
THE JOY CURRICULUM VOLUME 2

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I NTRODUCTION

Dear Youth Worker,

On behalf of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Team and the many contributing writers and editors, we would like to thank you for your service to the young people of our Holy Orthodox Church through the JOY Ministry.

We are very excited to announce the second volume of the JOY Curriculum, "People of Faith." We will explore how people of faith have passed on their faith throughout the generations, through their practices of faith, as well as their challenges of faith. We have included 11 chronological sessions which start in September and go through a combined July / August summer session.

We understand that JOY Ministries come in all shapes, sizes and time frames, so each session is written with more material than you need so that you can adapt to your particular needs. You may want to skip the ice breaker or arts and crafts if you have a large group and you are limited on time, or you may want to add additional materials if your group is older, meets for a longer period of time, or you are using a retreat format for one of your gatherings.

In order to prepare for each session it is recommended that you skim through the entire session entirely several weeks before, but realistically, one week should do. At the beginning of each session you will find the Objective, Preparation and Materials Needed Section. It is laid out so that you can have a quick reference sheet to prepare for the session prior to your meeting. This is your to do and shopping list for the meeting. The materials list includes items for the ice breaker, the discussion questions and the arts and crafts. Many of these items will repeat from session to session, so you may want to put a box together at the beginning of the year with items that you will need each time like bibles, white boards, markers, scissors, table coverings, pencils, etc.

Each session begins and ends with a prayer. On the last page of each session, you will find the Opening and Closing Prayer sheets. You will need to have copies of this sheet for each child to read along. The Opening Prayer is always the Trisagion Prayer, however, the Closing Prayer will change each session. Nearly all of the sessions will start off with an Ice Breaker to introduce the kids to each other and the lesson. Most of the Ice Breakers require supplies, you will find these listed in the Materials Needed section.

The sessions each contain activities, discussion questions and teaching materials in the body of the session. Some of the sessions have video clips, so you will need a DVD Player on those days. At the end of each session you will find an arts and crafts project and some closing statements before the closing prayer. The arts and crafts project can be done at any time during your meeting, however, it may be easiest to keep everyone's attention during the discussion by doing the project at the end.

Following the closing prayer, you will find the Expanded Ideas section. This is a way to augment the session, for JOY groups using these materials for longer (3 hr) meetings or for a retreat format. You can also use these ideas to continue the theme for a second meeting during the month. You will then find the Glossary, which contains some of the key words for the session. You may want to highlight them as they come up to make sure the kids understand their meaning. Following the Glossary, you will see the Additional Resources section. There are other materials that you can use to prepare for the session if your time permits. Finally, you will find the Special Notes. These are things you will need to order or find ahead of time for the next month's meeting, such as books.

The last three pages of each lesson contain the Arts and Crafts Supplies and Directions, Family Notes and Opening and Closing Prayers. The materials for the arts and crafts are suggested, however, we realize that you may have to improvise depending on the stores in your area. Most of the supplies can be found at Michaels, JoAnn Fabrics and Home Depot. It is suggested that you make a sample of the craft before the session. You will then be able to see if any additional preparation time is needed based on the age of the participants in your JOY group. The Family Notes are to be copied and sent home to parents. It includes a summary of what was learned during the meeting, questions for the parents to ask, Models of Faith for each month's theme, activities for the family, and further information on the theme for parents and children.

We pray that the JOY Curriculum Volume II will help to augment your parish JOY Ministry as well as to help the children and families of your parish to become People of Faith who will pass on their faith to the generations to come.

Your Servant In Christ,

Vasie-Leigh Andriotis

Vasie-Leigh (Chames) Andriotis is a California native who is currently living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with her husband Eugene. Vasie-Leigh's undergraduate degree is in geology from the University of the Pacific. She is a 1997 graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology where she received a Masters of Divinity Degree. She has been active in youth ministry for many years by serving five summer camp programs throughout the Archdiocese as well as working at parishes in Winston-Salem, NC and Watertown, MA. Vasie-Leigh most recently served as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh from 1999-2006. She is currently working on writing projects for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

OVERVIEW

THEMES WITH OBJECTIVES

1. Family of Faith

For children to explore how their family is a part of the Family of Faith, the Church, which has been passed down through the ages and grown through the grace of God, and is theirs to grow and cultivate.

2. Generations of Faith

By exploring the Generations of Faith which have preserved our Church, children will understand their own role in the Royal Priesthood in conjunction with the specific duties of the Ordained Priesthood.

3. Works of Faith

Children will explore the needs of people in the world around us and Christ's call to do Works of Faith. They will create an action plan for an outreach program within your own community.

4. Heroes of Faith

JOY Children will learn about our relationship with the Saints, our true heroes of faith, by making comparisons with make believe heroes. They will explore the ways we celebrate and honor their heroism and faith, and how they get their "powers."

5. Prophets of Faith

Children will become aware of the role as modern day prophets, preparing the way for Christ in their own lives and those around them. They will see how people of faith have continued through centuries to hear the Word of God and live by what God requires.

6. Vision of Faith

JOY Children will be able to relate to the story of Joseph who himself becomes a Vision of Faith among his jealous brothers by forgiving them.

7. Acceptance of Faith

Children will learn about the acceptance of faith that young Mary, the Theotokos, showed when she agreed to God's plan for her life, and understand how Orthodox Christians relate to her.

PEOPLE OF FAITH

OVERVIEW CONTINUED

8. Weapons of Faith

JOY Children will learn about the weapons of faith that will help them stay on a path towards Christ. They will learn to utilize spiritual gifts and weapons of faith like the people of faith who came before us.

9. Leap of Faith

Children will learn about trusting God's purpose for His people in order to grow closer to Him in their faith.

10. Witnesses of Faith

JOY Children will learn about being an apostle by exploring The Great Commission. They will also be prepared to be modern day apostles and missionaries themselves by using the example of Orthodox missionaries around the world.

11. Challenges of Faith

Children will understand Job's ultimate challenge of faith through extreme adversity, suffering, and loss. They will also learn about how he was blessed by the Lord for His continuous faith.