



GOYA
grades 7-12

Y²AAM

Ministry Plan

2018-19

A Life of Offering:
Offering our Gifts
March 2019





EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

BUILDING FAITH TO MOVE **MOUNTAINS**

A new ministry course designed to help you:

1. **develop** a **vision** for ministry
2. **understand** the **challenges** to ministry
3. **implement** the **practices** of effective Christian ministry

EFFECTIVECHRISTIANMINISTRY.ORG

The Y²AM Ministry Plan 2018-19

A Life of Offering

Module 1: Preparing to Connect

September 2018: Offering our Talents
October 2018: Offering our Struggles
November 2018: Offering our Conflicts

Module 2: Connecting with God

December 2018: Offering our Prayer
January 2019: Offering our Story
February 2019: Offering our Sacrifice

Module 3: Living with Connection

March 2019: Offering our Gifts
April 2019: Offering the Gospel
May 2019: Offering our Lives

Welcome to the Y²AM Ministry Plan!

July 5, 2018

Dear GOYA Leader,

Last summer, we launched the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** to help Church workers lead Christ-centered and Kingdom-oriented ministry.

And, glory to God, the feedback was incredible.

This year, we're proud to unveil a new and improved version of the **Y²AM Ministry Plan**, a tool to help communities and homes lead transformational ministry for the youth and young adults in their care.

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 you a comprehensive set of tools that will help you lead ministry designed, not simply for the head, but for the heart.

After all, Christians aren't simply informed: they are formed. They are transformed into people who live lives of constant offering to God.

And it's all laid out for you, from the first week of September 2018 through the last week of May 2019.

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

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.

We couldn't have produced the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** without the hard work of Christian Gonzalez, Maria Pappas, and Christina Andresen who helped edit and review the sessions and offered invaluable feedback and suggestions. I'm also grateful to Kristina Wenger who generously took the lead in developing the Family Supplement and did outstanding work.

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 continues to elevate this project. Not only has she been crafting the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** for almost a year, she faithfully collected and reviewed all the feedback we received from people across the Church. As a result, I think this year's version of the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** will be even better than last year's.

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.

How to Use the Y²AM Ministry Plan

The **Y²AM Ministry Plan** is a tool designed to help you lead great ministry. It's designed to eliminate the stress of finding or creating ministry resources, so you can be free to spend time with the young people in your care. So, as you flip through the **Y²AM Ministry Plan**:

Remember:

1. The **Y²AM Ministry Plan** may be more than you need. We offer week-by-week ministry guidance, but your group may not meet every week. In practice, you may need to skip some of the lesson plans we offer. That's ok: feel free to use the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** in the way that's best for you.
2. Calendar notes are suggestions, not requirements. While the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** is designed intentionally week-by-week and month-by-month, this may not fit your schedule perfectly. That's ok.
3. Anytime you have questions about how to use the **Y²AM Ministry Plan** you can always reach out to us. We're here to help.

Here's a bit more practical advice:

When working with small groups, it can be easy to let talkative people (leaders and students included) take over conversation. Small groups are also filled with people who process things in different ways: some may need more time and silence, some may need physical manipulation (writing, getting up, etc.).

Here are some tips that you can use to help your groups thrive in discussion:

Before each session:

1. It is important to read through each session before presenting the session to participants. Be confident in what you are presenting.
 2. Note time allotments and have in mind what you would like to accomplish with your group during the session.
-

3. Before each session begins, *pass out paper and pens* to each participant. This can help participants process their thoughts and reactions.

During each session:

1. When asking questions, allow time for participants to reflect and write their answers down on the paper.
2. Read one of the main questions or Bible verses from the lesson and write it on a board. Give a few minutes to respond and then allow time for each participant to respond.
3. Try many different ways to engage conversation, and don't be afraid of silence; just because people aren't saying anything doesn't mean that they aren't thinking or responding.
4. Remember to listen before reacting.
5. If a question comes up and you are not sure of the answer, be honest and let participants know. Ask a priest and follow up with the participants. Be honest and true to yourself.
6. If you have a good discussion going on a topic, allow the conversation to flow. Don't feel like you have to ask every question or go through every activity in its entirety.

Remember:

1. These sessions are a time for participants to share their own hearts, thoughts and feelings. They have much to say and offer, so try your best to be an active listener.
2. The goal is for participants to speak and learn, not to force a lesson on them for the sake of getting through the paper outline.
3. You are on a journey with your participants, and everyone is on a journey of learning together.

