

Mahragan Alkeraza 2014

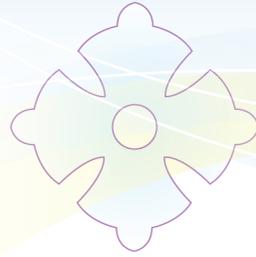


BEMY Witness

English Edition Gr 3-4



Be My Witness... Be My Witness..



H.H. Pope Tawadros II
Pope of Alexandria &
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark

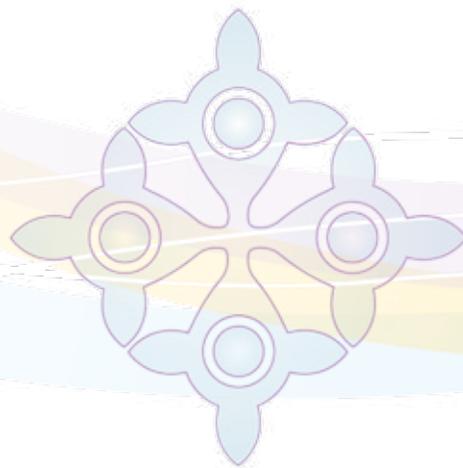


H.G. Bishop David
Bishop of Diocese of New York
and New England



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction	4
I Am A Shining Star	6
I Will Shine For My Family	15
I Will Shine For My Church	22
I Will Shine For My Community	28
I Will Shine For My Country	35
Memorization	41





INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2014

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first, second and third place winners, we were grateful for God's blessings for a successful 2013 Mahragan. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said during the Awards Ceremony in Egypt, "I am happy to see the activities of the Youth Bishopric, I am glad that our beautiful Church that is 2000 years old is full of young youth and I am proud to see the creative work and achievements of the youth."

We were also blessed to see that the Churches in Upper Egypt participated despite the sad and cruel events their Churches were subjected to last year. Last year, in addition to the usual participation from Egypt and Sudan, we had a great worldwide participation from 192 Churches representing more than 20 countries and 8 languages.

The theme for Mahragan 2014 is **"You shall be witnesses to Me"** (Acts 1:8). This year, God is asking each one of us to be His witness by:

1. Shining like a star
2. Shining for my family
3. Shining for my Church
4. Shining for my community
5. Shining for my country

Be My Witness...



We hope that all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless Mahragan Alkeraza this year and the efforts of all the participants and coordinators, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

✙ My best wishes for a happy
Festival

✙ Bishop Mousa





I AM A SHINING STAR

It was finally that time of year! Our city was holding its Annual Arts Competition for schools all across the city. The purpose of this competition was to enhance the kids' talents. This year, the theme of the competition was "The Paper World". Each participant was required to present a piece of art using paper either by drawing, making shapes or using paper mache. Fady enjoyed making paper shapes so he was very excited to participate.

Fady decided to make a model of a city using paper. He dreamed of living in a perfect city. He wanted to call it "The City of Virtues". Because Fady's dad was an architect, he helped him draw a plan for the city. Fady started to follow exactly what was on the drawing his dad made.

Two weeks later, Fady completed his model for "The City of Virtues."

The highlights of his city included: the Virtues Street, the Values Island, the River of Life, the Paradise of Saints, the Tree of Love and the Tree of Peace. At the centre of the city there was a High Tower where the Wiseman lived. The Wiseman helped the people of the city follow the right path and make the right choices.



Finally, Fady decided to take a break. While he was sleeping, his younger sister Maria came into his room and saw the model. She loved the bright colors and shapes of the city. By the time she was done playing, the model was a big mess!

When Fady woke up and saw the model, he was shocked. As he stared in despair, he heard a faint mumbling.

Fady: What's that? Where's this voice coming from?

Antika (the eraser): Don't worry Fady? Everything will be ok.

Fady: What! I didn't know you can talk!!



Bibi (the pen): You bet we can! We're the stationary you used to create your model.

Wiseman: And I'm the Wiseman you designed. Don't be upset Fady.

Fady: How can I not be upset! Don't you see what happened to my city! It's all ruined! It's all because of Maria, I'll never forgive her.

Wiseman: She was just playing Fady, she didn't mean to ruin your model.

Fady: How can I forgive her? The deadline for the competition is in two days. I don't have time to fix this mess.

Scissors: Let's try to think of a solution.

Fady: There is no solution! How can I enter the competition now? I'll never forget what she did and I can't forgive her. I don't want to talk to her ever again.



Bibi: You're right, if I were you, I would never talk to her again!

Antika: Bibi, what are you saying?! Fady don't listen to him. It's not the end of the world, you can participate in the competition next year.

Scissors: I don't agree with you Antika! She has to be punished for what she did!

Wiseman: Stop! That's not right! This shouldn't be our reaction.

Fady: What do you mean?

Wiseman: We need to deal with this situation correctly and avoid four common mistakes: Insult, Strife, Gossip, and Ignored feelings. Let's discuss each of these:



1. When you insult someone, it's usually a way of getting back at them as Bibi suggested. This is wrong because the Bible tells us:



Memory Verse



“Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing.” 1 Peter 3:9

If someone hurts you, hurting them back is the wrong approach and does not solve the problem. This reaction has no love or empathy. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us how to love and forgive.

2. Strife means staying away from the person who hurt you, just like what you wanted to do with your sister Fady. The Bible teaches us:

Memory Verse



“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.” Matthew 18:15





This is the best way to deal with your sister. I'll tell you more about this later.

3. Gossip means saying bad things about someone behind their back. This can be very hurtful and can make the situation worse.
4. Ignoring your feelings as if you are not upset is also not the right approach. It's important to deal with your anger in the right way as the Bible teaches us:



Memory Verse



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

This means you have to learn how to express your feelings without doing anything wrong to your sister.



Fady: If all these things are wrong, then what's right? What should I do to feel better after all that happened?

Wiseman: There are two important things we should do to feel better: *Forgiveness and Reconciliation*.

Let me tell you a story that our Lord Jesus Christ told to St. Peter when he asked Him: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?"



The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21-35)

This parable talks about a king who had a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. Because this was a lot of money, the servant knew that he would never be able to pay his debt. But the king was kind to him, forgave him and cancelled his debt.

When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a small amount of money. He did not want to forgive his fellow servant even though this debt was very little compared to the debt that he himself owed the king, and the king forgave him. When the king heard about this, he was very upset. Fady, do you think what the servant did was right or wrong?

Fady: Of course wrong! He was supposed to forgive his fellow servant just as the king forgave him.

Wiseman: Very good! Do you know who the king our Lord Jesus was talking about?

Fady: Who?

Wiseman: The king is our Lord Jesus. Our Lord Jesus told us this parable to explain how God deals with us. He wanted to tell us that when we forgive each other, God would also forgive us our sins. If we do not forgive each other, God would not forgive us either. This is what we say in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The Lord Jesus Himself did that when He forgave the people who crucified Him.

When you forgive, you prove that you are stronger. Remember, forgiveness depends on you alone, but reconciliation depends on both of you.





