

Dear

Unit Two continues the teachings of the Orthodox Church and what we believe. In Unit Two, **About Your Orthodox Faith**, your child will be instructed about the uniqueness of the Orthodox Church. Students will learn about the sacrament of Baptism and that we are born in the family of Jesus through Baptism.

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is introduced in terms that are understandable for this age group. Your child will learn that Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit and that the Holy Spirit gives us strength, peace, and joy.

Your child will also learn that Jesus loves all people, especially children, and that Jesus forgives and wants them to forgive others. In addition, your child will be introduced to the Lord's Prayer and will be asked to begin to memorize it.

Biblical stories are also included in this unit: "Philip baptizes someone from Ethiopia" (Acts 8:27-40), "Jesus brings the gift of the Holy Spirit" (John 20:19-23), and "The story of Joseph and his brothers" (Genesis 37:23-48;45). Please take time to discuss these stories with your child and point out how these stories affect our everyday living.

In Lesson 2, your child will be asked for the date of his or her Baptism, name of Godparent, and the name of the Church where they were baptized. If you have pictures of your child's Baptism, look at them together. Share details of that day with your child and explain how you felt and why it was important to you as a parent.

With love in Christ,

The first of these is the fact that the  
government has been unable to secure  
the necessary funds to carry out its  
policy of expansion.

The second is the fact that the  
government has been unable to secure  
the necessary funds to carry out its  
policy of expansion.

The third is the fact that the  
government has been unable to secure  
the necessary funds to carry out its  
policy of expansion.

The fourth is the fact that the  
government has been unable to secure  
the necessary funds to carry out its  
policy of expansion.

The fifth is the fact that the  
government has been unable to secure  
the necessary funds to carry out its  
policy of expansion.

With love in Christ

# UNIT

# 2

# About Your Orthodox Faith

## LESSON 1 WE BELIEVE

### It is Special to Be an Orthodox Christian

## 1. GETTING STARTED

### OBJECTIVE

**Recognize** the uniqueness of the Orthodox Church.

### NEW VOCABULARY

**Jesus Christ** - Son of God

**Christian** - follower of Christ

**icon** - a holy picture of Jesus, an angel or a saint

**Orthodox** - correct belief

**priest** - a special servant of God

**Holy Communion** - the body and blood of Jesus

**antidoron** - bread that is blessed

**faith** - belief in God

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

### MOTIVATION

Take the class on a "field trip" to the Church. Walk around the Church and emphasize that the Church is the home for God's family. Encourage the class member to notice the many things that they see which are part of this special place. Emphasize that our church is called the Orthodox Church because we are Orthodox Christians.

## 2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

### TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Discuss the photo collage for Unit 2. Ask the following questions:
  - a. **Does this picture look like our church?** (Allow time for discussion)
  - b. **Have you seen these things in our church?** (Allow time for discussion)
2. Present the vocabulary words **Jesus Christ**, **Christian**, and **Orthodox** by reading the text on page 32. Take time to talk about the picture. Read the text to the class. Ask the following questions:
  - a. **Do you light a candle when you enter the church?**



- b. **Does anyone know why we light candles in church?** Listen to the replies and then discuss briefly how Jesus is the Light of the world.
3. Present the word **icon** to the class and read the text on page 33. Ask:
- Do you know why we kiss the icon?** (to show respect)
  - Do you remember why we make the sign of the cross?** (to show that we are Christians)
4. This is a good time to review making the sign of the cross with the class to be sure that all students are doing this correctly. Emphasize that we are proud to be Orthodox Christians.
5. Introduce the words **Holy Communion**, **faith**, and **antidoron**. Read the text on pages 34-35. Comment on the proper way to receive Holy Communion. You may want to role play taking Holy Communion so that all children understand what is to be done at this time.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Drawing a Picture of the Church** Give each child two sheets of 12" x 18" manila paper and crayons or felt-tip markers. Help the children recall some of the things commonly seen in an Orthodox Church. Ask each child to draw a picture of the inside of the church on one sheet and on the other a picture of the outside of the Church. After the drawings are completed encourage the sharing of the pictures with one another.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. 12" x 18" manila paper or newsprint for each student
2. crayons or felt-tip markers

**Making a Badge** The students will make a badge with the inscription **I AM AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN.** To make the badges, cut two blue "ribbons" from blue construction paper pointing down diagonally left and right. On the front, staple the two ribbons and cover with a plain white sticker on which you have printed **I AM AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN.**

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. blue construction paper
2. plain white stickers
3. staples

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Defining Terms** **ORTHODOX** - is constructed from two Greek words - **orthos** which means "correct" and **doxa** which signifies "belief" or "glory"; hence, one who believes and worships correctly.

