

(Compiled using the Grade 11 Christianity text book published by the  
Educational Publications Department)

# Christianity

## Grade 11 Lessons

Due to the lack of Christianity teachers in most of the schools, this book has been compiled for the purposes of self-study of the children.



**Prepared by: The Board of Christian Education,  
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## **Grade 11 – Lesson 01**

### **The Jewish way of Life**

- The call of Abraham and Faith
  - A group of people settled in the land of Canaan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century BC. It can be seen as an important migration, as Abraham and his family were among the people who settled there.
  - This journey is viewed as important because Abraham began his journey simply by obeying God and by faith.
  - Abraham had great faith in God, and this is apparent in his obedience to God's call on his life.
  - 2 things are established in this;
    1. The Israelite people were established solely on the faith of God.
    2. The calling of Abraham and the beginning of the Israelite people are interconnected.
  
- The Covenant and Promise Abraham Received.
  - Abraham and God had a very strong relationship. To honor this bond, God created a covenant with Abraham. This Covenant had 3 promises to it.

1. Abraham will be the Father of many nations.

**Abraham tells God that he is 99 years old and childless.**

**Abraham receives the name "Father of Nations."**

**God promises Abraham that his decedents will be as many as the dust upon the earth and the stars in the sky.**

2. He will receive the Promise Land.

**Abraham left his comfort Zone as he didn't want to miss god's plan for his life.**

**Because of this Abraham receives the Promise Land of Canaan.**

3. He will be a Blessing to others

**According to God's promise, the name of Abraham will be a name of Blessing.**

**The blessing of faith that Abraham had is a Blessing that all of us have received.**

**All the people of the earth will be blessed because of Abraham.**

➤ The 10 Commandments

**It consists of 10 commands / rules.**

**The Jewish way of living is established through these commandments.**

**They are the rules for life and society.**

- The 10 commandments can be divided into 2 sections

**The Commands between God and Man**

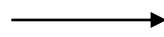
1. "You shall have no other gods before me."
2. "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them;"
3. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God."
4. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."
5. "Honor your father and your mother"

**The Commands between Man and Man**

6. "You shall not murder."
7. "You shall not commit adultery."
8. "You shall not steal."
9. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour."
10. "You shall not covet your neighbour's belongings."

**Grade 11 – Lesson 02**  
**A Wholesome life and the Messiah**

➤ **Messiah (The Anointed One)**



Hebrew  
“**Mashiach**”

Greek  
“**Christos**”

➤ The evolution of the Messiah concept

- In Israelite history, only important people were anointed.
  1. Priests (Aaron and his sons were anointed with oil – Exodus 29:7)
  2. Prophets
  3. Kings

➤ Kingship and Anointing

1. The Messiah would come from the line of David
  - The prophet Isaiah speaks about the Messiah coming from the line of David
  - The line of King David will bring about the prophecy of the Messiah.
2. The Kingdom of the Messiah will have no end.
  - Through many difficulties he will establish a Kingdom of peace.
3. There will be Justice
  - Justice will be one of the key principles of the Kingdom of the Messiah
  - God’s vision is to establish a kingdom of peace forever.
4. He will shatter the yolk that burdens the people.
5. Wonderful counselor.
6. Prince of Peace.

➤ The light of the Messiah leads you to a wholesome life

- Peaceful living
- Freedom from sin
- Freedom from sickness
- Learning the importance of the kingdom of God
- Freedom from political and economic pressures

➤ Important Facts

- As mentioned in the Gospels, the disciples knew that Jesus was the Messiah.
- Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, all humankind received the forgiveness of sin and the gift of eternal life.
- Because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, we are free from all slavery and pressures.
- The life of faith is one of the fear of God, justice, righteousness, commitment and peace.
- When the real Christian life will be revealed to the world.



## Grade 11 – Lesson 03

### The Good Shepherd

- The job of a shepherd was a very common occupation at that time in Israel.
- Able, Jacob and David were shepherds as well.
- God is the shepherd of the Israelites.
- In the New Testament, Jesus is seen as the Good Shepherd.
- God provides us with Love, Nutrition and Protection, like a shepherd does.

#### ➤ Qualities of a Shepherd

##### a) Nutrition

- The shepherd's main responsibility is in providing the food and water the sheep need.

Example:

- "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, Psalm 23:2.
- "I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel." Ezekiel 34:14

##### b) Guarding and Guidance

- "I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice." Ezekiel 34:16

##### c) Protection and Self sacrifice

- This is one of the main purposes of a shepherd's life.
- God takes care of his people, like a shepherd tends to his flock.
- The shepherd is willing to lay down his life for the sheep. E.g. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of all.

##### d) Recognition

- The shepherd knows and understands his sheep well.

#### ➤ How do we behave like shepherds?

##### **A shepherd's love**

- The shepherd provides for every need of the sheep because he loves his sheep.
- We, as leaders should work with love with those around us.

##### **Commitment and Dedication**

- Commitment and dedication are the main qualities of love.
- Jesus was committed to lay his life down for us.

- We too should put aside our selfish ways and be committed and dedicated to those around us.

### **Service**

- God is our Good shepherd
- Therefore we should join with faith in the works that God is doing

#### ➤ How should we as sheep live our lives?

- **Obeying the voice of the shepherd**
  - When you follow the voice of Jesus, you won't be led astray.
- **We fall into trouble if we are not obedient to the shepherd's voice.**
  - "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture." John 10:9
  - When we don't follow the will of God, we may have to go through tough times in our lives.
- **Have complete trust in the shepherd.**

#### ➤ Important Points

- When we are obedient to the shepherd and trust him, we will receive a full life.
- The purpose of false shepherd's is destruction. A hired hand would abandon the sheep when trouble times come, unlike a shepherd.
- when Jesus is our Shepherd We must become one of His Sheep listen to His voice.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 04**

### **The Suffering Servant**

Many suffer because of faith. 2 of these people are Job and Jeremiah. No matter what they lost, or however much trouble they got into, they always trusted and had faith in God.

