

We Call Jesus "Lord"

Objective: The students will be able to state that the word *Lord* designates a powerful person and that Jesus was recognized as Lord and God by His miracles.

For the Catechist

The word *Lord* has its origin in Judaism. It is the translation of *Adonai*, a term the Jews used when reading the scriptures and God's name, YHWH, appeared. Not feeling worthy to utter the name of God, they substituted *Adonai* or *Lord*.

Jesus is Lord. There is no instance early in the Gospels of Jesus telling His disciples He was God. With all the miracles He performed, they surely wondered who He was and debated whether or not He was the Messiah. However, it was a leap of faith to think of Him as God. This occurred with the two incidences of calming the sea.

The first incident occurs when Jesus is in the boat with His disciples, who are asleep, and a storm arises. Terrified, they awaken Him and He calms the sea (Matthew 8:23-27). The second occurrence is in the story related in the lesson when Jesus walks on the water (Matthew 14:22-33). One of God's attributes is power over nature. The disciples know Scripture passages in which God is shown to have control over the waters: "More powerful than the roar of many waters, more powerful than the breakers of the sea—powerful on high is the Lord" (Psalm 93:3-4). "He hushed the storm to a gentle breeze, and the billows of the sea were stilled" (Psalm 107:29) (see also Psalms 65:8,89:10). By calming the sea, Jesus was associated directly with God, and hence He became known as *Lord*.

We worship the Lord. The children may have come across the term *Lord* in legends and fairy tales. Its connotations of power and honor can be drawn upon to help them appreciate that when we use the term *Lord*, we are referring to one who has ALL power, over all creation. When we worship, we bow down before our great and powerful Lord.

Recently, Western Christian denominations, in an effort

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Beginning prayers from "Holy God" through the Doxology and/or Paschal Troparion.

Introduction: Discussion of *Lord* **Need:** Paper crown worksheet

Read Text Aloud: Ask questions noted on following pages as text is being read

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- Basic 1:* Jesus Christ is Lord
- Basic 2:* "Jesus is Lord" Story
- Group:* "Peter's Rescue" Interactive Story
- Craft:* "Peter's Rescue" Action Spinner

Closing: Beginning Prayers from "Holy God" to "All-Holy Trinity" and/or "Paschal Troparion"

Come Bless the Lord Icon:

Packet I: Saints Peter and Paul
Packet II:

Teaching Pics

to help participants "get something out of the service," have removed much of the sense of bowing down and glorification of the "Other." Our Eastern Divine Liturgy has preserved the true meaning of worship. With its frequent metanies (profound bows) and supplications of our Lord, "Lord, have mercy," we are invited to respond as "is proper and just" to the One who created, redeemed, and sanctifies us. Helping the children to understand the concept of Lord, which they hear repeatedly in the litanies, is a move toward appreciating our worship.

Background Reading

(Direct quotations are from the sources noted.)

Jesus as God and Man

"This understanding of Jesus as both God and man has been expressed in a variety of ways over the centuries. We profess that same faith when we say the Nicene Creed: 'I believe... in one Lord, Jesus Christ,... who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man.' We hear this same theme expressed in the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom which itself quotes Jn 3:16, 'You [the Father] so loved Your world that You gave Your only-begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but should have life everlasting.' Nonetheless these statements stand in continuity with the apostles' experiences of the Lord as truly 'the Son of God' " (LLI 43-44).

