

15—We Are Faithful Servants

Objectives

By the end of this lesson students will be able to ...

- recognize that it is often difficult to remain faithful to our commitment to serve others.
- realize that we need to look to the example of Christ, who remained faithful to His Father even unto death.
- understand that when we remain faithful, we follow Christ, the power and wisdom of God.

For the Catechists

Sacrifice is a difficult word for students to understand because they are not used to sacrificing. Their world is filled with instant gratification. They can select only what they want from their electronic devices, and they do not have to listen to or watch anything they don't want. They have most foods available throughout the year, and they have restaurants and stores available twenty-four hours a day. They do not have to sacrifice and wait.

Now this lesson is asking them to become God's faithful servant. They are being asked to want to serve others which means they will have to sacrifice their time and their desires. Help the students realize that Jesus shows us how to live out our lives as God's faithful servants. Jesus, Who had come from God, emptied Himself to serve His people. That means He loved us so much that He sacrificed His life to save us. Now help the students realize that Jesus asks us to love each other so much that our love reflects His love.

In the lesson the students will read about religious persecution and some religious who suffered during the Communist Era. Help the students realize that persecution did not happen only hundreds of years ago. Persecution is occurring today, and we need to think about what would we do in a similar situation. Some day we might be told we can no longer be Eastern Christians.

The video *Interrupted Lives* can be found at <http://store.usccb.org/interrupted-lives-p/7-089.htm> or call USCCB at 1-800-235-8722. This video can be shown to the entire parish to help everyone realize the power of the gift of faith.

Materials Needed

Opening Prayer: "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal ..."

Icon: The Holy Trinity (*Come Bless the Lord* icon packet #18).

Closing Prayer: "The Nicene Creed"

Pens, pencils, markers and white paper

1. Opening Prayer

Chant or recite "Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal...."

[Find this prayer in the Divine Liturgy books in your church. This prayer is before the reading of the Epistle. Ask if they know a different melody than the one used last week.]

2. Introduction

Ask the students to discuss what they think about when they hear the word *servant*. Ask: "How many of you want to become a servant?" Then tell them this lesson helps them discover that is what Jesus asks us to become—a servant to each other as we continue our journey to God. Now discuss how they can start thinking about becoming a servant for the Lord

3. Guided Reading

- Before the reading, review last week's objectives. Then summarize this week's objectives of the lesson on a wall pad or easel pad to use for review next week.
- Have students read text aloud and emphasize the importance of becoming a faithful servant for the Lord.
- Allow time to read "Words of Advice on How to Live Faithful Lives."

4. Scriptural Reflection

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- Before reading aloud, have students make the sign of the cross. Remind them that reading Scripture is praying.
- Look at the picture showing students helping. Ask them what picture from their life could they put into this place.
- Give the students 3 minutes to answer the questions and read the passage again.
- Ask the students to work in groups of 2 and share their answers
- Possible answers:
 - We have to die to be saved.
 - Our faith, not our knowledge, will save us.
 - The beliefs in the Nicene Creed.

Background Reading (A People Claimed for God's Own)

"Faith requires a commitment to Christ and also to His Church, since the Lord identified Himself with His people, the Church. '[God] has put all things under Christ's feet and has made Him, thus exalted, head of the Church which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills the universe in all its parts' (Eph 1:22-23 NAB). Thus faith leading to baptism, expressed in a positive way, forms 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people claimed for God's own' (1 Pt 2:9)" (LLI 4-5).

5. From the Teaching of the Church Fathers

- Ask one student to read the words from "The Sayings of the Fathers."
- Possible answers:
 To help him.
 Having to sacrifice our time and money.
 The Bible would encourage me to choose service rather than money and material goods.

6. Liturgical Study

- Read the paragraphs aloud.
- Ask the students to explain their understanding of why the Divine Liturgy seems repetitious at times.

7. Closing Prayers

Sing or pray "The Nicene Creed." Check the words used in your jurisdiction.on.

Supplemental Activities:

Review—At the end of the lesson, ask the students what they remember by using one of the following suggestions:

1. Ask the students to learn more about the life of a Saint. Ask them to share how the Saint was faithful to God.
2. Write words of advice in the "Faith Book" that was started in the beginning of the year. These words are for friends who want to quit an activity or stop studying. These words encourage people to be faithful to commitments.
3. Write a prayer asking God to help you stay faithful to the Eastern Church throughout your lifetime.

Background Reading (Church Services)

"There is often a reluctance among young people to get involved in "Church things." They will show up if there is an outing, or a social get-together or something interesting to do, but frequently shun prayer and worship. There are reasons for this. Liturgy celebrates a relationship with God, it presumes a philosophy and theology of life that an adolescent may have difficulty understanding. Liturgy is itself a kind of language that is difficult to learn, it does not deal with every-day things but with the ultimate meanings of our journey towards God. It is a fearful thing to encounter God, and He told Moses on the mountain that no one could see Him and yet live (Exodus 33:20)" (*Journey* TM 226).