**CHRISTIAN** - The word "Christian" indicates one who is a follower of Christ, the Leader of our Church. Followers of Christ were first so called in Antioch, Syria in 42 A.D. (Acts 11:26). The term "Christian" designated the new sect more perfectly than any other word could do. The word "Christian" occurs in only



two other places in the Bible - Acts 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16.

**ICON** - An icon is not a small picture of Christ or of a saint who lived or died for Christ, nor is it a religious adornment. It is an expression of the fundamental truth of our Faith - that Christ, the Son of God, assumed human nature and became man in history. The saints, too, are persons who lived in history.

The icons also express the glorification of the human nature of Christ and the sanctification of the saints who have been rewarded by God. Therefore, Orthodox Byzantine art does not reproduce realistically their physical appearance, but expresses the spiritual qualities of the figures presented in the icon. The physical aspect of the saint is restricted so that the spiritual phase may be enhanced.

It is important that we must recognize that Byzantine art is the standard art of our Church. It is part of our sacred tradition.

We kiss the icons to show that we respect, and love what they represent and also to receive the blessing of their invisible presence in a visible manner.

**Using Candles In Church** We light candles in church as an offering, a gift of faith, to Christ or to saints on behalf of ourselves or others. The burning flame symbolizes our faith and the grace of the Holy Spirit in our hearts given to us at baptism. The light of candles reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world and that He said to His followers: "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). The saints let the light of Christ shine brilliantly in their lives. Whenever we see candles and votive lights in church, we should thank God for the saints and remember to live like them.

### 3. REVIEW

#### RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the concepts that were taught in this lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:

1. **What does the word "Orthodox" mean?** (correct belief)
2. **Why are we called Christians?** (followers of Christ)
3. **What do you do when you enter the church?** (make the sign of the cross, light a candle, and kiss the icon)
4. **What is the most important thing an Orthodox Christian can do?** (receive Holy Communion)
5. **What is the antidoron?** (blessed bread given at the end of Liturgy)
6. **What do you do when you receive Holy Communion?** (tell the priest your name, hold the cloth under your chin and open your mouth)

#### CLOSING PRAYER

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your Name, O God. Amen.

#### LOOKING AHEAD

The objectives for Lesson 2, **WE BELIEVE Through Baptism We Join God's Family, the Church**, are as follows:

**Recognize** that each is born into the family of Jesus through the Sacrament of Baptism.

**Recognize** Baptism as a Sacrament.

# LESSON 2 WE BELIEVE

## Through Baptism We Join God's Family the Church

### 1. GETTING STARTED

#### OBJECTIVES

**Recognize** that each person is born into the family of Jesus through the Sacrament of Baptism

**Recognize** Baptism as a Sacrament

#### NEW VOCABULARY

**Baptism** - celebration of becoming a Christian

**celebrate** - observe a special day with activities of a proper kind

**saint** - a very holy person

#### OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

#### MOTIVATION

Ask the students if they like parties. Ask if any have ever had a birthday party. Tell them that you are going to tell them about a different kind of party - the celebration of their births as members of God's family. We call that celebration **Baptism**.

Write the word **baptism** on the chalkboard. Read it to the class and explain that it is a celebration of becoming a Christian. Review the meaning of the word **Christian**.

### 2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

#### TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Instruct the class to look at the picture on page 36. Discuss what is happening. Read the text to the class and then invite the students to tell when they celebrate their birthdays. After they have shared their birth dates, present the word "saints" and discuss the word. Continue reading on page 37. Discuss the picture of the Orthodox baptism. Point out the priest and the godparent.

2. Tell the class: "When you were a baby, your mother and father and your godparent brought you to church to be baptized. Your godparent held you and made promises for you. You were baptized in the baptismal font. The priest put you in the water three times and you were given a name. Then you received two more sacraments - the SACRAMENT OF CHRISMATION and the SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION. You became a Christian - a follower of Christ. When this was over, your godparent gave you back to your mother and father.



3. Read page 38 to the class. Examine the picture of Christ's baptism. Have paper icons of each child's patron saint. Use the icon of All Saints for any children that do not have a saint's name. A **Saints of Our Orthodox Church** packet can be ordered from the Religious Education Department in Brookline, Mass. Hand out the icon of the patron saint to each child. Tell the class to keep the icon of their patron saint in their bedroom.

