

# Family Supplement

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

September 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: LOVE

We began this month's conversation on love by watching Be the Bee #20 - Overflowing with God's Love (<https://youtu.be/c7zCEfnbK8A>) . We talked about how Jesus showed love, but sometimes people did not accept His love. We also talked about the idea behind the myrrh story — if we receive love and just store it away, it disappears. When we actively share love it grows and grows.

We challenged everyone to think of one way they will try to love people—even when it's hard.

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

### For Discussion:

- How do we experience God's love *in our home*? How do we radiate God's love *at home*? What makes this difficult? What helps us? Can we help each other?
- How do we experience God's love *in the world*? How do we radiate God's love *in the world*? What makes this difficult? What helps us? Can we help each other?

### POST A MEMORY VERSE

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."  
(Mark 12:30-31)

### IMAGES OF LOVE

What does love look like? Compare images of 'love' from a fashion magazine, and from National Geographic or the IOCC website ([www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)), with icons from Holy Week ([search.lent.goarch.org](http://search.lent.goarch.org)). What kinds of love transform us and the world around us into something better?

### PRACTICE LOVE

Brainstorm about specific times in the family when we are not very loving (perhaps when we are choosing a show to watch or fighting over a privilege or a toy.) What could we do differently that would show love instead? Let's help each other remember to make the more loving choice all month.



### Pray together.

Add this prayer to your regular family prayer times, to help us focus on love this month.

Christ my God, set my heart on fire with love in You, that in its flame I may love You with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul and with all my strength, and my neighbor as myself, so that by keeping Your commandments I may glorify You the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Amen.

*"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 Sessions - Fruit of the Spirit: LOVE

### Four Types of Love

We began this month's conversation on love by thinking about different types of love (see definitions to the right). We reflected on how the way we love can transform us; the more self-giving and unconditional we can be, the more Christ-like we become. We all looked at actual fruit seeds and discussed their purpose: by producing fruit, we grow in likeness with God and do what we were created to do by Him.

We challenged the GOYANS to think of one way they will try to love people, even when it's difficult.

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

### For Discussion:

- How do we experience God's love **in our home?** How do we radiate God's love **at home?** What makes this difficult? What helps us?
- How do we experience God's love **in the world?** How do we radiate God's love **in the world?** What makes this difficult? What helps us?

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### Storge

empathetic love which develops from closeness, the fondness of familiarity

### Philia

friendship love which develops from common values or interests

### Eros

love that pulls us "outside of ourselves" and moves us toward a particular person (includes romantic love)

### Agape

unconditional, self-giving love (like God's love for us)

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