

The City of Virtues



Saint Mark Festival 2014



3rd & 4th grade

Under the guidance of
His Holiness
Pope Tawadrous II



WELCOME TO COOL

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Group: _____

Phone : _____



Rules

1. In order to identify participants of the program, each child will be given a wrist band that they will be required to wear every day they are attending the program.
2. It is required that every child in the program bring their Activity Books every day they attend the program. Everyone is responsible for the care of their book and must have it completed at the end of the summer for handing in.
3. At the end of the summer, each child will be rewarded for the care and responsibility of their books. They will be graded on completion of the activities, on the condition of the book (not ripped or scribbled on), etc.
4. Books and wristbands are mandatory—as such, the children that bring in their wrist bands and Activity Books each day they attend will be rewarded at the end of the summer.
5. Encourage your children to open the Bible and look up the references used in the activities.
6. Also try to encourage your children to only do the assignment for that day and not go ahead in the book.
7. If you are traveling out of the state, let us know so that we can give you the assignment for the time you will be away so your children can continue to work on the program while not here.
8. It is best for the benefit of the children if they come on time so they can take advantage of all the activities.
9. Please be respectful of the servants sacrificing their time for the program and be very strict in picking up your children on time at night.
10. Children are not allowed to leave the church grounds and must be obedient and respectful of the rules of the church and her servants. In order for the program to be successful, discipline and respect will be taken very seriously.
11. The essence of the Olympics League is Christian respect and behavior, therefore children who do not consistently practice this Christian behavior will not be allowed to continue with the program to the Olympics competition day. If any child cannot follow the rules, does not respect his/her brothers and sisters in Christ, does not obey the rules of the program and the servants responsible for them, or causes disruption in the program, they will not be allowed to continue.

- ✠ للتعرف على المشتركين في البرنامج كل طفل سيعطى له Wristband لا بد من ارتدائها كل يوم للسماح له بالإشتراك في البرنامج.
- ✠ كل طفل مشترك في البرنامج مطالب بإحضار كتب النشاط كل يوم يشترك فيه. وكل طفل مسئول عن العناية بالكتاب وحل جميع النشاطات وتسليم الكتاب فى نهاية الصيف.
- ✠ فى نهاية الصيف كل طفل سيمنح هدية مناسبة حسب عنايته ومسئوليته بالكتاب. وسيتم تقييم الأطفال حسب الإجابات وحسب حالة الكتاب (ليس مقطوع أو مشخبط) الخ.
- ✠ إحضار الكتاب و Wristband إجبارى كل يوم. والطفل الذى سيلتزم سيمنح جائزة فى نهاية الصيف.
- ✠ شجعوا أطفالكم على فتح الكتاب المقدس والإستشهاد به فى حل النشاطات.
- ✠ وأيضاً شجعوا أطفالكم على الإلتزام بحل المطلوب يوم بيوم فقط وليس أكثر من المطلوب فى اليوم.
- ✠ برجاء إخبارنا فى حالة السفر والغياب عن البرنامج، لنعطى الطفل النشاطات المطلوبة منه فى فترة غيابه حتى يستطيع المواصلة والإستفادة.
- ✠ برجاء الحضور فى الميعاد لضمان الإستفادة الكاملة.
- ✠ برجاء احترام الخدام اللذين يمنحون وقتهم من أجل إنجاح هذا البرنامج والإلتزام بميعاد الإنصراف وعدم التأخير فى استلام الأطفال مساءً.
- ✠ لمساعدتنا لإنجاح البرنامج غير مسموح للأطفال أن يتركوا الكنيسة نهائياً فى أثناء اليوم والإحترام الكامل للخدام ولقوانين الكنيسة وأخذها بجدية تامة.
- ✠ الغرض من هذا البرنامج هو احترام السلوك المسيحى، ولذلك أى طفل لا يتبع السلوك المسيحى لن يسمح له بالإستمرار فى البرنامج لنهايته (Day Competition). والطفل الذى لا يحترم القوانين ولا يحترم أخوته وأخواته فى الرب ويسبب أى إخلال بالبرنامج لن يسمح له بالإستمرار.



Under the guidance of His Holiness Pope Tawadrous II

☆ Topics ☆

In this book, Fady and his friends the Bible, the wise man and the tools tell our friends from third and fourth grade about their adventures in making A paper maquette for his dreamed of City of Virtues. All of this is presented through beautiful and colourful pictures which describe their adventures through the following topics:



- 1- I am a shining star (a personal witness of our Lord). This topic discusses how every one of us can personally be a witness for the Lord. This will be through a lesson about **the parable of the unforgiving servant**.
- 2- I am always useful, in my family (A witness for my Lord within my family). This topic explains how to witness to the Lord within our families. This will be presented in a lesson about **Tobias and Archangel Rafael**.
- 3- I know my Church's faith (A witness of my Lord within my society). This topic explains how to be honest witnesses of our God within our church. This will be presented in a lesson about **the Church**.
- 4- I am useful in my community, (A witness of my Lord in my society). This topic explains how to be an honest witness to our Lord within our society. This will be presented in a lesson about **Gideon the judge**.
- 5- I defend my country (A witness of my Lord in my country). This topic explains how to be witnesses of our Lord in our country. This will be shown in a lesson about **The Saint Archdeacon Habib Guirgis**.

We would like to sincerely thank all the servants who participated in making the competition and books come to life. We are very grateful for each and every single person that helps deliver the rich experience in gaining knowledge to the unique inheritance of our Coptic church.

Let's get together in good spirit for a blessed, fun filled and educational competition.
May this be a blessing for all of us. "We are all one in the body of Christ."

1 I'm a Shining Star

A world of paper was the name of the competition held for all elementary school students. Because this competition aims at growing the talents of the school students, they were asked to present their talents using paper only. Our friend Fady, who was in 4th grade, participated in this competition. Students could draw on paper, form shapes out of paper dough or create shapes using paper. The important thing is that the only materials used must be paper. Our friend, Fady, loves making paper shapes so he participated in the competition.

Days have passed and finally Fady managed to achieve his goal and finish the paper maquette for the city of virtues. It included Virtue road, Island of Values, River of Life, Garden of saints and even the trees there were virtuous: there was the tree of life and the tree of peace.

Fady also constructed a high tower where the City's wise man lived. Fady invented this character to help the people of his city achieve righteousness and goodness). After working hard, Fady decided to go and have some rest. His sister Maria, who is in Kindergarten, came into the room and saw the city that Fady constructed. Maria loved the city and went closer to observe all the details of the paper maquette. She loved the shapes and the colors. Every time she likes a shape, she took it off, plays with it and then puts it aside. She kept doing that until the whole maquette was destroyed and nothing was left except some paper shapes scattered everywhere. Maria then went out to continue playing somewhere else. Everything was destroyed, even the high tower where the wise man lived. The wise man escaped from under the piles of paper and started talking to the tools on the desk.



Penny the pen: Oh no ! what has happened to this city?

