
BE THE BEE

SESSION #19

Uniting With God and Neighbor

LEARNING TO BE THE BEE AND LIVE ORTHODOXY



BE THE BEE #19

Everyday Martyrs

Goal:

Learn to love sacrificially.

Objective:

Identify one way to emulate the martyr saints
in your daily life.

Estimated Duration:

60 minutes

LEARNING SESSION

Be the Bee #19 **Everyday Martyrs**

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 a super power you wish you had?

VIDEO

5 minutes

Be the Bee #19 | Everyday Martyrs

https://youtu.be/Dq6qYrq2I_c

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 does it mean to be a martyr today in our day and age?
- ❖ How is a martyr created?
- ❖ Would you ever consider yourself a martyr?

REFLECTION

10 minutes

Ask students the following question and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What makes it hard to be a Christian?

READING AND APPLICATION

7 minutes

Read the following story to students:

How Saints Endured the Pain of Martyrdom

<http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2010/09/how-saints-endured-pain-of-martyrdom.html>

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What did you hear in the story? What spoke to you
- ❖ How is suffering explained as a good thing?
- ❖ Have you sacrificed for someone else like this before?

SCRIPTURE READING AND APPLICATION

10 minutes

Read the following verses to students:

“And the Lord has declared this day concerning you that you are a people for His own possession, as He has promised you, and that you are to keep all His commandments, that He will set you high above all nations that He has made, in praise and in fame and in honor, and that you shall be a people holy to the Lord your God, as He has spoken.” - Deuteronomy 26: 18-19

“And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” - Acts 7: 49-50

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What has God promised to each of us?
 - ❖ Eternal life, so that do not need to fear death

- ❖ How are the martyrs able to forgive their enemies and accept death?
 - ❖ They had faith that Christ is risen and death has been destroyed.

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

We each have an opportunity to be transformed by God's love in the face of opposition. We have an opportunity to change the world through our love; Love that we show in any circumstance. As Saint Paisios says: "the good is good, only when the one who does it sacrifices from himself." We see, for example the words of Saint Stephen: "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." How can someone ask for mercy for another person when their own life is in jeopardy? The Saint adds, "love for Christ is stronger than pain, it neutralizes it." This attitude does not come all at once. We are each learning how to love, no matter how old or young we are. This needs to become our lifelong journey. Once we say yes to this invitation, we need to prepare ourselves to go through hardships and struggles. It is through struggles that we have an opportunity to cultivate fruit of the Spirit and become Christ-like people. This is shown through the condition of our hearts. Although our days may be stormy, we must remember that God is the sun shining behind the clouds.

CONCLUSION

5 minutes

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

- ❖ What is one way to emulate the martyrs 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, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life."

Amen.