

# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

Unit 1: Lesson Plan Syllabus

Sunday Gospel Readings of St. Matthew (II)

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Matthew

## “Having Mercy Like God”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 18:23-35**



- How often is God merciful with us?
- How do we respond to others when they ask us to be merciful with them?
- Why is forgiveness so important for us as Orthodox Christians?

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Matthew

## “So You Want to be Perfect”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 19:16-26**



- Why does the rich young man want to be justified by Jesus?
- How would you respond if Jesus Christ said to give everything away and follow Him?
- Why should we love God above all other things in our life?

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Matthew

## “Building on the Cornerstone”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 21:33-42**



- What would you say if Jesus Christ asked to tell Him about the fruits of your spiritual labors?
- Do you live according to God’s commandments or your desires and wants?
- How can we live according to the gospel message and live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world?

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Matthew

## “Accepting God on His Terms”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 22:1-14**



- Expand your knowledge of our baptismal robes, and what they represent throughout our lives - why will it be important at the Last Judgment?
- Ever been to a wedding or special occasion and worn the wrong clothes?
- What does it mean to be faithful to God? Why does God expect us to be obedient?

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Matthew

## “The Greatest Commandment”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 22:35-46**



- Why do the religious leaders want to challenge Jesus?
- What are the commandments Jesus says are most important?
- How can make these commandments help us be part of the Body of Christ?

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Matthew

## “Investing Wisely”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 25:14-30**



- What would you do if given the responsibility of caring for God’s treasures?
- Why does God give us talents and resources? What should we do with them?
- What will happen if we don’t use our gifts and blessings wisely or generously?

### Feasts & Saints

**September 1**  
Indiction of the New Year

**September 8**  
Nativity of the Theotokos

**September 12**  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Nativity

**September 14**  
Elevation (Exaltation) of the Cross

**September 21**  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Cross

**September 23**  
Conception of the Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

**September 24**  
All Saints of Alaska  
St. Juvenaly protomartyr of America, and his companion  
St. Peter the Aleut

**September 26**  
Repose of St. John the Evangelist

**September 30**  
St. Gregory, Enlightener of Armenia

**October 1**  
Protection of the Theotokos

**October 6**  
St. Innocent, Apostle to America



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# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

## Unit 2: Lesson Plan Syllabus

## Sunday Gospel Readings of St. Luke (I)

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “In the Presence of God”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 5:1-11**



- Twelve men came from different backgrounds, yet all became followers and Apostles of Jesus Christ, and we are called to be like them. Would you?
- What would you do if someone started picking on you because you're an Orthodox Christian?
- Why is having hope in God important both in the good and bad times?

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Be Merciful as Your Father”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 6:31-36**



- Treating other people with dignity and respect is something we're all taught, because we're followers of Jesus Christ who loves us more than we love ourselves.
- How would you react if you saw someone in need on the street?
- Did you ever help someone without expecting anything in return from them?

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Being a Cheerful Giver”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 7:11-16**



- Jesus Christ raises the young man from the dead - what does this say about God?
- How does Jesus visit us with mercy in our lives?
- How can we be bearers of God's mercy in our local parish?

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Sowing the Seeds”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 8:5-15**



- Explore the parable of the sower, taking a few moments to pray and reflect - what type of soil do you have for the Word of God to dwell and grow in your life?
- How do we live as Orthodox Christians in our relationship with others?
- Why do Christians suffer - shouldn't things be easy since we believe in God?

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Seize the Moment”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 16:19-31**



- How does singing “Memory Eternal” keep our ancestors and the departed close to us?
- What can we do to live with a sense of urgency to be prepared for eternity?
- How did the apostles and the faithful in the early church live their daily lives?

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “In Fear, Faith, and Love”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 8:26-39**



- In the gospels, very few people recognize or proclaim Jesus as God - but the demons do, what do they know on a spiritual level that can help us from an earthly perspective?
- Why did the demons want to get away from Jesus so quickly?
- Faith and works - what must we do to inherit eternal life?

### Feasts & Saints

**October 9**  
St. Tikhon, Apostle to America

**October 26**  
St. Demetrius the Greatmartyr

**October 31**  
St. John (Kochurov) of Chicago

**November 1**  
Ss. Cosmas and Damian

**November 4**  
St. Seraphim of Uglich

**November 8**  
Synaxis of the Angels

**November 9**  
St. Nektarios of Aegina

**November 12**  
St. Varnava of Hvosno

**November 13**  
St. John Chrysostom

**November 14**  
Apostle Philip

**November 15**  
Beginning of the Nativity Fast

**November 21**  
Entry of the Theotokos in the Temple



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# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

## Unit 3: Lesson Plan Syllabus

## Sunday Gospel Readings of St. Luke (II)

Sunday of the Fathers (October)

### “Being an Image of Christ”

Gospel Reading:  
**John 17:1-13**



- How does this reading from scripture relate to the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council?
- Why do we celebrate the restoration of Icons to use in our churches and homes?
- How are we called to be images of God in our community? our homes? our churches?