Worship

"Worship is a 'bowing down' (Greek, *proskynesis*) or an 'act of service' (Greek, *latreia*); but in this very act of emptying ourselves before God, we are filled with His Spirit and made God-like. Worship is glorification (Greek, *doxologia*) of the Other: our Creator, Savior and Lifegiver, but this act of glorifying the Other lifts us as creatures to the pinnacle of human expression. Our smallness in a vast universe may seem to reduce us to insignificance. However, the act of giving glory to God by our own free will opens to us the true greatness of our destiny unmatched in all of inanimate creation. It is only when we render the glory, honor and worship due to God that we discover the true dignity of our human calling: to participate in the life and love of the Creator" (LLI 15).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

We have been saying the first part of the Beginning or Trisagion Prayers for this unit. After "All Holy Trinity," we'll say "Lord, have mercy" three times and then the Doxology. Let's come to the icon corner and begin with the sign of the cross. [Say "Holy God" through Doxology, and/or Paschal troparion]

Introduction

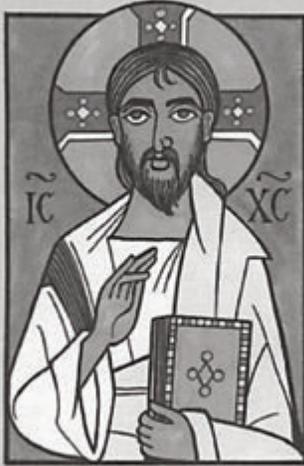
We are learning about our worship in these lessons. Who remembers what last week's lesson was about? (We Call Our Priest "Father.") This week's lesson also has a name in it. It's a name we say about 50 times during the Divine Liturgy. What name do we say so often? [Allow guesses.] If I say these words from the liturgy, "For healthful seasons and an abundance of the fruits of the earth ...," what would you say? (Lord, have mercy.) What is the name we say over and over? (Lord) Whose name is that? (Jesus' name)

The word Lord is used in other ways, not just for Jesus. A lord is a very important person. Have you heard the word before? [Allow sharing.] I need a volunteer. If you were a king, I might walk up to you, bow, and say, "At your service, my lord." [Enact this as you speak.] Would someone else like to try it? Jesus is our Lord. That is why we bow during the Divine Liturgy. We bow and make the sign of the cross when we walk in front of the altar and when we enter and leave the church. We respect God as much as we would a king.

In the time of Jesus, the word Lord had a very special meaning. When the disciples first used it, they weren't just saying Jesus was important or that Jesus was a king. Let's see why they used the word Lord for Jesus.

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We Call Jesus "Lord"



Jesus lived on earth a long time ago.
 He called His close friends "disciples."
 One day Peter and the disciples were in a boat.
 It was night. There was a storm.
 Something surprising happened.

Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type). See "Reading of Text" in Lesson 1 for use of the Vocabulary Visual Aid.

He called His close friends "disciples."

What does a disciple do? (Tries to follow the way of his leader) We try to follow what Jesus taught us, don't we? We are Jesus' disciples, too.

Something surprising happened.

Do any of you know this story? What happened, OR What do you think will happen?

[Allow responses; then read the story to students.]



The disciples were in a boat at night. There was a bad storm. They were afraid. Then, far away, they saw someone coming to them. A person was walking on the water. "Get hold of yourselves. It is I," said Jesus.

*Peter said, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you."
 "Come!" said Jesus.
 Peter began walking on the water.*



Then he was afraid. He began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried. Jesus saved him. They climbed in the boat together. The disciples were amazed. They said to Jesus, "You are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:22-33).

"You are the Son of God."

Who was walking on the water? (Jesus) What did Peter feel when he began to walk on the water? (Afraid) What happened then? (He began to sink.) What did Peter say? ("Lord, save me") Then what happened? (They climbed into the boat together.)

What did the disciples say? ("You are the Son of God.") Can anyone walk on water? (No) Can God walk on water? (Yes, God can do anything.) What would you think if you saw someone walking on the water of a lake? [Allow responses.]

He opened heaven to us when He rose from the dead.

What is the name of the observance that celebrates when Jesus rose from the dead? (Pascha)

They knew He was God.

What did the word Lord mean when Jesus lived? (God)

We are asking Jesus, God's Son, to take care of us.

Just like Peter cried out to the Lord to take care of him, we call upon Jesus to take care of us.

