# **Orthodox Journeys: Unit #1**

Lesson Plan Overview

September 5 - October 23, 2021

₩ Week 1: 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### So You Want to be Perfect

September 12, 2021

**Epistle/Apostol:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Galatians 6:11-18 (Cross)

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26 John 3:13-17 (Cross)

Tone/Mode:

Learn from the Apostle Paul about life in the Early Church, how Jesus Christ was seen by hundreds of people after the Resurrection, include the Apostle himself.

- How would you respond if Jesus Christ said to give everything away and follow Him?
- Why should we love God above all other things in our life?

₩ Week 2: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

## **Building on the Cornerstone**

September 19, 2021

**Epistle/Apostol:** 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 Galatians 2:16-20 (Cross)

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42 Mark 8:34-9:1 (Cross)

Tone/Mode:

It's been nearly five months since Holy Week and Pascha, and we again see the Cross placed in the middle of the Church, for our veneration and contemplation of its meaning in our life.

What would you say if Jesus Christ asked to tell Him about the fruits of your spiritual labors?

How can we live according to the gospel message and live in the 21st century world?

₩ Week 3: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

#### In the Presence of God

September 26, 2021

2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 Epistle/Apostol:

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 Tone/Mode: 5 (Plagal 1)

Twelve men came from different backgrounds, yet all became followers and Apostles of Jesus Christ, and we are called to be like them. Would you?

What would you do if someone started picking on you because you're an Orthodox Christian?

Why is having hope in God important both in the good and bad times?

₩ Week 4: 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Be Merciful as Your Father

October 3, 2021

**Epistle/Apostol:** 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Luke 6:31-36 Gospel: Tone/Mode: 6 (Plagal 2)

Treating other people with dignity and respect is something we're all taught, because we're followers of Jesus Christ who loves us more than we love ourselves.

How would you react if you saw someone in need on the street?

Did you ever help someone without expecting anything in return from them?

₩ Week 5: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

# **Being a Cheerful Giver**

October 10, 2021

**Epistle/Apostol:** 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 Gospel: Luke 7:11-16 Tone/Mode: 7 (Plagal 3)

Learn from the Apostle Paul why patience is an important part of our life - what can we learn from this reading about how to live?

Jesus Christ raises the young man from the dead - what does this say about God?

How can we be part of the Body of Christ in our local parish?

₩ Week 6: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

# Sowing the Seeds October 17, 2021

Epistle/Apostol: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 Hebrews 13:7-16 Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

John 17:1-13 Tone/Mode: 8 (Plagal 4)

Explore the parable of the sower, taking a few moment to pray and reflect on the type of soil we have for the Word of God to dwell and grow in our life.

How do we live as Orthodox Christians in our relationship with others?

Why do Christians suffer - shouldn't things be easy since we believe in God?



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#### **Feasts & Saints**

September 1

Indiction of the New Year

September 8 Nativity of the Theotokos

September 14

Elevation (Exaltation) of the Cross

Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Nativity

September 21

Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Cross

Conception of the Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

September 24

All Saints of Alaska

September 26

Repose of St. John the Evangelist

September 30

St. Gregory, Enlightener of Armenia

Protection of the Theotokos

St. Innocent, Apostle to America

October 17

Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th

**Ecumenical Council** 

# Orthodox Journeys: Unit #2

Lesson Plan Overview

October 24 - December 4, 2021

₩ Week 1: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

#### Seize the Moment

October 24, 2021

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 **Epistle/Apostol:** Luke 16:19-31 Gospel:

Tone/Mode: 1 The memory of our ancestors and the departed is a frequent occasion in the Church. We sing "Memory Eternal," keeping them close to us, as they stand in the presence of God in Heaven.

- What can we do to live with a sense of urgency to be prepared for eternity?
- How did the apostles and the faithful in the early church live their daily lives?

₩ Week 2: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

## In Fear, Faith, and Love

October 31, 2021

2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9 Epistle/Apostol:

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Tone/Mode:

In the gospels, very few people recognize or proclaim Jesus as God - but the demons do, suggesting that we need to understand Christ on a spiritual level - not from an earthly perspective.

- Why did the demons want to get away from Jesus so quickly?
- Faith and works what must we do to inherit eternal life?

