



MAHRAGAN ALKERAZA 2016

TASTE & SEE

The Lord Is Good



English Edition Gr JK & SK



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



H.G. Bishop Mina
Bishop of Mississauga,
Vancouver and Western Canada

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INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2016

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 2015 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 2016 is **"Taste & See The Lord Is Good"** (Psalm 34:8). This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ by:

1. Rejoicing in Christ
2. Growing strong roots inside the Church
3. Building our faith through reading the Bible
4. Caring for everyone
5. Maintaining a peaceful heart

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 HEART REJOICES IN CHRIST

In the centre of the beautiful city of Norlit, a huge Heart beats every day. Everyone in the city loves this Heart. This Heart, which never stops beating, is the reason the city is in order. This Heart keeps every machine in the city ticking and all the water flowing. Every morning, all the people of Norlit gather around the Heart to admire it.

Oh wait! I forgot to introduce myself. I'm Sam, and I'm so proud to live in Norlit.

One day, after everyone visited the Heart and went off to work, something very strange happened. For the very first time in Norlit, everything just didn't feel the same. The water wasn't flowing. The city was dark. Machines were either too fast or too slow. Nothing seemed to work properly. Everyone headed to the Heart to see what was going on.



Citizen 1: What's going on! Why is the Heart beating so slowly?

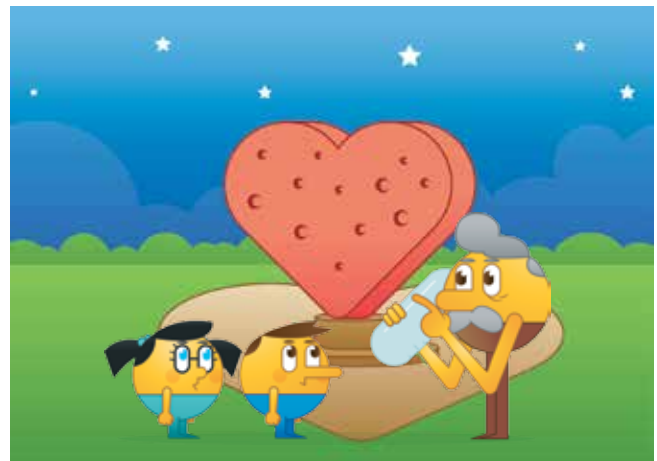
Citizen 2: That explains a lot! No wonder nothing is working properly!

Sam: Everyone stay calm! Uncle Leo will know what to do. After all, he's the one who takes care of the Heart.

Leo: I think I know what happened. It seems that the Heart is full of holes, which is causing the Heart not to beat properly.

Citizen 2: Oh no! Is there a way to fix it?

Leo: Yes there is! We have to seal the holes with a liquid called "Lepto".



Citizen 3: Okay, seems easy enough. Let's do it!

Leo: Well the problem is that I'm all out of Lepto...

Suddenly, the Heart began to beat extremely fast, and the water began flooding the whole city. Everyone started panicking. Mike, one of my friends, really wanted to help.

Mike: Uncle Leo tell us what to do to help.

Sam: Yes! Tell us! Where can we get more Lepto from?

Leo: Well, this Lepto comes from the fruit of the Sycamore Tree and only Grandpa Max knows how to make it.

Mike and Sam: Sycamore Tree?

Leo: Yes, there is a Sycamore Tree at the end of the city. It's a huge tree with big leaves. But it's pretty hard to climb.

Mike: Don't worry uncle Leo, we will figure it out.

Sam: So we need to go to the Sycamore tree at the end of the city and pluck out its fruit and bring it to Grandpa Max to make the Lepto?



Leo: Exactly. And I'll show you how easy it is to seal the holes with the Lepto.

After Uncle Leo showed us how to use the Lepto to seal the holes, we headed towards the Sycamore Tree. Our friend Sophie joined us on the way. Once we got there, we started to climb the tree, but it was very hard. It was very slippery and we kept falling. Then suddenly...