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Who Touched Me?”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 8:41-56**



- Why did the woman hide when she was healed?
- How do we react when God blesses us in our lives?
- Why do we worship and give thanks to God?

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Who is My Neighbor”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 10:25-37**



- How would you react if you saw someone in need on the street?
- Can you freely give of your possessions to help others? Is it hard or easy?
- Why are we called to be generous with others - especially those in need?

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Members of God’s Household”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 12:16-21**



- How do we act as members of God’s Household?
- How does a Christian live their life knowing that tomorrow is not guaranteed?
- How do we welcome all people into God’s house?

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Sharing God’s Peace”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 13:10-17**



- What does it mean to have the Peace of the Spirit?
- Why was Jesus not afraid of healing on the Sabbath, even though it scandalized others?
- How do we share the Holy Spirit with others by our actions, not words?

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “Turning to Christ”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 14:16-24**



- Do we live as a Christian every day, or only sometimes?
- How often do we make excuses to not attend Divine Liturgy, or pray every day?
- How do we prepare ourselves so that we do not avoid Christ?



### Feasts & Saints

**November 24**  
St. Catherine the Greatmartyr

**November 25**  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Entry

**November 29**  
St. Philoumenos of Jacob’s Well

**November 30**  
St. Sebastian of Jackson

**December 2**  
St. Alexis of Carpathia  
St. Porphyrios of Kafsokalyvia

**December 4**  
St. John of Damascus  
St. Barbara the Greatmartyr  
St. Alexander (Hotovitsky) of New York

**December 6**  
St. Nicholas of Myra in Lycia

**December 12**  
St. Spyridon  
St. Mardarije of Libertyville

**December 13**  
St. Herman of Alaska

**December 20**  
St. John of Kronstadt

**December 25**  
Nativity of our Lord (Christmas)

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# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

## Unit 4: Lesson Plan Syllabus

## Sunday Gospel Readings of St. Luke (III)

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “God is Watching Our Lives”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 17:12-19**



- “The light of Christ illumines all” is said during Lenten Scripture readings. What does it mean in our daily life?
- What does it feel like when we forget to say thank you?
- How would our life be different if we said “thank you” to everyone as if we had been helped by Christ Himself?

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday Gospel of St. Luke

### “God is our Treasure”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 18:18-27**



- Who is the image of the invisible God?
- Why is it hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
- What can we do to be perfect like God?

Sunday of the Blind Man

### “Gift of Sight”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 18:35-43**



- How is it possible to see and still not see?
- Why do we pray, “Jesus, have mercy on me!”?
- The Great Fast is approaching: What bad habits do we want to move away from this year?

Sunday of the Canaanite

### “Great is Your Faith”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 15:21-28**



- Why does it seem like Jesus is mean to the Canaanite Woman?
- If Christ came into the world to save sinners, what must we do to inherit eternal life?
- Why is faith in God important for us as Orthodox Christians?

Sunday of Zacchaeus

### “Desire to Change”

Gospel Reading:  
**Luke 19:1-10**



- Why did Jesus visit Zacchaeus’ home?
- How would you respond if Jesus invited Himself to your home for a meal?
- Why is the reading of scripture important for our relationship with God?



## Feasts & Saints

**December 26**  
Synaxis of the Theotokos

**December 31**  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Nativity

**January 1**  
Circumcision of our Lord  
St. Basil the Great

**January 2**  
St. Seraphim of Sarov

**January 4**  
Synaxis of the Holy 70 Apostles

**January 6**  
Theophany of our Lord

**January 7**  
Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

**January 12**  
St Sava of Serbia

**January 14**  
St Nino, Enlightener of Georgia  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of Theophany

**January 17**  
St. Anthony the Great

**January 18**  
St. Athanasius of Alexandria

**January 24**  
St. Xenia of Petersburg

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# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

## Unit 5: Lesson Plan Syllabus

## Sunday Gospel Readings of the Triodion (I)

Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee

### “Seeing Ourselves”

Epistle: **2 Timothy 3:10-15**  
Gospel Reading: **Luke 18:10-14**



- Why does St. Paul say that reading scripture and learning the teachings of the Church are important for believers?
- What are the good habits we can learn from the Publican? And from the Pharisee?
- What are the bad habits of the Pharisee we should avoid? And those of the Publican?