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



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March 2019

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LEARNING SESSION

MARCH 2019

Offering our Gifts

DATE:

Week of Monday, March 4, 2019

GOAL:

To learn about offering our gifts as almsgiving

OBJECTIVE:

To identify one way to offer personal gifts to your neighbor to be transformed by God into something greater

ESTIMATED DURATION:

40 minutes

LEARNING SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. projector and speaker (or laptop/tablet)
2. blank paper for each participant
3. pen for each participant

OPENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

“Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name.” And help us to, “not neglect to do good and to share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Amen.

(a passage from Hebrews 13:15-16)

LEARNING SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ICEBREAKER

5 minutes

Tell us your name and your most prized possession.

Remember:

It's always helpful to start with an activity to help participants relax and allow community to build. Early in the session, focus primarily on getting participants to open their hearts and connect with what's happening in the group. This is an opportunity to encourage participants to share their honest opinions and thoughts, as well as listen to those of others. Take this time to connect with what's important to them, and to understand what they've connected with.

ACTIVITY 1: POSSESSIONS

10 minutes

Pass out paper and make sure everyone has a working pen. Ask the participants to remember what they shared (during the icebreaker) as their most prized possession. Ask the group to write that down on paper. Next, ask the group to think about giving that possession away.

Ask participants the following questions, ask them to write down their thoughts, and then help facilitate a discussion:

- Would you be able to give up the possession?
- What would make it hard to give that up?
- What would be a reason why you would not give up that possession?
- How could this be an example of sacrifice?

LEARNING SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Teaching: *(reflect on this rather than read it directly to participants)*
What makes it so hard to imagine giving up these things is actually the fear of death. This biggest fear we as human beings have is the fear of death. Sometimes we find all these odd ways to delude ourselves into believing that we have life forever on this planet, and most often that is what our attachments are about. The sacrifice of Christ is that He offers Himself in death that the Father might raise Him to Life. Likewise, we, too are called to offer ourselves in death that we might participate in Christ's Life. We are able to practice this in our lives through fasting and almsgiving.

LEARNING SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 2: TEACHING

10 minutes

Read the following prompt and ask participants the following questions, helping to facilitate a discussion:

“When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.”

- What is the message from Saint Basil?
- How can our small possessions or gifts be transformed into something greater?
- What makes keeping our unused shoes so tempting for us?
- Can God work through our small gifts?
- What small gifts could we have in our lives that could be transformed into something greater for someone else?

LEARNING SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Teaching: *(reflect on this rather than read it directly to participants)*

On some level, we each can find excess in our lives. It could be something of substance or something we don't really even think too much about, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Something that may be small to us could actually be something very large for someone else. Are we able to identify those things in our lives and share with those who lack them? Have we thought of these gifts as insignificant? Have we lacked trust that they can be transformed by God into something greater? To sacrifice is to offer something to God to make it sacred. When we prayerfully and intentionally offer to God, he works on it somehow, there is something that comes back to us.

LEARNING SESSION:
OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 3: SCRIPTURE READING & APPLICATION

10 minutes

Have participants read the following verses:

“And he sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living.’”

(Mark 12:41-44)

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.”

(Deuteronomy 16:17)

LEARNING SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Ask participants the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- What are these scripture passages about?
- What small coin do we possess?
- Do we have enough faith: a loving trust in God that He can transform even the smallest things into something better?
- How can we grow our faith?

Teaching: *(reflect on this rather than read it directly to participants)*
God takes our small offerings and is able to transform them into something great. We must have trust that God is the One who can transform even the smallest gift of sacrifice into something life-giving. The Christian life is a life of sacrifice. Christ sacrificed first and we are called to follow his example.

“We experience Heaven when we sacrifice our whole being, body, and soul, in the Divine Liturgy; a mystery in which our role of sacrifice is to praise.” There is also an aspect of humility in this sacrifice. Your coin is never going to be enough, and that’s okay. It’s just a coin. God is the one who transforms it into something so much greater. Through this transformation we can grow in faith and love.

LEARNING SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CONCLUSION: WRAP-UP & COMMITMENT

5 minutes

Go around the room and (starting with the session leader) ask each participant to answer the following question:

- What is one way to offer small gifts, to be transformed by God, through what you learned in the session?

CLOSING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Lord, You have granted us to offer these common prayers in unison and have promised that when two or three agree in Your name, You will grant their requests. Fulfill now, O Lord, the petitions of Your servants as may be of benefit to them, granting us in the present age the knowledge of Your truth, and in the age to come eternal life.

Amen.

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

MARCH 2019

Offering our Gifts Through Relationships

DATE:

Week of Monday, March 11, 2019

GOAL:

To learn how to offer personal gifts through our

OBJECTIVE:

To identify one way to offer through our gifts

ESTIMATED DURATION:

3 hours

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. copy of *The Intern*, or another appropriate movie on personal gifts
2. projector/television and speaker
3. meal ingredients

OPENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

“Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name.” And help us to “not neglect to do good and to share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Amen.

