



# HOLD FAST

*what you have*

that no one may take your crown - Rev 3:11



MAHRAGAN ALKERAZA 2015

English Edition Gr 3-4



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



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## INTRODUCTION

### Mahragan Alkeraza 2015

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 2014 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."

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 2015 is **"Hold Fast What You Have, That No One May Take Your Crown"** (Rev 3:11). This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ by:

1. Having a Strong and Unshaken Faith
2. Reading our Precious Bible Daily
3. Being Faithful to our God
4. Being Successful
5. Honouring Our Home

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



## MY FAITH IS STRONG AND UNSHAKEN

*As promised, John took his kids, Mike and Jessica, to visit the Pharaonic Village. As they walked in the village, they found a man, dressed in ancient Egyptian clothing, trying to take the Nilometer out of the display. When he saw them, he panicked and tried to run away, but John stopped him.*

**John:** Wait! Wait! Where are you going? Why are you trying to take the Nilometer?

**Sanfaro:** My name is Sanfaro and I'm in charge of measuring the Nile water level. This year, we can't seem to find the Nilometer! The Nile celebration is approaching, and if I don't measure the Nile level, Pharaoh will never forgive me. I looked everywhere! That's why I'm travelling through centuries to try to find one.

**John:** But the one we have here is not a real one. It's just a model that we made.

**Sanfaro:** Are you serious?! What am I gonna do now? I looked everywhere!



**Mike:** Well, you can go back and tell them that you couldn't find the Nilometer and they can postpone the Nile celebration until you find one.

**Jessica:** Yes, I'm sure Pharaoh will forgive you.

**Sanfaro:** Unfortunately, we can't postpone the Nile celebration. We received this tradition from our forefathers and we can't change it.

**Mike:** I don't see a problem in changing something that you received from your forefathers. Anything in our life can change! And you have a good reason.

**John:** No, Sanfaro's right! Some things we just can't change no matter what the situation is.

**Jessica:** I don't understand, like what?

**John:** Like our faith. The same faith that we received from our fathers and our grandfathers, the saints. That's one of the most important things that we cannot change. We have to always keep it and defend it. Don't you remember what St. Athanasius did when someone tried to change the faith?

**Jessica:** Yes, I remember you reading to us about him a couple of days ago.

**Sanfaro:** Who is St. Athanasius? What does his story have to do with the lost Nilometer?

**John:** Let me tell you.

## St. Athanasius the Apostolic, Defender of the Faith

St. Athanasius the Apostolic is one of the saints of the Orthodox Church who defended our faith for more than 50 years. The Church calls him:

1. The Defender of the Faith
2. The Apostolic
3. The 13<sup>th</sup> Disciple.

We also say that he is "against the world" because he defended the faith against the whole world. When people told him: "the world is against you Athanasius", he answered them: "and I am against the world". This was because he was against Arius' teaching which was spreading to the whole world at that time.

Actually, let me start from the beginning.

He was born to pagan parents about the year 295 - 298 A.D. It happened that when he was in school, he saw some Christian children acting the Christian rituals some as priests, some

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as deacons and one of them as a bishop. He asked their permission to participate with them, but they refused saying: "You are pagan, and you are not allowed to mix with us." He answered them: "I am from now on a Christian." They rejoiced with him, they made him a patriarch over them in the play, they enthroned him on a high place, and they offered him honor and respect. At that time pope Alexandros passed by, when he saw them, he said to those who were with him about Athanasius: "This child would be in a great position one day."

In his time, emperor Diocletian, who persecuted the Christians was ruling over the country. St. Athanasius witnessed thousands of Christian martyrs offer their lives for Christ, refusing to abandon their faith.

When Athanasius' father died, his mother brought him to Pope Alexandros, who taught them the principles of the Christian faith and baptized them. They gave their money to the poor, and stayed with the Pope, who taught Athanasius the church subjects.

When St. Athanasius completed his studies, he went to the desert and became the disciple of St. Anthony for 3 years.

Pope Alexandros sent for St. Athanasius to return to Alexandria, ordained him a deacon and made him his personal secretary. St. Athanasius took special care of the study of the Holy Bible and the Church teachings.

During this time, there was a man named Arius who was spreading false teachings about Jesus' divinity. He said that Jesus was not God and he denied our faith about the Holy Trinity.

**Sanfaro:** What is your faith about the Holy Trinity?

**Jessica:** We believe that God is one Being made up of three distinct Persons who exist in co-equal essence; the Father is God; Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son and the Word of God, is God; the Holy Spirit is God.





**Mike:** When we do the sign of the Cross, we say, “In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit one God. Amen”. Did you notice how we say “in the name” and not “in the names”? Meaning that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God.

**Sanfaro:** I don’t understand. How can three be one?

**John:** There are many examples that can help us explain the doctrine of the Holy Trinity in that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one God with three different hypostasis.

