

# 36th Sunday After Pentecost

WEEK 12 - Three Discussions, Two  
Activities:

Sunday's Epistle and Gospel Readings,  
Desire to Change, Festal Hymns, and  
Prioritizing God at Home Activity

## OPENING PRAYERS:

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen  
Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee!

### Prayer to Holy Spirit

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

### Trisagion Prayer

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

### Before Study

Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart that I may hear thy word and understand it and so fulfill thy will. Amen.

**DAILY LESSON / ACTIVITY: See pages below. For each topic, please note **Parent roles**, **notes**, and **(child responses)**.**

# Prayers

*Before and after each lesson, please say a short prayer in front of an icon according to your family's prayer rule or the following, taken from the red St Tikhon's Prayer Book:*

## CLOSING PRAYERS:

"Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb: for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

Pray to God for me, O holy [name of your patron saint], pleasing to God, for with fervor I run to thee, swift helper and intercessor for my soul.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by virtue of thy Cross preserve thy habitation.

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos: ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

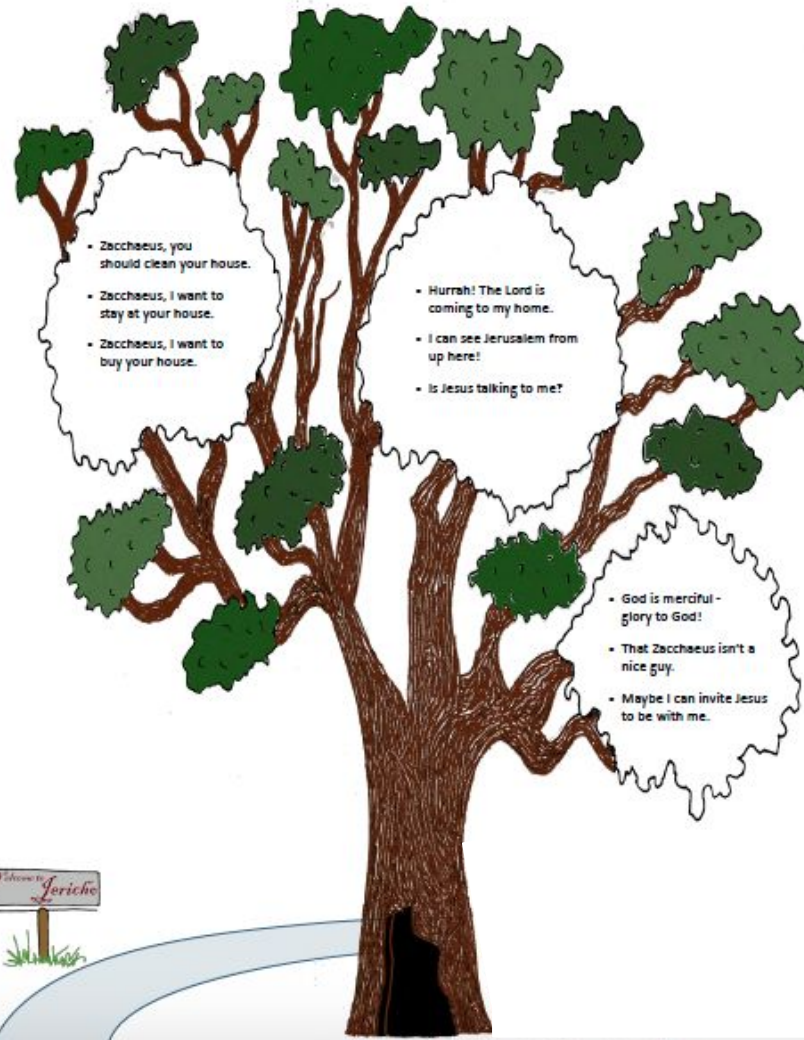
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of thy most pure Mother, of my holy guardian angel, of [name of your patron saint], of [saint(s) of the day], and of all the saints: save me, a sinner. Amen."

# Activity #1

## Listen, Draw, & Circle



### Instructions:

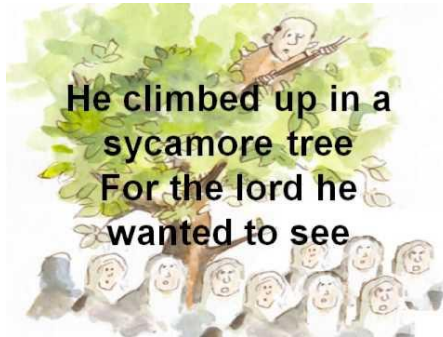
While your parent or sibling reads the gospel lesson (Luke 19:1-10), draw Jesus beneath the tree and Zacchaeus sitting in the tree.

Then, circle the correct phrase of what Jesus said to Zacchaeus, in the left leaf bubble, and how Zacchaeus responded, in the right leaf bubble.

In the bottom leaf bubble, circle what you might be thinking if you were in the crowd.