The wise man: As you can see, the city was disassembled and all buildings were destroyed
Ruby the Rubber- I wonder what our friend Fady will do when he see this?

Fady returned to his room and saw what had happened to the paper city that he worked on. He knew that only his younger sister would do that while playing. Fady was furious! he was so angry and started tapping on the desk. He tapped so hard that the tools were going to fall! While tapping, he heard a voice that he did not recognize .



Caesar the Scissor : Easy, easy! I will fall from the desk if you keep tapping like that!

Ruby the Rubber: Relax Fady, there is a solution to every problem.

Fady: What is this voice? Who is talking?

Penny the pen: We're the tools that stayed up with you during the nights when you were building your city

The wise Man: I'm the wise man that you made. Have you forgotten me? I was living in the high tower

Fady: How can you talk!? How can you ask me to calm down? I worked on the city for a long time?! It's all Maria's fault! Fady then started crying. She's wasted all my efforts, I'll never forgive her!).

The wise man: Relax Fady, you know she did not mean to do it, she was just playing. She doesn't know that what she has done is wrong.

Fady: How can I just relax and forgive her? The competition deadline is the day after tomorrow! I won't have enough time to fix it.

Caesar the Scissor : Please calm down. Let's solve this peacefully.

Fady: There is no way I can fix it all. All my work and effort is wasted. I will never forgive her. I will never even talk to her again.

Penny the Pen: To be honest Fady, you have every right to be angry with Maria. If it were I, I would do things to get revenge.

Ruby the Rubber: You're wrong Penny. Forget about it Fady, there will be lots of other competitions in the future. You can even participate in next year's competition.

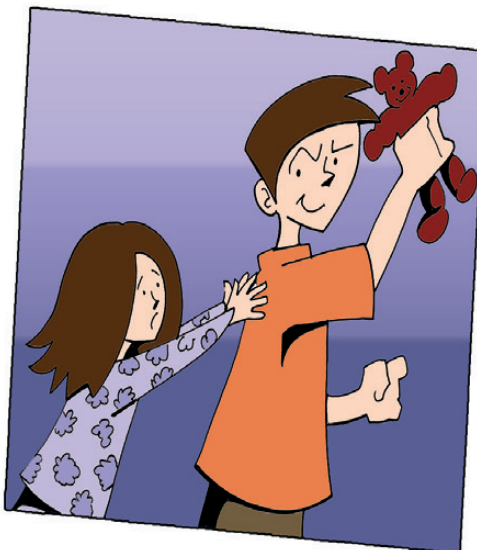
Caesar the Scissors: What do you mean forget about it? How can he forget all his efforts and OUR efforts with him all these nights? Fady, I think you should punish Maria by telling everyone about what she has done so that no one will play with her.

The Wise man: Stop it all of you! What are you saying? What you said is exactly what we should not do when we are angry with someone who wronged us.

Fady: What do you mean wise man?

Wise man: To be avenged, you've got to avoid 4 things. These are: humiliation, quarrelling, gossiping ignoring your feelings.





1. Humiliation

This means that I bother back whoever has bothered me, as Penny suggested. This, of course, is not right! For the gospel says:



"not returning evil for evil
or reviling for reviling,
but on the contrary blessing"

(1 Peter 3:9)

Verse to
memorize



If you do that, then you are saying to the person who wronged you that you will mistreat them the same way. This is of course wrong because you're not showing any of the love or forgiveness that Jesus Christ taught us.

The wise man: See even the holy bible can hear us now

The Holy Bible: Yes I can hear you, and I know what you were doing with Fady since the first day. Before working with you, Fady used to read a chapter from me everyday.

Fady: Have you seen what happened to my paper city?

The Holy Bible: Do not worry Fady, everything will be alright! But the important thing now is to know how to get over your anger and establish peace within yourself.

Fady: The first thing I learnt is not to humiliate anyone. What are the other 3 things?

The Wise man: the second thing is fighting.



2. Fighting

The Wise man: Fady said he will never forgive Maria or even talk to her again. This is wrong for the Holy Bible teaches us otherwise. Always remember God's words when He said:

Moreover if your brother sins against you,
go and tell him his fault
between you and him alone.
If he hears you, you have gained your brother"
(Matt 18:15).



3. Gossiping

This means you start speaking to people and saying unkind things about your sister behind her back just as Caesar wanted you to do. This is wrong because you are not only disliking your sister, but you're influencing others to feel the same and dislike her as well.



4. Ignorning your feelings

Ignoring is like hiding your feelings if you're upset and pretend to be fine. Ignoring your feelings will cause build up of negative feelings inside, making you unhappy. God doesn't want us to do that but rather to keep His words when He said:



"Be angry, and do not sin:" (Ephesians 4:26)

The wise man: So, Fady, its like having a sore. Ignoring it and acting like its not there, may cause an infection making things worse. Its best to learn how to express your feelings without hurting your sister.



Fady: If all these things are wrong, what is the right thing to do to feel better?

The wise man: There are two very important things you need to know, to solve the problem peacefully.

The Holy Bible: Yes you're quite right! To better understand this I'll tell you a story about what St Peter asked Jesus:

Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?

The wise man: The parable tells us about a king who had a servant who owed him 10,000 talents equivalent a million dollars. Of course the servant was unable to pay all this money so he went to the king and asked him to give him some time to repay the debt. The king knew that this was a huge burden to bear, so he forgave the servant and released him from the debt.



**The Parable of the unforgiving Servant
Matthew 18:24-33**



Fady: Wow! What a merciful King

The Holy Bible: That is right Fady but let us see what this servant did after that. This servant had another servant who owed him a small amount of money and he refused to let his fellow servant go free of the debt owed to him, although the amount of money was much less than what that servant initially owed his master, the master got very upset over what the servant did. Now Fady, do you think what the servant did was right or not?

Fady: What the servant did was absolutely wrong. He should have forgiven his fellow servant just like his master had forgiven him his own debt.

The Holy Bible: That is right Fady! Now, do you know who the servant that the Lord mentioned in this parable is? **Fady:** Who is he?

The Holy Bible: He is Jesus Christ himself, and he said this parable to explain to us how God deals with us while we are on Earth. He wanted to say that whoever forgives his fellow brother on earth, his sins will be forgiven in heaven, while the sins of those who do not forgive here on earth, won't be forgiven by God.

If you have noticed, in the Lord's prayer we say "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"

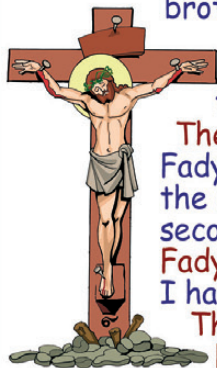
The wise man: Jesus Himself did that on the cross when he forgave those who crucified him. And by the way Fady, when you forgive others, you prove that you are the strongest, and that you have a strong will to get over the desire for fighting that lies inside you. Forgiveness (the first step) is up to you, while reconciliation (the second step) is up to both of you.