For example, the sun! The sun consists of:

1. The sun, the circle that we see in the sky, which we can’t fix our eyes on for too long.
2. The heat, which we feel, coming from the sun
3. The light, which the sun radiates to brighten our day

We call all three the “sun”, so we have three in one and one in three.

**Jessica:** That’s why we say that the Father is God; our Lord Jesus, the Son and the Word of God, is God and the Holy Spirit is God. They are one God, not three gods.

**John:** This is what St. John confirmed in his first epistle:

**Memory Verse:** “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.” 1John 5:7

This is one of the verses that St. Athanasius used in his debate with Arius to explain the error in his teaching.

Let me get back to the story. Arius insisted on his wrong teaching, that our Lord Jesus was not God despite what Pope Alexandros explained. Arius spread his wrong teaching everywhere. He was even writing church hymns which contained these wrong teachings to make it easier for people to memorize.

A council was held in the year 325 AD in a city called Nicea to discuss this heresy; 318 bishops attended. Pope Alexandros also attended this council and took with him St. Athanasius, who was only a deacon at that time. Despite his young age, St. Athanasius stood against



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Arius in front of everyone and defended the faith. He used verses from the Holy Bible to prove that our Lord Jesus is God, who was incarnate from St. Mary the virgin and came to the world. St. Athanasius was able to answer all of Arius' arguments. Everyone admired St. Athanasius' strength and how he defended our faith. They called him "the hero of the Church of God".

**Sanfaro:** Wow! He truly deserves this title. Did Arius continue his wrong teaching?

**John:** Unfortunately, Arius did not want to listen or change his teaching. That's why the council decided to excommunicate Arius and everyone who followed his teaching. In this council, St. Athanasius wrote the Creed up to the part, which says, "His kingdom has no end." This contained the main basis of the Christian Orthodox faith.

After the departure of Pope Alexandros, St. Athanasius was chosen to be the next patriarch. He became the 20th Pope of the See of St. Mark. It was said that if it were not for him, the whole world would have followed Arius.

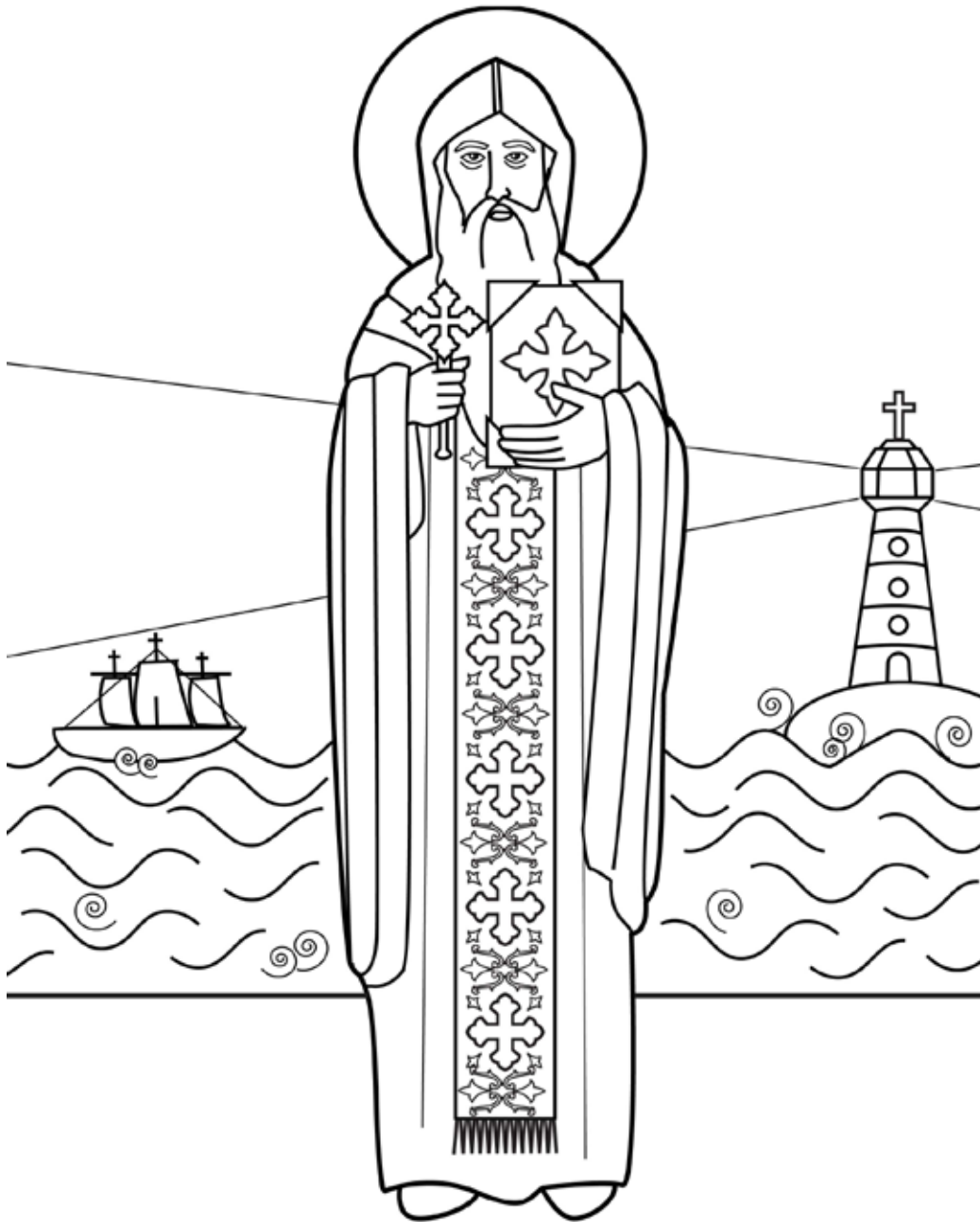
**Sanfaro:** That's amazing! St. Athanasius protected the faith and didn't permit anyone to change the faith he received from the forefathers.

