

Small Groups Curriculum

Week of January 24, 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 14th Sunday of Luke

SUNDAY EPISTLE

St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

SUNDAY GOSPEL

The Gospel According to Luke 18:35-43

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

EPISTLE READING

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Discussion

INTRO NOTES

1. Stuck in Blindness and Sin

- A. At the start of the Gospel, we find a blind man stuck by the roadside
- B. He could not approach Jesus, he merely cried out from his “stuckness”
- C. Similarly, when St Paul describes the saving work of Jesus, the Lord “comes into the world to save sinners”

2. Crying out to the Lord

- A. The blind man cries to the Lord for “mercy”
- B. This is the same mercy St Paul describes in the Epistle: “I received mercy”
- C. The Lord hears us and comes to us, even when we cannot move to Him

3. First Among Sinners

- A. The blind man was unconcerned with the failings of others; he simply wanted to see
- B. Similarly, St Paul isn't preoccupied with the sins of others
- C. In fact, he calls himself “the foremost of sinners”
- D. Our healing begins in humility: accepting our own brokenness and seeking the Lord's merciful healing

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

[Live the Word #11 | Out of the Darkness, Into the Light](#)

Discussion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you feeling right now?
2. In what ways are you stuck by the side of the road? How are you blind and in need of having your sight restored? What do you think you would see if you could look at your life clearly?
3. What is trying to prevent you from crying out to the Lord fervently? Is it fear of rejection? Is it shame? Or is it something as simple as a lack of energy?
4. How would your life change if you fully internalized the reality that you are “foremost among sinners”?

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 “mercy” 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