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GRADE 8 CRE NOTES – TERM 2

STRAND 3 - MIRACLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

3.1 - Healing of Blind Bartimaeus.

- When Jesus Christ, His disciples and a large crowd arrive in Jericho, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus was sitting by the road.
- When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was passing by, he began to shout asking Jesus Christ to have mercy on him.
- People who were present asked him to be quiet but he shouted even louder. Jesus Christ stopped and asked the people to call Bartimaeus.
- Bartimaeus threw off his cloak, jumped up and went to Jesus.
- Jesus Christ asked Bartimaeus what he wanted Him to do for him. Bartimaeus said he wanted to see again.
- Jesus Christ told him to go because his faith had healed him. Immediately Bartimaeus began to see and he followed Jesus Christ.

What lessons can be learnt from the healing of blind Bartimaeus?

- ✗ We should trust in Jesus Christ's healing power.
- ✗ We should be merciful to others.
- ✗ We should not pay attention to negative people when we are finding help.
- ✗ We should have personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ✗ When we face challenges, we should seek help.
- ✗ Faith in Jesus Christ brings healing.
- ✗ We should be ready to follow Jesus Christ.

When we are faced with health challenges, we should apply faith in God by:

- Praying-praying is communication with God.
- Reading the word of God-the word of God encourages us to cope with challenges.
- Staying firm in our faith by resisting discouragements and negative opinions from people.
- Having regular fellowship with other believers.
- Seeking medical attention by going to hospital for treatment.
- Adhering to the instructions given by doctors.

3.2 – Calming of the Storm.

A storm is an occurrence of bad weather characterized by strong, violent winds, heavy rain, thunder and lightning.

- ↳ Jesus Christ told his disciples to go with Him across the lake.
- ↳ They had then left the crowd and got into the boat in which Jesus Christ was already sitting.
- ↳ Jesus Christ got back to the back of the boat and fell asleep.
- ↳ Suddenly, a strong wind blew up and the water began to spill over into the boat.
- ↳ The boat was about to get filled with water. It was about to capsize.
- ↳ All this while, Jesus Christ continued to sleeping.
- ↳ The disciples woke Him up and wondered why He did not care that they were about to die.
- ↳ Jesus commanded the wind to be calm and the waves to be still. The wind calmed down.

↳ Jesus then asked His disciples why they were afraid. He questioned their faith. The disciples wondered who Jesus Christ was that He commanded the winds and the waves to obey Him.

State various challenging situations that people face as individuals or in families:

- Death of a loved one.
- Conflict with friends or family members.
- Accidents which cause suffering and interfere with attainment of our goals.
- Loss of job.

Some of the ways to overcome the challenging situations include:

- ✕ Seeking help from qualified and experienced people.
- ✕ Praying to God for help.
- ✕ Seeking alternative sources of income.
- ✕ Being resilient, optimistic and hopeful that things will get better.

Lessons learnt from calming of the storm.

- We should believe in Jesus Christ's power over nature.
- We should trust Jesus Christ to calm our worries.
- We should always take our burdens to Jesus Christ.
- We should not give up when faced with problems.
- We should be compassionate to others.
- We will find peace in our lives when we seek God.

Challenges faced in day-to-day life.

- ~ Addiction to alcohol.
- ~ Conflict with authority.
- ~ Gambling.
- ~ Domestic violence.
- ~ Cyber bullying.
- ~ Financial challenges.

Ways of overcoming the challenges faced by people:

- ~ Praying to God.
- ~ Sharing the word of God with each other.
- ~ Encouraging one another.
- ~ Helping one another through material provisions such as buying food for the hungry, paying school fees for those who lack, visiting the sick, comforting those who are bereaved and helping the unemployed to get jobs.
- ~ Changing our behaviour in order to live harmoniously with others.
- ~ Obeying those in authority in order to avoid conflicts.
- ~ Sharing problems with people you trust such as friends, parents and teachers.
- ~ Seeking guidance and counselling.
- ~ Being firm and principled and maintaining focus on what is good and positive.

Ways in which we can involve God when faced with challenges:

- ✓ Praying.
- ✓ Reading the bible.
- ✓ Having faith in God and trusting him for a solution.

Values that help in overcoming challenges in our day to day lives.

- Responsibility.
- Unity.
- Respect.
- Patriotism.

3.3 -Healing of the paralytic.

- When Jesus Christ was teaching, some pharisees and teachers of the Law were present.
- They had had come from every town in Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem.
- As Jesus Christ taught, He also healed the sick. Some men came carrying a paralysed man on a bed. They tried to carry him into the house but because of the crowd, there was no space so they made an opening on the roof and lowered the sick man down on his bed in front of Jesus Christ.
- When Jesus Christ saw how much faith they had, he told the paralysed man that his sins were forgiven.
- The teachers of the Law and the pharisees wondered among themselves who Jesus Christ was to speak such blasphemy. They felt that it is only God who had power to forgive sins.
- Jesus Christ knew their thoughts and asked them why they thought the way they did. To prove to them that He had the power to forgive, He told the paralysed man to get up, pick his bed and go home. The man got up in front of all of them, took his bed and went home praising God.
- They were all amazed and praised God for they had seen marvelous things.

Lessons learn from the healing of the paralytic

- Jesus Christ has power to forgive sins.
- Faith in Jesus Christ brings healing.
- Jesus Christ is merciful and compassionate to those who are suffering.
- Nothing can be hidden from God. Jesus Christ knew the thoughts of pharisees and the teachers of the Law.
- We should be willing to help people who are suffering.
- We should not give up on our faith when we are faced with obstacles.
- We should be creative when seeking solutions to challenges in life.