Fady: How would it depend on both of us? Isn't it enough that I forgave my sister Maria, isn't it enough that since I have forgiven her, this means that we have been reconciled?

The wise man: It is not enough to forgive her. You must take the next step which is to reconcile with her

Fady: How do I do that?

The Wise man: Through admonition



1. Express yourself

2. Listen to & understand the person

3. Explain the mistake

4. Forgive and ask for reconciliation

5. Confess your mistakes to your father of confession

1
Tell your sister that you're upset that she messed up your city, because she may not know that this would have upset you.

2
Try to listen carefully to what she will say and why she did it.

3
After understanding, explain to her that this was wrong and she should not do it again.

4
Tell her that you have forgiven her and ask her to forgive you if you have raised your voice or said anything hurtful to her while you were angry.

5
After reconciliation, confess any resentment or anger that you felt towards your sister to your father of confession, in order for you to get absolution.

The Holy Bible: You are right wise man, that is exactly God's command when He said " Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother." (Matt 18:15)

Caesar the Scissor: But if Fady forgives his sister she might make the same mistake again. What would he do then?

The wise man: Forgiving his sister does not mean neglecting to ask for his rights. If she repeats the mistake, Fady should ask for what is fairly his in the right way

Fady: I don't understand; how could I do that?



The wise man: The first thing you do Fady, is to discuss your problem and how you have been mistreated in a polite way. This will help stop the same mistake from happening again. In your case today, the responsible person is either your dad or your mom. You should tell them what happened so that they can do the right thing and explain to Maria what she had done and why it was wrong. This way, you will ensure that Maria learns from her mistake and doesn't repeat it again.

Fady: That is quite right wise man. Now I know how to express my feelings and solve my problems in the right way so that they're not repeated again. It's OK if I did not join the competition this year, I could always join next year. At least I learned a very important lesson today.

The wise man: Do not worry Fady, we will all help you

The Holy bible: Yes that's the spirit the Lord asked us to have when he said:

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind". (2 Tim 1:7)



That way, Fady will be a true Christian, testifying to God in everything he does. He learnt how to forgive those who do him wrong, how to be positive, how to claim his rights and how to never ignore his feelings. Fady will never give up when he fails.

Once the wise man and the Holy Bible finished their talk, Fady hurried out to look for his sister. He talked to her and explained what she had done wrong. He solved the problem and went back quickly to his room to work with the rest of the stationary on finishing the maquette before the competition deadline.



2 I'm always useful in my family

All the tools were working hard in Fady's hands, who tried his best to rebuild the city better than before. After lots of hard work, Fady was exhausted & upset.

Fady: Oh I am really tired! There is a lot of work to do in a short time! I wish I could find someone who could do all the work without me having to do anything.

Ruby the rubber: Hahaha, could that ever happen?

Fady: Yes! like in the story of Tobias when Archangel Raphael came down to help him.

Penny the pen: What is their story?

Tobias & Archangel Rafael

Fady: During the days of king Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, there lived a man called **Tobit**.

He was from the tribe of Naphtali & his wife's name was Hanna. God granted Tobit a son whom he called Tobias, which means '**God is kind**'.

Tobit raised his son with the love and fear of God & taught him to follow all God's command since he was a child. When the Assyrians occupied the northern kingdom of Israel, Tobit and his family were all taken to Babylon as captives.

Even in captivity Tobit continued following God's commands and living as a righteous man. As a result of his behavior, the king loved him and allowed him to do whatever he wanted. Tobit used this chance to help the poor and bury the dead and do all sorts of good things.

One day, Tobit was returning home from his work exhausted and unable to walk. So he decided to sleep near a wall. Unfortunately some bird's waste fell from a nest into Tobit's eyes. Tobit lost his sight immediately, but nevertheless, he was thankful. He asked God to heal him and prayed:

"Remember me, and look on me, punish me not for my sins and ignorance, and the sins of my fathers" (Tobias 3:3)



Then one day Tobit spoke to his son Tobias saying:

Tobit: My dear son, always follow God's commandments & take care of your mother Hanna. Always help the poor & be merciful to them. I also wanted to tell you that our relative Gabelus, who lives in Rages a city of the Medes, owes us money. This is the document we wrote to prove the debt. Please take it to him & claim the money so we can live.



Yes Father, I will do all things which thou hast commanded me " (Tobias 5:1)

I will go as you said, but I do not know him or know the way to that city.

Yes father

When Gabelus sees this document he'll immediately pay the money. Then find an older man to show you the way home, & we can pay him wages.

Tobias's obedience to his father is impressive. Although the whole matter seemed very difficult, he does not know the man or the way, but he still listened to his father's instructions without complaining. This is because Tobias felt that his father needed help so he couldn't leave him helpless.

Tobias left his father to search for someone to accompany him on his journey. He found a young man preparing to travel. **Tobias** asked him if he knew the way to Media. The young man answered "yes, very well, as I have stayed at **Gabelus's** house many times." Tobias was happy and introduced him to his father, **Tobit**.

I heard you know Gabelus who lives in Rages of Media. Could you please take my son Tobias to meet him, and I will pay you wages when you return?

I will take him and return him back to you.

Who are you? Which family and tribe are you from?

I am Azarias the son of Ananias the great.

That's a noble family. Go on your way my sons, May God protect you and send his angel to accompany you.

Tobias packed everything he needed for the trip said goodbye to his parents and went with Azarias on their way.

Hannah, Tobias's mother, started crying, for she was worried about him.

Tobit reassured her and told her he was sure their son would return safely, for God's angel will take care of him

Tobias & Azarias went on their way. That night they slept by the river. In the morning Tobias went to wash his hands, face and feet in the river. Then a big whale came to attack him

Oh God please help me. Save me!

Azarias: Don't worry, grab the whale by its fin, hold it tight and drag it out of the water. Now open its mouth and take the liver, the heart and the bile. They are very useful in healing many diseases.

Now we can cook some of the whale's meat to eat.

But, please tell me how the liver, heart & bile will be useful to us?

If you throw part of the heart in the fire, the smoke that rises will get rid of any devils present. The bile is useful in healing weak or damaged eyes.

On the way, **Azarias** asked **Tobias** to go visit one of his relatives named **Reuel**. He then told him about Reuel's daughter, **Sarah**, who got married seven times. Every time the groom died on the wedding night. Tobias had heard about her & knew of her beauty. Azaria suggested to Tobias that he should marry Sarah for she was a good person. He said he should not fear death because God will protect him and keep him safe if he fasted for the first 3 days of marriage.

When they arrived at Reuel's house, Reuel was very happy to meet Tobias. He prepared a big meal for him. Tobias refused to eat until Reuel grant him his request.

Reuel accepted Tobias proposal. Reuel was so grateful for the blessings God bestowed upon his daughter and Tobias, that he made a great banquet to celebrate the wedding.

Reuel also asked Tobias to stay with him for 2 weeks and celebrate. Then he gave Tobias half his money and wrote him will to get all the rest after his death.

