



13th Sunday Gospel of St. Matthew

Resource Overview for Parents and Families

This Week

We hear a parable from Christ, explaining how the Hebrew nation of the Old Testament rejected the prophets and messengers of God, and will reject and kill Him: the Son of God.

At times, we may feel awkward or different from others because our Orthodox Faith is so radically different from what others do in society. Yet God's plan of Salvation will provide for our every need, so we can grow closer to Him and those around us, sharing His love so that we can transform the world into Paradise.

This Week We Learned About

✠ Scripture Reading

- Matthew 21:33-42

✠ Scripture in Liturgy

"Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice; Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication."

Psalm 130

✠ The Saints & Scripture

"He did not simply say, 'Out of my mouth;' he did not simply say, 'With my tongue;' his mind was wandering when the words came out, you see. Instead, from the depths of my heart, with great zeal and enthusiasm, from the very bottom of my mind."

St. John Chrysostom

✠ Scripture in Our Daily Lives

If You, O LORD, should mark transgression, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Psalm 130:3-4

Questions for Your Kids

- What does it mean to be faithful?
- What does it mean to do everything in love?
- Why does the land owner want the servants to be productive?
- How are we productive in church?

- Read Psalm 130
- When do we hear Psalm 130 in church? (*hint: in the evening...*)
- What does this verse say about God's love for humanity?
- How is this psalm a prayer asking God for His mercy and love?

- Why does St. John say prayer makes our souls better?
- How does prayer bring us closer to God?
- Which is more important - prayer to God or the earthly things of this life? Why?

- Why do we call out to God for help?
- How is God merciful with us?
- How can we respond when we receive God's mercy?

Discussion Topics to Learn More

- What can we do to help the church fulfill Christ's teachings to bear His light in the world?
- What can we do as a family to bear Christ's light in our community?

- Why does this psalm say we wait for God from morning until night?
- How can this Psalm help bring us closer to God?
- What do you like about our liturgy? Why?

- How does prayer relate to today's reading about standing firm in faith?
- How is prayer a form of expressing love to God? For others?
- When do we pray from the depth of our heart? Why?

- How can we call out to God when we have struggles, sin, or difficulties in life?
- If you were one of the servant in today's reading, how would you respond to the landowner?
- How are we servants of God?

Tips and Hints

Use as many or as few of the questions and discussion topics above to engage your children in a conversation about this week's scripture lessons to discover how the Orthodox Faith can be applied to each of our lives.

Ask open-ended questions which may lead the conversation to reveal their thoughts about the place God and the church have in their daily life.

As parents, 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. (And we can always speak with our priest for guidance on answers).

Find moments when you can pray together as a family, and on your own, including prayers for your children to their guardian angels in your own personal prayers.

Theotokos and saints are always available for you through prayer, ask for their help and guidance in your daily prayers.

Observe the fasts and feasts of the Church which can help build a structure for the holy alongside the secular for you and your children.

Glory to God for all things!



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