

# The Elementary Division

## ► PURPOSE

The purpose of the elementary division program is to offer children in the fifth and sixth grades the opportunity to express their feelings about their Faith and Church, as well as to help them gain confidence and self-esteem. In addition, it provides an incentive for children to participate in the junior and senior divisions in the future.

## Structure

The basic differences between the elementary division and the junior and senior divisions are as follows:

- The elementary division is strictly a local program.
- There is no judging.
- The topics are modest but invite creativity: Jesus, prayer, icons, etc.
- It is designed to fit easily into the Sunday Church school program with flexible topics that coincide with the curriculum.
- To make it even more interesting, consider having some participants sing a song or re-enact a parable or a Bible story. Be creative!

## Rules

Encourage all children to participate. Teachers and parents should assist the children in choosing a topic. Invite the children to present their talks at a community gathering, perhaps after the Divine Liturgy, as part of a parish event, during a special oratorical program exclusively for the elementary division or as part of the junior and senior division festival.

Each elementary division talk should last 30-90 seconds. However, strict timing should not be observed. For instance, one child may offer only two or three sentences, and another may offer considerably more. Also, if a child feels more comfortable using an icon, picture or poster as part of the talk, this is permissible.

## Suggested topics

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|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Helping Others    | • My Church        |
| • The Bible         | • My Family        |
| • Love              | • Prayer           |
| • Being Kind        | • Church School    |
| • Lighting a Candle | • My Favorite Icon |
| • The Cross         |                    |