
OBJECTIVE

To have each family member understand that Jesus Christ is truth; through living in His truth, we will be brought to salvation.

PREPARATION

The committee leading this activity should review and use the *Preparing for the Family Night* checklist in *Appendix B* to plan for the event.

Session leaders should allocate sufficient time to prepare, familiarizing themselves not only with the session but also with each of the following Bible passages: John 14:6, Genesis 9:8–17, John 8:31–35, and Ephesians 4:14–19. In addition, look over any prayers that will be used so that you are comfortable with them as well. If theological questions arise during preparation, the leader(s) should schedule a meeting with the parish priest so that the lesson is fully understood before the session.

On the day of the session, allow time to organize the materials.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For the Whole Group

- Copies of prayers and/or prayer services (*for all participants*)
- Flip chart, masking tape, and markers
- Index cards
- *Family Time: Opening Activity* handout (*see p. 207*)
- *Family Time: Closing Activity* handout (*see p. 208*)
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Family Night: Taking It Home* handouts (*see pp. 209–210*)

For Children's Break-out Session

- Large sheets of white construction paper
- Markers or crayons

For Teenagers' Break-out Session

- Tape (*that will easily peel off skin*)
- Flip chart paper
- Markers
- Bible with concordance

For Adults' Break-out Session

- *Case Scenario* handouts (*see pp. 201–204*)
- *Personal Reflection* handouts (*see p. 205–206*)
- Pens/pencils

OPENING AND CLOSING PRAYERS

We recommend that as a parish family you begin and end your evening with a worship service or prayer. We have included a Small Compline service in Appendix A to reproduce and distribute for all to participate. If you choose a different service, make every effort to have the text available for everyone. For alternative prayer time, teach the families this beautiful Psalm. It is important to take a few minutes as a group to review the meaning of this Psalm so that all can be active participants when praying. Consult with your parish priest for guidance in this.

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Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving-kindnesses For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

—*Psalms 25:4–11*

OPENING ACTIVITY: TRUTH OR FICTION (15–20 minutes)

After the opening prayers, give each family a Family Time: Opening Activity handout. Give families sufficient time to work on their truths and fiction. Then have each family present their truths and fiction and allow everyone to guess which one is fiction. If you have a large group, consider splitting the groups in half to expedite the activity.

DISCUSS (Look first to the children for answers and reflect back.)

- What is truth?
- Why is it important?
- What comes from not having truth?
- In the Bible, Jesus says, “I am the way, the **truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6). What do you think He meant by “I am the truth”? (Allow several people to answer before beginning the opening remarks.)

OPENING REMARKS (Paraphrase in your own words.)

Very good answers! Before we move on, I want to make sure you remember what Jesus said. Let's all read it together:

Write John 14:6 on a flip chart or project on the wall for all to see. Have everyone recite the passage in unison. If you like, have a quick contest to see who can recite it the loudest—the adults or the children.

What is truth? Truth seems to be less valued today than it once was. This especially pertains to Christ and the true meaning of His message and role in our salvation. We try to rationalize the truths of God to the “truths” of the world. But these truths change—because they are not really truth. What is truth today may be fiction tomorrow, but God never changes. He was truth yesterday, is truth today, and will be tomorrow. Through His truth, He will lead us to salvation and eternal life.

This is what we will be exploring today: how to live in truth as Christians. Before we move on, let's see who remembers what Jesus said. (Say the following and allow participants to fill in the blanks.)

"I am the _____, the _____, and the _____. No one comes to the _____ except through me."

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS (45–60 minutes)

Three age-appropriate break-out sessions are offered on the following pages. These may or may not work for your parish, depending on the number of families that participate. If you are not able to break into three groups, keep participants together and adapt one of the sessions to best meet your needs.

- Children's Break-out Session—A Promise to Noah (*pp.* 195–196)
- Teenagers' Break-out Session—Truth Will Make You Free (*pp.* 197–198)
- Adults' Break-out Session—Speaking the Truth in Love (*pp.* 199–206)

Transitioning smoothly from one activity to the next is critical when leading a session, especially for young children. For this reason, make sure to know exactly where each group is going for the break-out sessions and who is leading them. Give clear instructions and proper support so the lessons can begin promptly.