**Jessica:** Well, you did the same when you wouldn't change the Nile celebrations. Now, let's see what we can do about your problem...



ACTIVITY

# DEFENDER OF THE FAITH



ACTIVITY

## ST ATHANASIUS WORD SEARCH

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

ALEXANDRIA  
CHURCH  
FOUNDER

ARIUS  
CREED  
NICAEA

ATHANASIUS  
DEACON  
POPE

## MY BOOK IS PRECIOUS TO ME

*Mike leaves them and goes to have a closer look at the Nilometer. When he returns...*

**Mike:** Okay, I have a question.

I understand that the Nilometer is very important since you went through ages to look for one. I also get the fact that the Nile celebration is an important event since you didn't wanna change it's time. Now can you please explain why it's such an important event?

**Sanfaro:** Well, the Nile is the biggest source of our civilization. It waters all our agricultural lands. When the Nile floods and the level of the water is high, we measure the level in order to determine the amount of land that will be planted and the amount of crop that can be reaped. You can pretty much say that the Nile is the source of life in Egypt.

**Mike:** Hmm... we have something just like that in our Church!

**Sanfaro:** Really?

**John:** Yes! In our Church, the Holy Bible is the main source on which all the Church rites are based. Everything we practice and teach in the Church is based on the Bible.

**Sanfaro:** What's the Holy Bible?

### The Holy Bible in The Church

**John:** The Holy Bible is the message of God to each one of us. It tells us about the story of the salvation of mankind and the life of Jesus. It is inspired by God, and written by a group of saints, "holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." That's why the Bible is absolutely true and contains no wrong.

**Memory verse:** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16



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The Holy Bible consists of 73 Books:

- 39 books in the Old Testament
- 7 deuterocanonical books
- 27 books in the New Testament

**Sanfaro:** But how is the Holy Bible the source of all Church teachings and rites?

**John:** Our Lord Jesus said to His disciples:

**Memory verse: Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20**

From these verses, we see how our Lord Jesus commanded His disciples who represent the Church, to go preach to all people and teach them His commandments and teachings that are present in the Holy Bible. That's why the Holy Bible is very important to the Church. For example, in the Holy Liturgy:



1. Before reading the Gospel, the priest prays the Litany of the Gospel and offers incense to the Gospel.



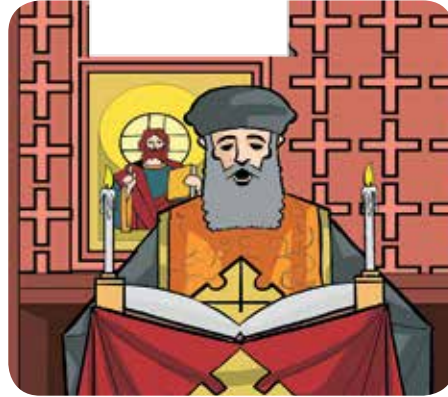
2. The priest holds the Gospel (a silver or gold box, one of the Church vessels, which contains the 4 Gospels), he kisses it with reverence before reading the Gospel.



3. A deacon on each side of the Lectern holds a candle while the Gospel is being read.



4. The deacon calls the people to stand in reverence during the reading of the Gospel.



5. In the prime raising of incense and the evening raising of incense, we read from the psalms and a passage from the Gospel



6. We pray the Agpeya prayers (after the prime raising of incense) which consist of the psalms (Old Testament) and passages from the Gospels.



7. We read a passage from the epistles of St. Paul called the Pauline (there are 14 Pauline epistles in the Holy Bible)



8. We read a passage from the Catholic epistles, called the Catholicon (there are 7 Catholic epistles in the Holy Bible)



9. We read a passage from the Book of Acts, called the Praxis Other than the liturgy, all other ritual prayers in the Church contain readings from the Holy Bible.