Let's review: *We learned today why we call Jesus "Lord." What did the word Lord mean when Jesus lived? (God) [Omit next question if you plan to use the Group Activity.] Who can retell the story we learned today? [Allow one or more students to piece together the story; begin with "Where were the disciples?" and "What happened then?"] When we say, "Lord, have mercy," what are we asking? (We are asking Jesus to take care of us.)*

Jesus is the Son of God.
He saved Peter's life. He healed people.
He opened heaven to us when He rose from the dead.

A powerful person is sometimes called "lord."



God is all-powerful.
We always call Him "Lord."

Peter and the disciples called Jesus, "Lord."

They knew He was God.

In the Divine Liturgy we pray to Jesus for what we need. We say, "Lord, have mercy."

We say "Lord, have mercy" for the sick, for travelers, for everything.

We are asking Jesus, God's Son, to take care of us.
Jesus is Our Lord.

Activity Tracks

Basic 1: Jesus Christ Is Lord

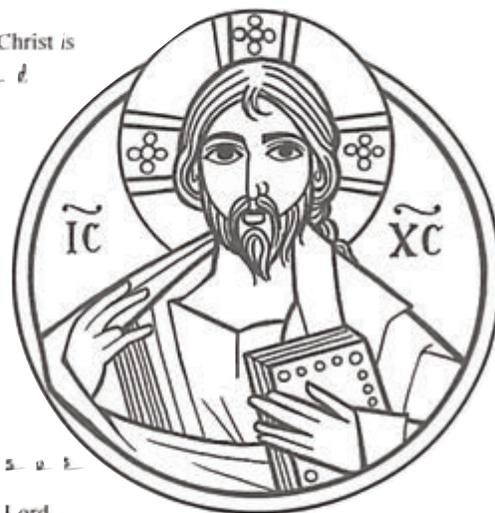
[This worksheet is in the student text.]

Let's get our markers out and see if we can complete this worksheet. Here are two exercises that show that Jesus is Lord. Let's read the directions.

Jesus Christ Is Lord

A Here is an icon that teaches us that Jesus Christ is Lord. Color the icon, and then fill in the missing letters.

Jesus Christ is
L o r d



2. J e s u s

Christ is Lord.

B Circle the word that completes the sentence.

1. In the Divine Liturgy we pray to _____ for what we need. Sammy Jesus

2. We say, _____, have mercy. Lord Help

3. We are asking Jesus to take _____ of us. food care

Basic 2: "Jesus is Lord" Story

Let's see if we can complete the story and then color the picture above it. The words we need are in the text story. When we say "Lord, have mercy" in the Divine Liturgy, remember that Jesus has power over all creation. He is the Lord, God.

Group: "Peter's Rescue" Interactive Story

When Peter cried out to Jesus, our Lord rescued him. We call on Jesus during our Divine Liturgy to take care of us, too, when we say, "Lord, have mercy." To help you remember the story of Peter's rescue, we'll retell it together in a story circle with sound effects. Let me explain how we'll do this. The story begins with a storm. Watch what I do, and do it also. For the storm, we'll lean over and hit the floor with our hands louder, and then softer, so you can hear the story. [Explain what will happen, as scripted below; then form a circle and begin.]

The disciples were in a boat at night. There was a bad storm.
[Slap Floor with hands]

Then, far away, they saw someone coming to them. A person was walking on the water.
[Hold hands up in amazement.]

[Jesus] "Get hold of yourselves. It is I."
[Peter] "Lord, if it is really You, tell me to come to You."
[Jesus] "Come!"

Peter began walking on the water.
[Peter gets out of the circle and tries to walk. Slap floor with hands; continue until both are back in the circle.]

Then he was afraid. He began to sink.

[Peter] "Lord save me!"
[Jesus reaches out and takes Peter by the hand and both find a place in the circle]

Jesus saved him. They climbed in the boat together. The disciples were amazed.
[Hold hands up in amazement.]

[All] "You are the Son of God."