₩ Week 3: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

### Who Touched Me?

November 7, 2021

**Epistle/Apostol:** Galatians 1:11-19 Luke 8:41-56 Gospel:

Tone/Mode:

Each of us has a guardian angel and we know from scripture there are legions of angels ministering to God. These celestial beings aren't cute and playful, but messengers and warriors of God.

Why does St. Paul tell us that to be Christian is to accept suffering?

How does Jesus reveal His divinity while interacting with people in the gospel?

₩ Week 4: 21st Sunday after Pentecost

# Who is My Neighbor?

November 14, 2021

Galatians 2:16-20 **Epistle/Apostol:** Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Tone/Mode: 4

Tomorrow begins the Advent fast, meaning we're 40 days before the feast of Our Lord's Nativity. To prepare for the coming of Christ, we begin fasting, more prayer, and service to others - so that we may offer ourselves in the cave, before our newborn Lord.

How would you react if you saw someone in need on the street?

Can we freely give of our possessions to help others?

₩ Week 5: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

## **Members of God's Household**

November 21, 2021

**Epistle/Apostol:** Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 Tone/Mode: 5 (Plagal 1)

How do we act as members of God's Household?

How does a Christian live their life knowing that tomorrow is not guaranteed?

How do we welcome all people into God's house?

₩ Week 6: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

## **Sharing God's Peace**

November 28, 2021

Epistle/Apostol: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 6 (Plagal 2) Tone/Mode:

What does it mean to have the Peace of the Spirit?

Why was Jesus not afraid of healing on the Sabbath, even though it scandalized others?

How do we share the Holy Spirit with others by our actions, not words?



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#### **Feasts & Saints**

October 26 St. Demetrius the Greatmartyr

October 31

St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago

November 1

Ss. Cosmas and Damian

November 8 Synaxis of the Angels November 13 St. John Chrysostom

November 14

Apostle Philip

November 15 Beginning of the Advent Fast

November 21

Entry of the Theotokos in the Temple

November 24

St. Catherine the Greatmartyr

November 25

Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Entry

November 30

St. Sebastian of Jackson

December 4

St. John of Damascus

St. Barbara the Greatmartyr

St. Alexander (Hotovitsky) of New York

# **Orthodox Journeys: Unit #3**

Lesson Plan Overview

December 5, 2021 - January 15, 2022

₩ Week 1: 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

# **God is Watching our Lives**

December 5, 2021

Epistle/Apostol: Ephesians 2:14-22
Gospel: Luke 17:12-19
Tone/Mode: 7 (Plagal 3)

- "The light of Christ illumines all" is said during Lenten Scripture readings. What does it mean in our daily life?
- What does it feel like when we forget to say thank you?
- How would our life be different if we said "thank you" to everyone as if we had been helped by Christ Himself?

₩ Week 2: 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **Turning to Christ**

December 12, 2021

Epistle/Apostol: Colossians 3:4-11
Gospel: Luke 14:16-24
Tone/Mode: 8 (Plagal 4)

Do we live as a Christian every day, or only sometimes?

• How often do we make excuses to not attend Divine Liturgy, or pray every day?

• How do we prepare ourselves so that we do not avoid Christ?

₩ Week 3: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## **Righteous Ancestors**

December 19, 2021

**Epistle/Apostol:** Hebrews 11:9-10,

17-23, 32-40

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:1-25

Tone/Mode: 1

 Why does the New Testament spend this time talking about people who died in the Old Testament?

How has our family helped us grow in our Faith?

• Why do you like hearing about the righteous people of the Old Testament?

₩ Week 4: 27th Sunday after Pentecost

# **Responses to Meeting Christ**

December 26, 2021

**Epistle/Apostol:** Galatians 1:11-19 **Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-23

Tone/Mode: 2

How would you feel if you had to change your position as drastically as Saint Paul did?

• Have you ever known anyone who had to move away from home to be safe?

• "God has revealed Himself to us." Does this revelation change our life?

₩ Week 5: 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### The Coming One

January 2, 2022

**Epistle/Apostol:** 2 Timothy 4:5-8 **Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

Tone/Mode: 3

• Why does St. John, the Prophet and Forerunner of Christ baptize people?