- Suffering Servants
  - The Messiah that the Jewish people were looking forward to was one who would come and rule in royal majesty.
  - But the prophet Isaiah spoke of a person who would be humble, patient and bearing all sorrow.
    - God Spirit is on him (Isaiah 42:1)
    - He will be meek and quiet (Isaiah 42:2)
    - He will bring forth justice (Isaiah 42:3)
    - He will not discourage, but will bring about justice (Isaiah 42:4)
    - He will be familiar to pain and suffering (Isaiah 53:3)
    - He will be punished for our sake (Isaiah 53:5)
    - His death is a sacrifice for our sin (Isaiah 53:10)
    - He will bear the sins of the people and intercede for them (Isaiah 53:12)
  
- Jesus the suffering servant
  - The New Testament states that Jesus will accomplish the works of the suffering servant.
  - The victory over the suffering is Jesus' resurrection.
  
- The suffering servant and us
  - We should serve the Lord in faith.
  - We need to die to self and be humble
  - We should be able to face all the trouble and sorrow with courage and faith
  - Suffering and sacrifice is a part of our service / ministry

## Grade 11 – Lesson 05

### Living in Love

- The love of God for all mankind existed from the beginning of time.
- Because of the sins of humankind, they moved away from the love of God.
- The reasons for this can be seen as foolishness, revenge, jealousy, greed, anger, impatience, selfishness, pride and hate.

- The qualities of Love can be seen in Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Corinthians

- Love is patient
- Love is kind
- Love does not envy
- Love does not boast
- Love is not proud.
- Love does not dishonor others
- Love is not self-seeking
- Love is not easily angered
- Love keeps no record of wrongs.
- Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
- Love always protects
- Love always trusts
- Love always hopes
- Love always perseveres

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

- According to Mark 12: 29-33, we see that love is presented in 2 laws.
  1. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."
  2. "Love your neighbour as yourself."
- Paul writes to the people of Ephesians and prays that they would be rooted and established in love.
- We need faith to remain in love and to love like Jesus did.
- Love is best described as been sacrificial to others.
- We see the unconditional and sacrificial love of Jesus in His life, service, suffering, and death. This is true love.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 06**

### **Committed to Peace**

- Jesus talks about peace on the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 6:9-10)
- Working towards peace brings God much joy.
- At times peace is broken because of the words that come out of a person’s mouth.
- It is our responsibility to nurture love and to break the barriers that stand in the way of peace.
- The prophet Isaiah 1<sup>st</sup> speaks about peace, before his prophecies about Jesus. He says “Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end..... establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness.”
- The Jew’s and early Christians used to greet each other with the Hebrew phrase “Shalom”.
- The Greek word “Eirene” means “Complete Peace.”
- There are many people who worked tirelessly for peace around the world. We see how they committed themselves to bringing about economic, social, political and religious peace.

#### **Reverend Chandra Fernando**

- After been ordained in 1972, he 1<sup>st</sup> served in churches in Batticaloa and Trincomalee.
- Rev. Chandra worked with all the people in the area, and he is well known for working towards peace.
- His motto for service was “No one should call themselves lord, a leader is a servant.”

#### **Reverend Tissa Balasooriya**

- In 1945 Reverend Balasooriya been a Catholic priest, joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.
- In his books he has written, Reverend Balasooriya has mentioned that anger and falsehood can be defeated only by loving and forgiving your enemy.
- He always believed that Unity, peace, development and social justice can lead to national religious and social peace.

#### **Important Point**

The Son of Man came as the “Prince of Peace” to save the whole world from sin, and sacrificed himself on the cross for all humankind.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 07**

### **Let us Experience Forgiveness**

- Jesus not only taught about forgiveness, but demonstrated it on the cross when he forgave those who were crucifying him.
- The Lord's Prayer says that we should forgive others, if we are to be forgiven.
- We can see forgiveness in action when we look at the life of Pope John Paul the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Pope John Paul the 2<sup>nd</sup> was a victim of a failed assassination attempt by a Turkish man names Ali Ağca, where he was shot many times. In displaying forgiveness, Pope John Paul the 2<sup>nd</sup> visited Ali in prison and forgave him.
- Reverend Peter Gerard De Silva can also be seen as a priest who displayed forgiveness by forgiving his wrongdoers.

#### **Important Points**

- Jesus displayed forgiveness by example.
- By Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, Jesus bridged the gap between God and man, which had been created due to sin.
- It is a great value in the kingdom of God to forgive and to accept forgiveness.
- Forgiving and accepting forgiveness gives us inner peace

#### **Unmerciful Servant.**

The parable is about a servant who owed money to his master, but he was unable to pay his master, but his master was merciful and forgave him. This servant had a servant who owed him money, when the servant of the 1<sup>st</sup> servant told him that he is unable to pay, he did not show mercy to his servant. Upon hearing this, the master of the 1<sup>st</sup> servant puts him in prison.

#### **What can we learn from this parable?**

- We should always be willing to forgive.
- Forgiveness is a quality of God.
- You should not be ashamed to ask for forgiveness.
- Everyone needs forgiveness.
- When we forgive and accept forgiveness, we are doing the will of God.
- Forgiving and accept forgiveness brings about renewal to life.

## Grade 11 – Lesson 08

### Living in Unity

- As Christians we should learn to celebrate our diversity and learn the importance of living in unity.