*Hint:* There might be more than one right answer...

Optional Video: "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man"



Later, you can finish the picture by drawing the whole crowd of people!

# Day 1: Talk About Sunday's Epistle & Gospel Readings

**Prayer Before Reading Holy Scripture:** "O Lord my God, enlighten my mind with the light of the understanding of Thy holy Scripture, and teach me to do Thy will."

**Parent Explains:** "Today's epistle was written by St. Paul to St. Timothy. It is one of the books (or letters) in the New Testament of our bible."

**Parent or older child may read aloud from 1 Timothy 4:9-15.** [Click here for OCA website link.](#)

**Parent Asks:** "What the author of this Sunday's epistle talking about?"

*Possible Answers:* (St. Paul writes to St. Timothy encouraging him to trust God for strength in difficult times. He reminds Timothy that Christ came to save everyone. He encourages St. Timothy to lead by example, living a godly life. St. Paul says to remember to use God's gifts. He encourages St. Timothy to pray and focus on what he has learned)

**Parent Asks:** "How does the message of this epistle apply to our lives?"

*Possible Answers:* (It's important to be living examples of Christ's love. Even as young people in the Church, we can be examples of Christ's love towards other people: prayer, service to others, being kind, forgiving, participating in the liturgy. Reading scripture allows us to center ourselves on Christ's teachings. Even if people discourage us, we should remain focused on God for guidance in life.)

**Parent Explains:** "This Sunday's gospel was written by St. Luke. It is one of four written accounts of the life of Jesus Christ, found in the New Testament of our bible."

**Parent or older child may read aloud from Luke 19:1-10.** [Click here for OCA website link.](#)

**Parent Asks:** "What happened in this Sunday's Gospel reading?"

*Possible Answers:* (St. Luke tells how Christ came to Jericho, encountering Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector. This man really wanted to see Jesus. Because he was short and the crowds were huge, Zacchaeus climbed a tree. Christ sees the man, and says He will come to his home that day. St. Luke shows that Zacchaeus' desire to repent brought him to salvation in Christ.)

**Parent Asks:** "Why is this important for us now, living in the 21st century?"

*Possible Answers:* (Like Zacchaeus, we need to have a desire to encounter Christ. When Christ calls to us, we need to respond with joy. If we get rid of bad behavior, we become God's followers. In repentance, we embrace God's love bringing us salvation and new life.)

"Zacchaeus becomes an example for us of the power of making a serious change to follow God. He didn't just want to repent and say, "I'm sorry," and keep doing what he was doing. Zacchaeus truly made up for his past deeds. If we make a mistake, God wants us to apologize and do things differently. That makes Him happy, and makes our life more enjoyable for us! When we open the door to our heart, Jesus can help us make the choice to do good things as Orthodox Christians in our daily lives."

# Day 2: Talking About a Desire to Change

**Parent Explains:** *“Glory to Jesus Christ!” (Glory forever!)* “When Jesus was hanging on the cross, the Wise Thief admitted his sinful ways, repenting to our Lord. In that moment **Christ welcomed him to Paradise**. In his desire to see Christ, Zacchaeus climbed a tree. The experience gave him a new perspective, bringing him salvation and restoring him to **communion with God**. Repentance is a powerful experience. Christ encourages us to desire this type of change, because **He loves us** and wants us to also **be with Him in Heaven**. What is repentance?” (Telling God our mistakes and changing our actions to do what He wants for us.)

**“So Many Choices!** From a young age, **we are given choices** for how we want to live. What we wear, what we eat, and how we live reflects our personal desires and passions. In a good way, passions reveal **what is important to us**, what we like, and what we believe. We might have a favorite color, musician, or sports team which captures our interest, reflecting **what we desire** in life.”

**“A Place for God: Where does God fit into your desires?** Does He rank in the Top 10? The Top 5? Ideally, God would be Number 1 in the life of every Orthodox Christian, but in a world filled with so many gadgets, games, and gizmos, it’s easy for us to get distracted and forget **why God is so important**. Our lives are filled with all sorts of things - electronic or otherwise - which demand our attention and time. How is it possible to do everything and still have a relationship with God?”

**Possible Answers:** (Remember to put God first in the things we do. **Studies:** pray for guidance and the skills to do our best. **Games:** Having fun doesn’t mean we always have to win, being gracious winners and losers allows us to show humility. **Interactions at School:** be respectful of others - even those who might not behave respectfully. **Other People:** See the image of God in everyone you encounter, treating them with respect and love, even those with whom you don’t agree, praying that their guardian angels protect them. **Self Respect:** Love yourself as God loves you, treating yourself with the same patience you treat others. **Chores/Responsibilities:** obeying our parents and teachers, honoring them is part of following God’s commandments. **Helping others:** being God’s hands in the world. **Connecting with God:** say simple prayers during the day, keeping God in our daily life and activities.)