Tree: What are you guys doing? You keep falling!

Sam: Well we're trying to get some of the fruits but we can't...

Sophie: Yeah, it's so slippery!

Tree: I know, it's pretty hard to climb me. You remind me of a short man, Zacchaeus, who one time tried to climb me.

Sam: Zacchaeus? Who's that?

Tree: Yes, Zacchaeus. Let me tell you his story.

ZACCHAEUS REJOICES AT MEETING THE LORD JESUS (LUKE 19:1-10)

Zacchaeus was a short man, who lived in a city named Jericho. One day, he climbed up a Sycamore tree

Sam: A Sycamore tree? Why? Did he want to eat?

Tree: No, he went up for a totally different reason. He wanted to see our Lord Jesus but he was very short and the place was very crowded.

Sophie: A man climbing and sitting in a tree? That's so strange!

Tree: You will be more surprised to know that Zacchaeus was a very rich man. He was the chief tax collector, which was a very important position.

Mike: What does "Tax Collector" mean?

Tree: A tax collector's job was to collect money from the people. They collected more than what was required and kept the difference for themselves. That is why people didn't like them and stayed away from them.



Sophie: So he wasn't shy to climb the tree in front of everyone, even though he was rich and had a high position?

Tree: No, he wasn't shy because he wanted to see the Lord Jesus whom everyone loved and talked about.

Mike: Was he able to see Him?

Tree: Yes, our Lord Jesus was supposed to walk under the tree where Zacchaeus was. But to Zacchaeus' surprise, Jesus looked up and called him by his name and said to him, "Zacchaeus

hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today”.

Mike: Wow! Even though everyone didn’t like him, Jesus called him by name and wanted to stay at his house! That’s amazing!

Tree: That’s right Mike! That’s because our Lord Jesus is very kind and loves everyone. When He sees someone like Zacchaeus seeking Him with all his heart, Jesus takes care of him and calls him and asks to stay at his house. So Zacchaeus hurried down from the tree, his heart jumping with joy, and the Lord Jesus went into his house.

Sophie: What did Zacchaeus do when the Lord Jesus was in his house?

Tree: There was a big change in Zacchaeus’ life. He said to our Lord: “Behold, Lord, half of my goods I will give to the poor. And if I have taken anything from anyone falsely I will restore it fourfold.”



Mike: Wow! His joy with our Lord made him do all this?

Tree: Yes, because anyone who truly knows our Lord Jesus rejoices and says:

Memory Verse: “My Heart rejoices in the Lord.” 1Samuel 2:1

ACTIVITY

ZACCHAEUS WORD SEARCH



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

JERICHO
 ZACCHAEUS
 SENIOR
 WEALTHY
 SHORT
 SYCAMORE
 TREE
 HOUSE
 GROUND
 PROPERTY
 POOR
 SALVATION

HURRY AND COME DOWN



IN MY CHURCH MY HEART IS COMPLETE

Sam: I have an idea! What if Sophie and I hold our hands together and Mike, you step on them and reach out to the tree?

Mike: Excellent idea!

Sophie: No, what if he falls? I'm scared.

Mike: Don't worry, it's all grass anyway. Even if I fall, I won't get hurt. Just put your hands together and I will climb and get one of the fruits.

Sophie: No, no it won't work!

Sam and Mike: Come on let's just try!

Sophie: Okay fine!

Mike: Yes, I am almost there. I got it!!



We were so excited that we let go of each other's hands. Mike fell and we all started to laugh.

Sam: Good job Mike!

Mike: Couldn't have done it without you guys.

Sam: Alrighty! Let's go to Grandpa Max, so he can make the Lepto.

Once we got there...

Grandpa Max: Hi kids!



Sophie: Hi Grandpa Max! We need your help. We brought you the fruit of the sycamore tree so you can make Lepto. That way, we can fix the Heart so everything starts working properly again.

Mike: You're the only one who knows how to make Lepto!