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

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

AMOS  
CHRONICLES  
COLOSSIANS  
CORINTHIANS  
DEUTERONOMY  
EPHESIANS  
GALATIANS  
GENESIS

HEBREWS  
HOSEA  
JOEL  
JOSHUA  
JUDGES  
MATTHEW  
NUMBERS

OBADIAH  
PROVERBS  
PSALMS  
REVELATIONS  
THESSALONIANS  
TIMOTHY  
ZECHARIAH  
ZEPHANIAH

## TO MY GOD I WILL BE FAITHFUL

*Jessica and Mike begin to search online for a solution to Sanfaro's problem. After a few hours...*

**Jessica:** We found it! We know what you should do!

**Sanfaro:** Really? Tell me, tell me! What did you find?

**Mike:** Look here, Sanfaro. This is a Nilometer. Now I know it looks a little different than the one you were looking for...

But it says here that the Nilometer has evolved throughout the ages, and they provide the process of how to build one.

**John:** Yeah, the only difference in this one is that it cannot be removed from its place... which is good I guess, because that way you can't lose it.

**Jessica:** It's perfect! Now go to Pharaoh and tell him that you lost the old Nilometer, but that you have a way to build a new one that will do the same thing.

**Sanfaro:** Ummm... I don't think he'll believe me.

**Mike:** Well, you can show him the pictures and the information here. I'm sure he will be convinced.

**Sanfaro:** Can you guys come with me to present the idea to Pharaoh?

**Mike:** Yes! Of course we can! We would love to.

**Sanfaro:** Don't worry. I will help you come back. This will also be a good opportunity for you to attend the Nile celebration.





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**Jessica:** Dad, can we go please? Pretty please?

**John:** As long as Sanfaro will help us come back, I don't mind.

**Sanfaro:** Alright, follow me!

*They follow Sanfaro, and before they know it, they find themselves in front of Pharaoh's palace.*

**Sanfaro:** Here we are! But... I'm afraid.

**Jessica:** Afraid of what? We have all the information we need to present to Pharaoh.

**Sanfaro:** Yeah, but Pharaoh is not easy to convince... and if I tell him that I lost the Nilometer... I don't even wanna know what's gonna happen.

**John:** Don't worry. All you need is wisdom to choose your words and present your case in a convincing way. I will tell you the story of someone who always acted with wisdom, and you will understand what I mean.

## St. Paul and his wisdom in his actions

**John:** St. Paul was born in Tarsus. He was a Jew and also had a Roman citizenship. He had two names "Saul" and "Paul". In his youth, he went to Jerusalem to continue his education. He studied under Gamaliel, a well-known Pharisee and a teacher of the law. In his initial years, he persecuted the Christians. When they stoned St. Stephen, Saul approved and was guarding the clothes of those who were stoning him. While doing this, Saul thought that he was serving God.

One day, as he was going to Damascus to bind the Christians and bring them to Jerusalem, a light shone around him from heaven. He fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him,





“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” He replied, “Who are You, Lord?” And the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting”. So he said: “Lord, what do you want me to do?”

Jesus told him: “Arise and go to the city, and you will be told what you must do”. Saul was blinded by the light and stayed in Damascus for three days without food or drink. The Lord sent him a man named Ananias who laid his hands on Saul and prayed for him to regain his sight. Saul was filled by the Holy Spirit. Ananias baptized him and told him what to do. From that day, the life of Saul changed. He went from persecuting the Christians to becoming a preacher. He wrote 14 Epistles in the New Testament.



The Holy Bible tells us about many occasions where St. Paul acted with wisdom (Acts 17: 16-34). This story happened in the city of Athens, which, during that time, was full of idols. When St. Paul saw the idols, he was sad and started to talk to the people of the city about our Lord Jesus Christ and His Resurrection.

In Athens, there was a group of philosophers who were astonished when they heard about this new god that St. Paul was talking about. They wanted to know more about this new doctrine.

They took him and brought him to the Areopagus, a big court for discussions and appeals, and asked him saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? We want to know what these things mean.” God gave St. Paul the wisdom on how to address them in order to convince them.

**Sanfaro:** What do you mean?

**John:** When he was in the city, he saw an altar with the inscription “to the unknown god”.

The first thing he did was praise the people on the good he saw in them. He said to them: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious.” (Acts 17:22)  
Although St. Paul was sad because of the idols that were in the city, he did not criticize them but

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he complimented them on something good they were doing.

Second, he chose his words wisely so that they may profit. He said: "For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD". Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you." (Acts 17:23)

St. Paul thought to start his speech with something they already have, in order to teach them about something new. He basically told them: you worship a God you don't know, let me tell you who He is.

He told them: "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things." (Acts 17:24-25)

St. Paul was able to explain to them that God was the Creator of the whole world. He also clarified their mistake of having many altars for different idols and statues. He explained that God is the giver of life.

**Memory verse: "Though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being" Acts 17: 27-28**

Because of St. Paul's words, many believed in God.