(a passage from Hebrews 13:15-16)

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 1: PREPARE THE MEAL

45 minutes

Organize participants to clean up and prepare the meal for the movie night. Make sure everyone has a job, even if it's a small one. Remember to pray before the meal.

Remember:

You can order pre-made food, but preparing a meal is a great way for people to connect and bond. It's no accident that the focus of every Liturgy is a meal, and that early Christians shared meals together as a sign of their love and community.

ACTIVITY 2: WATCH MOVIE

2 hours 1 minute

Make sure everyone has access to food, a comfortable place to sit, and a good view of the movie. We have suggested *The Intern*, but you could choose any movie that is age-appropriate and will inspire thought and conversation about personal gifts.

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 3: CLEAN UP

10 minutes

Make sure the space is completely clean after everyone has eaten.

ACTIVITY 4: MOVIE DEBRIEF

10 minutes

Ask participants a few of the following questions and facilitate a discussion:

- What did you see/hear in the movie?
- Did you learn anything from the movie?
- What is the message of this movie? Do you agree or disagree with it?
- In what ways are the characteristics or qualities of the main character(s) like your own or those of someone you know?
- Which character did you (admire, hate, love, pity, relate to, etc.) the most? What was it about that character that caused you to have that reaction?
- The resolution of the film teaches a lesson. How can you apply the lesson in the film to your own life?

FELLOWSHIP NIGHT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Remember:

Movies are great way to show people the compelling beauty behind Christian ideals like love and sacrifice, and can connect with people in a way that a talk or academic lesson may not.

CONCLUSION: WRAP-UP & COMMITMENT

5 minutes

Go around the room and ask each participant to tell the group something new they learned about sacrifice during the session.

CLOSING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Lord, You have granted us to offer these common prayers in unison and have promised that when two or three agree in Your name, You will grant their requests. Fulfill now, O Lord, the petitions of Your servants as may be of benefit to them, granting us in the present age the knowledge of Your truth, and in the age to come eternal life.

Amen.

WORSHIP SESSION

MARCH 2019

Experiencing Offering Through Worship

DATE:

Week of Monday, March 18, 2019

GOAL:

To learn about personal gifts

OBJECTIVE:

To chant the Small Paraklesis together

ESTIMATED DURATION:

75-90 minutes

WORSHIP SESSION:
OFFERING OUR GIFTS

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. copies of Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos
2. pencils and paper

OPENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Lord, You have granted us to offer these common prayers in unison and have promised that when two or three agree in Your name, You will grant their requests. Fulfill now, O Lord, the petitions of Your servants as may be of benefit to them, granting us in the present age the knowledge of Your truth, and in the age to come eternal life.

Amen.

WORSHIP SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 1: SMALL PARAKLESIS

45 minutes

Invite your parish priest to lead the service. Pass out pencils and paper, so that everyone can write down names for commemoration. If your parish priest is not available, you can still chant it as a reader service. If it's a reader service, make the following changes:

1. Instead of “Blessed is our God...” to begin the service, we say: “Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.”
2. After the “Our Father,” we say “Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us,” instead of “For Thine is the power...”
3. We omit all the petitions and the parts the priest would do.

Assemble your group either in the Church building (if possible) or before an icon of the Theotokos.

A copy of the service is available here:

<http://www.goarch.org/chapel/chant/paraklesis/index.html>

WORSHIP SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Remember:

The more we are exposed to prayer and the language of the Church, the more our minds and hearts are shaped by the mind and heart of the Church. Over time, we can internalize the prayer of the Church and better learn to talk to God ourselves. This takes time, and should be an important part of every ministry.

ACTIVITY 2: DEBRIEF

10 minutes

Ask participants the following questions and facilitate a discussion:

- What did you experience while you were worshipping during the service?
- Did any part of the service stand out to you?
- Is there one lesson that you can take away from the service?

Remember:

Many participants may not have ever celebrated this service before. Some may not have heard it chanted in English. Give them space to process and verbalize what they've just experienced.

WORSHIP SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 3: GROUP PRAYER

10 minutes

Ask a few participants to say their own personal prayer aloud for the group.

Remember:

We are all very comfortable with and accustomed to having a priest pray aloud for us. Prayer is a very powerful tool and it is a tool each of us possesses. Use this opportunity to show participants that they too can offer their own prayers.

