

2022-2023  
**One-Year Scope**

BRIDGES TO ORTHODOXY



# CONTENT OVERVIEW

## **July/August**

*Biblical Study*  
On a Mission

## **September**

*Spiritual Growth*  
Knit Together

## **October**

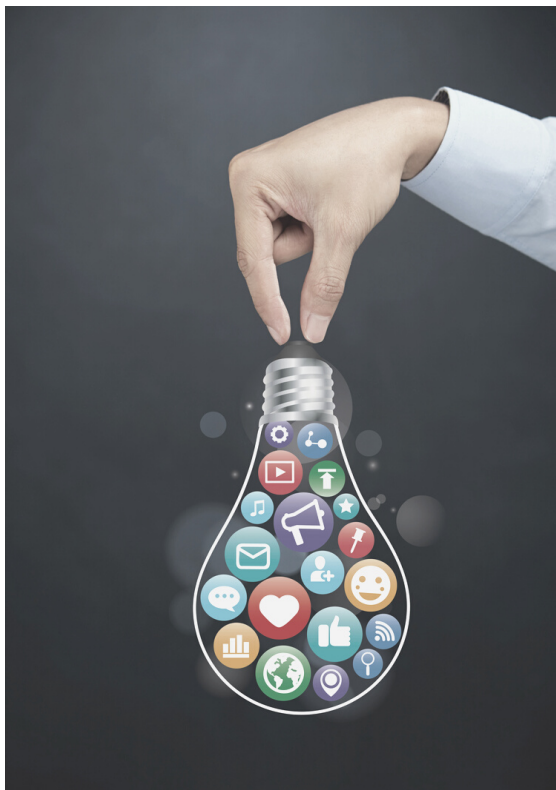
*Biblical Study*  
The Heart of a King

## **November**

*Orthodox Faith*  
You are What You Eat

## **December**

*Spiritual Growth*  
Christmas Truths



## **January**

*Orthodox Faith*  
An Ancient Faith

## **February**

*Spiritual Growth*  
R-E-S-P-E-C-T

## **March/April**

*Lent Prep*  
I AM...

## **May**

*Spiritual Growth*  
The Social Media Dilemma

## **June**

*Biblical Study*  
The Babylon that Surrounds Us

July 3 - August 28

## ON A MISSION

A 2-month Biblical Study on  
the Book of Acts



Pentecost is a feast day in the Church where we remember the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles as they embarked to spread the word of God from one end of the earth to the other. The verse, however, was not meant to be exclusive – we are also charged with being daily witnesses of our Lord and spreading His good news from one end of the earth to the other. This summer, we will take a closer look at the book of Acts and discover what it means to be a daily missionary for Christ. Each day is an opportunity to be on God’s mission in our deeds, words, and interactions with others. In tracing the journeys of St. Paul, we hope our teens adopt his sense of bravery, boldness, and conviction in our Lord Jesus Christ. Hopefully they will see their lives not as their own, but one...on a mission.

*"...and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8b*

September 4 - September 25

## KNIT TOGETHER

A 4-Week Unit on Identity /  
Discovering Who God Knit You  
to Be.



Every person wants to answer the question “what makes me, me?” Is our identity about our characteristics (outgoing, funny, shy); our hobbies (musical, athletic, artistic); our role in life (friend, sibling, athlete); or the brands we choose to wear?

This month, we will explore a crucially important topic with our teens about finding long-lasting identity in the only real source that matters: as children of God who are profoundly loved by Him. The Body of Christ is indeed made up of many members, so we are not made to be exactly alike, we are all uniquely knit together in our own design. Finding peace and happiness in our identity will happen when we discover ourselves in discovering God. Or, as St. John stated, “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

*"I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well."  
Psalm 139:14*

October 2 - October 30

## THE HEART OF A KING

A 5-Week Biblical Study on the  
Life of David



A shepherd boy was an unlikely king... but that is exactly who he became. David was the underdog, the youngest brother, a kid with the plainest, most mundane life ever. Yet, his everyday experiences were used by God to shape his character and prepare him for his future “Goliath” moment. David had plenty of missteps in his life too, but he faced his sins and failures with a repentant heart. No wonder he is described as a man after God’s own heart. Many times, we may not think our everyday, boring, mundane lives matter. God uses those everyday experiences to shape our character, to touch our heart and give us the ability to face our future “Goliath” moment too. This month, we hope to encourage teens to embrace every experience – good, bad, and just plain boring – with the same heart as David – knowing that God is slowly shaping us into who we are being raised up to be.

*“He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony as said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’” Acts 13:22*

November 6 - November 27

## YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

A 4-Week Unit on How-To  
Study the Bible



The Bible is the living word of God. It is how we approach our timeless God. It was made to be read, re-read, studied, meditated on, prayed through, and, eventually, to place yourself in the story. For a teen, though, reading the Bible can seem like a daunting task. This month, we hope to help our teens learn how to effectively read the Bible and apply God’s word to their lives. We will see how the Bible is one big story of human behavior wrestling with their obedience to God over the temptations of this world. The Bible is filled with rich wisdom and timeless applications that can be approached in different ways depending on whether they are studying a story, a psalm, or a word of wisdom (such as a parable of Christ or a proverb).

This month we hope to encourage our teens to create a Bible study rule, with different methods, gaining the most out of reading and really consuming each and every word of God; after all, you are what you eat.