#### The Parable of the Vine and the Branches

- The Vine is Jesus, and God is the gardener.
- Through Jesus, God has established a relationship between Himself and all humankind.
- If you cannot stay connected to Jesus, you are unable to live as a true Christian. Let's look at what the bible says about Christians who can't bear fruit.
  - "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit." (Those who are connected to Jesus, but does not share the qualities of Christ to the world, these are the people who are not needed in the kingdom of God)
- We should remove all obstacles that are in the way of us bearing fruit for Jesus, and be useful to Jesus.
  - Thoughts such as anger, hate and revenge that is there in the human heart is one way that we fail to live in unity.  
E.g. The wars that take place between countries and fights among people is an example to this.
  - The unity that God and Jesus share is a great example. Likewise the church should also have a strong bond and unity with Jesus Christ.
  - The life of church unity is lost as Christianity has been separated into denominations and we keep finding petty differences to keep ourselves from uniting.
  - John 17:22 says that when we live in unity, God's glory will be upon us.
  - This shows us that we should put aside denominations and work in unity.
  - Organizations that work in unity;
    - National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)
    - Lanka Theological College (TCL)
    - Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)
    - Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)
    - Christian Worker's Fellowship (CWF)
  - The bible describes unity in this manner.  
"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:28-29
  - The different denominations are like different parts that are connected to God. Though we are different, we all share in the same love, and this leads to the same goal. Let us understand this fact, as Christians living in this day and age.

## Grade 11 – Lesson 09

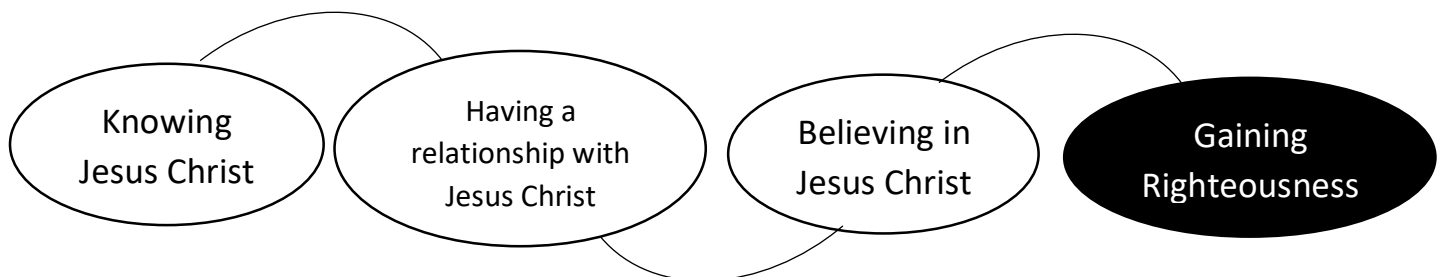
### Hope and Eternal Life

- As Christians, we have the hope of Eternal Life.
- Because of the calling and promise that God gave Abraham, Abraham had to sacrifice much. But God blessed him and fulfilled His promise to Abraham, by giving him the land of Canaan.
- In the same way because of the promise God gave Moses and the Israelites, they faced many difficulties in the desert, but the Israelites were led to and received the promise land.
- We see that the promises of God sometimes lead us through difficult situations, but the end result is worth it.
- (SINHALA NOTE POINT NOT CLEAR –THE SINHALA NOTE IS BASED ON THE LESSON IN PAGES 33 -34 IN THE TEXT BOOK)
- The greatest gift God can give us is eternal life.

1. Righteousness
2. Holiness
3. Joy

#### Righteousness

- We receive righteousness because Jesus is righteous
- This is how you will gain righteousness;



#### Holiness

- Holiness is total faith in God
- Qualities of a life of holiness;
  - ✓ Believing in the resurrected Jesus Christ
  - ✓ Turning away from wrong lifestyles
  - ✓ Been selfless
  - ✓ Not been trapped by possessions
  - ✓ Behaving well
  - ✓ Living with the fear of God.



## **Joy**

- ✓ People are often joyful for many things.
- ✓ But we have received a Joy that will not fade, the Joy of eternal life
- ✓ To gain eternal life we should be united to Jesus Christ
- ✓ Even though we have not seen Jesus we still trust and obey. This is the faith we have.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 10**

### **Examples from the Early Church**

- The church is a place where people gather.
- The church is something unique to the Christians.
- Even though there are several denominations in the church, we all serve the same God.

#### **The Early Church**

- ❖ 50 days after Jesus' resurrection, the feast of Pentecost took place. It is the Jewish festival of the harvest. So the Jews all gathered in Jerusalem to offer to the temple their 1<sup>st</sup> fruits.
- ❖ On that day the disciples of Jesus were in the upper room of a house, praying together.
- ❖ On that day they all received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ About 3000 people were gathered to the church that day.
- ❖ There were several important things that happened that day.
  1. There was the sound of strong wind that seem to come from heaven. (The power of the Holy Spirit)
  2. What seemed like tongues of fire, separated and came to rested on each of them (Feeling the power of the Holy Spirit)
  3. Everyone filled with the Holy Spirit began to speak in tongues. (Been ignited by the Holy Spirit)
- ❖ The work of the early church
  1. Living a life of worship
  2. Mission work

#### **A life of worship**

- ❖ On the day of Pentecost, the Christians received the Holy Spirit, and they kept working towards strengthening their faith
  1. Teaching the Word.
  2. Fellowship.
  3. Breaking of Bread.
  4. Prayer
  5. Sharing their possessions
- ❖ Examples of a life of worship
  1. Been involved in worship
  2. Taking part in the breaking of Bread
  3. Spending time in prayer
  4. Living according to the Word of God

## **Mission Work**

- ❖ After receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost day, Peter the apostle who 1<sup>st</sup> preached on that day, started the ministry of mission work among the apostles.
- ❖ Peter preached these words to them that day “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:38-39)
- ❖
  1. **Evangelism**
  2. **Welfare**

## **Evangelism**

- ❖ Preaching so that the Word of God will spread
- ❖ Encouraging people to repent and to be baptized
- ❖ Increasing the belief in other by performing wonders and signs
- ❖ Witnessing about the resurrection of Jesus
- ❖ Healing the sick and casting out demons

## **Welfare**

- ❖ This ministry is very valuable
- ❖ Keeping all possessions as common possessions
- ❖ Sharing what each other has
- ❖ The importance of treating everyone equal
- ❖ Not claiming to possess anything for yourself
- ❖ All believers living in unity
- ❖ Find quick solutions for problems – E.g. The issue of the Hellenistic Jews

## **Important Point**

- ❖ We see that the work and the life style of the early church is much needed for the modern church.
- ❖ What kind of Christians are we ? Are We prepared to witness boldly for the lord Jesus? Jesus can change our lives as He changed the lives of the disciples.

