
BE THE BEE

SESSION #20

Uniting With God and Neighbor

LEARNING TO BE THE BEE AND LIVE ORTHODOXY



BE THE BEE #20

Overflowing with God's Love

Goal:

Learn that love is unconditional and sacrificial.

Objective:

Identify one way to love when it's hard
in your daily life.

Estimated Duration:

60 minutes

LEARNING SESSION

Be the Bee #20 **Overflowing with God's Love**

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 one thing you like and one thing you love.

VIDEO

5 minutes

Be the Bee #20 | Overflowing with God's Love

<https://youtu.be/c7zCEfmbK8A>

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 are ways we can share, give, and love everybody, just as Christ calls us to do, even if they reject us?
 - ❖ We can pray for them and put trust in God that praying to Him leads to healing, beyond what we can do to help others.
- ❖ What example does Christ leaving his hometown create for us?

REFLECTION

10 minutes

Ask students the following question and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What makes it hard to love those who do not love you?

READING AND APPLICATION

7 minutes

Read the following story to students:

Grace of God

<http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2011/07/invincible-and-victorious-grace-of-god.html>

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What did you hear in the story? What spoke to you?
- ❖ Why does Christ allow temptations into our lives?
- ❖ What can we learn from time of struggle and hardship?

SCRIPTURE READING AND APPLICATION

10 minutes

Read the following verses to students:

"You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord." - Leviticus 19:18

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

- Matthew 5:43-44

Ask students the following questions and help facilitate a discussion:

- ❖ What makes it important to love and pray for your enemies?
- ❖ What changes when we love our enemies?
- ❖ What does that mean for our lives?

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. Why is it so important to love those who wish evil upon us? When we add God into a relationship, through love and prayers, He is able to change an enemy into a friend. He is able to change a heart of stone into a soft, loving heart. With God all things are possible. Through our struggle to love, our hearts are transformed as well. We learn how to love when we are given the opportunity to love. Sometimes this opportunity comes through struggle. It is easy to love someone who loves you, but to truly love means to sacrifice, to give of yourself for the other. True sacrifice is not easy, but that is the highest form of love. When we choose love, this only spreads more love. If we chose hate, this just perpetuates hate; hate in our lives and throughout the world. Love is also the key to all virtues and with this mastered, patience, forgiveness and other virtues come easier.

CONCLUSION

5 minutes

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

- ❖ What is one way to love when it is hard 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, You have asked us to love our enemies. Please give us the strength to always choose love. Send down Your Holy Spirit upon all of us, and allow Your will to be done. We pray this through your Mother the Theotokos and all the Saints.

Amen.