4. Ask each student when they were baptized. The students, undoubtedly will not know, therefore, assign as a project for next week to fill out the BAPTISMAL RECORD CARD. Make one card for each student. A copy of the card can be seen below:

**MY BAPTISMAL RECORD CARD**

MY FAMILY NAME:

MY CHRISTIAN NAME:

DATE OF MY BAPTISM:

MY GODPARENT:

CHURCH WHERE I WAS BAPTIZED:

## **USING THE BIBLE**

### **Philip Baptizes Someone from Ethiopia**

Explain to the students that Ethiopia is a land far away in Africa. Read the story on page 39 to the class. After reading the story ask these questions:

1. **Who was Philip?** (one of the first Christians)
2. **What did Philip tell the man from Ethiopia?** (about Jesus)
3. **What did the Ethiopian tell Philip?** (he wanted to be baptized)
4. **What did Philip do?** (He baptized the Ethiopian in a stream)

## **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Visiting a Baptismal Font** Take the class into the Church to observe the baptismal font. Make arrangements for the class to attend a baptism.

**Role Playing** Role play a baptism using a doll. One child can take the part of the priest, another the godparent, the parents, and the rest of the class the guests.

**Making a Booklet** Fold three sheets of paper in half to make a booklet. The outside sheet of the booklet can be decorated. On the remaining sheets have the child copy the following poem. The student can give the finished booklet to his or her Godparent.

GOD (MOTHER or FATHER)

A Godmother (Godfather) is  
forever, you see.

It is the greatest  
thing in the world to be.

For love rises to its  
very greatest height,

As God shines upon a Godmother (Godfather)  
His most special light!

(NOTE TO TEACHER: Either Godmother or Godfather should be used.)

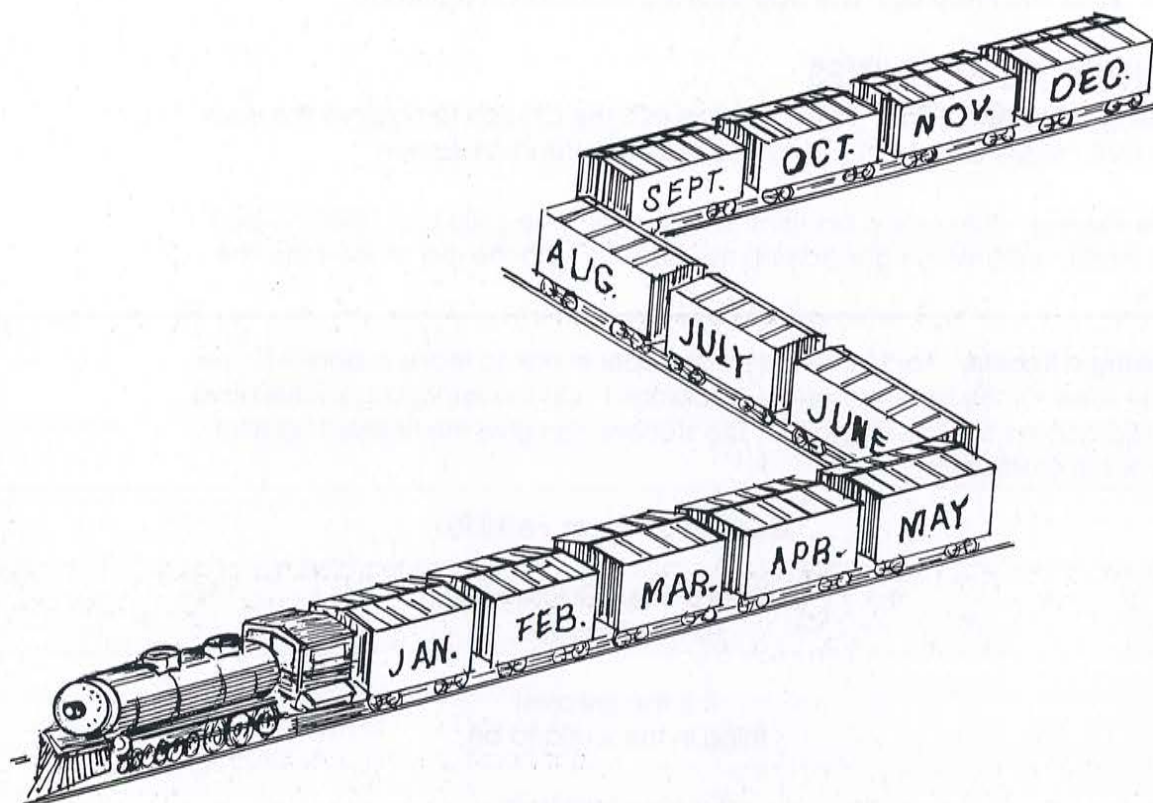
#### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Three sheets of plain paper for each student
2. pencil
3. crayons

**Making a Mural** On one wall or a bulletin board create a NAME DAY TRAIN which will remain for the year. The train will consist of an engine and 12 cars - one for each month of the year. On each car place a small construction paper flag with the feast day for that month. For example, on the January car there might be flags for Jan. 1-St. Basil; Jan. 7-St. John; Jan. 18-St. Athanasius. You may want to use different colored flags to indicate the major holidays such as Christmas, Theophany, Annunciation, and Easter.

