

Family Supplement

Y²AM Ministry
Plan

November 2017

Part of the 2017-2018 Ministry Year

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Youth & Young Adult Ministries
Office of Camping Ministries

Welcome to the Y²AM Ministry Plan!

August 3, 2017

Dear Parent and Ministry Leader,

Raising children to know Christ isn't easy. For too long, parents and family members have been disconnected from the ministry of the parish, left to fend for themselves as they attempt to raise a new generation of Orthodox Christians.

Wouldn't it be better if we could somehow bring together all youth ministry, whether it happens in the parish or the home?

But to do that, you need support. You need a set of reliable, high-quality materials to help you lead Christ-centered ministry for your home.

That's why we created the **Y²AM Ministry Plan**.

We've created nine months of materials carefully designed for well-rounded, effective, and Kingdom-oriented ministry. Organized week-by-week and month-by-month, the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** gives parishes a comprehensive set of tools that will help Church workers lead ministry designed, not simply for the head, but for the heart.

And, best of all, the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** includes this Family Supplement designed to help parents and families raise a new generation of faithful Orthodox Christians.

After all, Christians aren't simply informed: they are formed. They are transformed in the light of Christ into the people, the saints, God has called us to be.

That's why the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** offers a diverse set of experiences that don't simply pass on messages but rather facilitate encounters: both with other Christians and with our Lord Himself.

And it's all laid out for you, from the first week of September 2017 through the last week of May 2018.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at y2am@goarch.org. Please, let us know what you think: we're committed to creating a new **Y²AM Ministry Plan** every year and constantly refining and improving the materials we offer you.

In Christ,

Steven Christoforou
Director, Y²AM

Special Acknowledgment

August 3, 2017

The **Y²AM Ministry Plan** takes the very best ministry insights and sets them forth in a simple, concrete, easy-to-use resource that can offer ministry workers help today. It reflects the great work of our Team, a fantastic group of people who have done (and continue to do) amazing things for the Church.

I'm blessed to work with them; their fierce dedication and humble love of the Lord encourage me daily.

Yet I'd be remiss if I don't offer special thanks to Cassandra Garibaldi, Y²AM's Resources & Training Coordinator, for her unique contribution.

Cassandra started working on this vital project almost a year ago. It's been an interesting and challenging process as she's both helped shape Y²AM's ministry vision and crystallized it into this concrete, user-friendly **Y²AM Ministry Plan**. Despite all the twists and turns and challenges along the way, Cassandra stayed focused on serving Christ and doing her best to help create ways to reveal Him in our lives.

Her leadership and effort (not to mention the amazing final product) are an incredible testament to Y²AM's ministry vision and the incredible impact that committed, Christ-centered young adults can have on the Church.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Archdiocese's Center for Family Care. Special thanks goes to Elissa Bjeletich for her help in preparing this Family Supplement.

In Christ,

Steven Christoforou
Director, Y²AM

How to Use the Y²AM Ministry Plan

This Family Supplement is a resource provided to better inform families about how their youth have been growing closer to Christ in parish-based ministry, and to give them the tools to complement that progress at home.

After all the home, the “little Church,” is the most important ministry environment for youth.

If we expect our children to undertake this important journey to Christ and His Kingdom, then we need to make sure they are supported every step of the way. Ministry doesn't not merely happen at the parish once a week: it can happen in loving and Christ-centered homes everywhere, every day.

If you are a parish youth worker, please make sure that families know about this Family Supplement. You can email this Family Supplement to families at the beginning of each month or given at the end of sessions. They may even be helpful to use for family sessions during a family night at the parish.

If you are a parent or family member, we hope this Family Supplement will serve you well as you raise your children to know Christ.

The material in this Family Supplement, as well as the Bible verses, are directly from the youth session part of the **Y²AM Ministry Plan**.

The activities in the Family Supplement are designed to augment the learning from the sessions, helping families start and have meaningful conversations and formative experiences at home.

Thanks for letting the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** help you lead incredible, Christ-centered ministry in your homes.

And thank you for letting us join you on this journey.

Family Notes

JOY - Learning Sessions - Fruit of the Spirit: PEACE

We began this month's conversation on peace by considering how difficult it can be to focus among loud distractions, and also how difficult it is to sit in silence. Distractions come from within us and from outside us, making the act of finding peace a true struggle. True peace comes from God, and can be cultivated by spending time in prayer and silence with God. We are inspired by Saints and holy people who were able to cultivate peace even in the most difficult and trying of times (even under persecution and suffering).

We challenged everyone to think of one way they will try to cultivate peace this month—even when it's difficult.

You can continue the conversation at home by asking how future weeks' activities relate to peace, and by doing some of the following:

For Discussion:

- Peace is a gift from God, cultivated through prayer and silence. Can the family share some quiet "Alone with God" time? What if, after saying your family prayers, you were to each sit down quietly and spend five minutes of silent time. How would that feel? What distractions enter your minds? Do you feel yourself coming closer to peace?

POST A MEMORY VERSE

"Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives do
I give to you. Let not your
heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid."

(John 14:28)

Memorize and discuss.
Peace is a gift. How does
the world give? How
does Christ give?

UNPLUGGED EVENINGS

Unplug and unwind.
Struggle against
distractions by carving
out space for the family
to 'unplug': put away the
digital distractions for an
evening each week.
What can you do instead
of using technology?
Play games, talk to one
another, spend some
time in silence.

SILENCE IN PRAYER

Watch Be The Bee
episode #94, The Key to
Prayer, on YouTube:

[youtube.com/watch?
v=eriCwVOahLM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=eriCwVOahLM)

What role does silence
play in prayer? Try it.
Is it possible to be silent
together? How does this
impact our ability to
cultivate peace?



Pray together.

Lord, make me an
instrument of your
peace: where there
is hatred, let me
sow love; where
there is injury,
pardon; where
there is doubt, faith;
where there is
despair, hope;
where there is
darkness, light;
where there is
sadness, joy.

O divine Master,
grant that I may not
so much seek to be
consoled as to
console, to be
understood as to
understand, to be
loved as to love. For
it is in giving that we
receive, it is in
pardoning that we
are pardoned, and
it is in dying that we
are born to eternal
life.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

—Galatians 5:22-23

Family Notes

GOYA - Learning Session - Fruit of the Spirit: PEACE

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We challenged the GOYANS to think of one way they will try to cultivate peace this month—even when it's difficult.

You can continue the conversation at home by asking how future weeks' activities relate to peace, and by doing some of the following:

For Discussion:

- Peace is a gift from God, cultivated through prayer and silence. Can the family share some quiet "Alone with God" time? What if, after saying your family prayers, you were to each sit down quietly and spend 5 minutes of silent time. How would that feel? What distractions enter your minds? Do you feel yourself coming closer to peace?

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is hatred, let me
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where there is
despair, hope;
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darkness, light;
where there is
sadness, joy.

O divine Master,
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so much seek to be
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