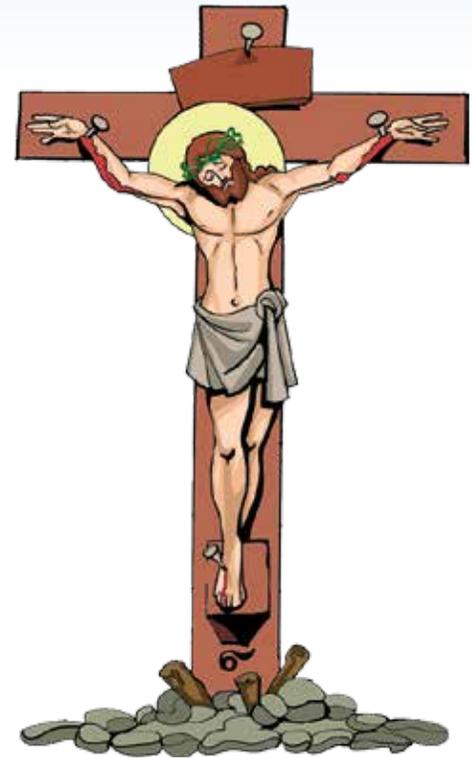
Fady: So it's not enough for me to forgive my sister?!

Wiseman: That's right Fady, you have to do another step, which is reconciliation.

Fady: How do I do that?

Wiseman: To do this, you have to follow these steps:

1. Share with her your feelings: Go to your sister and tell her that you were upset because she messed up your model. She might not even know that what she did upset you because she's young.
2. Listen to her: Listen carefully to everything she has to say, she might explain something to you that you were not aware of.
3. Explain the mistake: When you understand, you can explain to her that what she did was wrong and that she should not do this again because it hurt you.
4. Forgive and ask for reconciliation: Tell her that you forgave her, and tell her to forgive you if you yelled at her or told her anything that could have upset her when you were angry.
5. Confess your sin to your father of confession: After you reconcile, you should confess to your father of confession about your anger and getting mad at your sister. You will receive the absolution from the priest for your sin.



Scissors: What if Fady forgave his sister and reconciled with her but she did the same thing again, what should he do then?

Wiseman: If Maria doesn't respect Fady and refuses to listen to his request then he should involve someone responsible, in this case,





their parents. Their parents could then explain to Maria that what she did was not right. They can also tell her that if she repeats what she did, they will punish her.

Fady: Thank you Wiseman. I'm happy I learned something new.

Wiseman: Great Fady! Now let's try to fix this model. We'll all help you so you can complete it in time for this year's competition. This is the spirit that God teaches us!



Memory Verse

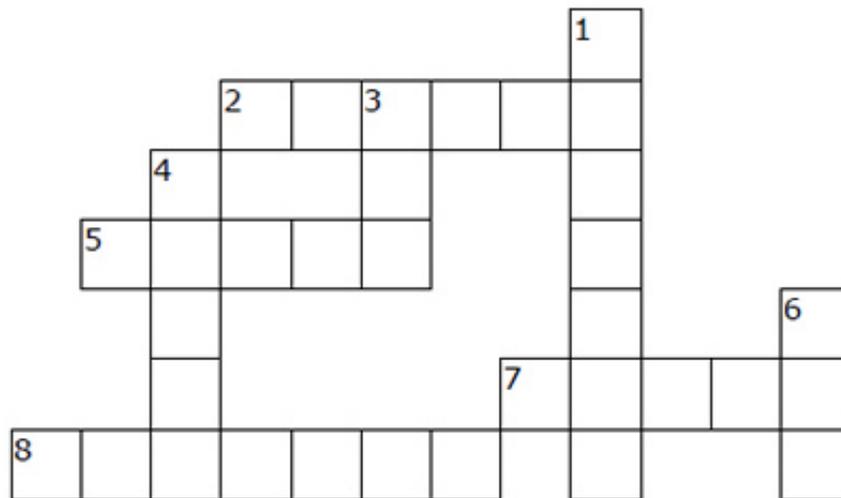


"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7





Keep On Forgiving



ACROSS

- 2. A statement given in reply to a question
- 5. The number that is equal to six plus one
- 7. The Son of God
- 8. To pardon someone for doing something wrong

DOWN

- 1. A male with the same parents as someone else
- 3. To break God's law
- 4. A fisherman who became one of Jesus' disciples
- 6. To seek an answer to a question

SEVEN	ASK	PETER	JESUS
BROTHER	FORGIVE	ANSWER	SIN



Activity

Keep On Forgiving

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	B	U	M	Y	J	E	L	F	P	S	G	V	K	C	D	Q	T	X	I	N	O	R	A	H	Z

1. 11-20-21 _____
2. 9-22-23-12-20-13-7 _____
3. 24-11-14 _____
4. 24-21-11-1-7-23 _____
5. 10-7-18-7-23 _____
6. 2-23-22-18-25-7-23 _____
7. 11-7-13-7-21 _____
8. 6-7-11-3-11 _____

FORGIVE	SIN	JESUS	SEVEN
BROTHER	ASK	ANSWER	PETER



I WILL SHINE FOR MY FAMILY

Fady and his friends worked very hard to restore the model. After many hours of hard work, the model began to look even better than before.

Fady: I'm so tired! There's so much to do and so little time, I wish I could find someone who could magically fix everything without having to work so hard.

Antika (laughing): You're funny! There is no such thing.

Fady: But it happened with Tobias. Do you know his story with Archangel Raphael?

Bibi: Tell us the story Fady!

Tobias and Archangel Raphael (Book of Tobit)

Fady: In the days of Salmanasar, king of the Assyrians, a man named Tobit from the tribe of Naphtali, lived with his wife Anna (which means "God has favoured me"). They had a son named Tobias, raised in the fear and love of God and taught to follow God's commandments with honesty.

When the Assyrians took over the Kingdom of Israel, which is also referred to as the Northern Kingdom, Tobit and his family were taken into captivity to the city of Nineveh. But Tobit and his family were not discouraged and kept God's commandments.

God gave Tobit grace in the king's eyes, and he was given permission to serve the people around him freely. Tobit





served his people by burying their dead. One day, he came back very tired and slept against a wall. While he was sleeping, a sparrow's droppings fell in his eyes and he lost his sight. But Tobit continued to thank God and prayed to Him asking to be healed:

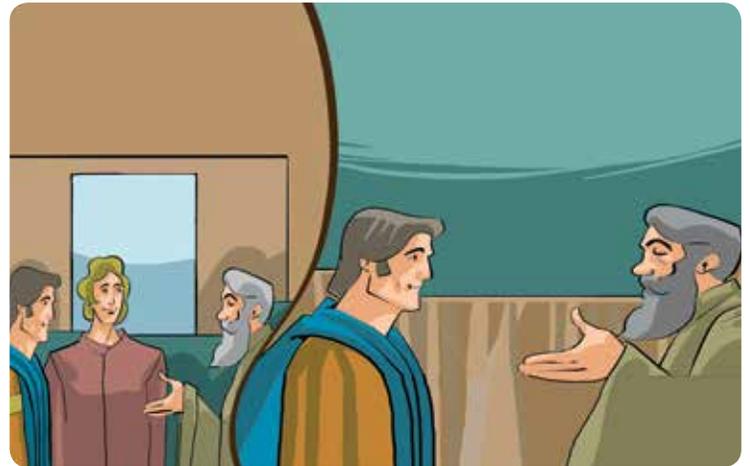


Memory Verse



"Remember me and look upon me, do not punish me for my sin and my ignorance, nor for the sins of my fathers, who sinned before you." Tobit 3:3

One day, Tobit called his son Tobias and said, "My son, I want you to always keep God's commandments. Take care of your mother Anna. Always help the poor and be merciful. My son, I need your help with an urgent matter. I gave some money to our relative Gabael as a loan. He lives in the Median city of Rages. Take this handwritten note which he signed and bring me the money as I'm no longer able to work." Tobias answered saying,



