
BE THE BEE

SESSION # 14

Uniting With God and Neighbor

LEARNING TO BE THE BEE AND LIVE ORTHODOXY



BE THE BEE # 14

The Wonder of Christmas

Goal:

Learn about the paradox of Christ's birth.

Objective:

Identify one way to recognize paradoxes
in your daily life.

Estimated Duration:

60 minutes

LEARNING SESSION

Be the Bee # 14 **The Wonder of Christmas**

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 brings wonder to your life?

VIDEO

5 minutes

Be the Bee #14 | The Wonder of Christmas

https://youtu.be/rG_fk2wHo0c

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 is wonder?
- ❖ What is a paradox?
 - ❖ "A seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true."
- ❖ What paradoxes did you hear in the video?
- ❖ What is important about these statements?
 - ❖ Christ speaks to us through the Bible and, many times through paradoxes. Christ came not to divide, but to unite us with Him. Through paradoxes, we can learn both sides of a situation.

REFLECTION

10 minutes

Ask students the following question and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ Have you experienced paradox in your life? What was the outcome?

READING AND APPLICATION

7 minutes

Read the following story to students:

The Celebration of Christmas

<http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2013/12/the-celebration-of-christmas-1-of-6.html>

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What did you hear in the story? What spoke to you
- ❖ What makes this feast so important?

SCRIPTURE READING AND APPLICATION

10 minutes

Read the following verses to students:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” - Micah 5:2

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What makes Christmas such a magnificent and wonderful feast for us?
- ❖ Can we find paradoxes in the Scripture? Examples?
- ❖ What can these paradoxes teach us?

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

Throughout our lives, we will encounter ups and down. Things that should be easy or make perfect sense somehow get turned upside down. When this happens, we tend to get angry or question what is going on. These mysteries or paradoxes are apart of our lives for a reason. As we read the Bible we can clearly see Christ teaching through these paradoxes. Christ came not to divide, but unite us. Having these paradoxes in our lives, they allow us to see both sides of the coin. Jesus was born so that we could come to know Him. When we call upon Him, we are praying to someone who knows what it's like to be human. Through Christ, His birth, and death, we are able to live forever. As we live our lives, we may find that when we are faced with a paradox, Christ can be found in the center, steering us to Him on His narrow path through the storm.

CONCLUSION

5 minutes

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

- ❖ What is one way to recognize paradoxes 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 to see the wonder in everything You have created for us. Help us to understand the true meaning of Your birth. Allow us to embrace the paradoxes of this life and find You in them. May we continue walking on Your path.

Amen.