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Construction paper
2. Scissors
3. Crayons or felt-tipped markers





**Donating Religious Books** A project that you can use to build the Church library is to make Namedays special with books. Encourage parents to donate religious books to the Church library and to inscribe them in honor of their child.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Baptism** Jesus Christ commissioned His Apostles to "go ye therefore and TEACH all nations, BAPTIZING them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit," (Matthew 28:19). The Church of Christ, from the beginning baptized the members by immersing them three times by a priest, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Immersion baptism was the practice of the early Christian Church. Only one baptism is allowed. Therefore, by dispensation, the Orthodox accepts as valid those baptisms performed in any other Christian Churches which baptize their members in the name of the Holy Trinity. By Baptism, the Church holds that all optional and original sins are cleansed by the Grace of God.

## **3. REVIEW**

### **RECALLING THE LESSON**

Review the concepts that were presented in this lesson before you dismiss the class by asking the following questions:

1. **Why is baptism a happy time?** (we are born into God's family.)
2. **How do you become a Christian?** (baptism)
3. **Who baptized Jesus?** (John the Baptist)
4. **Who is a saint?** (a very holy person)
5. **Who was Philip?** (one of the first Christians)
6. **What did Philip do?** (baptized a man from Ethiopia)

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

It is good to give Thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your Name, O God. Amen.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

The objectives for Lesson 3, **WE BELIEVE The Holy Spirit Helps Us to Love and Do Good**, are as follows:

- Appreciate** the Holy Spirit as a gift from Jesus.
- Recognize** how the Holy Spirit helps us.

# LESSON 3 WE BELIEVE

## The Holy Spirit Helps Us to Love and to Do Good

### 1. GETTING STARTED

#### OBJECTIVES

**Appreciate** the Holy Spirit as a gift from Jesus.

**Recognize** how the Holy Spirit helps us

#### NEW VOCABULARY

**Holy Spirit** - the Spirit of God

#### OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of god, have mercy on us. Amen.

#### MOTIVATION

To present the Holy Spirit to the class, use concepts such as breath, wind, and the love between two people. This will help them to begin to comprehend the mystery of the Holy Spirit. You can also use a balloon. Inflate it and then deflate it. Present the word **Holy Spirit** and discuss it in terms that are acceptable to a six-year old.

### 2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

#### TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Read page 40 to the class. Allow adequate time to discuss the picture. Continue reading page 41 and discuss the pictures. Ask the following question: **How do you bring joy to others?** Let the class have time to consider how joy is brought about. Finish reading the lines of the text on page 42 to the class.

After you finish reading page 42 to the class, ask the following questions:

- a. **What things does the Holy Spirit do for us?** (helps us to do good, and to love others)
- b. **When did you get the gift of the Holy Spirit?** (at Baptism)
- c. **Who gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit?** (Jesus)

#### USING THE BIBLE

##### Jesus Brings the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Prior to reading the story ask the class members how they have felt when good friends moved away. You should elicit answers of sadness, sorrow, and the such. Then read the Bible story on page 43 to the class. Ask:

1. **Why were Jesus' friends sad and afraid?** (They thought they would never see Jesus again)
2. **What did Jesus tell His friends?** (Peace be with you)



3. What special gift did Jesus give them? (The Holy Spirit)
4. How did Jesus' friends feel after they received the Holy Spirit? (They were not sad or afraid anymore)

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Making a Collage** Have the children cut out pictures of people helping others. Have them paste the pictures on the manila paper to make a collage. Label the collage **HELPING OTHERS**.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. several old magazines
2. crayons
3. 12" x 18" manila paper
4. paste
5. scissors

**Writing "Thank You" notes** Have the class members reflect on some of the persons in their lives who have been kind to them. Discuss the gratitude they felt for these persons. Point out that they can show their gratitude by saying "thank you." Have them write thank you notes to several of these people. For example: "Dear Mom, Thank you for reading to me." Encourage the children to draw decorations on the notes and to deliver these notes to these persons.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. white paper
2. pencils
3. crayons

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**The Holy Spirit** The mystery of the Holy Spirit is central to our faith; Jesus revealed God as Father, Himself as Son, and the Holy Spirit as God's dynamic personal presence with us. At the Last Supper Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with His followers. After Christ's crucifixion, the disciples were fearful and hiding when Jesus appeared to them. Our Resurrected Lord greeted His disciples with "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). Then Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

## 3. REVIEW

### RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the ideas presented in this lesson before closing the class by asking the following questions:

1. What is the Holy Spirit? (Spirit of God)
2. Who gave us the Holy Spirit? (Jesus)
3. What does the Holy Spirit do for us? (Helps us do right and helps us to love others.)