Memory Verse



"Father I will do all things which you have commanded me." Tobit 5:1



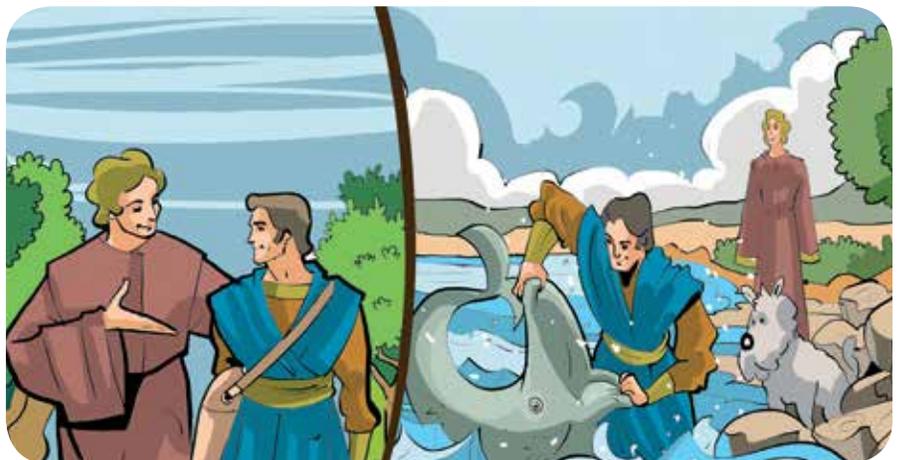
Then Tobias asked his father, "How can I get the money? And how will Gabael know that I am your son since we've never met. I also don't know how to go to the city of Rages."

Tobit told him that Gabael will give him the money when he sees the note. He also told him to find someone to go with him to show him the way. Tobias obeyed his father. He followed his dad's instructions without complaining even though the task seemed almost impossible.

As Tobias left the house he met Archangel Raphael in the form of a young man. Tobias was not aware that he was the angel of God. As they began to talk, he was surprised to learn that the young man knew Gabael and had stayed at his house several times. He invited the man in to meet his father. Tobit asked the young man to take his son to Gabael and promised to pay him on his safe return.

When Tobit asked about the young man's name, he replied saying that his name was Azarias, son of Ananias the Great. Pleased to hear that, Tobit sent them on their way.

One morning as they travelled to Rages, Tobias woke up and went to wash his feet in a nearby river. Suddenly, a big fish attacked him.

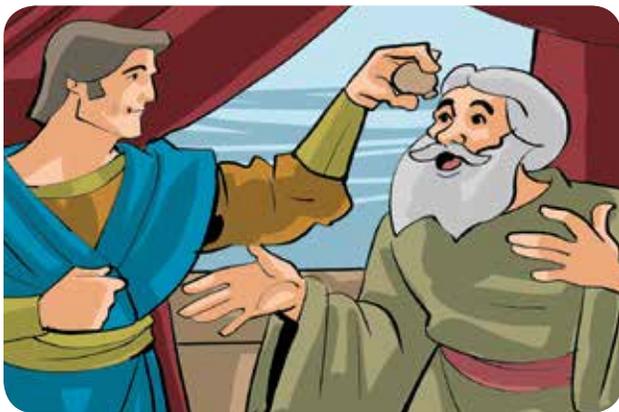




Azarias instructed him to take the fish quickly and bring it to land. He told Tobias to open the fish, and take the heart, the liver and the gallbladder because these would be useful in healing the sick.

Tobias then grilled parts of the fish for them to eat. He asked Azarias to explain to him how the fish can be used to heal the sick. Azarias explained, "If we put the heart and liver of the fish on an open flame, the smoke will cast the devils away and its gallbladder will heal the eyes."

On their way, Azarias asked Tobias to stop by the house of one of Tobit's relatives named Raguel. He talked to Tobias about Sarah, Raguel's daughter. But Tobias had heard that she was married seven times and every time her husband would die the night of the wedding. Azarias told Tobias to marry Sarah, and not be afraid because God would keep



the devil away from them if he fasts and prays for three days. After they introduced themselves to Raguel, he prepared food for them but Tobias refused to eat until Raguel accepted his request to marry Sarah.

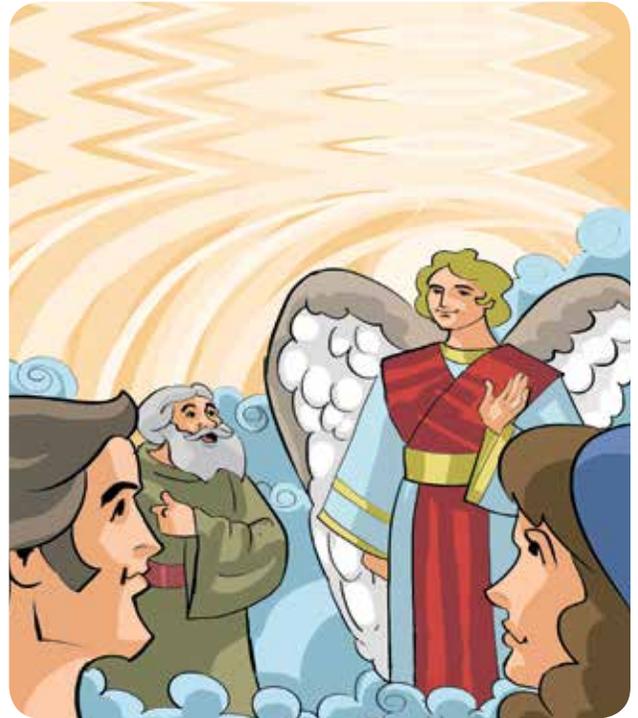
Raguel was surprised to learn of Tobias' intentions, but Azarias comforted him. So Raguel accepted and Tobias did as Azarias instructed. That night, Tobias burned the fish's heart and liver and the smoke drove the demon away. God blessed their wedding and Raguel was happy with what God had done for his daughter. Raguel asked



Tobias to stay for a few weeks, and gave him half his money. While Tobias stayed with Raguel, Azarias continued to Rages to get Tobit's money from Gabael. After his return with the money, Tobias and his new wife Sarah returned to Nineveh.

Everyday Anna, Tobias' mother, would sit at the head of the street, waiting for her son's return. Four years had passed since Tobias left. Then one day, she saw her son Tobias coming from afar. She ran to tell Tobit and they rejoiced for their son's return. When Tobias arrived he fell upon the neck of his father and they both wept. Tobias bowed down to the floor and thanked God for all what He had done with him. Tobias took the gall of the fish and anointed his father's eyes and the whiteness peeled away from the corners of his eyes and he regained his sight.

Tobias told his father and mother all what happened to him during his journey, about his wedding to Sarah, and how Azarias helped him during his journey. Tobit and his son Tobias wanted to reward Azarias for all what he did. They offered him to take half the money that Tobias brought back.



But Azarias told them that he wouldn't accept any reward. He explained to them that it was God who deserved all the glory. He told Tobit that God had seen his prayers, almsgiving, and his service to others. Azarias declared, "Because He loves you, He sent me to heal you and to save Sarah. I am Raphael one of the seven angels standing in front of God."

Before his departure, he instructed them to keep their strong relationship with God and to continue in prayers, fasting and praises at all times. He told them to tell everyone about the great things that God had done for them.

