



# 13th Sunday Gospel of St. Matthew

Growing Through Scripture

Study Guide for Teachers and Homeschoolers

**Prayer Before Studies** to be read by one student or by all students and teacher(s)

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Begin with *O Heavenly King, the Trisagion, and Lord's Prayer*, then:

O God our Father, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit – by which You made fishermen into Your all-wise Apostles – enable us to learn and understand the teachings of Your Son's True Faith, so we may live in accordance with Your Will, and be made worthy to one day dwell in Heaven with You, Your Son, and Your Holy Spirit, and with all Your Saints. + Amen.

## Goals

### ✠ Grades K-2

Identify the virtues we can use in our life and the vices which we should avoid, so that we can be followers of Jesus Christ.

### ✠ Grades 3-5

Understand the differences between virtues and vices, choosing to do those things which Jesus Christ expects of His followers: us.

### ✠ Grades 6-8

The gospel reading identifies how we should live (and not live) how do virtues reveal our lives as followers of Christ who do as commanded?

### ✠ Grades 9-12

The psalms serve as guides for how to live and obey Christ - how can we avoid being like the tenants and being faithful to our Lord's teachings?

## Lesson Outline

- Open with the prayers above (2 min)
- Distribute the lesson (*page one, age-level activity, and pens/pencils or crayons*)
- Have students take turns reading page one. *For grades K-5, read portions or provide a summary of page one. (7 min)*
- *All Grades:* Brief discussion based on page one content, using scripture citations, quotes, and questions like these to spark dialogue: (8 min)
  - ✉ **What does it mean to be obedient to God?**
  - ✉ **Why is it important for us to be faithful to Christ in our lives?**
  - ✉ **What are virtues? What are vices?**
  - ✉ **How can we use virtues to be a faithful servant as in today's gospel?**
  - ✉ **Who are the people who kill the landowner's son?**
  - ✉ **How do we sometimes reject the son?**
  - ✉ **How can we be restored to communion to God?**
  - ✉ **Why are virtues important?**

*Review the goals for each grade level at left.*

- Begin handout activity, review instructions by grade level (2 min)
- Students complete activity (15 min)
- Discuss the students' answers and how the purpose of this lesson and what was learned (10 min)
- Close with the prayers below (2 min)

## Tips & Hints

- *This lesson is designed for 45 minute class sessions and can be modified based on your schedule and format.*
- Content from this lesson can be used "out of the box" or supplemental to existing lesson plans.
- Share the **Parent Overview** in a timely manner (no later than Sunday afternoon), so parents can discuss and explore lesson topics with children at their convenience during the coming week.
- **Student Handouts** should be shared in print or digital format with the youth before or no later than the beginning of class.

Encourage young people to keep the handouts, as certain features carry-over and will be referenced in future lessons.

- **Resources to have on hand:** Bibles, pencils or pens (or crayons/markers), access to web-based links in the lesson.
- Ask open-ended questions which may lead the conversation to reveal their thoughts about God.
- As parents and teachers, we may not readily have all the answers, but we have the ability to inspire a desire in children to love God, which can benefit them throughout their lives.

We can always engage our priest to get answers we need and circle back with students next week.

- Pray for your students by name at least weekly.
- Be a positive examples of Christian love and living the Faith. May God bless you in your efforts to educate our young people!
- Questions, ideas, feedback, and suggestions can be directed to the publishers at [orthodoxjourneys@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxjourneys@gmail.com)

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+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Conclude with the *Hymn to the Theotokos* and then:

O God, our Father, we thank you for the blessings received in Your Son's True Faith, help us, through Your Holy Spirit, to apply this knowledge to our words, thoughts, and deeds, that we may live as You desire, being made worthy to receive your precious gifts, glorifying You as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. + Amen.



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