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## **Grade 11 – Lesson 12**

### **Life Changing**

- Paul is an important apostle in the life of the early church, his service and ministry was very significant.
- Even though Paul wasn't among the 12 apostles, he was known as the apostle to the gentiles.
- Paul has written 13 of the 27 books in the New Testament. These writings are essential to the church and Christians alike.
- Paul was known by 3 names. He had a Hebrew name Saul, a Roman name Paulus and the Greek name Paul.

#### ❖ **Paul's background in Cilicia**

- Paul was born in the town of Tarsus in Cilicia. It was a wealthy merchant town.
- The town was full of people from different places who spoke different languages and had different ideas. There were many scholars in this town as well.
- Because of these reasons we see how Paul was able to work with different people who spoke different languages.

#### ❖ **Jewish Background**

- Paul was a devout Jew. His descendants are from the tribe of Benjamin.
- He knew the Hebrew language well. After his education in the Synagogue, Paul studied under Gamaliel who was a member of the Sanhedrin.
- Paul was a tent maker by profession.

#### ❖ **Religious background as a Pharisee**

- The word Pharisee means "one who is separated"
- Paul was born to a family of Pharisees.
- Because of this he followed all the laws and traditions of the Jewish faith.  
E.g. the circumcision of Timothy.
- He was well versed in the Tora, the foundation of the Jewish faith.
- He was a functioning member of the Sanhedrin.

#### ❖ **Background as a Roman citizen**

- Been a Jewish Pharisee, Paul worked hard in persecuting the Christians.
- Amidst all hardship and difficulties, the Christians did not let go of their faith.
- The name "Christian" was 1<sup>st</sup> used in a church in Antioch.
- When Stephen was been stoned to death, Saul kept their robes.
- Stephen became the 1<sup>st</sup> Martyr. Seeing how Stephen faced his death with courage may have been a reason for the change in Saul's life.

#### ❖ **Saul's Conversion**

- Saul was on his way in search of Christians in Damascus.
- On his way Saul encounters Jesus.

- After this encounter with Jesus, Saul was struck blind.
- As instructed by Jesus, Saul made his way to Damascus.
- Saul was healed by a person names Ananias. Saul then learnt of the Christian faith.

❖ **Paul's service after his life changing encounter**

- He was involved in Missionary work
- He preached about Jesus in the temple courts.
- He preached the gospel amidst great difficulty.
- Paul turned all his abilities and education to the one purpose of fulfilling God's will.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 13**

### **Victory through Leadership in Partnership**

#### **The church of Antioch in Syria.**

- ❖ The 1<sup>st</sup> time the word “Christian” was used was in the church of Antioch. There were many prophets and teachers in this church, and this is where Paul and Barnabas served. At this church a prophet named Agabus prophesied filled with the Holy Spirit. This led Paul and Barnabas to begin their 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey.

#### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary journey through partner leadership**

- From the church in Antioch, the missionary work started from the port town of Seleucia. Then they journeyed to Cyprus, Barnabas’ home town. Cyprus was a Jewish country. There they went about preaching the good news. While here John Mark joined in their mission work.
- They next went to Paphos, where they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus who was an attendant of Proconsul Sergius Paulus. The proconsul an intelligent man, sent for Paul and Barnabas so he could hear the Word of God. But Bar-Jesus tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. Paul then filled with the Holy Spirit looked at Bar-Jesus and rebuked him and caused him to be blind, upon seeing this the proconsul believed in Jesus.
- After Paphos they traveled to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. Though John Mark left them at this point, he later served well in mission work.
- In Pisidian Antioch they preached on the Sabbath in the synagogue. Because of this many people were brought to the faith and were saved. On the next Sabbath almost the entire town had come to hear them preach.
- They faced many difficulties in their mission work, but through the strength of the Holy Spirit they were able to overcome the challenges they met.
- In Iconium they faced much difficulties, but they kept on preaching. They even performed great signs and wonders.
- Amidst difficulties Paul healed a lame man in Lystra. When this happened the crowd started to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods. They later explained and taught the people who the One True God was.
- At Derbe many were saved and became disciples.
- They then traveled to Lystra, Iconium, Antioch, Pisidia, Pamphylia, Perga and Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch in Syria, ending their missionary journey.

#### **Characteristics of Partner Leadership**

- Understanding that you must suffer for the kingdom of God.
- Encouraging the disciples
- Encouraging the believers
- Appointing leaders to the church.
- Fasting and prayer and committing the believers to God.
- Preaching the good news



- Continuing to work amidst difficulties.

### **The Council at Jerusalem.**

- A question about the circumcision of the gentile's believers was brought up. The view of James the leader of the council was that the gentiles were not required to be circumcised to be believers. Here we see how an issue regarding Jews and gentiles was resolved.

### **What can we learn from fruitful missionary work?**

- Even in difficult times, we have the guidance of God.
- When you are united, it is easy to face challenges.
- It is important to be wise, according to the situation.
- Even though you fail, you should continue through with the strength of the Holy Spirit.
- Telling others of Jesus is our responsibility and privilege.

## Grade 11 – Lesson 14

### Courageous Service

❖ There was a disagreement between Paul and Barnabas concerning their 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary journey. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him along. Because of this, Barnabas took John Mark with him to Cyprus, and Paul started his 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary journey with Silas, Timothy and Luke.

- **Antioch in Syria** – After the disagreement, Paul begins his journey with Silas.
- **Syria and Cilicia** – This is where the 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey began from.
- **Derbe and Lystra** – After preaching, Timothy joins the journey. Having been kept by God from preaching in the region of Asia, they headed to Macedonia.
- **Journey to Philippi**



- **The women had gathered at the banks of the river on the Sabbath.**

❖ **Lydia**

- The women gathered at the river bank. The mission work began with preaching to the women there.
- Lydia from Thyatira was a dealer in purple cloth. She and the members of her household were baptized. Paul established a women centered ministry, something that went against Jewish tradition.