4. When did we receive the Holy Spirit? (When we were baptized)

## CLOSING PRAYER

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your name, O God. Amen.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The objective for Lesson 4, **WE BELIEVE Jesus Wants Us to Forgive**, is as follows:

**Understand** that Jesus always forgives us and wants us to forgive others.



# LESSON 4 WE BELIEVE

## Jesus Wants Us to Forgive

### 1. GETTING STARTED

#### OBJECTIVE

**Understand** that Jesus always forgives us and wants us to forgive others.

#### NEW VOCABULARY

**angry** - having feelings of displeasure

**forgive** - make up after a hurt

**trespass** - hurt someone

**peace** - calm, quiet

**jealous** - feeling resentment against a person

**Joseph** - a friend of God

#### PRAYER

We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, Lord our God. Amen.

#### MOTIVATION

Prepare the day before class a package of gelatin (Jello) according to the directions on the package. Have two identical glasses and in one glass pour half of the gelatin and refrigerate. In the other glass pour some of the gelatin, however, dilute it with water so that it will not set. At class time show the two containers of gelatin and say: **I have two glasses, they are the same size, same color, and same shape, but they are different. Let's pretend these glasses are two people. One knows about forgiveness - but the other doesn't. He is very stubborn.** (put a finger into the glass containing the solid gelatin) **Look! When I put my finger in this glass and take it out - there is a hole. He is not forgiving. If I say "I'm sorry," he says, "O.K." but the hole stays. He remembers what I did.**

(Put a finger into the diluted gelatin) **Now let me put my finger in this other mixture; see, no hole. When I say, "I'm sorry," he says, "O.K." and there is no hole. He forgets everything I did to him. Which glass are you like? Do you accept an apology and forget what was done?**

Allow time for the children to discuss this concept.

### 2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

#### TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Present the vocabulary words **forgive, angry, trespass, peace**. Spend a moment or two in discussion then read the text on pages 44-45. Instruct the students to do the activities on both pages.

#### USING THE BIBLE

##### The Story of Joseph and His Brothers

Introduce the word **jealous** and discuss the meaning of this word. Read the Bible story to the class. Then ask the following questions:

1. **Why do you think Joseph's brothers were jealous of him?** (answers will vary)
2. **Have you been jealous of someone?** (Allow time for the students to talk about this)
3. **What did Joseph's brothers do with him?** (Sold him to some people)
4. **What happened to Joseph?** (He became a prince and very rich)
5. **Why did Joseph's brothers go to his country?** (To buy food)
6. **How did Joseph treat his brothers?** (He was happy to see them and forgave them)
7. **How would you have felt if you were Joseph?** (You will obtain many answers, but draw from the discussion the concept of forgiveness)

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

**Making a Bookmark** Distribute two strips of posterboard to each child to make a bookmark which will be given to someone who is NOT a friend, i.e. someone who has hurt him/her in some way. Suggest that he/she make a cheerful bookmark. Instruct the class to draw smiling faces at the top and print, "Smile (person's name) God loves you." Encourage the children to deliver their bookmarks as soon as possible.

#### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Two strips of posterboard 1/2" x 7" for each student
2. crayons and/or felt-tip pens

## 3. REVIEW

### RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:

1. **What is forgiveness?** (not having bad feelings)
2. **What is meant by trespass?** (hurt someone)
3. **What did Jesus tell the people?** (make friends with people who were angry with them)
4. **What did Joseph's brothers do to him?** (they sold him to some people)
5. **How did Joseph act when he saw his brothers?** (he was happy to see them and forgave them)

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The objective for Lesson 5, **WE BELIEVE Jesus Loves Children**, is as follows:

**Recognize** that Jesus loves all people, especially children.



# LESSON 5 WE BELIEVE

## Jesus Loves Children

### 1. GETTING STARTED

#### OBJECTIVE

Recognize that Jesus loves all people, especially children.

#### NEW VOCABULARY

Virgin Mary - mother of Jesus

#### OPENING PRAYER

(At the worship center, place the icon of CHRIST PANTOCRATOR. This icon is found in the ICON PACKET, COME BLESS THE LORD.)

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen.

#### MOTIVATION

Present the word "Virgin Mary" and tell the class that there are other names we use in reference to the Virgin Mary. We refer to her as the *Theotokos* and as *Panagia*. Ask: **What do you call the Virgin Mary in your home?** Some might say *Panagitsa* which is acceptable. If a child is reluctant to answer, do not press for an answer, but rather teach a name that could be used in the home.