How does St. Paul use athletic imagery to describe the Christian lifestyle?

• What is the meaning of the word Theophany? and the word Epiphany?

₩ Week 6: 29th Sunday after Pentecost

## **Light Has Dawned**

January 9, 2022

**Epistle/Apostol:** Ephesians 4:7-13 **Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-17

Tone/Mode: 4

- Why is Jesus Christ called the Light of the world?
- How is the Kingdom of Heaven present in our lives today?
- What gifts has God given each of us to live as Christians in today's world?



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## Feasts & Saints

December 6
St. Nicholas of Myra in Lycia
December 12

St. Spyridon St. Mardarije of Libertyville Sunday of the Forefathers

**December 13** St. Herman of Alaska

**December 19**Sunday before the Nativity

**December 20** St. John of Kronstadt

**December 25**Nativity of our Lord (Christmas)

**December 26**Synaxis of the Theotokos

December 31 Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Nativity January 1 Circumcision of our Lord St. Basil the Great

January 2 St. Seraphim of Sarov Sunday before Theophany

January 6 Theophany of our Lord

January 14
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of Theophany

# Orthodox Journeys: Unit #4: Using Our Gifts Wisely

Lesson Plan Overview

January 16 - February 26, 2022

₩ Week 1: 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### God is Our Treasure

January 16, 2022

**Epistle/Apostol:** Colosians 3:12-16 Gospel: Luke 18:18-27 Tone/Mode: 5 (Plagal 1)

Who is the image of the invisible God?

Why is it hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

What can we do to be perfect like God?

₩ Week 2: 31st Sunday after Pentecost

## Gift of Sight

January 23, 2022

**Epistle/Apostol:** 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43 Tone/Mode: 6 (Plagal 2)

How is it possible to see and still not see?

Why do we pray, "Jesus, have mercy on me!"?

The Great Fast is approaching: What bad habits do we want to move away from this year?

₩ Week 3: 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### **Great is Your Faith**

January 30, 2022

**Epistle/Apostol:** 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Matthew 15:21-28 Gospel: Tone/Mode: 7 (Plagal 3)

Why does it seem like Jesus is mean to the Canaanite Woman?

If Christ came into the world to save sinners, what must we do to inherit eternal life?

Why is faith in God important for us as Orthodox Christians?

₩ Week 4: 33rd Sunday after Pentecost

## **Desire to Change**

February 6, 2022

**Epistle:** 1 Timothy 4:9-15 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10 Tone/Mode: 8 (Plagal 4)

Why did Jesus visit Zacchaeus' home?

How would you respond if Jesus invited Himself to your home for a meal?

Why is the reading of scripture important for our relationship with God?

₩ Week 5: Publican and the Pharisee

#### **Seeing Ourselves**

February 13, 2022

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Luke 18:10-14 Gospel:

Tone/Mode:

- Why does St. Paul say that reading scripture and learning the teachings of the Church are important for believers?
- What are the good habits we can learn from the Publican? And from the Pharisee?
- What are the bad habits of the Pharisee we should avoid? And those of the Publican?

₩ Week 6: Prodigal Son **Returning to God** 

February 20, 2022

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Tone/Mode:

Why does St. Paul describe our bodies to be temples of the Holy Spirit?

What are the good habits we can learn from the Older Son? And from the Younger Son?

What are the bad habits of the Younger Son we should avoid? And those of the Older Son?



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### **Feasts & Saints**

St. Anthony the Great

January 18

St. Athanasius of Alexandria

January 24

January 17

St. Xenia of Petersburg

3 Hierarchs: Ss. John Chrysostom, Basil the Great, and Gregory the Theologian February 2

Presentation in the Temple

February 3

Synaxis of the Righteous Symeon

February 9

Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Presentation Beginning of Lenten Triodion

in the Temple

February 16 St. Nicholas of Japan February 17

Greatmartyr Theodore "the Recruit"

February 18

St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome

February 21

First and Second Finding of the Head

of St. John the Baptist

# Orthodox Journeys Unit #5: Restoring the Image of God

Lesson Plan Overview

February 27 - April 9, 2021

₩ Week 1: Last Judgment

## **Being Like God**

February 27, 2022

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Tone/Mode:

Why does it matter more what comes out of our mouths than what goes in?

