

Catechism Studies

Week 17– March 8 – 14, 2021

Grades 4th, 5th, and 6th,

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Materials – Orthodox Bible or use the link to find the passages: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel/bible>

	Readings	Journal/Activity
Monday	<p>This week, we are continuing our journey to Great Lent and Pascha by reading a Gospel reading that talks about forgiveness and treasure.</p> <p>Read Matthew 6:14-21 to begin your lessons this week.</p>	<p>Write down your thoughts about this week’s Gospel reading.</p>
Tuesday	<p>This week, you read the Gospel where we think about several different themes, or topics. Today we will discuss the topic of forgiveness.</p> <p>Read Matthew 18:21-35, which also talks about the idea of forgiveness.</p> <p>This Sunday is also called Forgiveness Sunday, where we forgive those who we feel have wronged us in some way. God wants us to forgive others for the things they have done because he forgives us for our sins, also. We read in Matthew 18:21-35 that we should forgive our neighbors “seventy times seven” times, which in the Bible means that in every instance, we should forgive others. There are other times in the Bible where God tells us to forgive others, but one of those times we hear this the most is in the Lord’s Prayer, which we say every Sunday during the Divine Liturgy.</p> <p>“And forgive us our trespasses As we forgive those who trespass against us”</p> <p>This is an important idea to think about as Orthodox Christians. In order for God to forgive us, we first have to forgive others. We can show our love for our neighbors by forgiving them for their sins against us.</p> <p>Watch this Be the Bee video on forgiveness and how we can forgive: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8pfuimXIM0</p>	<p>Make a mental note of people in your life who you need to forgive. Pray for those people and pray to God for help to forgive them.</p>
Wednesday	<p>This week’s Gospel reading also talks about the theme of fasting. As we are starting Great Lent, fasting is an important topic to think about. Many times, we hear about fasting being</p>	<p>Talk to your family at home about fasting for Pascha. What are some things that you can fast from</p>

	<p>about food, and how we can fast from meat and dairy items during Lent. Fasting also talks about not doing other things during Lent in order to prepare for Pascha.</p> <p>We can fast from speaking badly of others. We can fast from playing video games every day, and fast from wanting things or buying things that we do not need. Fasting is more than about food. We do many things in our lives that we should think about why we do them. Do they bring us closer to God or do they take us further away? Are we hurting our neighbors in any way, or not caring for the poor as we should be? Sometimes, fasting from something can show us that we can work on following God's commandments to love Him more and to love our neighbors more.</p> <p>Watch this Be the Bee video on fasting to understand more about how you can fast: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1w5BZZq-RhA</p>	<p>during Great Lent this year? Make a fasting plan with your family and talk about why it would help you during Great Lent.</p>
Thursday	<p>Finally, the Gospel reading for this week talks about where your treasure is.</p> <p>Treasure can sometimes be thought of as gold, silver or other forms of jewelry. In the Bible, the treasures we have are not things that can be made by people. Think about the things that are important to you in your life. Those things are your treasures and blessings that God has for you. Also, we have many treasures waiting for us in Heaven. God's love for us the biggest treasure that we can have, and we can find that treasure in Heaven.</p>	<p>Write down some of the things in your life that are important to you, like your family members and friends.</p>
Friday	<p>This week, we focused on many parts of the Gospel on our way to Pascha. We talked about fasting, forgiveness and our treasures. Review the Be the Bee videos for today's lesson.</p>	<p>Take some time to think about the three of these themes for the week and write about one of them in your journal. How do you feel about the theme that you chose?</p>
Saturday	<p>Reread Matthew 6:14-21 to prepare for Sunday Liturgy.</p> <p>Read this prayer to yourself tonight before you go to sleep: "Lord Jesus Christ, you received the child-ren who came to you, receive also from the lips of your child this evening prayer. Shel-ter me under the protection of your wings that I may lie down in peace and sleep. Awaken me in due time that I may glorify you, for you alone are good and love all people."</p>	<p>None</p>
Sunday	<p>See you at church!</p>	