



Lesson Plan

Chapter 3

TORCH BEARERS

Grade 5 &6

The Choice of Israel

Objective

At the end of the lesson the students should be able to

- Recount the life of Jacob and the significant phases of his life.
- Understand and accept that God's plan is for our betterment
- Learn to trust in God's plan.
- Accept that there will be failures and difficulties in life, but God should be trusted to take them safely through those difficult times.

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Introduction

Teacher can share this story or another story on the same lines to introduce some of key themes in this lesson

The Garden Key

In a small village in Kerala, lived the Philips, a family of four. They were known for two things: their sprawling vegetable garden and their two very different children— Ryan, the elder at sixteen, and Elise, the younger at just twelve. Ryan was charming, a daydreamer with his head often lost in books or cloud-watching. Elise, on the other hand, had sharp eyes and a sharper mind. She noticed things—like when the tomatoes were just turning ripe or when the irrigation pipe had the tiniest crack. Her mind was always ticking, always planning.

Their parents, Molly and Tom Philips, worked at a local bank. They would allow the children to tend the garden on weekends. The garden was more than a hobby for the Philips'—it fed not only their family but several others in the village. It was their pride, their promise to the community.

One morning Molly and Tom told the children that they needed to visit their aunt who was unwell and will be gone for 3 days. They placed a small key on the kitchen table and told them it was the garden key – the key to the shed with the tools, seeds and water control valve. They added that whoever holds the key is in charge of the garden. Ryan automatically tried to reach for the key, but Molly slid the key towards Elise. She told Ryan gently that both of them are important, but Elise has an eye for details, and she is ready to take up the responsibility. Tom added that responsibility is not about age but about readiness.

Ryan was feeling low, but when Elise remarked that she will need his help, it made him feel better. Elise took Ryans help – while she planned, organised, mixed the bug sprays, Ryan did the heavy lifting, bartering of vegetables for eggs with their neighbours etc., They tended to the garden systematically for three days.

When the parents returned the garden was greener than ever, the rows neat, the soil rich and turned. Tom appreciated their efforts and Elize proudly said that they together did it. The parents were happy to know that their children understood that true power came from trust, teamwork and knowing when to lead and when to follow.

Presentation of the Topic

Teacher can explain how God's promises to Abraham was being fulfilled through his descendants through the story of Jacob and Esau, sons of Isaac.

- Esau and Jacob - While narrating this part of the story it is important to highlight these words that God told to Rebekah – ‘Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you Shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger’ (Gen. 25:23). These verses form the basis of Jacob's importance in God's plan.
- Birthright – While narrating about how the birthright was sold for food by Esau, teacher can state the importance of being the first born in those times. Birth right was looked upon as a right or privilege, a person enjoys and is entitled to, by the fact of being born or by their position in the birth order.
- Isaac blesses Jacob (Treachery) – The teacher should highlight the fact that Rebekah's action was also influenced by the words that God told her before the birth of her sons. She allows Jacob to steal the birthright by cheating Esau 2 times. Jacob knew he was wrong yet took part in the plan.
- Jacob's Dream – The teacher should describe the dream of Jacob due to which the place was named as Bethel – the house of God.
- The name Israel - The teacher can explain how and why Jacob came to be known as 'Israel'
- God of Jacob – Highlight the significance of Jacob in God's plan of salvation and how he has been honoured through mention in the Holy Qurbana with the phrase – God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Habit Formation

Students can be advised to adopt the below virtues / behaviour to stay aligned to God's plan for them.

- a. Value relationships based on trust and genuine love.
- b. Nurture relation with siblings.
- c. Do not allow money, things or wealth to outgrow relations.
- d. Never exchange divine relationship with God for the sake of temporal gains.
- e. Trust, love and have faith in God.
- f. God has a plan for your life, discern and follow it.
- g. Pray to Holy spirit for making right decisions.

Activity

Ask the students to create their own "mystery art" by folding paper and only drawing small parts of a picture at a time. Then fold to reveal the whole thing, reinforcing the idea that things come together in unexpected ways—just like God's plan.

https://youtube.com/shorts/O_HBXbD4GsM?feature=shared

Bible Verse

Ask the students to read and learn the following Bible Verse

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,”. (Isaiah 55:8)

Conclusion

Conclude by sharing these thoughts - God has a plan for everyone. We cannot question God's plan. In all situations of life, we should surrender ourselves to God's plan. We who are the new Israel would receive the blessings of God just as Jacob (the old Israel) did. The life of Jacob teaches us that in God's plan what may look evil to our human eye can turn out for our good.