❖ **The slave girl**

- They met a slave girl who was possessed by a spirit which enabled her to predict the future. The girl made a lot of money for her owners by telling fortunes. Paul healed her in the name of Jesus.
- This angered the slave girl's owners who lost their means to making an income through her and brought false accusations against Paul and Silas and had them thrown into prison.

❖ **Paul & Silas in Prison**

- Paul and Silas were praying to God and singing songs of praise when there was an earthquake, and the foundations of the prison were shaken. The prison doors were flung open and everyone's chains came loose. When the jailer saw what had happened he tried to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul stopped him. The jailer said he wanted to be saved, and Paul told him the good news of Jesus Christ. The jailer took Paul and Silas to his house to wash their wounds, and then he and his household were baptized.
- In this manner Paul and Silas faced all the challenges that came their way.

#### ❖ **Thessalonica and Berea**

- They preached in the synagogues at both Thessalonica and Berea. Due to this many Greek men and women became believers. The believers as well as Paul and Silas faced much difficulties because of the Jews. From here Paul gets the opportunity to visit another city.
- Silas and Timothy stay back in Berea.

#### ❖ **Athens**

- The next city Paul visits is Athens. It was a city of Philosophy, Education, Science, Literature and Art.
- Paul started to preach in the city.
- He let the others speak their thoughts as well.
- He reasoned with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks at the market place.

#### ❖ **Altar of the unknown God**

- The Greeks worshiped many gods. As Paul walked the city he saw many altars dedicated to them, he also saw an altar with the name "To an unknown God."
- Paul takes this opportunity to speak to the people about this unknown God, and he preaches to them about God Almighty.

#### ❖ **What happened in Athens**

- He showed that idol worship was wrong.
- Paul used the poetry of the Athenians in his preaching.
- He proclaimed that God is the One True God and that God is all powerful.
- He spoke about Jesus' resurrection.
- Because Paul was wise in his preaching, he was able to gather many to the faith that day. E.g. - Dionysius, and Damaris.

#### ❖ **Corinth**

- The city of Corinth was a political and economic centre in Greece.
- At Corinth Paul meets Aquila and his wife Priscilla, who were tent makers as well.
- Every Sabbath Paul went to the synagogues to try and reason and persuade the Jews and the Greeks.
- When the Jews rejected Paul and his teachings, he left to preach to the gentiles.

#### ❖ **Cenchreae**

- Before Paul sailed to Syria with Aquila and Priscilla, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae due to a vow he had made.
- He then set sail from Ephesus and arrived at Caesarea, he then went to Jerusalem and finally went to Antioch in Syria.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 15**

### **Service amidst challenges**

❖ **Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary journey began from the city of Ephesus. Paul, Luke, Timothy and Trophimus participated in this journey.**

❖ **Ephesus**

Ephesus was an important city in the Asian region. Paul had visited the city twice before, and had faced many challenges, but he was able to overcome them.

#### **What happened in Ephesus?**

- Apollo's, a learned and a knowledgeable man in the ways of scripture was preaching in the synagogues in Ephesus. He was preaching the baptism of John the Baptist, because that was the baptism he knew, so Aquila and Priscilla went to him and taught him about the baptism of Jesus Christ.
- Paul met some of the disciples of John the Baptist and preached to them about Jesus. They were then baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, they then started to speak in tongues and prophecy.
- The 7 sons of Sceva were Jews who went about casting out demons. They then tried to invoke the name of Jesus to drive out demons and fell into great trouble. Because of what happened to them, the following things took place.
  - ✓ God's power was displayed.
  - ✓ Evil and falsehood were defeated.
  - ✓ The name of Jesus was held in high honor.
  - ✓ Many sorcerers left their evil ways and became believers.
  - ✓ The Word of God spread even more.
- A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver idols of Artemis, sought to get rid of Paul as Paul had been preaching saying "gods made by human hands are no gods at all". Because of this;
  - ✓ People had stopped worshipping idols, the idol craftsmen had lost their income.
  - ✓ They understood the importance of worshipping the One True God.

#### **Missionary work around the city of Ephesus**

- After the disturbance that took place in Ephesus, they arrived in Greece amidst difficulties and continued in their work.
- In Troas, Paul was able to bring back to life the young man Eutychus.
- In Miletus, Paul calls for the elders in the church, and speaks to them about his future plans and encouraged the believers. Here Paul says his goodbyes to the believers in Ephesus.
- Even though Agabus prophesied to Paul about what would happen to him in Jerusalem, he did not get discouraged, but continued in his mission work.
- In this manner Paul been filled with the Holy Spirit, faced and overcame many challenges in his journey to preaching the good news of Jesus Christ.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 16**

### **Service through Witnessing**

- At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey, Agabus prophesied that Paul would be arrested in Jerusalem, and it came to pass that in the temple of Jerusalem, Paul was arrested.
- Paul gave witness in Jerusalem about his conversion and about the difficulties and challenges he had to face since then.
- As a Roman citizen Paul asked that he be sent to Rome to be judged under Roman law. Because of this Paul was able to continue his mission work in Rome.
- Paul was taken to Rome as a prisoner.
- For his journey to Rome Paul was put in the charge of a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment.
- In the time of Paul, journey by sea was done by following the stars. In bad weather ships did not sail for this very reason. On his way to Rome, the ship Paul was in faced a storm, even though Paul had warned them before that they should not sail as the weather would grow bad, the sailors had taken no heed to his warning.
- We can see that this storm was a challenge that Paul has to face. They faced a hurricane named “Northeaster”. (Greek – Eurakulon)
- Everyone one aboard was discouraged and afraid because of the storm, Paul was able to encourage those on board the ship, as he witnessed to them about Jesus.
- Through witnessing, we are able to overcome the challenges and storms we face in life.

#### ❖ **Witnessing in Malta**

- Malta was 60 miles to the south of the city of Cilicia.
- While here a snake fastens himself onto Paul, and the people thought he was a murderer because a snake had fastened itself onto Paul, but Paul shook the snake off his hand, and suffered no ill effect. The people of Malta thought he may be a god.
- The father of Publius, the chief official of the island was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went and prayed for him and placed his hands on him and healed him. By this Paul was able to witness about the healing that God provides.
- During his missionary work, through prayer and many wonders and signs, Paul was able to witness to many people about God.

#### ❖ **Witnessing in Rome**

- In Rome Paul witnessed about his life to the Jewish elders. Here we see that preaching Jesus’ good news was Paul’s ultimate goal.
- How many obstacles, difficulties and challenges do Christians face in their life’s journey? But if you keep your faith firmly on Jesus, we can see that the Holy Spirit will guide you, we see this clearly in the life of Paul.

## Grade 11 – Lesson 17

### I belong to Jesus Christ

#### ❖ Jesus and Nicodemus

- Jesus was known as a Rabbi because He used to teach at the synagogue and various other places.
  - The Pharisees were against Jesus' teachings. Among them was a Pharisee and teacher named Nicodemus. He understood who Jesus was. We see that Nicodemus was interested about his spiritual salvation, and sought out the truth.
  - Nicodemus believed that Jesus was sent by God, and he wanted to build a relationship with Jesus.
  - This was Jesus' response to Nicodemus;  
"Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.
  - Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant when he said this, because he questioned Jesus.  
""How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"
  - Jesus then explains what he had spoken to Nicodemus.
- **Born again** - Jesus explains these terms in a simple manner. Been born again was not as a person been born into this world, but a spiritual renewal and purification. Cleaning our self from our sinful nature and entering a new life and this is Jesus what meant by been born again.
  - **No one can see the kingdom of heaven** – People who live sinful lives have grown far from their relationship from God. Those people end up destroying themselves. Loving God and having a relationship with God will help you enter the kingdom of heaven.
    - This is what Jesus meant when he said to be born again, it is to have a renewal of life through the Holy Spirit, and enter into a new way of life or been born into a new way of life.

#### ❖ Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

- According to the book of John, Jesus meets and has a conversation with a Samaritan woman.
- Usually there is no interaction between a Jew and a Samaritan for whatever reason.
- But Jesus been a Jew shocked the Samaritan woman by asking her for some water.
- Jesus demonstrated here that the love of God is not only for the Jews.
- In a time when women had no place in society, Jesus shows that God does not care about human rules.
- Jesus shows that His love goes beyond boundary's
- Jesus went against the norms of the time. Speaking to Nicodemus and the Samaritan woman is an example of this.
- Jesus was always willing to meet the Soul's deepest needs.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 18**

### **We belong to Jesus Christ**

- Society is a human construct. All people belong to the most primal social unit, the family.
- God is the author of all families.
- From the creation of Adam and Eve, God created family.
- It is God's will that all human kind live together in unity.
- From Adam and Eve, all of mankind gets its beginning.

#### **The duties and responsibilities of a Christian family.**

##### **❖ The responsibilities of husband and wife.**

- Submit to one another, out of reverence to God.
- The wife should submit to the husband, as she is submissive to God.
- The husband should love the wife and be willing to give up his life for his wife, as Jesus did for the church.
- The man should love his wife as his own self.

##### **❖ The responsibilities of the children**

- Children are a gift from God. Taking care of them and loving them, as well as providing for their needs and raising them up in the fear of the Lord is the responsibility of the parents.
- Been obedient to your parents is in the 10 commandments, it is stated that children should honor their father and their mother.

##### **❖ The life principles a Christian should have**

- As we live as Christians in society, our behavior should be pleasing to the Lord.
- Our words should build people up and not tear them down.
- As God forgives us we should also forgive our friends and enemy's alike.
- We should face our challenges with love.
- We should lead a life of kindness.
- We should not gossip about people and misbehave.
- We should not look at peoples positions, social standing or the fact that their rich or poor and work with everyone.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 19**

### **Building up ourselves unity**

- God has called us to work towards the growth of the kingdom of heaven.
- God has shown us that just like Jesus' life was full of challenges and difficulties, so ours may also have challenges and difficulties.
- Each of us have been given different gifts and talents.
- We can use these gifts and talents in our churches for different things.
- We have been given these gifts and talents in order to work towards the growth of the body of Christ.
- Our society is a diverse society, yet we should protect our Christian identity.
- There are times when we face difficulties in society;
  - ✓ Due to traditional reasons
  - ✓ We should stand firm in our Christian identity when circumstances like these arise.
  
- Paul has said
  - ✓ We are the temple of the living God (2 Corinthians 6:16)
  - ✓ "Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit."  
(2 Corinthians 7:1)
  - ✓ We should live in reverence to God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)
  
- When we look at the statements Paul has made, we come to realize that our thoughts and ideas sometimes might not fit into today's world and society.
- At these times, it is important to hold on to our faith to do what is written on the sight of the Lord.
- It is our responsibility to display the values of the kingdom of heaven to society through our lives.
- Mother Theresa is a great example. She displayed the love of God to all people. She did not look at religion, cast or language. She served all equally.
- We too should live in unity with others, while guarding our Christian identity.



## **Grade 11 – Lesson 20**

### **Life through the Holy Spirit**

- Alcoholism and addiction to drugs is a great evil in today's society.
- Alcoholism can lead to the destruction of lives. If you are under the influence of alcohol, you will be filled with sadness, mental fatigue and have physical ailments.
- Associating with wrong friends can lead someone down this path, this is a great challenge to us Christians.
- Due to the mental pressures people face, they are willing to do anything.
- Our body belongs to God. It is dedicated to Him. But due to alcoholism, we are destroying the temple of God.
- We should turn away from this incorrect lifestyle and build and strengthen our Christian identity and spiritual life.
- We should be led by the Holy Spirit, then we will not give into our physical wants.
- Those who live such lives will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- Society is being ruled by evil.
- Let us be led by the Holy Spirit and be wise and behave in a way that is pleasing to God.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 21**

### **Overcoming the challenge of poverty.**

- Poverty does not only mean financial poverty, it applies to spiritual poverty as well.