Tobias then asked Azarias to go to Gabelus, ask for the money & invite him to his wedding.

Azaria then went and spoke to Gabelus

I will not accept your food unless you give me your daughter's hand in marriage

Do you really want to marry Sarah?

Do not worry Reuel, Tobias is a good man who loves God and follows His commandments. He would never harm Sarah.

Thank you Gabelus for paying the money that you owed Tobit. Tobias would like to invite you to his wedding.

Tobias is the son of my best friend, of course I will go with you and attend his wedding!

Gabelus attended Tobias's wedding and congratulated and blessed him and his new family. The wedding was successful and ended peacefully. After the wedding, Tobias wanted to return back to his father but Reuel asked him to stay.

Tobias,
please stay with me, and I
will send messengers to your
parents to explain that you
are well

Well I asked you
to stay many times
but you insist on
going back. So in
this case, you may
go but please
accept half my
money and assets
as a gift. Please
take care of
Sarah and send my
regards to your
parents.

I'm sorry, really
can't stay. My
parents must be
very worried by
now and I have to
go and see them
myself.

Thank you very much.
Come on Sarah, let's get
ready to leave.

Sarah said goodbye to her parents. They advised her to take care of her husband and to treat Tobit and his wife as her own parents so that God may bless her home and family



Then Tobias, Sarah and Azaria, along with the servants & the gifts he received, began their journey to Nineveh. On the way, Azaria suggested to Tobias that they move ahead of the group so they reach Nineveh first as his parents must be worried. Azaria also suggested that Tobias take the whale bile with him. Tobias agreed.

Hannah Tobias's mother used to go and watch for four years waiting for her son's return. One day, she saw her son coming from far. She was filled with happiness, quickly ran to tell her husband. Tobit was filled with joy, he ran to meet his son on the way.

Tobias then hugged his parents who were both very happy to see him again after all this time. He knelt and thanked God for all the good He has done for him during the journey. Tobias reached for the whale's bile and put it on his father's eyes and at once, something fell out Tobit's eyes and his sight returned.

Tobias then told his parents about all that happened to him during his trip, his marriage to Sarah and Azaria's constant help in every situation.

The parents were so happy and prepared a big banquet to celebrate the return of their son. Then they all wanted to thank Azaria so they went to him and offered half the money that Tobias received during the trip. However, something very strange occurred when they visited him.

After God healed Tobit's eyes, he lived for 43 years where he continued to always help everyone he could. He passed away at the age of 102 years and was buried in Nineveh. After Hannah passed away, Tobias took his wife and children and went to live with his wife's family.

Hail to the angel of God

Don't thank me, rather, thank the Lord who sent me to help you. Tobit, God has seen your good deeds. He listened to your prayer & sent me to heal you from your disease. God has also sent me to save Sarah from the devils surrounding her. I am Rafael the Archangel, one of the 7 Archangels standing before God

I'm returning to God. Keep fasting, praying & thanking God for everything. Always help the poor & needy. Tell everyone how good God was with all of you.

Hail to the angel of God



They lived there a very happy and blessed life until they saw the fifth generation of their descendants. Tobias then died in the fear of God at the age of 99 years.

The Wise man: What a beautiful story Fady! But remember, the Lord has sent Rafael to help Tobias only when he tried very hard to help his father. But if you sit and look for someone to do the work for you, that surely is not going to work! You must work very hard first and when you do that, God will help you to finish your task. While they were talking, they all heard Fady's mother calling for him, so he left them and went to her.

3 I know my Church's faith

After Fady left the room ...

Caesar the Scissor: Come on, hurry up! We need to work hard to rebuild the city before the competition deadline!

Penny the pen: I've already started! Come on Ruby, come on wise man! How about we start rebuilding the church?

Ruby: Yes let's do that! Do you remember how it looked?

Penny: Yes! Let's make it square with a tall minaret and a bell? Fady then came back and was surprised when he saw what the tools have done.

Fady: What are you all doing?

Ruby the rubber: What do you think of this surprise Fady? We have reconstructed the church that was on the right side of the city.

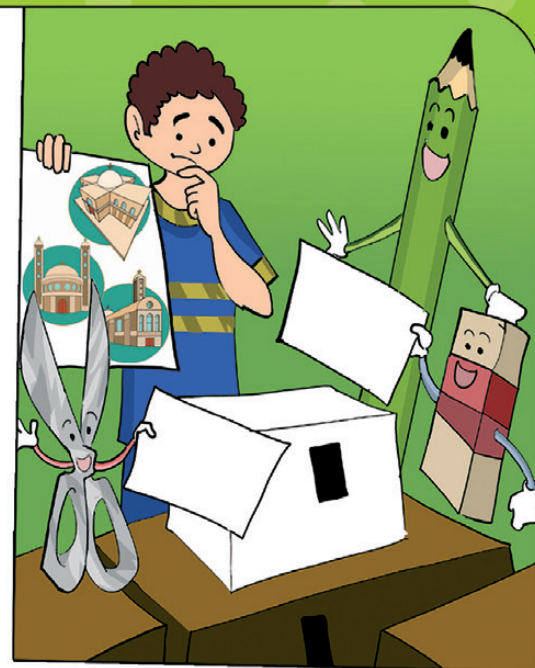
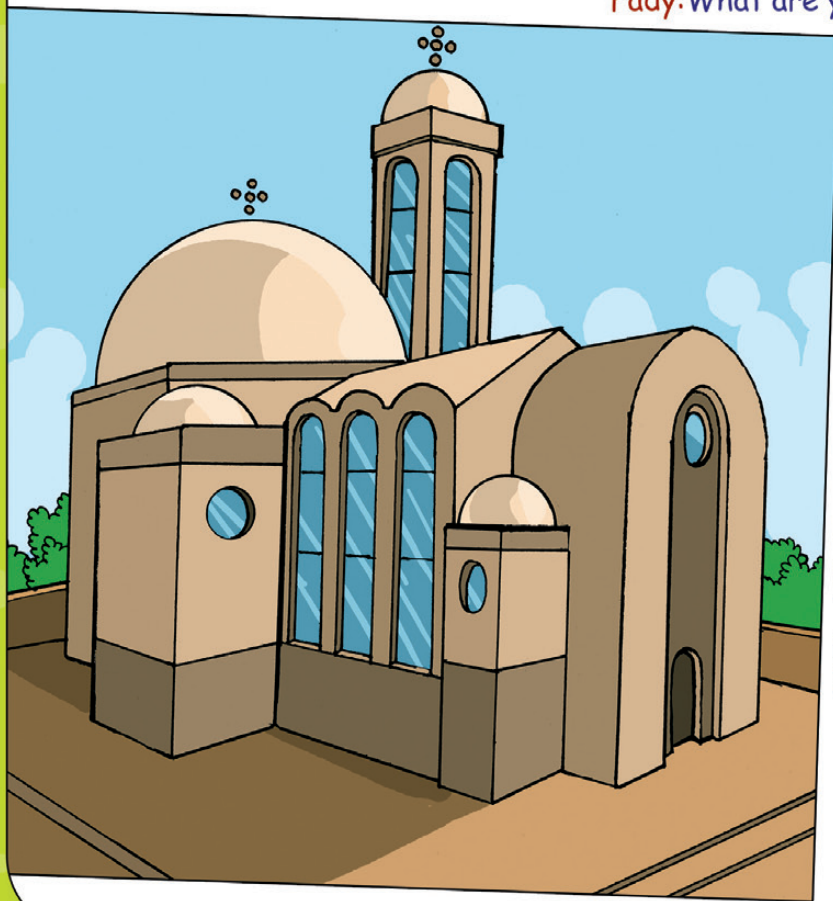
Fady: But the shape for the church is wrong. When the church is built, it has to have one of a few specific shapes.