Wiseman: That's a beautiful story Fady! But you have to know that God sent Archangel Raphael to Tobias to help him because Tobias started to look diligently for ways to help his father. You can't sit back and look for someone to do your work for you. When you work hard, God will help you finish what you have to do.



Activity

Tobias & The Fish

Find the differences between the two pictures.





Tobias Word Search

K	J	L	U	I	O	Q	C	B	N	M	L	A	Z	R	P
A	R	N	S	M	S	D	N	A	P	H	T	A	L	I	R
Z	M	D	B	V	A	N	A	N	I	A	H	W	F	G	E
J	P	Q	R	X	L	H	J	K	N	B	C	E	W	Q	J
E	A	Y	E	K	M	R	I	Q	O	R	I	P	Y	W	M
J	Z	H	K	Z	A	W	R	T	D	A	Z	V	H	O	P
M	A	R	B	M	N	Q	E	Z	V	G	Q	Y	N	K	R
S	R	N	X	V	A	P	L	N	M	U	B	V	I	Q	X
F	I	A	R	D	S	A	R	A	H	E	Z	B	N	M	Y
L	A	B	U	O	A	R	Y	I	L	L	A	W	E	Z	H
A	H	R	Z	O	R	T	U	O	Q	C	T	Y	V	D	G
R	T	Y	U	I	R	U	I	O	R	Y	G	F	E	J	L
F	M	E	D	I	A	T	E	S	T	U	L	W	H	X	J
H	K	L	Q	T	R	A	P	H	A	E	L	O	Z	L	G

Salmanasar
Raphael
Ananiah

Mediates
Azariah
Nineveh

Sarah
Naphtali
Raguel



I WILL SHINE FOR MY Church



Later that day, Fady came back to the room after helping his mom prepare dinner.

Fady: What is this? What are you guys doing?

Antika: Surprise! We fixed the Church that was in the city.

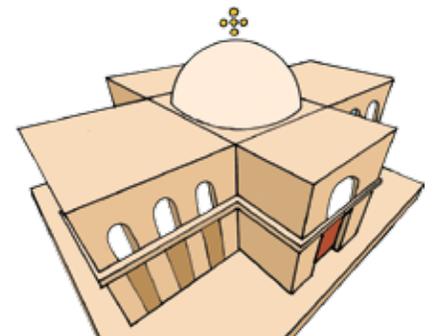
Fady: But the Church building doesn't look like that. The shape is all wrong.

Bibi: How come? We made it a perfect square! Does the Church have to be a particular shape?

Fady: Of course! The Church building can only be built in one of these three shapes:

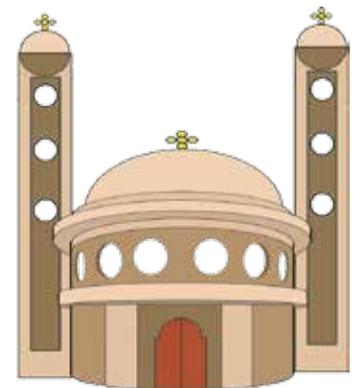
1. A Cross

This represents the Church as the body of Christ who was crucified for us. Through the Cross, the door of heaven was opened for us again. Through our faith and good deeds we can go to heaven.



2. A Circle

This represents the eternal Church. Just as a circle has no beginning or end, the Church takes this characteristic from our Lord Jesus who also has no beginning and no end.



3. An Ark

This represents the Church as the boat of salvation, like Noah's ark. God asked Noah to build the ark so anyone who goes in the ark will be saved from the flood. All who were in the ark were saved, and were



able to live again on the new earth. Similarly, we are protected from all danger when we are part of the Church, through its teachings, rites, fasts, prayers and sacraments.

Wiseman: Now I understand! Which shape are you going to choose for the Church in your city?

Fady: I want it to look just like the Church I pray in every Sunday. It has to be in the shape of a Cross. Will you help me?

All: Let's do it!

All the stationary and the Wiseman began to put together the parts needed to make the Church in the shape of a Cross. They made the roof and a tower with a bell in it. Fady explained how to put the rest of the Church together...

Fady: The Church must have three doors as a symbol of the Trinity.

Bibi: Ok, Done! What's next?

Fady: The inside of the Church is called the nave. It is divided into two parts, the chorus of the believers and the chorus of the deacons. The chorus of the believers is where the congregation sits. In this section we find pews on the left and on the right. Here we also find pillars, icons, the ambo, and the laqqan:

- 1. The Pillars:** There are twelve pillars, representing the twelve disciples, usually decorated with crowns.
- 2. Icons:** The walls of the Church are decorated with icons of martyrs and saints or icons representing stories from the Old or New Testament.
- 3. Ambo:** This is an elevated pulpit where the bishop or the priest used to stand and preach to the people. Recently built Churches no longer have ambos.





4. The Laqqan: This used to be a small basin sunk slightly in the floor of the western part of the nave. It was used in the prayer of the Water Liturgies which happen three times a year, during Holy Thursday, the Feast of the Apostles and the Feast of the Epiphany. Again, you won't find these in modern Churches; nowadays we use a bowl instead.

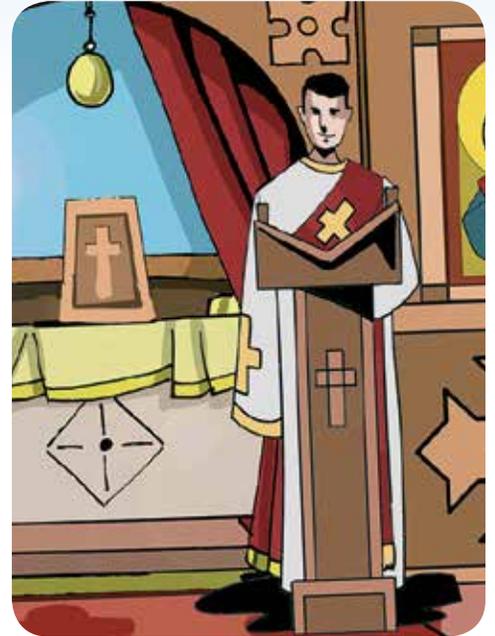
Scissors: We finished the chorus of the believers. Can you tell us what to do in the chorus of the deacons?

Fady: The chorus of the deacons is in the front section of the Church nave. It is elevated by one or three steps and is dedicated for the deacons. There you will find the bishop's chair and two Mangalias, from where the Church readings are read.

Antika: There, the Church is now complete.

Fady: Not yet! We're missing the most important part which is the sanctuary. The iconostasis separates the sanctuary from the nave. Here are some important details we have to remember about the iconostasis:

1. It can be made out of wood or marble.
2. It has three doors. The centre door is called the Royal door. Each door is covered with curtains decorated with Crosses or pictures of the saint of the Church.
3. In older Churches it contained windows on each side of the Royal door used for Communion.
4. In the old days, there used to be Kandeels in front of the icons of the saints. These consisted of a candle floating on oil, to remind us that the saints reflected the light of Jesus to everyone around them. But we don't put a Kandeel in front of Jesus' icon because He is the light of the world.