**Mike:** St. Paul acted very wisely...

He used the same wisdom in his preaching to the Jews and the Gentiles. He spoke to each of them in the way that they would understand. When he preached to the Jews, he used examples from the Old Testament because they believe in it. When he preached to the Gentiles, he used quotations from their poets and philosophers.

**Sanfaro:** Wow. St. Paul was very wise and was able to convince the people. From him, I learn to:

- look at the positive in the person I am addressing
- choose the words that the person can relate to, so he can understand and be convinced

**John:** Perfect! You can do the same with Pharaoh and he will be convinced. Come, we'll help you!

## SAUL, SAUL



Saul was \_\_\_\_\_ by a light from heaven.

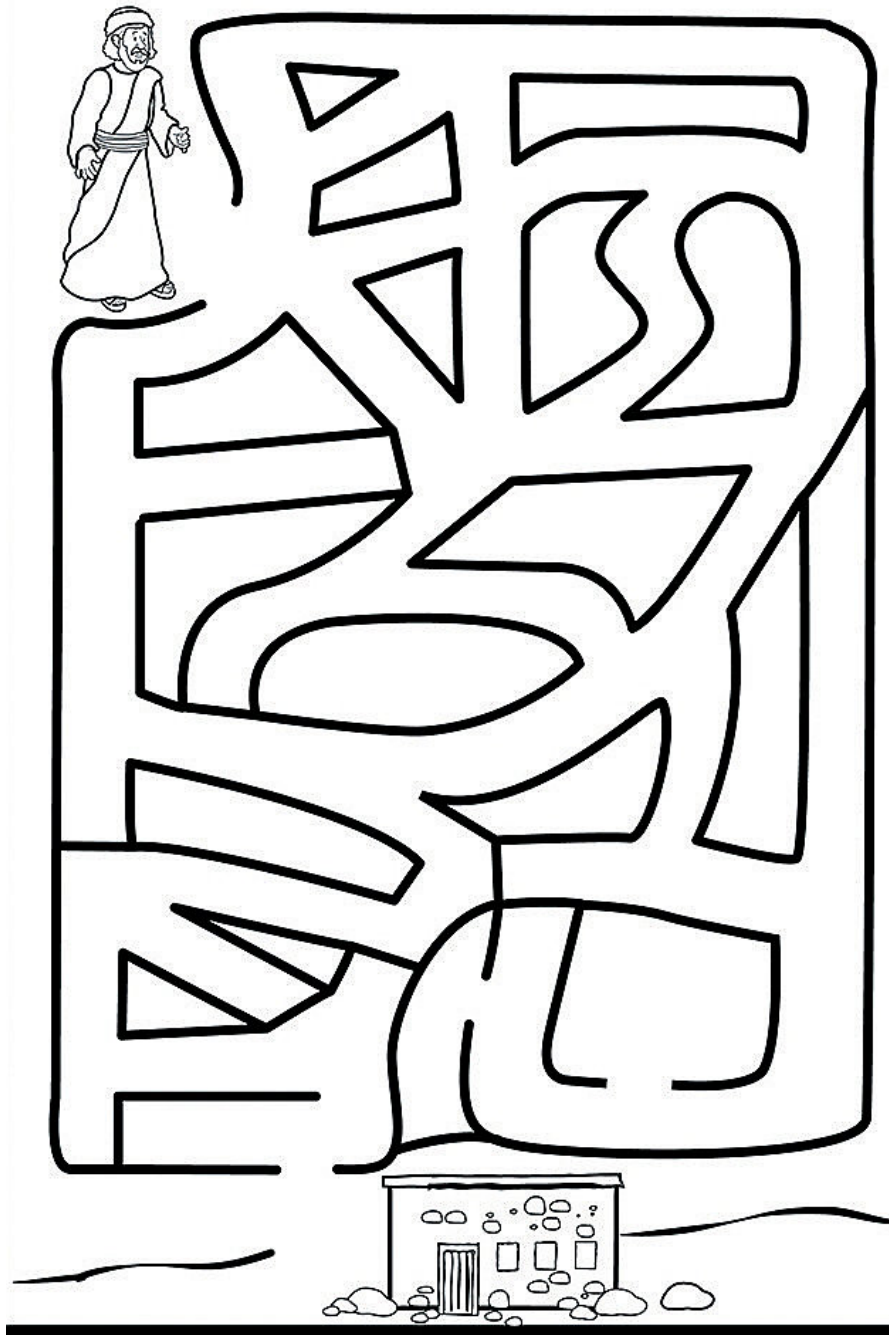
\_\_\_\_\_ spoke to Saul when he fell to the ground.

Ananias was \_\_\_\_\_ of Saul, because he had harmed many believers.

God told Ananias to go to a \_\_\_\_\_ where Saul was staying. Ananias \_\_\_\_\_ God.

## FINDING SAUL

Help Ananias find the house where Saul was staying.