#### **Poverty of worldly possessions**

If we are to free ourselves of poverty...

- We should help the poor, take care and provide for them. More importantly, we should help them in overcoming themselves from their poverty, and teach them to use their strengths for their betterment.
- When you are lazy, you fall into poverty. Working hard and diligently will help you out of your life of poverty.
- Sharing available resources properly amongst people, helps deal with poverty.
- Moving away from wrong lifestyles will also help you in getting out of poverty.
- Learning and identifying your talents, and using them wisely can bring about great success.
- No matter what your situation in life is, never give up or have self-pity, motivate yourself to live a good life.
- You should nurture your spiritual life and live in agreement with everyone around you.

#### **Spiritual Poverty**

- There are many people who chase behind worldly possessions.
- But our life on this earth is temporary.
- We need to pursue the things that will help us in our eternal life in heaven.
- With greed, you fall into poverty, which will lead to the failing of your relationships.(damage your relationship)
- This leads to spiritual poverty.
- Jesus taught the people many times about the possessions that will not fade away, and your inheritance in heaven.  
E.g.
  - The story of the Rich and the kingdom of God
  - The story of the Rich man and Lazarus
- These stories show us the result of being spiritually poor.
- True wealth in the kingdom of God is being free from selfishness, pride, anger, hate and jealousy.
- If you are wealthy, don't be proud of the fact, but share your wealth with those who do not have. These qualities will help you with your inheritance in heaven.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 22**

### **Let us free the Oppressed**

- The world that God has given us has gone through many difficult times due to manmade and natural disasters. We could say that all these things take place because of human fault.
- God's will for this world is to be a place of peace and love.
- But due to sin or greed for power, selfishness here changed people's minds. Humans look to trample another in order to get ahead; humans tend to put others through much difficulties and problems for their own gains.
- The Israelites in Egypt are one such group of people who were mistreated. Due to the fact that the Israelites were growing in number and fearing that they would one day take over Egypt, the Egyptians treated the Israelites as slaves and forced hard labour on them.
- Due to their suffering the Israelites cried out to God. God heard their cries and answered them.
- God rescued the Israelite slaves through Moses and took them to the promise land.
- In our society today we see many people living under oppression due to violence and injustice.
- Every human being deserves to have peace, human rights, joy and love, but due to injustice and violence; people have lost these basic rights. God wants all humans to have their basic rights.
- We can name Mahatma Gandhi as someone who fought against such evil practices on the society. Martin Luther King who fought against racial injustice in America. People such as Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond are People Tutu who fought against the injustices that took place in their societies.

#### **How did Jesus' behaviour in Jewish society at the time, change society.**

- He accepted people such as Zacchaeus and the sinful woman, people that were cornered in society.
- He gave women and children a place in society.
- He accepted the Samaritan woman, and other gentiles.
- Jesus cast out demons, and rose people from the dead.
- He healed people who were paralyzed, lepers and those with other diseases.
- He gave human life more importance than the law (The issue of the Sabbath day)
  
- In today's society, many people are suffering with mental, physical and spiritual ailments.
- Just like Jesus served those who were marginalized in society, we too should do the same for those in our society.
- We should treat everyone equally with love as this is God's will for us.

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 23**

### **Towards Social Justice**

- The name Amos means “to carry”. He lived in the southern part of Judah during the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. He was born in the town of Tekoa.
- At that time king Jeroboam the 2<sup>nd</sup> was king of Israel. Since Amos wanted the future generations to know the prophesy’s that the Lord had spoken through him, he wrote them all down, and because of this we are able to read them today.
- He was a shepherd and a fig farmer. (Amos 7:14)

#### **Society in the time of Amos**

- ❖ Financially the country was quite developed, but spiritually they were lacking.
- ❖ There was a lot of injustice, thievery and pressures that took place in places of religion and administration.
- ❖ Idol worship took place freely.
- ❖ Many economic agreements were made between the king, the wealthy and the foreign leaders.
- ❖ These agreements were fulfilled by heavily taxing the poor people of the land.
- ❖ Due to the taxes imposed on the poor, the rich became wealthier, while the poor suffered even more. (Amos 5:11)
- ❖ The wealthy misused their power and authority, and defrauded the poor in many ways. There was a large economic and financial gap between the rich and the poor.
- ❖ Slavery was a part of society. “Buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals.” (Amos 8:4-6) & (Amos 2:6)
- ❖ The wealthy people lived luxurious and comfortable lives.

#### **The injustices that took place**

- Amos described the wives of the wealthy as “cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria,” because they were slaves to worldly pleasures. They spend their time laying on beds adorned with ivory, dining on choice lambs and fattened calves. Listening to music and drinking wine by the bowlful. (Amos 6:4)
- They did not care for the workers of the field who were the backbone of the country.
- The rich robbed the poor of justice in the courts as well, injustice was rampant in society (Amos 5:12)

#### **Turn from your evil ways**

- Even though God provided many opportunities for the people to turn from their evil ways, Amos says that they did not.
- God held back the rain from them, but they did not turn back (Amos 4:6-7)

- God sent plagues among them, but still they did not turn to God. (Amos 4:10)
- While Amos spoke of the judgement that God would bring, he asked the people to repent and turn to God (Amos 4:8, 5:6)

### **Religious Activities**

- Even though the Israelites lived unrighteous lives, they proudly took part in their religious duties. (Amos 4:4)
- Amos said that all these are of no use (Amos 4:5)
- Amos said that God despises their religious festivals and sacrifices (Amos 5:21-22)

### **The judgement of God Almighty**

- ✓ While Amos prophesied about God, he addressed God as “The Lord God Almighty”, and describes God as a God who will judge those who do injustice and will take the side of the poor and the oppressed.

