instruction from the catechism, believers are confirmed.

UNIT 5: THE CHURCH

1.1 The church and social welfare.

The Christian church started in Jerusalem and it spread to the whole world. At the beginning, when the disciples were living together, they shared their belongings. Each person brought what he or she had so that it could be shared in common. But the idea of bringing all belongings together for common use extended to more than that. This marked the beginning of social welfare in the church.

The world we are living in today is characterized by some disasters and wars that have resulted to having so many disadvantaged people. Everywhere, there are many people who are suffering in one way or another. Civil wars in different countries have forced many people to flee their own countries to take refuge in other countries.

Many people have lost their parents, friends and loved ones. In some families the children are left without an adult to look after them. The killer disease known as HIV AIDS is another threat to the population of the world. Before dying the HIV AIDS victims suffer for a period of time and during this period they are distressed and are weak in body and spirit. All these catastrophes need care and counseling. Without care and counseling they will die quickly.

1.2 Education and development

Education is said to be the backbone of a country. In many countries education is left entirely in the hands of the government. In other countries education is privatized and the role of the government is only to develop a uniform curriculum for the schools.

Education

Education has its origin in the Old Testament. During that time it was only the law of God which was taught to the people and that formed the basis of education. The religious and the civil leaders were given the responsibility of teaching the law to the people. "You should teach them God's commands and explain to them how they

New Testament Education

We can also see that there were schools during the New Testament period. Paul, the great apostle, was a much learnt man. He was fluent in written and spoken Hebrew and Greek. Gamaliel who was a great teacher taught Paul law in Jerusalem. Technical schools also existed at that time where several trade skills were taught. Paul chose to learn the business of tent making. Acts 18:3

Girl education in the Bible

And it shall come to pass in the last days says God. That I will pour out my spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions. Your old men shall dream dreams. Acts 2:7

Mission school

In South Sudan, the church is involved in education. Before Sudan became an independent nation, all the schools in the South were in the hands of the missionaries, so the catholic and the protestant churches all were involved in education.

Name some of the schools in your state built by the church?

Development

The church is also involved in development programmes. After the first civil war, the Sudan Council of Churches began rehabilitating the returnees and then eventually embarked on development programmes. This is also true with Sudan aid, a catholic organization. These two organizations were established by the Sudanese. But each church has its own developmental programmes. For example the Episcopal Church of Sudan established a department of Relief and Development. They initiated projects that can make the church support itself.

1.1 Caring for people with special needs

In any society there are people who are disadvantaged. This is not an exception in our country. The war has displaced many people internally and others have sought refuge in the neighbouring countries. These people need attention and care. Before the on-going war, each tribe in South Sudan had a community support system that cared for the bereaved, orphans, widows and lonely people.

When a person dies, there were people to console the bereaved and relatives were ready to care for the orphans. But now due to the war, the system has collapsed. The disadvantaged persons have nowhere to turn to for counseling except the church.

1.2 Qualities of happy family life.

We live in a time when family life has been disrupted by war, leaving many widows and orphans in our communities. Many homes are missing the father who has gone to fight or to work or study. Society is changing, and many women are now taking up careers. Children are sometimes sent to other areas, or even to refugee camps for schooling. How is it possible then to have a happy family life in the midst of all these?

The qualities of happy family life are derived from the responsibilities assigned to each family member as follows:

- **A husband's duties**

God has given husbands and fathers the role and the responsibility of being the head of their families.

God wants our homes to be orderly.

Children need a stable environment in order to feel secure and they need to be properly taught, supervised and disciplined when they are young so that they will know what is expected of them.

Children must also be encouraged to ask questions and to join in times of family prayer and worship.

The wife and husband should not rust in to marriage; they must develop a strong friendship with each other.

Parents should avoid quarreling in front of their children.

Husbands and wives must ensure that marriage gives friendship and companionship that should last throughout one's life.

Husband and wife should learn to do things together. They should be able to discuss a variety of issues and be able to welcome visitors. They should respect one another.

- **Children's duties**

Children must obey their parents in the Lord. They must respect their parents and try to talk with them about things that they want to do.

UNIT 6: DISCIPLESHIP

1.1 Qualities of disciples

A disciple is one who follows and learns from someone else. The idea of people spending all their time with a teacher, moving around with him/her, listening to him/her and asking questions, is not part of our culture. But in ancient Greece there were many philosophers who searched for truth through reasoning and argument. They had disciples who day after day debated with them. In the New Testament, both John the Baptist and Jesus had disciples, and from Jesus' disciples he chose the twelve who would become apostles.

