

**2019 Creative Festivals Lesson Plan:
Preschool/Kindergarten**

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:

- Describe what an apostle is.
- Tell what an epistle is.
- Recall several things St. Paul taught people through his epistles.
- Recite the "Ten Finger Prayer."
- Name some things boys and girls do at camp.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Icon of Jesus
- Icon of Saint Paul [From St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Church, York, PA]
(Attached.)
- Copy of Ten Finger Prayer *(Attached. Print one copy for each child.)*
- Pencils and Crayons
- Photo of the Arch at the Antiochian Village Camp Entrance *(Attached.)*

Background Information for the Teacher:

It's important when teaching a lesson on this theme not to give young children the wrong impression- that if they pray hard enough they can do (or have) anything they want. Prayer is not "magical thinking." When we pray for something or someone, we need to understand that we must follow God's will for us. Sometimes what we're praying for may not come to pass because it's not part of God's plan. In the Lord's prayer we say, "...**Thy will** be done" not "**my will** be done." Things may not always go our way, but God is always there to help us cope with anything that happens. He will give us strength to overcome any obstacles when we follow His plan for us.

Opening 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Introduction:

"Today we're going to talk about our Creative Festival theme: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' First of all, who is Christ? (Jesus.) [Show the children the icon of Jesus. Place it on a table or desk, etc. so that the icon is visible throughout the lesson.] This verse comes from St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians in the New Testament of the Bible. St. Paul was an apostle. [Show the children the icon of St. Paul] What is an apostle? (Someone who was chosen by Jesus Christ to be one of His followers.) Do you know what the word epistle means? (An epistle is a letter.) The apostles traveled to many different places and started many churches. St. Paul kept in touch with the people in those churches by writing letters to them so he could continue to help them and teach them about Christ. This letter was written to the church in a place called Philippi. Even though St. Paul wrote this letter many, many years ago, the things he taught people back then can still be used to help us today."

What Did St. Paul Teach People About Christ?

"Here are some things St. Paul talked about in his letters. He told the people to always be kind to others. What are some ways we can be kind to other people?" (Have the children talk about ways they can demonstrate kindness to other children and adults. For example, including other children when playing, making new friends, helping their parents with small chores, being polite and respectful, etc.)

"St. Paul told the people not to worry about anything, but instead to pray and ask Jesus for help when they had a problem or needed something. Are you ever worried about anything?" (Some of the children may say they're worried about moving, going to a new school, making friends, etc. Discuss these concerns.)

"What should we do if we're worried about something or have a problem? (We should pray.) "What is prayer?" (Prayer is talking to God.) "We can say prayers like The Lord's Prayer we recited at the beginning of class, or we can talk to God in our own words." (Tell the children that we should always pray to Jesus, but especially when we're worried, scared, or have a problem.)

"St. Paul told the people to always thank God for what they had. Do you ever pray and say 'Thank you' to God? What are some things we can thank God for?" (Have each child name something he or she is thankful for. Answers might include their family, friends, having enough to eat, having a house to live in, etc.)

"What are some other things you pray about or ask God for? Do you ever pray for things you want, like toys, or games?" (Obtain responses.)

“St. Paul told the people they should be happy with whatever they had. Sometimes we may think we need more things and then we’ll be happy, but there is a difference between the things we need and the things we want. What are some things we need?” (Food, water, basic clothing, a place to live, etc.) What are some things we may want but don’t really need?” (Candy, toys, video games, etc.)

*“Here’s another important thing- when we pray for something, we have to remember that we need to follow God’s plan for us. When we said The Lord’s Prayer, we didn’t say, ‘**my** will be done.’ We said, ‘**Thy** will be done.’ That means we trust God to decide what’s best for us. Things may not always go the way we want them to, but God is always there for us and He will give us strength to handle anything that happens as long as we pray and put our trust in Him.”*

Activity:

Have the children hold up both of their hands. Demonstrate to them how they can say the theme as a prayer by bending each of their fingers as they say each word: *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Give each child a copy of the “Ten Finger Prayer” sheet. Have them place their hands on the paper as you trace around them with a pencil. [See page 6 for reference.] Have the children color in their hands with a crayon.

Antiochian Village: Past, Present, and Future

“There is also another part to our Creative Festival theme this year- ‘Antiochian Village: Past, Present, and Future.’ Has anyone heard of Antiochian Village? Have any of your brothers and sisters gone to camp there?” (Obtain responses. Show the children the photo of the arch to the camp that contains the theme.) “This arch is the first thing people see when they enter the camp. It says, ‘We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.’ So it’s the same theme we’ve been talking about, only it uses the words ‘we’ and ‘us’ instead of ‘I’ and ‘me.’ When boys and girls go to Antiochian Village Camp, what do you think they do there?” (See if any of the children can answer this question based on what their brothers and sisters may have told them. Answers might include staying overnight in a cabin, learning more about Jesus, attending church services, meeting kids from other places, doing fun activities, playing sports and games, sharing meals together, doing arts and crafts, etc.) “But 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. We’re very blessed to have a beautiful place like Antiochian Village. You’re too young to go to camp now, but hopefully, when you’re older, you’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.]

