

*The Life on Earth of Our Blessed Lord:
For Little Children*



Handwriting Practice

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dotted midline, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

On Christmas night
Our Saviour came
To teach us to be true:
To all the duties of our life
The old ones and the new.
A prisoner He stays within
The Holy Eucharist.
If He has done so much for us
Shall we His love resist?

Then let us love our holy Church
As all her children should
The prayers we say at morn and night
Will help us to be good
A slight, a sorrow, cruel words
Bear these with gentleness:
So may the life of every child
It's love for Him confess.



This little project came into being because of my love of Catholic poetry and because I have found through my years of homeschooling that what is taught in Rhyme is committed to memory better. I'm also a stickler for neat printing and handwriting. So with that in mind I'd like to share with you this latest handwriting practice book.

The stories and poetry are taken from a wonderful book titled,

“The Life of Our Blessed Lord:
For Little Catholic Children,”
by Grace Wallace Doonan
Imprimatur 1913

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† All for the greater honor and glory of God †

LESSON 36 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

LOVING OUR LORD and SERVING OUR LORD



OUR dear Lord came on earth for you and me. He was laid in a cold manger, on a bed of straw. He was hated by bad men, who scourged Him, crucified Him, killed Him. All this He suffered for us to buy back our places in heaven. We can never pay Him for what He has done, never.

And He stays with us. In church, on the altar, behind the little door, He is waiting for us, loving us. At least we must love Him in return. How?

We will ask His blessing every morning and every night. We will love our dear Church, and our Holy Father at Rome, who takes St. Peter's place. We will love and pray for our Bishops and Priests. And, since it was SIN which caused Our Lord so much suffering, we will promise never to SIN. We will try never to do anything wrong as long as we live. In this way we shall reach heaven and see Our Lord and His Blessed Mother and St. Joseph and all the saints and holy angels, and be with them forever and ever. AMEN.

LESSON 1 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



THE STORY OF THE KING and THE LAW THAT GOD GAVE

THE beautiful land, heaven, is the home of God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, our blessed Lady, the angels, the saints, and all those who were the friends of God when they lived on earth. This earth, on which we all live, is our home only for a little while our real home is in heaven, with God. But for years and years and years no one on this earth could go home to heaven because of a great sin which had been done against God. And God was so sorry for the people who could not go home to heaven, that His only Son, who was also God, came down on earth to pay for this great sin by dying, as man, on the cross.

So, because God died for us, we are now able, if we do right, to go home to heaven when we die. What could this great sin be? So great that God's only Son had to come down on earth to pay for it? Well, when God the Father made the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, He made them "like Himself," and put them in paradise. Adam and Eve were innocent and holy when they came from the hand of God. He gave them everything on the earth—the rivers, the trees, the flowers, the animals, the birds—everything belonged to them and to their children.

To find out, then, if they really loved Him, who had given them so much, God told them there was one thing they must never, never do. He told them if they kept this one command of His they would live forever.

LESSON 1 - Copywork

To every little boy and girl,
This blessed tale is given:
About a King who loved us so
That He came down from heaven,
And died upon the cross for us.
So we might know and love
And serve Him ever in this world
And reign with Him above.

Do you know why He came to us?
Because, long years ago,
When God created all the world
And all the things that grow:
To Adam and Eve, in paradise,
He said: "That you may live
And never die, there's one command,
One law which I shall give."

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

Now Christ had promised that He'd send The
Spirit of truth and light. So till the days
of Pentecost They prayed both day and
night. And then the Holy Ghost came
down In tongues of living flame. He
made them strong to preach and teach
And glorify Christ's name!

Christ's Mother dear remained
To wait God's holy will;
And how could they be very sad
Who had that Mother still?
But now; upon the golden throne
Of glory she has won. I
he prays that every child on earth
May serve her blessed Son.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for letter height and placement.

LESSON 35 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*As man He died on the cross for you and me, and everyone
in the whole world.*

THE DAY OF PENTECOST and THE ASSUMPTION

OUR Lord had promised that after He went to heaven He would send God the Holy Ghost down upon the Apostles, to make them very strong. So, when He had gone up on high, they went back, with our blessed Mother, to the little room, and there waited, praying all the time. At last the Holy Ghost came down upon the Apostles ten days after the Ascension of Our Lord; and the day on which He came down upon the Apostles is called Whit Sunday, or Pentecost. This day is, really, the BIRTHDAY of the Church. While they sat together there seemed to come a sound from heaven a mighty, rushing wind, which filled the whole house. The Holy Ghost came down upon the Apostles in the form of tongues of fire. And now they were no longer afraid of anything, but wanted to go out and talk about Our Lord to every one they met. The Holy Ghost will abide with the Church forever, and guide it in the way of holiness and truth.

Our blessed Lady did not go to heaven with Our Lord, but stayed on earth for some years afterward. At last it was her turn to go. How glad she was! Now she would see her dear Son! When she died they laid her in a tomb, but when they went the next day to pray there, the tomb was empty. Our Lady's blessed body had been carried to heaven by the angels. This is called the ASSUMPTION of Our Lady, and in memory of it we celebrate the feast of the Assumption, on the fifteenth of August every year. It is a holy day.

In heaven our dear Lady was welcomed by her Son and God the Father and God the Holy Ghost, and by St. Joseph and all the good people. She was crowned Queen of angels and saints, Queen of heaven. But she is and always will be our dear Mother.

LESSON 2 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

THE LAW IS BROKEN and WHY GOD SENT HIS SON

To try their obedience, God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of a certain fruit which grew in the garden of paradise.

One day, however, they broke this one command. They **DISOBEYED** God. Eve took some of the fruit of the Tree, ate of it, and gave some to Adam, who also ate. As soon as they had done this, they were sorry and ashamed. But God knew about it right away, and because *Adam and Eve did not remain faithful to God, but broke His command by eating the forbidden fruit*, He had to punish them. He sent them out of paradise, down to the earth, **AWAY FROM HIM**. And at the gate of paradise He put an angel with a flaming sword, so that they could not go back.

Now every man and woman and child on this earth are the children of Adam and Eve, our first father and mother. *On account of the disobedience of our first parents, we all share in their sin and punishment, as we should have shared in their happiness if they had remained faithful.*

But still we belonged to God. He loved us, and He wanted us in heaven, our real home, which we would never have lost had not Adam and Eve disobeyed Him. That sin of theirs had to be paid for. Who could pay for it? Only God. So God the Son came down from heaven, took the form of a man, and died as a man on the cross. *Our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the Redeemer of mankind.* He is God and He was man, too, and as man He died on the cross for you and me and every one in the whole world.



The Holy Ghost came down upon the Apostles ten days after the Ascension of Our Lord.

LESSON 2 - copywork

"Behold the Tree of Knowledge,

To try you; there it stands.

Of this you shall not taste the fruit

Nor touch it with your hands."

First Eve then Adam, broke the Law,

That Law which God had made;

So they were sent away from God,

Because they **DISOBEYED**.

Not you nor I, nor any one,

Could ever see God's face,

Unless God's Son came down to us,

And won us back our place.

So that is why, dear little ones,

Down from His heavenly throne.

There came the mighty Son of God

To claim and save His own.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

In doubt, in fear, the Apostles stayed

Close shut within a room

Although they knew Our Saviour was

No longer in the tomb.

When lo! He stood there, in their midst

And, "Peace be to you!" said.

At which they knelt and worshiped Him

Now risen from the dead.

For forty days He came and went

And comforted His own;

Sad were their hearts to feel that He

Must leave them all alone.

Until at last He led the way

Unto the mountain height

And sending them to preach His name

Was lifted from their sight.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for letter height and placement.

LESSON 34 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



Our Blessed Lady was kneeling, saying her prayers on that great day, when the Angel Gabriel came into the room.

“PEACE BE TO YOU!” and THE ASCENSION

THE Apostles were sitting in the room where Our Lord had eaten the Last Supper with them. They heard that the Lord was risen from the dead, but they did not know whether to believe it or not. While they were talking and wondering if it could be true, Our Lord came into the room, and said:

"Peace be to you. It is I, the Lord." The Apostles were afraid. They did not know what to think. And He said,

"Why are you afraid? See My hands and My feet and My side." And they saw the marks of the cruel nails and the mark of the spear, and knew that it was indeed their dear Lord and Master, and they were very, very glad.

Christ stayed on earth forty days after His resurrection to show that He was truly risen from the dead, and to instruct His Apostles. He taught them what they were to do, and how they were to take care of the Church. He gave them and all the Bishops and Priests who came after them the power to do just as He had done on earth and to change bread and wine into His BODY and BLOOD, so that we can receive Him in Holy Communion. After forty days, Christ ascended into heaven, and the day on which He ascended into heaven is called Ascension Day. It is a holy day. On that day He brought the Apostles to Mount Olivet, blessed them all, and went up to heaven. In heaven Christ sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. And all the good people who had died since the great sin of Adam and Eve, and who had never been able to go to heaven, but had been forced to wait in Limbo—all these good people now stood about, thanking and praising their Redeemer. St. Joseph, too, was with them.

LESSON 3 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

THE ANGEL IS SENT and WHAT THE ANGEL SAID

THE Son of God did not become man immediately after the sin of our first parents, but was PROMISED to them as a Redeemer. Four thousand years passed. All the people who lived on earth during that time, and who loved God, prayed that the Saviour might soon come down from heaven. Those who lived before the Son of God became man could be saved by believing in a Redeemer to come, and by keeping the Commandments.

At last, one great day, the Angel Gabriel was sent to Nazareth, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to tell her that she was to be the Mother of God.

This great day is called Annunciation day.

Nazareth was a little town in Galilee, where the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph lived. St. Joseph was a carpenter. He worked at his trade, and our blessed Lady took care of the house. She was very kind to all. But morning, noon, and night she prayed to God, for she loved Him better than any one of us can ever love Him. No one on this earth, except our dear Lord Himself, was ever as good and pure as our blessed Lady. We keep the feast of the Immaculate Conception—a special feast of our clear Lady's—on the eighth of December every year. It is a holy day.

When the Angel Gabriel came into the room where our blessed Lady was kneeling, saying her prayers on that great day, he said to her: "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women!" Our dear Lady was frightened. "Do not be afraid," the angel said. "God has sent me to tell thee that at last His Son is coming, and that thou art to be His Mother. And thou shalt call His name JESUS."

Mary was filled with joy. She bowed her head, saying: "I belong to God. He can do with me just as He pleases."



After forty days Our Lord brought the Apostles to Mount Olivet, blessed them all, and went up to heaven.

LESSON 3 - copywork

Two thousand years the people prayed,

Four thousand years had passed

Before they knew the time was near

When He would come at last!

To Nazareth; where Mary lived.

The Angel Gabriel

Was sent, as God's own messenger.

The happy news to tell.

Before Our Queen the angel stood.

"Hail, full of grace!" he said,

"The Lord is with thee! Blest art thou!"

And Mary bowed her head:

"I am His handmaid be it done

According to His will!"

Thus meekly spoke the Chosen One,

The Mother, Virgin still!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

LESSON 33 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



How is it that the Mother of my Lord, should come to me?

IN THE TOMB and THE RESURRECTION

IN THE evening they took Our Lord's body down from the cross. There was a rich man named Joseph of Arimathea who loved Our Lord very much. He asked for the body of Our Lord, so that he could lay it in his own new tomb. They gave it to him, and then Our Lady and St. John and some of the friends of the dear Lord got the body ready for the tomb, wrapping it up in fine linen and spices. Near the place where Our Lord had been crucified was a garden, and in this garden was the new tomb which Joseph of Arimathea had dug out of a rock.