Please note that the children's and teenagers' groups will vary greatly in age, as well as in developmental and spiritual levels. If there are many children, it would be best to split the preschoolers through 2nd graders into one group and the 3rd through 6th graders into another. Likewise with the teenagers, split the junior high and high school students into two groups when appropriate. However the groups are arranged, make sure that all the young people are fully engaged in the lesson. For more specific information about the developmental needs of children and teenagers, see the *Guidelines* published by the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (www.youth.goarch.org). Above all, always be certain there is enough adult supervision to ensure that the young people will be safe and supported in their learning.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (15–20 minutes)

Reassemble the participants back together as families. Give each family group a Family Time: Closing Activity handout. Have them follow the instructions on the handout, and when most families are done (they can continue at home if necessary) begin the wrap-up discussion.

DISCUSS (*Look first to the children for answers and reflect back.*)

- What did you learn today?
- What are you going to do as a family when you get home?
- Does anyone remember the passage about Jesus we learned earlier? (*Repeat as a group.*)

WRAP-UP (*Paraphrase in your own words.*)

Truth is something we say we value in our society. But do we really? Our media, politics, and lives are filled with exaggerations, half-truths, and empty promises. Society is trying to frame our truth with things that they claim will make our lives better, mostly through material possessions and power. This is not truth—truth and true life comes from

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knowing the Living God, Jesus Christ. When we look to Him as truth, we discern the false reality that surrounds us. Live in truth! Live in Christ!

AS FAMILIES PREPARE TO LEAVE

- Remember to close with a short worship service or closing prayer.
- Don't forget to give families the *Family Night: Taking It Home* handout.
- Let them know when the next Family Night is scheduled.
- Enlist families to help you clean up (*rotate monthly*).
- Thank them sincerely for their attendance and participation.

A PROMISE TO NOAH

CHILDREN'S BREAK-OUT SESSION

OPENING ACTIVITY: THE STORY OF NOAH

Today we are learning about truth. We all have had times when we have not been truthful. Perhaps we have blamed our brother or sister for something we did. Have you ever made a promise to someone? When we make a promise, we agree to do something for someone. If we break that promise, people begin to not trust us. They no longer believe our word is true. How many of you have promised your parents you would clean your room and then you didn't? When we do this our parents have a difficult time believing us because we have broken our promise and we have not been truthful. We know God is truth and He always keeps His promises to us. Has anyone read the story of Noah? Can you share some of the story with us? *(Allow children to share then proceed with the following.)*

Let's read the end of the story directly from the Bible. This is from the book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 9:8–17

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying: "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

DISCUSS *(Allow all to share and reflect back.)*

- What does this passage tell us?
- What is a covenant?
- What do you think it means?

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ART PROJECT: RAINBOW PROMISES

God has made many promises to us. Can you think of some of the things He promises us? *(Allow children to answer and supplement with the following.)*

God has promised to love us, be there for us, and help us always. He has promised that we can live with Him in heaven if we follow Him in this life. How can we follow Him? *(Allow children to answer, then proceed.)*

We are going to make a rainbow of our promises to God.

Pass out paper and crayons/markers.

On your paper, draw a rainbow and anything else you like. At the bottom of your paper, you will write your promise to God.

Allow children sufficient time and assistance to do this, then proceed with the following.

WRAP-UP *(Paraphrase in your own words.)*

God made a very special promise to us—actually, He has made many promises to us. Today we learned about the truth of God’s word and how He always keeps His promises to us. We must learn to live by His example. He wants us to be faithful to Him and live in His Truth. In doing this, we give our lives to God, and in return He gives us everlasting life.

Close by praying the following psalm all together.

Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving-kindnesses For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

—Psalm 25:4–11

TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE

TEENAGERS' BREAK-OUT SESSION

OPENING ACTIVITY: TRUTH AND FREEDOM

As the young people enter tape their hands together (make sure to use tape that will easily peel off skin). Break them into groups of 4–5, and give them a piece of poster paper and markers. Tell them to create a banner that represents freedom. When sufficient time has passed, have each group share their poster. The young people should remain bound for the discussion.

DISCUSS (*Allow all to share and reflect back.*)

- Was this task easy or difficult? Why?
- What does freedom mean to you?
- Jesus says, “the truth will make you free.” How do you think this happens?

STATE (*Paraphrase in your own words.*)

As we learned earlier Christ is truth. Therefore, we must follow Him—follow truth—to be completely free from the things that entangle us in this life. Let’s read more about this in the Bible.

BIBLE READING: JOHN 8:31–35

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.”

DISCUSS (*Allow all to share and reflect back.*)

- What does it mean to “abide in My word”?
- How do you think abiding in Christ’s word will help you to know the truth?
- How does knowing the truth help you be free?
- Are we free now?