## LET US BE SUCCESSFUL

*Sanfaro agrees to go to Pharaoh to present him the new idea using the strategy that he learned from St. Paul's story. He takes John, Mike and Jessica with him. Sanfaro tells Pharaoh that they're from the future and that they're here to help solve the problem. Pharaoh listens to them and sees the pictures and designs they have.*

**Pharaoh:** I love the new Nilometer! It's even better than the one we had before.

*Now, you all will be rewarded with the responsibility of this project. Good luck.*

**All:** Thank you your majesty.

*They head out and begin to discuss how to start the work.*

**Mike:** I think we should start by digging the place where the Nilometer would be.

**Jessica:** I believe we should start by building the Nilometer first.

**Sanfaro:** I think we should start by reading Pharaoh's requirements for this event.

**John:** Just a second. You are all correct but we have to have a schedule and assign roles so we can finish on time.

**Sanfaro:** You're right. We need to have a plan.

**John:** Exactly! Planning is the key for success. That's why Joseph was called the successful minister.

**Sanfaro:** Who is Joseph?





## Joseph the successful minister (Genesis 37, 39, 40 and 41)

**John:** Joseph lived in the land of Canaan with his father Jacob and his 11 brothers. He was the beloved son of Jacob, and his father made him a tunic of many colours. His brothers called him “the dreamer” because he used to tell them about his dreams. He dreamt that they were binding sheaves in the field. And his brothers’ sheaves stood all around and bowed down to his sheaf. He also had another dream that the sun, the moon and eleven stars bowed down to him.



His brothers envied him and decided to kill him, but his brother Reuben told them not to shed blood but to cast him in a pit instead. So they took him and cast him in a pit.

They saw a caravan of Ishmaelites going on their way to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, “Let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites”, so they agreed.



They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 20 shekels of silver and they took him to Egypt. In Egypt, he was sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

**Memory verse: "The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man."  
Genesis 39:2**



Joseph was very honest in all he did. The Lord blessed Potiphar's house for Joseph's sake and Potiphar made Joseph overseer of his house.

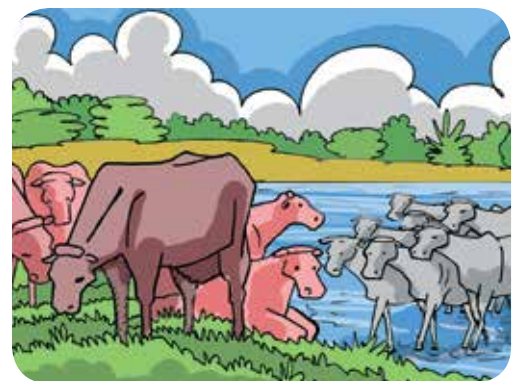


Potiphar's wife was wicked and she falsely accused Joseph so he was put in prison. But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. After sometime, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker of Pharaoh were put in the same jail with Joseph. Each had a dream that they told Joseph about. Joseph interpreted their dreams. The cupbearer returned to his position in the palace but the baker was hanged, exactly as Joseph said.

After two full years Pharaoh had two dreams that troubled him. His wise men and magicians could not interpret the dreams.

The cupbearer remembered Joseph and how he interpreted his dream, so he told Pharaoh about Joseph. They sent and took Joseph out of jail and brought him before Pharaoh. Pharaoh told Joseph that he heard that he could interpret dreams, but Joseph answered and said: "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

Pharaoh started to tell Joseph about his dreams: "Behold, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river. Suddenly



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seven cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt. And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows. When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were just as ugly as at the beginning.

So I awoke. Also I saw in my dream, seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, full and good. Then behold, seven heads of grain, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. And the thin heads devoured the seven good heads. So I told this to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me.”

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years of great plenty that will come throughout all the land of Egypt. And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do. And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.



Now therefore, select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years and store it. Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine.”

So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. Pharaoh said to his servants, “can we find such a man as this, a man in whom is the spirit of God?”

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "In as much as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you." And he said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had. And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah which means the "savior of the world" - "the food of life".

Joseph started to do as Pharaoh had asked him. He was very organized and had the right plan in place.

**Mike:** What did he do?

**John:** The most important thing is that he set a goal for himself and planned ahead:

- a. He set a goal: To save Egypt during the seven years of famine.
- b. He had a plan: To store one fifth of the grain of the land during the seven years of plenty. To appoint helpers and supervisors and build storage.
- c. He followed through: Joseph gathered so much grain, as much as the sand of the sea, so much that he had to stop counting, for it was immeasurable.
- d. He succeeded: When the seven years of famine began, the famine was everywhere except in the land of Egypt. So all the countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all the land.

**Sanfaro:** Joseph was a very successful minister because he planned ahead.

**Mike:** Exactly, we have a goal and we have a timeline. We have to decide on what we need to do in order to finish this project on time.



# PHARAO'S DREAM

Find the differences between the two pictures.





## THE SUCCESSFUL MINISTER

Joseph did a great job preparing Egypt for the famine. Even his own brothers traveled from their homeland to buy grain in Egypt. The numbers in this puzzle add up to a special lesson Joseph's whole family learned during a time of need.