Grandpa Max: Yes, I know how to make Lepto and a lot of different kinds of oils too. Except for one very special oil...

Sam: Which one is that?

THE HOLY OIL OF MYRON

Grandpa Max: It's called the Myron oil.

Sam: Why do you call it special?

Grandpa Max: Because it is holy. It contains spices and fragrances that were put on the body of our Lord Jesus after He was taken down from the Cross.

Mike: Wow that's very special! But what is the Myron oil used for?

Grandpa Max: The priests use it to anoint the children after their Baptism.



Sam: What's Baptism?

Grandpa Max: Baptism is when the child becomes a Christian and God's very own child. The priest immerses the child three times in the Baptism water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Church calls it the Sacrament of Baptism. After Baptism, we receive the Sacrament of Myron in which the priest anoints the child 36 times with the Myron oil.

Mike: 36 times?!

Grandpa Max: Yup! The priest anoints the child all over his body; on his eyes, ears, nose, mouth, both hands, both feet, chest and back.

Sam: But why?

Grandpa Max: He does that so that each part of the child's body becomes dedicated to God and the Spirit of God dwells in him. So everything he does pleases God's heart:

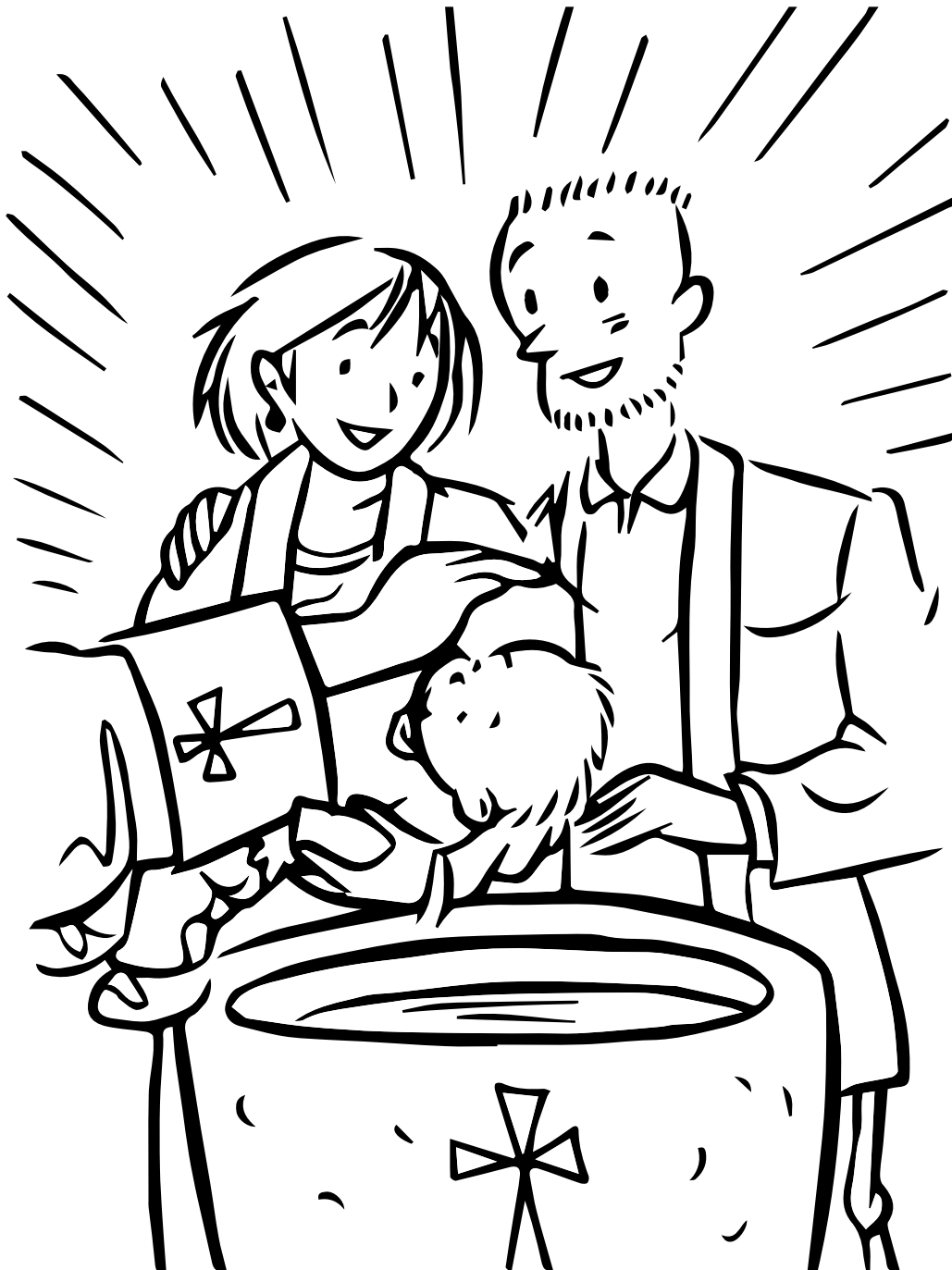
- The eyes when he looks up in prayer
- The ears when he listens to God's words
- The mouth when he sings church songs
- The hands when he does good deeds
- The feet when he goes to the house of God