The pharisees opposition to the healing of the paralytic.

Blasphemy is speaking or acting in a manner that does not respect God. When Jesus Christ told the paralysed man that his sins were forgiven, the pharisees and teachers of the Law accused Him of blasphemy.

The following are reasons why the pharisees accused Jesus Christ of blasphemy.

- They believed that only God can forgive sins.
- Pharisees and the teachers of the Law questioned the authority of Jesus Christ as they did not believe that Jesus Christ was God.
- They did not acknowledge Jesus Christ was God.
- Pharisees did not understand the mission of Jesus Christ.

When faced with challenges, we should apply faith in God by:

- ✓ Praying to God.
- ✓ Asking church leaders and other Christians to help us pray.
- ✓ Seeking help from people who are experienced in providing solutions to our problems.
- ✓ Obeying and following instructions from those in authority.
- ✓ Believing in the power of God to change our situations.
- ✓ Resisting the opposition of our enemies and avoiding distractions.
- ✓ Reading the Word of God and believing in it.

STRAND 4 TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST.

4.1 Teaching on prayer.

- Prayer is a manifestation of our faith to God.
- Prayer is an act of communication with God.
- It involves talking to and listening to God.
- Jesus Christ led by example when He prayed to His Father, God during His ministry on earth.

How do people pray to God in their day-to-day lives?

- ~ *People pray to God silently.*
- ~ *People pray to God aloud.*
- ~ *People pray to God publicly.*
- ~ *People pray to God privately.*
- ~ *People pray to God when they are alone.*
- ~ *They pray to God in the company of others.*
- ~ *Some people pray to God through the Word of God.*

Importance of prayer in day-to-day life.

- ☞ Prayer gives us an opportunity to express our needs and feelings to God.
- ☞ Prayer helps us to strengthen and maintain our relationship with God.
- ☞ Through prayer, we show and strengthen our faith in God.
- ☞ Prayer helps us to have peace in our lives.
- ☞ Prayer helps us intercede for our needs and those of other people.
- ☞ When we pray, we have hope that things will change for the better.
- ☞ Prayer helps us to learn more about God's plans for our lives.
- ☞ Through prayer, we show our obedience to God.
- ☞ Prayer is a form of service to God especially when we pray for others.

What is the importance of having faith when one prays to God?

- ~ Faith pleases God.
- ~ Faith gives a believer confidence that his or her prayers will be answered.
- ~ Faith casts away doubts.
- ~ Faith strengthens us spiritually.
- ~ Faith in God during prayer encourages others to pray.
- ~ When God answered our prayers due to faith, others are encouraged.

How to demonstrated love by praying for all people as taught by Jesus Christ?

- ~ We should love our enemies.
- ~ We should pray for those who persecute us.
- ~ When we pray for our enemies, we please God.
- ~ God loves all people.

Teachings learnt on prayer from Matthew 6:5-8.

- ~ Our prayer should be directed to God.
- ~ When we pray, we should not be like hypocrites. We should not pray so as to be seen by other people.
- ~ Prayer should be private.
- ~ Prayer should be specific and meaningful.
- ~ God knows what is in our minds even before we pray.

4.2 The lost Sheep.

God's love for sinners as outlined in the parable of the lost sheep.

- ~ A sinner is a person who does what is wrong or evil.
- ~ According to the teachings of the bible, a sinner is a person who does not obey God's commandments and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Parable of the lost sheep.

- Many tax collectors and outcasts had come to listen to Jesus Christ. The pharisees and the teachers of the Law complained that Jesus Christ was welcoming people who were considered sinners.
- In response, Jesus Christ told them the parable of the lost sheep to teach them some truth about the kingdom of God.
- The parable of the lost sheep is about a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. Unfortunately, one of the sheep got lost.
- Realizing that he had lost one sheep, the shepherd left the 99 and went looking for the lost one until he found it.
- When the shepherd found the lost sheep, he was very happy. He carried it on his shoulders and took it home. He then invited his neighbours and friends to celebrate with him.

Lesson learnt from the parable of the lost sheep include:

- i. Jesus Christ knows His followers by name.
- ii. Jesus Christ loves all people equally.
- iii. Jesus Christ searches for the lost until He finds them.
- iv. Jesus Christ came to seek and save the lost.
- v. Jesus Christ is concerned about the welfare of His followers.
- vi. God does not give up on us even when we go astray.
- vii. God is pleased when a sinner repents.
- viii. There is rejoicing in heaven when one sinner repents.
- ix. Christians should celebrate when a sinner repents and turns to God.
- x. The kingdom of God is open to all who listen to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Taking part in reaching out to those lost through mission work.

- Mission work involves Christians going to a place to provide various services to people.
- Most churches send their members on mission work to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Sometimes mission work involves providing other services that help the people to improve their lives.
- These services include relief food, education and medical services.

The following are some of the ways of reaching out to sinners:

- Teaching sinners the word of God and explaining to them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Praying with sinners and asking God to forgive their sins.
- Encouraging sinners to repent their sins and turn to God so that they can inherit eternal life.
- Encouraging sinners to stop sinning.
- Showing kindness to sinners instead of condemning them.
- Providing sinners with Bibles and other bible-based materials to help them read and understand the Word of God.

Way on how to have a close relationship with God.

- 👉 Talking to God in prayer.
- 👉 Reading the Bible every day.
- 👉 Serving other people.
- 👉 Giving thanks to God.
- 👉 Avoiding evil thoughts.
- 👉 Participating in worship.
- 👉 Meditating on God's word.
- 👉 Being controlled by the Holy spirit.