Closing Prayer:

Say this closing prayer in front of the icon of Jesus. *“The Lord is my strength and my protection. Blessed be the Lord. Amen.”*

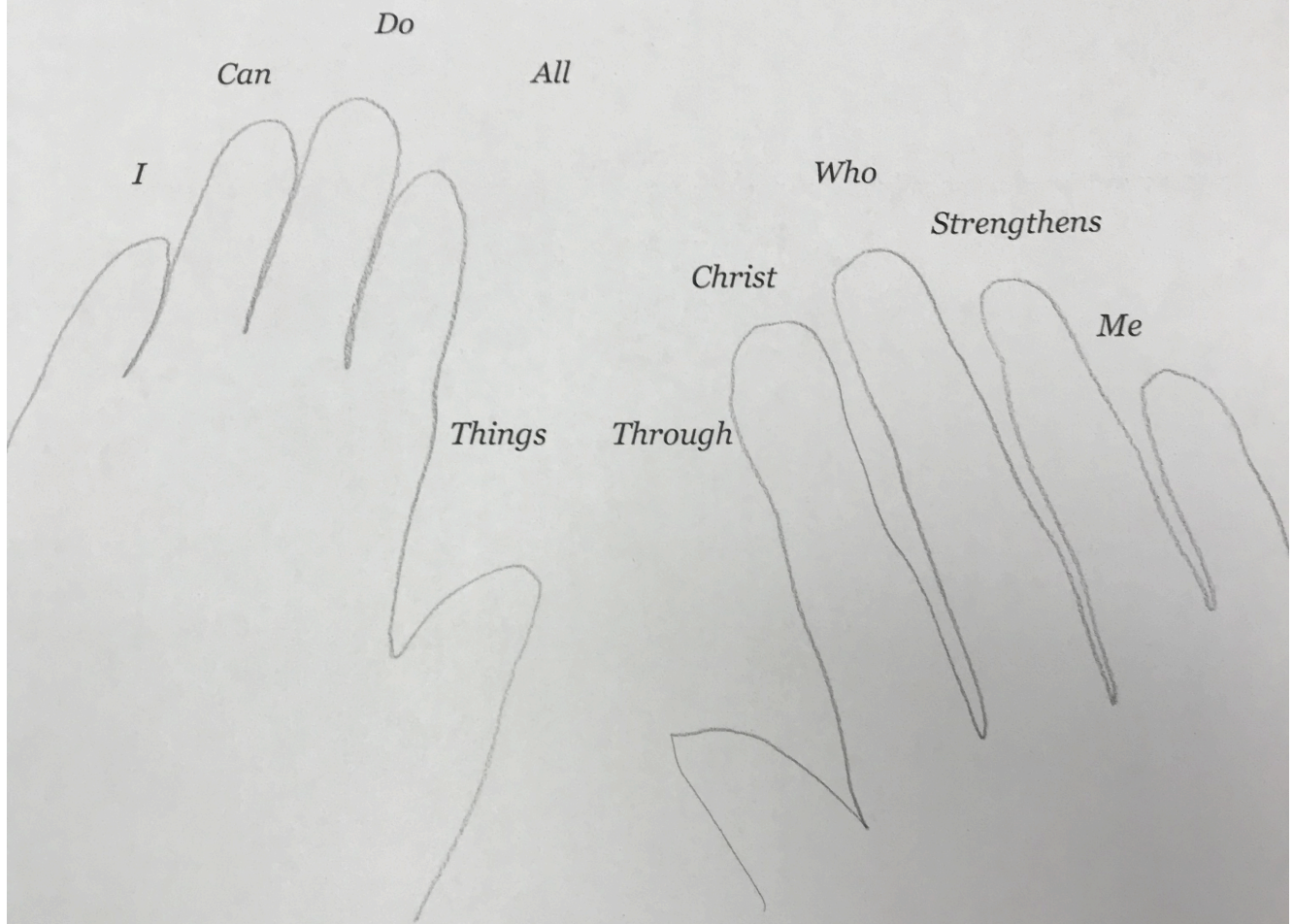


Ten Finger Prayer

*I Can Do All
Who Strengthens
Christ Me
Things Through*

Philippians 4:13

Ten Finger Prayer



Philippians 4:13