As the verse says:

Memory Verse: "The Spirit of God dwells in you." 1 Corinthians 3:16



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & MYRON



WITH THE BIBLE MY HEART IS FAITHFUL

Grandpa Max: Did you only bring one fruit? Where's the rest?

Sophie: We only brought one. We thought that would be enough.

Grandpa Max: I'm gonna need more to make the Lepto.

Sam: Uh oh! How many do you need?

Grandpa Max: I need all the fruits on the tree.



Sophie: All the fruits?! How are we gonna do that?

Mike: Don't worry Sophie, we can do it. Let's go.

We all went back to the tree. But when the tree found out that we wanted to take all the fruits, it wouldn't let us take them. We begged and begged, but the tree wouldn't budge. Finally, Ben, the gardener, overheard us.

Ben: What's wrong? Why are you upset?

Tree: Didn't you hear what they said? They want to take all my fruits from me!

Mike: Ben, please help us! We don't know what to do!

Ben: We have to help each other to save the heart and save our city.

Tree: Believe me! I want to help, but you can't just take ALL my fruits!

Ben: Listen, if you help us, the heart will work again and you will have enough water to grow more fruits. We can also plant more trees. Otherwise, you just won't have enough water to drink and all your leaves and fruits that you care so much about will fall anyway. There will be a famine in the city.

Tree: Oh no! Did you say famine? And you want me to give away all my fruits? That's impossible! How can I give all I have to someone else?

Ben: Let me tell you the story of someone who gave all they had without expecting anything in return at a time when there was a famine too.

ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH (1KINGS 17: 8-16)

Ben: There was a widow who lived in a small city called Zarephath. During that time, there was a famine in the country because the rain stopped and there was no food at all.

Sam: So this widow didn't have any food?

Ben: Barely. She had just a handful of flour and a little oil in a jar. She went out to gather a few sticks and Elijah saw her.

Sophie: Who's Elijah?

Ben: Elijah was a prophet of God. God talked to him at the time of the famine and told him: "Go to Zarephath... to a widow... I have commanded her to provide for you." So Elijah went to the widow and saw her when she was gathering the sticks. He called her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup that I may drink and a piece of bread that I may eat." When the widow saw him, she knew from the way he dressed that he was a man of God. She answered him and said: "I don't have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin and a little oil in a jar, and see I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go and prepare it for myself and my son."



Tree: So the widow didn't give any food to Elijah because there wasn't enough for her and her son and Elijah too?

Ben: Exactly, what she had was barely enough for her and her son, but she gave Elijah to eat first.

Tree: How? What about her and her son?