Why does Christ want us to care for the hungry, sick, naked, imprisoned, and strangers?

Do your actions place you on the right or left hand of God?

₩ Week 2: Expulsion from Paradise

## **Forgiving Like God**

March 6, 2022

Romans 13:11-14:1-4 **Epistle:** Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Tone/Mode:

How can we be more like Jesus Christ during the Great Fast?

Why should we forgive others of their sins?

What are your spiritual goals for praying during Lent? For fasting? For charitable works?

₩ Week 3: Sunday of Orthodoxy

#### Come and See

March 13, 2022

**Epistle:** Hebrews 11:24-26,

32-40: 12:1-2

Gospel: John 1:43-51 Tone/Mode: 5 (Plagal 1)

How can the great figures of the Old Testament inspire us to have faith in God?

Why do the apostles follow Jesus Christ?

How can you invite others to "come and see" the Orthodox Faith?

₩ Week 4: 2nd Sunday of Great Lent

#### The Power of Faith

March 20, 2022

**Epistle:** Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Mark 2:1-12 Gospel: 6 (Plagal 2) Tone/Mode:

- Why do the men break open the roof of the house to see Jesus?
- How can you show your faith in God in your life?
- Why is it important to have the correct/right beliefs about Jesus Christ and God?

₩ Week 5: 3rd Sunday of Great Lent

#### **Take Up Your Cross**

March 27, 2022

**Epistle:** Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Tone/Mode: 7 (Plagal 3) What does it mean to take up your cross in your daily life?

What would happen if you're ashamed of God?

Why do we bow down and venerate the cross in church (and at home)?

₩ Week 6: 4th Sunday of Great Lent

#### Ascend to God

April 3, 2022

**Epistle:** Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31 Tone/Mode: 8 (Plagal 4)

Why should we learn patience from Abraham in our relationship with God?

How can the Ladder of St. John Climacus help us grow closer to God?

How can prayer and fasting help us live a holy life? (Hint: Mark 9:29)



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#### **Feasts & Saints**

February 27 St. Raphael of Brooklyn

March 6 Memorial Saturday

March 9

40 Martyrs of Sebaste

March 15

Beginning of the Great Fast

March 17

St. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland

March 18

St. Nikolai of Zhicha and South Canaan

March 25

Annunciation of the Virgin Mary

March 26

Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Annunciation

March 29

Venerable John the Anchorite of Egypt

March 31

St. Innocent of Alaska, Apostle to America

April 1

Venerable Mary of Egypt

St. Tikhon of Moscow, Apostle to America

April 9

Saturday of the Akathist to the Theotokos

# Orthodox Journeys Unit #6: The Path to Pascha

Lesson Plan Overview

April 10 - May 21, 2021

₩ Week 1: 5th Sunday of Great Lent

# **Change Your Ways**

April 10, 2022

**Epistle:** Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Tone/Mode:

How is St. Mary of Egypt an inspiration for us as Orthodox Christians?

If Jesus Christ is God, why did say, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."?

Why is it important to say "no!" to temptations?

₩ Week 2: Entry into Jerusalem

#### The Lord is God

April 17, 2022

**Epistle:** Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18 Gospel:

What are the pure and noble things of God we should treasure in our life?

What does "Hosanna" mean?

How can we spend the next six days experiencing Our Lord's Passion?

₩ Week 3: Pascha: The Resurrection

#### **Christ is risen!**

April 25, 2022

**Epistle:** Acts 1.1-8 John 1:1-17 Gospel:

What does the Resurrection of Jesus Christ mean for you?

How do you know Christ rose from the dead?

Why did Jesus die and rise from the dead?

₩ Week 4: 2nd Sunday of Pascha

### **Believe Like Thomas**

May 1, 2022

**Epistle:** Acts 5:12-20 Gospel: John 20:19-31

Tone/Mode: 1 Why do we celebrate the faith and belief of Saint Thomas?

What lessons can you learn from the Apostle Thomas?

Why did the angel free the apostles from prison, only to send them back to the temple?

₩ Week 5: 3rd Sunday of Pascha

#### **Faith in Action**

May 8, 2022

**Epistle:** Acts 6:1-7 Mark 15:43-16:8 Gospel:

Tone/Mode:

How are the Myrrhbearing Women examples for us as Orthodox Christians?

Why did the Apostles establish the order of deacons?

What can we do to keep the joy of Pascha alive in our homes?

₩ Week 6: 4th Sunday of Pascha

### **Rise and Walk**

May 15, 2022

**Epistle:** Acts 9:32-42 Gospel: John 5:1-15

Tone/Mode:

- Why does Jesus ask the Paralytic if he wants to be healed?
- How does the Apostle Peter inspire you to live?
- How can you rise from temptations and struggles to be an active Orthodox Christian?



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### **Feasts & Saints**

April 16 Lazarus Saturday

April 17 Entry into Jerusalem

April 20

Childmartyr Gabriel of Bialystok, Poland

April 18 - April 23

April 23

St. George the Greatmartyr

April 24

PASCHA: The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 25 - May 1 Bright (Renewal) Week

St. Basil (Martysz), Hieromartyr of Poland

St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre and Minneapolis

May 11

Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs

May 18

Midfeast of Pentecost

May 21

Ss. Constantine and Helen

# Orthodox Journeys Unit #7: From Pascha to Pentecost

Lesson Plan Overview

May 22 - June 30, 2021

₩ Week 1: 5th Sunday of Pascha

## The Living Water

May 22, 2022

**Epistle:** Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Tone/Mode: 4 Why did people begin to call the disciples Christians?

Why do you call yourself a Christian? How does being a Christian shape your life?

What does the Samaritan Woman do after recognizing Jesus is the Messiah?

₩ Week 2: 6th Sunday of Pascha

# **Receiving Sight**

May 29, 2022

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34 Gospel: John 9:1-38 Tone/Mode: 5 (Plagal 1)

Why did St. Paul patiently endure persecutions for the Name of Jesus Christ?

Why don't the parents of the blind man want to admit he's their son?

How can you be like the blind man during this season of Pascha?

₩ Week 3: 7th Sunday of Pascha

### As the Fathers Proclaimed

June 5, 2022

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 **Epistle:** Gospel: John 17:1-13 Tone/Mode: 6 (Plagal 2)

Why does St. Paul warn the faithful to be strong in their faith, believing in Jesus Christ?

How does St. Paul's message apply to your life?

Why do we honor and remember the Church Fathers who met in 325 AD? (Hint: it has something to do with the Nicene Creed...)

₩ Week 4: Pentecost

# Come, Holy Spirit

June 12, 2022

**Epistle:** Acts 11:19-26, 29-30 Gospel: John 4:5-42 Tone/Mode: 7 (Plagal 3)

How do you use the gifts of the Holy Spirit you've received?

Why does Jesus Christ call Himself Living Water?

What can we do to celebrate the feast of Pentecost each day of our life?

₩ Week 5: 1st Sunday after Pentecost

### **Called to Holiness**

June 19, 2022

**Epistle:** Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Tone/Mode: 8 (Plagal 4) Why does St. Paul talk about the saints as a great cloud of witnesses?

What are we witnesses to in Church?

Do you want to be like the saints? Which one(s)?

₩ Week 6: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

#### Saints We Call Our Own

June 26, 2022

Hebrews 11:33-12:2 **Epistle:** Romans 2:10-16 Gospel: Matthew 4:25-5:12 Matthew 4:18-23

Tone/Mode:

- How can we be inspired by the saints who lived in our lands, or even our own city?
- What does St. Paul mean by having the law written on our hearts?
- How would you respond if Christ commanded you to follow Him? Do you?

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#### Feasts & Saints

May 26

Greatmartyr George of Bulgaria

May 28

St. Germanus, Bishop of Paris

Venerable Isaac of the Dalmatian Monastery in Constantinople

Martyr Justin the Philosopher

June 8

Glorification of St. John of Kronstadt

June 1

Leavetaking (Apodosis) of Pascha

June 2

Ascension of Our Lord

June 5

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 1st **Ecumenical Council** 

June 12

June 13

Day of the Holy Spirit

June 19

Sunday of All Saints

June 26

Sunday of All Saints of North America

June 29

Ss. Peter and Paul