Thus in brief were the qualities of the disciples of Jesus Christ

- **The desire to learn**

Jesus chose the disciples to follow him. These were not leaders of the Jews, or educated men, but Jesus knew their hearts and he knew what they would become. The first men he chose were fishermen, as we read in Mathew 4:18-22. He taught them a lot of parables. In John 6, Jesus taught the people that he is the bread of life, and that the bread that he would give was his flesh. By this he meant that his sacrifice of his body on the cross would be what would save us.

Many of his followers heard this and said, "This teaching is too hard. Who can listen to it?" and they turned back from following him. Then Jesus asked his twelve disciples, "And you-would you also like to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom we would go? You have the words that give eternal life. And now we believe and know that you are the Holy one who has come from God." John 6:60, 66-69.

- **Loyalty**

Before Jesus began his own teaching, John the Baptist preached that it was necessary to repent in order to see the kingdom of God. People were attracted to his teaching and started to follow him. They became his disciples. But John's aim was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. He wanted people to hear Jesus with hearts and minds that were not darkened by sin.

When Jesus and his disciples started to baptize those who wanted to show that they had turned to God for forgiveness, some of John's disciples started to protest. "Everyone is going to him!" they said. John 3:26b. John's reply was a great challenge to us, "He must become more important while I become less important." John 3:30

In this case, John's disciples showed the good quality of being loyal to their teacher, but they did not yet understand that Jesus and the word of God demand our complete loyalty.

- **Humility and service**

Proverbs 18:12 tells us, No one is respected unless he is humble; arrogant people are on the way to ruin.

"I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You then should wash one another's feet." The example that Jesus set was one of humility, of being willing to do the work of someone else. Remember that all people are equal in God's sight- boys and girls, men and women, slaves and free, Jews and Greeks-all are one in Christ Jesus.

Another aspect of service is being obedient to those who have authority over us. There are different ways in which we can obey- we can be either cheerful or unhappy about doing the job we have been asked to do. Which attitude would be more likely to lead a non-believer to want to follow Christ?

- **Willingness to give your life for Christ**

As we have learnt in unit 3, Christians are called to follow the examples of Christ, and that may involve suffering and even death. Just before Jesus was arrested, he prayed to his Heavenly Father for his disciples. We can read all of this prayer in John 17. We see that after Jesus had ascended to heaven, his disciples met a lot of challenges because of following him. Most of them were persecuted, killed, tortured and exiled to other countries. But one of the most encouraging facts is that they did not stop preaching the gospel.

1.1 Obeying commandments

The word commandment is used in many ways in the Bible. In general it means instructions, whether it is given by God, civil authority, teachers or parents. Usually, it is used for the written word of God. But more especially it is used to mean the laws of God given through Moses to the Israelites at Mount Sinai.

The call of Abraham

God chose Abraham and called him from among his people to go to a new land. There God made a relationship with Abraham. This relationship is called a covenant. God promised to make Abraham's descendants a great nation and to give them the land of Canaan as their land. Many years after the death of Abraham, God kept his promise to Abraham. Abraham's descendants increased in number despite the fact the Israelites were made to live in Egypt as slaves God still delivered them from slavery by entering them into another covenant through following the ten commandments. Since then the Israelites occupied the land promised to them by God as their grandparents obeyed the Ten Commandments.

Authority

In any nation there is a recognized authority known as the government. All the citizens of that nation are expected to respect that authority and its laws. If anyone disobeys the law of that country that person is liable for punishment. We must know that God is the source of all authority and governments exercise power by his permission. Romans 13: 1-7

Roles of Christians towards state authority

"Everyone must obey state authorities, because no authority exists without God's permission, and the existing authorities have been put there by God. Whoever opposes the existing authority opposes what God has ordered, and anyone who does so will bring judgment on himself/herself. Therefore, people in authority are God's servants they are working for God; pay them what so ever they asked from you particularly taxes.

Taxes

Payment of taxes came into existence since during the time Jesus was still on earth. The Jews were ruled by the Romans' so there were so many taxes that the Jews had to pay to the Roman government. Just because the Jews elders were against Jesus so they planned to trap Jesus and asked him: we pay taxes to God and to the Roman government. But don't you thing that it is against our law to pay taxes to the Roman government? Just give an answer for that."