Ben: Elijah assured her and said to her do not fear; go and make me a small cake from it first and bring it to me; and afterwards make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: "The bin of flour shall not be used up nor shall the jar of oil run dry" (1Kings 17:14) Which means that the bin of flour and the jar of oil will remain full until the famine is over and the rain is back and the plants grow again. She believed the word of God that Elijah the prophet told her and she went and did as he said. And she ate, her and her son and Elijah, for many days until the rain was back.



Tree: Wow, so she believed in the word of God that Elijah told her, and gave him all what she had, and they all ate and were full.

Ben: Exactly.

Memory verse: "We have had enough to eat and have plenty left." 2 Chronicles 31:10

Tree: Okay Ben, as the widow believed the word of Elijah, I will also believe your word that I will bring more fruit after we help the heart.

Mike: So you'll give us all your fruits?

Tree: Yes I will! Let me shake them off for you.

Sam, Sophie and Mike: Thank you so much!!

ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW



ACTIVITY

MY GOD WILL PROVIDE



MY HEART CARES FOR EVERYONE

After gathering all the fruits, we headed back to Grandpa Max, who made the Lepto in no time. He told us to take it to the heart and he will catch up later. Mike and I knew how to use the Lepto properly because Uncle Leo showed us earlier, but Sophie wasn't there so she was doing it all wrong.



Mike: Sam, Sophie doesn't know how to use the Lepto properly.

Sam: Mike, there's no time! We have to save the heart!

Mike: I know Sam, but we have to teach her.

Sam: No, no. Don't worry. She can do whatever she wants, let's not waste anytime!

Sophie: What are you two arguing about? Here comes Uncle Leo. Uncle Leo, there seems to be a problem between Sam and Mike.

Uncle Leo: What's the problem?

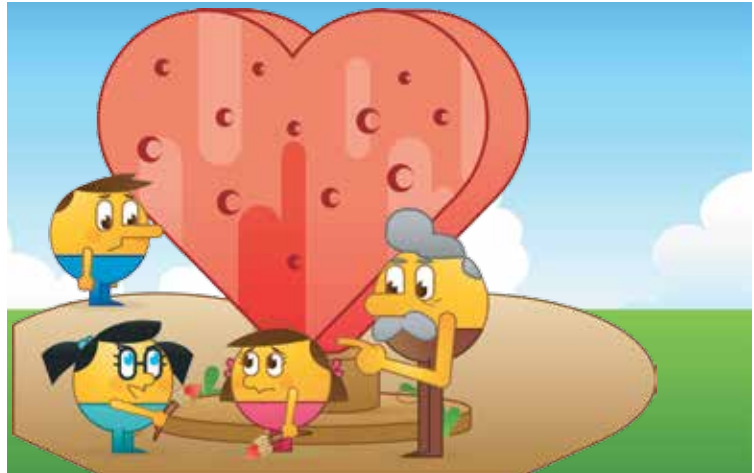
Mike: Well, we were able to bring the Lepto.

Sam: The problem is that Sophie is using it the wrong way, but Mike and I know how to do it. So instead of wasting our time and teaching her, I told Mike that she can do whatever she wants. But Mike insists on teaching her.

Uncle Leo: Mike is right, we have to teach Sophie.

Sam: So you want us to waste time?

Uncle Leo: Of course not, but when we all work together the right way we will finish faster. We should never let anyone do the wrong thing without telling them. Let me tell you the story about a man named Apollos.



AQUILA AND PRISCILLA HELP APOLLOS (ACTS 18:24-28)

Uncle Leo: Well to fully understand the story, I have to start from the beginning. There was a man named Aquila, who had a wife named Priscilla. Aquila and Priscilla loved the Lord Jesus Christ very much. They were in a city called Ephesus. One day, they heard a man named Apollos teaching about the commandments of God. He was very enthusiastic and zealous.

