

# Family Supplement

Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry  
Plan

November 2017

Part of the 2017-2018 Ministry Year

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

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# Welcome to the Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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 **Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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 **Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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 **Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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.

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That's why the **Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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](mailto:y2am@goarch.org). Please, let us know what you think: we're committed to creating a new **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** every year and constantly refining and improving the materials we offer you.

In Christ,

Steven Christoforou  
Director, Y<sup>2</sup>AM

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## Special Acknowledgment

August 3, 2017

The **Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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, Y<sup>2</sup>AM'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 Y<sup>2</sup>AM's ministry vision and crystallized it into this concrete, user-friendly **Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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 Y<sup>2</sup>AM'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, Y<sup>2</sup>AM

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## How to Use the Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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 **Y<sup>2</sup>AM 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 **Y<sup>2</sup>AM Ministry Plan** help you lead incredible, Christ-centered ministry in your homes.

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

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# 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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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  
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