WORSHIP SESSION: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CONCLUSION: WRAP-UP & COMMITMENT

5 minutes

Go around the room and ask each participant to answer the following question. The session leader should go first.

- What is one way to offer a prayer in your daily life through what you learned in the service?

Remember:

Don't just use this opportunity to ask participants to commit to action: check in with them, and follow up to see how they're doing after past sessions. We can all be accountable to each other to make necessary improvements in our lives.

WORSHIP SESSION:
OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CLOSING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Lord, You have granted us to offer these common prayers in unison and have promised that when two or three agree in Your name, You will grant their requests. Fulfill now, O Lord, the petitions of Your servants as may be of benefit to them, granting us in the present age the knowledge of Your truth, and in the age to come eternal life.

Amen.

SERVICE PROJECT

MARCH 2019

Offering Through Serving

DATE:

Week of Monday, March 25, 2019

GOAL:

To learn to offer through serving

OBJECTIVE:

To identify one way to offer our alms through service to others

ESTIMATED DURATION:

1 hour 15 minutes

SERVICE PROJECT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. bowls
2. measuring cups and spoons
3. flour
4. water
5. yeast
6. salt
7. sugar
8. prosforo seal
9. paper and pens

OPENING PRAYER

*In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Lord, this bread that we are baking represents each one of us.
We are offering ourselves to You, our very life, in humble
obedience and total commitment to You. We place ourselves on
Your holy altar through this bread to be used by You in any way
that You feel will help enlarge Your kingdom. Accept our gift and
make us worthy to receive the greater gift that You will give us
when You consecrate this bread and give it back to us as Your
Precious Body.
Amen.*

SERVICE PROJECT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 1: PREP

5 minutes

Have all participants wash their hands thoroughly, remove all bracelets, rings and watches, and push up any long sleeves.

ACTIVITY 2: MAKE THE DOUGH

30 minutes

We recognize that there are many different ways to make prosforo. This is one recipe. You can also follow your own or bring in someone from your church that regularly makes prosforo to help. More important than the recipe is that this process is done prayerfully and that all participants are able to contribute.

Possible recipe:

Ingredients:

2 tsp yeast (1 pkg)

1 tsp sugar

¼ cup warm water

5 cups pre-sifted, flour (King Arthur preferred)

1 tsp salt

1 ½ cup warm water

SERVICE PROJECT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Procedure:

- Place yeast and sugar in a small bowl. Add ¼ cup warm water and whisk to mix well. Sift flour and salt on top of yeast and water to allow yeast to rise for approximately 10 minutes. Next, slowly begin mixing ingredients to form dough. Dough should be soft but not sticky. Place dough on floured surface and knead to make a smooth round ball.
- Once the dough is done being kneaded. Place it in a bowl with a towel over it a place in a warm (but not too warm) area. Allow it to rise for a half hour.
- Prepare a list of names of Orthodox Christians who you would like commemorated in the service. Use first names only. On the left side, write "Living" at the top and list the names below. On the right side, write "Departed" and write the names of departed below. Bring the list and the bread to the Church before the start of Orthros (or the day before).

SERVICE PROJECT:
OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 3: REFLECTION

DISCUSSION GROUP

30 minutes

While the dough rises, pass out paper and pens to participants.

Give participants the following prompts and have them write down their thoughts:

What makes our hearts more important than outer appearances?

How can we offer our hearts to others to help others?

After a few minutes of silent writing, ask participants to share what they wrote and facilitate a discussion using the prompts as a guide.

SERVICE PROJECT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

ACTIVITY 4: KNEADING AND STAMPING THE DOUGH

10 minutes

Have each group punch out and knead the dough a bit longer. They should shape it into a smooth round ball.

Once this is done, place the dough on a floured (not greased) baking sheet. Have participants press the seal in (make sure to flour the seal). This must be done evenly and firmly.

Once this is done, use toothpicks to poke holes around the seal and around the sides of the prosforo.

Bake in 350 degree oven for approximately 45 minutes.

ACTIVITY 5: CLEAN UP

10 minutes

While the dough is baking, make sure the space is completely clean.

SERVICE PROJECT: OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CONCLUSION: WRAP-UP & COMMITMENT

5 minutes

Go around the room and ask each participant to answer the following question:

- What is your personal gift?

CLOSING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

O God, our God, You sent the heavenly Bread, the food for the whole world, our Lord and God Jesus Christ, as Savior, Redeemer, and Benefactor, to bless us and sanctify us. Do bless this offering and accept it upon Your heavenly altar. As a good and loving God remember those who brought it and those for whom it was brought. Keep us blameless in the celebration of Your divine Mysteries. For sanctified and glorified is Your most honorable and majestic name, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Amen