


GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT ONE: Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham.

Lesson 8:

A Special Visitor

CONTENT:

1. Just as Abraham welcomed special guests, Elisabeth welcomed Mary to her home. The Holy Spirit helped her to know that Mary was carrying Jesus in her womb, so she called her "Mother of my Lord" and praised her.
-  2. God wants us also to welcome Mary into our homes, because she has become our mother too. We can ask her to pray for us. [CCC 2677,2679]
3. Hundreds of years later, Mother Mary visited a young girl called Bernadette. She told her to pray for sinners. A stream of water started flowing from the cave and many people were healed after drinking from it or washing in it. People realised that Mary is really our loving mother who wants everyone to come to God.

ASSIGNMENT: Read the handout at home. Learn to say the 'Hail Mary' well.

REFERENCES: Luke 1: 39-45; John 19:27. CCC 2676-2679. www.catholicpilgrims.com

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts;

N.B. The Hail Mary has already been introduced in Std 1. We deepen the children's understanding in it in this lesson.

I. STARTER:

- Did you tell the story of Abraham and the three guests to your family? Did you invite any special guests to your home? [*Children share their experiences.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT: [Story of Abraham's Visitors]

Today we are going to hear about another person who had a very special guest. The woman's name was Elisabeth.

One day Elisabeth was feeling very tired and a little worried. She was quite old, old enough to be a grandmother, but she was going to have a baby. (*Can you remember another old woman who was going to have a baby?... Sarah!*) Elisabeth was very happy to have a baby. She had been wishing for one for many years. But just now she was tired.

- (*Do you remember your mother when she was going to have a baby? Or someone else? How did they look? Did they feel tired?*) [*Talk a little about this with the children*]

Elisabeth also wished she had someone to help her. As she made the bread and swept the house, she thought, "I wish I had someone to help me... to rub my back when it pains, and just to talk to... Someone like my young cousin Mary. But she lives so far away."

Just then, Elisabeth heard noises outside the house. She ran to the door and looked out. There were donkeys and a cart. Someone had arrived from far away, and was entering the courtyard... It was Mary, her cousin!

Elisabeth was so excited, she ran outside. "I was just wishing that you were here with me! God must have heard my wish. Come in, you must be so tired after the long journey!"

Her young cousin looked at her and said, "Hello Elisabeth!" Suddenly Elisabeth's baby inside her jumped. Then she heard a quiet voice in her head saying, "Your cousin has not come alone! She has a tiny baby inside her and that baby is GOD!"

Elisabeth cried out in a loud voice, "Blessed are you among women! And blessed is the fruit of your womb! How am I so lucky that the Mother of my Lord has come to me!"

Mary looked surprised. "How did you know about my baby? I didn't tell anyone!"

Elisabeth said, “As soon as I heard your voice, my baby jumped inside me, and the Holy Spirit told me what had happened to you. God is very happy with you because you believed what the angel said... and because you said ‘Yes’ to him.”

Mary stayed with her old cousin and helped her till her baby was born. They had a wonderful time together. Elisabeth was very happy because she had God himself and his mother living in her house.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- God wants us to welcome Mother Mary to our homes also. When she comes, Jesus also comes with her, because she wants us to know him and love him. Do you have a picture of Mary up in your house? Do you talk to Mother Mary and ask her to pray for you?
- Let’s say the same words that Elisabeth said to Mary. Do you remember what she said? *[Blessed are you among women! And blessed is the fruit of your womb!]*
- Last year we learnt what ‘fruit of your womb’ means. Do you remember? *[Womb means the place where the baby grows inside the mother. And ‘fruit’ means the baby inside. The baby inside Mother Mary was Jesus].* [Pray together:]

Hail Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and the hour of our death. Amen.

NEXT CLASS:

[Give out handouts and read the first part. The children fill in the missing words in the ‘callout’: WOMEN, FRUIT, WOMB. They look at the picture while the teacher tells the story of Bernadette.]

Mother Mary is now in heaven, but sometimes she still comes to visit.

One day a girl called Bernadette was out in the countryside searching for firewood. She was standing near a cave when she heard a loud noise. It sounded as if there was a storm, but nothing was moving. She got frightened, because she didn’t know what was happening. Suddenly she saw a rosebush in front of the cave and at the same time a golden cloud came out of the cave. Then, a lady appeared above the rosebush. She was the most beautiful lady Bernadette had ever seen. She was wearing a long white dress with a blue sash. She had a gold and white rosary hanging from her arm. Her feet were bare, but she had a yellow rose on each of her feet.

The lady smiled and moved her hand, calling Bernadette near, just as a mother calls her little child. Then the lady made the Sign of the Cross and Bernadette started saying the rosary. The lady joined in at the ‘Glorias’. Then she disappeared.

Another time, the beautiful lady told Bernadette, “You must pray for sinners to come back to God” Then she said, “Drink from the fountain and bathe in it.” Bernadette was puzzled. There was no fountain anywhere around. The lady pointed to the ground in front of her, so Bernadette began to scratch the stones in front of her and suddenly she noticed that the ground had become wet. Soon a little pool had formed and bubbles were coming up from it. Bernadette took some water in her hands and drank. Then she washed her face.

The next day when she came to the same place, the little pool of water had become a stream. Many people who heard about the beautiful lady came to see if they could also see the lady, but they couldn’t. But when sick people began to drink the water or wash in it and they became well. Even today, after hundreds of years, people still go to that place (It is called Lourdes) to pray to Mother Mary and to drink the water. *[Read the rest of the handout and colour the picture.]*

Home assignment: Read the handout at home. Learn to say the ‘Hail Mary’ well.
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