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

### “Returning to God”

Epistle: **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**  
Gospel Reading: **Luke 15:11-32**



- Why does St. Paul describe our bodies to be temples of the Holy Spirit?
- What are the good habits we can learn from the Older Son? And from the Younger Son?
- What are the bad habits of the Younger Son we should avoid? And those of the Older Son?

Sunday of the Last Judgment

### “Being Like God”

Epistle: **1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2**  
Gospel Reading: **Matthew 25:31-46**



- Why does it matter more what comes out of our mouths than what goes in?
- Why does Christ want us to care for the hungry, sick, naked, imprisoned, and strangers?
- Do your actions place you on the right or left hand of God?

Sunday of the Expulsion from Paradise

### “Forgiving Like God”

Epistle: **Romans 13:11-14:1-4**  
Gospel Reading: **Matthew 6:14-21**



- How can we be more like Jesus Christ during the Great Fast?
- Why should we forgive others of their sins?
- What are your spiritual goals for praying during Lent? For fasting? For charitable works?



## Feasts & Saints

**January 30**  
Three Hierarchs: Ss. John Chrysostom, Basil the Great, and Gregory the Theologian

**February 2**  
Presentation in the Temple

**February 3**  
Synaxis of the Righteous Symeon

**February 9**  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the Presentation in the Temple

**February 16**  
St. Nicholas of Japan

**February 17**  
Greatmartyr Theodore “the Recruit”

**February 18**  
St. Leo the Great, Pope of Rome

**February 24**  
First and Second Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist

**February 27**  
St. Raphael of Brooklyn

**March 9**  
40 Martyrs of Sebaste

**March 17**  
St. Patrick, Enlightener of Ireland

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# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

## Unit 6: Lesson Plan Syllabus

## Sunday Gospel Readings of the Triodion (II)

Sunday of Orthodoxy

### “Come and See”

Epistle: **Heb. 11:24-26, 32-40; 12:1-2**

Gospel Reading: **John 1:43-51**



- How can the great figures of the Old Testament inspire us to have faith in God?
- Why do the apostles follow Jesus Christ?
- How can you invite others to “come and see” the Orthodox Faith?

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

### “The Power of Faith”

Epistle: **Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 2:1-12**



- Why do the men break open the roof of the house to see Jesus?
- How can you show your faith in God in your life?
- Why is it important to have the correct/right beliefs about Jesus Christ and God?

Sunday of the Holy Cross

### “Take Up Your Cross”

Epistle: **Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 8:34-38; 9:1**



- What does it mean to take up your cross in your daily life?
- What would happen if you're ashamed of God?
- Why do we bow down and venerate the cross in church (and at home)?

Sunday of St. John Climacus

### “Ascend to God”

Epistle: **Hebrews 6:13-20**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 9:17-31**



- Why should we learn patience from Abraham in our relationship with God?
- How can the Ladder of St. John Climacus help us grow closer to God?
- How can prayer and fasting help us live a holy life? (Hint: Mark 9:29)

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

### “Change Your Ways”

Epistle: **Hebrews 9:11-14**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 10:32-45**



- How is St. Mary of Egypt an inspiration for us as Orthodox Christians?
- If Jesus Christ is God, why did say, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”?
- Why is it important to say “no!” to temptations?

Sunday of the Entry Into Jerusalem

### “The Lord is God”

Epistle: **Philippians 4:4-9**

Gospel Reading: **John 12:1-18**



- What are the pure and noble things of God we should treasure in our life?
- What does “Hosanna” mean?
- How can we spend the next six days experiencing Our Lord's Passion?



### Feasts & Saints

**March 18**  
St. Nikolai of Žiča and South Canaan

**March 25**  
Annunciation of the Virgin Mary

**March 26**  
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the  
Annunciation

**March 29**  
Venerable John the Anchorite of Egypt

**March 31**  
St. Innocent of Alaska, Apostle to  
America

**April 1**  
Venerable Mary of Egypt

**April 7**  
St. Tikhon of Moscow, Apostle to  
America

**April 20**  
Childmartyr Gabriel of Bialystok Poland

**April 23**  
St. George the Greatmartyr

**May 4**  
Hieromartyr Basil (Martyusz) of Poland

**May 7**  
St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre and  
Minneapolis

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# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

Lesson Plan Syllabus

Sunday Gospel Readings of the Cross, Nativity, & Theophany

Sunday Before the Elevation

## “Raising the Cross on High”

Gospel Reading:  
**John 3:13-17**



- It’s been nearly five months since Holy Week and Pascha, why do we again see the Cross placed in the middle of the Church?
- What type of meaning does the cross have for you in your life?
- How is the cross the symbol of our victory? What is our victory?