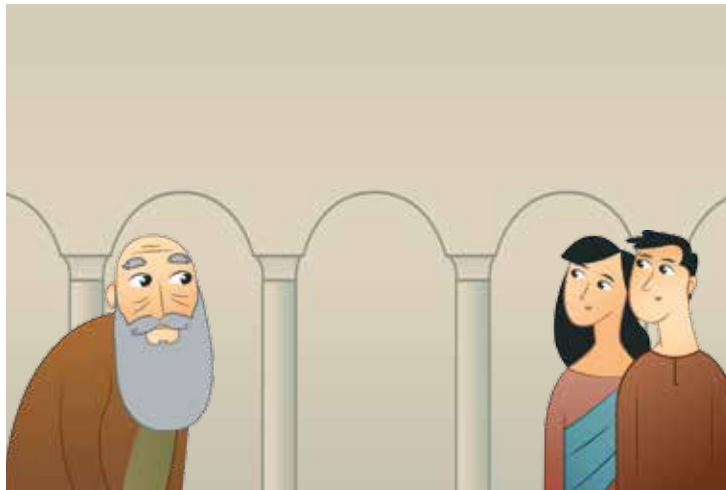
Sam: Who was Apollos?

Uncle Leo: Apollos was a Jew born in Alexandria. He knew a lot about God. He was very talented in explaining the Old Testament. Because he loved the word of God so much, Apollos travelled from one city to another to teach the people about God. In the city of Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla saw him and heard his teachings. They were very happy with the way he was explaining things because his way was very simple and easy to understand. But something surprised them.

Sophie: What was it?

Uncle Leo: They were surprised to see that Apollos did not talk about our Lord Jesus Christ. He did not talk about His birth from St. Mary the Virgin, His death on the Cross to save us and about His resurrection. They realized that all his teachings were only from the Old Testament.

Mike: So what did they do? Did they try to help him and teach him what he didn't know?



Uncle Leo: Yes they did. They took very good care of Apollos. They took him aside and explained to him everything about our Lord Jesus and His teachings in the New Testament.

Sophie: Aquila and Priscilla are very good people, because they took care of Apollos and explained everything about our Lord Jesus to him.

Uncle Leo: Yes! And Apollos was very happy too, and started to teach everyone what he learned about our Lord Jesus Christ. All this because Aquila and Priscilla taught him the correct teachings and followed the verse that says:



Memory Verse: "Be of one mind." 2 Corinthians 13:11

Sam: Now I understand. I'm sorry Sophie. Let me teach you how to use the Lepto properly.

MY HEART IS PEACEFUL

Once we finished fixing the heart, Grandpa Max came along with everyone who lived in the city. Everyone was so proud of us, especially because we were young but were able to save the city.

Grandpa Max: Sam, Sophie and Mike, we are so proud of you! You were able to save the city and because of that, I have a surprise for you.

Sophie: Thank you Grandpa! It was our pleasure!

Sam: What's the surprise? Tell us! Tell us!

Grandpa Max: The surprise is that we will write your names in the book of the city of Norlit!

Sam, Sophie, Mike: YES!

Sam: That's where the names of the city's most important people are written. The people who did great things so that everyone never forgets what they have done.

Mike: I can't believe it!

When the people of the city heard, they were in shock...

Citizen 1: How can we write their names in the book? That book is for the adults who have done great things.

Citizen 2: Kids' names?! That's never been done before.



Grandpa Max: Age is not important! The names written in this book are the names of the people who had great love in their hearts and did great things out of love. Sam, Sophie and Mike did an amazing job because of their love to their city and to the Heart.

Citizen 1: We know that they have a great love for their city, but we can't just reward them as if they're adults! That's never happened before.

Grandpa Max: Yes it did!

Mike: Really! When?

Grandpa Max: A long time ago with the Great St. Abba Makarios.

ST. MAKARIOS THE GREAT (SYNEXARIUM - BARAMHAT 27)

Grandpa Max: Abba Makarios was a monk. A monk is a man who chooses to live in a monastery to be with God. Abba Makarios had many monks around him and he was teaching them how to love God as he loved Him.

