

MASENO SCHOOL

CRE DEPARTMENT

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FORM TWO NOTES

TEACHER'S NAME:.....

OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT MESSIAH

- The messiah was a title that was used to refer to the anointed one of God who is Jesus.
- A prophecy refers to a prediction of what is to happen in future
- In the old testament, there were many Messianic prophecies that talked about the coming of a Messiah
- The messianic prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus Christ

ISAIAH'S PROPHECY ABOUT THE MESSIAH

Isaiah 7:10-14, 9:1-7

- ✓ The messiah would be David's descendant/ rule on David throne
- ✓ He would rule forever
- ✓ He would be born of a young woman/ virgin
- ✓ His rule/ reign would bring happiness/ joy to the Israelites
- ✓ Peace and prosperity would prevail during his reign
- ✓ He would rule with justice and righteousness

Isaiah 61:1-2

- He has the spirit of God/ filled with the holy spirit
- He has been anointed by God.
- He has been sent to preach the good news to the poor.
- Been sent to bind up the heart broken
- To bring liberty/bring freedom to the captives.
- He has been sent to proclaim the year of favor from God.

Isaiah (Isaiah 9:6, 7:14)

The king would have super natural titles e.g.

- wonderful counselor,
- mighty God,
- Everlasting father and
- prince of peace.
- Immanuel

Micah's prophesy (5:1-5)

His prophesy focuses on a small town called Bethlehem where messiah was born. He says the following about the messiah:

- He would be born in Bethlehem, David's birth place.
- He would lead his people with authority and strength from God.
- He would bring peace in Israel.
- He will rule over the land
- His origin is from the old/ ancient days
- He will be born of a woman
- He will lead his flock/shepherd
- In his time, Israel will be secure
- He shall be great to the ends of the earth
- Israel will have victory over her enemies during his rule

Psalms 41:9

- The messiah would be betrayed by his closest friend whom he trusted
- He would rule from Zion
- He would be honored by God and rule as his representative on earth
- The messiah would enjoy God's protection and victory over his enemies

Nathan's prophecy (2 Samuel 7:3-17)

- God would raise an heir from David's lineage who would always rise up.
- His kingdom would last forever hence will have no end.
- The king would deliver the people of Israel from their enemies.
- He would keep the kingdom strong for David's son.
- God would always support such a king.
- His kingdom would be great.
- God would make his kingdom strong.

Jeremiah's prophecy (23:5-6)

- The king would rule wisely.
- He would be righteous
- He would reign as a king.
- He would come from the house of David
- The king would do what is right and just/ he would execute justice.
- He would save Judah from her enemies/he would bring salvation upon Judah.
- He would be called the lord.
- He would ensure that Israel live in peace/provide safety/security in Israel.

Isaiah's prophecy about the suffering servant (Isaiah 53)

- He identifies Jesus as the suffering servant because it is through him that salvation would be found.

His main ideas concerning the suffering servant

- The servant would be despised, ignored and rejected by many people.
- He would have nothing attractive.
- He would be an ordinary and simple man.
- He would be treated harshly, arrested and sentenced to death.
- He would succeed in his work and he will be highly honored.
- His success and honor will surprise many especially those who witness his suffering.
- His body would be buried with the bodies of rich men.
- He will endure all the suffering in humble and total silence.
- His suffering will bring salvation to mankind.
- His suffering will be the will of his father.
- Through his suffering, human beings are reconciled to God

The concept of the messiah in the New Testament (Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-23, 23:1-35, 24:50-51)

- The New Testament proves that Jesus was a promised messiah who was prophesized in the Old Testament.
- According to ST. Luke, Jesus was a descendant of David.
- The messiah would rule forever.
- He was born from a virgin from the city of David called Bethlehem.
- Through him, God brought salvation to mankind as he promised in the Old Testament.
- Jesus was rejected by his own people in Nazareth.
- He was the suffering servant of God.
- He accepted to be crucified.
- God's power was manifested in his life through the miracles he performed.
- Jesus was the son of God whose suffering and death was in accordance in God's will.
- Jesus was a humble messiah who came to establish God's kingdom in the world.
- According to Luke, messiah was a universal savior who did not come only to Jews but also for the gentiles.

The Jewish expectations of the messiah

- He would be a ruler from David's lineage/ royal/ rich family
- He would be a political leader and would overthrow the Roman rule
- He would convert Jerusalem to be the Centre of rules/ political Centre

- He would be a perfect ruler through whom they would receive God's blessing, joy and peace; no more suffering and death
- He would bring judgement to all the enemies of Israel
- He would be a ruler without sin and would not associate with the poor, sinners and gentiles/ non-Jews
- The messiah would strictly follow the law of Moses/ uphold Mosaic law
- He would conquer the enemies of Israel as a military ruler
- He would lead Israel into economic/ political prosperity
- He would come after the return of prophet Elijah
- The messiah was to rule the whole world
- He would perform miracles and mighty deeds
- The messiah was expected to make Judaism a superior religion/ uphold Judaism

How Jesus fulfilled the prophecies concerning the Messiah

- He was born in the lineage of David because Joseph came from David's lineage and this was the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy.
- Isaiah's prophecy of the virgin conception was fulfilled in angel Gabriel's message to Mary which said that she was going to conceive by the power of the holy spirit.
- He was born in Bethlehem, the small town of Judah thus fulfilling Micah's prophesying.
- He was referred by different titles as prophesized by Isaiah e.g. prince of peace.
- Isaiah's prophecy of a messiah who would bring salvation to the whole world was fulfilled when Jesus died on the cross in order to save man.
- When Jesus started his public ministry, he quoted Isaiah 61:1-2 to prove that he was the messiah whom Isaiah talked about.
- Psalmist's prophecy about the messiah who will be betrayed was fulfilled when Judas Iscariot betrayed him.
- Isaiah's prophecy that the messiah would be named Immanuel is fulfilled in Angel Gabriel's message to Joseph that Mary's son would be called Immanuel.
- Isaiah's prophecy of suffering servant was fulfilled by Jesus' death.
- Isaiah's prophecy about the messiah who would work miracles (Isaiah 29:19), was fulfilled when Jesus turned water into wine, raised the dead etc.
- Nathan's prophecy about the kingdom lasting forever was fulfilled by angel's message to Mary.

How Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy about the suffering servant (Isaiah 53)

- Jesus was despised and rejected by his own people.
- He was mocked and spat on.

- He was pierced and wounded in the sides
- He was crucified with thieves/ treated harshly
- His death on the cross brought victory which surprised many.
- He suffered innocently and was treated as a criminal.
- He underwent all the suffering in total silent.
- He was buried in a rich man's tomb.
- Through his words, many have been forgiven their sins.
- Through his suffering, God's everlasting kingdom was established on earth.

Role of John the Baptist as a link between the Old Testament and New Testament

The Old Testament prophet's e.g. Isaiah and Malachi prophesized that God would sent his messenger who will prepare the way for messiah.

The messenger was John the Baptist. Christians believe that God sent Elijah in the person of John.

John the Baptist had all the characteristics of Elijah i.e.:

- He appeared in the wilderness.
- He lived a simple life.
- He put on camel's skin.
- He ate locust and wild honey.
- He never shaved his hair.
- He had courage to face King Herod and condemned him for marrying his brother's wife, the way Elijah faced King Ahab.

How John prepared the way for the messiah

- He baptized Jesus in river Jordan.
- He advised people to live a holy life by doing what is right.
- He called people to repent their sins.
- He warned people against God's impending judgment.
- He baptized those who repented their sins.
- He introduces Jesus to the crowd; Jesus referred to John as the greatest of all the prophets
- He introduces Jesus to his disciples and even handed them over to him.
- He recognized Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.
- He made it clear that Jesus had come to start a new era of God's kingdom.

Challenges faced by John the Baptist during his ministry

- He preached in the wilderness which is very hostile
- He was imprisoned for challenging Herod's behavior
- Lived on locusts and honey in the wilderness
- He led a solitary life/ he did not marry hence had no family
- He was beheaded
- He was misunderstood to be the messiah (Luke 3:15)
- Had a challenge in identifying Jesus as the messiah (Luke 7:19-20)
- Pharisees and tax collectors rejected the baptism of John (Luke 7:30)
- He was falsely accused/ considered being demon possessed

THE INFANCY AND EARLY LIFE OF JESUS

THE ANNUNCIATION

- The annunciation is divided into two;
 - Annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist
 - Annunciation of the birth of Jesus Christ

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 1:5-25)

His birth was announced by Angel Gabriel. It was announced during the days of king Herod of Judah. It was announced to Zachariah who had married Elizabeth. Zachariah and Elizabeth never had a child and were righteous before the lord.

The Angel appeared to Zachariah while he was in the temple burning incense. The angel stood by the right side of the altar. At first, he was afraid but the Angel told him not to fear because his prayer had been heard. The angel told Zachariah that his wife would bear him a son called John meaning God's gracious.

The Angel stated important roles of him as follows:

- He would be great before God.
- He would be a source of joy to his parents
- Many people would rejoice at his birth
- He would not take strong drink/ wine
- He would reconcile the fathers and children/the disobedient to the wisdom of just.
- He would have power and spirit of Elijah.
- He would prepare the way for the lord/ call people to repent.
- He would be filled with Holy Spirit from his mother's womb.
- He would bring people back to God/ many Israelites would come to God through him.

Zachariah doubted the message and ask for a sign to show that all will happen because he and his wife were advanced in age.

Because of his doubt, Angel Gabriel gave him a sign where he would be dumb until the day the child would be born.

When he came out of the temple, he could not speak. The people who were waiting for him outside the temple realized that he had received a vision from God.

When the service was over, he went home. After sometime Elizabeth conceived and gave birth to John the Baptist.

Lessons Christians learn from the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist

- ✓ Christians should not doubt God's message because it can lead to punishment
- ✓ They should be persistent, faithful and patient in prayer
- ✓ Couples should be devoted to God the same way Zachariah and his wife were devoted to God
- ✓ Christians should call people to repentance as the mission of John the Baptist would be
- ✓ They learn that children are gifts from God
- ✓ They should have faith/ trust in God
- ✓ They learn that God has a purpose for their life

Lessons Christians learn from the lives of Zachariah and Elizabeth

- ✓ Christians should be righteous/ upright/ blameless
- ✓ They should obey God's commandments/ instructions
- ✓ They should be patient
- ✓ They should serve God faithfully/ with commitment
- ✓ They should be prayerful
- ✓ They should depend on God/ ask God for their needs
- ✓ They should believe in God's word
- ✓ They should thank God for his blessings
- ✓ They should praise/ worship the Lord
- ✓ They should desire to be led by the holy spirit
- ✓ They should rejoice at the blessings of others

Annunciation of the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38)

During the 6th month of Elizabeth pregnancy, Angel Gabriel was sent to Nazareth to a young virgin called Mary who was engaged to Joseph, a descendant of David.

At first, she was afraid but the Angel told him not to be afraid because she was highly favored among the women.

She had been chosen to be the mother of the son of the highest. She was told that she was

going to bear a son called Jesus meaning God saves.

The Angel Gabriel told Mary the role of the child which were as follows:

- He was going to be great.
- He would be given the throne of his father David
- He would reign over the house of Jacob forever.
- His kingdom would be everlasting.
- He would save people from sin.
- The child to be born would be holy

After this message, Mary wondered how this would happen since she did not have a husband. The Angel told her that she would conceive through the power of the Holy Spirit and the child would be holy. The Angel assured her that even her cousin Elizabeth who was barren had conceived.

She finally accepted the Angel's message and the Angel departed from her.

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

- ✓ In both, angel Gabriel announced their births
- ✓ In born, the unborn were male
- ✓ In both, the conception was through divine intervention
- ✓ In both, there was some element of doubt
- ✓ Zachariah and Mary were holy and God fearing
- ✓ Zechariah and Mary were both troubled and afraid
- ✓ In both, children were first born
- ✓ In both, the names of the children were given by angel Gabriel before birth
- ✓ In both, the mission of the children was given by the Angel

Differences between the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ

- ✓ John's birth was announced in the temple whereas Jesus' birth was announced to his mother at home
- ✓ The birth of John the Baptist was announced to his father while Jesus' birth was announced to his mother
- ✓ John the Baptist would be born through biological conception while Jesus' birth will be conceived by the holy spirit
- ✓ Zechariah doubted the angel's message due to old age while Mary doubted it because she was a virgin/ young woman

- ✓ Zachariah was given the sign of being dumb while Mary was given the sign of Elizabeth's pregnancy
- ✓ The angel announced that John will prepare the way for the coming of the messiah while Jesus was the messiah/ the lord who would rule forever

Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)

After the Angel's visit to Mary, she went to visit Elizabeth who was 6 months old pregnant by then. She entered Zachariah's home. She greeted Elizabeth.

As soon as Mary greeted her cousin, the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped with joy.

Elizabeth was filled with the holy spirit. Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry. She blessed Mary and the child in the womb. Elizabeth wondered why Mary the mother of the Lord has visited her.

Elizabeth informed Mary that the baby in her womb had leaped with joy in her greeting

After the greetings, Mary sang a song called **Magnificat**.

She highlighted the following messages in Magnificat:

- She glorified God for being mindful for the humble,
- She glorified God for doing mighty things for her.
- God's name is holy.
- She glorified God for extending his mercy for those who fear him.
- She glorified God for scattering the proud and exalting the humble.
- She glorified God for feeding the hungry with good things and sending the rich away empty.
- She glorified God for helping his servant Israel and having mercy to the people since time of Abraham.
 - Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months.

What the Magnificat reveals about the nature of God

- ✓ God is a savior because he remembers the lowly
- ✓ God is mighty because he scatters the proud/ do great things
- ✓ God is holy/ holy is His name
- ✓ God is merciful to those who fear him
- ✓ God is provider because he fills the hungry
- ✓ God is caring because he exalts the humble
- ✓ God is faithful because he keeps his promises
- ✓ He is kind/ helper to his servant Israel

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Luke 1:57-80)

When John was born, it was a great joy to his parents. Friends and relatives came to celebrate his birth. He was circumcised after eight days in accordance with the Jewish laws and traditions. During his naming, people thought he would be named Zachariah after his father in accordance to Jewish laws but Elizabeth insisted that the child should be named John. To confirm this, Zachariah wrote down the child's name as John and everyone was amazed. Immediately he wrote down the name, his tongue became loose and he was able to speak.

Zachariah was filled with a holy spirit and sung hymn (song) commonly known as **Benedictus**. In the first part of the song, he praises lord for the following:

- For redeeming his people in Israel.
- For rising up a horn of salvation from the house of David.
- For saving Israelites from their enemies.
- This event had been prophesied by the old prophets
- Promising to make a secret covenant with his people.

In second part, Zachariah prophecies the role of the child as follows:

- He would be called the prophet of the most high.
- He would prepare the way for the messiah.
- He would give people the knowledge of salvation.
- He would call people to repent their sins and seek forgiveness.
- He would give light to those in darkness.
- He would guide people into the way of peace.

The birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)

✓

The birth of Jesus took place in Bethlehem in Judea. He was born during the reign of Caesar Augustus. He was born during census.

Mary and Joseph were forced to go back to Bethlehem the birth place of Joseph so as to be counted.

✓ While in Bethlehem, time came for Mary to have a child. There was no place because all the rooms were booked.

The baby was born in a stable where Mary and Joseph had settled for the night.

✓ The baby was then wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

In the region nearby, there were shepherds who were looking after their flock at night. The Angel of the lord appeared to them.

✓ They were afraid but the Angel assured them not to be afraid because he had brought good news about the birth of the savior in the city of David. He gave them a sign where

they would find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.
Soon after this, a group of other angels appeared singing and praising God.

- ✓ When the angels left, the shepherds set and went to visit the baby. They found the baby laid in a manger as they had been told by the angel.
- ✓ They repeated what the angel had told them about the baby and those who heard were surprised. After seeing the baby, they returned singing and praising God for what they had heard and seen.

