
BE THE BEE

SESSION #13

Uniting With God and Neighbor

LEARNING TO BE THE BEE AND LIVE ORTHODOXY



BE THE BEE # 13

Christmas Gift Giving

Goal:

Learn how to dedicate your life to God.

Objective:

Identify one way to give gifts in your daily life.

Estimated Duration:

60 minutes

LEARNING SESSION

Be the Bee # 13 **Christmas Gift Giving**

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

What is the best gift you have ever gotten? What made it so great?

VIDEO

5 minutes

Be the Bee #13 | Christmas Gift Giving

<https://youtu.be/Luyz1lMqbqU>

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:

- ❖ What makes gift giving so important?
- ❖ What kinds of gifts has God given to you?
- ❖ What have we done with these gifts?

REFLECTION

10 minutes

Ask students the following question and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ Thinking of the gifts has God given you, how do you acknowledge these gifts? With thanks? Do you wish you had other gifts?

READING AND APPLICATION

7 minutes

Read the following story to students:

Giving Alms with Humility

<http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/09/on-giving-alms-with-humility-example-of.html>

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What did you hear in the story? What spoke to you?
- ❖ What is humility?
- ❖ How should we give gifts?

SCRIPTURE READING AND APPLICATION

10 minutes

Read the following verses to students:

“Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.”

Deuteronomy 15:10

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What happens when we give?
- ❖ How are we full after we give everything?

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

God has given us many things, and for all of the blessings we should be grateful. He has given us life, family, friends, and talents to name a few; the list goes on. We are called to use these and offer them all back to Him. In fact, during each liturgy we are called to “commit ourselves, and one another, and our whole lives to Christ our God”. When we are able, with a willing heart, to offer everything back to God, He transforms it, and makes it even better. God takes our fallen world, and transforms it into eternity. God has given us many blessings, and when we use them for the service of others, He sees our efforts. These efforts help us to store up Heavenly treasures. An example of this transformation is Holy Communion. Grapes and wheat are changed into wine and bread. We offer them to God, and He transforms them into the Body and Blood of our Lord. Giving these Gifts back to us, God grants us the opportunity to draw closer to Him. Each gift we use for the service of others is an opportunity to give back to God and grow closer to Him.

CONCLUSION

5 minutes

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

- ❖ What is one way to give gifts 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, thank you for all of the gifts you have given us, both seen and unseen. Help us to multiply these gifts and offer them back up to You, through using them to help others. Just as You transform our small offering of bread and wine, transform everything we do for the good of Your world.

Amen.