STATE (*Paraphrase in your own words.*)

We can only be free by living in Christ’s word—living in Christ, living in truth. In doing this, we recognize our life is not our own but God’s, and we must live our life as He wants us to live—as Christ lived. By living as Christ lived, we are totally free. Who wants to be free? (*At this time, you can help the young people remove the tape that binds them.*)

SMALL GROUP WORK: FINDING TRUTH

Have the young people return to their earlier groups. Give them each a Bible with a concordance. Ask them to find three quotes about truth. After that, they can create a picture about how truth will make you free. After sufficient time has passed, have each group report back to the whole group.

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WRAP-UP (*Paraphrase in your own words.*)

Without the truth that comes from Christ we are bound, but once we accept the truth that comes from Christ then we are made free.

Truth is not an opinion or a fad. Sometimes we worship opinions rather than truth. We would rather pay attention to 99 opinions because they are held by famous or great people than to the one thing we know is truth. Yet opinions are only opinions. They change. Truth is truth. It never changes. It was true yesterday; it is true today; it will be true tomorrow. I would rather rest my life on one thing I know to be the truth than on 99 opinion, however great the people who hold them.

One day a committee called on President Lincoln to discuss a national problem. The case was built mostly on “supposing.” After listening for a while Lincoln said, “How many legs would a sheep have if you called its tail a leg?”

“Five,” they said.

“No, it would only have four,” Lincoln said. “Calling a tail a leg doesn’t make it one.”

Giving something a new name does not change it. Calling a falsehood a “white lie” doesn’t make it right. Cheating on your income tax because “everyone else is doing it” doesn’t make it lawful. And pegging our inability to get along with someone as a “personality clash” doesn’t relieve us of our responsibility to try to live without strife.

—From *Daily Vitamins for Spiritual Growth Vol. 2* by Anthony Coniaris

Close by praying the following psalm all together.

Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving-kindnesses For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

—*Psalms 25:4-11*

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SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

ADULTS' BREAK-OUT SESSION

OPENING GROUP ACTIVITY: SPEAKING THE TRUTH

Break adults into four groups, and give each group one of the following scenarios. Allow sufficient time for groups to discuss how to handle the situations by "speaking the truth in love." Then have each group report back.

DISCUSS (*Allow all to share and reflect back.*)

- What made these scenarios difficult?
- Have you ever been in similar situations? How have you reacted?
- Why is it so difficult to speak the truth? How do you speak in love?

STATE (*Paraphrase in your own words.*)

Truth can be a difficult thing especially these days. We live with so many lies in our society that many of us may habitually fall into dishonesty without even realizing it. We can be dishonest not just by our words but also by our lack of them.

How does this occur? (*Allow people time to respond, then proceed with the following.*)

By not speaking the truth in the presence of a lie, we validate that lie—we are not truthful. We want you to take the next few minutes to reflect on the following passage.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: EPHESIANS 4:14–19

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

DISCUSS (*Allow all to share and reflect back.*)

- How do we get "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine"?
- How should we speak "the truth in love"?
- How do we join ourselves to Christ?

- How do we no longer “walk in futility of mind with darkened understanding, alienated from the life of God, in ignorance and blindness of heart”?

WRAP-UP (*Paraphrase in your own words.*)

Living in truth means that we live this way in all aspects of our life. We see discrepancies in truth for what they are—LIES. One of the greatest triumphs of the devil is that we no longer see these “little” white lies as wrong. We have become so desensitized to these lies we rarely recognize them. If we choose to live a Christ centered life, we realize that we must flee from lies and embrace truth. Truth comes from God. He is truth.

Close by praying the following psalm all together.

Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving-kindnesses For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

—Psalm 25:4–11

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GROUP 1: CASE SCENARIO

You stop by your 33-year-old daughter's house one morning. She is on the phone with her employer telling them she has the stomach flu and will not be in to work today. You see that she looks fine. When she gets off of the phone, she explains that there is a special one-day designer sale in New York City (which is only one hour from where you live) and that is the reason she called in "sick." After all, she has plenty of sick days left.

- What would you do?
- Would it make a difference if her children were standing there as she made the phone call? Why or why not?
- Would it make a difference if she were calling in sick so that she could stay home to spend time with her children who are on summer vacation? Why or why not?
- How can we best speak the truth in love in this situation?
- Have you ever been in a similar predicament (either as the mother or the daughter)? How have you handled it?

GROUP 2: CASE SCENARIO

You work for a law firm. You find a discrepancy in the billing that has caused a client to overpay by \$100.

