

+

*Saint Mark's Church
Sunday School*

Holiness and Contemporary Issues : FUN (11/ SO / 1)

General Aim of this unit: To show the teens the practicality of living a Christian life in the society .

Special Aims of the Lesson :

1. To define the acceptable fun and compare the different types of fun
2. To highlight the danger of the sinful fun
3. To built up the conscience of teens to accept only what is suitable to their spiritual progress

Outcomes: At the end of this session , the teens are able to:

1. Define the acceptable fun and differentiate between the acceptable and unacceptable fun.
2. Draw the relation between Spirituality , time , and fun
3. Put guard lines for himself / herself to keep the spiritual progress.
4. Define the acceptable types of fun which suits him/her

Verses :

- ❖ *To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; “ (Ecc.3:1-2)*
- ❖ *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say rejoice” (Phil. 4:4)*
- ❖ *“For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth” (Ecc. 7:3-4) .*
- ❖ *“...redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph.5:16)*

Notes to the servant:

- ❖ The term “FUN” may be understood in different meanings. Some understand it as “any activity that makes the person and/or the group feel happy and merry and create a pleasant environment regardless if it includes sinful activities or leads to sinful feelings or not.”
- ❖ Activities that lead to fun or result from fun ; may be ;
 1. Clean and pure and do not hurt anyone or the Christian conscience and there is no problem to participate in [for example ; attending or sharing in sport’s , games ,]
 2. Acceptable from the society and become normal , although not matching with our values as Orthodox Christian [for example ; attending night clubs , dancing parties , participating and / or watching sexual jokes and comments as in some TV shows , joining sex clubs , watching pornographic materials ,]
 3. Rejected from the society as dangerous and non acceptable [for example ; drug addiction , rebellion against the society and its laws , committing crimes]
- ❖ Priorities in the life of any person will govern the time allocated for each item in his life ; study or work ; family commitments ; spiritual commitments ; physical and personal relaxation ; fun ;
- ❖ Unlimited time of fun is a catastrophe and damaging to the person’s life and future.
- ❖ Some types of fun may lead to bad addiction [for example , watching TV , playing cards]
- ❖ Some types of fun may suit someone and not the other according to the level of the spiritual life , temptation level , defects in the personality [for example if someone is weak in stopping any TV show or film , why watching from the beginning? ,]
- ❖ The Lord says to us “*therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*” (*Matth. 10:16*) to make the right decision about the spiritual life and its guards . Saint Paul also , draw our attention to have this attitude “ *Let all things be done decently and in order.*” (*1 CO 14:40*) and warns us from some types of the fun in the world “ *fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵For ^othis you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes*

upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them” (Eph. 5:4-7).

The Lesson :

- ❖ Small group activities are most suitable to this lesson. Subdivide the class into groups of 4 or 5.
- ❖ Give them some scenarios showing different types of fun (good and bad) and the consequences .(Gen. 34 :1-31 , Luke22:54-62 , , and any other contemporary scenarios) .
- ❖ Each scenario is followed by series of questions to emphasize one of the important points to be noticed.
- ❖ Follow this by general discussion about which types of fun is acceptable for me as a Coptic Orthodox Christian in Australia.
- ❖ Let each teen to write in a piece of paper his / her control lines of fun that guide his / her life (activities and time). Let them discuss this sheet with their spiritual guide and / or the father of confession.
- ❖ Try to let the environment of the class very relaxing , and the teens feel free to say their opinions and comments freely . Quite discussions lead to great results .Let them convince each other with the real situation.

Conclusion

- ❖ Let the session finished by a small prayer meeting where each teen asking the grace of the Lord to support him/her to abide by the written guide lines of fun , through the support of his/her intercessor.

NB. Please send me a copy of the scenarios and questions to be added to the resources. God bless you.