Penny the pen: What is wrong with this shape? See, it looks very nice and neat! And how would a church have a certain shape anyway?

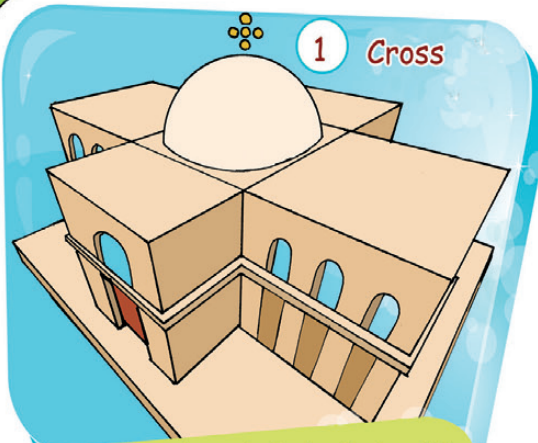
Fady: Of course the church has certain shapes and we cannot change them! The church has to either be in the shape of a ship, a cross or a circle. I'll show you:

The wise men: If the church is only built in these shapes, then that means that each shape has a meaning.

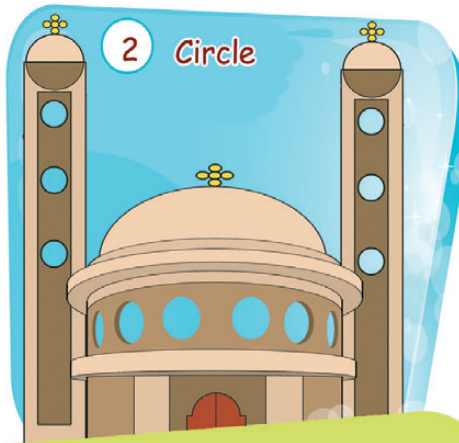
Fady: That is exactly right wise man.



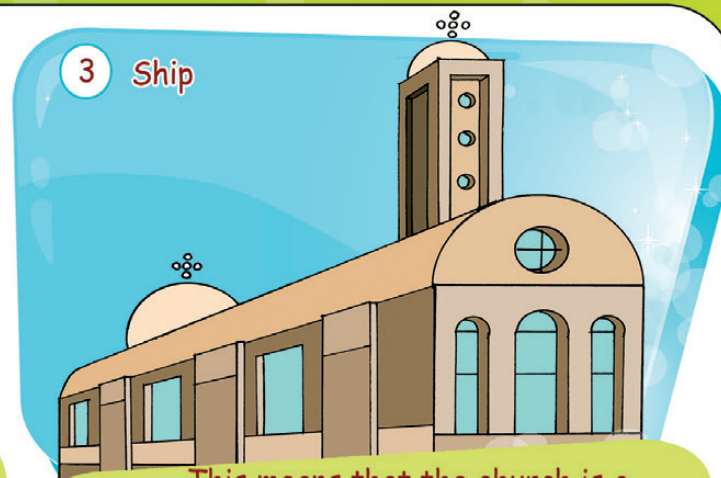
The shape of the church from the outside explains what the church teaches us about its nature. So the church could be built on the shape of:



The church is built in this shape because Jesus was crucified for our sake, and through his cross a new gate to heaven has been opened to us. Through our good deeds & true faith, we can live in heaven eternally. The main aim of church is to help people reach heaven.



This shape symbolizes the fact that the church is infinite and eternal just like a circle with no beginning or end. Of course this symbolism of the church has been taken from Jesus himself who is the head of the church.



This means that the church is a rescue ship like Noah's ark. Noah built the ark to save people & animals from the floods to be given a second chance to live a new life. That is exactly like us. When we enter the church we are saved from the dangers of the world through the church's teachings, prayers, fasting, doctrines and faith. We are given a new birth through baptism.

The wise man: OK now I understand, but I wonder which shape you will pick to build the church in for your city.

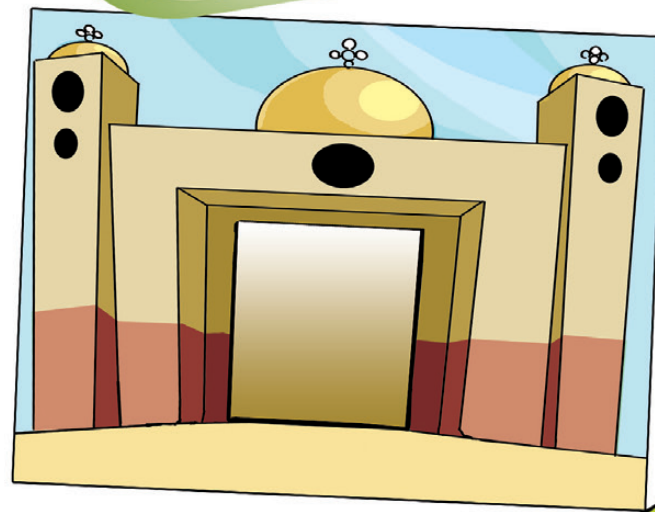
Fady: I will make it in the same shape of my church. I love my church very much and I know its shape by heart. That's why I will make it in the shape of a cross. What do you think? will you help me do it?

Everyone: Of course! Come on let's start!

Fady, the tools and the Wise man all started working on building the church in the shape of a cross. They made sure it looked good before putting it in the maquette and adding the minaret and the cross. They then started arranging the church from inside as per Fady's instructions.

Fady: Every church has 3 doors to resemble the Holy Trinity: one facing west, one facing north and one facing south.

Penny: That is done, now what?

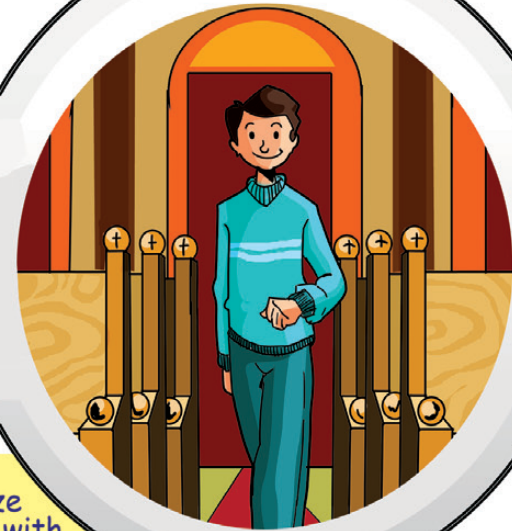


Fady: Let's set the church's nave which is divided into 2 parts: the deacon's chorus and the congregation's area.