Activities that took place when Jesus was born (Luke 2:6-10)

- ✓ Mary, the mother of baby Jesus wrapped him in swaddling clothes
- ✓ She laid him in a manger
- ✓ Angel of the lord appeared singing the praise of God
- ✓ A multitude of angels appeared singing in the praise of God
- ✓ The shepherds hurried to see the baby
- ✓ The shepherds spread the news to many people
- ✓ The shepherds sung/ praise God after they had seen the baby
- ✓ The shepherds returned to their work/ homes

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

- ✓ They sing or listen to Christian songs and carols
- ✓ They attend Christmas worship service/ mass
- ✓ They partake the holy communion or Eucharist
- ✓ They exchange gifts and cards of good will
- ✓ They visit friends, relatives or invite them to their homes
- ✓ They decorate their homes or churches during Christmas
- ✓ They buy and wear new clothes during the Christmas season
- ✓ They prepare special dishes and serve drinks during Christmas
- ✓ Christians take rest from their normal duties to celebrate Christmas
- ✓ Some hold Christmas concerts and drama
- ✓ They watch movies or films that relate to the birth of Jesus
- ✓ They read Christmas stories from the bible
- ✓ They help the needy
- ✓ They repent and dedicate themselves to God

Virtues Christians acquire when celebrating the birth of Jesus

- ✓ Joy/ happiness
- ✓ Sharing/ generosity/ kindness/ charity
- ✓ Holiness/ righteousness/ purity

- ✓ Respect
- ✓ Humility
- ✓ Mercy/ compassion
- ✓ Co-operation/ unity
- ✓ Thankfulness/ gratitude
- ✓ Love
- ✓ Peace

1. **Dedication of Jesus (Luke 2:21-40)**

On the 8th day, Jesus was circumcised and given the name Jesus. According to Jewish custom, a woman was considered unclean after birth and was confined for thirty three days.

Mary therefore went to the temple for purification and dedication of the child. During purification and dedication ceremony, one was to offer a lamb one year old as a burnt offering.

Since Mary and Joseph were poor, they took with them two turtle doves. There were two people who resided in the temple to perform religious duties i.e. Prophet Simeon and prophetess Anna.

When Jesus was brought in the temple, Simeon took him and gave thanks and praise to God. He thanked God for keeping his promise and for giving him opportunity to see the savior hence he was ready to die. He blessed the parents of Jesus.

He prophesized the following concerning Jesus:

- Jesus would be the light and would reveal the will of God to Gentiles.
- He would bring universal peace to Jewish and Gentiles.
- He would bring glory to the people of Israel.
- He told his mother that the son is chosen for the fall and rising of many in Israel.
- The son is chosen by God to bring salvation to many in Israel.
- The sword will pierce the son and this would bring pain to him and his mother.
- He will be son of God whom many people would speak against.

There was an 84 years old prophetess named Anna who had been widowed for only 7 years after marriage. She had spent all her days in the temple praying and fasting to God.

She made the following prophecy concerning Jesus:

-That Jesus would deliver God chosen people from oppression.

NB: After dedication, the parents returned to their home village Nazareth in Galilee where baby Jesus grew in maturity and was filled with wisdom and God's favor.

Lessons Christians from the dedication of Jesus

- ✓ Christians should be righteous before God in order to experience him in their lives
- ✓ Christians should thank God for blessing them
- ✓ They should trust/ have faith in God
- ✓ Christians should reach out to all people/ preach salvation to them
- ✓ Christians should show compassion to the needy in the society
- ✓ They should be devoted in their worship of God regardless of the challenges they are facing
- ✓ Christian should dedicate their children to God/ fulfil the church obligation

The importance of singing in Christian service

- ✓ It is an opportunity to praise God
- ✓ Christians pass message/ pray through singing
- ✓ Singing creates an atmosphere for worshipers to relax
- ✓ It creates good atmosphere of worship
- ✓ Singing removes boredom because of the varied activities during the services
- ✓ God given talents are portrayed/ enhanced during singing
- ✓ Non-members are attracted to church through singing
- ✓ Those who feel depressed are encouraged through singing
- ✓ It unites/ brings worshippers together as they all join in chorus/ song

Ways that shows that Jesus came from a poor background from his early life

- ✓ His father was a poor carpenter
- ✓ His mother was an ordinary village girl
- ✓ He was born in manger/ cattle shed
- ✓ He was born in a small village of Judah/ Bethlehem
- ✓ The first people to see him were the shepherds who were lowly regarded
- ✓ During his dedication, the parents offered birds
- ✓ He was revealed to Simeon and Anna who were simple
- ✓ He grew up in Nazareth

The boy Jesus at the temple (Luke 2:41-52)

When Jesus was 12 years old he accompanied his parents to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When the festivity was over, they were to return home but Jesus decided to remain in the

temple. His parents realized that he was not with them after that day.

They began looking for him among their friends and relatives but all was in vain. Jesus was in the temple listening to the teachers of law and asking questions. All those who heard him were astonished at his intelligence.

His parents had looked for him for 3 days without success. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for him. When his parents saw him, they were astonished.

His mother asked him why he had caused them so much anxiety. Jesus answered them saying “Did you not know that I must be in my father’s house?”

Jesus wanted to show that he was fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi who foretold that “The lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple” (Malachi 3:1). The parents took him home where he grew up both in stature and wisdom.

Reasons why Mary took Jesus to the temple in his early life

1. To dedicate him to God
2. For her purification
3. To receive religious instructions
4. To expose Jesus to their religious faith
5. To observe the Passover festival
6. For his naming
7. For circumcision

Jewish traditions fulfilled in Jesus’ life

- ✓ He was circumcised on the 8th day
- ✓ He was named Jesus
- ✓ His mother was purified after his birth
- ✓ He was dedicated/ presented to God in the temple
- ✓ Parents offered a sacrifice of a pair of turtle doves/ two young pigeons
- ✓ He obeyed his parents
- ✓ Celebrated the Passover festival at the age 12

Qualities shown by Jesus when he accompanied his parents to the temple at the age of twelve years

- ✓ He was obedient
- ✓ He was courageous
- ✓ He was knowledgeable/ intelligent/ wise

- ✓ He was respectful
- ✓ He was cooperative
- ✓ He was patient
- ✓ He was honest
- ✓ He was social
- ✓ He was inquisitive
- ✓ He was assertive/ independent/ making independent decisions

Lessons Christians learn from the incident when Jesus was left behind by his parents in the temple

- ✓ Christians should involve their children in prayer/ worship of God
- ✓ Children should be taught the word of God/ the bible
- ✓ Children should obey their parents
- ✓ There should be communication among family members/ they should inform one another of their whereabouts
- ✓ Parents should be concerned with the whereabouts of their parents
- ✓ Christians should give clear instructions to their children in their daily activities
- ✓ Parents should love their parents
- ✓ They should accommodate the views of the youth
- ✓ They should exercise tolerance/ forgiveness

Ways in which parents develop their children's spiritual life

- ✓ By having the children baptized/ participate in the sacramental life of the church
- ✓ Leading a righteous life for the child to copy/ being good role models
- ✓ Taking children to church for dedication/ thanksgiving
- ✓ By allowing them to interact with others e.g. in Sunday school, church choir etc.
- ✓ By praying to God to guide the child
- ✓ By exposing the child to church activities
- ✓ By condemning the child's evil activities/ correcting them
- ✓ By offering counselling services on spiritual matters
- ✓ Teaching them to read the bible

Reasons why children should take part in church activities

- ✓ They are made in the image of God
- ✓ To follow the example of Christ who went to the temple
- ✓ To prepare them for future roles as leaders

- ✓ To teach them religious beliefs/ practices
- ✓ To lay a foundation for Christian morals at an early age
- ✓ Jesus taught that the kingdom belongs to them
- ✓ For the continued growth of the church
- ✓ To help develop/ improve their talents
- ✓ To give them an opportunity to socialize with others
- ✓ To help them spend their leisure time positively

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

- I. They should maintain the cleanliness in the places of worship
- II. They should observe silence in places of worship
- III. Christians dress in decent clothing as they go to places of worship
- IV. Order is maintained in places of worship e.g. only authorized people are allowed to make announcements
- V. Posters, notices, decorations and flowers are always put to remind people that they are in a sacred place
- VI. Constructing special places for worshipping God or dedicating them
- VII. Places of worship are treated with respect-in some cases, shoes are removed

THE GALILEAN MINISTRY

John the Baptist and Jesus Christ

PREACHING OF JOHN, THE BAPTIST

(LUKE 3:1-20)

John was commissioned by God while in the wilderness to start his work. He went through the whole of Jordan and surrounding region proclaiming the kingdom of God.

John the Baptist preached on the following:

1. He preached a baptism of repentance and forgiveness of sin.
He urges his listeners to confess their sins so that God may forgive those who accepted to be baptized in river Jordan.
2. He warned people about God's coming judgments
John urges the Jewish leaders as brood of vipers because they practiced hypocrisy in their worship. They stressed on the outward observance of the law rather than the inner righteousness. They assumed that since they were Abraham's descendants, God would

not punish them. John told them that God would bring judgments on them if they were not ready to change their wicked ways.

3. He announced the coming of the messiah as a judge
He informed people that the messiah would bring judgment upon Jewish who had ignored God's laws.
4. He preached on social justice and responsibility
Justice means fair dealing, that is, doing what is right and treating others as you would like them to treat you.
5. He emphasized on compassion-he encouraged the rich to share with the needy
6. He advised tax collectors not to collect more than expected/ not to steal.
7. He advised soldiers not to rob from others/ to be contented with their wages.
8. He advised soldiers not to accuse others falsely/ should be truthful.
9. He condemned King Herod's immoral act of marrying his brothers' wife, Herodias/ adulterous act.
10. He told people that the messiah who was to come after him was mightier/ he was unworthy to untie his sandals
11. He acknowledged the greatness of Jesus by telling people that he was baptizing them with water but the messiah would baptize them with fire.

Relevance of John's teachings to modern Christians

1. Christians should have compassion to others especially to the needy in the society.
2. Christians should not be afraid of condemning evil doings in the society.
3. They should repent their sins and seek forgiveness.
4. Christian leaders should advice their members to repent their sins as John did.
5. Christians should be fair and honest when dealing with others.
6. They should be contented with what they have and avoid robbing from others.
7. They should avoid being hypocritical life by pretending to be godly when they practice social injustice.
8. Christians should not bare false witness against others.
9. They should have good morals and avoid sexual immoralities.

Reasons why Christians find it hard to apply the teachings of John the Baptist in their lives

- I. They lack faith in God's word
- II. Division along tribal/ racial/ denominational lines affects unity among believers
- III. Inability to abandon the old previous life style
- IV. Negative attitude by the rich towards the poor/ needy
- V. Moral decay in the society
- VI. Some Christians lack what to share with others/ poverty

- VII. There is rampant corruption in the society
- VIII. The emergence of cult leaders/ false prophets in the society/ lack of role models
- IX. Some Christians lead hypocritical life
- X. Negative peer influence/ pressure

The baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:21-23)

- ✓ When Jesus was 30 years, he went to John the Baptist to get baptized in river Jordan.
- ✓ All the people had been baptized by John
- ✓ Jesus was also baptized
- ✓ Jesus then started praying
- ✓ The heaven opened
- ✓ The holy spirit descended upon Jesus in a bodily form of a dove
- ✓ Then a voice came from heaven
- ✓ Then it said “thou art my beloved son; with thee I am well pleased”

The significance of the voice from heaven

- ✓ The voice from heaven was a confirmation to Jesus that he was God’s son and God was with him and approved his mission
- ✓ The voice affirmed that he was the promised messiah
- ✓ The holy spirit would give him courage and guidance in what he was to do
- ✓ The holy spirit descended from heaven and anointed Jesus for the messianic mission

Reasons why Jesus was baptized yet sinless

1. He wanted to approve John’s ministry/work.
2. It was away of fulfilling Old Testament prophecy concerning messiah.
3. He wanted to identify himself with sinful mankind.
4. Baptism provided Jesus with opportunity to receive the Holy Spirit.
5. He meant his final acceptance of the work of salvation.
6. Baptizing marked the beginning of his public ministry.
7. Baptizing proved to the people that Jesus was the son of God whom he was pleased with.
8. He saw it as a way of fulfilling God’s plan of saving mankind.
9. To introduce him to the public as the messiah

Lessons Christians learn about Jesus from the incident when he was baptized

- ✓ Jesus is prayerful
- ✓ Jesus is obedient/ loyal to God

- ✓ Jesus has human nature
- ✓ Jesus is humble
- ✓ Jesus is son of God/ divine
- ✓ He is loved by God/ pleases God
- ✓ Jesus was filled with the holy spirit

Relevance/Importance of baptism to Christians today

1. Through baptism, Christians are brought together as members of the church of Christ.
2. Through baptism, Christians receive Holy Spirit who guides them in their lives.
3. Through baptism, Christians are given new names which symbolize a new life in Christ.
4. Through baptism, Christians become true children of God.
5. Baptism qualifies Christians to become full members of the church.
6. It increases the relationship between them and Jesus through strengthening their faith.
7. Through baptism, Christians are forgiven their sins.
8. Through baptism, Christians accept to die in Christ and resurrect in him.
9. Baptism prepares Christians for the kingdom of God.
10. It is a sign of new covenant with God
11. It symbolizes obedience to Jesus' teaching
12. Baptism is a symbol of forgiveness

Problems faced by new converts in the church today

- ✓ They are sometimes not fully accepted/ discriminated against
- ✓ The older Christians may not serve as role models
- ✓ They are not involved in the church activities/ not given responsibilities
- ✓ They are tempted to backslide to previous lifestyles
- ✓ Older Christians expect them to change faster than they can
- ✓ Some experience problems of communication/ language barrier
- ✓ They may lack Christian literature to strengthen their faith
- ✓ In large churches, they get lost in the crowd/ not identified/ not recognized
- ✓ The financial demand of the church may be too much for them
- ✓ Lack of assistance/ concern when a new member is in need
- ✓ Some get frustrated when their expectations are not met
- ✓ They are given/ assigned duties which they cannot manage
- ✓ They may be rebuked/ embarrassed in public when suspected to be wrong

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

- ✓ John the Baptist preached mainly in the wilderness/ the desert of Judah while Jesus preached in the synagogues/ homes/ cities/ towns

- ✓ John the Baptist called sinners for repentance while Jesus forgave sinners their sins
- ✓ John the Baptist baptized with water but Jesus baptized with the holy spirit
- ✓ John the Baptist lived the life of a Nazarite while Jesus mixed freely with all people
- ✓ The emphasis of John the Baptist preaching was in the promised messiah while that of Jesus was on the kingdom of God
- ✓ The messages of John the Baptist were direct whereas Jesus preached in parables
- ✓ While the disciples of John the Baptist fasted, the disciples of Jesus ate and drink
- ✓ John the Baptist did not perform miracles, but Jesus' ministry was full of miracles/ wonders

Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)

After baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days and nights. While in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted by devil three times.

After fasting, the devil knew that Jesus was hungry, so he told Jesus to turn stone into bread if he was the son of God. Jesus replied by saying "It is written that man shall not live on bread alone.

The devil took Jesus up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. He promised to give him the earthly kingdoms and his wealth, if only he would bow down and worship him. Jesus replied "You shall worship the lord your God and him only shall you serve. The devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of Jerusalem temple and told him to throw himself down for God would command his angels to guard him. Jesus replied, "You shall not tempt the lord your God.

After the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him for a while.

Relevance of Jesus' temptations to Christians

1. Christians must expect temptation, in their lives because Jesus was also tempted.
2. Christians should understand that temptation strengthens their faith the way it strengthens Jesus' faith.
3. Christians should not believe in earthly possessions but believe in God the way Jesus did.
4. Christians should seek for the Holy Spirit to enable them to overcome temptations.
5. They learn that God does not tempt them beyond their strength. He always provides them with a way out.

6. They should turn to the bible during temptations to overcome temptations
7. It is normal for the followers of Christ to be tempted
8. Christians should not worship other gods but only the true God
9. They learn that power and authority cannot lead one to the kingdom of God
10. They should have total faith in God and fully depend on God and not to put him to test

Lessons Christian learn from the temptation of Jesus

- I. They should be knowledgeable in scripture/ biblical verses
- II. They should resist the devil
- III. Temptations are part and parcel of Christian life
- IV. They should have faith in God
- V. They should worship God alone
- VI. They should not put God to test
- VII. They should desire to have Holy spirit
- VIII. They should not misuse the power of the holy spirit
- IX. They should be contented with what they have
- X. Fasting is important in their lives

JESUS BEGINS HIS WORK IN GALILEE AND IS REJECTED IN NAZARETH

(LUKE 4:14-30)

Jesus started his work in Galilee which was his own home district. He set out to fulfill his mission through performing miracles in the towns of Galilee.

He attended services in a synagogue every Sabbath in accordance to Jewish custom. He went into the synagogue in Nazareth his own village.