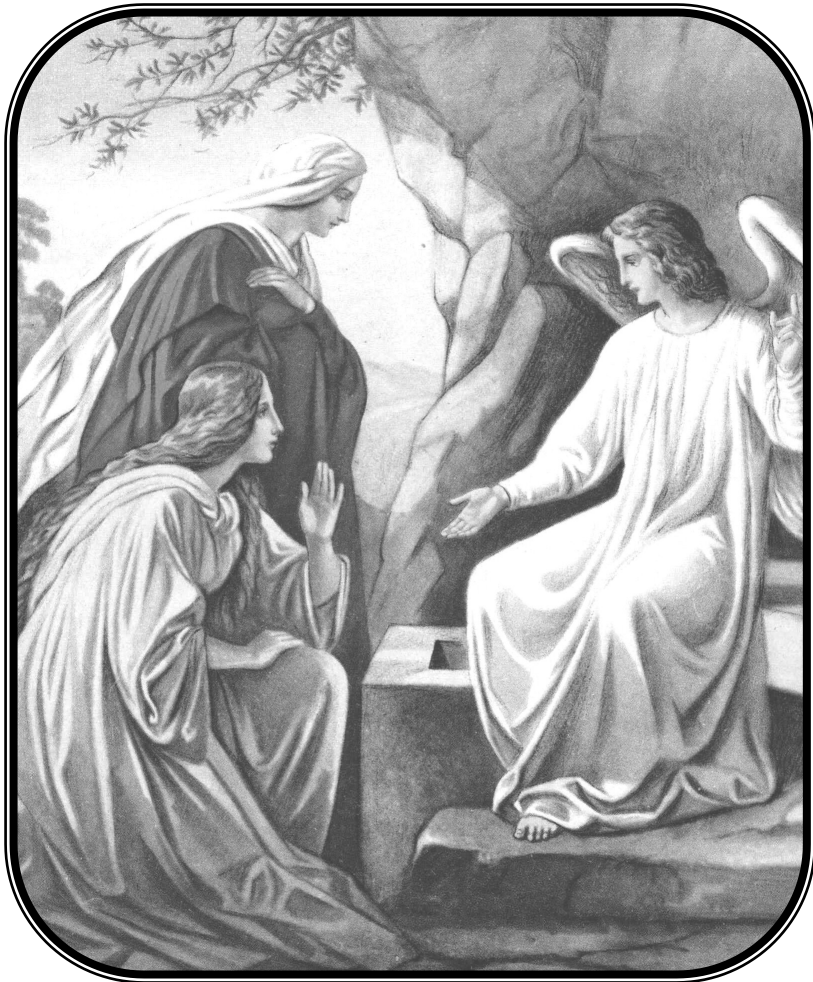
They laid Our Lord's body in this new tomb.

The wicked men remembered that Our Lord had said, when He was yet alive,

"After three days I will rise again." So they came to the judge, and asked him if they could set a watch on the tomb. The judge told them yes. They went, then, to the tomb, made sure that the great heavy stone was in front of it, and put soldiers on guard, telling them to watch the tomb day and night.

But very early on the following Sunday morning there was what sounded like a great earthquake. An angel from heaven rolled back the heavy stone from the tomb, and sat upon it. When the guards saw the angel they fell down on the ground like dead men. Our Lord was risen! Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on Easter Sunday, the third day after His death.

LESSON 4 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on
Easter Sunday, the third day after His death.*

THE VISITATION and ST. ELIZABETH and OUR LADY

FAR off across the mountains, in a little town among the hills, lived the Blessed Mary's cousin, St. Elizabeth. After the Angel Gabriel had been sent with the message, and when our blessed Lady knew that she was to be God's Mother, she left Nazareth. She wanted to see her cousin, and to be with her. When she went into the house where St. Elizabeth was living, and St. Elizabeth heard Our Lady's voice, she seemed to know at once that Mary was to be the Mother of God's only Son. She used the very same words the Angel Gabriel had spoken: "Blessed art thou among women!"

"Blessed art thou among women!" cried St. Elizabeth. "Oh, what have I done to earn this joy—that the Mother of my Lord should come to visit me?" And then Our Lady began *The Magnificat*, "which you will read in the Bible when you grow older Our Lady's song of praise.

Our blessed Mother stayed in the little town in the hill country until Elizabeth's son John was born. The son of St. Elizabeth was St. John the Baptist, and a little further on in this story you will learn why he was called by this name. When Elizabeth did not need her, Mary went back to her own home at Nazareth. But she was not to stay in Nazareth a long while.

LESSON 4 - copywork

Far, far across the distant hills

Lived St. Elizabeth,

Our Lady's cousin, whom she loved

And so, from Nazareth,

She went into the little town

And traveled many days;

Elizabeth, on seeing her,

Was filled with joy and praise.

Most happily she greeted her:

"Marry, can this be

That thou, the Mother of my Lord,

Should come to visit me?"

Then Marry spoke but when, some day,

The blessed Book you read:

You'll learn how our dear Lady praised

God's work and word and deed.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and copying the text.

Our Saviour dies! Our Saviour dies

frightful words and dear:

The sun no longer gave its light

All earth was filled with fear

They pierced that Sacred Heart in twain:

As Mary's Son hung dead

The lance went through her very soul

As Simeon had said.

On Christmas night Our Saviour came,

To live for you and me

To teach His holy doctrine, and

To die in agony.

For sin can't go unpunished.

And only God could pay

The debt which we all owed to God

From Eve and Adam's day.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for writing practice.

LESSON 32 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*No matter how many they asked there was only one answer,
"We have no room! We have no room!"*

THE SUN DARKENED and ONLY GOD COULD PAY

WHEN Our Lord died, everything became as dark as night, although it was only three o'clock in the afternoon. People were wondering—they did not know what was the matter. The soldier who stood at the foot of the cross said,

"This Man was the Son of God!" All those who stood near were very much afraid, and said, after the soldier, "Yes, this Man was the Son of God!" But the wicked men were there, too, and they wanted to be quite, quite sure that Our Lord was really dead, so one of the soldiers drove a spear into His Heart, and blood and water came trickling out.

When the Son of God was born on Christmas night. He came to save the world. And to save it, Christ was nailed to the cross, and died on it between two thieves. He taught the things we must believe, and began the Catholic Church—Our Church. We can find what He has taught in our Church only, and nowhere else. We must do as Our Lord has told us, live as He wants us to live, and be good, loving children. Then we will go to heaven and be there forever with God and our blessed Mother and the angels and the saints.

Surely we all want to go to heaven!

LESSON 5 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*Near the place where Our Lord had been crucified was a garden,
and in this garden was a new tomb . . . They laid the
Lord's Body in this new tomb.*

THE ARRIVAL AT BETHLEHEM and HEAVEN ALL BEAUTIFUL

ABOUT this time, the Emperor wanted to know how many people were living in his country. So he sent out a command that every man should go to the city to which he belonged, there to have his name put down in a big book. St. Joseph belonged to the city of Bethlehem, and taking our blessed Lady with him, he went there from Nazareth. It was very near the time for Our Lord to be born, but they had to go, to obey the command of the Emperor. Lots and lots of other people had to go, too, and the city of Bethlehem was so crowded that St. Joseph could not find any room. No one would let them in. No matter how many they asked there was only one answer, " We have no room! We have no room!" Tired out, they went past the houses, and found a little cave in the side of a mountain. There were a few animals in the cave, for it was used as a stable. In this cave Our Lord, God's only Son, was born, on Christmas Day. Christmas Day is, as you know, dear children, one of the greatest of feast days.

Down from heaven, that beautiful land, where the angels praised and loved Him, came our blessed Lord! One would think that He should be born in a palace, and laid in a bed of gold—that He should come to earth a king. But, no! He was born in a lonely stable, with only St. Joseph and His Mother to kneel before Him and worship Him. It made Mary sad to think how poor and cold the stable was. But soon she forgot to be sad, for she had her dear little Baby in her arms. And her Baby was God!

LESSON 5 - copywork

Unto the town of Bethlehem

St. Joseph and Our Queen

Came, begging shelter there was none

In house or hall or inn.

They found a lonely cave at last

How mean and poor a throne!

Yet there was born the King of kings,

The Father's only Son.

Far far above those deep blue skies,

Where stars are set at night,

Where hangs the silver moon, and where

The splendid sun gives light:

Our blessed Lord in heaven dwells,

With all the angels, too:

But leaving heaven on Christmas night

He came to me and you.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

And there was Mary, sorrowing:

With breaking heart she stood

A silent witness of the death

Her Son bore on that wood!

Oh, bitter was the manger-bed.

And pang of poverty!

A thousand times more bitter this

The cross on Calvary.

Then to His Father up above

Christ lifted weary eyes:

"Father, forgive them," went the plea,

"Nor for this act chastise."

And so the dreadful hour came:

He died upon the tree:

Oh, children, think how much it cost

From sin to set us free!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and writing practice.

LESSON 31 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*"I bring you happy, happy news. This day a Saviour is born!
Christ the Lord is born!"*

AT THE CROSS and OUR DEAR LORD DIES

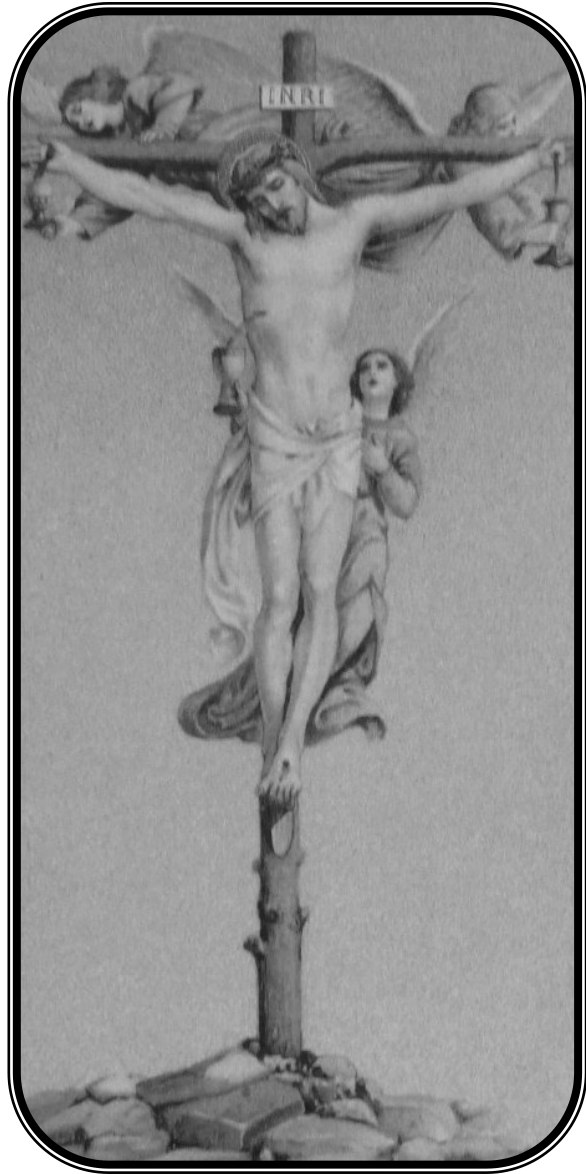


OUR Lady had followed her divine Son all the way to Mount Calvary, and now stood at the foot of the cross, looking up at Him. What can we say to our blessed Lady to show her how sorry we are? She had been so happy when the Angel Gabriel brought the word that God was coming down to earth. But now! The sword that the holy Simeon had told about in the Temple seemed going right through her heart, as she looked at God's only Son, and her Son, nailed to the cross for you and me. She asked the Father in heaven to help her bear this terrible sorrow.

But Our Lady knew that this dreadful thing had to be—that God had to die for the whole world. And yet when those cruel men lifted up Our Lord on the cross. His first prayer was for the people who were putting Him to death. He turned His face to heaven, and said,

"Father, forgive them! They do not know what they are doing!"

This was Our Lord's first word, a prayer of forgiveness for the men who were treating Him so cruelly. After three long hours of suffering, Our Lord could suffer no more, but bowed down His head and died. *Christ died on Good Friday. We call that day GOOD on which Christ died so sorrowful a death, because by His death He showed His great love for man, and 'purchased for him every blessing.*



After three long hours of suffering, Our Lord could suffer no more but bowed His Head and died.