Congregation's area

This is the area for people to sit and pray so we should have some benches on the left and right sides. In this area we will find lots of important things: the pillars, the icons, the Lectern, the Ambo and the Lakan.



For the Servant

The Pillars: there are 12 pillars to symbolize the disciples. Sometimes they are decorated with crowns.

The Icons: Walls are decorated with icons of saints & martyrs as well as events from the Old & New Testaments.

The lectern: There is a compartment called the lectern of crucifixion which has a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ crucified on the cross. There is also the lectern of the saints, normally in the main entrance of the church, which has a picture of Saint Mary and the designated Saint of the church.

There are also things that were in churches in the past but are rarely found now like the

The Ambo: It is an elevated place that the priest mounts to preach to the congregation of the church. It is usually located before the Deacon's chorus.

The Lakan: It was like a big tub dug in the ground, usually located at the back of the church and used for water prayers that are prayed three times in our church: good Thursday, the Epiphany and the Pentecost. Currently we use a vessel instead of the Lakan.



Caesar the scissor: Now that we finished the church nave, can you tell us what to do for the second part, the Deacon's chorus?

Fady: It is located at the front of the church and is one or three steps higher than the church nave. It includes a place for the deacons to sit, 2 pulpits (where the Bible is placed), 2 Candleholders and the Bishop's chair

Ruby The Rubber: Great! Now we have finished the church.

Fady: No Ruby, we still have the most important part of the church! The Sanctuary.



The Iconostasis separates the Sanctuary from the church nave and it is made of

1. A barricade made of wood, marble or brick

2. It has 3 doors. The middle one is called the Royal door. On each door there is a curtain decorated with crosses, Saint pictures or the Sanctuary's angel

3. Some churches have windows on the sides of the altar doors and they are sometimes used for the Holy communion

5. Ostrich Eggs: They are normally placed between the icons or in front of them and are symbolic of the resurrection, the hope and the new life.

4. There is a lantern in front of the icon. This is to remind us how the saint in the icon reflected the light of Jesus to everyone. The icon of Jesus doesn't have a lantern because He is the light of the whole world.

6. The icons are arranged as shown in the picture above

On the right hand side of anyone entering the Sanctuary from the royal door: Lord Jesus carrying a bible; then a picture for John the Baptist; then a picture of the designated Saint of the church; followed by some icons for saints and martyrs and some events from the Old and New Testaments

On the left hand side of anyone entering the Sanctuary from the royal door: An icon for the virgin St. Mary, our queen who sits on the right hand side of our king; then the icon of annunciation; then icon for Archangel Michael; then icon of St Mark (and sometimes some icons for the apostles); followed by some more icons for saints and martyrs and some events from the Old and New Testaments.

Above the Royal Door: Icon of the Last Supper. On its left & right are icons of the 12 disciples to remember that our church is an apostolic church that received the faith from the apostles who received it from the Lord Jesus Himself.

Above the iconostasis: Jesus Christ crucified & on His side stands our mother virgin St. Mary and St John.

On the iconostasis we can find some beautiful verses that we should say when entering the church

Wise man: Come on! Let's arrange the Icon holder according to the explanation we just heard!



"But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple " (Psalm 5:7)

And they all started to gather the iconostasis

The wise man: Now as Fady said, we still have the last and most important thing: the Sanctuary

Fady: That is right wise man! "The Sanctuary is the Sanctity of the church because in it the Holy Body and Blood of Jesus are offered in Holy communion. When we pray we say "When we stand in your holy Sanctuary, we are like those who are standing in heaven"

In the middle of the Sanctuary is the altar and in front of it is the Father's bosom (or the eastern wall)

1. The Altar is found in the middle of the sanctuary & has: the Holy board, the ark, the chalice, the paten, the Dome, the spoon, the Ciborium & the small box of incense.

The Eastern Wall

The Sanctuary

The Alter

2. The Eastern wall has the picture of Jesus Christ as the Pantocrator, The Almighty.

The wise man: We have finished all the church parts. Now we only need the roof to complete it

Fady: The roof has:

1. The domes: sometimes it is only one dome and sometimes they're in the shape of a cross.

2. The minaret: this has the bell that rings to alert people that the prayers have started so that they hurry to church. The minaret is like the lighthouse, guiding people to the church

Ruby the Rubber: Ok now we are done! Let's put the church in its right place in the city

Fady: Yes but we must put it facing the east, which is where we look when we pray.

Penny the pen: That is great! Now we have finished the church and placed it correctly.

Fady and his friends finished the church maquette and put it back in the city. Fady observed his project and found that they completed a big part of re-building the maquette. Fady felt so happy because he realized he could achieve his dream once again.

4 I'm Useful in my Community

Maria opened the room door while Fady was working, but he was too busy to notice. It was his sister Maria. She stood beside him and offered him some sweets. Fady was glad to see Maria. He took the sweets she offered and thanked her. Maria offered Fady to help but he refused.

The wise man: Fady, why did you refuse Maria's help? We're running behind & could use the help.

Fady: Yes wise man, but Maria is too young! Her hands & fingers are too small, she can't do much.

Ruby the rubber: Fady, does this mean you think I'm no good and can't help because I'm small?

The wise man: There are many stories of people who were too young or too small in numbers but managed to do great things.

Fady: Who are they?

The wise man: Hold on for a minute and I will tell you

The wise man went into a small box located on the desk and took out different paper shapes, which he then put in front of Fady and his friends.

Fady: Oh wow, where did you find these shapes? They are mine. I remember making them during a 'how to make paper shapes' training session.

Ruby the rubber: What are these shapes Fady?

Fady: These are shapes that tell the story of Gideon the judge.

The wise man: What happened with Gideon is exactly what I meant earlier, Fady

Fady: What do you mean? I don't understand. How is what happened to Gideon related to me not wanting Maria to help because she is young?

Penny the pen: Please tell us the story, so we can understand.

The Holy Bible: Come, I will tell you the story

Fady: And I can help you!

The wise man: And after our friends hear the story, I will tell you about the relation between what happened to Gideon and you not wanting your younger sister to help

Fady: I know where this story is in the Bible. It is in the Old Testament, in the book of Judges, chapters 6, 7, & 8. With your permission, my Holy Bible, I will open the story and read it so my friends can understand.



Before opening the Bible, Fady did the sign of the cross and said, "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God Amen. Speak Lord for your servant is listening. Help me Lord to understand what I read." After Fady read the story, him and the Holy Bible started telling them the story. Everyone including Maria was listening attentively.

