
BE THE BEE

SESSION #7

Uniting With God and Neighbor

LEARNING TO BE THE BEE AND LIVE ORTHODOXY



BE THE BEE #7

Hidden Behind Labels

Goal:

Learn that labeling people hides the God-given beauty within us all.

Objective:

Identify one way to see God in the hearts of others throughout the day.

Estimated Duration:

60 minutes

LEARNING SESSION

Be the Bee # 7 **Hidden Behind Labels**

OPENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Lord, help us to “be the bee” and “have a positive way of thinking, seeing only the good side of things.” Show us “where to find flowers, sweets, honey and sugar, and to only know the good things in life and become ignorant to all evil.” Grant us faith, courage and love, through the prayers of Saint Paisios and of all the Saints. Amen.

ICEBREAKER

6 minutes

Name your favorite cereal and something other than milk you would eat it with.

VIDEO

5 minutes

Be the Bee #7 | Hidden Behind Labels

<https://youtu.be/NTcuSkyPoSU>

DEBRIEF

10 minutes

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What did you see and hear in the video?
- ❖ What is one lesson you can take away from the video?

TEACHING

7 minutes

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ Are bullying and labeling the same? Are they different?
- ❖ Can you think of a time when you labeled someone? If so, can you explain the situation?
- ❖ Can labeling be helpful or kind?
- ❖ How does labeling hurt the other person?
 - ❖ It prevents us from seeing who they truly are and their potential.

REFLECTION

10 minutes

Ask students the following question and help facilitate a discussion:

Have you been hurt by someone's words? How?

READING AND APPLICATION

7 minutes

Read the following story to students:

The Thief who Prayed Daily to the Theotokos

<http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2011/08/thief-who-prayed-daily-to-theotokos.html>

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What did you hear in the story? What spoke to you?
- ❖ Were you surprised that the Theotokos offered her protection to thieves?
- ❖ Did you label as you heard the story?
- ❖ What caused you to label?
- ❖ Was it an automatic response?
- ❖ Do you automatically label others?

SCRIPTURE READING AND APPLICATION

10 minutes

Read the following verses to students:

"A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart." - Proverbs 21:2

"One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." - Luke 23: 39-43

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get." - Matthew 5:1-2

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ How can we tell what is in someone's heart?
- ❖ What do the examples of the thieves on the crosses, tell us about who a person truly is deep down inside?

Teaching: (reflect on this rather than read it directly to participants)

The labels we put on other people limit who they are and who God has created them to be. When we use labels they usually tend to be negative. When we put labels on people, we are judging the person in front of us. We miss who they really are. How can we get to know someone? We ask questions, and we listen. We are called to love the people in our lives, and we show love through our attentiveness. If we have heard things about a particular person, we should lay that aside and try to forget about the gossip. It is in a face-to-face encounters that we can truly get to know a person. We never know someone's true intentions or their heart until we ask.

CONCLUSION

5 minutes

Go around the room and ask each student to answer the following question:

- ❖ What is one way to see God in your daily life through what you learned in the session?

CLOSING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Lord, help us learn to see Your beauty in each person. Allow us to see each person as someone You have uniquely created, and help us not to judge our brothers and sisters. Help us get to know the hearts of the people you place into our lives, and help us to love them.

Amen.