

JOHN THE BAPTIST PREPARES THE WAY

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



“THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS...”

Read: Orthodox Children’s Bible Reader - page 177

Saint John the Baptist is also known as Saint John the Forerunner because he prepared people for Jesus. He asked them to repent, which means to seek forgiveness from others and from God.

When we do something that hurts or upsets another person, we should say to them, “Please forgive me.” Hopefully, they will respond, “I forgive you.”

1

GOALS

What is repentance?
What is threshing & winnowing in relation to the parables?

2

AT CHURCH

Sacrament of Confession

3

AT HOME

How do we prepare for Confession?
Asking for forgiveness from one another



Class routine:
Move my photo from “home” to “church”



Class routine:
Light a candle - respectfully prayerfully without playing



Class routine:
Venerate our icon



Activity:
Threshing & Winnowing Wheat

PARABLES

In the Bible, we hear special stories called parables. These stories use an example from everyday life to teach us an important lesson about God.

There are several parables about wheat in the Bible. Many of you have never seen wheat growing in a field or how the farmers get the wheat seeds in order to grind them and make flour.

Today, we're going to have a fun activity outside to learn more about wheat to help you understand the parables better in the Bible.

VOCABULARY: SEPARATING WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF

“His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.” (Luke 3:17)

Wheat is what we use to make bread and it grows as a tall grass. When the wheat is harvested, there is much work still to be done before you get the wheat kernels or berries that you will use to grind to make flour.



Threshing grains
Photo credit: [Jayaseerlourdhuraj](#)

What is threshing? Threshing is the process of removing the seeds from the stem or stalk of the plant. Oftentimes, many people would gather together to thresh the wheat together. They would take big bundles of wheat and hit the bundles against a hard surface, dislodging the grain.

What is winnowing? Winnowing is the process of separating the wheat from the chaff. Sometimes this was done by using a special basket that allowed you to easily shake and drop the wheat kernels to the ground as the wind blew away the chaff. Other times, they would use a winnowing fork and toss the wheat into the air, and again, allow the chaff to blow away as the wheat dropped to the ground.

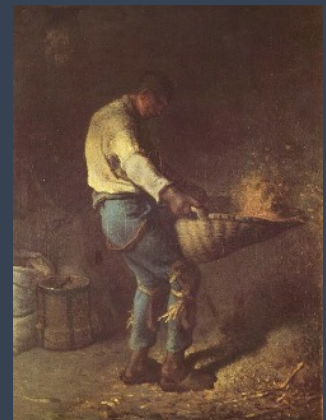
EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 79 - 94

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, pages 40 - 46

[Search the Scriptures Live Podcast: “Brood of Vipers”](#)
by Dr. Jeannie Constantinou

[Separating the Wheat from the Chaff](#)



How can I tell the difference between the wheat and the chaff? The wheat is the small seed that grows at the tip of the wheat grass plant. This seed will provide new life to another wheat plant. The chaff is the outer, inedible hull of the wheat kernel. The chaff is papery-thin and will easily blow away.



(Left) Chaff; (Right) Wheat
Photo credit: [Archibale Isolation](#)

In modern times, we have special machinery that will thresh and winnow the wheat for the farmers.

Saint John teaches us that we should be like the wheat (firmly loving God), not the chaff (easily blown away from God by distractions).

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AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

The image of true
repentance is found in
the Gospel, in the
parable of the Prodigal Son.

*The Prodigal Son remembered
all that he had in his father's
home, and how much he lost,
and then he wanted with all his
being to return.*

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Liturgy and Life: Christian Development
Through Liturgical Experience

Available in our church bookstore:

“Repentance and Confession, Return to God
and His Church” by St. Nikodemos
Publications

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We teach our children both directly through
the instructions we provide them and also
indirectly through our daily, lived example.

Our children notice our priorities and the
choices we make. Let them hear us seek
forgiveness from one another and see us going
to Confession.

In this way, we help to lay the foundation of
the importance of repentance in our healing
process.

HOME ACTIVITY #7

Discuss and prepare to go to Confession:

- [Preparation for Holy Confession](#) - Greek Orthodox Archdiocese (Ages 7 and up)
- Ask your family to forgive you when you have done something to hurt them.