5. It has an ostrich egg in the centre. This reminds us of the resurrection and to always look towards the altar and focus on it, just like the ostrich looks at and focuses on her egg until it hatches.
6. The icons are in the following order:
 - a. On the right side of the Royal door:
 - The icon of our Lord Jesus Christ holding the Gospel
 - The icon of St. John the Baptist
 - The icon of the Patron Saint of the Church
 - Other icons of saints and martyrs and some events from the Old or New Testament
 - b. On the left side of the Royal door:
 - The icon of the Holy Virgin Mary as a queen carrying our Lord Jesus Christ, sitting at the right side of the King
 - The icon of the Annunciation
 - The icon of Archangel Michael
 - The icon of St. Mark the Evangelist
 - Other icons of saints and martyrs and some events from the Old or New Testament
 - c. Directly above the Royal door is the icon of the last supper. On both sides of this icon we find the icons of the twelve disciples.
 - d. A Cross with our Lord Jesus crucified is mounted on top of the iconostasis. An icon of the Virgin Mary stands on one side of the Cross and an icon of St. John the Beloved stands on the other side.

A verse is written on the iconostasis that we should always repeat as we enter the Church:

Memory Verse



“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



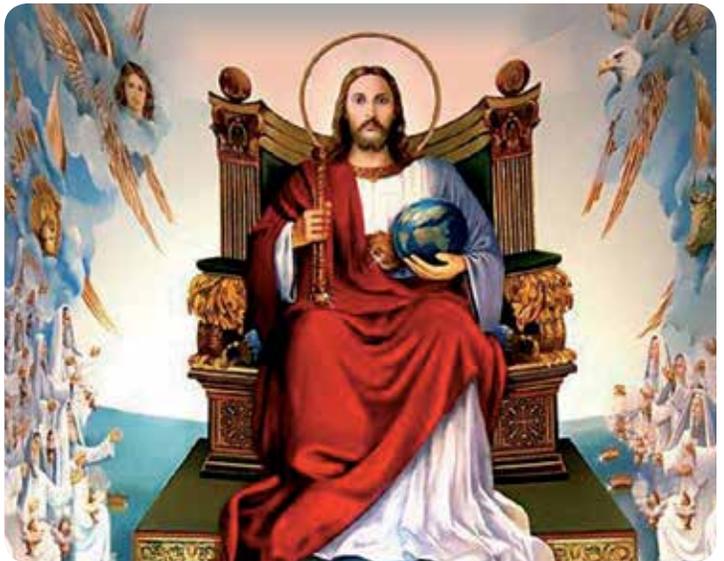
They all started to work on the iconostasis.

Wiseman: Now for the most important part, the sanctuary.

Fady: That's right Wiseman, the sanctuary is similar to the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament. In it, we offer the Body and Blood of Christ. The sanctuary represents heaven, which is why we pray saying: "Whenever we stand in Your holy sanctuary, we are considered standing in heaven." In the centre of the sanctuary there is an altar. On the altar there is the ark throne, the incense box, two candle sticks and the Holy Vessels. The Holy Vessels include the chalice, the paten, the spoon, and the star.



Behind the altar, there is a niche, which is a curved wall in the centre of the altar with an icon of our Lord sitting on His throne (the Pantocrator icon). The niche is often referred to as "Fatherly Bosom".



Wiseman: Now the Church is complete from inside. All we need is a roof.

Fady: The roof has at least one dome and a tower. The tower holds the Church bell and is used to remind people that the prayer has started. The tower also helps people find the Church as it can be seen from far away.

Be My Witness...



Antika: Now that the Church is complete, let's put it inside the city.

Fady: Be careful, we have to put the Church facing the East, since we should always face the East when we pray.

By the time Fady finished talking about the Church, the model of the city was almost complete. Fady started to smile again; he felt that his dream might finally come true.





I WILL SHINE FOR MY COMMUNITY

As Fady and his friends continued to put the finishing touches on his model, Maria came in and offered Fady some candy. Fady was pleased and took the candy but when Maria asked to help with the model, he quickly refused.

Wiseman: Fady, why did you refuse Maria's help. We're running out of time and we really need all the help we can get.

Fady: Yes, but she's too young, there isn't much she can do to help us.

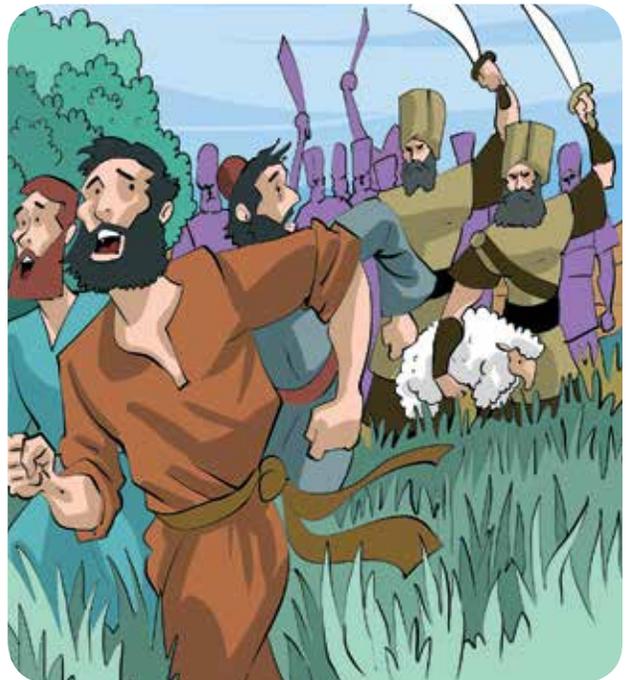
Wiseman: Just because she's young, that doesn't mean she can't help. God always works with the little that we have and, through His grace, we can do amazing things.

Fady: I don't understand. Can you give me an example?

Wiseman: Sure Fady! One great example is Gideon's story. It's in the Old Testament in the book of Judges, chapters 6, 7 and 8. Fady, please read these chapters and tell us the story.

Before opening the Holy Bible, Fady did the sign of the Cross and said...

Fady: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God, Amen. Speak Lord for your servant hears. Give me understanding Lord so I can learn from reading your Bible.





Fady read the chapters and started to tell them the story as everyone listened intently, including his sister Maria.

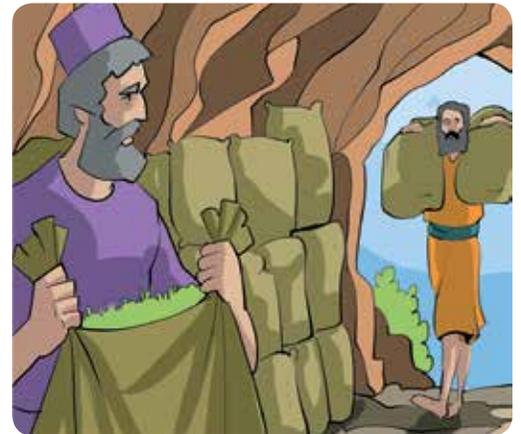
Gideon The Judge (Judges 6, 7 & 8)

Fady: Gideon was from the tribe of Manasseh. He was the youngest of his brothers. His name means “mighty warrior”. He was also known as Jerubbaal or “Jerbosheth”.

Because the people of Israel were far from God, they were an easy prey for their enemies. God allowed the Midianites to oppress them for more than seven years. But the Midianites were so harsh on the people of Israel that many of them made for themselves dens and caves in the mountains to hide. The people of Israel cried to the Lord to save them, and the Lord sent them a prophet to warn them. Finally, God called Gideon to save the people of Israel from the Midianites.

The Lord called Gideon while he was threshing wheat in a small winepress where he was hiding from the Midianites. “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him ‘The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!’” Judges 6:12. This is considered one of the apparitions of our Lord Jesus in the Old Testament.

