

# Small Groups Curriculum

## Week of October 18, 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  
Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

### **THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

For the Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist

#### **SUNDAY EPISTLE**

**St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18**

#### **SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**The Gospel According to Luke 10:16-21**

All readings are available at [goarch.org](http://goarch.org) or the Daily Readings app.

## EPISTLE READING

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one.

Tychicos will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place.

Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea.

And say to Archippos, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord."

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.

## **GOSPEL READING**

The Lord said to his disciples, "He who hears you hears me, and he who rejects you rejects me, and he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"

And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

# Discussion

## INTRO NOTES

1. Christians make up the Church
  - A. In his epistle, St. Paul lists many “faithful ministers and fellow servants in the Lord”
  - B. In the Gospel, we see the Seventy Apostles working wonders in the Lord’s name
  - C. The Church is the Body of Christ; and we Christians become members of this Body
  
2. Stay focused on our goal
  - A. St. Paul passes on advice: “full the ministry which you have received in the Lord”
  - B. This ministry is not to boast in status or power, but “that our names are written in heaven”
  
3. The paradox of the Gospel
  - A. St. Paul remarks that only a few of his fellow workers are “men of the circumcision” (ie, Jews who have grown up with an understanding of the Scripture)
  - B. The truth, as Jesus says, may be “revealed them to babes” because what matters is not our wisdom but the openness of our hearts

For more on this Sunday’s Gospel reading, watch:  
[Intro the Gospel According to Saint Luke](#)

# Discussion

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How are you feeling right now?
2. Both Paul and Christ show us that the Church is comprised of many members; describe a time when you have felt truly connected to the community of believers. Now describe a time when you have felt truly disconnected from the community. Who are the people you now lean on to maintain a living connection to the Church, Christ's real and mystical Body?
3. The world today is full of strengths assessments and personality tests to help us maximize our potential. We may be tempted to think that these strengths or personality assets are ours to use as we like, rather than to be joined to the mission of God's Kingdom in the world. What makes you cling to your own "power" and causes to you lose track of your goal as a Christian? Is it ambition? Money? Comfort? Cynicism?
4. What are steps you can take to develop a simpler, more childlike character?

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 “ministry” 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