While in the synagogue, he was given the scroll of Isaiah and he opened the place where it is written, "The spirit of the lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of the sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the lord (Luke 4:18-19).

After reading, he closed the book and gave it to the attendant and sat down.

Everybody in the synagogue looked at him. He told them that the scripture he has read was fulfilled in their hearing.

People wondered aloud saying "is this not Joseph's son".

Jesus told them that they would ask him to do in his own country things he had done in Capernaum and told them that a prophet is never accepted in his own country.

He told them that there were many widows in Israel during the time of Elijah but God sent a prophet to a widow in Zarephath.

They were filled with anger and they wanted to throw him down headlong. Jesus however managed to sneak out of the synagogue safely.

Reasons why Jesus was rejected in Nazareth

- I. He claimed to be the Messiah who was prophesized when he quoted(Isaiah 61:1-2)
- II. He did not perform the miracles he had perform in Capernaum
- III. He annoyed Jews when he told them that their fore fathers rejected God's prophets
- IV. Jesus was a son of carpenter a poor man in the village yet they expected the messiah to come from a rich family
- V. Jesus compared them unfavorably with the Gentiles when he told them that good news was preached to them first but they rejected so it would be preached to the Gentiles
- VI. It is believed that a prophet is never respected at his own homeland/ country
- VII. He claimed to be the son of God who was sent to preach good news to the people

HEALING OF A MAN WITH EVIL SPIRITS (4:31-37)

On Sabbath Jesus went to synagogue where he taught people. In the synagogue there was a man who was possessed by evil spirits. Seeing Jesus, the evil spirits shouted saying "Jesus of Nazareth what have you to do with us, have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the holy one of God". Jesus silenced him and commanded the evil spirits to come out of the man. The demon threw the man down in front of everyone and went away without hurting him. The people were amazed and wondered what kind of a person Jesus was that even evil spirits would obey his order. Those who witnessed spread the message about him in the neighborhood

HEALING OF SIMON'S MOTHER IN LAW (LK4:38-44)

After Jesus left the synagogue he went to Simon's house. Simon's mother in-law was suffering from a fever and he asked Jesus to heal her. Jesus commanded the fever out of her and she was healed immediately. On the same day, Jesus healed many people suffering from various diseases and cast out demons from those who had.

LESSONS CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM JESUS HEALING MIRACLE OF CAPERNAUM

- a) Jesus came to establish the kingdom of God and destroys Satan's kingdom
- b) Jesus have power over evil spirits and demons
- c) Christians should have faith in God for them to receive healing
- d) Christians should do the work of charity on the Sabbath the way Jesus did by healing the sick
- e) They learn that Jesus is the son of God

Ways in which the church continues with the healing ministry of Jesus Christ

- ✓ Praying for the sick/ laying hands on the sick

- ✓ Anointing the sick
- ✓ Providing guidance and counselling services
- ✓ Constructing hospitals and health Centre
- ✓ Providing preventive/ curative drugs/ treating the sick
- ✓ Paying for medical expenses for the sick
- ✓ Producing literatures on health issues
- ✓ Preaching against evil/ causes of ailments that interfere with good health
- ✓ Providing food/ clothing/ shelter to the needy
- ✓ Visiting the sick
- ✓ Training medical personnel

THE CALL OF FIRST DISCIPLES (LK 5:1-11)

- ✓ Disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ.
 - One day Jesus was standing at the shores of Lake Gennesaret as he preached to people. Many people gathered to listen to him and they were pressing to reach him.
 - Jesus got into Simon Peter's boat and taught them while sitting in the boat. After he had finished speaking, he told Simon to cast the nets for a catch of fish.
 - Simon peter told him that they had toil throughout the night without success but because of Jesus' word they will cast the nets.
 - They did so and caught larger number of fish that their nets were about to break. Simon was deeply moved by the miraculous catch of fish.
 - He fell on his knees before Jesus and told him to go away from him because he was a sinner.
 - Jesus told him not to be afraid because from that time onwards, he would be catching men.
 - The three: Simon peter, John and James left everything and followed Jesus. From that time, they became the first disciples of Jesus

LESSONS CHRISTIANS LEARN FROM THE CALL OF FIRST DISCIPLES

- i. They should be ready to obey God's call the way the disciples did
- ii. Christians learn that God can choose anybody to serve him regardless of his role or status in society
- iii. They should have faith in God the way Peter believed in the words of Jesus
- iv. God reveals himself to people in their everyday activities the way he revealed himself to disciples as they were fishing
- v. They should acknowledge their sinful conditions and repent the way Simon did
- vi. They learn that God calls them to serve in various capacity e.g. pastors
- vii. They should work as a team to accomplish their mission the way the first disciples did

- viii. They should be ready to leave their families and belongings to follow Jesus the way the first disciples did.
- ix. They should repent their sinful conditions like Simon
- x. They should be ready to abandon/ forsake their past lives for the sake of Christ

OPPOSITION OF JESUS

- As Jesus was teaching people the good news, he faced opposition from Jewish leaders namely:
 - Pharisees
 - Sadducees
 - Scribes

1. Pharisees

These refers to Jews religious people who separated themselves from local people. They called themselves righteous because they felt that they were closer to God.

Characteristics of Pharisees

1. They believed in mosaic laws
2. They accepted the first five books of the bible as God inspired
3. They followed 632 distinct rules and regulations derived from the Ten Commandments
4. They believed in the teachings of Old Testament prophets
5. They believed in existence of angels, demons and Satan
6. They believed in and waited for the messiah of God
7. They believed in life after death
8. They believed in the judgment on the last day.

2. SADDUCEES

These were wealthy and influential people in Jerusalem who were members of the priesthood. The chief priests were chosen from them.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SADDUCEES

They believed in the divine authority of the Law of Moses. They rejected the believes of Pharisees like:

- ✓ Life after death
- ✓ Last judgment
- ✓ Coming of Messiah

- ✓ Angels and demons

They also rejected oral traditions of Pharisees. Unlike Pharisees they were liked by the poor.

3. THE SCRIBES

- The word scribe means "writer". All scribes were either Pharisees or Sadducees although at the time of Jesus the majority were associated with the Pharisees.

REASONS WHY JEWS RELIGIOUS LEADERS OPPOSED JESUS.

I) Jesus claimed to have powers to forgive sins (healing of the paralyzed man). (LK 5:17-26)

One day, Jesus was teaching in a house, some people came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They tried to get into the house but they were not able because of the crowd. So, they went up the roof and removed some tiles and let the man down to the midst of Jesus. When Jesus saw how much faith the people had, he told the paralyzed man "Your sins are forgiven". When the Pharisees and scribes heard this, they began to question, saying 'who is this man who commits blasphemies, since God is the only one to forgive sins?'

According to them, Jesus was committing blasphemy by claiming to have power to forgive sins yet only God would forgive sins.

To prove to them that he had power and authority to forgive sins, Jesus ordered the paralyzed man to rise and go back home. The man rose up completely healed and took his mat and went home. The people around were amazed with what they had seen and heard.

II) Jesus associated with tax collectors and sinners.

(Luke 5:27-32) -THE CALL OF LEVI.

Jesus befriended tax collectors and even accepted invitation in their homes. He visited Levi, a tax collector and feasted in his house. Some Pharisees and scribes complained to Jesus' disciples why they were eating and drinking with the tax collectors who were out-cast.

However, Jesus replied them by saying 'those who were well did not need a doctor, but only those who were sick.'

III) Jesus failure to observe the law of fasting.

(Luke 5:33-35)

On one occasion, some people asked why Jesus' disciples did not fast like those of John the Baptist; in the response to this, Jesus asked them a question; "Do you think you can

make the guests at the wedding party go without food when the bridegroom is with them?”.

By the words, Jesus meant that his disciples would not fast in presence of Jesus who was there guest but they would fast when Jesus departs them.

He also told them the parable of the old and the new garment and the parable of the new wine and the old wine skins.” No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it upon an old garment; if he does, the new will not match the old one. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skin will be destroyed. And no one after drinking old wine desires new; for he says, the old is good”.

The old garment and the old wine skins represent Judaism which uphold mosaic laws strictly and resist change.

The new garment and the new wine represent the teachings brought by Jesus, which were universal to all nations.

IV) **Jesus attitude towards the Sabbath (LK 6: 1 – 5)**

The Pharisees and the scribes insisted on strict observation of the Sabbath.

They forbade the performance of the 39 activities on the Sabbath.

Some of them are healing, clapping of hand, walking for more than 300m from one house, cooking, laughing, harvesting and digging.

a) On the Sabbath day, Jesus and his disciples were moving through a corn field, his disciples picked some corns and ate. This action was interpreted by Pharisees as work. They therefore accused the disciples of breaking the Sabbath law.

In response to this, Jesus reminded them about King David and his soldiers who took sacrificial bread and ate it because they were hungry. This bread was only meant for priests – Jesus was simply trying to let them know that works of necessity can be done on Sabbath.

b) The healing of a man with withered hand (Luke6:6-11)

On another sabbath, when Jesus entered the synagogue and taught, a man was there whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on a sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. Jesus knew their thought and he called the man with withered hand to stand. The man rose and stood as Jesus had commanded him.

Jesus then asked them a question, “what does our law allow us to do on Sabbath? To help or to harm? To save man’s life or to destroy it? ”

Jesus then told the man to stretch out his hand. The man did so and his hand was restored.

The scribes and the pharisees became furious and started discussing what they can do to Jesus.

V) **Popularity of Jesus.**

Despite the hostility of the Pharisees, ordinary Jews were happy with work of Jesus and praised him.

Then the Pharisees saw that he was gaining popularity from the people, they feared that he would take over the leadership and therefore they started looking for ways of killing him.

Vi) Jesus touched a man with leprosy which was against the Jewish law (Luke 5:12-16)

- ✓ While Jesus was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy.
- ✓ when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and requested Jesus to make him clean.
- ✓ Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean"
- ✓ Immediately the leprosy left the man and Jesus told him not to tell anyone but to go and show himself to the priest and to make an offering for his cleansing according to the laws of Moses
- ✓ This was to act as a proof to the people for his healing
- ✓ This report went abroad and many people gathered to be healed but Jesus withdrew himself to the wilderness and prayed.

Lesson Christians learn from the opposition of Jesus.

- I) They should not isolate themselves from sinners rather than should strive to bring them back to God by preaching good news.
- II) They should spread the gospel of God despite the opposition they face.
- III) They should be ready to face the opposition in their evangelist ministry because Jesus also faced.
- IV) They should do the work of charity on the Sabbath e.g. healing.
- V) They learn that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, the fact that he performed miracles on the Sabbath
- VI) They learn that Jesus had power over sickness e.g. he healed the man with the withered hand.
- VII) They learn that Jesus has powers to forgive sins e.g. he forgave the paralyzed man.
- VIII) Leaders should have rules that promote the development of the church.
- IX) They should be courageous to face challenges of the other leaders.
- X) They should serve the righteousness of the health than the out ward.

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

- ✓ Find out the causes/ reasons for the opposition
- ✓ The church leaders should pray for them/ with them
- ✓ Explain to them the gospel truth in a humble manner/ guide and counsel them
- ✓ Seek reconciliation through third party/ another person
- ✓ Involve them in the decision making/ church activities
- ✓ Recognize their effort in supporting the church matters
- ✓ Visit them in their homes/ fellowship with them/ preaching to them
- ✓ Assist them when in problems (financially/ materially)
- ✓ Send them message of hope/ encouragement
- ✓ Change your approach to issues/ reform where necessary

THE SERMON ON THE PLAIN

Choosing of the 12 disciples (6:12-16)

Jesus knew that he would not be able to complete his mission. He therefore decided to choose a special group of disciples who would learn from him and continue with his mission.

Jesus spends a whole night in prayer before choosing his disciples.

The following were the 12 disciples whom Jesus chose:

- 1) Simon Peter
- 2) Andrew
- 3) James } Sons of Zebedee
- 4) John
- 5) Philip
- 6) Bartholomew
- 7) Mathew
- 8) Thomas
- 9) James son of Alphaeus
- 10) Simon the Zealot
- 11) Judas the son James
- 12) Judas Iscariot (who became the traitor)

Reasons why Jesus chose 12 disciples

- I) To continue with his mission after his death.
- II) To give him company/to have companions.
- III) To assist him in his daily activities e.g. distribution of food.
- IV) To witness Jesus to the house of Israel and the rest of the world.
- V) To teach the people the word of God on his behalf.
- VI) To reveal/teach them the secrets of the kingdom of God
- VII) It was common for leaders to have their disciples/ to continue with the biblical theme of election in which God chooses anyone to serve him.
- VIII) To witness his death and resurrection.
- IX) To reveal his person/ give a new understanding of his messiahship
- X) To lay foundation for the establishment of the church
- XI) To represent the twelve tribes of Israel

The teaching of Jesus on the qualities of true discipleship. (Lk. 6: 20 – 49)

After choosing the 12 disciples, Jesus taught them the qualities of true disciples. He did this during the sermon of the plain.

➤ True disciples according to Jesus should have the following characteristics:

a) Should be ready to persevere in the face of persecution.

True disciples will be persecuted on the account of Jesus, but Jesus advised the disciples to be ready to face all forms of persecutions without fear.

b) Should be true on recovering faith.

The disciples were to have trust in order for them to enter the kingdom and achieve success in building God's kingdom.

c) Love for enemies.

The disciples were to love their enemies because this was the golden rule of Jesus.

d) Obedience to Jesus' teaching.

True disciples were to believe and obey the teachings of Jesus.

They were to accept the leadership of Jesus.

e) Implementation of Jesus teaching

The disciples were expected to practice the teachings of Jesus by bearing good fruit.

They were to teach others the teaching of Jesus and win them for the kingdom of God.

f) They were to be generous

They were expected to share their belongings with all people without discrimination.

g) They were to exercise self-criticism before judging others.

True disciples were to examine themselves first before making judgment on others.

h) They were to show compassion to others.

They were expected to be merciful like God by helping those in need.

The sermon on the plain.

Sermon refers to once teaching or preaching.

After Jesus had chosen his disciples, he came down the hill and stood at a level ground where he gave a sermon to those who were present.

His sermon consisted of five main parts:

I) Blessings and woes (beatitudes) (LK 6: 20 – 26)

Jesus had a message for the poor, the rich, the hungry, those who were full and those who laugh.

➤ He taught the following on blessings and woes;

- a) Blessed are the poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.
- b) Blessed are those who hunger now, for they shall be satisfied.
- c) Blessed are those who weep now for they shall laugh.
- d) Blessed for those who are hated for the sake of my name for their reward will be great in heaven.
- e) Woe to you that are full now for you shall hunger.
- f) Woe to you that all men speak well of you for their fathers did so to the false prophets.
- g) Woe to you that laugh now for you shall weep and mourn.

II) Love for enemies (LK 6: 27 – 37)

Jesus taught his disciples to love their enemies and do good to those who hate them.

They were to bless those who curse them and pray for those who abuse them.

They were to do good to all people the way they would like others to do good to them.

III) Judging others (LK 6: 37 – 42)

Jesus told his disciples to accept their own sins and short-comings before they condemn others.

He wanted them be righteous so as to judge others.

He wanted them not to judge others before examining themselves.

As teachers he taught the need to behave well and be righteous so as to judge others.

IV) Evidence of good discipleship (LK 6: 44 – 46)

Jesus used the image of trees and fruits to demonstrate that a good disciple is known by his actions.

He said that a good tree bears good fruits while a bad one bears bad fruits.

This means a good disciple does good actions while a bad one does bad actions.

His disciples were to bear good fruits revealed through their actions.

V) Hearing and doing (Lk6: 47 – 49)

Jesus told his followers that it is not enough to proclaim Christ as lord farther they must go ahead and do what he tells them.

For those who did not put his teachings in action, the lord remains empty titles. He advised his followers to hear his words and put it in action/practice.

The teachings of Jesus on the sermon on the plain on how human beings should relate to one another

- ✓ Human beings should love one another/ their enemies
- ✓ They should practice sharing/ help others
- ✓ they should be merciful to others
- ✓ they should not judge/ condemn others
- ✓ they should forgive one another/ not revenge
- ✓ pray to those who wrong them/ they should do good to those who hate them
- ✓ they should not discriminate against one another.

Relevance of Jesus' sermon on the plain to Christians today.