LESSON 6 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

THE ANGEL'S SON and WHAT THE SHEPHERDS HEARD

WES, a palace of marble, a rich bed, the softest and finest clothing, and dozens of people to take care of him—all these are ready for the son of an earthly king when he comes into the world. But our dear Lord, the King of heaven, did not have any of these things. He had not even a bed to lie in, and His Mother wrapped Him up in swaddling-clothes, and laid Him in a manger filled with straw, from which the cattle used to eat.

But the angels who had seen this great sight—God Himself born in a stable—sang the Christmas message overhead:

"Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace to men of good will!"

The beautiful Christmas angels came to the shepherds who were taking care of their sheep and lambs on the other side of the mountain. They were poor, hardworking men, and when they saw the great light in the sky, and heard the angels singing, they did not know what it all meant. But the angel said:

"Do not be afraid! I bring you happy, happy news. This day a Saviour is born! Christ the Lord is born! And you will find Him lying on the straw in a stable!"

LESSON 6 - copywork

They placed Him gently in the straw,

They did not have a bed;

The Lord of all had here no room

Wherein to lay His head.

Yet love and joy filled Mary's heart.

While o'er the distant hill

The angels sang,

"On earth be peace To people of good will!"

The shepherds tended carefully

Their little lambs so white;

The angel came with joyous news

That blessed Christmas night:

"Oh, hasten, shepherds, hasten on,

And see Him where He lies;

Come, follow for the Christm. as star

That lights the Christmas skies!"

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

Then forth unto Mount Calvary,
Amid the jeering throng,
They led the spotless Lamb of God
Oh, sad the way and long!
Three times He fell beneath the cross,
For He was sore oppressed:
Till Simon came, unwillingly,
To help the Saviour blest.

Then stripping Him, they laid Him down
Upon that cruel tree;
Drove nails through sacred Hands and Feet,
With savage cruelty.
They raised that sacred form aloft,
And there He hung on high:
The sacrifice of God for man
Between the earth and sky!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and writing.

LESSON 30 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS and

THE NAILING TO THE CROSS



*Our dear Lord was lying on straw in the manger,
and St. Joseph and Our Lady were beside Him.*

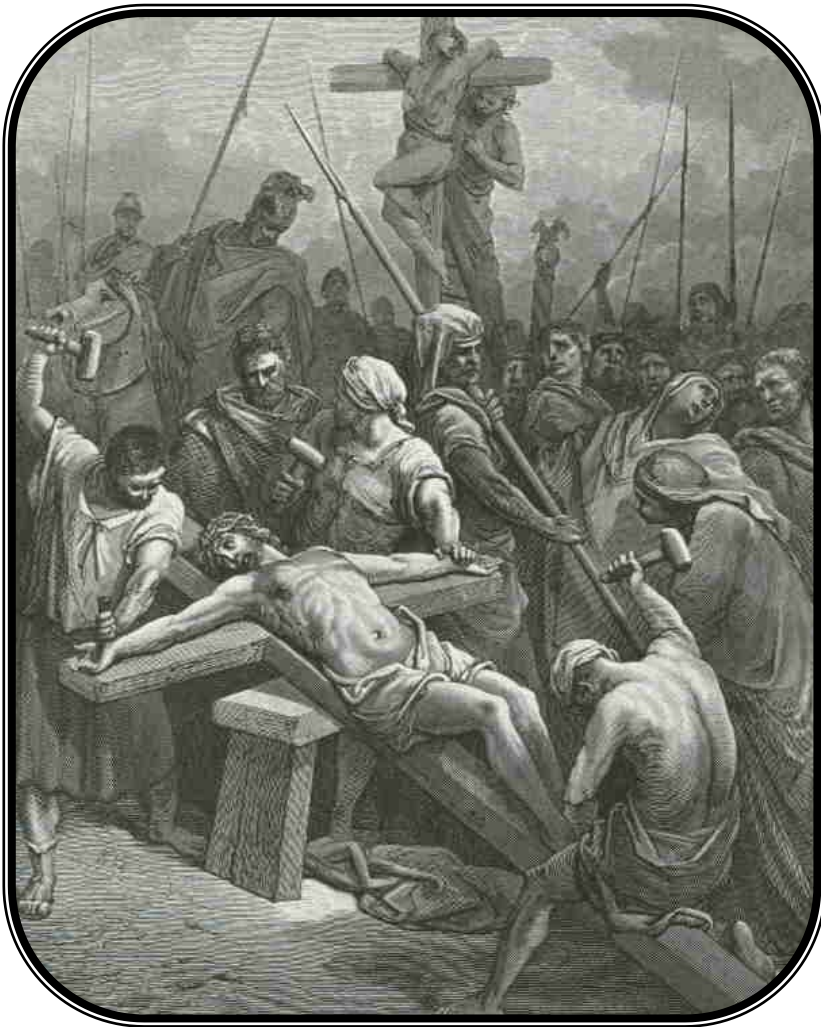
THEY took Our Lord, all covered with blood, before the judge, and when the judge asked, 'What shall be done to this Man?' all cried out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Then a great cross of wood was made and put on His shoulder, and they set out for Mount Calvary, the crowds following after. Those who loved Our Lord were crying, but those who hated Him were glad.

Our dear blessed Mother was there, too! Think of her sufferings when she saw her Son treated so!

He carried the cross until He could carry it no longer. Then He fell, and they beat Him with whips until He got on His feet and went along a little way. Again He fell. But when He fell a third time, they were afraid He would die before He got to Mount Calvary, so they made a man named Simon help Him to carry the cross.

Now there were two thieves who were to be put to death at the same time. They were to be crucified, also. When Mount Calvary was reached, the soldiers took off Our Lord's clothes, and laid Him down on the cross, stretching out His arms, and driving great big nails into the palms of His hands. They pulled down His feet, and nailed them to the wood, so that He was fastened tightly. Then they lifted the cross and set it between the crosses on which the two thieves were hanging. Thus, for our sakes, God's own Son, our blessed Lord, *JESUS CHRIST* suffered a bloody sweat, a cruel scourging, was crowned with thorns, and was crucified.

LESSON 7 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



When Mount Calvary was reached the soldiers pulled off Our Lord's clothes, and laid Him down on the cross.

THE LITTLE CAVE and
WHAT THE SHEPHERDS THOUGHT



WHEN the shepherds wondered and spoke to one another.

"Can this be?" they asked. " Can it be that the Promised One, the Redeemer, has come at last? Oh, we will go at once and see!"

For you know, dear children, that even the very poorest of God's people were sure that some day the SAVIOUR would be born. They knew, too, that He was to be born in Bethlehem, because a holy man of God, called the Prophet Isaias, had said so seven hundred years before.

And now the shepherds started off, carrying with them some of the little lambs of the flock as a gift to the new-born King. They found the stable very easily. Everything was as the angel had said. The dear Lord was lying on straw in the manger, and St. Joseph and our blessed Lady were kneeling beside Him.

When the shepherds looked inside the stable, and saw the Baby shining with such a heavenly light, they knew they had found the new-born King. So they went in, and knelt before the manger. And they thought what a wonderful thing it was, that God had come, after four thousand years, to pay for the DISOBEDIENCE of Adam and Eve. They were sorry that they could not bring precious gifts. But when the little Lord looked at them, they felt, deep down in their hearts, that the only gift He really wanted was their love.

And that, dear children, is the only gift God wants from us all.

LESSON 7 - copywork

Scarce knowing what the angel meant

Who had appeared to them.

The shepherds followed quickly to

The cave at Bethlehem.

St. Joseph and Our Lady dear,

In prayer, and love, and awe,

Were kneeling at the tiny crib,

Where God lay on the straw!

And then the shepherds knew the truth::

About the holy Child,

And while they stood in wondrous fear,

He gazed at them and smiled.

"No gifts have we," they meekly thought,

"For we are verry poor."

He seemed to whisper: "Bring Your love,

I ask for nothing more."

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

That night, within the Garden,

Our Saviour, desolate,

Arose to meet the savage men

Who seized Him, filled with hate.

They took Him, and they scourged Him sore.

Oh, children, stop, and see

How He was tortured for our sins.

And suffered cruelly!

Upon His forehead, white and pure,

They pressed a crown of thorn.

They clothed Him as a fool was clothed

And mocked at Him in scorn.

Within His hand they thrust a reed.

And spat upon that Face,

And struck and scoffed, and cried,

"All hail! Thou King of David's race!"

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and writing practice.

LESSON 29 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



While they stood, Simeon came into the Temple. He was an old, old, man.

THE SCOURGING and THE CROWNING WITH THORNS



OUR Lord went with the Apostles into the Garden of Olives. He knew that soon the soldiers would come. He knew that soon He must die. He asked His Father in heaven to help Him. His Apostles were tired. They fell fast asleep, and our dear Lord was all alone! All alone! And He was sad, and said to them:

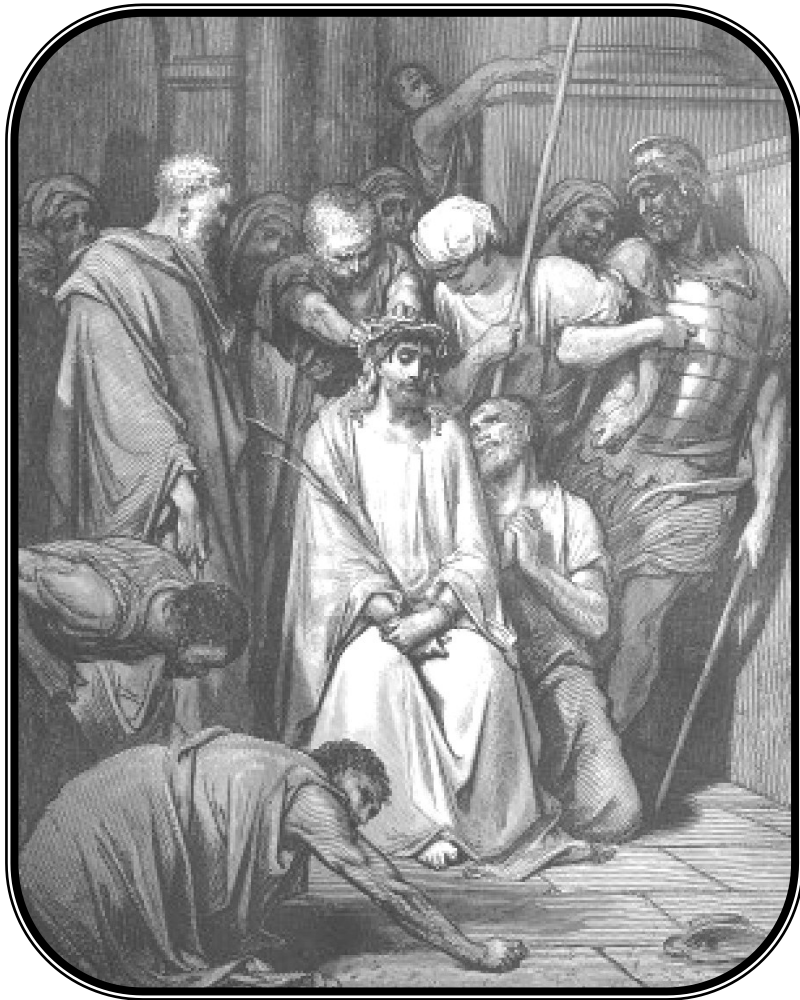
"Could you not watch one hour with Me?" Pretty soon came the noise of the soldiers. Judas was with them. He walked up to Our Lord and kissed Him on the cheek. Then the soldiers took Our Lord, tied His hands behind His back, and led Him off to prison. The Apostles were afraid, and went away and hid.

Dear children, those cruel men took great, heavy whips, and beat and beat and beat Our Lord until He was covered with blood. They took cruel thorns and twisted them around to make a crown, and pressed it down on His forehead. They took a long reed and put it in His hand to make believe it was the scepter of a king. And they laughed and yelled and made fun of Him, and said:

"King! King of the Jews! Hail, King of the Jews! How does it feel to be a King?"

And oh, dear children, this was God's only Son! Our blessed Lord! But He had to pay for the sins of the whole world! To buy back our places in heaven He had to suffer and die! Christ suffered and died for our sins.