One day Abba Makarios thought to himself that the world had no more righteous people. Then he heard a voice from heaven telling him that he did not reach the same greatness as two women who lived in the city of Alexandria.

When he heard this, Abba Makarios went to Alexandria to look for those two women. He kept looking until he reached their house. When he arrived there, they washed his feet from the dust on the road. The first thing that Abba Makarios did was ask them about their story and how they were pleasing God's heart.

Mike: That's strange! God was happier with these two women than with Abba Makarios himself! What were they doing?



Grandpa Max: One of them answered and said: we are poor people. We are not sisters or relatives. We are married to two brothers who work as shepherds. We agreed to live a life that will make God's heart rejoice. We are always praying and fasting... we never upset each other... we live in love and peace. Each one of us has a child. If any one of us sees the other's child crying she goes and carries him and feeds him and takes care of him as if he was her own child. Although we are poor, we are always thankful for all what God does for us. And with whatever God provides, we give to the poor.

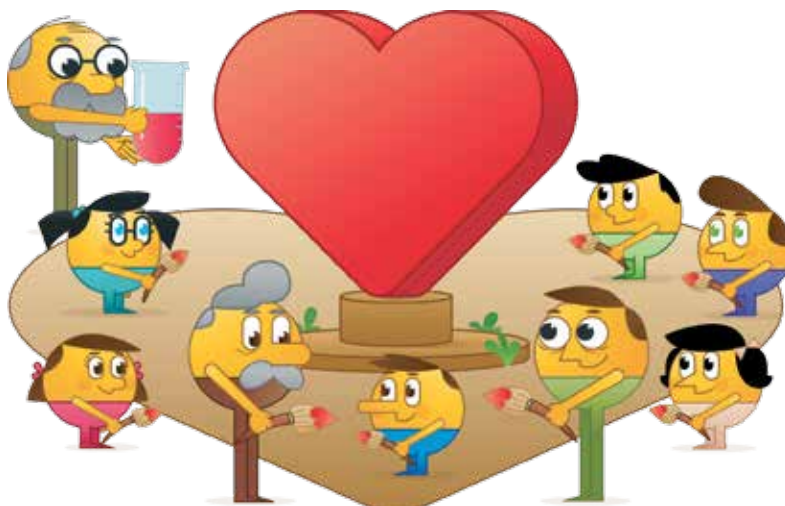


Abba Makarios was so pleased with them. He understood that there are other people who love God from all their hearts as much as he does.

Abba Makarios told them that God really looks at the heart. He learned from them that with love, we can live in peace and gladden God's heart.

Memory verse: "Glory, honor and peace to everyone who works what is good"
Romans 2:10

When Grandpa finished his story, everyone in the city knew that he was right and that anyone who shows such great love deserves to have their names written in the book.



ST. MAKARIOUS



Memorization

BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Genesis | 14. 2 Chronicles | 27. Daniel |
| 2. Exodus | 15. Ezra | 28. Hosea |
| 3. Leviticus | 16. Nehemiah | 29. Joel |
| 4. Numbers | 17. Esther | 30. Amos |
| 5. Deuteronomy | 18. Job | 31. Obadiah |
| 6. Joshua | 19. Psalm | 32. Jonah |
| 7. Judges | 20. Proverbs | 33. Micah |
| 8. Ruth | 21. Ecclesiastes | 34. Nahum |
| 9. 1 Samuel | 22. Song of Solomon | 35. Habakkuk |
| 10. 2 Samuel | 23. Isaiah | 36. Zephaniah |
| 11. 1 Kings | 24. Jeremiah | 37. Haggai |
| 12. 2 Kings | 25. Lamentations | 38. Zechariah |
| 13. 1 Chronicles | 26. Ezekiel | 39. Malachi |

ACTIVITIES

Hymns & Tasbeha

Coptic Language

Praise & Music

Arts

Creative Writing

Sports

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