

Small Groups Curriculum

Week of October 4, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

Shine in our hearts, O Master Who loves mankind, the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our mind that we may comprehend the proclamations of Your Gospels. Instill in us also reverence for Your blessed commandments so that, having trampled down all carnal desires, we may lead a spiritual life, both thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to You. For You, Christ our God, are the illumination of our souls and bodies, and to You we offer up glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer Before the Reading of the Gospel

THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

For the Second Sunday of Luke

SUNDAY EPISTLE

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

SUNDAY GOSPEL

The Gospel According to Luke 6:31-36

All readings are available at goarch.org or the Daily Readings app.

EPISTLE READING

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

GOSPEL READING

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Discussion

INTRO NOTES

1. External conduct
 - A. The Gospel focuses on what we need to do: “love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return...”
 - B. We are called to “be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”

2. External conduct
 - A. St. Paul focuses more on internal conduct: “touch nothing unclean...”
 - B. This is how we become “the temple of the living God”

3. The Christian life is about both
 - A. We are called, not only to a life of external action or internal purity, but both
 - B. Our inner purity ensures that God is at the center of our lives
 - C. Our external actions are in imitation of Our Father
 - D. This is how we become children of God and invite Him to dwell with us

For more on this Sunday’s Gospel reading, watch:

[Live the Word #2 | How to Become a Child of God](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you feeling right now?
2. What is actually at the center of your life? Any ideas about how you can figure that out?
3. What temptations disturb the inner purity St Paul reminds you to maintain?
4. Who can you help with a loving action? Not later but today.

If you don’t get through all the questions, that’s ok!

Discussion

WRAP-UP NOTES

Each Wrap-Up should be personal and based on your time together as a Small Group. These three questions can help you, as a Small Group Leader, wrap up your weekly meeting:

1. What are you grateful to have learned or heard in the conversation?
2. What simple statement or question from the conversation can you share again that would be most helpful to hear again three years from now?
3. If you could share up to twelve words on the topic of “purity” what would you say?

AT THE END OF MEETINGS

We give thanks to You, invisible King, Who by Your boundless power fashioned the universe, and in the multitude of Your mercy brought all things from nothing into being. Look down from heaven, O Master, upon those who have bowed their heads before You; for they have not bowed before flesh and blood, but before You, the awesome God. Therefore, O Master, make smooth and beneficial for us all, whatever lies ahead, according to the need of each: Sail with those who sail; travel with those who travel; heal the sick, Physician of our souls and bodies. Through the grace, compassion, and love for mankind of Your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer Following the Lord's Prayer
Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom