



Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

Growing Through Scripture

Study Guide for Teachers and Homeschoolers

Prayer Before Studies to be read by one student or by all students and teacher(s)

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Begin with O Heavenly King, the Trisagion, and Lord's Prayer, then:

O God our Father, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit – by which You made fishermen into Your all-wise Apostles – enable us to learn and understand the teachings of Your Son's True Faith, so we may live in accordance with Your Will, and be made worthy to one day dwell in Heaven with You, Your Son, and Your Holy Spirit, and with all Your Saints. + Amen.

Goals

✠ Grades K-2

In our lives, we can be like Jesus Christ by helping others, praying, giving of ourselves, and being active in our Orthodox Faith.

✠ Grades 3-5

Each of the people mentioned in today's gospel reading give us examples of how to live - and how not to live - with faith in God Who loves us.

✠ Grades 6-8

What we do in our lives shapes who we are as people: being merciful and generous with others, or judging them and separating us from God.

✠ Grades 9-12

Faith in God needs to be at the heart of what we do and how we live our lives - guiding us in serving others and in repentance for our sins.

Lesson Outline

- Open with the prayers above (2 min)
- Distribute the lesson (*page one, age-level activity, and pens/pencils or crayons*)
- Have students take turns reading page one. *For grades K-5, read portions or provide a summary of page one. (7 min)*
- *All Grades:* Brief discussion based on page one content, using scripture citations, quotes, and questions like these to spark dialogue: (8 min)
 - ✪ **Why do the people want to see Christ?**
 - ✪ **What is so important about Jesus' words?**
 - ✪ **How do you react to hearing Jesus' teachings about forgiveness, faith, and loving God?**
 - ✪ **How can we bear witness to Christ?**
 - ✪ **Why did the men bring their friend to Jesus?**
 - ✪ **How can you show your faith in Christ in your life?**
 - ✪ **How do you react when God blesses you in your life?**

Review the goals for each grade level at left.

- Begin handout activity, review instructions by grade level (2 min)
- Students complete activity (15 min)
- Discuss the students' answers and how the purpose of this lesson and what was learned (10 min)
- Close with the prayers below (2 min)

Tips & Hints

- *This lesson is designed for 45 minute class sessions and can be modified based on your schedule and format.*
- Content from this lesson can be used "out of the box" or supplemental to existing lesson plans.
- Share the **Parent Overview** in a timely manner (no later than Sunday afternoon), so parents can discuss and explore lesson topics with children at their convenience during the coming week.
- **Student Handouts** should be shared in print or digital format with the youth before or no later than the beginning of class.

Encourage young people to keep the handouts, as certain features carry-over and will be referenced in future lessons.

- **Resources to have on hand:** Bibles, pencils or pens (or crayons/markers), access to web-based links in the lesson.
- Ask open-ended questions which may lead the conversation to reveal their thoughts about God.
- As parents and teachers, we may not readily have all the answers, but we have the ability to inspire a desire in children to love God, which can benefit them throughout their lives.

We can always engage our priest to get answers we need and circle back with students next week.

- Pray for your students by name at least weekly.
- Be a positive examples of Christian love and living the Faith. May God bless you in your efforts to educate our young people!
- Questions, ideas, feedback, and suggestions can be directed to the publishers at orthodoxjourneys@gmail.com

Prayer After Studies to be read by one student or by all students and teacher(s)

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Conclude with the Hymn to the Theotokos and then:

O God, our Father, we thank you for the blessings received in Your Son's True Faith, help us, through Your Holy Spirit, to apply this knowledge to our words, thoughts, and deeds, that we may live as You desire, being made worthy to receive your precious gifts, glorifying You as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. + Amen.



© 2024 Orthodox Journeys, LLC | All rights reserved.
5312 50th Avenue N, Crystal, MN 55429
orthodoxjourneys@gmail.com | www.orthodoxjourneys.com

Licensed for parish use. No part of this resource may be reproduced, used, or shared with other communities without written permission.

Visit www.orthodoxjourneys.com for more educational handouts, activities, and study guides or to order custom handouts for your parish community.