Gideon the Judge. Judges chapter 6&7

Fady: Gideon was from the tribe of Menassah and was the youngest of his brothers. His name means the 'Wrestler' & he had other names which were: Jerbusheth and Jerubbaal.

The Holy Bible: At that time, the people of God left Him & began worshipping idols. So God let them fall as prey to their enemies, the Medianites who were very strong and aggressive. They conquered them and humiliated them for more than 7 years.



Fady: The Medianites troubled the people of Israel so much that they started running away from their homes to the mountains to hide. On the mountains the people of Israel started crying and praying to God to have mercy on them. So God heard their prayer and sent them a prophet first, then He called on **Gideon** to help them.



The Holy Bible: God called on Gideon while he was threshing wheat in a small mill, hidden from the Medianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him (this is one of the apparitions of the Son of God in the Old Testament) and told him

"The Lord is with you, mighty man of valor." (Judges 6:12)

Fady: Gideon started to sadly tell the Angel of the Lord about the sufferings of the people of Israel after God left them and let their enemies win over them.



"Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" (Judges 6:14)

The Holy Bible: But Gideon could not believe that God chose him to lead His people and save them from the Medianites. So he asked for a sign to prove that he was actually talking to God.

Fady: Gideon asked God to wait until he prepared him a meal.

The Holy Bible: Gideon brought unleavened bread and meat which the Angel of the Lord asked him to put on a rock. Then he touched them with the tip of his staff and immediately a fire came out of the rock and consumed the food. **Gideon** then realized that he was actually talking to God. God instructed Gideon to destroy his father's temple for Baal (the idols) and build a temple to God instead and then offer a sacrifice there. Gideon did as God instructed him to do.



Fady: Gideon asked God for another sign to prove that he was the one who would save his people from the Medianites.

This time he brought a piece of wool & asked God to let the morning dew only fall on this wool while the rest of the land would remain dry.

Another time, he asked God to let the piece of wool stay dry while all the land would be wet with dew.

The Holy Bible: The 2 signs were given to Gideon just as he asked.



Fady: So Gideon began preparing for war against the Medianites, gathering 32,000 men.

The Holy Bible: Mind you Fady, this is not the number that fought against the Medianites. God told Gideon to let go anyone who was afraid of fighting, and 22,000 men left. Gideon was left with only 10,000 men to fight. God still found this to be enough. He knew that the people of Israel were stubborn and rebellious & tend to forget what he does for them & think that their achievements are due to their strength & power. So God asked Gideon to do one more thing.



Fady: He asked him to take the men, go to a river and watch how they drink the water. God told Gideon to separate the people who use their hands to drink on one side, and the others who kneeled down to drink on the other side.

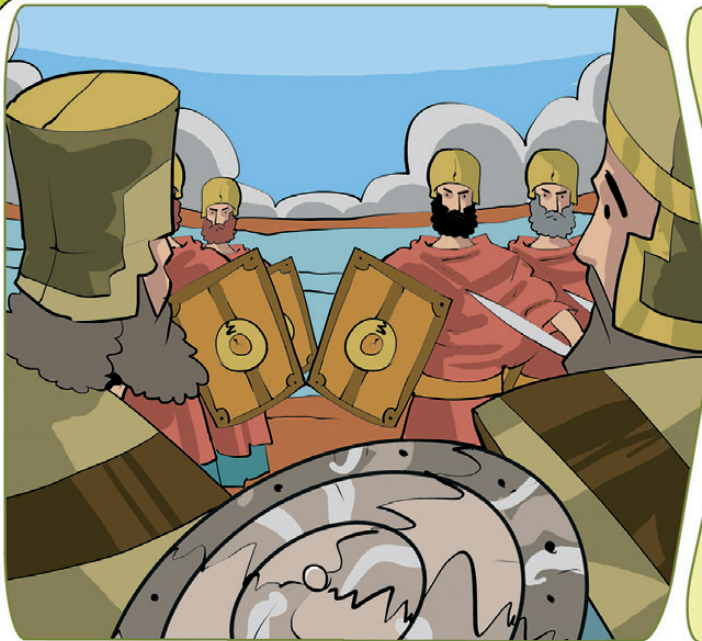
The Holy Bible: That is right Fady! The people who did not kneel were only 300 men and God told Gideon that with those 300 men, he would be able to conquer the 135 thousand Medianites. As for the rest of the people, God told Gideon to let them go.



Fady: Gideon then started preparing the 300 men for battle. At night, God told him to move ahead. Gideon divided the 300 men into 3 groups, 100 men in each. He gave each man a trumpet & a pot with a lantern in it.

The Holy Bible: Gideon then took one of the groups with him & told the other 2 groups to wait & watch, then repeat what they do after them. At night, Gideon besieged the Medianites army. They created a very loud, frightening noise by blowing their trumpets and breaking their pots. The other 2 groups did the same thing.





Fady: The sounds of the trumpet and the breaking of the pots was very strong, it resembled the sound of a great army attacking. The Midianites woke up scared and confused from the loud noises and instead of fighting Gideon and his people, they started fighting and killing each other.

The Holy Bible: The rest of the Midianites tried to escape, but the people of Israel followed them to reclaim their city and their water sources again. The people of Israel won the battle!



The wise man: Fady, did you notice how small the number of people who fought with Gideon (300 men) was. Still God let them win and conquer 135,000 men! It was not the power or the strength of the people that brought them this, for God says:

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," (Zacharias 4:6)

It is with God's power that Gideon won the war, do you understand what I mean?

Fady: Yes, you mean that even though Maria is young, she can still help us through the power of God

The wise man: Exactly right Fady! For every one of us, no matter how young, has great capabilities given to him or her by God! And He helps us use these capabilities everyday.

Ruby the rubber: Now you learned that no matter how small you are, you can still have an important role. Come now let Maria work with us!

Fady: But I wonder what she can help us with...

Penny the pen: She can help by getting the papers and tools we need

Fady: That is a great idea, That's a great idea, I agree!

Maria then started to help the whole group by getting them what they need. This helped them finish more work and it became possible to finish the whole maquette before the deadline.



5 I defend my country

After a long time & hard work, Fady, Maria and their friends finished the paper maquette with just a few hours before the competition deadline. Fady began naming places in his dream city eg Street of virtues, Island of Principles, River of life and Garden of saints. In the Garden of Saints, Fady put some paper flowers. On each flower he put a name of a saint and an attribute for which the saint was known.

Ruby the rubber saw the last flower and asked: Who is the saint on this flower? Why do you have Pioneer, Teacher, Patriotic, and Saint all attributed to him. Please tell us about him.

Archdeacon Habib Guirgis: Pioneer, teacher, Patriot and Saint

He is one of the Church's saints, recognized as a saint by the Holy Synod on its meeting on June 30th, 2013.



He was born in Cairo in 1867. He came from a pious and blessed family. His parents were from Upper Egypt. He had an older sister and a younger brother, and was taught how to love God and follow His commandments.