Jesus is Lord



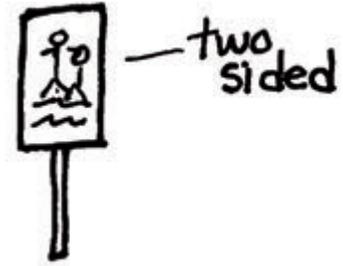
The disciples were in a boat at night. There was a bad storm. Then, far away, they saw someone coming to them. A person was walking on the water.

"Get hold of yourselves. It is I," said Jesus. Peter said, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you." "Come!" said Jesus. Peter began walking on the water.

Then he was afraid. He began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried. Jesus saved him. They climbed in the boat together. The disciples were amazed. They said to Jesus, "You are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:22-33)

Craft: "Peter's Rescue" Action Spinner

Materials: "Peter's Rescue" worksheet, markers, straws for every student, scissors, tape



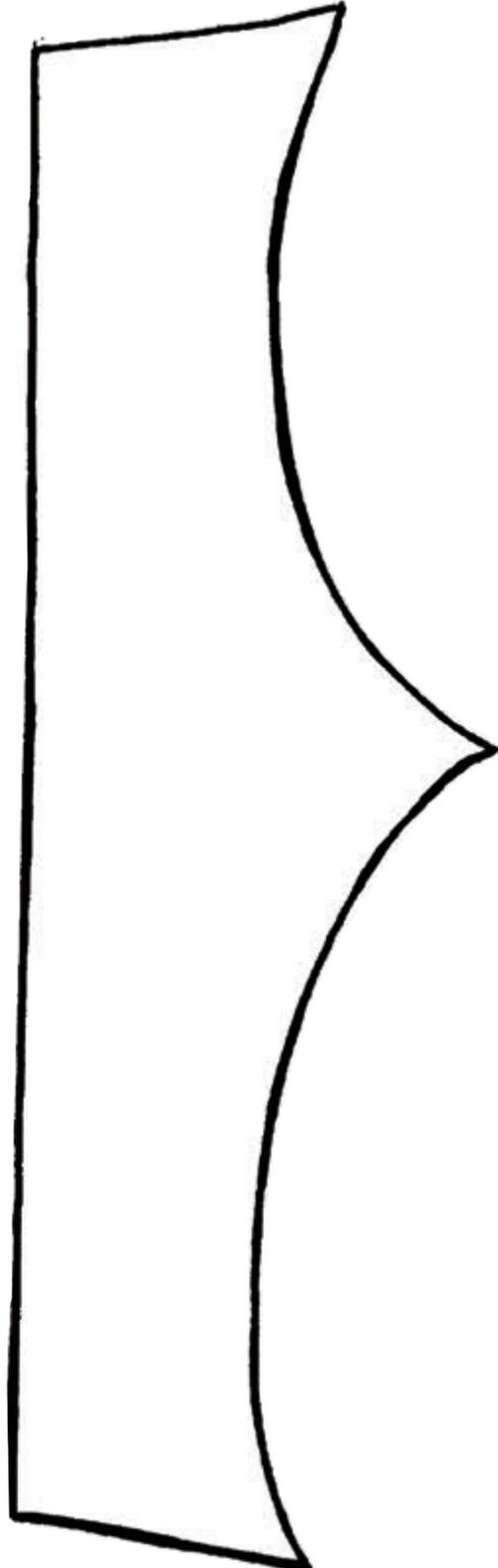
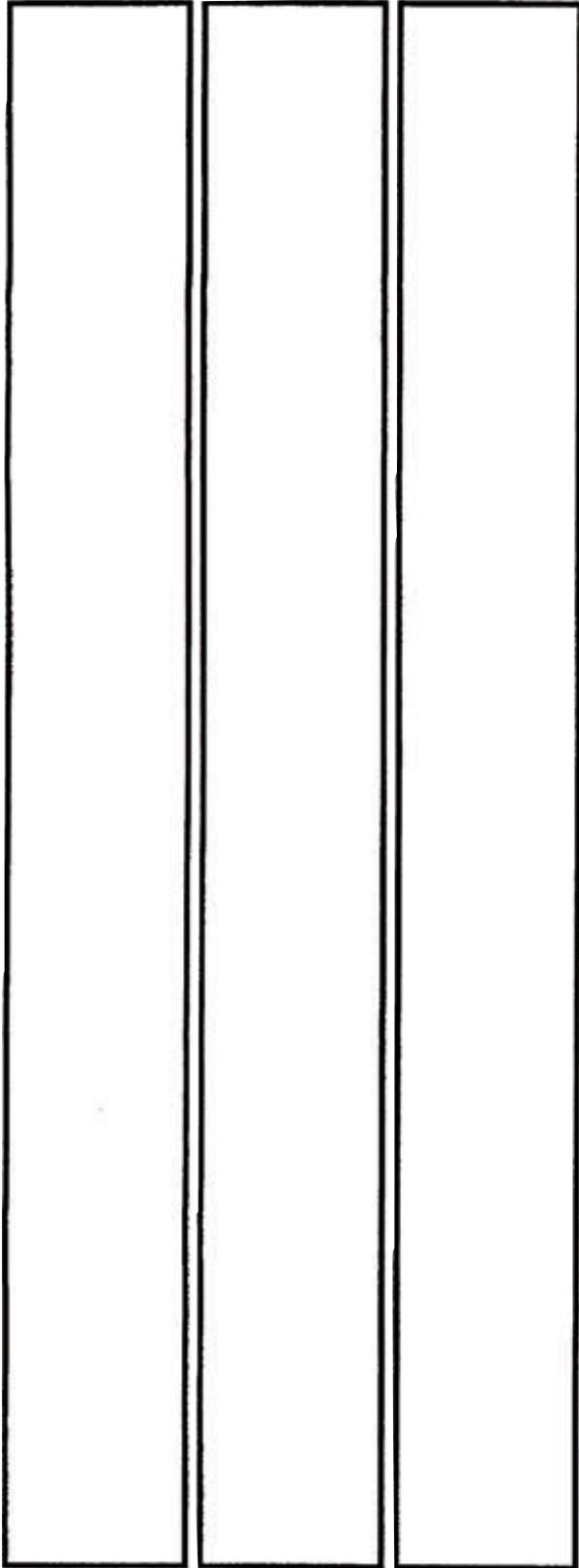
When Peter cried out to Jesus, our Lord rescued him. We call on Jesus during our Divine Liturgy to take care of us, too, when we say, "Lord, have mercy." To help you remember the story of Jesus rescuing Peter, our craft today is an action spinner. [Hold up project.] On the one side we see Peter about to drown in the lake. On the other side we see Jesus pulling Peter out of the water. When you hold the straw between your hands and rub them together, you can see Peter drowning and rising out of the water. First, let's color the two sides. Then we'll cut them out and tape the straw to the inside of one. We'll tape them together, and you can try out your spinner. Remember, Jesus is Lord and the Son of God.