- What do you do?
- Would it matter if the client was a multimillion-dollar business account versus a small personal account? Why or why not?
- What if you brought it to your boss's attention and she said not to worry about it?
- What if you weren't the one that found it but you overheard someone talking about it?
- How can we best speak the truth in love in this situation?
- Have you ever been in a similar predicament? How have you handled it?

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GROUP 3: CASE SCENARIO

You overhear your child telling a friend about your summer vacation. Your child is using exaggerations and even adding a few details that never occurred. The addition make the stories sound more exciting and make your child appear more “cool” to their friend.

- What would you do?
- What if it were your spouse?
- What if it were your parent?
- How can we best speak the truth in love in this situation?
- Have you ever been in a similar predicament (either as the parent or child)? How have you handled it?

GROUP 4: CASE SCENARIO

You have been struggling with giving up smoking. Your husband has been very supportive. The other night you went out with friends—all smokers. You spoke with your husband before about your concerns of being tempted to smoke, and he assured you that he was completely confident in your ability to abstain. You didn't, and you had your first cigarette in 3 months. When you return home, your husband asks how it went. You lie, telling him it was great and you didn't touch a cigarette. He is very proud of you and says he knew you could do it. A week later, he is still commending you on your strength.

- What do you do?
- What if this situation was reversed but you knew he was lying about the cigarette?
- How can we best speak the truth in love in this situation?
- Have you ever been in a similar predicament (either as the husband or the wife)? How have you handled it?

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PERSONAL REFLECTION

Read the following passage three times. After the first time, take a moment to think about the passage. After the second time, reflect on each of the questions on the next page. When you are done with the questions, read the passage one more time and silently contemplate it for another minute. Feel free to write any of your thoughts. This paper is for you to keep you will not need to share it with anyone. We will discuss this passage when we join back together.

that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. —Ephesians 4:14–19

How do I get “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine”?

How should I speak “the truth in love”?

How do I join myself to Christ?

How do I no longer “walk in futility of mind with darkened understanding, alienated from the life of God, in ignorance and blindness of heart”?

FAMILY NIGHT: TAKING IT HOME

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” —John 14:6

PRAY TOGETHER

Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving-kindnesses For they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.
—Psalm 25:4-11

MORE ON THE TRUTH

Buy the truth ...	Proverbs 23:23
...I tell the truth ...	John 8:45
...rejoices in the truth ...	1 Corinthians 13:6

Want to find more?

Grab your Bible and concordance and look up the word “truth” or anything else you want to look for.

AN ORTHODOX REFLECTION ON TRUTH AND TOLERANCE

BY REV. DR. GEORGE PAPADEMETRIOU

Orthodox Christianity is committed to the truth claim of the Christian Faith. This claim includes the Biblical truth that all human beings are created by God in His image and that Christ is the only Savior of the world.

Consequently, Orthodoxy is strongly committed to Christ as the Messiah and to the tolerance of other religious expressions. In this double commitment lies the source of a creative tension for Orthodox Christians involved in the interfaith dialogue and attitudes of the non-Christian religions.

Orthodoxy affirms continually the centrality of Christ in the Church and world. He is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Orthodox Christians are committed to the truth claim of the Christian Faith not as ideology but as an expression of holiness. At the same time Orthodoxy is committed to the tolerance of other religious expressions.

Orthodox Christian people most often live in societies of cultural, linguistic and religious pluralism. For that reason, the Orthodox have developed an attitude of respect for others, and a tolerance and understanding for people of other faiths. The Orthodox Church does not have an “official” pronouncement expressing the attitude toward other religions. However, Orthodoxy has a long-standing tradition showing respect and tolerance for people of other faiths. It is well-stated by an Orthodox Christian theologian

and Archbishop, Anastasios Yannoulatos, of Albania, that, “being created in the image of God, every human being is our brother and sister.”

It is a strong Orthodox view that our commitment to the Christian truth claim must affirm a pluralistic democratic setting for all people to live in peace and harmony. Orthodoxy holds fast to the truth of Christianity and defends the right of other religious expressions to co-exist in harmony in a democratic system where the law equally protects all.

The question of truth is of highest importance to Orthodoxy. “What is Truth?” Pontius Pilate asked (John 18:38). Christ kept silent. Christians interpret this silence as His reply that the “Truth” was standing before him—Christ is the “Truth.” “Truth” makes reference to the knowledge of being. Tolerance “implies a certain relationship of religious faith with truth in every concrete manifestation in the world, whether national political or sociological” (Damaskinos Papandreou, “Truth and Tolerance in Orthodoxy”). The source of all truth is God the Creator, who gives existence to all beings. God is the originator and the human being is the receiver.