St. Habib went to the Great Coptic School in Azbakia. His love and mastery of the church hymns helped him to become a special deacon to Pope Cyril the 5th while he was still in high school. After a while, Pope Cyril appointed him as an Archdeacon and his own special disciple.

Penny the Pen: What does it mean that the Holy Synod would recognize someone as a saint?

Feast, commemorations, icons of him, altars & churches in his name

Penny the Pen: Does this mean that St. Habib Guirgis is a saint from our generation? I thought that saints only lived a long time ago!

Fady: There are saints living in every age Penny. Sainthood is possible for everyone. It is God's command for He said:

"Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16)



Ruby the Rubber: Now we know why the church calls him a saint but why a pioneer? It is a person who does something for the very first time that hasn't been done before.



Fady: Habib Guirgis is a pioneer because he began the Sunday School Service. He started many organizations that teach and preach, because children are a great way to develop the Coptic Church. So he became a pioneer in children services. He was the first one to formally teach children about Christianity. He used non-traditional ways of preaching to teach kids such as different visual aids like pictures of the lessons with summary on the back with the verse and some prizes. He accomplished all of this in the year 1900 when he was 34. The first Sunday School Class was at St Mary's church, Fagala.

Eventually this service spread reaching all the churches in Egypt. At the departure of St Habib, the number of Sunday School children from 1st to 6th grade reached 250,000 with 7700 servants.

The wise man: We give Habib Guirgis credit for all the young children who learned & are still learning about Christianity in Sunday school. He's truly a great Pioneer!

Caesar the Scissor: Why did you call him the teacher?

Fady: Our saint dedicated his life to studying & teaching, so he's known as a great teacher



Fady: St Habib Guirgis was one of the first people who joined the Clerical College a special college for studying Christian faith. In his last year of studying there, he was appointed as a teacher of Theology because of his superiority and intellect. Although he was very young, everyone loved and respected him. Our saint dedicated all his time to develop the clerical college.



Ruby the Rubber: He was young but still had a significant role.

Fady: Yes I understand what you mean Ruby. The church has also called him the Teacher because he was a very good educator. He always encouraged teachers to teach religion in public schools and even prepared a curriculum for them to teach in the classroom.

Penny the Pën: St. Habib taught at the Clerical College, Sunday Schools, public schools, and wrote books for servants & teachers. Fady's right, he is a Saint, Pioneer and Teacher.

Fady: Do not forget that he was also patriotic, believing in the unity of all Egyptians: Christians & Muslims. He was always thinking of practical ways to enhance national unity by establishing many charities, and enhancing unity between Copts and Muslims. Teaching that unity is logical because every Coptic Christian must love their country & their fellow Egyptians.

St. Habib loved Egypt so much that he wrote a poem called 'Bless Egypt'.

The Holy Bible: St. Habib followed the verse that says

"but whoever does and teaches them,
he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."
(Matt 5:19)



Fady: St Habib's deeds show his love for church & his country. After a life of hard work, giving & serving the church, the country, he died on the August 21st, 1951. At the age of 75 years.

The wise Man: Time has flown! It is just few hours till deadline. Hurry Fady; don't be late. I'm most proud of you Fady.

Fady: Me? Why?

The
wise
man

Well, you're a good boy. You know your Holy Bible very well. You know your church's faith and rituals very well. You know and love & respect the fathers of your church. You managed to achieve your dream and complete your project. Even if you don't win this competition, it proves your persistence and hard work.

Caesar
the
Scissors

I should be the one to thank you Fady. I have learned many things. I've learned how to forgive those who wrong me and how to get what is rightfully mine peacefully.

Penny
the
Pen:

Me too, I learned how to be responsible enough to do what is asked from me, just like Tobias.

Ruby
the
Rubber

I too want to thank you Fady because you have taught us a lot of things through useful and interesting stories. The most important thing I learnt is that no matter how small or young I am, I can do great things through God's power

Fady: Thank you all for helping me. I have to go now to submit my maquette in the competition

Fady hurried & took his maquette competition. He submitted his maquette & waited. The competition was tough because of the many entries by other talented children. Fady reached the finals - top 3 participants. At this stage that they were asked to explain the concept of their work. The top 3 stood to explain their ideas, but Fady's idea was really admired by everyone because it managed to represent some valuable life lessons; through his city Fady managed to show how you:

1. Testify for everyone around you
(I am a shining star)

2. Testify to God in my home
(I am useful in my home)

3. Testify to our church's faith everywhere
(I know my church's faith)

4. Testify to God in my community
(I am useful in my community)

5. Defend my country through the power of God.



Fady also told them everything that happened with him while making the project and this made everyone admire him even more for his persistence and hard work. Fady won the competition and got first place and was rightfully called "The little creative shining star"

Learn the verses that prove the importance of the Sacrament of Holy Communion for our salvation

1.
Establishment
OF HOLY
COMMUNION

2.
PREPARE
FOR HOLY
COMMUNION

3.
BE FIRM IN
JESUS
CHRIST

4.
JESUS
CHRIST
GIVES UNITY

5.
JESUS CHRIST
GIVES
ETERNAL LIFE

1- OUR LORD JESUS IS THE ONE
WHO ESTABLISHED THE SACRAMENT
OF HOLY COMMUNION

"And He took bread, gave thanks and
broke it, and gave it to them, saying,
"This is My body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of Me."
- Luke 22:19

2- HOW TO PREPARE FOR HOLY COMMUNION

-Repentance -

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat
of the bread and drink of the cup."

- 1 Corinthians 11:28

-Reconciliation with others -

"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and
there remember that your brother has something
against you, leave your gift there before the
altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your
brother, and then come and offer your gift."

- Mathew 5: 23-24

3- TO BE FIRM IN
CHRIST ACCORDING
TO HIS TRUE
PROMISE

"He who eats My flesh
and drinks My blood
abides in Me, and I in
him." - John 6:56

4- HE GIVES UNITY OF THE
HEART AND SPIRIT TO THOSE
WHO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

"For we, though many, are one
bread and one body; for we all
partake of that one bread." - 1
Corinthians 10:17

5- GIVES US THE PERMIT
TO ETERNAL LIFE AS THE
LORD OF GLORY SAID:

"Whoever eats My flesh and
drinks My blood has eternal
life, and I will raise him up
at the last day." -
- John 6:54

Memorization

The Creed

We believe in one God, God the Father, the Pantocrator, who created heaven and earth, and all things, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light out of Light, true God of true god. Begotten not created, coessential with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried. And on the third day He rose from the dead, according to the scriptures. He ascended into the heavens and sits at the right hand of His Father, and He is coming again in His glory to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Life-Giver, who proceeds from the Father, who, with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We confess one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.



This book has been translated by
 + The Sydney Diocese,
 + Saint Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, East Brunswick, NJ and
 + Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church, Howell, NJ.
 Under the guidance of His Grace Bishop Moussa & the blessing of His Grace Bishop Daniel.
 For more information please visit www.saint-mary.net/cool