Gideon with all sorrow told the angel all that happened to them, and how the Lord abandoned them. Then the Lord turned to him and said:



Memory Verse



“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

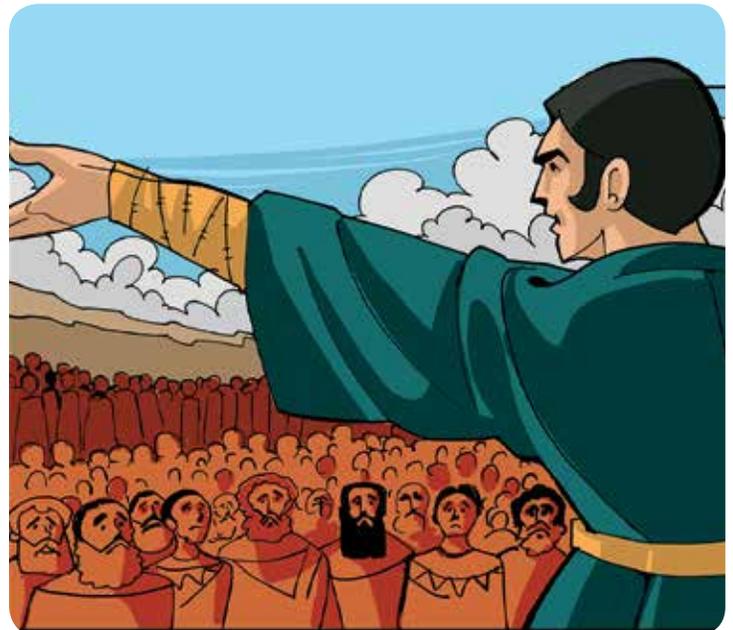


But Gideon wasn't sure that it was really God who was talking to him. So he asked for a sign from God. Gideon prepared a young goat and bread without yeast as an offering for the Lord. And a fire flared from the rock and consumed the meat and the bread.

So Gideon knew that it was indeed God. Then the Lord asked Gideon to destroy the altar of Baal that belonged to his father, to build an altar for the Lord in its place and to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Gideon did what the Lord asked.

Then Gideon asked for another sign to make sure that the Lord will save Israel by his hands. This time he brought a wool fleece and asked the Lord to bring dew on the fleece only while all the ground around it was dry. Then he requested that the Lord make the fleece dry while all the ground around it was covered with dew. Both signs were fulfilled exactly as Gideon asked from the Lord.

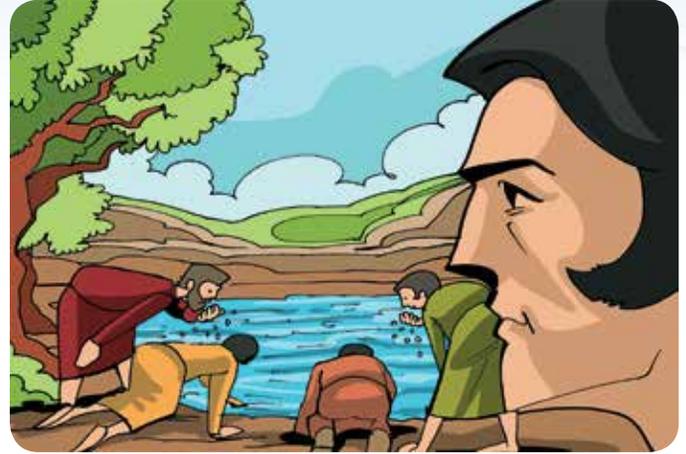
After that Gideon started to prepare for war. He gathered thirty-two thousand men to fight the Midianites. God told Gideon to announce that if anyone was afraid they must turn back and leave, so twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.



But The Lord said, "There are still too many men." The Lord said this because He knew that the people of Israel were stubborn and rebellious, that they always forget what God did for them and that they attribute everything to their own power. So the Lord asked Gideon to take the men down to the river and watch how they drink. He told him to separate those who lap the water with their tongues from those who kneel down to drink.



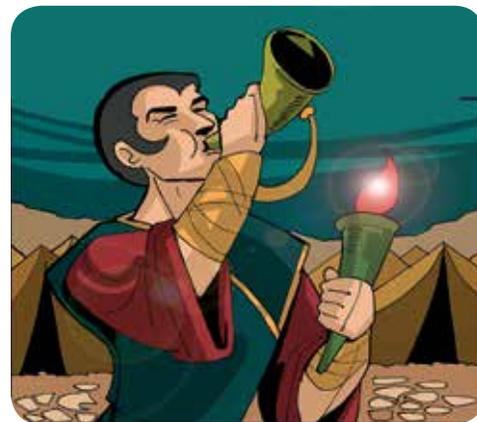
The number of people who drank from cupped hands and did not kneel down to drink was three hundred men. And the Lord told Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped, I will save you, and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home." At that time the army of the Midianites had 135,000 men. Gideon started to prepare the 300 men for war. At night, the Lord asked him to go down against the Midianites' camp. He divided the 300 men into three groups, and gave each soldier a trumpet and a jar with a torch inside.



Gideon asked one group to go with him and the other two groups to surround the enemy from the other direction. At night, Gideon and his men reached the edge of the Midianites' camp. At his command, the men blew their trumpets and broke their jars. This caused a loud noise, which frightened the Midianites and confused them. Instead of fighting Gideon and his men they started to fight each other.

The Midianites tried to escape, but Gideon and his men pursued them. They cut off the roads in front of them and seized the sources of water ahead. The people of God had victory over the Midianites.

Wiseman: You see Fady, the number of men who went with Gideon were few, but the Lord gave them victory over the massive army of the Midianites. God wanted to show them that their victory was not because of the power or might of those men. With the power of God, Gideon was able to defeat the



Be My Witness... Be My Witness...



Midianites with a few men. In the same way, it is God who gives power to each of us, regardless of how young we are. God gives each of us talents, and He helps us use those talents to do much more than anyone expects.

Memory Verse



“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,
Says the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6

So Fady allowed Maria to help them and together, they were able to do so much more.





Gideon Is Brave

God chose Gideon to save His people. This seemed like a hard thing to Gideon, but he did something that helped him trust in God.

In the word pairs below, one word has a letter that is not in the other word. Write the extra letters you find in the squares. They will spell three words that will tell you what Gideon did, and what you can do when you are facing a tough job.

1. You can find me in PINK but not in KIN.
2. You can see me in DROP but not in POD.
3. I'm right there in READ but not in RED.
4. See me in YOWL but not in LOW.
5. Find me in THEN but not in HEN.
6. I am in COAT but not in CAT.
7. Here I am in GEAR but not in ARE.
8. I'm found in BOAT but not in BAT.
9. Now I'm in DONE but not in ONE.