### Joseph's Jingle

1. \_\_\_\_\_ far away
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to live one day.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ There he did grow.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ all to know
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the key
6. \_\_\_\_\_ and harmony!

Work out each math problem, writing the answers in the boxes.  
Then use the final answers to put the lines of Joseph's Jingle in order.

**A.**  $4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = \underline{\quad} - 7 =$

**B.**  $5 \times 5 = \underline{\quad} - 19 =$

**C.**  $12 \times 2 = \underline{\quad} \div 6 = \underline{\quad} - 3 =$

**D.**  $4 + 4 + 4 = \underline{\quad} - 8 =$

**E.**  $6 \times 3 = \underline{\quad} \div 2 = \underline{\quad} - 7 =$

**F.**  $12 - 5 = \underline{\quad} \times 2 = \underline{\quad} - 9 =$

There he did learn.

to peace and love

Down in Egypt,

And now he wants us

Joseph went

forgiving others

## WE WILL LIFT OUR HOME

*Sanfaro, John, Mike and Jessica work very hard to get the project done on time. In the end, they are able to measure the water level correctly.*

**Pharaoh:** I am very happy with this new Nilometer. You saved us from a real disaster. Thank you very much.

**John:** You are very welcome, we were happy to help!

**Pharaoh:** I would love it if you guys could stay. You can even live here with me in the palace if you would like.

**Jessica:** Hmm... Pharaoh's offer is very tempting. I would love to stay here and be a princess.



**Mike:** No! How can we live here? We have to go back to our community, don't you know that each of us have a role to play? We have a responsibility towards our country.

**John:** You remind me of a character in the Holy Bible. This person had two options either to stay in the king's palace or to go to his country to help rebuild it.

**Mike and Jessica:** Really? Who's that?

**John:** Let me tell you his story.

## Nehemiah and the building of the wall of Jerusalem (The book of Nehemiah)

Nehemiah is a Jewish name meaning “The Comfort of God”. Nehemiah was one of the people of Israel who went to captivity. He was chosen to be the cupbearer of the king, which was a very important position. This meant that he was trustworthy as he will be offering the king his drink.

**Mike:** What does captivity mean?

**John:** Captivity means that a king from a foreign country comes with his army and takes all the goods from another country. He also takes the people, the youth, and the strong men; anyone with special skills so he can make use of them in his own country. The people of Israel went through different captivities, but this was the last one.

God had promised them that they would go back to their country. After 70 years, God fulfilled His promise and they went back to their country in different groups. The last group to return was under the leadership of Nehemiah.

**Jessica:** Did Nehemiah leave the palace where he lived to go back to his country?

**John:** That’s right. Nehemiah went back to his country because he loved it and was worried about it. Hanani came with men from Judah and told him that the Jews who had survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach because the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire, which mean that the city is without protection. Nehemiah was very sad. He fasted and prayed to God to help him solve this problem and to give him favor in the sight of the king.

Later, Nehemiah went to the king to offer him a drink as usual, but he was sad. Nehemiah had never been sad in the presence of the king before. So the king told him: “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.”



# HOLD FAST

*what you have*

Nehemiah answered the king: "Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste and its gates are burned with fire?"

Then the king said to him: "What do you request?" Nehemiah first prayed to God before making his request. He then asked the king to send him to Judah so he can rebuild the city of his fathers Jerusalem. He also asked for letters to the governors of the region beyond the River that they must permit him to pass through to reach Judah. Finally he asked for a letter to the keeper of the king's forest to give him wood to build the gates of the temple, the city wall and the house that he will occupy. The king granted him his request and sent captains of the army and horsemen with him to help him.

Three days after he arrived to Jerusalem, Nehemiah took a few people and went around the city at night to view the walls of Jerusalem and prepare a plan to rebuild it. He told the priests, the Jews, the nobles and the officials, "Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." (Nehemiah 2:17) They replied, "Let us rise up and build."



**Mike:** Nehemiah loved his country so much that's why he was able to convince the people around him.

**John:** That's right. He organized the people and asked each one to build the section in front of his house so that the work can be completed. Nehemiah had many difficulties and was faced with much opposition.

**Sanfaro:** What was the problem?

**John:** When Nehemiah told the people about building the wall, they were all happy. However, their enemies, who were the leaders of the surrounding cities, when they heard about the rebuilding of the wall, they started to discourage the people and scare them away. They told them that by doing this, they rebel against the king. But Nehemiah encouraged them, saying:

**Memory verse:** "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build." Nehemiah 2:20

Also, as they worked, their enemies started to laugh at them and despised them. Nehemiah prayed to God and he trusted that God would help them. When they completed half the building, their enemies were furious and they started to plot against them to attack them so that the work may stop.

Also, the people who were working were frustrated and felt that the work was too much for them since they did not have enough people for the work to be done.