- I) The teaching on blessings and woes teaches Christians to be concerned with God's Kingdom rather than earthly wealth.
- II) They should know that any tribulations they undergo prepare them for the kingdom of God
- III) They should love their enemies because Jesus also loved his enemies.
- IV) They should examine themselves before passing judgment on others.
- V) They should always appreciate others whoever how sinful they are.
- VI) They should bear good fruits for them to be called good followers of Jesus.
- VII) They should be ready to hear God's words and put them into practice.

SOME WORK AND TEEACHINGS OF JESUS

Jesus' works of compassion.

- Works of companionship means works of mercy for those in distress and pity for those who suffer.

This chapter deals with Jesus' mercy among the Gentiles.

Healing of the Centurion's servant (Lk 7: 1 -10)

- *A Centurion is a Roman officer in army in charge of 100 soldiers.*

After the sermon on the plain, Jesus went back to Capernaum the city of Galilee.

At Capernaum, there was a Centurion whose servant was very sick.

Although the centurion was a senior officer in charge of 100 soldiers, he was God fearing and a humble man.

He acknowledged that Jesus had power to heal and he therefore sent Jews elders to call Jesus to come and heal his servant.

The intercession of these elders made Jesus to turn towards the centurion's house.

When he heard that Jesus was coming to his house, he sent his friends to tell him not to come.

This is because the Centurion felt he was not worthy for Jesus to come to his roof.

He believed that Jesus would just say a word and his servant would be healed.

Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith and commanded the man saying "Not even in Israel have I found such faith"

This means that the faith of centurion was extra-ordinary. It even surpassed that of Israel who were God chosen people.

When those who had been sent returned in the house, they found the servant well.
The faith of the centurion had healed the servant.

Lessons Christian learn from healing of the centurion servant

- 1) They should have faith in Jesus in order to receive healing like the centurion.
- 2) They should know that Jesus have power to heal all form of diseases.
- 3) They should have love and great care for their servants the way centurion loved his servant.
- 4) Christian leaders should be humble and seek for assistance from God the way the centurion humbled himself before Jesus.
- 5) Christians should admit their wicked ways and seek forgiveness the way the centurion admitted that he was not worthy before Jesus.
- 6) They learn that Jesus mission was universal because he came for both Jews and the Gentiles.

Raising of the widow's son at Nain (LK 7: 11 – 17)

When Jesus was entering the city of Nain by his disciples, he saw a widow weeping because her only son was dead. The widow was accompanied by a large crowd. Seeing the woman with no family left, Jesus sympathized with her situation. Nobody asked Jesus to do anything but he was moved by compassion and took action.

He first asked the widow to stop weeping. He then touched the bier (coffin) and ordered the young man to rise from the dead. The young man sat up.

Touching a coffin was a sinful act that made someone unclean but Jesus did not follow such laws when he was moved by compassion.

Those who were in the funeral saw the man and they were filled with fear and glorified God.

They acknowledged that Jesus was a great prophet.

Because of this miracle, Jesus' fame increased Judea and beyond/the surrounding.

Lessons Christians learn from the healing of the widow's son in Nain.

- 1) Jesus has power over death by raising the widow's son.
- 2) They learn that when they die, they will rise again to life with Jesus.
- 3) They learn that Jesus is a great prophet as acknowledged by the people in the funeral
- 4) Jesus has compassion over those who suffer e.g. he pitied the widow and brought her son back to life.
- 5) Traditional customs should not hinder Christians from performing the act of mercy.
- 6) They should show compassion to those who suffer by helping them.

Assurance of John the Baptist. (LK 7: 18 – 35)

John the Baptist was put in prison after proclaiming the kingdom of God on earth.

It was while in the prison that he sent his disciples to ask Jesus whether he was the expected messiah or not.

When the disciples asked Jesus the question he responded by doing the work of compassion such as curing many people from various diseases, casting demons, and giving sight to blind.

After this, he told the disciples to go and tell John what they had seen and heard so that he could judge for himself whether Jesus was messiah or not.

When the disciples had left Jesus started talking to crowd about John. He told the following about John the Baptist;

1. He told them that John was the greatest prophet
2. He said that John's mission had been prophesized in the scriptures
3. He described John as a man of strong character who could not be seized like a king who live in luxury
4. That John was a messenger/ his for-runner.
5. The Jews leaders rejected John because he lived in the wilderness.
6. He led a simple life
7. He said that John was a Nazarite/ ate no bread nor drank any wine
8. The people referred to him as a mad man because of his life style/ the people had accused John of being possessed by a demon.

Forgiveness of the sinful woman (LK 7: 36 – 50)

On one occasion Jesus was invited by Simon the Pharisee to his house to eat with him. Jesus went and sat at the table with the Pharisees .within the same town, there was a woman who had lived a sinful life.

When she heard about Jesus, she came with a jar of perfume. She knelt down and started wetting Jesus' feet with her tears. She then wiped them with her hair, kissed them and perfumed/anointed them with the ointment.

When Simon and other Pharisees saw this, they wondered how Jesus would allow a sinner to touch him.

Jesus responded to Simon's criticism by telling him the parable of the two debtors. In this parable, two men owed money to a certain money lender.

One owed 500 denarii and the other 50. Neither of them had money to pay back. So the money lender cancelled their debts.

Jesus then asked Simon. "which one of the two loved the money lender most?". Simon said the one who owed him much.

Jesus told Simon," since I entered this house, you gave me no water for my feet, you gave me no kiss and you did not anoint my head with oil but this woman had done all these. Therefore, her sins which are many are forgiven because she loved me much".

Jesus then told the woman that her sins have been forgiven.

When the Pharisees heard this, they wondered what kind of a person he was that he would forgive sins.

Jesus then told the woman, "your faith has served you, go in peace"

Lesson Christians learn from the forgiveness of the sinful woman.

- I. They should not judge others the way Simon judged the sinful woman.
- II. They learn that Jesus have power to forgive sinners.
- III. They should be ready to forgive others the way Jesus forgave the sinful woman.
- IV. They should be tolerant towards sinners and try to guide them to change their ways.
- V. They should show compassion to this in need, the way Jesus showed compassion to the sinful woman.
- VI. They should have faith in Jesus for them to be forgiven the way the sinful woman had faith in Jesus.
- VII. They should realize their sinful conditions and repent the way the sinful woman did

VIII. The kingdom of God is open to all/ universal

Reasons why Christians should ask for forgiveness from God

1. To be in peace with God
2. To show obedience to the teachings of Jesus
3. To improve their relationship with others
4. To give them confidence to serve God
5. To acknowledge their weakness/ a sign of humility
6. It shows their desire to lead a righteous life
7. It is a sign of appreciation of God's mercy
8. It is a way of self-approach
9. It is a demonstration of their faith in God
10. So as to be forgiven by God

Jesus' teachings in parables.

➤ Parable – Is a short story with a hidden meaning.

Jesus used parables in most of his teachings. He derived parables from things and events that people knew very well e.g. seeds, sheep, coins, lamps, farmers. etc.

Reasons why Jesus used parables.

- I) Parables were one of the methods used by Jesus to teach God's words.
- II) He wanted to attract audience and draw their attention so that they could listen to him.
- III) He used parable explain the nature of God to the people e.g. God is forgiving as in the parable or prodigal son.
- IV) He wanted to emphasize his teachings through use of parables.
- V) He wanted to identify serious listeners from the onlookers.
- VI) To make his listeners to think critically and find the meaning of the parable.
- VII) To teach people the need to love one another e.g. the parable of a Good Samaritan.
- VIII) To teach the people about the kingdom of God using the parable of the mustard seed.
- IX) To challenge his listeners by use of parables.
- X) He wanted to make an indirect attack on his opponents like the Pharisees and scribes.
- XI) To keep his identity secret.
- XII) To prove to the people that he was a gifted teacher.
- XIII) To teach his disciples the need of being persistence and never be discouraged e.g. the parable of the unjust judge and the widow.

Examples of parables used by Jesus

The parable of the Sower (LK 8: 4 – 15)

Jesus said this parable to the crowd who had come to listen to him as he preached the gospel.

According to the parable, a Sower went to sow seeds in a field. As he sowed, some seeds fell along the foot path. They were stepped on and eaten by the birds of the air.

Some fell on the rock. They sprouted but dried up because the rock had no moisture.

Some fell among the thorns and grew for a while but soon got choked.

Some fell into good soil, they grew and yielded a hundredfold.

Jesus explained the meaning of this parable as follows.

- The sower represent Jesus
- Seed represent the word of God.

- Soil referred to different people who listen to the word of God.

The seeds that fell on foot path represent people who hear God's message but after some times the devil take it away.

The seeds that fell on the rocky ground represent those who receive the message with joy but when faced with temptations, they abandon it because they have little faith.

The seed that fell on the thorns are those who receive the word but they mix their faith with worries, pleasure and riches of this world. Their faith never matures because it is interfered with.

Seeds that fell into good soil represents the people who hear God's words, believe it and live according to its teaching.

Lessons Christians learn from this parable.

- I) It teaches Christians to stand firm in faith.
- II) They should hear the word of God and put it in practice.
- III) They should not allow worries / riches and pleasure of this world to interfere with their faith in God's word.
- IV) They should not allow the devil to take away the word of God from them
- V) Christians should be ready to hear the word of God and live according to its teachings.

The parable of the lamp under a bowl (LK. 8: 16 – 18)

- Jesus used this parable to illustrate the work of the disciples.

In this parable Jesus taught that no one can light a lamp and cover it with a vessel or hide it under a bed, instead the lamp is put on its stand to provide enough light in the room.

In this parable, Jesus is the light and the disciples are those whom the light is shining on.

The disciples have a duty to pass on what they learn from Jesus to others but not to keep it for themselves.

Jesus also cautioned the disciples that their mission involve giving and receiving. If they fail to preach God's words to others, they would lose even the little spiritual knowledge they have.

They were to be ready to share what receive from Jesus.

The mighty works of Jesus

(Miracles)

Mighty works of Jesus are commonly known as the miracles.

These are extra-ordinary happenings that seems to be above human understanding.

They are divided into four groups:

- a) Nature miracles e.g. calming the storm, feeding of 5000 people.
- b) Healing miracles e.g. healing of the Centurion's servant, healing of the woman with the blood flow, healing of the paralyzed man.
- c) Raising of the dead e.g. raising of Jairus' daughter, raising of widow's son at Nain.
- d) Casting of demons e.g. the demon possessed man.

1.) Calming the storm (LK. 8: 22 – 25)

Jesus and his disciples were crossing lake Galilee when they encountered a storm. Jesus was a sleep as the water started entering the boat. The storm was so great that their boat was about to sink. The disciples woke Jesus up and asked him to save them before their boat capsized. Jesus ordered the winds and storm to stop and there was a great calm.

He then asked the disciples “where is your faith?” this means that he expected them to use their faith to calm the storm.

The disciples were amazed and wondered what kind of man he was that even wind and water obey him.

Lessons Christians learnt from the miracle of calming the storm.

- I. They should have faith for them to have miracle.
- II. They should depend on Jesus to help them over temptation.
- III. Jesus has power over nature.
- IV. Jesus is the real son of God and the promised messiah.

2) The healing of the Gerasene Demoniac man (Lk. 8: 26 – 39).

After calming the storms, Jesus entered the town of Gerasene with his disciples.

As they entered the town, they met a demon possessed man. The man wore no clothes and used to live in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down and said in a loud voice “ what have you to do with me, the son of the most high God; I beseech not to torment me”.

When Jesus asked what his name was, he said” Legion” meaning many demons. Jesus had sympathy on the man and ordered demon to leave him. The Demon begged Jesus not to send them in the wilderness/ desert but to let them go into the swine that were grazing nearby. Jesus let them go into the swine which then fell into the lake and drowned. Those who had been looking after the swine saw what happened and ran off to spread the good news in the city and in the country. Many people came to see what happened and found the man sitting at the feet of Jesus, healed, dressed and in his right mind. The people got afraid of Jesus and asked him to leave their territory. The cured man wanted to follow Jesus but he told him to go home and declare what God had done to him.

The man went through the town telling what Jesus had done to him.

Lessons learnt from miracle.

- I) Jesus have power over demons e.g. he commanded them and they obeyed.
- II) Jesus values human life more than animals that is why he allowed the demon to leave the man and go to the swine.
- III) Jesus came to destroy Satan’s kingdom and establish God’s kingdom by casting demons.
- IV) Jesus is the son of God and even the demons acknowledged this.
- V) Christians should bear witness to what Jesus has done to them like the cured man who went all over telling others about what Jesus did to him.
- VI) The power of God is stronger than any other power.

The raising of Jairus’ daughter and healing of the woman with blood flow. (Lk. 8: 40 – 56)

After healing a demon possessed man at Gerasene, Jesus returned to Galilee. In Galilee there was Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue whose daughter was very sick in the point of dying. This was his only daughter and she was 12 years old.

Despite the hostility between Jews religious leaders and Jesus, Jairus humbled himself and requested Jesus to go and heal his daughter. Jesus set off with a large number of people towards Jairus’ house. Among the crowd, there was a woman who had incurable disease. She

had been bleeding for twelve years and the doctors could not heal her. The woman was a Gentile yet she had enough faith that Jesus could heal her, therefore she touched the fringe of Jesus' garment and slipped away quietly.

Jesus felt some power had left him and immediately the woman received healing. Jesus demanded to know who had touched him. Peter said that the crowd was pressing on him and they could not tell who had touched him. On realizing that she could not hide anymore, the woman accepted that she had touched Jesus. Jesus told her to go in peace because her faith had made her well. This interruption with the woman might have caused a delay to Jesus to reach Jairus' house.

After the healing of the woman, a messenger from Jairus' house came and said that the daughter was already dead. Jesus told Jairus to have faith in him and all will be well. On arrival, Jesus told mourners to stop wailing. He assured the people that the girl was just a sleep. They laughed at him because they knew that the girl was dead.

Jesus went into the house with Peter, John and James together with girl's parents. He took the girl by hand and called out " Get up my child" (vs. 54). Her spirit was restored and she was given food to eat. The girl's parents were amazed but Jesus told them not to reveal what had happened anyone.

Lessons learnt from the two miracles.

- I. Jesus have power over death, e.g. he raised Jairus' daughter
- II. Jesus has power over sickness e.g. he healed woman with blood flow.
- III. Faith is important for one to receive healing e.g. woman with the blood flow believed in Jesus.
- IV. Faith can raise one from the dead e.g. Jesus told Jairus to have faith and his daughter will be a live again.
- V. Raising of Jairus daughter gave Christians hope for life after death.
- VI. Jesus have compassion over those who suffer meaning Christian should also show compassion to others.

Lessons Christians learn about Jesus from the raising of Jairus' daughter

- ✓ Jesus has power over death/ he is the source of life
- ✓ Jesus requires people to have faith in Him
- ✓ Jesus is approachable
- ✓ Jesus is always ready to assist/ concerned about people's needs
- ✓ Jesus is sociable/ available/ mixes with people
- ✓ Jesus is the source of hope/ healer
- ✓ He brings joy to people
- ✓ He is humble

What do Jesus' miracles teach Christians about his mission and ministry?

- I) They show that his mission was to save people from sins e.g. healing of the paralytic man.
- II) They show that Jesus came to show compassion to those who suffer e.g. he pitied the widow at Nain and healed her son.
- III) They show that Jesus was the lord of life e.g. the raising of Jairus' daughter.
- IV) They show that Jesus is the son of God / messiah foretold in the Old Testament.
- V) Jesus is a universal savior e.g. he healed both Jews and Gentiles.

- VI) Miracles are an integral part of Jesus teachings because many people were attracted as a result of miracles.
- VII) They are manifestations of God's love and concern of his people through Jesus.

Jesus and the twelve Disciples

commissioning of the 12 Disciples (Lk. 9: 1 -9)

- Commissioning is to send people out to perform a given work/ task.
After Jesus had taught his disciples, he sent them out for a great mission. They were to go out and;
 - I) Cast out demons.
 - II) Heal people from various diseases.
 - III) Preach the word of God to people.
 - IV) To proclaim by both word and deeds the arrival of God's kingdom through Jesus.

Before they went Jesus gave them the following instructions to follow:

- i. They were to depend on God entirely to take care of them.
- ii. They were not to carry any luggage for themselves because this would hinder their movements.
- iii. They were to stay in the house they were received till the following day.
- iv. Where they were not received, they were to shake off dust from their feet as a testimony of God's judgment against the people.
 - They went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They preached and healed many people. When Herod heard their ministry, he was perplexed/ confused and wondered who Jesus was. He wished to meet Jesus in person.