*“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4b*

December 4 - December 25

# CHRISTMAS TRUTHS

A 4-Week Unit on the True Meaning of Christmas

+ Bonus Christmas Party to be used at any time



What is Christmas? These days, the holiday is celebrated nationwide filled with festivities, pretty decorations, and gifts. In truth, the Feast of the Nativity is a glorious event in history that cannot be truly defined. The birth of the Son of God transcends every attempt to explain the incomprehensible. Every year though, we struggle to remember the true meaning of Christmas among the holiday shopping, the pictures with Santa, and the never-ending wish lists. That is why this year we are devoting the month to remind ourselves of some Christmas Truths: that Christmas is really a celebration of God's divine generosity and love; a reminder that God longs to dwell among us and pursues us just as any good, Heavenly Father would do.

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14*

January 1 - January 29

# AN ANCIENT FAITH

A 5-Week Unit on Understanding the Origin and Richness of our Orthodox Faith



Where did the word "Christian" come from? How is the Orthodox Church different from other Christian denominations? What is tradition and what is theology?

There comes a point in every Orthodox teen's life where they start to question their faith. Not necessarily their belief in Christ, but their understanding and appreciation of the deep roots that make up the Ancient Faith of our Orthodox Church. This month, we hope to encourage teens to explore these questions and, more importantly, come to appreciate the deeply held beliefs and roots of our Ancient Faith that stem from Christ's Apostles.

*"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18*

February 5 - February 26

# R-E-S-P-E-C-T

A 4-Week Unit on Showing  
Proper Respect to All People



R-E-S-P-E-C-T – let’s spend a month finding out what it means to our teens and what it means, more importantly, to our Lord. Showing respect means showing others they are valued by our words and actions. We are called to show proper respect to everyone - whether it be someone we do not have much in common with, someone in authority we do not particularly admire, or someone who is typically considered "subordinate".

Respect can be a tall order for teens that are pushing boundaries and starting to become leaders in their own right. This month, we will explore concepts that sometimes interfere with respect, such as favoritism, personal bias, status, and perception of authority figures. Ultimately, we hope teens come to see that when we show proper respect to others, we are showing proper respect to God.

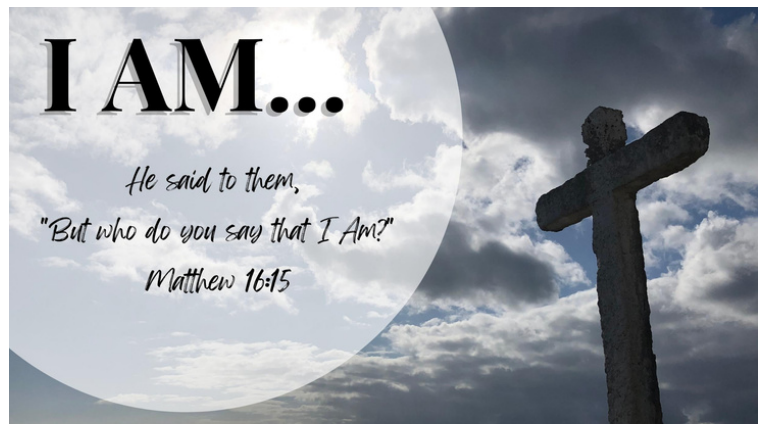
*"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another." Romans 12:10*

March 5 - April 30\*

# I AM...

A 2-Month Unit on Christ's "I  
AM" Statements

\*Excluding Palm Sunday and  
Easter (April 9 and April 16);  
Holy Week Resources included



This Lent Season will focus on the powerful "I am" statements made by Christ. Jesus made a lot of claims while He was on earth of who He was/is. If we truly believe them, then shouldn't our lives be different? That is exactly what we will be exploring in this two-month series with our teens. "I am the Good Shepherd"; "I am the Bread of Life"; "I am the True Vine"; "I am..." What do these metaphors teach us about what our life should look like? What our relationship with Christ should look like?

*"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Matthew 16:15*

May 7 - May 28

## THE SOCIAL MEDIA DILEMMA

A 4-week Unit on Social Media and Using Technology Responsibly



We live in a blessed age where we can keep in contact with loved ones in different states and different countries with a touch of a button; mail no longer requires postage stamps; and virtually everyone is accessible any time, anywhere. Unfortunately, our never-ending access to technology and social media is a blessing and a curse – one that requires discipline, boundaries, and self-control. If we are not careful, social media can take priority to real life relationships, empathy, and moral judgment. This month we will explore the importance of our responsibilities using this mixed blessing – of taking control of our social media usage before it controls us.

*“Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.” Psalm 32:9*

June 4 - June 25

## THE BABYLON THAT SURROUNDS US

A 4-week Biblical study on the life of Daniel



Long before he survived a night in a lion’s den, even before his friends survived the furnace, as a young man, Daniel was taken from his home and forced to live in a place called Babylon- an affluent and luxurious town with the best technology, food, and entertainment. Once the Jews were forced to live there, most of them slowly began to blend in – most began to make Babylon their home. Daniel, on the other hand, knew better – he knew that Babylon was not his home. He “purposed in his heart” that he would not defile himself and made a daily choice to get on his knees and be a child of God. Everyone knew Daniel was not a Babylonian. And because he stood out – he faced some afflictions, but mostly he gained the Lord’s protection, safety, and joy.

This month, as we study the life of Daniel we hope to encourage our teens to fight against the temptation to simply “blend in” to the Babylon that surrounds us and instead to “purpose in their hearts” to please God in all things. After all, just like Daniel, our citizenship is not here, we are not Babylonians.

*“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20*