### 2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

#### TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Read the text on page 48. Then direct the students' attention to the photograph on the page. Have the class notice on the icon letters surrounding Christ's head. "O-ON" expresses "I am WHO am," the name of God. IC XC stands for Jesus Christ in Greek. Christ's hand is in the position of blessing. This is the same position that the priest uses in blessing us. The names of the four Archangels are *Gabriel*, *Raphael*, *Michael*, and *Oriel*. Relate to the class that this icon is found in the dome of an Orthodox Church.

2. Continue with the text on page 49. Allow time for the students to study the icon and to comment on it.

#### USING THE BIBLE

##### Jesus Loves Children

Read the Bible story on pages 50-51 to the class. Discuss the picture of Jesus embracing and blessing the children. After reading the Bible story, point out the great love Jesus had for all people, especially children.

#### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Making Drawings** Before class, make 6" x 1/2" strips of construction paper for each child in your class. Give each child two strips and crayons or felt-tip

markers. Print the word "Jesus" on one strip. On the other strip have the student draw pictures of people they love. Help them tape one strip into a loop and thread the other strip through the loop. Invite the class to make a big chain of love by linking all their loops together.

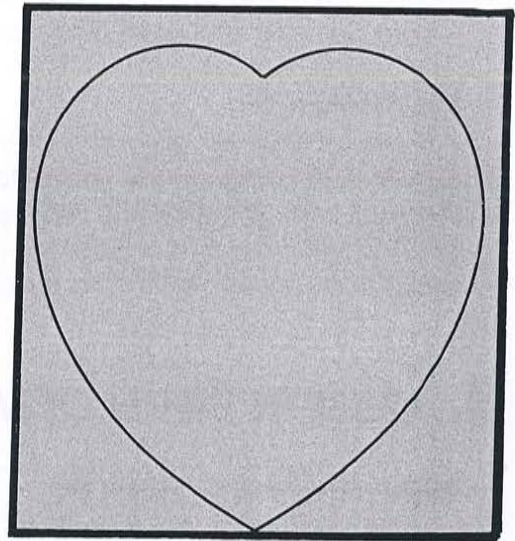
#### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

1. 2 strips of 6" x 1-1/2" pieces of construction paper
2. crayons or felt-tip markers
3. paste

**Making Hearts** Copy a heart on 9" x 12" newsprint or manila paper for each student. Then have the students draw a picture of themselves with Jesus. Tell them that the heart shape represents the love of Jesus and shows that they should hold Jesus close to their heart.

#### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

1. 9" x 12" newsprint or manila paper for each student
2. outline of a heart on each sheet
3. crayons



**Teaching a Hymn** Teach the class the hymn "By the Prayers of the Theotokos," "Tes Presvies." The music can be found at the end of this Unit.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Icon: Christ Pantocrator** The icon shows Christ as Pantocrator, the Ruler of All. To show this, the icon portrays Christ in solemn glory. He is still with us, blessing us with the right hand and holding the Gospel in the left. This is the Book by which we are judged. Both aspects are portrayed in tandem, as it were, for Christ is the "Righteous Judge" and the "Lover of Mankind," both at the same time. Icons of Christ are always full-faced to emphasize His presence to us. He is never far or distant. This Ruler who will come to judge the living and the dead has entered our lives. He is the compassionate Lord who comes to take the sins of the world upon Himself.

This particular icon of Christ Pantocrator depicts the enthroned Christ within a star which signifies the Messiah in the Old Testament. Christ is "The Star from



on High," the Messiah who is sent to us by God the Father. Around the star are written the words: "Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from heaven. Praise Him all His angelic powers. Praise Him sun, moon and light" (Psalm 148: 1-3). Around the star we find the four symbols for the four evangelists who wrote the Gospels. The eagle for St. John, the man (here depicted with wings) for Matthew, the lion for St. Mark, and the ox for St. Luke. The star is enclosed within a circle bearing the signs of the yearly calendar according to the ancient people, thus showing that Christ is Lord of all time. On the borders of the icons are depicted the orders of angels in heaven, who continually praise Christ as the Lord of the universe.

### 3. REVIEW

#### RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:

1. **Who is the Virgin Mary?** (the mother of Jesus)
2. **Who loves us and watches over us?** (Jesus)
3. **Who is God's Son?** (Jesus)
4. **What did Jesus tell his friends when they said that Jesus was too tired to meet people?** (Jesus said that He was not too tired to meet the children and let them come to Him)
5. **What did Jesus do with the children?** (He hugged the children)

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us. Amen

#### LOOKING AHEAD

The objectives for Lesson 6, **WE BELIEVE Jesus Wants Us To Pray**, are as follows:

- Become** familiar with the Lord's Prayer
- Memorize** the Lord's Prayer

# LESSON 6 WE BELIEVE

## Jesus Wants Us to Pray

### 1. GETTING STARTED

#### OBJECTIVES

**Become** familiar with the Lord's Prayer

**Memorize** the Lord's Prayer

#### NEW VOCABULARY

**pray** - speak to God

**prayer** - listening and talking to God

**tempt** - make or try to make a person do something

**temptation** - being tempted

**hallowed** - holy

#### OPENING PRAYER

The Lord is my strength and my protection. Blessed be the Lord. Amen.

