

**2019 Creative Festivals Lesson Plan:
Grades 1-3**

Theme:

Antiochian Village: Past, Present, and Future

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Goal:

To help the students understand the theme well enough to express it in art, photography, poetry, and creative writing.

Lesson Objectives:

The students will be able to:

- Explain that an epistle is a letter and the way in which the first apostles taught and kept in touch with the newly formed churches.
- State that St. Paul was writing this epistle as encouragement to the church in Philippi and to reassure them of Christ's love and care for all of us.
- Identify times they need God's help.
- Identify what 'things' Christ strengthens us to do.
- Name some activities that take place at camp and how their bodies, minds, or souls could be strengthened through these activities.

Time: 40 Minutes

Materials:

- Copy of ***A Prayer Before Commencing Any Task*** (*Attached. Print enough so each child has one copy of the prayer to take home.*)
- Map of Paul's journeys (*Attached.*)
- Icon of Saint Paul [From St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Church, York, PA] (*Attached.*)
- Bibles
- Paper and Pencils; Crayons, and/or Markers
- Photo of the Arch at the Antiochian Village Camp Entrance (*Attached.*)
- Coloring Page (*Attached. Print one for each child.*)

Opening Prayer:

Hand out copies of the following prayer. (See page 4.)

A PRAYER BEFORE COMMENCING ANY TASK

Almighty God, our Help and Refuge, Fountain of wisdom and Tower of strength, who knowest that I can do nothing without thy guidance and help; assist me, I pray thee, and direct me to divine wisdom and power, that I may accomplish this task, and whatever I may undertake to do, faithfully and diligently, according to thy will, so that it may be profitable to myself and others, and to the glory of thy Holy Name. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Introduction:

After Pentecost, the newly illumined apostles went out into the world to preach the Gospel of Christ risen from the dead. They established many churches across the known land of that time. (Show maps.) As they went from one city to another establishing churches, they kept in contact with churches already set up by writing letters, i.e. epistles. These letters were used to teach about Christ; to correct the churches that were making mistakes; and to encourage the newly illumined in the faith.

St. Paul wrote this epistle to the Philippians while he was under house arrest in Rome. (Show icon of St. Paul.) He has suffered, but has survived because he trusts Christ to give him the patience, wisdom, and the strength he needs to overcome these difficult times.

In this epistle, St. Paul encourages the Philippians to be constant in their faith in God; praise God at all times; not to worry about anything that might trouble them; to put their trust in Jesus Christ to give them the strength and courage they need to overcome the difficult times of their lives. St. Paul's situation is the perfect example of living a Christ-centered life.

Read Philippians 4:1, 4, 6-7, 11-13.

Discussion:

1. Have the children write down the times when they were afraid, i.e. starting school in a new classroom; meeting new people; speaking in front of others; etc. Talk about how they might overcome those fears with Christ's help.

2. At this point the children could do a role playing game of confronting a fear and how, with Christ's help, they can overcome those fears.

3. Have the children write down those things they feel Christ might help them with. Discuss the difference between wanting things like ice cream every day or a new video game and the things that will strengthen them in Christ, i.e. praying regularly, fasting when required, reading Scripture, helping our family and friends,

putting others' needs before our own; and loving one another. Remind the children that our goal as Christians is to be saints; living Christ-centered lives; and to become one with Christ. With His help, we can achieve that goal. Talk about the lives of the saints and how Christ has worked in them- St. Raphael; Theotokos; St. Mary of Egypt, for example.

4. Discuss with the children how and when they might recite the "Prayer Before Commencing Any Task" and look at other prayers they might say during their day when needed. <http://www.orthodoxnet.com/worship/occasionalprayers.html>

5. Explain that this year we have another part to our Creative Festival theme, "Antiochian Village: Past, Present, and Future." Show the children the picture of the arch to the camp that contains the theme. Discuss how the arch is the first thing people see when they enter the camp. Point out that it's the same theme that you've been talking about, except that it uses the words "we" and "us" instead of "I" and "me." Ask the children if they have ever been to Antiochian Village Camp or one of our other camps. (Even if they've been too young to attend, they may have been there to drop off an older brother or sister.) Ask them what they think boys and girls do when they're at camp. (Answers might include staying overnight in a cabin, learning more about Christ, attending church services, meeting kids from other places, doing fun activities, playing sports and games, sharing meals together, doing arts and crafts, etc.) Ask them how they think their bodies, minds, or souls might be strengthened by going to camp. Emphasize that the most important part of camp is that boys and girls learn more about our Orthodox Christian faith and learn how to live our faith. Tell them that we're very blessed to have a beautiful place like Antiochian Village. If they're too young to go to camp now, tell them that hopefully, when they're older, they'll be able to go to camp, too. [If you live in another part of the country, talk about the camp that's closest to you.]

Coloring Page:

Give each child a coloring page and have them color it in if time permits. Encourage them to memorize the Bible verse. If there's not enough time, allow them to take it home.

Closing Prayer:

Grant unto me, my Lord, that with peace in mind I may face all that this new day is to bring. Grant unto me grace to surrender myself completely to Thy holy will. Instruct and prepare me in all things for every hour of this day. Whatsoever tidings I may receive during the day, do Thou teach me to accept them calmly, in the firm conviction that all eventualities fulfill Thy holy will. Govern Thou my thoughts and feelings in all I do and say. When things unforeseen occur, let me not forget that all cometh down from Thee. Teach me to behave sincerely and reasonably toward every member of my family and all other human beings, that I may not cause confusion and sorrow to anyone. Bestow upon me, my Lord, strength to endure the fatigue of the day and to bear my share in all its passing events. Guide Thou my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to suffer, to forgive, and to love. Amen.

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SAINT

PAUL

А.А. Хитров
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