



Colors in Icons

WEEK 8
(3 Days of Lessons and a Game)



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.

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.

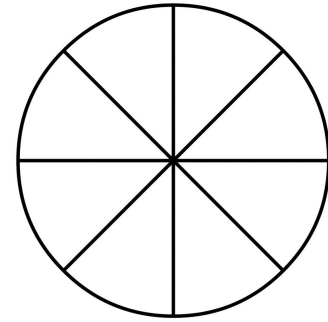
It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos: ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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."

Weekly Activity: Icon Color Wheel - Part 1



This week each child will make his or her own Icon Color Wheel

1. Use a plate to cut out two paper circles.
2. Draw lines to divide both circles into 8 equal sections, like a pizza pie.
 - a. (Draw a line down the middle of each circle. Turn the circles so you see a semi-circle, and draw a line down the middle from the center of that section. Turn the circle again and repeat. Turn the plate one more time to find one of the two biggest sections, and draw a line down the the middle.)
3. On one of the circles, write “Icon Color Wheel” in one piece and color in the other 7 pieces with: Black, Purple, Red, Blue, Green, Yellow/Gold, and leave one empty for white.
4. Cut along the lines to near the middle (don’t go all the way or it will fall apart!).
5. Turn that circle over and write the name of the color on the top of section (where the crust of the pie would be) that matches the other side.

Pre-made crafts and materials are available in the Little Church School basket!

Day 1: Red, Blue, Gold/Yellow

Parent Asks: “Think about reading a map. If you see the color blue, what might that represent?” (river, ocean, lake, water) “Where do we see water in church or icons?” (holy water, baptism) “Look at these icons. What color is the background?” (gold, yellow) “What colors do we normally see in an angel or saint’s halo?” (gold)

Parent Explains: “Remember how we learned about the symbols in icons? An object like a cross or scroll can remind us about what that saint did. Now we’ll learn about how colors can also be symbols. Think about the color gold in halos and other parts of icons, what do you think that means?” (holiness, God, light)

“**Gold or bright yellow** symbolizes divinity and the eternal, uncreated light of God and His Kingdom. Many icons of Christ are gilded with gold. The gold shines through the halos of saints, angles, and Jesus Christ.

Red represents humanity--like the red color of the blood in our bodies--it symbolizes life on earth. We see the Theotokos wearing red. On Jesus, red also symbolizes the life-saving nature of His Resurrection.

Blue symbolizes the heavens and the kingdom of God not on the earth. If we look closely, we also see the Theotokos wearing blue under the red garment. In this icon, the blue shows Mary’s heavenly nature by being the mother of Jesus Christ, bearing God in her human body. Look at the icon of the Holy Trinity, also called the Hospitality of Abraham, *Genesis 18:1-15*. All three angels wear blue garments. Look for one who is wearing the same clothing as Jesus does in icons, a red garment with a blue outer-garment. Red represent ___?” (Humanity, life on earth) and Blue represents ___?” (Heaven, divinity)

When we look at icons and see Jesus, saints, angels, miracles and events, the colors we see help remind us about what we know. We know that Jesus Christ is both human and divine--He is Man and He is God. We know the Theotokos is both a human and the mother of God.

Activity: Write a note about the colors red, blue, and yellow/gold on the back of those colors on your Icon Color Wheel



Day 2: Green and White

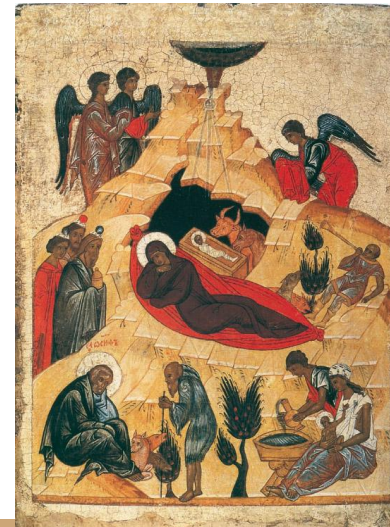
Parent Asks: “Look at the icon of Pentecost, what do you see on the branches?” (grapes, fruit, green leaves)

Parent Explains:

“**Green** represents the living earth or youth. Think of the color of a budding flower; it’s green before it blooms. In contrast, brown, like the dirt, represents our fallen nature on earth. Imagine a tree in the springtime, its branches come to life with green leaves and flower buds. At the end of summer, the leaves turn brown and fall off, leaving the branches bare like sticks. In icons, we often see brown rocks or desert scenes in icons, symbolizing the lack of life--green--there.

White symbolizes heavenly purity and divinity. Think about the white blanket that Jesus Christ is swaddled in as a baby, or the white robes He wears in icons of His Resurrection. White can be used for swaddling clothes of babies, burial shrouds of the dead--remember the icon we have in church of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead?--and the robes of angels.

Activity: Write a note about the colors green and white on the back of those colors on your Icon Color Wheel

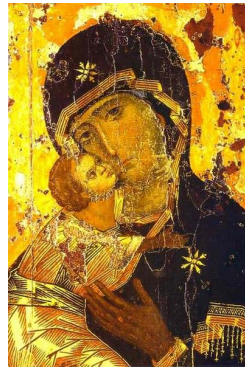


Day 3: Purple and Black

Parent Asks: “Look at this zoomed in section of the Nativity Icon. We see Jesus wrapped in white. We see gold halos. We don’t see a gold background, though, what color is in the cave?” (black)

“Look at the icon of Christ’s Resurrection. What do you see at the bottom?” (black in and underneath the coffins of Adam and Eve)

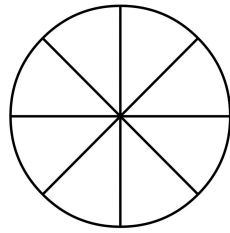
Parent Explains: “**Black** colors in icons represents death or evil. There is no light in darkness. God gives humans a choice between life and death. ‘And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the lord: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death,’ Jeremiah 21:8. Demons and satanic beings are also black in icons. The black represents the way of death by following their temptations, the way Eve was tempted by the snake in the Garden of Eden. ‘But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die,’ Genesis 2:17.” →



“**Purple** symbolizes royalty purity and is sometime used in Byzantine icons--left--for the outer garments worn by the Theotokos, to remind us of the royal lineage from Abraham to David to Jesus Christ.

Activity: Write a note about the colors purple and black on the back of those colors on your Icon Color Wheel

Weekly Activity: Icon Color Wheel - Part 2 and Game!



1. Now that you have one wheel finished, cut and paste pictures of icons onto the second circle. You can use the pictures on the next page or ones of your own choosing.
2. Attach both wheels with paperclip or a paperclip and paper fastener.
3. Play the Icon Color Wheel Trivia Game anytime you like!
 - a. Sit in a circle with your family or friends.
 - b. One person spins the paper clip (or holds the paperclip and spins the circles, whichever is easiest!
 - c. Wherever the paperclip lands--or for whichever piece is facing the person--that person has to tell what that color symbolizes in icons.
 - d. Then! Open the color piece, check your answer, and find that color in the icon below. Tell your family or friends about what that color in the icon might symbolize (or why it might not be there).
 - e. After each person has a turn, turn the two circles so that each color is now covering a new icon.

Pre-made crafts and materials are available in the Little Church School basket!