**“Time for Change!** As we draw closer to the Great Fast, we can think about **reordering our priorities** to place God where **He needs to be in our life**, if it is to have meaning. Every day we can reflect on our desires and passions, remembering that our **true allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ**.”

**“A Life in Christ!** If we have been distracted or not given God the attention and praise He deserves, now is a great time to express a **desire to repent, changing our life** for the better. The question is, do our desires separate us from the love of God, or do they **lead us to repentance** and one day Christ also **welcoming us into Paradise?**”

# Day 3: Festal Hymns

**1) Parent Asks:** "What is the troparion (tro-par-ee-ohn) and kontakion (kon-tahk-ee-ohn)?" (Theme songs for each feast, celebration, or saint. These hymns describe what or who we're celebrating and how this event or saint is important to our lives as Orthodox Christians). "Last week the troparia and kontakia, plural, were in Tone 2. What tone do you think we'll hear this week?" (Tone 3)

*These are celebratory hymns, rejoicing in God's mercy and wonders. Feel free to add them to your mealtime or daily prayers!*

**2) Read or sing together, then discuss:**

## Sunday Troparion - Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world great mercy.

## Sunday Kontakion - Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;

with the Prophets and Patriarchs

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

**3) Parent Asks:** "What do the hymns teach us about the resurrection?"

*Possible Answers:* (It is a wonderful thing that Jesus is our God. He rose from the dead after the crucifixion. Even the plants, animals, planets, and seasons are joyous that God has defeated death. God uses His power/strength to defeat the devil. We can have faith in God that He will be with us when we're sad or happy. By being kind to others, we're being like Jesus, because followers of God do the right thing.)

**Parent Asks:** "How can the message of the hymns apply to our lives?"

*Possible Answers:* (Adam and Eve didn't do the right thing, but God saved them, because He loves everyone - if we are sorry when we do something wrong, God will also save us. The devil is a bad angel, but has no power over us, unless we decide to do bad things, which isn't a good idea. We sing these songs on Sundays to remember that Jesus is our Savior and friend. We can be thankful for His compassion.)

**Parent Asks:** "When do we sing a lot about Jesus 'trampling down death by death'?" (At Pascha! 'Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!')

# Day 4: Prioritizing God at Home Activity

*Find an activity on the next two pages that suits your child--age recommendations on top right corner.*

*Discuss these ideas and questions verbally.*

*--OR--*

*Have the child draw and answer questions on his or her own and show you his or her artwork and responses.*

**Parent explains:**

“When Christ tells Zacchaeus, ‘I am coming to your house,’ Zacchaeus responds immediately. He knows he must prepare his home (and himself) for the visit of his lifetime.

Sometimes what we want can get in the way of serving others and loving Christ.

As we journey towards Pascha, we must prepare ourselves to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Consider how you can prepare the house of your heart to receive Christ in your life.”

# Welcome to the Home of

## Friendships

- Be more kind to my friends
- Be friends with someone who needs a friend
- Pray for my friends

## Toys / Stuff

- Be thankful for what I have
- Give something away to someone who needs it
- Include someone who I normally don't include in my play time

## Family Relationships

- Try to not complain about my chores
- Pray for my family
- Be more patient when I get annoyed

## Relationship with God

- Say my prayers every day
- Go to liturgy and receive Communion
- Say thank you to God for His blessings and love

*Choose ONE item from above and draw a picture of how you can change for the better.*

*Recommended for ages 5-7*

**Instructions:**

Think about each of these parts of your life and choose ONE way that you can improve for each.

Draw a picture of yourself doing one of those 4 actions.



# Welcome to the Home of

## Parent Explains:

Consider what you desire in your life. How do you prioritize the things you want in life? Are there some which are more important than others? Are there some which need to be readjusted and reprioritized so you are serving Christ and your neighbors?

Review the list, thinking about the importance you give these and other things in your life.

### Things to consider:

Where does Christ place in your life?

Do you need to give up something? Do you need to change your priorities?

Do you need to begin a task with a prayer?

Do you need to work on patience? Do you need to show more love (or compassion) when doing that thing?

Do you need to have compassion on the needy and the poor?

- Toys
- Friendships
- Home relationships
- Church Life
- Sports
- Hobbies
- Prayer Life
- House chores
- School / Education
- Electronics
- Entertainment
- Acts of Charity
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## I desire to:

- Spend more time
- Spend a little more time
- Begin this with a prayer
- Work on patience when I do this
- Work on forgiveness when I do this
- Serve others while I do this
- Spend a little less time
- Spend a lot less time

## Instructions:

1. In the top of your house, match the activities with the options, drawing a line to the way you can change things for the better.
2. In the bottom of your house, write two sentences about how you desire to change this part of your life so you can draw closer to Christ.

1. To draw closer to Christ, I desire to change \_\_\_\_\_, because:

2. To draw closer to Christ, I desire to change \_\_\_\_\_, because: