

Small Groups Curriculum

Week of January 17, 2021

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 12th Sunday of Luke

SUNDAY EPISTLE

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21

SUNDAY GOSPEL

The Gospel According to Luke 17:12-19

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

EPISTLE READING

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Discussion

INTRO NOTES

1. Turning to Our Leaders

- A. In the Epistle, Saint Paul advises us to “obey your leaders and submit to them”
- B. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the ten lepers who sought healing to “go and show themselves to the priests”
- C. We don’t know if the nine lepers ever made it to the priests, or if they just went their way
- D. But we do know that one turned to the Lord, to whom all leaders “will have to give account“

2. Remembering God

- A. Saint Paul prays that the Lord will “equip us with everything good that we may do His will”
- B. Jesus equipped the ten lepers with good gifts, yet only one returned to Jesus, “to whom be glory for ever and ever”

3. The Faith of the Outsider

- A. Samaritans were not part of the Jewish community, and were even seen as unclean
- B. Yet it was the Samaritan alone who thanked Jesus
- C. Just as in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, it was the “outsider” rather than the Priest or Levite who showed the love of God
- D. It was to him that Jesus said “your faith has made you well”

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

[Intro to the Gospel According to Luke](#)

Discussion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you feeling right now?
2. Are there ways you exercise leadership in your life (at home, at work, or in the parish)? Do you use that leadership to point people to Christ?
3. Is it easier to remember God in times of trouble rather than times of comfort? What makes it easy to forget God when things are going well?
4. Again and again, Samaritans show up in the Scripture and challenge expectations: because they, rather than those within the Jewish community, display faith. Have you ever encountered an “outsider” who surprised you with their faith? What did you see in them that caught your attention? How did you respond?

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 “faith” 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