LESSON 8 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*And they laughed and yelled and made fun of Him, and said,
“Hail, King of the Jews! Hail, King of the Jews!”*

OUR DEAR LORD’S NAME and THE PRESENTATION

THE shepherds went back again to take care of their sheep, telling every one they met of the wonderful Baby they had just been to see. And the time passed on, until Our Lord was eight days old, and He was to be given His name. So St. Joseph called Him JESUS, as he had been told by the angel. The name JESUS means Saviour, Redeemer. When we hear that holy name, or say it in our prayers, we must bow our head, or bend our knee, because it is God's name. The day on which Our Lord was given His name is another of the Church's great feast-days—the Feast of the Circumcision.

It is a holy day, and we celebrate it on the first day of January. It was the law of the Church that every little boy who was born first in a family should be carried to the Temple, and there offered to God. The father and mother carried the baby to the Temple, offered him to God, and then, before the priest gave him back again, offered something in place of him. Rich people gave rich gifts, but the poor could give only poor gifts. St. Joseph and Our Lady were poor, and when they carried the dear Lord to the Temple to offer Him to God, His Father, they took two doves as a gift, for they could not afford any more.

While they stood, Simeon came into the Temple. He was an old, old man, and so good that God the Holy Ghost had let him know that he would not die until he had seen the Promised Redeemer.

LESSON 8 - copywork

So when eight days had passed away
They gave unto Our Lord
The holy name of Jesus Christ,
By heaven and earth adored.
And when we hear that name, we bow
The head; or bend the knee,
And whisper, "Praised be Christ our King
For all eternity!"

Oberying then, the Church's law
Up to Jerusalem
They carried Christ, the Infant King
That they might offer Him
To God within the Temple old
In joy came Simeon
And held Him in his trembling arms,
God's blessed, only Son!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and copying the text.

Behind the tabernacle door,

Behind the silken veil,

The Saviour stays and longs to see

You kneeling at the rail!

He waits the sound of little feet,

The sound of childish prayer:

Come often, child, to tell your love,

For God is waiting there!

But now, dear children, listen well—

That First Communion eve,

Judas arose, and from the Twelve

Stole sneaking through the door.

For thirty paltry silver coins

Laid in his itching hand,

He promised to yield up the Lord

Unto the soldier band.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and writing practice.

LESSON 28 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

IN THE TABERNACLE and JUDAS BETRAYS OUR LORD

THIS is how Our Lord stays here with us always. He is really, really on earth all the time. Isn't this wonderful? First, Adam and Eve **DISOBEYED** God, and we lost heaven. But God was sorry for us. Heaven is so beautiful, and each has a place in it, but none could go to that place. So God sent His only Son. And His only Son came down and lived here, and loved us. And because He loved us so much. He knew we would be sad without Him, so He gave us Himself. We are united to **JESUS CHRIST** in the Holy Eucharist by means of Holy Communion. Holy Communion is the receiving of the **BODY** and **BLOOD** of Christ.

Someday, very soon, perhaps, **YOU** will receive the **BODY** and **BLOOD** of our dear Lord! That day will be the happiest day that will ever come to you. Pray, then, dear children, that you will soon be able to say: "Come, dear Lord! Come to me!"

Our dear Lord is in heaven, looking down on us, loving us always, but He is here on earth, too. He is behind the tabernacle door in every Catholic church, waiting for us to visit Him. We must often kneel in church, and say to Him:

"Thank You, dear Lord! Thank You for coming down on earth! Thank You for staying here with us!" And say, too:

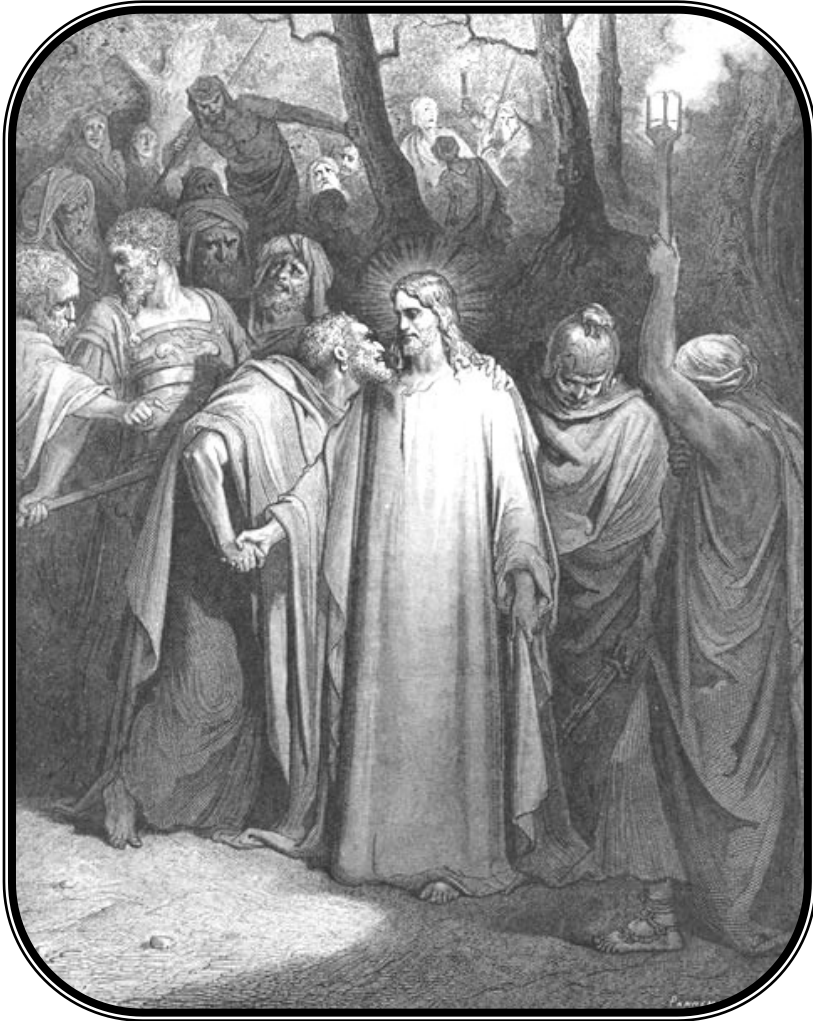
"We love You, dear Lord! Make us love You ever more and more!"

But the Last Supper was over. Judas got up from the table, stole out, and met the wicked men who hated Our Lord, and wanted to kill Him. They gave Judas thirty pieces of silver, and Judas said: "Tonight He is going to the Garden of Olives. I will go there with the soldiers. When I walk up to Him and kiss Him, then the soldiers will know it is He, and they can take Him away to prison."



At last the Magi saw the star shine over the stable.

LESSON 9 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



Judas betrays Our Lord with a kiss.

IN THE TEMPLE and THE WISE MEN

WHEN the good and holy Simeon came into the Temple, and took the little Baby in his arms, he knew that this was the Saviour who had been promised—the Saviour who was to be born of the race of David, the great King of Israel. Both Mary and Joseph were of David's race. Simeon looked up to heaven, and said:

"Now I can die in peace, God, for this is indeed Thy Son, who has come down on earth to save His people."

And then he turned to Mary, our dear blessed Mother,

"Oh, Mother, thou wilt suffer!" he said. "Thou wilt suffer so much that it will be like a sword going through thy heart!"

St. Joseph and Our Lady were in Bethlehem when the three Wise Men or Magi came from the East. From their books these Wise Men knew that a great King, long promised to the Jewish people, was to be born, and led by a star they came to look for Him. King Herod was told that three Wise Men were looking for a new King. He asked them to come back and tell him if they found Him, "because I want to worship Him, too," he said. At last the Magi saw the star shine over the stable, so they went in, and fell on their knees before the Lord, and adored Him and gave Him gifts.

The gift of the first Wise Man was gold, because Our Lord is King; the second Wise Man gave frankincense, because Our Lord is God; and the third Wise Man gave myrrh, because Our Lord, as man, was to die on the cross.

LESSON - 9 copywork

Before the holy man they stood

Of Davids royal race

"Now, bless the Lord, my soul!" he said,

That I have seen His face.

Yet, Mary, through thy tender heart

Shall go a cruel sword!"

The will of God the Virgin heard

In meekness, and adored.

The Wise Men of the East had learned

That now the time was near,

When Christ, the Lord of all mankind,

Our Saviour, would appear.

So taking gifts of gold and myrrh

And frankincense as well.

They left their homes to seek the place

Wherein the King might dwell.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

Yes, in that room, the Cenacle,

He took the bread and wine:

And blessed and gave among the Twelve,

And spoke these words divine:

"This is My Body take and eat.

Drink, too, My Blood. He said:

"That Flesh which shall be crucified,

That Blood which shall be shed."

See, child, what Jesus Christ has done

To be among His own:

Came down from heaven, lived on earth,

He sought no earthly throne!

The King, whose might and majesty

No child can ever know:

Stays here to be our food and drink

To live with us below!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for writing practice.

LESSON 27 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

THE FIRST COMMUNION and OUR LORD WITH US!

IT WAS on Thursday night—Holy Thursday night—four days after Palm Sunday. Our Lord and His disciples were sitting in a room eating the supper which is called the Last Supper. The Twelve Apostles were there, as we have said: St. Peter, St. James, and St. John, and all the others. Judas was there. He was an Apostle, too, but a bad Apostle, for he had made up his mind to sell the Lord to those wicked men who would put Him to death on the cross. But still Judas sat there at the table. And Our Lord said:

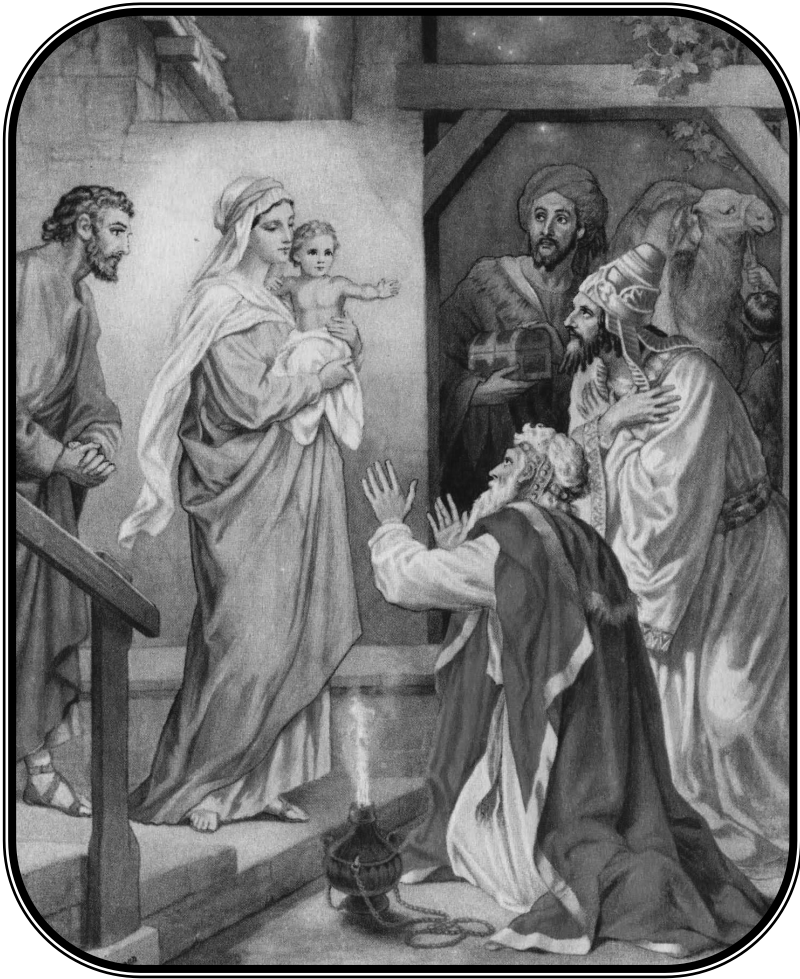
"There is one here who will sell Me to those who hate Me." All the Apostles were sad and asked who it could be. At last Judas asked:

Is it I, Lord?" And Our Lord said,

"Yes." Our Lord took the bread in His hands. He was about to do a wonderful thing for every one of us. He broke the bread, and blessed it, and said:

"Take ye and eat. THIS IS MY BODY." Then He took the cup of wine in His hands, and blessed it, and said:

"Drink ye all of this. THIS IS MY BLOOD." Just as Our Lord changed the water into wine at Cana of Galilee, so now, sitting at the table He changed bread into His BODY, and wine into His BLOOD. This change of the bread and wine into the BODY and BLOOD of Our Lord is called TRANSUBSTANTIATION. He told St. Peter and the Apostles to do this always. And as our Holy Father, our Bishops, and our Priests take the place of St. Peter and the Apostles, they, too, change bread and wine into Our Lord's BODY and BLOOD because He gave them the power to do so. The bread and wine are changed into the BODY and BLOOD of Christ at the Consecration in the Mass.



So they went in, and fell on their knees before the Lord and adored Him, and gave Him gifts.

LESSON 10 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



Our dear Lord is in heaven, looking down on us, but He is here on earth, too. He is behind the tabernacle door of every Catholic church..

THE WISE MEN SPEAK and THE ANGEL COMES

WERY old writings tell us that there were three of these Wise Men, or Magi, and that they were called Melchior, Caspar, and Baltasar. It made no difference to them that our blessed Lord was not born in a rich house. They knew He was the KING, the one who had been PROMISED.

And now they had to go back into their own country. They wondered if they should let Herod know that they had found the new King. But while they were sleeping they were told by an angel that they must go back by another way, and not say anything to Herod. Herod was waiting, but of course they did not go near him—they obeyed the angel.

The visit of the poor shepherds and the visit of the rich Wise Men to our dear Lord, show that He came down from heaven for all people. Every one on this earth, rich or poor, king or beggar, belongs to God.

The Wise Men had gone. St. Joseph was fast asleep, when it seemed to him that the place was suddenly filled with the most dazzling light. At first he did not know what it meant, but soon he saw an angel, and when the angel spoke to him he grew afraid—for the angel told him something that really troubled him.

LESSON 10 - copywork

"We are the Magi, journeying,
From Eastern lands afar
Our people call us Melchior,
Gaspar, and Baltasar.
We followed, from Jerusalem,
The Star that shone on high;
We come to greet the promised King,
The Lord of earth and sky!"

The Kings arose and went away,
St. Joseph slept alone
And dreamed of God, the holy One
When round about him shone
A flame that filled the little room,
A blaze of dazzling light.
And lo! A shining angel stood
Before his wondrous sight.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

Then came that first Palm Sunday,
When men, with loud acclaim
Covered the Saviour's path with palms,
And blessed the Saviour's name.
"Hosanna to the Son," they sang,
"Of David! May He be
Forever blest! Hosanna to
Jesus of Galilee!"

But, children, dear, the hour was nigh
For which He longed and came
When for our sins He gave Himself,
In suffering and shame.
And yet, to make this world of ours
Like paradise above.
He left to us a mighty proof
Of His enduring love.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for writing practice.

LESSON 26 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



They did not know what they were going to do in Egypt, but Mary and Joseph were very sure that God would take care of them.

THE FIRST PALM SUNDAY and OUR LORD'S LOVE

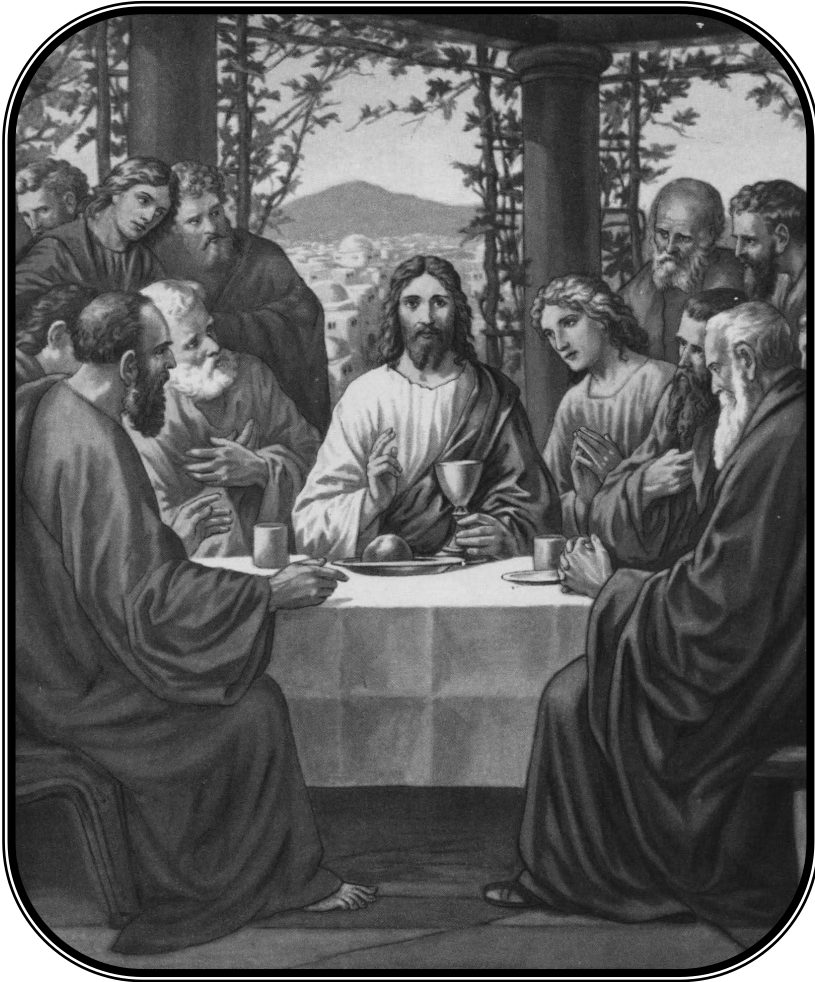
IT was now the day we call Palm Sunday, and Our Lord went to the Temple in the city of Jerusalem. When the people in the city heard that Our Lord was coming, all ran out to meet Him. Some cut big branches full of leaves from the trees and covered the road with them. Others took branches from the palm-trees, and waved them, shouting their joy. And the word they sang the loudest was,

"Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!"

But the time was drawing very near when Our Lord was to pay for the sin of Adam and Eve and the sins of the whole world, by dying on the cross. He had come from His beautiful home, heaven, to die, so that we can go to Him when we die, if we live good lives on earth. The wicked men who would not believe that He was the Son of God, those wicked men who said,

"No, no! He is NOT the Son of God!" meant now to kill Him, our own dear Lord. But He loved us so much that He wanted to do MORE for us than die upon the cross! He could not bear to leave us—He wanted to stay with us, so that we could go to Him even here on earth with all our sorrows and all our joys. Therefore, *Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper the night before He died. When Our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist the Twelve Apostles were present.*

LESSON 11 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*Our Lord took the bread in His hands He broke the bread and said,
"Take ye and eat. THIS IS MY BODY."*

THE ANGEL'S WARNING and THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

RISE quickly, Joseph," said the angel.
"Take the Mother and the Child, and get ready to go away." And then, while St. Joseph hastened, the heavenly messenger continued:

"Not back to Nazareth, or to any other part of thine own country. But far off into Egypt, where thou must stay until thou art told to leave it. Herod is very angry. He told the Wise Men to return to him when they had found the new King. And now he knows that they have gone without any word to him, and he is afraid, too, that the new King will be king in his place. So he is going to send soldiers to kill the Son of God."

How could our dear St. Joseph tell this awful news to Our Lady? But he had to. The Bible says that St. Joseph "arose and took the Child and His Mother by night," so that the journey must have been begun at once. We can almost see our dear, good St. Joseph getting ready. Perhaps he led out the strong little donkey that had carried Our Lady from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and Our Lady sat upon it, holding the dear Lord, while St. Joseph led it. In this way they left Bethlehem, where Christ was born on Christmas day in a stable over nineteen hundred years ago. They did not know what they were going to do in Egypt, but Mary and St. Joseph were very sure that God would take care of them.

LESSON 11 - copywork

"Go quickly, Joseph, go,

I bid thee to arise!

And take the Mother, and the Child

From the cradle where He lies.

The cruel Herod sendeth men

To kill the holy One!

So thou must haste to Egypt's land,

To save God's only Son."

St. Joseph trembled, sore afraid,

For well he loved the Child

And well he loved the Mother dear

Our Mother, meek and mild.

In haste he rose, and then they went

Out in the dark of night.

Afar, afar to Egypt's land,

Away from Herod's might.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

One book like this could never tell
What miracles were done,
Nor all His words, nor all His deeds:

The Father's holy Son.

"I am the Shepherd, I will die

To save My flock from sin;

I am the Door," He said, " by which

All men shall enter in."

He dearly loved the little ones

A happy company:

They crept within His tender arms,

And sat upon His knee.

He said, " My Father's kingdom is

For such as these in heart:

So let the little children come

And bid them not depart."

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and writing practice.

LESSON 25 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*The first little ones to die for our blessed Lord.
The feast of the Holy Innocents is kept on the twenty-eighth of December,
three days after Christmas.*

THE GOOD SHEPHERD and BLESSING THE CHILDREN



OUR Lord spoke so much to His Apostles, and told them so many things that it takes a big, big book to hold all the story. Some of the things He said and did are in the Bible. The others our holy Church tells us. We shall know the things which we are to believe from the Catholic Church, through which God speaks to us. We shall find the chief truths which the Church teaches in the APOSTLES' CREED. Some of you know the Apostles' Creed, don't you?

At one time there were ten sick men. Our Lord cured them all, but only one came back to thank Him. This shows us how careful we must be to thank God all the time for the many good things He gives us. Our Lord said He is the GOOD SHEPHERD, who loves all His sheep, meaning us. He also said He is a DOOR, meaning that through Him, as through a door, we can go back to our places in heaven, which we lost through the DISOBEDIENCE of Adam and Eve.

Again it is told how Our Lord showed what great love He had for little children—His lambs. He was tired out one day, and sat down to rest, and the mothers, seeing Him, began to bring their little ones to Him. The disciples, knowing that the Lord was so tired, wanted to send them away for a while. But our blessed Lord would not allow it. Instead, He held out His arms, and all the children came running to Him. He blessed them and said,

"Let the little ones come to Me, and do not send them away, for they belong to heaven."

LESSON 12 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*He held out His arms, and all the children came running to Him.
He blessed them and said: "Let the little ones come to Me."*

THE HOLY INNOCENTS and THE ANGEL COMES AGAIN

Now, Herod was a cruel man, and a bad king. The visit of the Wise Men had made him afraid. When a man loves money, or pleasure, or a high place in the world instead of God, he is always afraid of losing that which he loves instead of God. So Herod, who loved being a king, feared that he might lose this honor if the new King were found. When the Wise Men went back without a word he was sure they did not want to say anything to him about the new King—so he made up his mind that the new King must die. He sent his soldiers to Bethlehem, commanding them to kill every little boy baby who was two years old and younger. In this way, thought Herod, the new King will surely be killed. But the Holy Family were safe on the way to Egypt.

There, in Egypt, the Holy Family lived for some time. St. Joseph, as we know, was a carpenter, and he found plenty of work to do, while Our Lady took care of the Lord, and was very happy. Then the cruel King Herod died, and the angel came again to St. Joseph in his sleep and told him to go back to his own country—the land of Israel. Which St. Joseph did. Herod's son was king in Herod's place, so St. Joseph did not go near Bethlehem. Instead, he went straight to Nazareth, to the little house in which he and the Blessed Virgin were living when the Angel Gabriel was sent to tell her that she was to be the Mother of God.

LESSON 12 - copywork

When they were gone, through all that place,

Great cruelty was done;

For soldiers killed all little boys

To kill the blessed One.

The baby in his mother's arms,

The baby at her knee

But safe and sound in Egypt's land,

Dwelt the Holy Family!

And there they stayed for many years,

Until the hour befell

When they might safely pass into

The land of Israel.

