

GOSPEL OF

MATTHEW

FAMILY GUIDE



GOALS FOR THE YEAR

- Review and learn more about the Bible and Holy Tradition
- Encourage parents to read the Gospel of Matthew, along with other stories of the Bible, regularly with their family
- Prepare and encourage children to have weekly Sunday discussions with their parents about each week's topic during the car ride home

St. John Chrysostom teaches us in

An Address on Vainglory &

the Right Way for Parents to Bring Up Their Children:

1. Tell our children a story from the Bible
2. Then retell the same story to your child, until they know the story well
3. Ask your child to narrate the story back to you
4. Explain the story and how it benefits them
5. "This is not all. Go, leading him by the hand in church and pay heed particularly when this tale is read aloud. Thou wilt see him rejoice and leap with pleasure because he knows what the other children do not know, as he anticipates the story, recognizes it, and derives great gain from it. And hereafter the episode is fixed in his memory."

RESOURCES

We will be using the **Orthodox Study Bible** with children grades 3 and up. **Please remind them to bring their Bible with them to Sunday School each week!**

For children in grades 2 and younger, we will be predominately using the **Orthodox Children's Bible**. We will also be supplementing with **stories about the saints of the Bible** from Potamitis Publishing and *101 Orthodox Saints* from Ancient Faith Publishing.

Dr. Jeannie Constantinou has an excellent podcast series on the Bible called, "**Search the Scriptures**" found on Ancient Faith Radio or via the AFR app. <https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptures> and also found here <https://orthodoxbiblestudy.info>

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese has an archived video webinar with Dr. Constantinou called, "**Introducing Our Children to the Bible.**"

<https://www.goarch.org/-/introducing-our-children-to-the-bible>

"**The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew**" by Blessed Theophylact is a helpful commentary on the Gospel of Matthew as well.

Another great resource is Fr. Lawrence Farley's book, "**The Gospel of Matthew - Torah for the Church**".

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

WEEK 1	Introduction to the Bible: Review
WEEK 2	Life of Saint Matthew
WEEK 3	Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew
WEEK 4	Matthew 1 - The Genealogy of Christ
WEEK 5	Matthew 2 - Concerning the Magi & Refuge in Egypt
WEEK 6	Matthew 3 - John the Baptist Prepares the Way
WEEK 7	Matthew 4 - Concerning the Temptation of Christ & the First Disciples
WEEK 8	Matthew 5 - The Beatitudes
WEEK 9	Matthew 6 - Almsgiving, Fasting, and Prayer
WEEK 10	Matthew 7 & 8 - Not Judging Others; Miracles of Jesus
WEEK 11	Matthew 9 - Miracles of Jesus
WEEK 12	Matthew 10 & 11 - The Twelve Chosen; Those Sent by John
WEEK 13	Matthew 12 - Responses to Christ
WEEK 14	Matthew 13 - Parables
WEEK 15	Matthew 14, 15 & 16 - Feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000; Jewish Leaders Test Jesus
WEEK 16	Matthew 17 - The Transfiguration

WEEK 17	Matthew 18 - Finding the Lost Sheep
WEEK 18	Matthew 19 - Riches and the Kingdom of Heaven
WEEK 19	Matthew 20 - The First and the Last
WEEK 20	Matthew 21 - Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
WEEK 21	Matthew 22 - The Greatest Commandment
WEEK 22	Matthew 23 - Concerning the woe of the Pharisees
WEEK 23	Matthew 24 - Concerning the day and the hour of the end
WEEK 24	Matthew 25 - We must be prepared
WEEK 25	Matthew 26 - Events Prior to Jesus' Arrest & His Arrest
WEEK 26	Matthew 27 - Jesus' Crucifixion, Death, and Burial
WEEK 27	Matthew 28 - Jesus' Resurrection
WEEK 28	One Year in Review