

## **WORKSHEET (MODULE 1)**

**Answer the following questions in about 30 – 40 words.**

1. How did Prince Siddhartha Gautama come to be known as the Buddha?
2. Why did Lord Buddha choose Benares to preach his first sermon?
3. When her son dies, Kisa Gotami goes from house to house. What does she ask for? Does she get it? Why not?
4. What does Kisa Gotami ask for the second time around? Does she get it? Why not?
5. Why was Kisa Gotami sad? What did she do in her grief ?

**Read the following extracts and answer the following questions.**

1. “In her grief, she carried the dead child to all her neighbours asking them for medicine, and the people said, “She has lost her senses. The boy is dead.”

- a) Who is “she” in the above lines?
- b) What does the phrase “lost her senses” mean?
- c) Name the story.

2. “He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a peepal tree, where he vowed to stay until enlightenment came. Enlightened after seven days, he renamed the tree the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Wisdom) and began to teach and to share his understandings.”

- a) Why did he wander for seven years?
- b) Why is the tree called “Bodhi Tree”?
- c) What does “vowed” mean?

## ANSWERS

1. Prince Siddhartha Gautama wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a peepal tree till he got enlightenment. Enlightened after seven days, he renamed the tree the “Bodhi Tree” or “Tree of Wisdom and began to teach and share his new understandings of the ways of the world. Thus, he came to be known as the “Buddha” or the “Awakened or Enlightened”.

2. The city of Benares on the River Ganges is regarded as the most holy of the dipping places on this river and therefore the choice made by Lord Buddha to teach his first sermon. Noteworthy, this sermon has been preserved and is given here. The sermon reflects Lord Buddha’s understanding of the inevitable pain of death for all mortals.

3. The death of Kisa Gotami’s son shatters her from within. Unable to accept the bitter truth, she goes from house to house asking for some medicine to cure her child. No, she does not get anything as no medicine could bring her dead son back to life.

4. Kisa Gotami understands that death is inescapable and inevitable for all mortal beings. And therefore her request to make her dead son alive was impossible. Every house she visited had witnessed loss of some near and dear ones. This was what the Lord wanted her to understand.

5. Kisa Gotami was sad as her only son had died and she was unable to bear her loss. She was full of grief. She carried her dead son to all her neighbours asking them for some medicine to bring her son back to life. The people thought that she had turned mad.

## ANSWERS

1. a) “She” in the above lines is Kisa Gotami.  
b) The phrase “lost her senses” means inability to think clearly and behave sensibly.  
c) ‘The Sermon at Benares’
  
2. a) He wandered for seven years in search of knowledge (wisdom) and truth.  
b) The word “Bodhi” means wisdom or knowledge or enlightenment. So, the “Bodhi Tree” means the “Tree of Wisdom”.  
c) pledged / took oath