For Orthodoxy there is a fusion between the truth claim of Christianity and a mandate for tolerance. We may say that one cannot be a Christian if he/ she does not embrace the doctrine of toler-

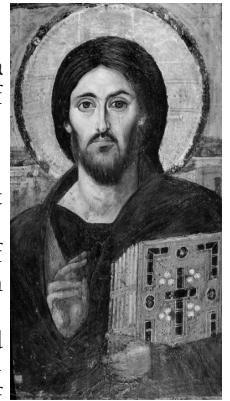
ance as a mandate of Christian love.

This most significant teaching of tolerance in Orthodoxy is contained in an encyclical letter of Ecumenical Patriarch Metrophanes III (1520-1580). This document was written to the Greek Orthodox in Crete (1568) upon hearing of the mistreatment of the Jews. In it he states, “Injustice, therefore, is and stands, regardless to whomever acted upon or performed against, as still injustice.”

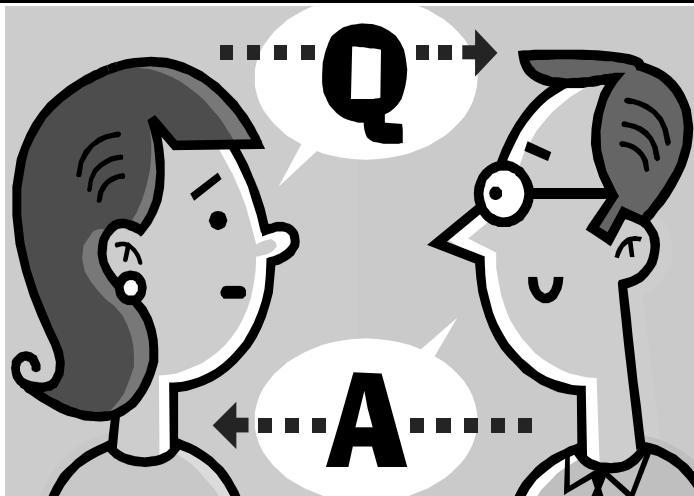
The unjust person is never relieved of the responsibility of these unjust acts under the pretext that the injustice done is done against a heterodox and not to a believer. As our Lord Jesus Christ in the Gospels said, “Do not oppress or accuse anyone falsely; do not make any distinction or give room to the believers to injure those of another belief.”

I close with the thought that all human beings are the children of God created in His image, and tolerance of other people having different faith is an imperative command given by Christ himself. I am also committed to the words of our Lord, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6).

—Taken from the Web site of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (www.goarch.org). Published by the Boston Theological Institute, BTI Newsletter, Newton Centre, MA.



FAMILY ACTIVITY: SUMMER CHALLENGE



Each and every day we bombard one another with questions. “Can I this?” “Will you do that?” “Why do I need to ...?” Our questions to family members are often functional and can be predictable. “How was your day?” “What did you do in school?” Even though we see each other every day we still have things to learn about one another. Make it a regular practice to have a family question time. But make it fun. Think of unique and, dare we say, silly questions you might not know about one another. Try these:

- If you could have any superhero power, what would it be and why?
- If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing you did with the money?
- If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Have children quiz the parents:

- When you were our age, what type of music did you listen to?
- What was your most embarrassing moment?
- Can you tell me about the day I was born?

Have fun! Think up your own questions and act like reporters. You could even put together a family newspaper with the results of your investigation.

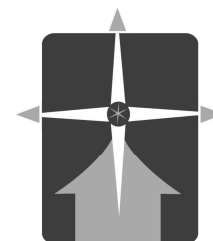
FAMILY CHALLENGE

We challenge you this month to live in truth. Be honest with your family, friends, and especially with yourself. Every day ask yourself the following question:

- Did I tell any little white lies?
- Did I exaggerate any stories to make myself sound better?
- Did I omit information about myself so that I would be seen in a better light?
- Did I deny Christ today?

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- *Speaking the Truth in Love* by Thomas Hopko, published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press (www.svspress.com).
- *Whatever Happened to Truth?* by Anthony M. Coniaris, published by Light and Life Publishing (www.light-n-life.com).
- *Bible Gateway* by Thomas Nelson Publishing (www.biblegateway.com).



KAT'OIKON EKKHAIIA
Family as Church

Center for
Family Care

PUBLISHED BY

CENTER FOR FAMILY CARE

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

79 Saint Basil Road • Garrison, New York 10524

familycare@goarch.org • www.family.goarch.org

Phone: 845-424-8175 • Fax: 845-424-4172