#### MOTIVATION

Have the class pretend that they are far away from home and they are writing a letter to their parents. Ask: **What are you going to write in your letter?** Print their ideas on the chalkboard. Point out the love and confidence they have for their parents.

Next, ask the class, **How do you feel when you are talking with your father or mother and they are listening very carefully?** (answers should include "happy," "important," "good"). Discuss with the students the importance of having someone listen to them. Talk with the class about the love Jesus felt for His Father in heaven and how Jesus talked to His Father.

### 2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

#### TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Present the vocabulary words **pray** and **prayer**. Then, read the text on page 52. Take time to discuss the illustration on that page. Then ask the following questions:

a. **Where did Jesus pray?** (alone, with others, in the temple)

b. **What did Jesus' friends ask of Him?** (how to pray)

2. Present the vocabulary words: **hallowed**, **tempt**, and **temptation**. Discuss the words in terms which are understandable to the six-year old.

3. Read the Lord's Prayer found on page 53 to the class. Explain to the class that bread is a food common to many parts of the world. So when Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer and said to ask God for our daily bread, He meant we



should ask God for whatever food is necessary to keep us alive.

4. Proceed with the lesson. Read page 54 and allow time for the students to discuss the photos on the page. Then ask the following question:

- a. **What happens when we pray?** (we talk to God)
- b. **What does prayer do for us?** (helps us to grow closer to God and feel happy)
- c. **When should we pray?** (morning, before we eat, before going to bed, at anytime and anywhere)

5. Read the prayers on page 55, then ask:

- a. **Why do we pray in the morning?** (to ask God to help us have a good day)
- b. **Why do we pray before going to bed?** (to have a restful, peaceful night)
- c. **What does the prayer to use at anytime or anywhere mean?** (answers should reflect independent thinking)

6. This is a good place to discuss that one has to be strong to say "no."

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Making a Poster** Make a large poster with the words of the Lord's Prayer in block letters. Have the students take turns coloring in the letters. A different color can be used for each phrase of the Prayer. Hang the finished prayer in the classroom.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Large poster with the words of the Lord's Prayer in block letters.
2. Felt-tip pens

**Learning the Lord's Prayer** Make copies of the Lord's Prayer for each student to take home to learn.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. A copy of the Lord's Prayer for each student

**Drawing a Picture** Give each student a sheet of manila paper and have him or her draw a picture of himself or herself praying to God.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

1. 9" x 12" manila paper for each student
2. crayons



**Making a Poster** Instruct each student to cut pictures from magazines showing where or when people can pray. Then have students paste their pictures on a piece of manila paper with the heading "Where People Pray".

#### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

1. several old magazines
2. manila paper
3. scissors
4. paste

**Talking to God** Ask the class to sit on the floor in a circle. Invite them to close their eyes, breathe deeply, and take a few moments to think about or talk to God in their hearts.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Praying** We learn to pray to the extent that we have learned to love. An ability to love grows out of our personal experience of God's love. Our prayer experience deepens as our awareness of God's dynamic presence becomes more real. Our encounter with God in prayer is a loving dialogue. It can be a celebration of God's goodness. Prayer can be a plea for what we need or a grieving for what we may be experiencing. The Psalms are examples of these prayer forms. As we pray, we discover that prayer is a response to love.

For Jesus, prayer was as natural as breathing. His prayer showed a unique intimacy with God. His continual awareness of God's presence gave purpose to His response. Jesus urged His disciples to pray. Finding His prayerfulness attractive, the Apostles requested "Lord, teach us to pray..." Jesus taught them saying the Lord's Prayer, (Luke 11:1-2).

The Lord's Prayer is a model. In its words, we speak of four needs - for praise, thanksgiving, petition, and repentance. We express trust in God as a loving parent whom we revere above all. We voice thanks and hope that God's love, joy, peace, and justice transform our hearts and our world. We ask that the hungers of body and spirit be satisfied. We admit our failings and ask God's forgiveness. We ask God to help us to forgive one another. Lastly, we request strength to meet the trials of life.

As members of the Orthodox Christian Church, children learn the traditional prayers treasured by countless generations. This experience helps them develop a sense of belonging to God's family. Properly handled, these prayers can foster the natural prayerfulness of children. Although the Lord's Prayer is simple and direct, as Jesus intended, the venerable language can confuse children. Keep in mind that the example of your own prayerfulness is most effective in teaching children to pray. A reverential attitude to all prayer conveys to the children a sense of the power of this dialogue.

