

21—We Journey with Family and Friends

Objectives

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

- state that a Christian life includes both private and community aspects.
- share the Scripture story about Jesus walking with the two people on the road to Emmaus.
- identify ways that our family and friends help us on our journey.

For the Catechists

Family members and friends are important because they help young people realize that they are not alone and that God is with them always. This lesson identifies how family and friends help people learn how to be concerned about each other.

We Journey with God and Each Other, the title of this book, identifies movement—traveling. The journey is to God and to our eternal life with Him. This book emphasizes that we walk with Jesus on our way to God. During our entire life, we are actively moving closer to God and developing our relationship with Him. We follow Jesus Christ and learn from Him how to become one with God.

Last year the students learned that they are being called to deification or divinization. Our lifetime is spent on learning how to become divine. Help the students realize that is the way they should make choices: Will this choice help to make me divine? The purpose of this unit's lessons is to help students accept the help that family, friends, and the Church offer. Our relationship with each other helps us grow in our relationship with God.

This lesson includes the scriptural story about the travelers on the road to Emmaus. In that story the students hear how the travelers did not recognize Jesus until He broke the bread. Help the students realize that God is in our midst too, and many times we don't recognize Him either. By growing closer to God, we start to recognize His presence and His peace.

Electronic devices are changing the way we relate to each other. Many people are forgetting how to look at others and to notice the needs of others. While looking at their phones and computers, people are looking down and away from each other—they are not making eye contact. In fact, some young people are rarely leaving their rooms, and some are communicating only with electronic devices. Our Church needs to discover ways to help these young people realize that people need to become actively involved with each other to form relationships. All of us need each other to grow in our relationship with God.

Materials Needed

Opening Prayer: "Nicene Creed—I Believe"

Icon: Icon of the Sign (*Come Bless the Lord* icon packet #5).

Closing Prayer: "The Beatitudes"—on last page of previous lesson in this manual

Pens, pencils, markers and white paper

1. Opening Prayer

Chant or recite the "Nicene Creed."

[Find this prayer in the Divine Liturgy books in your church.]

2. Introduction

Ask the students to share stories about good times they had with family and friends. Help them realize they need each other to learn how to grow in their relationship with God.

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 our relationship with God.

4. Scriptural Reflection

- Read Galatians 5:22-25
- Before reading aloud, have students make the sign of the cross. Remind them that reading Scripture is praying.
- Look at the icon.
- 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:
 - Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.
 - Some possibilities: patience—my Mom always says I am.
 - Some possibilities: peaceful—I worry a lot. Don't be mean to each other.

Background Reading (The Nicene Creed)

""A good example of a creed used to defend the Christian faith is the Nicene Creed. With the rise of Arianism (a heresy which maintained that Christ was a perfect creature created by God the Father), the Church saw the need to devise a statement extracted from Scripture and Tradition as a pronouncement against the error. The Council of Nicaea was convened in 325 A.D. to discuss the heresy. The participants formulated a creed which stated in clear terms that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, and that He is, 'consubstantial' with the Father. The Greek word, homoousios means the same nature. This creed was used as a touchstone to separate those who kept to the true faith from those who embraced the erroneous concept of Christ, a way to test the accuracy of the faith of individual members of the Church—or rather, to see who was indeed a true member of the Church as opposed to those who had slipped from the fold by embracing a lie" (SLW 72).

5. From the Teaching of the Church Fathers

- Ask one student to read the words from St. John Chrysostom.
- Possible answers:
We need to stay connected to the Church that will help if something is wrong.
Yes, we can help each other as long as we stay connected.
Yes, one sin can affect our life. Examples: Anger causes families to separate. Forgiveness can restore our spiritual life.

6. Liturgical Study

- Read the paragraphs aloud.
- Ask the students to learn the sections of the Liturgy and to notice them during the next Divine Liturgy that they attend.

7. Closing Prayers

"The Beatitudes"—on the final page of this lesson in this teacher manual.

Supplemental Activities:

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

1. Recreate the scriptural story about the travelers on the road to Emmaus.
2. Brainstorm on ways to recognize God is with you.
3. Write a Faith Book page that praises people for being faithful to the Lord.

Background Reading (Time)

"... Time is really a measurement of events. Christ did not come to sanctify time, but us who are limited by space and time. Therefore He accomplished our redemption through events which can be measured by time, that is, they are historical. We also must live out our new life in Christ in time, though as John Chrysostom said, 'Every day is the Passover of Christ.' We do this by observing times of day (Matins in the morning and Vespers in the evening), times of year (the great feasts of the Church commemorating the events of our Lord's life), the cycle of the week (our Sunday celebration of the Resurrection), and our whole life (the sacraments and blessings). Again, we are sanctified by God, and through us, all of time is made holy, because we live in time. The wholeness that is the gift of God embraces us and the whole world of space and time in which we live" (*Journey TM 278*).