The feeding of 5000 people. (LK. 9: 10 – 17)

When the disciples returned from the mission, Jesus took them to a town called Bethsaida for a rest. When the crowd learned that Jesus was there with them, they followed him and he welcomed them. He taught them about the Kingdom of God. He also healed those who wanted healing. When the disciples realized it was getting late, they asked Jesus to send the crowd away in the villages and town nearby where they could get food and accommodation. Jesus asked the disciples to provide the people with food. The disciples told him that they had only five loaves and two fish. Jesus asked the disciples to make the people to sit in group of 50 each. He then took five loaves and two fish, he looked up and thanked God. He then broke them and gave the disciples to distribute among people. The people ate until they were satisfied. Jesus told the disciples to collect the remaining food and put them in baskets. Twelve baskets of food remained.

Lessons Christians learnt from the feeding of 5,000.

- I) Jesus has power over nature because he multiplied the food.
- II) Jesus is not only concerned with spiritual food but also physical food.
- III) It is important for Christians to give thanks to God before partaking meals the way Jesus did.
- IV) Christian leaders should dedicate work to others the way Jesus dedicated the distribution of food to the disciples.
- V) They should not waste food by throwing it away but they should keep remains for others the way Jesus did.

- VI) They should keep the environment clean because Jesus also did this when he told disciples to collect the left over.
- VII) Jesus is an orderly person e.g. he told the disciples to arrange the people into groups of people.
- VIII) They should also do things in an orderly manner the way Jesus did.
- IX) Jesus is the real son of God with the powers to perform miracles.
- X) God is the provider because he provided the food to those who were hungry.
- XI) Jesus has the compassion over the needy e.g. he gave food to those who were hungry.

The person of Jesus and his destiny (LK. 9: 18 – 27)

Although many people including his disciples knew that Jesus was an ordinary person, they did not understand his identity. Jesus wanted to find out if his disciples knew his identity. He asked them “who do people say I am?” They said “some say you are John the Baptist, others say you are Elijah, and others say you are one of the Old Testament prophets” Jesus asked them “whom do you think I am?” Peter replied “the Christ of the lord”. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone his of identity.

He then explained to them that the son of man must suffer many things. He will be rejected by the scribes and the chief priest. He would be killed and he would resurrect on the third day.

Why did Jesus make his messianic identity secret?

- I) His messiahship was different from the Jews expectations.
- II) He didn't want Jews religious leaders to kill him before accomplishing his mission.
- III) He wanted people to discover for themselves through the miracles he performed.
- IV) He wanted his identity to be revealed gradually but not at once.
- V) He was a suffering messiah yet the Jews expected a political messiah.

The transfiguration of Jesus (LK. 9: 28 – 37)

Transfiguration – is the transformation of the physical body into the heavenly glory.

One day Jesus took Peter, James and John and went on the mountain. As Jesus was praying, his face changed and begun shining like the sun. His clothes became dazzling white. As this was happening, Moses and Elijah appeared and were talking to Jesus about his departure which would take place in Jerusalem. When Peter saw Jesus, Moses and Elijah talking he suggested that they (disciples) make three booths, one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah. As Peter said this, the cloud came and overshadowed them and they were afraid. The voice came out of the cloud saying “this is my chosen son, listen to him” These words confirmed that Jesus was the real son of God.

Importance of transfiguration to Jesus and his disciples

- I) It strengthened the disciple's faith in Jesus.
- II) It proved to the disciples that Jesus was the real son of God.
- III) Appearance of Moses and Elijah shows that Jesus was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.
- IV) Clouds symbolized God's presences

- V) It marked the on-set of Jesus' passion and death on the cross.
- VI) The voice from heaven confirmed that Jesus was doing God's will.
- VII) It proved to the disciples that Jesus was going to suffer in order to save man from sins.
- VIII) The booths mentioned by Peter were the tabernacles of the Old Testament where God lived among his people.
- IX) It shows that his ministry was not sacred.

Importance of the transfiguration of Jesus to Christians today

1. It took place when Jesus and the three disciples were praying. Christians should therefore, take time off their duties to pray
2. Jesus and his disciples retreated to a private place/ mountain to pray. Christians therefore, should have retreats/ go to a private place to pray
3. Resurrection is a reality since Moses who died appeared in the transfiguration. Christians therefore, should have faith in life after death
4. Moses and Elijah appeared to encourage Jesus about the suffering he was about to face. Christians therefore, learn that they should accept/ endure suffering as a way to salvation
5. Jesus came to a will of his father/ fulfill the law/ old testament prophecies. Christians are assured of salvation/ should believe in the word of God
6. The disciples had the voice of God which commanded them to listen to Jesus. Christians learn that God speak to them / they should listen to God's voice/ the word of God
7. The cloud symbolized God's presence with Jesus. Christians therefore learn that God is always with them.

Lessons Christian learn from the Transfiguration of Jesus

- I) Jesus is the son of God as confirmed by the voice from heaven.
- II) Christians should be prayerful the way Jesus prayed on the mountain.
- III) Presence of Moses and Elijah assures Christians that there is life after death.
- IV) They should obey the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- V) Jesus came to fulfill the mosaic laws and the old testament prophecies.
- VI) Jesus is Holy.
- VII) They should always be alert
- VIII) They should not be selfish/ share God's secret with others.
- IX) They should enter the presence of God with great respect
- X) They should learn to endure suffering
- XI) Christians should have retreats/ go to private place to pray.
- XII) They should be slow to speak/ learn more about Christ before they speak
- XIII) Jesus came to suffer in order to save mankind from sin.

Jesus' teaching on faith and humility.

- Faith is an assurance of things hoped for and conviction of things not seen.
 - Humility is the quality of not thinking that one is better than the others.
- After transfiguration Jesus thought that his disciples would now understand their role and through faith they would be able to carry out their work. Despite this the disciples were not

able to carry out Jesus' work because lack of faith and humility as shown in the following instances.

a) The disciples' inability to cast demons (the healing of epileptic boy) (Lk. 9: 37 – 43)

As Jesus was coming from the mountain with his disciples, they met a man who had a sick son. The son had been possessed by evil spirit which threw him in convulsion. His father requested Jesus' disciples to heal him but they were unable due to their little faith. Jesus rebuked the evil spirit and the boy got healed. He wondered how faithless the disciples were that they could not heal the sick. Everyone was astonished at Jesus' power to cast out the evil spirit.

b) Disciples concern for greatness (Lk. 9: 46 – 48)

The argument rose among the disciples over who was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest is the one who is ready to be humble like a young child by accepting simplicity in their missionary work.

c) Disciples rebuked off a non-follower of Jesus (Lk. 9: 49-50)

When the disciples saw a non-follower but a believer casting out demons in the name of Jesus, they rebuked him. Jesus told them not to stop him because he had faith in Jesus and he was for Jesus.

Lessons Christians learn from Jesus teaching on faith and humility.

- ii) They should have strong faith for them to fight evil spirits.
- iii) Jesus has power over evil spirit.
- iv) They should humble themselves before God to become members of his kingdom.
- v) They should not discriminate others but work in unity for the creation of God's kingdom.
- vi) All things are possible for those who believe in Jesus.
- vii) Greatness in God's kingdom is different from the earthly greatness.

Major teachings of Jesus Christ

Duties and privileges of discipleship (Lk. 9: 51 – 62)

Duties of a true disciple of Jesus include:

- I) Preach the gospel no matter the circumstances
- II) One must be loyal to Jesus and live for him alone.
- III) One must be ready to leave everything and be committed to Jesus' work.
- IV) To use his financial resources in missionary work.
- V) To love everyone and share the gospel with them.
- VI) To obey the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- VII) To pray for oneself and to others.
- VIII) To forget oneself and others.
- IX) To forget one's family and follow Jesus.

Privileges of true disciples of Jesus includes:

- I) One becomes associated with Jesus Christ
- II) One is able to inherit the kingdom of God.
- III) One's sins are forgiven.
- IV) One is assured of life after death.
- V) One becomes the son of God.
- VI) One's faith is strengthened.

VII) One is able to receive the Holy Spirit to enable him to perform miracles.

The mission of the 72 disciples (LK. 10: 1 – 24)

Jesus chose seventy-two (72) disciples and sent them out for a mission. He sent them to preach the good news to the people and to heal the sick. He also sent them to prepare the way for him by witnessing him as the messiah. He informed them that the task was heavy since there were many people waiting to hear the good news but the disciples were few. They were also going to receive opposition in their mission.

Before they left, Jesus gave them the following instructions.

- I) They were not to carry purse
- II) They were not to carry bag and sandals.
- III) They were not to salute/ greet anybody on the road
- IV) Remain in the house they were accepted, eating and drinking what they provided them with/they were to depend totally on the hospitality of the people.
- V) They were to preach peace in the house they entered.
- VI) They were to heal the sick and preach the kingdom of God.
- VII) They were to shake off dust from their feet where they were rejected.

- ✓ After the mission, the disciples returned and reported their success to Jesus. They reported that they were able to drive out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus responded by saying " I saw Satan falling like lightening from heaven " – Jesus meant that the kingdom of Satan was being defeated/ destroyed by God. Jesus finally told them not to rejoice because of the miracle but because they are in God's kingdom.

Relevance of Jesus teaching on Discipleship to Christian.

- I) Christian should continue to evangelize and ensure that the gospel reaches all people.
- II) They should not tire in evangelizing even in the face of hostility and resistance.
- III) They have a duty to take care of the servants of God.
- IV) They should be involved in the healing ministry in all its dimensions.
- V) They have the assurance of God's power to overcome evil.
- VI) They should be cautious of their ability to cast out evil spirits.

A COMMITTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST.

- ✓ Jesus used various examples to teach about the quality of a committed follower of Christ e.g.;

 - The parable of the good Samaritan
 - Jesus' visit to Mary and Martha
 - Jesus' teaching on prayer

The parable of Good a Samaritan (LK. 10: 25 -37)

A lawyer put Jesus in a test by asking him what he can do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked him what was written in the law. He replied " you should love the lord your God with all your soul, mind, heart, strength, and your neighbor as yourself" Jesus then replied "you are right, do this and you shall be saved" The lawyer was disturbed and asked Jesus who the neighbor is. In response, Jesus told him the parable of a Good Samaritan. A man was travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way, he was attacked by robbers who beat him and left him half dead.

As he was still lying on the roadside, a priest came by, saw him and passed on the other side of the road. Likewise a Levite came, saw him and passed by the other side of the road.

A Samaritan came by and when he saw him he had compassion. He bounded up the wounds by pouring on oil and wine. He then set him on his own beast and took the man to a nearby inn and took care of him.

On the next day, he paid two denarii and left the man under the care of the inn keeper. He promised to come back and pay all other expenses spent on the man. Jesus then asked the lawyer a question "in your opinion, which of these three acted as a neighbor?" He said the one who showed mercy on the wounded man. Jesus then told him to go and do the same.

Lessons Christians learn from the parable of the good Samaritan

- I) They learn that a neighbor is someone who needs assistance.
- II) They should love those who are in need by helping them.
- III) They should love all the people regardless of the tribe and customs.
- IV) They should use their resources to help others.
- V) They should not just empathize with those in need but take action to help them.
- VI) They should follow the example of a Good Samaritan by helping the needy by all means.
- VII) They should obey God's commandments in order to enter the kingdom of God.

Qualities of a committed disciple/ follower drawn from the parable of the Good Samaritan.

- I) Should show the compassion to those in need by helping them.
- II) Is one who loves everybody regardless of his or her tribe
- III) Is one who is ready to use his / her resources to help others
- IV) Is one who obeys God's commandments.
- V) One who is ready to sacrifice his comfort for the sake of others.
- VI) Is one who is not restricted by cultural and religious practices in responding to needy situations

Jesus' visit to Mary and Martha (LK. 10: 38-42)

Jesus was a friend to Mary and Martha who were Lazarus' sisters. On one occasion, Jesus visited Mary and Martha. While in the house, Martha was busy preparing a meal for Jesus while Mary sat at Jesus feet listening to his teachings. Martha then complained to Jesus that Mary should help her in serving the food. According to Jesus, Mary had chosen the right decision that is listening to his teachings which was more important than preparing him a meal.

Qualities of a committed follower learnt from Jesus' visit to Mary and Martha.

- I) Is one who spends his time to listen to Jesus teachings
- II) Is one who is concerned with spiritual life more than physical life.
- III) Is one who does not allow worries and commitments of daily lives to overrun his commitments for God's word.
- IV) Should seek first the kingdom of God before other things.

Jesus' teaching on prayer (LK. 11: 1-13)

After Jesus had finished praying, his disciples told him to show them how to pray. Jesus then taught them the Lord's Prayer which has the following petitions / components.

- 1) Our father – God is seen as a loving father.
- 2) Hallowed be thy name – God’s name is Holy and therefore should be honored by all.
- 3) Thy kingdom come – we ask God to establish his kingdom so that it may reign in our hearts.
- 4) Give us our daily bread – God is acknowledged as the provider for his creation.
- 5) Forgive us our sin as we forgive others – God is seen as a mighty God who has power to forgive sins.
- 6) Lead us not into temptations – we ask God to protect us against all evils.

Qualities of a committed follower from Jesus’ teaching on prayer.

- I) Is the one who praise God for his provision.
- II) Is the one who acknowledges God and honor him as his father.
- III) Is one who depends on God for daily provision.
- IV) Is one who is ready to forgive others.
- V) Is one who seeks for the kingdom of God in his heart.
- VI) One who is persistent in prayer.

THE USE OF GOD’S POWER TO OVERCOME EVIL.

a) Jesus and Beelzebul (Lk. 11: 14 – 23)

Beelzebul is the prince of demons or another name Satan. On one occasion, Jesus drove out a demon from a dumb man. When the demon came out, the man started speaking and the people marveled at what Jesus had done. Some people accused Jesus of casting demons using Beelzebul’s power. In response to this accusation, Jesus asked them how it was possible for Satan to cast out Satan. This would mean that Satan was fighting himself. This miracle shows that there was war between the kingdoms. Jesus was stronger than Satan and that is why he cast out demons out of man.

The miracle pointed out that Jesus came to destroy Satan’s kingdom and to establish God’s kingdom.

b) Return of the unclean spirit. (Lk. 11: 24 – 28)

Jesus explained to the people that when an evil spirit is cast out, it travel across the country looking for a place to rest. If it fails to get someone to possess, it returns to its original place and when it finds the place unoccupied, it brings along other seven spirits which are worse than him. If this happens the person becomes worse than he was before. Christians are challenged not to give Satan a chance to occupy their hearts.

The sign of Jonah (Lk. 11: 29– 32)

The Jews demanded a greater miracle to prove that Jesus was the messiah. Jesus told them that no miracle would be given except the one of Jonah who was a sign to the people of Nineveh. God had sent Jonah to Nineveh to proclaim his judgments because of their sins. The Ninevites listened to Jonah’s warning, repented and escape the judgment. This means that if the Jews refused to listen to Jesus and believe in his miracles, the Gentiles would receive God’s salvation.

The light of the body. (11: 33 – 36)

Jesus taught about the light of the body. He said no one light the lamp and then hide it .He instead put it on a lamp stand to provide light for the people. The eye is like the light of the

lamp of the body because it gives light to the body. According to Jesus, the light is the word of God and thus those who receive it should be transformed by it so as to transform others. Christians are the light of the world they should therefore preach God's message to others so as to transform their lives.

Jesus teaching on hypocrisy, wealth and watchfulness

Jesus teaching on hypocrisy (LK. 11: 37 – 54,12:1-12)

- Hypocrisy means pretending to be holy when you are not.
Jesus attacked the Pharisees and the teachers of law for the hypocrisy which was shown by:
 - I) They followed the law of washing hands, cups and dishes.
 - II) Jesus criticized them on their tithing habit e.g. they paid their tithe fully and neglected justice and love for others.
 - III) They loved reserved seats in synagogue and to be treated with a lot of respect in market places.
 - IV) The teachers of law behave like their ancestors who persecuted and killed God's prophets.

Jesus told the disciples not to fear these people because they would only destroy the flesh but not the spirit.

He advised them to fear those who can destroy both the flesh and the spirit. He taught the disciples that it was important to pay attention to inner righteousness but not the outer rituals.

Jesus teaching on wealth (the parable of the rich fool) (LK. 12: 13 – 31)

Jesus used the parable of the rich fool to teach people the correct attitude of wealth.

In this parable there was a rich man who had a good harvest from his land. He then realized that his barns were not big enough to keep the harvest. He therefore, destroyed the old barns and built bigger ones. He then stored his harvest in the new barns. He then said to himself that the harvest would care for him for a long time.

What was remaining was for him to take life easy, eat, drink and enjoy himself. Unfortunately he did not enjoy his wealth because that same night, God told him he was going to take his life and no one was going to get the wealth he had kept for himself. Jesus went on to teach his disciples not to worry about the food and clothes they needed. They were not to worry about what they would eat and drink because God in heaven knew that they need these things. He told them that birds of the air do not plant or gather harvest yet God feed them and take care of them.

The flowers do not make clothes for themselves yet king Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of the flowers. The same way God looks after the birds and flowers, so he will also provide for his people.

Lessons Christians learn from Jesus' teaching on wealth.

- I) They should put God's plans first before wealth.
- II) They should not put all their efforts and energy into wealth because this can make them forget God.
- III) They should store their riches in heaven by helping the poor.
- IV) They should not worry about what they would eat tomorrow because God provides them with what they need.
- V) They should not use wealth for a show off and selfish purposes.

- VI) They should know that possession of earthly riches is not a source of security in itself; is only God who controls our life and give us security.
- VII) They should know that wealth is not personal.

Jesus' teaching on watchfulness and readiness (LK. 12: 35 – 59)

- Watchfulness is the act of being very careful, alert and vigilant.
 - Readiness is the state of being prepared.
- Jesus told the disciples to be ready like the servant who are waiting for their master to return.
 - Believers should be dressed for his coming
 - They should keep their lamps burning
 - They should be awake/ alert
 - They should be ready so that when the son of man comes, he would find what was expected of them accomplished.
 - Believers should continue working until Christ comes back
 - The servants/ believers who are drunkards/ mistreat their fellow workers will be punished
 - Those who know what is required of them by their masters and fails to do it will receive severe beating
 - Believers are expected to respond to God according to how much they have received from Him
 - He warned them that his coming would bring divisions among those who would accept him and those who would reject him.
 - His coming would cause suffering to those who would have accepted him, because they would be persecuted for his sake.
 - Those who do wrong out of ignorance will receive lesser beating/ punishment

Lessons Christians learn from Jesus' teaching on watchfulness and readiness.

- I) They should always be ready for the 2nd coming of Jesus by living holy life.
- II) They should be committed to Christ and be ready to suffer for his sake.
- III) They should be good stewards of God's kingdom on earth.
- IV) They should be prepared to provide service to God and other people.
- V) They should be able to recognize the signs of the 2nd coming of Christ.
- VI) They should be prepared for God's judgment which might come any time
- VII) They should know that commitment to Christ can bring divisions even in the families.
- VIII) They should continue with preaching the gospel especially to those who have not heard it.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The growth of God's kingdom.

- Kingdom of God refers to God's rule or authority.

At the beginning of his ministry in Galilee, Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God is near. This meant that he had brought God's kingdom. Jesus used several parables to

teach on the growth of the kingdom of God e.g. the parable of the mustard seeds (Luke 13:18-19).

The kingdom of God grows secretly e.g. the parable of the great feast.

Parable used by Jesus to teach on the growth and the nature of the kingdom of God.

1. Parable of a fig tree (13:6-9)

In this parable a man had a fig tree in his vineyard. The man went looking for figs but there was none. The man told his vinedresser to cut it down because it was unproductive. The vinedresser requested the master to give him a chance for one more year. The vinedresser promised to dig around it and put some manure. If the tree would bear fruits then it would be well and good, and if it would not bear fig after year, he would allow the master to cut it down.

Lessons Christians learn from the parable

- I) God gives another chance to repent; in the same way the Master gave the fig tree to produce fruits.
- II) Jesus is the vinedresser who pleads on our behalf for God to forgive us our sins.
- III) Jesus is willing to work hard to ensure that sinners repent and come back to God.
- IV) Christians are expected to work hard to bear fruits for them to be accepted in the God's kingdom.
- V) They should be patient with others the way the master was patient with the fig tree.

Parable of the mustard seeds

Luke (13:18-19).

- Mustard seed is the smallest seed in the world. Jesus compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. He said a man planted a mustard seed in the garden and sometimes, it grew and became a big tree.

The birds of the air made nests in its branches. Jesus told this parable to show that the kingdom of God starts from a small beginning and expands into a mighty kingdom. Once God's kingdom is established, it grew and spreads to all corners of the world without hindrances. Once the God's kingdom is established, it attracts many people to join it.

Parable of the yeast/leaven (Luke 13:20-21)

- Yeast refers to a little fermented dough which has been kept for sometimes.

Jesus compared the kingdom of God with yeast mixed with flour until it rises/expands. He used the parable of the yeast symbolically to show that the kingdom of God grows secretly/unseen manner. The parable shows that the kingdom of God works inside peoples' hearts.

Parable of the narrow door/access to the kingdom of God (Luke 13:22-30)

Jesus continues to teach his people as he went through towns and villages on his way to Jerusalem. The people wanted to know if only a few people would be saved.

He advised them to struggle to enter through the narrow door. The narrow door meant the challenges and hard life they were to undergo in order to enter God's kingdom.

It also meant that the kingdom of God is for who have accepted Christ to rule their hearts. Jesus also said the 1st will be the last and the last will be the first. This means that the kingdom of God belongs to those who accepted Christ and follow his teachings.

Parable of the invited guest (Luke 14:1-14)

On the Sabbath day, Jesus went to feast in a Pharisees house. As they were eating, they were interrupted by a sick man who was suffering from dropsy (swelling). The Pharisees wanted to put Jesus into test to see whether he would heal the man or not.

Jesus asked whether it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not. They were not able to answer because if they say yes it would show that they were not observing the law strictly if they say no this would show that they were not concerned with human life. Jesus took the man and healed and let him go.

Jesus reminded them that if anyone had a son or an ox that happened to fall in a well on a Sabbath, they would pull it out immediately. While in the Pharisee's house, Jesus noticed that some Pharisees were scrambling for higher places at the table.

Jesus used this observation to tell them this parable. When they are invited in a wedding feast, they should not take seats of honors because they would be embarrassed when the guest arrives and displaced them. Jesus remarked that everyone who makes himself great will be humbled and everyone who humbles himself will be made great. He told them that they should prepare a feast and invite those who are least likely to invite them back e.g. the poor, and blind. Jesus used this parable to teach them that the kingdom of God belongs to all the rich and the poor.

The summary of teachings that Jesus made to the guest at the pharisee's house

- ✓ Saving life can be done on the sabbath day
- ✓ It is well to respond to emergency even on a sabbath
- ✓ Human life is more important than an animal which the pharisees accept to rescue on a sabbath day
- ✓ It is good to humble/ sit in lowly place when invited
- ✓ Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted
- ✓ It is blessed to invite the poor/ lame/ blind to feast instead of relatives/ friends who can invite you in return
- ✓ Those who do good for the less fortunate will be repaid during the resurrection of the just

The parable of the great feast (Luke 14:15-24)

A man was sitting at a table with Jesus following his teachings. He then said to Jesus "How happy are those who will sit down at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Jesus responded to this statement by telling the parable of a great feast. In this parable a master prepared a great feast and when everything was ready he sent his servant to the invited guests. Unfortunately, none of the invited guest turned up for the feast. They all sent apologies and had genuine or honest/sincere reason for not attending. The first man said he had bought a field and had to go and look after it.

The 2nd guest said he had bought five yoke of oxen and was going to examine them. And the third one said that he had just married a wife and therefore, he cannot leave her alone. When the servant reported to the master, he was furious. However, he was determined with the feast and he therefore, told his servant to go out on the streets and lanes of the town and invite the poor, cripples, blind and the lame.

The servants did as he was told but still room was not full. He once again sent the servant to go out to the highways and hedges and call more people to fill the house. The servant went and brought more people but those who had declined earlier invitation were not going to be part of the feast.

Reasons why Jesus used the parable of the great feast in his teaching

- ✓ He wanted to explain that invitation to God's kingdom is open to many people
- ✓ He wanted to show that the Jews were given the first chance to be part of God's kingdom but they rejected
- ✓ He wanted to show that people reject God's call due to material possessions, family commitment which can be a stumbling block to one's spiritual life
- ✓ He wanted to show that gentiles/ outcasts are called to God's kingdom to replace the non-responding Jews
- ✓ He wanted to explain that God's invitation/ call is extended to many people/ God offers universal salvation
- ✓ So as to explain that those who refuse/ to don accept God's call, will not receive blessings of God's kingdom/ will not enter the kingdom of God.
- ✓ He wanted to challenge the Jews/ pharisees who counted themselves as righteous yet they failed to respond to God's call

Lessons learnt from the parables.

- I) Those who were first invited in the kingdom may never enter because they declined the invitation.
- II) To enter the kingdom of God, one must give up everything including material, possession and the family.
- III) Christians should sacrifice earthly things in order to follow Jesus.
- IV) Jesus was concerned with the poor and under privileged; Christians should also concern to the poor.
- V) Christians are encouraged to share their resources with the poor.
- VI) Christians learn that the kingdom of God is for all.

The healing of the crippled woman on a sabbath (Luke 13:10-17)

- ✓ One day, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue and there was a woman who had evil spirits that kept her crippled for 18 years.
- ✓ She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself
- ✓ When Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her "woman you are freed from your illness"
- ✓ He laid his hands on her and she was healed. She straightened herself up and praised God
- ✓ This raised criticism from the pharisees who were annoyed that Jesus was healing on a sabbath. Jesus referred to them as hypocrites. Jesus told them that if they could afford to untie their oxen, feed and water them on a sabbath, then why not to do good to human life.
- ✓ Jesus said that the woman was a descendant of Abraham and she deserved to be released from the bondage of sin on a sabbath
- ✓ People were happy and rejoiced at all the glorious things that Jesus did.

Lessons Christians learn from the healing of the crippled woman

- ✓ They learn that saving life can be done on a sabbath
- ✓ They should do work of mercy on a sabbath e.g. healing, helping the needy etc.
- ✓ They learn that human life is more important than animals
- ✓ They learn that Jesus is the lord of sabbath
- ✓ They learn that they should have compassion over those who suffer
- ✓ They learn that Jesus came to destroy Satan's kingdom and to establish the kingdom of God
- ✓ They learn that they should not live a hypocritical life but should live according to the teachings of God
- ✓ They learn that Jesus is powerful because he healed the woman
- ✓ They learn that Jesus has compassion on those who suffer

THE PARABLES OF RETRIEVING THE LOST

I) Parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7)

- In this parable, Jesus told a story of a shepherd who had hundred sheep and got one sheep lost.

He left the ninety-nine and went to search for the lost one. When he found it, he was very joyful and called his friends and neighbors to rejoice together.

Jesus used this parable to teach the people that God and his angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents and come back to the kingdom of God. This shows that Jesus is more concern with the sinners than the righteous.

II) Parable of the lost coin (LK. 15: 8 – 10)

- The parable is about a woman who had 10 silver coins and lost one. She therefore, lights a lamp, sweep the house and carefully search for the coin until she found it. She then called her friends and neighbor so that they could rejoice together. This shows that God rejoice when a sinner repents.

Christians should seek for the sinners and bring them back to the kingdom of God.

III) Parable of the lost son (the prodigal son) (LK.15: 11 – 32)

The parable is about a man who had two sons. One day his younger son asked for his share of property. When the father gave him, he took off to a far country and squandered all his wealth carelessly. He then began to regret why he had spent everything, he sorts for employment where he was given a job of feeding swine in a rich man's farm. He longed to feed on the swine food but no one gave him and finally came to his sense and finally decided to go home to seek for forgiveness from his father.

When he arrived, his father was filled with compassion and received him with joy. He ordered his servants to dress him up and slaughter the best calf for all to celebrate his coming. His elder brother was unhappy and complained why his father was doing all this to the disobedient son. His father told him that the celebration was necessary because his brother was lost and now he has been found.

Reasons why Jesus used the parable of the lost son

- ✓ To encourage sinners to accept the word of God
- ✓ To show the consequences of loose/careless living
- ✓ To teach about God's love for all people/ kingdom of God belongs to all people
- ✓ To show God's unconditional forgiveness

- ✓ To warn against judging/ condemning them
- ✓ To teach his audience the need to welcome sinners who repents
- ✓ He wanted to encourage families to live in harmony/ unity
- ✓ To encourage people to realize their sinful nature/ be ready to repent

Lessons learnt from the parables of retrieving the lost

- I) God and his angels rejoice when sinners repent.
- II) God love sinners and he is always willing to receive them back to the kingdom.
- III) Christians should celebrate when a sinner repent and come back to the kingdom.
- IV) They should repent their sins so as to be forgiven by God.
- V) They should avoid careless living like the prodigal son.
- VI) They should not discriminate against sinners because they are also important in the kingdom of God.
- VII) Christians should not be jealously over those who have repented back but should rejoice and welcome them back to the kingdom.

Summary of parables used by Jesus to teach about the kingdom of God.

- I) Mustard seed
- II) Unfruitful fig tree
- III) Parable of the shower
- IV) The parable of the Yeast/ leaven
- V) The narrow door
- VI) Invited guests
- VII) Great feast
- VIII) Lost sheep, coin and son

Jesus teaching on wealth and poverty.

a) Parable of the shrewd manager (the dishonest steward) (LK. 16: 1 – 15)

Jesus told his disciples the parable of dishonest steward. The parable is about a rich man who had a dishonest steward (manager).

One day the rich man was informed that the steward was wasting his wealth. He called the steward and told him to give an account of everything he had given him because he was going to be sacked. The steward decided to make friendship with some debtors so that they could receive him after being sacked. One debtor owes his master one hundred barrels of oil and he asked him to change it to 50 barrels. The second owed his master 100 bushels of wheat and he told him to change it to 80. When the master saw these changes, he praised the shrewd manager not because of his dishonesty but because he acted wisely in a moment of crisis.

Lessons learnt from this parable.

- I) Christians should act wisely in a moment of crisis.
- II) They should be honest in small issues so that they can be trusted in big issues.
- III) They should use their wealth wisely and not to waste.
- IV) They should make friendship with others so that they could help them in the time of need.
- V) Christians should use their wealth to serve God.
- VI) It is not possible to serve God and wealth at the same time.

b) Parable of the rich man and Lazarus (LK. 16: 19 – 31)

Jesus told his disciples that there was a poor man called Lazarus who used to be brought to the rich man's door so as to eat bites of food that fell from his table. His body was covered with sores that dogs would lick. When both Lazarus and rich man died, Lazarus was taken by angels to heaven and sat beside Abraham.

The rich man went to Hell and was in great pain. The rich man pleaded with Abraham to send Lazarus to deep his finger in water to cool his tongue. Abraham denied his request.

He reminded him that while he was alive, he had all the good things while Lazarus had nothing. The rich man had nothing to help Lazarus while he was alive. He had not used his wealth to help Lazarus and other poor people as was expected in Jewish law.

The rich man further pleaded with Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers to warn them so that they could live a righteous life and not to suffer the way he was suffering in hell.

Abraham denied once more telling the rich man that, "Your brothers have Moses and prophets to warn them; your brothers should listen to what they say." Abraham refused to send Lazarus indicating that people should listen to God's messengers.

Lessons Christian learn about wealth and poverty.

- I) Christians should know that it is their duty to take care of the poor/ needy.
- II) Christians learn that the rich should not love their riches more than they love God.
- III) They should accept that there are people who are blessed by God with riches and others who are poor and lack basic essentials.
- IV) They are expected to use their wealth to maintain God's work.
- V) They should seek spiritual wealth more than material wealth.
- VI) The poor should also accept themselves as they are God's children by humbling themselves and using their talents to contribute to development of God's work.

Summary of parables used by Jesus to teach about wealth and poverty.

- a) Parable of the shrewd manager (dishonest steward)
- b) Parable of the rich man and Lazarus.

Jesus' teaching on the power of faith

- Faith is a complete trust /belief in something or somebody.

The healing of the ten lepers (LK. 17: 11 – 19)

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, he met ten men who had leprosy. When they saw him, they stood at a distance and shouted at Jesus to have mercy on them.

Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priest. On the way to the priest, they got cleansed. The priest blessed them and they became free from sins. One of them (A Samaritan) went back to Jesus to give him thanks. Jesus wondered why only this foreigner came to give thanks and not the other nine.

Jesus told him to go his way for his faith had healed him.

Lessons learnt from the healing of ten Lepers.

- I) Jesus has power over sickness.
- II) Christians should have faith in God for them to receive his healing
- III) They learn that faith makes the impossible things become possible
- IV) Jesus is a universal savior e.g. he healed a Samaritan man together with the Jews
- V) They should thank God for everything he does to them

Jesus' Teaching on the coming of the kingdom of God (Luke 17:20-37)

Some pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God would come. Jesus explained to them that the kingdom has already come and is among them.

The Pharisees lacked faith to believe that the kingdom of God had come in the person of Jesus. Jesus told the disciples that they would require strong faith to realize the presence of the kingdom through Jesus.

He also taught them that the day of the son of Man would come the way lightning flashes across the sky for all people to see. Before this day, son of man must suffer and be rejected by people. Jesus linked the day of his coming to the days of Noah and Lot where people perished for refusing to obey God's instructions.

He said that his coming will bring separation among the people. He advised his disciples to be watchful and prayerful as they wait for his coming.

Summary of Jesus' teaching on the power of faith/ the importance of faith (Luke 17:1-37)

- ✓ Faith gives believers strength to overcome temptations/sins
- ✓ It enables them to forgive others
- ✓ It makes even the weakest strong
- ✓ It enables believers to perform their duties without expecting material rewards
- ✓ Faith enables believers to work tirelessly because there is a lot of work to be done
- ✓ Faith leads to physical healing
- ✓ Faith enables believers to show gratitude to God for his blessing/ benefits they have received from Him
- ✓ It enables them experience the kingdom of God in their hearts
- ✓ It enables believers to enter the kingdom of God/ receive eternal life

JESUS TEACHINGS ON PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER.

I) Parable of the widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8)

In a certain town there was a judge who did not fear God nor respect/ regard man. In the same town, there was a widow who wanted the judge to settle a case between her and her enemies. Many times, the widow went to the judge but she was not assisted. She persisted and kept on going. Eventually, the judge decided to help her because she could wear him out with her persistence.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples that they are needed to persist in prayers. He said, if the judge could vindicate the widow against her adversary, then God would work in favor of them that seek him day and night. However, Jesus wondered whether he would find a man with faith like that of a widow when he comes back.

Lessons Christians learn from the parable.

- I) They should keep on praying and not to give up.
- II) They should stand firm for their rights just like the widow.
- III) They should have faith in God when they pray.
- IV) They should approach the just God
- V) They should be ready to assist those who need their support.
- VI) They should be fair when dealing with others.

Parable of the Pharisees and a tax collector (Luke 18:9-14)

Jesus told this parable to the Pharisees who were sure of their goodness and despised others. On one occasion, a Pharisee and a tax collector went to pray in the temple. The Pharisee stood aside and prayed as follows “I thank you God that I am not like others who are dishonest, adulterers and unjust. I thank you that I am not like a tax collector over there. I fast two days a week and give all the 10% of my income.” The tax collector on the other hand stood at a distance and did not even lift his eyes to heaven. He beat his breast asking God to have mercy on him because he is a sinner.

Jesus then told the disciples that the tax collector went home justified before God and not the Pharisee. Jesus told the disciple that everyone who humbles before God will be exalted and the one who exalts himself will be humbled.

Lessons Christians learn from the parable.

- I) They should approach God with humility when they pray.
- II) They should honestly confess their sins as they pray so that they may be forgiven.
- III) They should avoid spiritual pride and self-righteousness.
- IV) God exalts the humbles and lowers the proud.
- V) Christians should not judge others.

Reasons why Christians pray

- ✓ To show their dependence on God/ faith in God
- ✓ To express the power/ greatness of God/ honor God
- ✓ To ask for their needs/ seek guidance
- ✓ Through prayer, they confess their sins/ask for forgiveness
- ✓ To thank God for his faithfulness/blessings/goodness
- ✓ Prayer helps to relieve fear/ worries/ anxiety
- ✓ It is an instrument through which the work of Satan is destroyed
- ✓ To communicate with God/ have fellowship with God
- ✓ To follow the example of Jesus
- ✓ It is a command from God/ a sign of obedience

Jesus teaching on the way to salvation

➤ Salvation is what is expected of the followers of Christ in order to attain eternal life.

Jesus used the following illustrations to teach on the way to salvation.

- I) Blessing of the little children
- II) The rich Man (Nicodemus)
- III) Healing of the blind beggar.
- IV) Parable of the golden coins
- V) Jesus visits to Zacchaeus
- VI) His prediction about his death.

Blessing of the little children (Luke 18:15-17)

Some people brought children to Jesus so that he could bless them. The disciples sent them away but Jesus told them to let the children come to him because the kingdom of God belongs to them.

He used this illustration to show that, for people to attain salvation, they must humble like young children.

The rich man (Luke 18:18-30)

Rich man came to Jesus wanting to know what he must do to receive eternal life. Jesus reminded him of the commandments. He told Jesus that he had kept the commandments since his childhood. Jesus then told him to go and sell everything he had, give the money to the poor and follow him. The man was very sad to hear this for he didn't want to lose his wealth. He therefore went away saying nothing. Jesus then told the disciples that it is much harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Jesus used this illustration to teach disciples that wealth can hinder one from receiving salvation.

Prediction of his death (Luke 18:31-34)

Jesus told his disciples that the son of man would suffer and be crucified on the cross and resurrect on the third day. The disciples could not understand what he was saying. Jesus used this illustration to teach the disciples that through his suffering and death that man receives salvation.

Healing of the Blind beggar (Luke 18:35-43)

When Jesus came to Jericho, there was a blind beggar who used to sit by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd passing, he asked the people what was happening, they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing. He then shouted saying "Jesus son of David have mercy on me." The people rebuked him and told him to be silent but he shouted even louder. Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought before him. Jesus asked him what he wanted; He told Jesus to let him receive his sight.

Jesus then said to him "Receive your sight for your faith has healed you." Jesus used this illustration to show that faith is important for one to receive salvation.

Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Jericho. There was chief tax collector called Zacchaeus who was very rich. Having heard a lot of things about Jesus, he wanted to see him. Being a short man, he could not see him because of the crowd. He ran and climbed a sycamore tree so as to see Jesus. When Jesus came, he looked up and said "Zacchaeus come down, I must stay in your house today."

Zacchaeus came down immediately and welcomed Jesus. All those who saw this began to wonder why Jesus had gone into the house of a sinner. Zacchaeus told Jesus that he was going to give half of his wealth to the poor and if he had stolen from anyone, he was going to pay back four times. Jesus declared and said to him "today salvation has come to this house for the son of man came to seek and to save the lost." Jesus declared salvation not only to him but also to his entire family. Zacchaeus had a repentant heart and was ready to be reconciled to those he had wronged.

The parable of the golden coins (ten pound) (Luke 19:11-27)

In this parable, a rich man called his servants and gave each servant ten coins and told them to trade with the coins until he come back. He went to a far country to receive a kingdom. However, his citizens hated him and did not want his rule. Upon his return, he called the servants to give him a report of how they had used the money.

The first one said he had made a profit of ten more and he was rewarded to be in charge of ten cities. The second one said that he had made a profit of five coins and he was made to be in

charge of five cities. The last one hid the coin and did not make any profit. The master was upset and refused to give him any responsibility. He ordered for those who hated him to be killed. This means God expects us to use our talents well.

Lessons Christians learn from the parable of the ten pounds

1. Christians should use the abilities that God has given them for the benefit of others
2. Christians will be rewarded according to their performance
3. Christians have been given different gifts/ abilities by God
4. Christians will account for how they have used their abilities
5. Christians need to be obedient/ honest
6. God expects Christians to use the opportunities provided well
7. Christians will lose their abilities if not put to use

Relevance of Jesus Teaching on Salvation

- I) To enter God's kingdom, Christians have to be humble and innocent like children.
- II) The death of Jesus and his resurrection makes it possible for Christians to receive eternal life.
- III) Christians learn that wealth should not be barrier to receiving salvation. Wealth should be used to serve the needy.
- IV) Christians should use their ability to glorify God by serving others.
- V) Christians will give an account of how they have used their talents and abilities just like the servants with gold coins.
- VI) They should obey Gods commandments so as to receive salvation.
- VII) Christians should repent their sins and seek forgiveness through Jesus for them to receive eternal life.

Jesus triumphant entry in Jerusalem (Luké 19: 28-40)

When Jesus came to Mt. Olive, he sent two of his disciples to get him a colt which had never been ridden on. He gave them instructions about the colt which they were to bring him. The disciples found the colt and untied it. The owner of the colt sought to know where it was being taken. The disciples told the owner that the Lord needed it. The disciples brought the colt to Jesus. They put their garment on its back. He rode on a colt to show that he was a humble and a peaceful messiah. Ridding on a donkey was also a fulfillment of Zacharias' prophecy. As he entering Jerusalem, he was received by many people who had come to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem. People spread their garments on the road as they sung joyfully and praised God. The multitude praised him because they had witnessed mighty miracles he had performed among them. They shouted in their loudest voices saying "And blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory to God." The Pharisees who were afraid among the crowd because the people were revolting against the roman authority by referring to Jesus as the king. They told Jesus to command the crowd to keep quiet. Jesus told them that even if the people would keep quiet, he would command the stones to shout for him. This implies that Jesus no longer wanted his identity to remain a secret anymore. The time for secrecy was over and he was ready to have a confrontation with the Pharisees.

Lessons Christians learn from Jesus triumph entry to Jerusalem.

- I) Christians should be ready to receive Jesus in their life the way the crowd did.
- II) They should humble like Jesus in their service to others.

- III) They should emulate Jesus by becoming channels of peace in the society.
- IV) They should expect opposition as they witness Christ and they should not give up.
- V) They should thank and praise God for his miracles in their lives as the crowd did.
- VI) They should be bold as they witness Jesus the way the crowd was bold.

Major events that took place during Jesus Triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

- I) He rode on a donkey (colt)
- II) The crowd spread their garments on their road for Jesus.
- III) The crowd joyfully shouted and praised Jesus.
- IV) The Pharisees told Jesus to command the crowd to keep quiet.
- V) Jesus told them that if the crowd was to keep quiet, then stones would shout for him.
- VI) As he arrived in the city, he wept over Jerusalem because of its sinful conditions.

CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE.

a) Jesus weeps over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44)

When Jesus drew near Jerusalem city, he wept over the city. This is because of peoples' failure to recognize the role of the city in God's plan of salvation. Because Jerusalem city was going to be destroyed by enemies as a punishment from God.

b) Cleaning of the temple (Luke 19:45-49)

After weeping over Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple and protested against the buying and selling that was going on. He sent away the money exchangers because they had turned the temple into Aden of robbers. He told them that the temple was a house of prayer but not a hiding place for thieves. He also prophesized the destruction of Jerusalem temple because of the Evil deeds people were doing in it.

Lessons Christians learn from the cleansing of the temple.

- I) They should respect the house of God and use it appropriately
- II) They should avoid exploiting others as the money exchangers did in the temple.
- III) They should have courage like Jesus to condemn Evils practiced by church Leaders.
- IV) They should use the house for prayers

Areas of conflict between Jesus and Jewish religious leaders.

I) Question about his authority (Luke 20:1-8)

As Jesus was teaching in the temple, the Jewish religious leaders ask him under whose authority was he teaching. Jesus replied by asking them another question "whose authority was John the Baptist preaching, from heaven or from men?" They discussed among themselves but could not get the right answer. If they say from heaven, it meant that Jesus' Authority was from heaven, if they say from men, then people will stone them to death.

They therefore told Jesus that they didn't know where John's authority came from. Jesus decided not to tell them where he got the authority.

II) The parable of the tenants (Luke 20:9-18)

The parable is about a man who planted a vine yard and left it under the care of tenants. He then went away to a far country. When time came for harvest, he sent three of his servants to collect his portion of harvest. The tenants beat up all his servants, the owner of the vineyard then decided to send his own son but he was beaten up and killed, later on, the owners decided to destroy the tenants and gave the vineyard to others.

Jesus ended the parable quoting psalms 118:22 "The very stone which the builder rejected has become the head of the corner."

Meaning of the parable.

- Vineyard is the Israel
- God is the owner of the vineyard
- The servants that were beaten up represent the prophets of God.
- The son represents Jesus who was killed by the Jews leaders.

N/B: The Pharisees felt bad when Jesus gave them this parable because they knew he was attacking them indirectly.

III) Question on paying tax to Caesar (Luke 20:19-26)

The scribes and the chief priest were annoyed after listening to the parable of the tenants. They wanted to arrest him but they were afraid of the people. They looked for an opportunity that will land Jesus to the Roman authority. They bribed some men to pretend that they were sincere listeners so as to trap Jesus.

They asked Jesus whether it was lawful to pay tax to Caesar. This question was to trap Jesus to see whether he will accept or not. He asked them to show him a silver coin. He then asked them whose face and image were on the coin. They said Caesar. Jesus told them to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God.

IV) Question about resurrection (Luke 20:27-40)

The Sadducees were a group of religious leaders who didn't believe in the resurrection of the body. They tried to ask Jesus a question on marriage and resurrection. They told Jesus that according to the law of Moses, if a man's brother dies having a wife but no children, the man must inherit the wife and raise up children for his brother.

There were seven brothers, the first took the wife and died without children and the second and the third took her and likewise all the seven left no children and died.

Afterward, the woman also died.

In the resurrection, whose wife will the woman be for the seven had her as a wife

Jesus told them that the sons of this age marry and are given in marriage but those who resurrect from the dead do not marry because they are angels and sons of God.

The dead are raised and even Moses calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and Jacob. Some of the scribes accepted what he had said.

V) Questions about the Messiah (Luke 20:41-44)

The Pharisees doubted about the messiahship of Jesus and could not believe in him at all. He asked them a question, "How can it be that the messiah would be the descendant of David?" Jesus went further to quote psalms 110: which says that the messiah is more than a mere descendant of David.

VI) Jesus warns against the teachers of law/ scribes (Luke 20:45-47)

Jesus warned his disciples against the teachers of law. Their hypocrisy was seen in the following ways;

- Being treated with respect in market places
- Seeking places of honor in the synagogue.
- Making long prayers
- Taking advantage of widows and robbing them their property

VII) Widow's offering (Luke 21:1-4)

Jesus observed as people gave their offering in the temple. When the rich gave out and spared some of their riches, the widow gave all that she had (two little copper coins). Jesus praised the widow for giving all that she had. This causes conflict between Jesus and the Jews leaders because, Jesus chose to praise the widow but not them.

Jesus teaching on Eschatology

- Eschatology is the study of end time.
 - Jesus taught on the following issues concerning eschatology;
- a) Prophecy of destruction of Jerusalem temple (Luke 21:5-6)
- b) Sign of end time (Luke 21:7-19)
- c) Parable of the fig tree (Luke 21:29-33)
- d) Destruction of Jerusalem city (Luke 21:20-24)
- e) Coming of the son of man (Luke 21:25-28)
- f) Need to be watchful (Luke 21:34-38)

a) Prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem temple (Luke 21:5-6)

Some disciples marveled at the beauty and strength of the temple. Jesus foretold that time shall come that it will be destroyed and not even a single stone will be left unturned.

b) Sign of the end time (Luke 21:7-19)

The disciple wondered when the destruction of the temple would take place. This made Jesus to give them signs of the end time which are as follows;

- Many people would come claiming to Jesus the messiah
- Nations will fight against each other
- Kingdoms will fight against each other
- There will be terror and great signs from heaven
- The disciples will be put to death/ killed.
- The disciples of Jesus will be arrested, persecuted and imprisoned.
- There will be great earthquakes.
- There will be famines and pestilences in various places
- The disciples will be betrayed to the authority by their close relatives.
- The city and the temple of Jerusalem will be destroyed.
- The disciples will be hated on Jesus' account.

c) Parable of the fig tree (Luke 21:29-33)

He told the parable of the fig tree to explain the reality of end time and his coming. Just as the fig tree prepares for summer and winter seasons, Jesus advised his disciples to prepare for his second coming by watching the signs of end time.

d) Destruction of Jerusalem city (Luke 21:20 -24)

Jesus told the disciple about the destruction of the city of Jerusalem. He warned the people to fly from the city when they see the invading armies. He sympathized with the

pregnant women and those who were breast feeding because they would suffer a great ordeal

e) The coming of the son of man (Luke 21:25-28)

Jesus talked to his disciples about the coming of son of man. Before the coming of the son of man, the following signs will appear;

- The nation will be in distress.
- There will be signs in moon, sun and stars.
- There will be roaring of seas and waves
- Men will faint with fear.
- The power of heaven will be shaken.

f) Need to be watchful (Luke 21:34-38)

Jesus concluded on Eschatology by encouraging his disciple to live a righteous life. They were not to be re-occupied with the worries of the world. They were to be watchful so that the coming of the son of man could not find them unaware.