While deep in sleep St. Joseph lay,

The angel came again,

And said, "Go forth, for those are dead,

Who sought His life in vain."

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for copying the text.

LESSON 23 - Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

OUR HOLY FATHER and THE TRANSFIGURATION

So this is how we Catholics know that we belong to the Church which Our Lord began on earth. St. Peter was the first Pope, and ever since St. Peter's time there has always been a Pope in his place as the head of the Catholic Church. The Pope, the Bishop of Rome, is the **VISIBLE** Head of the Church because he is the successor of St. Peter, whom Christ made the chief of the Apostles and the **VISIBLE** Head of the Church. The successors of the other Apostles are the Bishops of the Holy Catholic Church. We must love our Holy Father, the Pope, and pray for him, and do whatever he tells us to do, because God has put him over us. When we do what our Holy Father tells us to do, we are doing what God tells us to do.

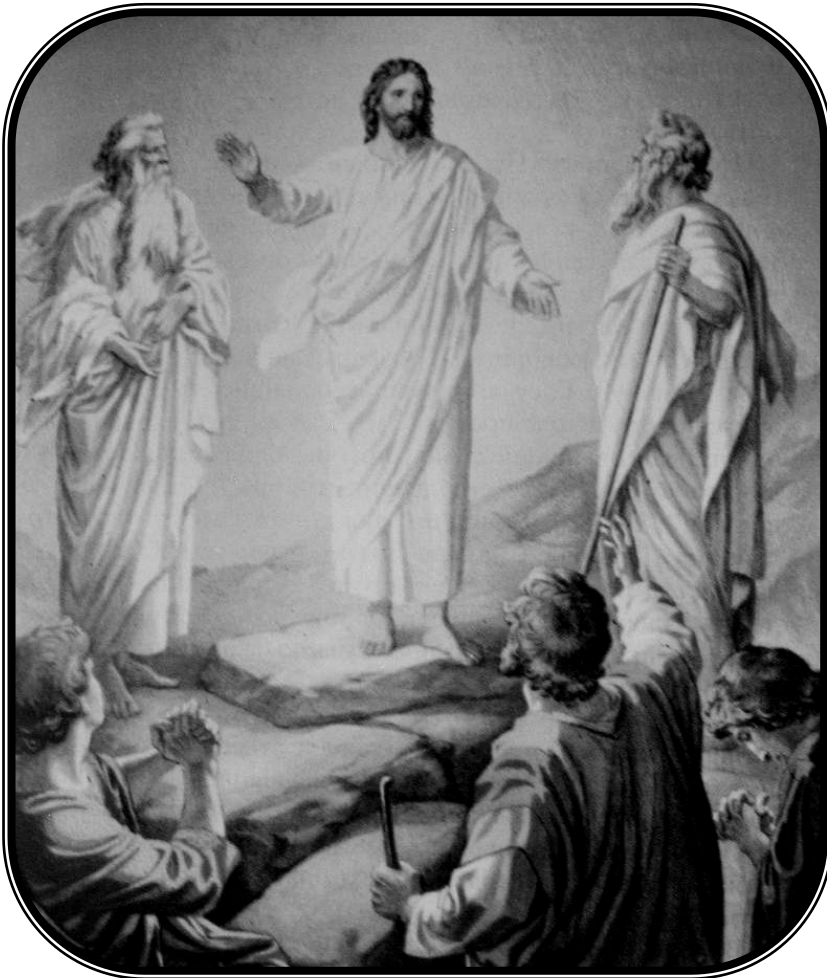
About a week after Our Lord said that St. Peter was to be the Head of the Church, He went on a very high mountain to pray. He took St. Peter and St. James and St. John with Him. Then He began to shine like the sun, with a light so bright that no one could look at Him. This shining of Our Lord is called the Transfiguration—a great big word, but perhaps you can say it?

St. Peter and St. James and St. John were really scared. They fell on their faces, for they heard a voice from heaven saying: "This is My dear Son!" They could not move until Our Lord came and spoke to them, and said, "Look at Me—do not be troubled!" And when they looked, the bright light was all gone.



*They lived once more at Nazareth, and St. Joseph worked at his trade.
And Our Lord helped him with his work.*

LESSON 13 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



Then He began to shine like the sun, with a light so bright that no one could look at Him. This shining of Our Lord is called the TRANSFIGURATION.

AT NAZARETH and THE PASCHAL FEAST

You can be very sure that St. Joseph and Our Lady were glad to get back to their own home in their own land again, although both could be happy in any country while they had their divine Son, Our Lord, with them. They lived once more at Nazareth, and now, when St. Joseph worked at his trade, our dear Lord helped him with his work—while Our Lady spun the flax and wove the cloth to make the robes they wore. And when she wanted water from the well, or vegetables from the garden, Our Lord used to get them for her, just as you do little errands for mother or grandma.

It came the Feast of the Pasch, which was a great feast. Every year Our Lady and St. Joseph went up to the Temple in Jerusalem during this time, taking Our Lord with them. But when Our Lord was twelve years old, it was the LAW that He should go, just as, when you are seven years old, it is the LAW of the Church for you to go to Mass on every Sunday and holy day. When they went up to the Temple the men used to go together in one company by themselves, and the women in another company by themselves. Sometimes the children were with the men, and sometimes with the women.

LESSON 13 - copywork

Within the home at Nazareth,
Our Lady wove and spun;
St. Joseph used the plane and saw,
And Jesus did not shun
The little, humble, daily task,
The humble daily toil
To carry water from the well,
Or work the blessed soil.

Now every year, at paschal time,
Of work and task made free
From Nazareth to Jerusalem
Set forth the holy Three
According to this custom, they,
When Christ was twelve years old,
Made haste to keep the paschal feast
Within the Temple's fold.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines with a dashed midline for letter height guidance.

"Who may this be?" the people cried

(They came in crowds to hear);

"For at His word all Nature bows.

Yes, even devils fear."

"He is a King!" said some. "Tis He

The Baptist called the Lamb!"

But Jesus asked among the Twelve:

"Whom say ye that I am?"

"Whom say ye that I am?" He asked.

St. Peter raised his head:

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of God,

The living God!" he said.

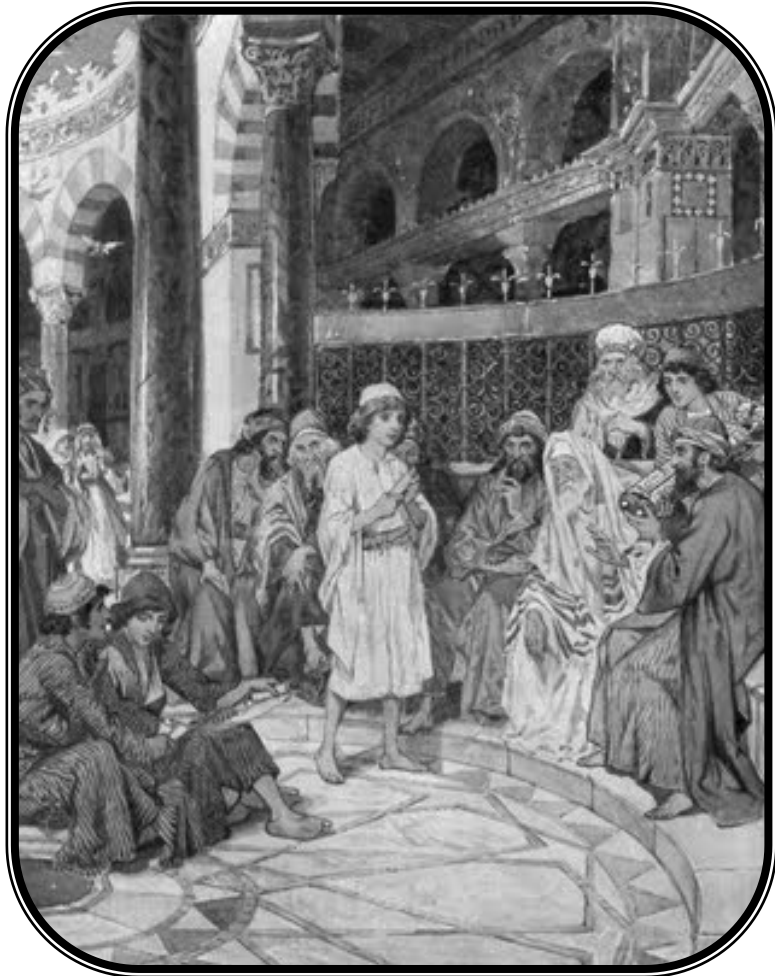
And then Our Saviour, answering

Said, "Peter, thou art blest;

Upon thee will I build My Church,

Upon thee shall it rest."

LESSON 22 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



And there they saw the Lord sitting with the Doctors of the Temple.

THE PEOPLE QUESTION and ST. PETER'S ANSWER

THE people began to ask all sorts of questions about Him. Many of them were sure that He was the Son of God, who had been promised thousands of years before. Some wicked men said,

"No, He is NOT the Son of God!" But the ones who loved Him said,

"See what great things He does! No one but God could bring dead people back to life. And how He talks to us! No one ever said such beautiful words as this Man! He is surely, surely God!" But still the wicked men cried out,

"No, no! He is NOT God!" Our Lord heard all this. He took the Twelve Apostles away by themselves, and said to them:

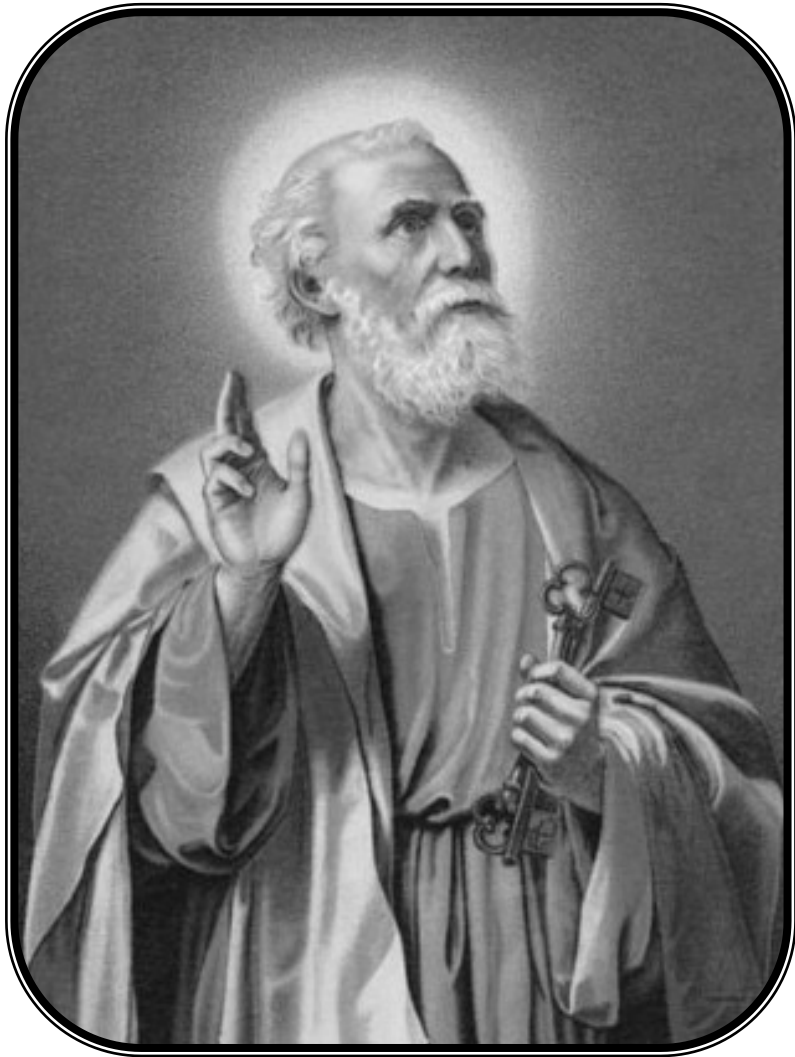
"People are wondering if I am the Son of God—Whom do YOU say that I am?"