**Mike:** Nehemiah faced all these difficulties! What did he do?



**John:** Nehemiah trusted that God would help them. He had half the people doing construction and the other half holding spears, shields and bows to protect the people as they were working. The work did not stop and the wall was being built and protected day and night. The wall was finished in 52 days.

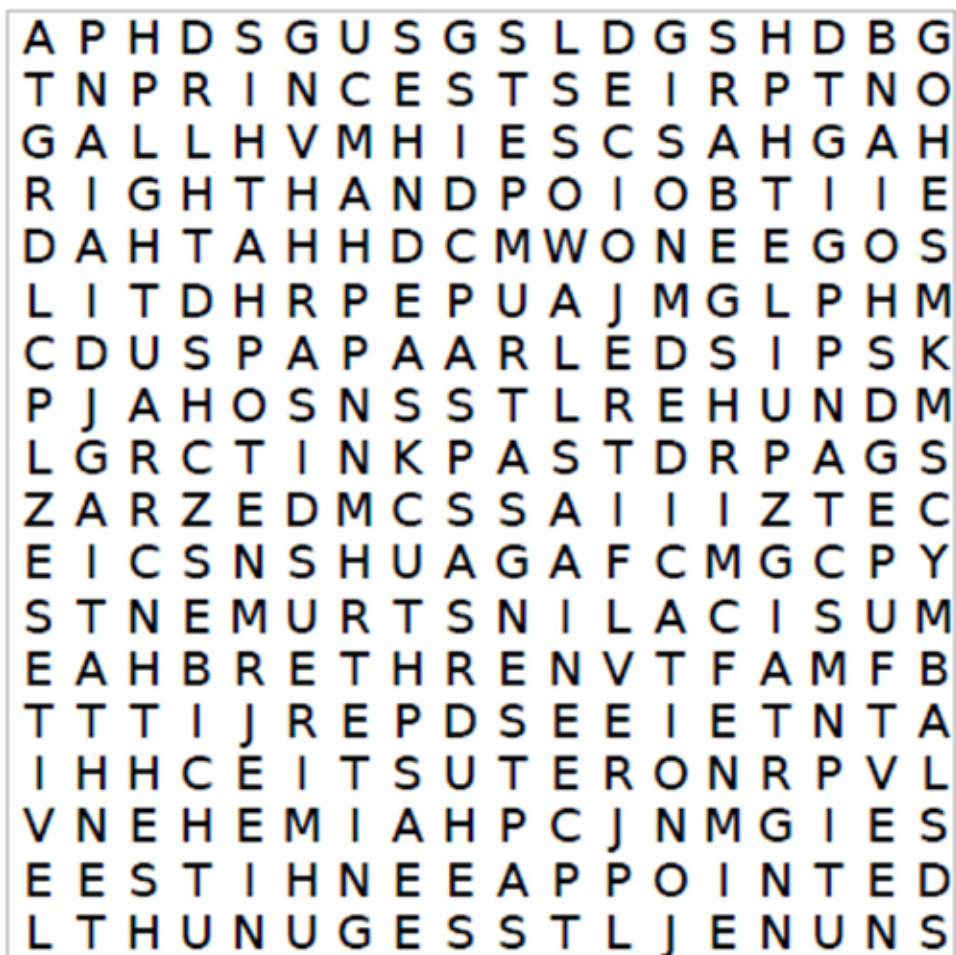
Nehemiah was able to accomplish his goal and rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.

**Mike:** See, we have an important role in helping our country. We need to go back to our community and contribute wherever we can.

*Pharaoh thanks them and asks Sanfaro to accompany them in their journey back.*



## NEHEMIAH WORD SEARCH



APPOINTED  
BRETHREN  
DAVID  
GATES  
HARPS  
LEVITES  
NETOPHATHI  
PSALTERIES  
RIGHT HAND  
THANKSGIVING

ASAPH  
COMPANIES  
DEDICATION  
GEBA  
JERUSALEM  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
PRIESTS  
PURIFIED  
SACRIFICES  
TRUMPETS

AZMAVETH  
CYMBALS  
EZRA  
GILGAL  
JUDAH  
NEHEMIAH  
PRINCES  
REJOICED  
SINGING  
WALL

ACTIVITY

## REBUILDING THE WALL



## Memorization

## HEBREWS 11:17 - 22

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

## PSALM 125 (AGPEYA-124)

Those who trust in the Lord Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the Lord surrounds His people From this time forth and forever. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest On the land allotted to the righteous, Lest

the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity. Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, And to those who are upright in their hearts. As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways, The Lord shall lead them away With the workers of iniquity. Peace be upon Israel! Alleluia

## PSALM 121 (AGPEYA-120)

I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore. Alleluia

# HOLD FAST

*what you have*

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.



# ACTIVITIES

**Hymns & Tasbeha**

**Coptic Language**

**Arts**

**Creative Writing**

**Sports**

**Drama & Mime**

**Praise & Music**

**Research**

**Multimedia & Technology**

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