Relevance of Jesus teachings on Eschatology to christens.

- I) They should be aware of the signs of eschatology
- II) They should be aware of false prophets who come in the name of Jesus.
- III) They should stand firm in faith so as not to be swayed by false religions.
- IV) Prayer is important especially at the time of crisis.
- V) They should believe in Jesus as the Messiah who has authority from God.

PASSION, DEATH AND RESSURRECTION OF JESUS.

The last supper: - Is the last meal which Jesus had with his disciples before his arrest.

Preparation for the last supper Luke (22:7-13)

The last supper occurred during the feast of the Passover. Jesus sent two of his disciples, Peter and John to go prepare for the last supper.

He instructed the two disciples to go into the city of Jerusalem.

He told them that they would meet a man in the city carrying a jar of water.

Jesus told them that they should follow the man into the house he would enter.

Once in the house, the disciples were to ask the owner/ householder to show them the guest room.

He instructed the disciples to prepare the room.

The disciple prepared the meal.

Celebration of the last supper (Luke 22:14-38)

When the time came for Jesus to eat the last supper with hi disciple, they went and took their positions at the table in the upper room.

Jesus told them that he had desired to have the meal with them before his death.

Jesus took the cup of wine gave thanks and gave it to his disciples to share.

He also took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave them.

He explained to them the meaning of the bread and wine. Bread was his body and the wine was his blood that would seal the new covenant.

He commanded them to hold the ritual in memory of him.

He informed them that he would be betrayed by one of them though all of them refused.

An argument arose among the disciples who will be the greatest. Jesus told them that the greatest was the one who was ready to serve others.

Jesus told Simon that he would be tested by Satan.

Jesus told Simon that He had already prayed for him to strengthen the others

Jesus also predicted that Peter would deny him three times before the cock crows. He also told Peter to be the leader of the disciples.

He finally told the disciple to be prepared to face hostility from the Jews religious leaders.

The new meaning that Jesus gave the Passover meal.

- I) Bread represents the body of Jesus which would be crucified on the cross.
- II) Wine represents the blood of Jesus which would shade on the cross.
- III) The cup represents God's new covenant with his people through Jesus Christ.
- IV) Jesus is the new sacrificial lamb representing the old Passover lambs which were sacrificed in the night of Passover.
- V) The command "do this in the memory of me." Implies that the disciples were to continue celebrating the last or Lord's supper.

Significance/importance of the Lords supper/the holy communion to Christians today.

- a) It helps to renew Christian's faith in God.
- b) Helps them to remember the blood of Jesus which was shade on the cross to save them from sins.
- c) Through the Lords supper, they prepare for the 2nd coming of Jesus.
- d) It is an act of repentance through which Christians seek forgiveness.
- e) It is a symbol of heavenly feast which Christians will partake in God's kingdom.
- f) It makes Jesus presence to become a reality among Christians.
- g) It is a time for self-renewal and dedication in Christ
- h) It promotes the spirit of sharing.
- i) It is a way of praising and thanking God.
- j) It is a symbol of unity among Christians.

Reasons why Jesus used bread and wine during the last supper

- ✓ It was a common meal for the Jews
- ✓ He used bread because unleavened bread was used during the Jewish celebration of the Passover.
- ✓ He used wine because it was a common drink for the Jews.
- ✓ Jesus explained that the bread represented his body which would crucified for the forgiveness of sins
- ✓ He used wine to represent his blood that was to be shed for sealing the new covenant
- ✓ He used bread to demonstrate that he is the bread of life/ the lamb pf sacrifice
- ✓ Jesus shared bread and wine as a sign of fellowship/ unity/ preparation for heavenly feast
- ✓ Jesus used the bread and wine to initiate the new covenant
- ✓ He used bread and wine demonstrate how the disciples would practice the ritual in future

The prayer on mount Olives (Luke 22:39-46)

After the last supper, Jesus went to Mount Olive together with his disciples to pray.

When they reached the place, he told the disciples to pray so that not to enter into temptation. Jesus moved a distance away from his disciple

He knelt down and prayed to his father to remove the cup of suffering away from him as it was his will.

After the prayer, he went back to the disciples and found them asleep.

He told them to wake up and pray so as not to enter into temptation.

Lessons Christians learn from the incident when Jesus went to pray with his disciples on

Mount Olives

- ✓ They should be prayerful
- ✓ They should put God's will first
- ✓ Prayer helps one to overcome temptations/ difficult situations
- ✓ They should depend on God for strength/ support
- ✓ They should encourage others in their weaknesses
- ✓ They should be ready to suffer for God's sake
- ✓ They should be watchful/ alert for the enemy strikes when they least expect it
- ✓ They need to have close friends/ associates that they can learn from

The arrest of Jesus and his Betrayal (Luke 22:47-53)

While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd appeared and among them was Judas.

He kissed Jesus as a way of identifying him. Jesus was then arrested by the crowd, one of his disciples tried to protect him by cutting off the ear of one of the slaves of the high priest.

Jesus healed the man's ear.

Jesus asked the religious leaders why they had come to arrest him as if he was a criminal

Jesus was then taken to the house of the high priest where he spent the night before his trial.

Reason why Judas betrayed Jesus

- I) He was greedy for money
- II) He was overcome by the power of devil/he was tempted by Satan
- III) He was looking for fame/ recognition
- IV) He lacked moral courage to stand with Jesus during his trial moment.
- V) He was an informer of Jewish authority before he became a disciple of Jesus
- VI) He was disappointed by Jesus' teaching about spiritual kingdom yet he expected a political messiah.
- VII) It was a fulfillment of the prophecies about a messiah being betrayed by a close friend
- VIII) He was unhappy with Jesus' activities

Denial of Jesus by Peter (Luke 22:54-62)

When Jesus was arrested, Peter followed him at a distance. Jesus was put in one of the high priest's house, but Peter joined the people who were warming themselves at the court yard.

A maid and two other people claimed that Peter was one of Jesus disciples. But Peter denied three times and immediately after his denial the cock crowed thus fulfilling Jesus prediction about his denial.

Why Peter denied Jesus.

- I) He lacked strong faith/courage to stand with Jesus during his trial moment/ he lacked faith in Jesus.
- II) He was afraid of being arrested or being killed.

- III) It was a way of fulfilling Jesus' prediction about his denial /the denial had been predicted by Jesus
- IV) He was overcome by the devil/ Satan
- V) Peter was confused by the turn of events
- VI) He was disappointed by the fact that Jesus did not fight back
- VII) He had no support/ solidarity from other disciples

THE TRIAL OF JESUS (LUKE 23:1-25)

Trial before the of Sanhedrin (Luke 22:66-71)

Jesus was taken to the council of Sanhedrin early in the morning. This council consists of Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees. The council asked whether he was Christ the king but he refused because he knew they would not believe. Instead he talked of the son of man who would be seated on the right hand of his father. They asked again whether he was the son of God. He told them that they had already said.

Trial before Pilate (Luke 23:1-7)

Since the council of Sanhedrin didn't have power to carry out death sentence, they took him to Pilate the roman governor. They accused Jesus of perverting the nation, forbidding payment of tax to Caesar and claiming to be the messiah. Pilate asked Jesus whether he was the king of and he replied saying, "So you have said so." Pilate found him not guilty and sent him to Herod.

Trial before Herod (Luke 23:7-12)

When he was brought before Herod, he was glad to see Jesus because he had heard much about him hence he wanted to see some sign done by Jesus. Jesus was asked many questions by the king but he did not answer. Herod therefore found no ground to accuse Jesus. He sent him back to Pilate.

Trial/Jesus before Pilate (Luke 23:13-25)

When he was taken back to Pilate he still found him innocent, however the chief priest and others insisted that he was guilty and must be crucified. They all voted for Barabbas a murderer to be released instead of Jesus. Finally, Pilate gave in to their demands and handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. He agreed to crucify Jesus because he was afraid of the crowd and he did not want to disrespect the Roman Empire.

Accusations that were made against Jesus during his trial

- ✓ Jesus called himself the messiah/ Christ
- ✓ He claimed to be the son of God
- ✓ He was inciting people with his teachings/ he was opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar
- ✓ He had made himself the king of Jews which was against the roman authority
- ✓ He had stirred up the people to revolt
- ✓ He was equating himself to God/ blasphemy

The crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 23:26-43)

Jesus was led to a place of crucifixion which was known as "the skull"
Simon of Cyrene was forced to help Jesus to carry the cross. The woman who followed lamented and wailed for him.

Jesus told them not to weep for him but for themselves and their children because of the coming judgment. When they reached the place, Jesus was nailed on the cross together with two criminals, one on the left and the other on the right. Jesus asked his father to forgive the executors for they didn't know what they were doing.

The soldiers cast lots to divide his garments. The Jewish leaders mocked him, telling him to save himself if he was the messiah. One of the criminals joined the mockers and told Jesus to save himself if he was the messiah.

The other criminal known as “**the repentant thief**” rebuked the mockers saying he was showing disrespect to God. He told Jesus to remember him in the Kingdom. Jesus promised him of eternal life in the paradise.

THE DEATH OF JESUS (LUKE 23:44-56)

The death of Jesus was preceded by extra ordinary happenings. Darkness covered the land between the 6th and 9th hour. This symbolizes the climax on evil through the death of Jesus on the cross. The curtain of the temple tore into two to symbolize the end of Judaism and beginning of Christianity which is a universal religion. After these strange happenings, Jesus cried out in prayer, “father in thy hands I commit my spirit” this prayer showed his total commitment to God's will.

The death of Jesus had immediate effect on the centurion who testified that Jesus was innocent. The crowd who watched the death of Jesus returned home beating their breasts as a sign of regret and repentance.

Joseph of Arimathea, a rich righteous member of Sanhedrin requested Pilate to allow him bury Jesus. He then took the body down and wrapped it in a linen cloth ready for burial. Then a woman followed Joseph up to the place where he was to bury Jesus. Joseph laid Jesus' body in a tomb that had never been used before.

This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy of a suffering servant who would be buried into a rich man's tomb. After the burial the woman went back home to prepare the spices which they hoped to use to treat the body of Jesus after the Sabbath.

Events that took place between the death and the burial of Jesus

- ✓ The sun stopped shining/ there was darkness over the land
- ✓ The curtain of the temple was torn into two
- ✓ Jesus committed his spirit to his father's hand/ breathed his last breath
- ✓ The centurion who witnessed the death of Jesus praised God/ confessed that Jesus was innocent
- ✓ The multitude who witnessed the death, went home beating their breasts
- ✓ The women from Galilee stood at a distance/ watched in silence
- ✓ Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus
- ✓ He took down the body from the cross, wrapped it in linen cloth and laid it in the tomb
- ✓ The women from Galilee followed Joseph to witness how the body was laid

The importance of the death of Jesus to Christians

1. Through the death of Jesus, Christians are forgiven their sins
2. Christians are not supposed to make animal sacrifices to God
3. It demonstrates God's love for human beings
4. Christians have personal relationship with God
5. Christians are able to commit themselves to the will of God

6. It enables Christians to face death with courage
7. Through his death, salvation is availed to all people
8. He has become their everlasting high priest by offering his own body

Lessons Christians learn from the suffering and death of Jesus

- ✓ Christians should have faith in God
- ✓ They should endure sufferings
- ✓ They should forgive their enemies
- ✓ They should repent/confess their sins
- ✓ They should be obedient/ loyal to God
- ✓ Christians should sacrifice to suffer on behalf of others
- ✓ They should be prayerful/ pray for others
- ✓ Christians should be courageous/ brave

Reasons why Christians should not take part in mob-justice

- ✓ It does not give room to reason
- ✓ It is based on emotion
- ✓ It can lead to destruction of property/ life/ physical injuries/ it is violent
- ✓ It is unbiblical/ it lacks love/ against the law of God
- ✓ It can be fueled by lies/ incitement
- ✓ The victim is denied a chance of defending himself/ herself
- ✓ It is a form of revenge
- ✓ It does not give room for forgiveness/ reconciliation
- ✓ It can lead to bitterness/ regret/ psychological suffering

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

Witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:1-12)

I) The holy woman

On Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, Joana, Mary mother of James and other women went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. They were surprised to find the stone was rolled away and the body was not in the tomb. Two men appeared to them and told them that Jesus has risen as he had prophesized before. The woman went back to tell other disciples about what had happened. The disciples did not believe their words.

II) Two disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32)

On the same day of resurrection, Jesus appeared to the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. They were discussing about Jesus resurrection. As they were talking, Jesus joined them but they did not recognize him. Jesus asked them about the things they were talking about. They wondered. They told him about Jesus of Nazareth and the message of resurrection of his body. Jesus explained to them the scripture that the messiah had to suffer and resurrect to reach his glory. When they arrived at the place, they invited Jesus to stay with them because it was getting late. While they were at the table, Jesus took bread, gave thanks broke it and handed it over to them. The disciples' eyes were opened and they recognized him but he vanished immediately. The two disciples went back to Jerusalem to testify to others about the risen Christ.

III) Appearance of Jesus to the disciples in Jerusalem. (Luke 24:33-49)

As the two disciples were narrating their encounter with Jesus to others in Jerusalem, Jesus himself appeared. The disciples were frightened and thought they had seen a ghost. Jesus told

them to touch his hands and feet to feel the marks of the nails. He also asked them for food and they gave him fish and he ate. After that he explained to them about the scriptures concerning death and resurrection which was fulfilled.

He told them they were the living witness to the things that he had done, therefore commissioned them to witness him in Jerusalem and whole over the world. He also promised them the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reasons why Jesus appeared to his disciples after resurrection

- ✓ He wanted to strengthen their faith
- ✓ So as to comfort them
- ✓ In order to empower them to serve
- ✓ He wanted to reassure them that he was the messiah
- ✓ So as to commission them to be his witnesses
- ✓ He wanted to tell them about the coming of the holy spirit
- ✓ So as to bless them
- ✓ In order to confirm to them that he was alive/ had power over death
- ✓ He wanted to present to them the correct interpretation of the suffering messiah/ the scriptures

Ascension of Jesus (Luke 24:50-53)

➤ *Ascension means going from the earth to heaven.*

From Jerusalem, Jesus led his disciples to Bethany. He raised his hands, blessed his disciples and went to heaven.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem with a great joy. They returned to the temple where they praised God as they waited for the Holy Spirit.

The importance/significance of Jesus passion and death to Christians

- I) It encourages them to be strong in faith during temptations.
- II) It teaches them to strengthen one another during temptations
- III) Human beings are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ's death.
- IV) Their sins are forgiven through the death of Jesus
- V) The death of Jesus brought salvation to the whole world
- VI) It encourages them to face temptations the way Jesus faced
- VII) It proves to them that Jesus is the true messiah prophesied by Isaiah.

Importance of resurrection of Jesus to Christians

- I) It gives Christians hope for eternal life
- II) It is a foundation of Christianity because it began the day Jesus resurrected
- III) Through Jesus' resurrection, Christians start living a new life in Christ
- IV) Resurrection of Jesus gives them courage to face death because they will resurrect
- V) It makes them believe that Jesus is the real messiah who was prophesized.
- VI) It strengthens their faith in Christ.
- VII) It confirms that there is life after death
- VIII) His resurrection, led to the coming of the power of the Holy Spirit.
- IX) it is the central theme in Christian preaching/ teaching
- X) it confirms that the scriptures are true
- XI) it assures Christians that they worship a living savior/ Jesus is alive
- XII) it confirms that Christians will resurrect/ have a new body

Why the disciples found it difficult to believe in the resurrection of Jesus

- I) The message was first taken to them by women who were despised in Jews community/were regarded lowly in society.
- II) They had witnessed cruel death of Jesus on the cross and thought that all was over.
- III) They did not understand Jesus' teaching about his resurrection on the third day.
- IV) They had expected a political messiah who would not resurrect.
- V) Resurrection was a new experience which had never been seen or heard of people coming back to life on their own.
- VI) There was a heavy stone on the tomb and they didn't imagine how it could be rolled away.
- VII) They felt ashamed for having denied and betrayed him, hence wished that it was not true
- VIII) They lacked faith in the teachings of Christ