"Whom do YOU say that I am?" asked our blessed Lord. Now the Apostles had seen all the wonderful things which Our Lord had done, and when He asked them that question, Simon Peter raised his head, saying very quickly:

"Why, Thou art Christ, the Son of God!" Then Our Lord said, "Thou art blest, Peter! Because thou hast said this I will make thee the Head of My Church. Thy name, Peter, means a rock, and I will build My Church on thee, and it will last forever and forever.

"And I will give to thee the keys of Heaven."

LESSON 14 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*St. Peter was the first Pope of the Catholic Church. Our Lord said to him,
"Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church"*

OUR LORD IS LOST and THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

AFTER they had kept the Feast in the Temple, Mary and Joseph started back again to Nazareth. Not seeing the Lord, Our Lady thought He was with St. Joseph, and when St. Joseph missed Him, he thought the dear Lord was with His Mother. . . Instead, He had stayed in Jerusalem.

When the men and women met at the first stopping-place, Mary and St. Joseph came looking for each other. Not until then did they know that the Lord was not with the party. They searched and asked, but could not find Him. No one could tell them anything about Him.

Oh, how sad they were! Our Lady's heart ached—she was terribly grieved. Her dear Boy was lost! And St. Joseph was very sad too. They started right back again, of course, and looked in every part of the city. But it was all of no use. At last, after three long days, they went into the Temple. And there they saw the Lord sitting with the Doctors of the Temple, talking to them. Our Lady went up to Him and put her hand on His arm. Her face was white and sad. She stood looking at Our Lord for a few moments, and then she said: "Why didst Thou do this? We have been searching for Thee three days, not knowing where to find Thee. And we have been afraid, and very sorrowful. Dear Son, why didst Thou do this?"

And when they had fulfilled the Law

They went their homeward way

St. Joseph and Our Lady sweet

Nor missed their Son that day.

Until, at last, not seeing Him:

Mid friends and kinsfolk near:

With troubled hearts they sought for Him-

The Boy to them so dear.

Long, long they looked for him in vain:

At last His face they saw,

Amid the Temple's learned ones,

And Doctors of the Law.

And then the Mother spoke:

"My Son, For days and nights now three

Behold, we seek Thee sorrowing

Why didst Thou so to me?"

LESSON 21 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*In the years that followed, St. Joseph grew old,
and it came time for him to die.*

THE POOR WIDOW'S SON and OUR LORD'S TEACHING

SHORTLY after this. Our Lord was going into a city called Nairn. Outside the gate He met a number of people, and some men carrying a stretcher or bier, on which lay the body of a young man. The poor mother walked beside the bier, weeping sadly, for she had no one left in the world to care for her now that her dear and only son was gone. Our Lord was very sorry for the poor mother, so He went near and touched the stretcher, and the men who were carrying it stood still and put it down. Our Lord then spoke to the young man, saying:

"Young man, I say unto thee, arise!" And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Our Lord gave him back alive to his mother.

But our dear Lord was always doing good, making sick little children better, and curing poor lame people. He made blind people see again, and deaf people hear, and dumb people talk. Fathers and mothers brought their children to Him. He taught them to love God, to be good, to do right things, to be kind and gentle to every one, because God wanted them to live in this way. Christ lived so long on earth to show us the way to heaven by His teaching and example.

LESSON 15 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*The young man that was dead sat up, and began to speak,
and Our Lord gave him back to his mother.*

OUR LORD SPEAKS and THE DEATH OF SAINT JOSEPH



OUR blessed Lord looked up at His Mother. He waited a little while, and then He said, very softly: "Didst thou look for Me? What could happen to Me? Didst thou not know that I must do some work for My Father in heaven?"

Our Lady said nothing, but bowed her head sadly. Soon, soon He would be a man, and give His life for His people! The pain that went through her heart was so sharp that it felt as if a sword had gone into it! She remembered the words of holy Simeon in the Temple:

"And thy own soul a sword shall pierce!" and she knew that when the dear Lord left her, to do the will of His Father in heaven, she would suffer very much. But the parting had not yet come. Our Lord was only a little boy, so He went back to Nazareth with St. Joseph and His Mother, and stayed there until He was a man. In the years that followed, St. Joseph grew old, and it came time for him to die. Our Lord and the blessed Mother knelt beside Him, and angels were waiting to carry his pure soul into the place where it had to stay until heaven was opened. This place was called Limbo. The souls of all the good people who died before Our Saviour paid for the DISOBEDIENCE of Adam and Eve by dying on the cross, went to Limbo. Not even dear St. Joseph could go home to HEAVEN until that sin had been paid for!

Ah, Mother!" came His tender words-

How is't thou dost not know

That on the heavenly Father's work

His Son must ever go?"

Our Lady mutely bowed her head:

The sword had pierced her heart;

Too soon, too soon, the day would come,

When He and she must part!

Once more they went to Nazareth-

The Holy Family.

And there they lived for many years,

And there, most happily,

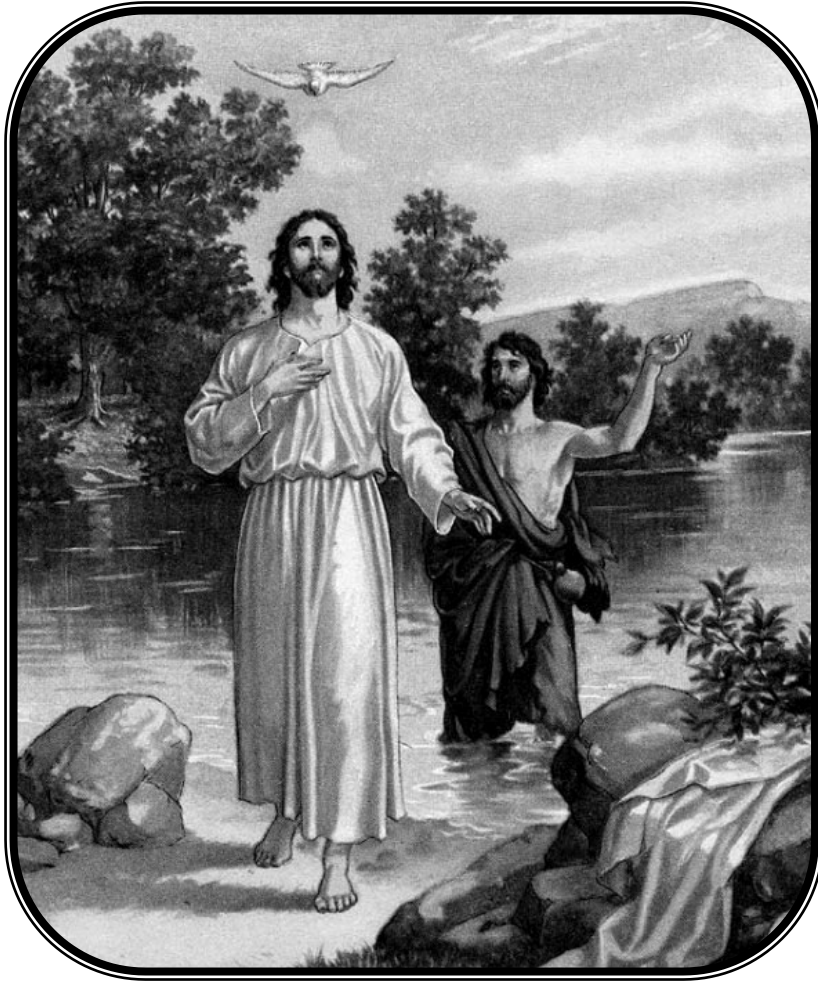
St. Joseph closed his eyes on earth

Ah, let us pray that we

Mary die as blessed Joseph died,

And in such company!

LESSON 20 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



St. John the Baptist baptized Our Lord in the river, while God the Father spoke from heaven, "This is my beloved Son."

CHOOSING THE TWELVE APOSTLES and THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

OUR Lord knew that when His work, as man, on earth was done, and the great sin of Adam and Eve had been paid for by His death on the cross. He would go back to His own beautiful home, heaven. So He wanted to leave us our Church—the Catholic Church—with the Holy Father, the Bishops, and the Priests to take care of us. To begin the Church He chose twelve men, the APOSTLES. But before choosing them He went up on a mountain, and prayed to God the Father the whole night long. When day came He rose from His knees, and called the Twelve Apostles. That was the beginning of our Church. And He gave the Twelve Apostles the power to do just as He did—to tell the people what was right and what was wrong, cure the sick, help those who were suffering, forgive sins, and bring the dead back to life again. Our Blessed Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST is the INVISIBLE Head of the Church. Our Holy Father, the Pope, the Bishop of Rome, is the vicar of Christ on earth and the VISIBLE Head of the Church.

After beginning our Church—the Catholic Church—Our Lord talked once more to the people, saying many beautiful things to them. This sermon of His is called the Sermon on the Mount, because when He gave it He stood up on the mountain, so that every one could hear Him easily, and see Him.

It was during this sermon that Our Lord taught us the Eight Beatitudes, which begin, "Blessed are the poor," and which all children ought to learn by heart when they are able to read.

LESSON 16 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS and
AT THE RIVER JORDAN

AT last Our Lord was a man—He was thirty years old. He must now begin to tell the people what they were to do to please God. Our blessed Mother knew that the hour had come—that she must give up her Son, who was God. That He must leave His home to teach and preach, and in the end, die. But, before Our Lord began His work on earth, St. John the Baptist, who had been living in the desert, came out, and began to tell every one that the long promised Saviour of His people was coming that the LAMB OF GOD would appear, and all must begin to prepare the way for Him.

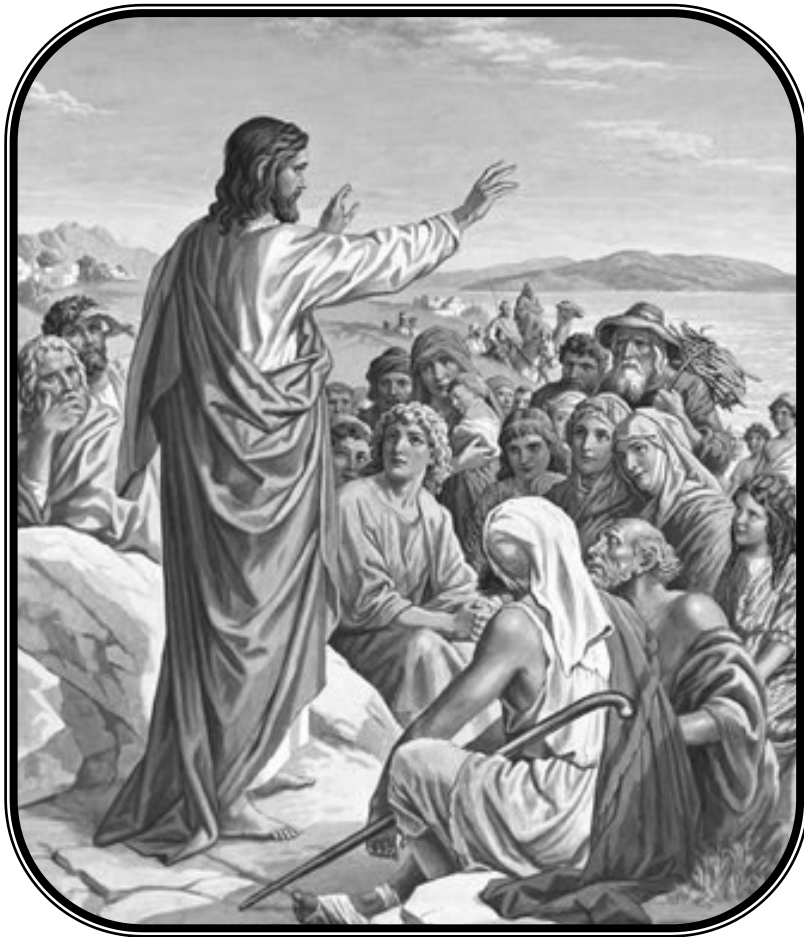
You will remember that St. John the Baptist was St. Elizabeth's son, and a cousin of Our Lady's. (A very old story says that St. John the Baptist's father, Zachary, was put to death by the soldiers because he told of the glory of the new-born Saviour after the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. And then, fearing that her son, St. John the Baptist might be killed, too, St. Elizabeth took him away into the desert, where he lived until he was a man.)