### **Applying the lesson to our lives.**

- Our society is full of injustice as well, we hear about it, we see it take place and maybe even have gone through it.
- Injustice is not only due to class or status, but religious & racial injustices too take place as well.
- We as Christians should be aware of the injustices that take place in society. Like Amos mentions, “But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! (Amos 5:24)

### **God and Justice**

- ❖ We should remember that God is the creator of all of us, and He seeks justice for all. We see this displayed in the teaching that Jesus does in Nazareth. (Luke 4:18-19)

### **Putting into Action**

- ✓ We should bring these issues to God in prayer. In our time of worship God will guide us in what we should do.
  - Showing people that what they are doing is wrong.
  - Writing to the paper and news networks.
  - Speaking against injustice that takes place in society.
- ✓ It does not matter what background we come from, what is important is to be loyal to the truth of God.

- ✓ Living a life, solely depending on God will help us in reaching the goal of justice and fairness.

## Amos's Message

- ❖ Amos spoke about the evils committed by Israel's neighbours and the judgement that will follow.
  - "For three sins of Tyre, even for four, I will not relent. Because she sold whole communities of captives to Edom, disregarding a treaty of brotherhood" (Amos 1:9)
  - "For three sins of Ammon, even for four, I will not relent. Because he ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to extend his borders" Amos 1:13)
  - "For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. Because they have rejected the law of the LORD, and have not kept his decrees" (Amos 2:4)
  - "For three sins of Edom, even for four, I will not relent. Because he pursued his brother with a sword and slaughtered the women of the land,
  - Israel may be happy because their neighbouring countries are been punished, but they too will be punished. (Amos 3:2)
  - These are the visions that Amos saw.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vision** – "He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king's share had been harvested and just as the late crops were coming up. When they had stripped the land clean, I cried out, "Sovereign Lord, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!" (Amos 7:1-3)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vision** – "The Sovereign Lord was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land. Then I cried out, "Sovereign Lord, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!" (Amos 7:4-6)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vision** – "The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. "The high places of Isaac will be destroyed and the sanctuaries of Israel will be ruined; with my sword I will rise against the house of Jeroboam." (Amos 7:7-9)

- In this way Israel will be judged (Amos 5:20)
- Amaziah the priest at Bethel warns Amos to go back to Judah and to stop prophesying. Amos responds by saying that as God has called him to be a prophet and he will continue to do so, and he prophesied further against Amaziah. (Amos 7:10-17)

**4<sup>th</sup> Vision** – The final vision that Amos saw is "This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. "What do you see, Amos?" he asked. "A basket of ripe fruit," I answered. Then the Lord said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."

## **Grade 11 – Lesson 24**

### **Towards a life of Purity**

- ❖ In the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC the southern kingdom of Judah faced a great threat from the Assyrian Empire.
- ❖ There were also threats and conquering forces from the kingdom of Israel and Syria as well. It was with this background that Isaiah was called by God to be a prophet.
- ❖ Isaiah shows us the hope of “Holiness” that God was looking for.
- ❖ Isaiah receives his call while at the temple. In his vision he saw how God forgave his sins and called him to be a prophet.
- ❖ The Holy God gives humankind holiness.
- ❖ The holiness that God gives Isaiah is given for the purpose to carry on this work as a prophet. To speak God’s message to the people. It was going to be a hard task.
- ❖ In our sinful lives, if we ask God for forgiveness, God is willing to forgive us.  
E.g. After king David had sinned with Bathsheba, he asks God for forgiveness, and God forgives him.
- ❖ Those who have received a pure heart and mind and life from God, is always working towards the good in society. They will behave in a way that God would want them to.
- ❖ The responsibility that God gives Isaiah is to be a prophet who would take the messages of God to the people. It was not an easy task, but God was able to use Isaiah. Isaiah had a good understanding of his sinfulness and the sins of the other people.
- ❖ We too have received the Holiness of God. This is not meant to make us proud, but to do the work of God, among his people.
- ❖ We should all realize and admit our own sin.
- ❖ David committed a sin, but he understood that what he did was wrong and repented, and God forgave him.
- ❖ Those who have a pure heart will always seek to do good in society. Let us also pray and ask God to purify our hearts.

## Grade 11 – Lesson 25

### A New Dawn

- ❖ Micah was also called to be a prophet through a vision. Micah was a prophet during the time of Isaiah. He lived among the common people, and prophesied in the southern part of Judah.
- ❖ He spoke up a lot for social justice. Because of that the rulers of the time disliked Micah. Due to the lack of faith in God and bad habits, Micah prophesied that Jerusalem would turn into a city of ruins.
- ❖ Here are some of the things that Micah prophesied.

#### 1. The reign of Peace that God will bring about.

- Micah 4:1 – “In the last day” is a time when God will establish peace upon the earth. It will take place in Jerusalem. This peace will be beyond all cast and creed and hatred.
- According to Micah 4:3 the people of the Lord will live lives of peace. “They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore”.
- When there is peace, fear will go away. The result of peace is prosperity. Prosperity comes through God. For this to take place we should be connected to God, like a branch which is connected to the vine.
- The image of a vineyard is often used in the Old Testament. This represents the love and provision of God.

#### 2. Peace – Shalom

- The word Shalom in Hebrew is “Peace”. This kind of peace is established where there is justice and fairness.
- To spread peace, a Christian should live a very peaceful life. By this we become children of God.

#### 3. The Challenge of Unity

- Our country has separated itself due to race, religion, cast and political affiliations. Trying to bring about peace in such a society is not easy.
- We should work towards peace in our homes, schools, churches and in society.
- Rev. Michael Lapsley is a great example of this. He was born in South Africa, and worked tirelessly during the time of the Apartheid. (A system of laws that upheld segregation policies against non-white citizens of South Africa.)
- During this time he lost parts in both hands. Likewise Bishop Lakshman Wickramasinghe and Rev. Somasiri K worked tirelessly towards peace.