Explain to the children that the Lord's Prayer is said in many different languages. We hear it recited in both Greek and English in the Church and Sunday School.

There are errors in the translation of the Lord's Prayer from the Greek into English. The last phrase "but deliver us from evil" is more correctly translated "but deliver us from the evil One." PONEROS means "an evil person - the devil."



### 3. REVIEW

#### RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the concepts that were taught before dismissing the class. Evaluate the class by asking the following:

1. What did Jesus' friends ask of Him? (teach them to pray)
2. What prayer did Jesus teach them? (Lord's Prayer)
3. What is another name for Jesus? (Lord)
4. Where did Jesus pray? (alone, with others, in the temple)
5. Where do you hear the Lord's Prayer? (home, church, Sunday School)
6. Who is our Father? (God)
7. What does "Give us our daily bread" mean? (enough food to live)
8. Can anyone recite the Lord's Prayer? (Possibly one or two students may be able, however the vast majority will not know it)

#### CLOSING PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer

#### LOOKING AHEAD

In Unit 3, "ABOUT YOUR FAMILY", students will be learning about the family.

#### By The Prayers Of The Theotokos

By the prayers of the The-o-to-kos, Sa-vior save -  
Τῆς πρεσ-βεί-αις τῆς Θε-ο-τό-κου, Σῶ-τερ σῶ -  
us. By the prayers of the The-o-to-  
son i-mas. Τῆς πρεσ-βεί-αις τῆς Θε-ο-τό-  
kos, Sa-vior save - us.  
κου, Σῶ-τερ σῶ-σον ἡ-μας.

# I'm An Orthodox Christian

The musical score is written on a single staff in C major, 4/4 time. It begins with a repeat sign. The lyrics are: "I'm an Orth-o-dox Chris-tian, Je-sus loves me this I know. I'm an Or-tho-dox Chris-tian, for the Bi-ble tells me so. I was bap-tized re-ceived His Spi-rit Ky-ri-e 'le-i-son. I light a can-dle, pray for peo-ple, Ky-ri-e 'le-i-son. I'm an Or-tho-dox Chris-tian. Je-sus loves me this I know. I'm an Or-tho-dox Chris-tian for the Bi-ble tells me so. Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit, Ky-ri-e 'le-i-son. God's love we'll al-ways share it, Ky-ri-e 'le-i-son." The chords are: C, F, C, C, Am, G7, C, F, G7, C fine., C, Em, C, Am, G, C, Em, G, G7, C, C, F, C, C, Am, G7, C, F, G7, C, C, Em, G, C, Em, G, G7, C.

I'm an Orth-o-dox Chris-tian, Je-sus loves me this I know.

I'm an Or-tho-dox Chris-tian, for the Bi-ble tells me so.

I was bap-tized re-ceived His Spi-rit Ky-ri-e 'le-i-son. I

light a can-dle, pray for peo-ple, Ky-ri-e 'le-i-son.

I'm an Or-tho-dox Chris-tian. Je-sus loves me this I know.

I'm an Or-tho-dox Chris-tian for the Bi-ble tells me so.

Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit,

Ky-ri-e 'le-i-son. God's love we'll

al-ways share it, Ky-ri-e 'le-i-son.

The emphasis of this song is to give the children a sense of joy in knowing that they are Orthodox Christians. It refers closely to the thematic development in Unit 2. Themes such as baptism, prayer, Jesus' love for them, and the Bible are clearly identifiable. The names of the Trinity can be found within the last three lines of the song.

This is a moderately lively song. Be patient with the children and always be reminded of their ages. Learn the song well and be comfortable when teaching it.

The solid bar with two dots at the end of the song means that you are to repeat the song from the beginning and continue until you reach the line where you see the word "fine".



# UNIT 2 Review

## New Words and People I Have Learned About

Jesus Christ

Christian

Orthodox

icon

Holy Communion

faith

antidoron

celebrate

baptized

John the Baptist

saints

Philip

Holy Spirit

Joseph

jealous

Virgin Mary

pray

Lord

hallowed

kingdom

heaven

trespasses

temptation



## We Believe

It is special to be an Orthodox Christian.

Through baptism, we join God's family, the Church.

The Holy Spirit helps us to love and to do good.

Jesus wants us to forgive.

Jesus loves children.

Jesus wants us to pray.

## Checkup

Look at the words in the box.

Choose a word to complete each sentence.

Write the word below each sentence.



baptized

God

Christian

love

Virgin Mary

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who believes in Jesus Christ.

Christian

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is Jesus' mother.

Virgin Mary

3. When we are \_\_\_\_\_ we are born into God's family.

baptized

4. The Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ working within us.

God

5. God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ our parents.

love