The reason why St. John is called the Baptist is that when the people came to listen to him, and were sorry for their sins, he baptized them in the water of the River Jordan. Our Lord came to him also to be baptized. St. John said:

"Thou art the great Son of God I should be baptized by Thee."
But Our Lord said

"No." Then St. John baptized Our Lord in the river, and when He stepped out of the water the sky opened, and God the Holy Ghost, in the shape of a dove, rested above Him, while God the Father spoke from heaven, saying:

" This is My beloved Son!"



This sermon is called the 'Sermon on the Mount,' because He stood up on the mountain so that every one could hear Him and see Him.

At Last, St. John the Baptist

Pre-cursor of the Word

(Which means that he was sent to tell

The coming of the Lord)

Began to preach of Christ, and said:

"Make straight His paths to-day

For He has come! The Lamb of God,

Who taketh sin away!"

Unto St. John the Baptist,

Who preached, baptizing men,

Came Christ, and on His sacred head

Was poured the water then.

And when 'twas done, the heavens opened,

And God spoke from the skies:

"See! This is My beloved Son

Whom I so dearly prize!"

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and writing practice.

But there the Lord lay fast asleep,

Until, grown much afraid:

"Lord, save us, or we surely die!"

Awaking Him, they prayed.

And as He rose and calmed the sea

And quieted the winds

"O ye of little faith!" He said,

What fear doth fill your minds!"

One day, a certain ruler came

And worshiping, he said:

"In yonder house, my only child,

My daughter, lieth dead.

Yet shall she live if Thou but say

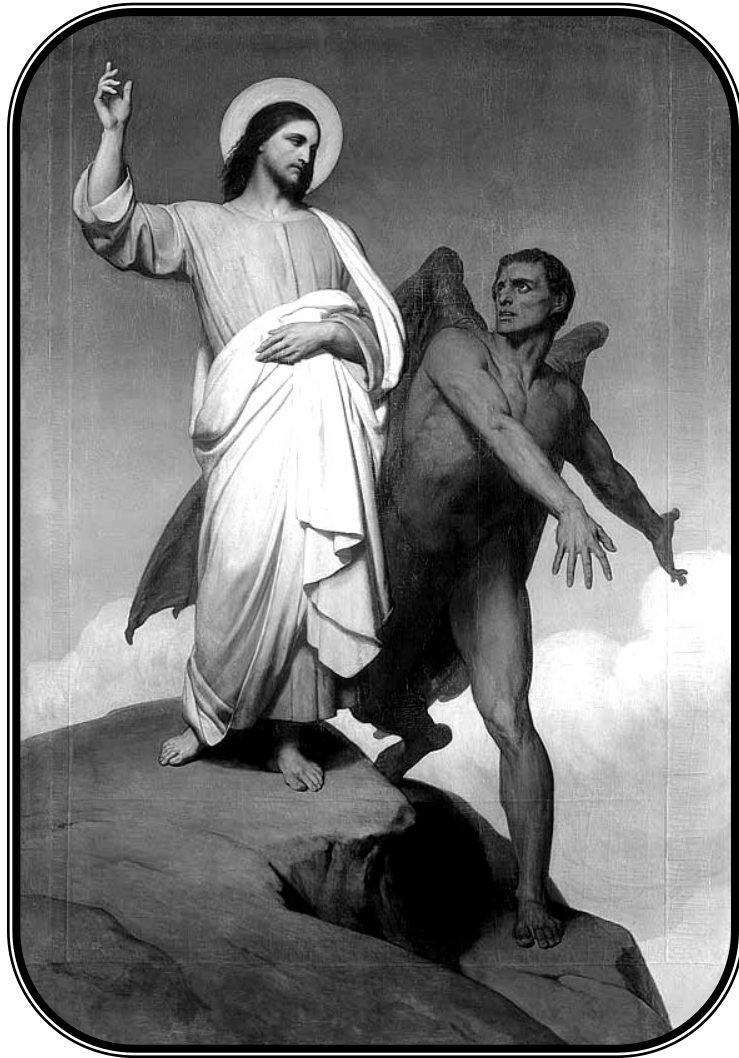
The word, and take her hand!"

Our Saviour called the little maid:

Who lived at His command!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for writing practice.

LESSON 19 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



The devil came then, and tried to make Him do wrong. But Our Lord said: "Begone, Satan! The Lord Thy God shalt thou adore!"

CALMING THE TEMPEST and THE RICH RULER'S DAUGHTER

AT last the disciples were so scared that they could not wait any longer, for "the waves beat into the ship, so that the boat was covered with waves, and it was filled, and they were in danger." They went to Our Lord and woke Him, saying,

"Lord, if Thou dost not save us, we shall all be drowned!" Our Lord stood up, and lifting His hand, said to the waves,

"Peace—be still!" And the waves were calm, and the wind died down, and all was quiet. And then Our Lord turned to His disciples.

"Why are ye afraid?" He asked. "Am I not with ye?"

Jairus was the name of a rich ruler who lived in a place called Capharnaum. His little daughter was very, very sick, so sick that every one was sure she was going to die. But the rich ruler thought of Our Lord:

"If He would come here, He would make my little girl well." So Jairus went to Our Lord, and fell down at His feet, and said:

"My little girl is sick. If Thou wilt, Thou canst cure her."

Our Lord went with him to his house, but before they reached it people came running, crying out:

"No one can help now! The child is dead!" But the dear Lord kept right on. And when He went into the house He took the little girl's hand in His and said:

"Arise!" And the little girl that was dead came back to life again.

LESSON 17 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.

IN THE DESERT and WHY WE KEEP LENT

AFTER Our Lord was baptized by St. John the Baptist, He was led out into the desert. There, for forty days and forty nights He fasted. At the end of the forty days and forty nights Our Lord was hungry and weak. The devil came then, and tried to make Him do wrong. But Our Lord said:

"Go, Satan! The Lord thy God shalt thou adore!" The devil went away then, and angels came down to Our Lord and gave Him food.

Our dear Lord, as man, allowed the devil to tempt Him to do wrong in order that we, too, when tempted to do wrong, should remember Our Lord's words, and say:

"Go, Satan! We will never offend our dear Saviour by SIN!"

Christ lived on earth about thirty-three years, and led a most holy life in poverty and suffering. He came from heaven to this earth, and from a little child, grew up to be a man. That was a wonderful thing for God to do, but He did it for us, because none of us could pay God back for the great sin of Adam and Eve. Only God could do that. And when He fasted forty days and forty nights in the desert. Our Lord was still paying. In loving memory of that fast of Our Lord we keep the forty days of Lent, praying a little more, going to church a little oftener, and giving up little pleasures, so that when Easter Day comes, we can all be glad that we have done something to show our dear Lord how much we love Him.



He took the little girl's hand in His and said: "Arise!" and the little girl that was dead came back to life again.

Then forth into the desert drear

Our blessed Lord was led.

And there He stayed, and fasted long,

Till forty days had sped.

But when the devil, tempting, came,

Our Saviour cried: "Begone!

The Lord thy God shalt thou adore:

And serve but Him alone!"

Because Christ fasted forty days,

We keep the Lenten fast.

Because He fasted for our sins

This holy time is passed

In prayer by every Catholic;

Who shuns all pleasures gay.

That he may thankfully rejoice

Upon glad Easter day!

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and writing practice.

Of our dear Lord's first miracle

We read, in Holy Text:

How at the feast the wine had failed

And all were shamed and vext.

His Mother's pleading words He heard.

And changed, so all could see:

The brimming water into wine.

At Cana of Galilee!

He preached, one day, from morn till eve,

The people closer pressed;

And He and His disciples went

Into a boat to rest.

But soon a mighty storm arose

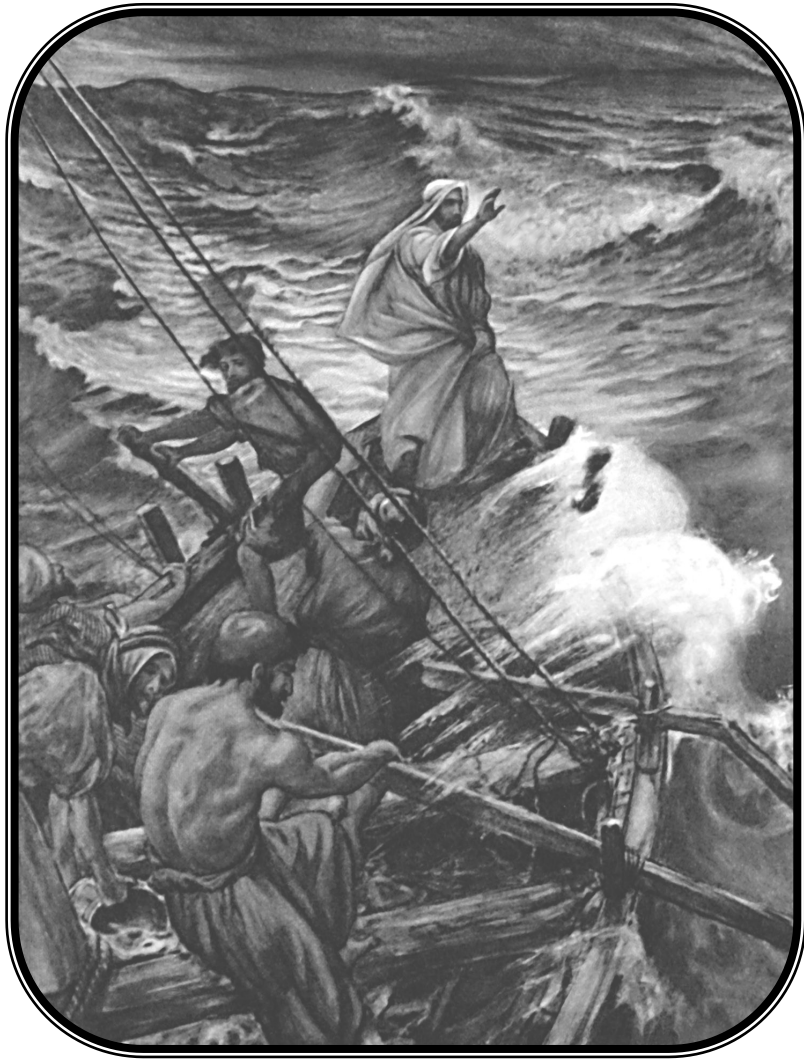
The waves rolled mountain-high:

The little ship tossed to and fro

And death seemed very nigh.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines (top, middle, bottom) for tracing and writing practice.

LESSON 18 ~ Read the story then copy the poem on the next page on the handwriting lines provided.



*Our Lord stood up, and lifting His hand, said to the waves,
"Peace, be still!" And the waves were calm.*

OUR LORD'S FIRST MIRACLE and THE STORM AT SEA

So Our Lord was baptized in the River Jordan, fasted forty days and forty nights, and was tempted by the devil. Then He began to teach the people. About this time there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee. Our blessed Lady was there, and Our Lord was there, too, and while all the guests were chatting and laughing, and enjoying themselves, the wine gave out. The bride and bridegroom were ashamed, and told Our Lady about it, perhaps, for it was Our Lady who came to her dear Son, and whispered:

"Son, they have no wine." Then she bade the waiters to do whatever He told them. At His word they set out six big water pots filled up to the top with water. Our Lord said:

"Draw out now, and carry to the chief steward of the feast." And when they did as they were told, the water was found changed into wine. This was Our Lord's first miracle.

But Our Lord worked many, many miracles, or wonders, and in every way proved He was the Son of God. The people followed Him at all times, listening to Him. One day, near the evening, seeing such a big crowd about Him, He went with His disciples into a little ship. Then, sending the people away for a while. He and His disciples set out in the boat. Our Lord fell asleep. A storm arose. The waves were as high as mountains, and those who were in the ship thought it would surely sink, and that they would be drowned. But still the Lord slept.