Jesus knew what evil thoughts and plans those people had and so he answered them, "Why do you want to trap me? Please show me the coin for paying tax." One of them put his hand into his pocket and produced the coin and showed it to Jesus. Jesus looked at them and showed the coin to them and asked, "Whose face and name are these?" And all of them answered, "The name and the face is that of the Roman governor." Then Jesus replied them, "Duty to God and duty to the civil government are not in conflict. Each person owes to God and to the government a debt for the services and benefits they receive. You must give to God what is supposed to belong to God and give the government what is due to it. Do not mix the two or confuse them."

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of everyone to obey all the rules that a government sets to control the lives of its citizens. It is because God who has established the rule in human society. But people in authority may issue commands which are contrary to the authority God has given them. For instance, the authority issued by the king that led Daniel to be thrown into the den of lions.

Right of protesting

Citizens of any nation have the right to protest or reject any law which does not favour them. For example laws that hinder citizens from having the right to communication, expression and associations are some of the regulations that citizens can protest against them to be changed.

Children's duties

In the family, children are to obey their parents. This is stated in the Law of Moses. When you respect your father and mother, God will be happy with you and He will let you live longer in the world. It is your parents who bore you. They looked after you when you were very young and brought you up. They made you go to school, bought you clothes and gave you food. The mention of parents here does not necessarily mean those who gave birth to you, but anyone older than you, perhaps the age of your father or older. As a Christian, you should respect your parents in Christ. Respect to parents is included in the Ten Commandments.

Standard behavior

God's command was given to show the standard of behavior He requires from his people. His commandments are the same for every group of people. The commandments do not favour the upper class, as some worldly laws do, but guarantee a fair hearing for all people. It is a Christian's duty to obey the commandments of God and to obey the government.

UNIT 7: THE HOLY SPIRIT

How does the Holy Spirit work in the lives of believers?

You have learnt that the Holy Spirit will give you a joy that will remain in you no matter what is happening. Perhaps that sounds impossible.

Jesus one time told his disciples that there will be times when you will not be able to smile.

"The world will make you suffer. But be brave! I have defeated the world!"

There is a difference between what we call happiness, and the joy that God gives us through his Holy Spirit. Happiness is a feeling of pleasure, and joy is extreme gladness. You might feel happy, or pleased, when someone gives you a gift. It is a feeling that lasts for a short time. But when you think that God loves you, do you feel pleased, or is a deeper feeling of gladness that stays with you?

In the book of James 1:5 it says:

But if any of you lack wisdom, you should pray to God, who will give it to you; because God gives generously and graciously to all.

We need God's wisdom because by ourselves we are not able to live peacefully with others. We are not able to love those who make life difficult for us unless we ask God to fill us with his holy spirit. When we try to please God we will find that life will be easy for us.

The Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self control in our lives. Galatians 5: 22-23

Problems faced by young people

Parents

Some of you have Christian parents who give you a good example of how to live and how to relate to one another in a way that shows respect for others to feel. But in other homes, exchanges like the following might be common:

Wife

Why do you call me lazy? While you have been drinking your money away, I had to go and search for food. Why don't you give me money? You spend it all on alcohol. How can I feed your children when you waste what you have? Do you think the shopkeepers will go on giving credit? I have to go to different ones all the time, far away ones who don't know that you never pay your debts.

One thing you can do is think about a long-term solution, not just an immediate one to some of these problems facing young people in your area.

Desire for independence

Being poor bring pressures on everyone. Parents can feel ashamed that they cannot provide properly for their family. Children can become discontented and rebellious. Teenagers need good feeding so that they can look good and feel fresh. They needed good dresses to look good. They too need luxurious things like bicycles, motorcycles, radios and mobile phones. Failure to acquire these things from the parents some children might think of moving away from home to lead an independent live.

You can help to keep the peace in your home by not demanding impossible things. The Lord does understand our feelings and knows our needs.

Peer pressure

Learning to be an independent adult can strain relationships in the family and with the peers. Not everyone has the same ideas of what is acceptable.

Being a Christian is not a series of Don'ts. Don't drink! Don't smoke! Don't have sex before marriage! Instead, it is living a full life, enjoying the company of others, and inviting others to come and learn about Jesus too.

In John 10:10 Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life-life in all its fullness." Because of Jesus' great love for us, we will want to please him in what we do. We will not want to be ashamed when we stand before him.



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