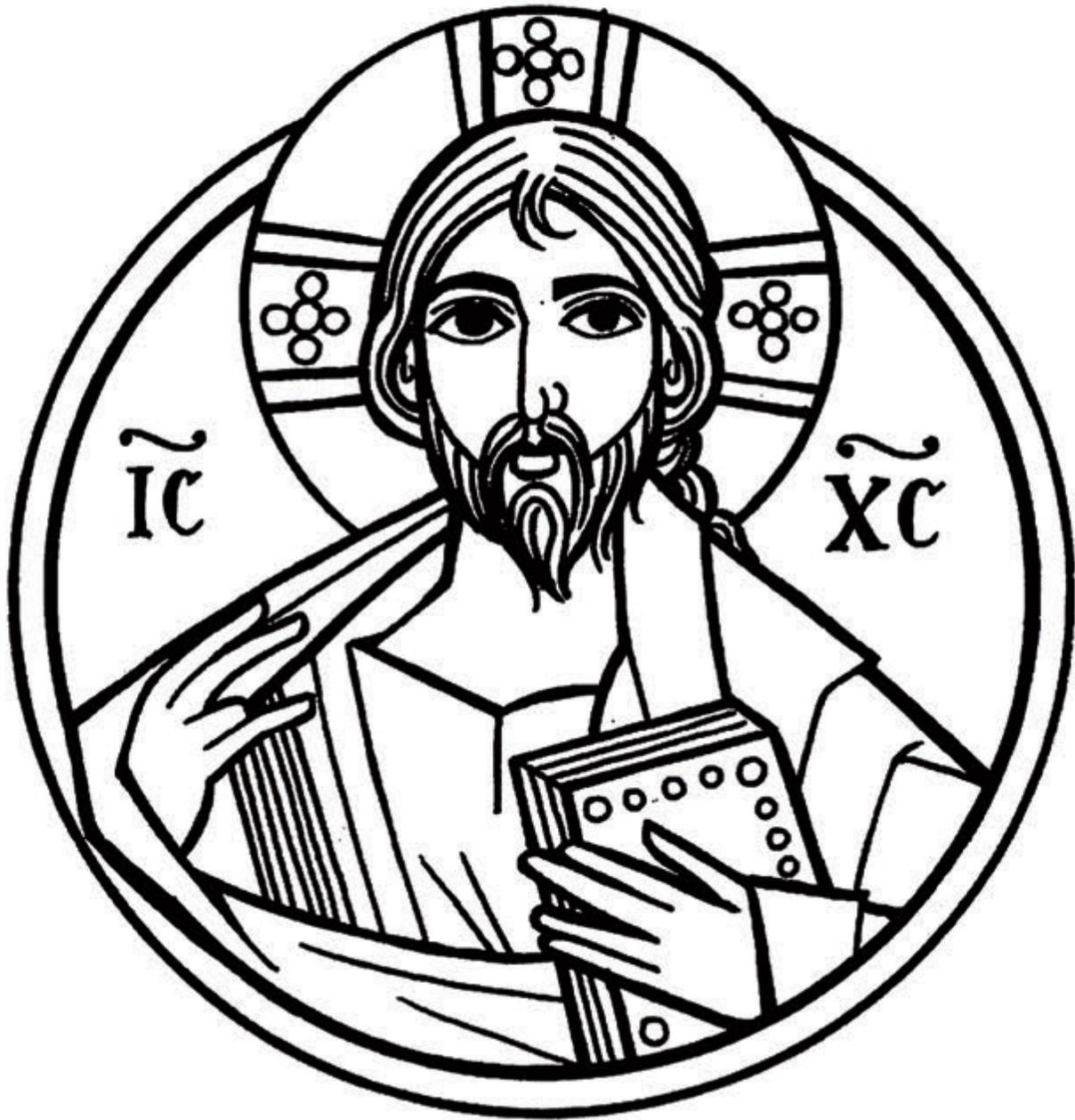
Closing

If we live God's way on earth, some day we may see Jesus, our Lord, in heaven! What do you think you will do when you see Him? We can all be in heaven some day because Christ has risen from the dead and opened the gates of heaven to us. Let's stand quietly now. [Stand quietly in prayer position for 20 seconds; then begin the Beginning Prayers from "Holy God" through the Doxology and/or Paschal troparion.]

God bless you. Have a good week.

These are extender strips to make the back and sides of the crown. Tape or staple together, and to crown.





Lord

Jesus is Lord



The disciples were in a boat at night. There was a bad _____ . Then, far away, they saw someone coming to them. A person was walking on the water.

"Get hold of yourselves. It is I." said _____ . Peter said, "Lord, if it is really you, tell me to come to you." "Come!" said Jesus. Peter began walking on the water.

Then he was afraid. He began to sink. "_____, save me!" he cried. Jesus saved him. They climbed in the boat together. The disciples were amazed. They said to Jesus, "You are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:22-33)