1	2	3	4
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5	6
---	---

7	8	9
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Activity

Gideon & The Midianites

i	h	s	k	q	t	r	f	o	p	w	f	f	v
q	r	w	h	y	n	u	o	v	i	m	c	l	i
o	y	g	c	w	m	k	u	e	t	i	o	k	c
j	m	e	i	b	e	t	g	r	c	d	n	h	t
a	i	j	l	d	h	t	h	c	h	i	f	i	o
p	u	r	s	u	e	d	t	o	e	a	u	x	r
p	n	h	l	s	n	o	i	m	r	n	s	p	y
u	m	l	f	a	y	m	n	e	x	i	i	d	k
b	p	k	d	f	m	s	m	l	i	t	o	r	p
b	m	e	y	b	z	p	f	g	o	e	n	y	z
e	j	g	a	v	d	m	s	w	g	s	d	y	n
s	s	r	u	c	c	o	m	p	a	n	i	e	s
t	r	u	m	p	e	t	m	j	n	c	i	i	q
s	t	t	h	r	e	e	h	u	n	d	r	e	d

- 1. companies
- 2. confusion
- 3. fought
- 4. Gideon

- 5. lamps
- 6. Midianites
- 7. overcome
- 8. peace

- 9. pitcher
- 10. pursued
- 11. three hundred
- 12. trumpet

- 13. victory



I WILL DEFEND MY COUNTRY

Fady, Maria and their friends worked hard all night, and finally they were able to complete the city model. It looked beautiful. Fady had a few hours left before presenting his project, so he decided to practice his presentation by telling Maria about the different sections of the city: Virtue street, Values Island, River of Life and The Paradise of the Saints. In the Paradise of the Saints, Fady told Maria about the different saints and their virtues until he came to a saint she was not familiar with.

Maria: Who's Habib Girgis?

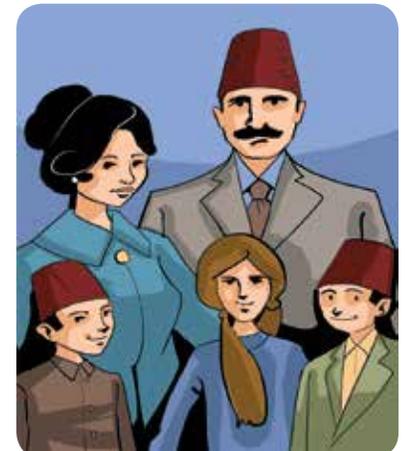
Fady: Let me tell you his story...

St. Archdeacon Habib Girgis Leader, Teacher, Patriot and Saint

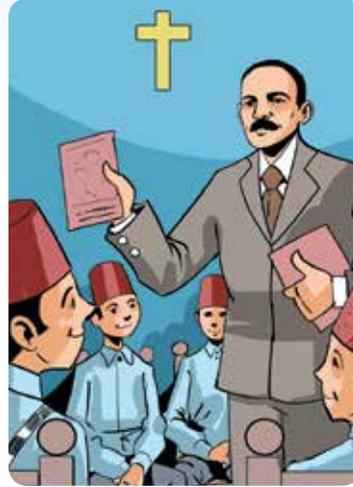
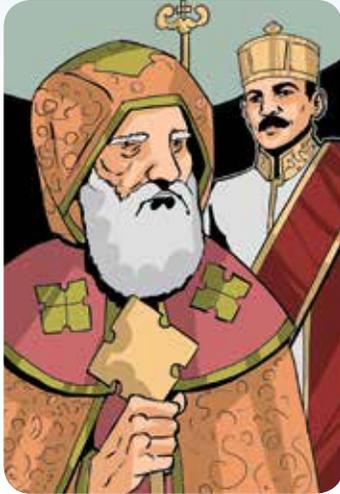
The Coptic Church's Holy Synod recognized the sainthood of archdeacon Habib Girgis on 20 June 2013.

St. Habib Girgis was born in Cairo in the year 1876 from a blessed pious family. His parents were from Upper Egypt. He had an older sister and a younger brother. After his father died, his mother raised him and taught him to love God and to follow His commandments.

He received his education at the Great Coptic School in Azbakia. He was chosen to be the personal deacon for Pope Cyril V because of his knowledge of the Church rites and his spirituality. When he was a high school student, he was ordained a deacon and later, Pope Cyril V ordained him an archdeacon and he became his personal disciple.



Bibi: What does it mean when the Holy Synod recognizes the sainthood of someone?



Fady: It means that they acknowledge that this person is a saint of the Church. Once someone is recognized as a saint, the saint will have a feast and a commemoration that the Church celebrates. Icons of the saint would then be displayed in Churches, and you would see Churches and altars built in the saint's name.

Scissors: So St. Habib Girgis is a modern-day saint? I thought saints were from the old days only.

Fady: God has saints that witness for Him in every generation. Holiness is for everyone:

Memory Verse



"Be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16

Antika: Ok, now we understand why the Church made Habib Girgis a saint, but why was he called a leader?

Fady: St. Habib Girgis was a leader because he instituted Sunday School. At first he setup a number of preaching and teaching organizations for adults. But he felt that he needed to pay special attention to the younger generations to have a true revival in the Coptic Church, so he began to formulate what would later become known as Sunday School. He gave special attention to teaching the kids using innovative methods,



incorporating colouring pictures for the younger kids, memory verses, summarized lessons and prizes for correctly answering questions.

In the year 1900, when he was only 24 years old, he started to teach the first group of kids at the Church in El-Fagala. He remained the leader of the Sunday School service until it spread throughout Egypt. By the time he passed away in 1951, the number of kids regularly attending Sunday School had reached 350,000 under the care of 7700 servants.

Wiseman: So thanks to St. Habib Girgis, children everywhere now have a chance to learn about the Christian faith in Sunday School. You're right Fady, he is indeed a great saint and a great leader.

Fady: That's not all Wiseman, St. Habib Girgis was also one of the first students to attend the Theological College which was instituted to teach the Christian faith to leaders and teachers in the Coptic Church. In his final year at the college, he was asked to teach theology because of his advanced standing and brilliant performance. Despite his young age, everyone loved and respected him. He dedicated a lot of time and effort to the development of the college.

St. Habib Girgis also had an important role in establishing the teaching of religion to children in government schools. He put together a strong curriculum that was used in schools throughout Egypt.

His love for his country was clear in everything he did. He believed strongly in the unity between Copts and Muslims in Egypt and always thought of practical ways to support the unity of the nation.

Antika: What did he do Fady?

Fady: He created a number of charitable organizations that gave freely to the poor in the community without differentiating between Copts and Muslims. He felt that the unity was natural because Copts were raised to love their country and their brothers regardless of religion. He believed that this unity had to be strengthened through:





1. Exchanging visits between friends and family during both Coptic and Muslim religious feasts.
2. Preachers and priests stressing the importance of this unity in their sermons.
3. Implementing the spirit of national unity in schools.
4. Instituting a committee to continuously defend this unity.

St. Habib Girgis loved Egypt so much that he wrote a poem titled "God bless Egypt". He fulfilled the verses that said:

Memory Verse



"Whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven". Matthew 5:19

Fady: Truly everything St. Habib Girgis did witnessed for him. He was a loving person, loyal not only to the Church but for his country. After a life full of spiritual struggle and continuous giving to the Church and to his country, he departed to heaven on 21 August 1951 (Eve of St. Mary's feast) at the age of 75 years, may his prayers be with us, Amen.

Wiseman: Thank you Fady for telling us about this wonderful modern day saint.

Fady: We're finally done! I don't know how to thank all of you! I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you so much.

Scissors: Thank you Wiseman, because you taught us so much. I learned how to forgive and reconcile.

Bibi: Me too I learned how to be responsible when someone asks me anything just like Tobias was.

Antika: Thank you Fady, we really learned so much from the stories you told us. The most important thing I learned was that even though I'm young, I still have an important role.

