



The Power of Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Popularity has a powerful effect on people. Whether you seek it or run from it, popularity can create or destroy friendships.

Jesus Christ was popular and the crowds flocked to Him. They wanted to hear His words, receive healing, and be changed by **encountering Him**.

Jesus is in the House

Scripture tells us that as more people became aware of Jesus, their desire led people to do radical things.

They rejected social expectations, climbed trees, and even tore the roof of houses, just to get closer to Him. What would you do to **get closer to Christ**?

Is Jesus in our Church?

Our church is often called the House of God - not that God needs a place to live - but as the **center of our spiritual community**. It is the place where we come together as Orthodox Christians to worship and praise God in a **unity of Faith**.

Our faith in God generates a desire to be in church. Why do you want to hear God's words in the gospel and **receive His Body and Blood** in the Eucharist?

Is Jesus in our Home?

The spiritual nourishment we receive in **the liturgy sustains us** in our homes throughout the week. When we bring God home from church, His teachings and instructions can **inspire our actions** with our families and neighbors.

How does being involved in **the liturgy inspire you** as an Orthodox Christian in your home and communities?

Is Jesus in our Heart?

God can't live in a box, kept on a shelf until Sunday morning or moments when we need help. We need to allow God to live in our heart, mind, and soul every day.

When **God is in our thoughts**, we can turn from negative ideas. When **God is in our actions**, we can offer help to those in need. When **God is in our heart**, our Faith can move mountains.

Our faith needs to be nurtured, becoming as strong like the men who ripped open the roof for their friend to see Jesus. What are you willing to do to **strengthen your faith to get closer to Christ**?

Scripture Readings

for the Second Sunday of Lent:
St. Gregory Palamas

Epistle: **Hebrews 1:10-2:3**

Gospel: **Mark 2:1-12**

Hymns of the Day

for the Second Sunday of Lent:
St. Gregory Palamas

Troparion (St. Gregory) - Tone 8

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation, O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians, O wonder-working Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion (Triodion) - Tone 4

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors! So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying: "Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; but forgive us, O Master of All, so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns."

Kontakion (St. Gregory) - Tone 8

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology, together we sing your praises, O God-inspired Gregory.

Since you now stand before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him, O Father, so that we may sing to you: "Rejoice, preacher of grace."

Parents, Church School Teachers & Youth Directors:
Watch for the ☞ to indicate topics/questions you can use to inspire conversations with youth. Or use the corresponding study guide for this resource.

The Bible and Me

Getting to know the Word of God

Today's reading (Mark 2:1-12) is a wonderful reminder of God's mercy and how Jesus loves us very much. The story also reminds us to have faith in God. What is faith? It is the belief that God watches over us in good and bad times. He cares for us and hears our prayers.

Sometimes God answers our prayers in ways we don't expect. This might be surprising, so we can use our faith to trust that God knows what's best for us. In other words, faith helps us trust God to be faithful to us. Today's reading also reminds us to care for others and their needs like the friends of the paralytic. They brought their friend to Jesus out of faith that He would help the man. Jesus sees their faith and blesses them. How can you be faithful to God? How can you help those around you?

Instructions: Read today's gospel lesson together and answer the questions, then complete the word search (all words are either vertical or horizontal, to remember the key points of today's gospel message. *This week, find ways to be faithful to God and help others in your world!*

Jesus Christ wants us to:

- _____ A. Faithful to God the Father
- _____ B. Ignore people around us
- _____ C. Be generous only with our friends
- _____ D. Be compassionate

I can be like the friends of the man by:

- _____ A. Helping others
- _____ B. Being greedy
- _____ C. Praying for others
- _____ D. _____

R	O	O	F	B	L	A	S	P	H	E	M	I	N	G	S	D	H	T	B
F	C	W	Y	P	E	K	P	A	Q	K	M	G	N	C	I	G	G	A	H
C	S	A	J	A	W	Q	A	E	Z	X	M	E	S	R	N	O	M	U	K
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B	D	T	V	C	P	E	D	L	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	H	Y	V

Capernaum

Crowd

Sins

Rise

God

Jesus

Faith

Forgiven

Walk

Mercy

Christ

Paralytic

Blaspheming

Mat

Authority

House

Roof

Heart

Praise

Son of God