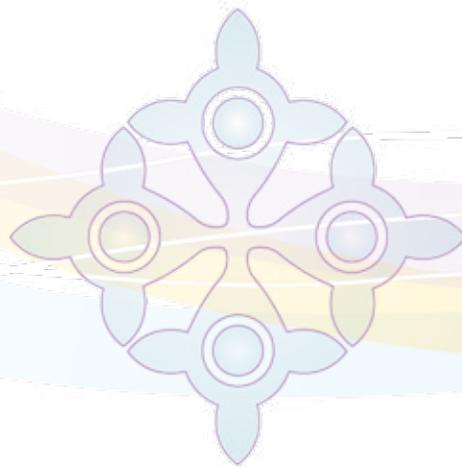


Wiseman: What made me really happy was you Fady!

Fady: Me! Why?

Wiseman: Because you're brave and you know so many stories from the Holy Bible. You also know the faith of the Church and many of its rites. You even know about the Church fathers and you love and respect them. But most importantly, you were able to fulfil your dream. By the way, it doesn't matter if you win or not, you still saw your dream come true. This is proof of your diligence and hard work.

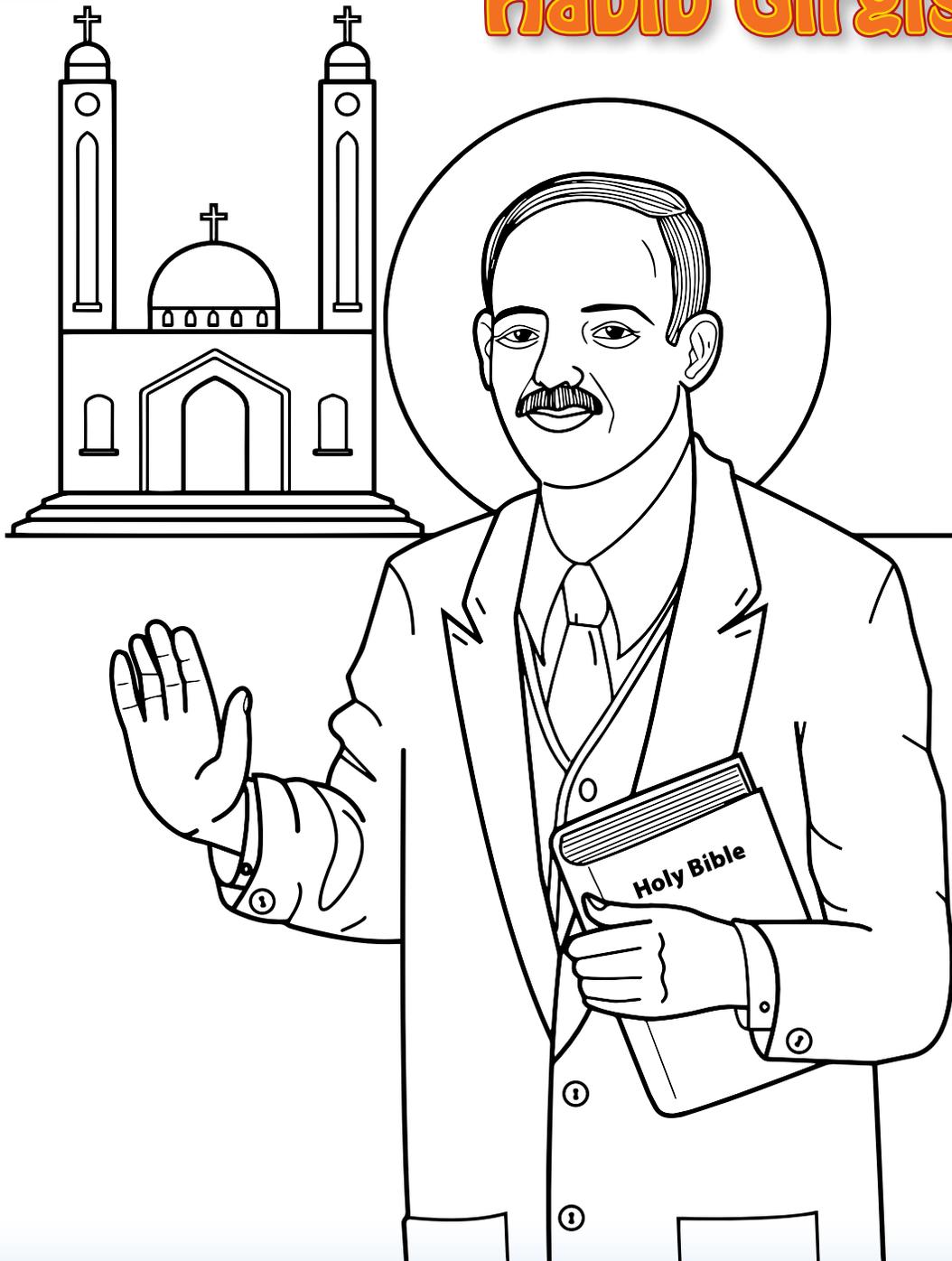
Fady: Thank you all so much for your nice compliments and for helping me make my dream come true.



Be My Witness... Be My Witness...



St. Archdeacon Habib Girgis





Books of the Old Testament

Books of the Law

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

Historical Books

6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles

14. 2 Chronicles

15. Ezra

16. Nehemiah

17. Esther

Poetic Books

18. Job

19. Psalm

20. Proverbs

21. Ecclesiastes

22. Song of Solomon

Major Prophets

23. Isaiah

24. Jeremiah

25. Lamentations

26. Ezekiel

27. Daniel

Minor Prophets

28. Hosea

29. Joel

30. Amos

31. Obadiah

32. Jonah

33. Micah

34. Nahum

35. Habakkuk

36. Zephaniah

37. Haggai

38. Zechariah

39. Malachi



Books of the New Testament

Gospels

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John

Acts

5. Acts

St. Paul's Epistles:

6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians

14. 2 Thessalonians

15. 1 Timothy

16. 2 Timothy

17. Titus

18. Philemon

19. Hebrews

Catholic Epistles

20. James

21. 1 Peter

22. 2 Peter

23. 1 John

24. 2 John

25. 3 John

26. Jude

Revelation

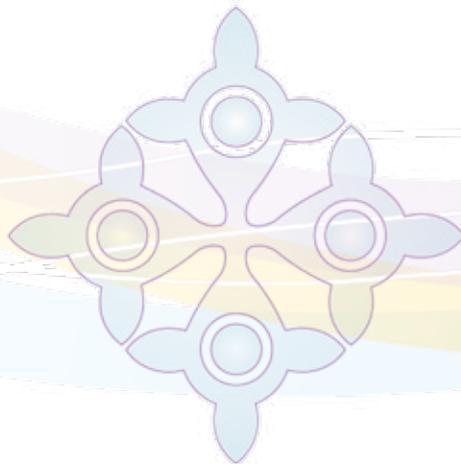
27. Revelation



Psalm 83

(Psalm 83 in Agpeya - Psalm 84 in Bible)

How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young-- Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! O God, behold our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed. For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold from those who walk up rightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You! Alleluia.



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Be My Witness...



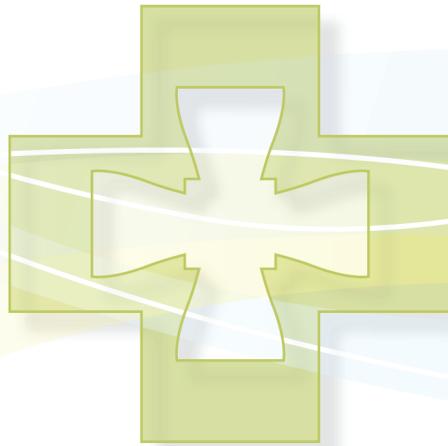
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Be My Witness... Be My Witness...



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Be My Witness..



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