Sunday After the Elevation

## “Taking Up Our Cross”

Gospel Reading:  
**Mark 8:34-38, 9:1**



- Why does Jesus want us to deny ourselves? Is He being mean to us?
- What do we gain if we get earthly possessions and everything we want in this life?
- What do we receive by being faithful and follow Christ?

Sunday Before the Nativity

## “Righteous Ancestors”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 1:1-25**



- Why does the New Testament spend this time talking about people who died in the Old Testament?
- How has our family helped us grow in our Faith?
- Why do you like hearing about the righteous people of the Old Testament?

Sunday After the Nativity

## “Responding to God”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 2:13-23**



- How would you feel if you had to change your position as drastically as Saint Paul did?
- Have you ever known anyone who had to move away from home to be safe?
- “God has revealed Himself to us.” Does this revelation change our life?

Sunday Before Theophany

## “The Coming One”

Gospel Reading:  
**Mark 1:1-8**



- Why does St. John, the Prophet and Forerunner of Christ baptize people?
- How does St. Paul use athletic imagery to describe the Christian lifestyle?
- What is the meaning of the word Theophany? and the word Epiphany?

Sunday After Theophany

## “Light Has Dawned”

Gospel Reading:  
**Matthew 4:12-17**



- Why is Jesus Christ called the Light of the world?
- How is the Kingdom of Heaven present in our lives today?
- What gifts has God given each of us to live as Christians in today’s world?



### Great Feasts

**September 8**  
Nativity of the Theotokos

**September 14**  
Elevation of the Cross

**November 21**  
Entry of the Theotokos in the Temple

**December 25**  
Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ

**January 6**  
Theophany of our Lord, Jesus Christ

**February 2**  
Presentation in the Temple

**March 25**  
Annunciation of Mary

**Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)**  
One week before Pascha

**Pascha - The Resurrection of our Lord**

**Ascension of our Lord**  
40 days after Pascha

**Pentecost**  
50 days after Pascha

**August 6**  
Transfiguration of our Lord

**August 15**  
Dormition of the Theotokos

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# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

## Unit 7: Lesson Plan Syllabus

## Sunday Gospel Readings of the Pentecostarion (I)

Pascha: The Resurrection

**“Christ is risen!”**

Epistle: **Acts 1:1-8**

Gospel Reading: **John 1:1-17**



- What does the Resurrection of Jesus Christ mean for you?
- How do you know Christ rose from the dead?
- Why did Jesus die and rise from the dead?

Sunday of St. Thomas

**“Believe Like Thomas”**

Epistle: **Acts 5:12-20**

Gospel Reading: **John 20:19-31**



- Why do we celebrate the faith and belief of Saint Thomas?
- What lessons can you learn from the Apostle Thomas?
- Why did the angel free the apostles from prison, only to send them back to the temple?

Sunday of Myrrhbearing Women

**“Faith in Action”**

Epistle: **Acts 6:1-7**

Gospel Reading: **Mark 15:43-47;  
16:1-8**



- How are the Myrrhbearing Women examples for us as Orthodox Christians?
- Why did the Apostles establish the order of deacons?
- What can we do to keep the joy of Pascha alive in our homes?

Sunday of the Paralytic

**“Rise and Walk”**

Epistle: **Acts 9:32-42**

Gospel Reading: **John 5:1-15**



- Why does Jesus ask the Paralytic if he wants to be healed?
- How does the Apostle Peter inspire you to live?
- How can you rise from temptations and struggles to be an active Orthodox Christian?

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

**“The Living Water”**

Epistle: **Acts 11:19-26, 29-30**

Gospel Reading: **John 4:5-42**



- Why did people begin to call the disciples Christians?
- Why do you call yourself a Christian? How does being a Christian shape your life?
- What does the Samaritan Woman do after recognizing Jesus is the Messiah?

Sunday of the Blind Man

**“Receiving Sight”**

Epistle: **Acts 16:16-34**

Gospel Reading: **John 9:1-38**



- Why did St. Paul patiently endure persecutions for the Name of Jesus Christ?
- Why don't the parents of the blind man want to admit he's their son?
- How can you be like the blind man during this season of Pascha?



### Feasts & Saints

**May 11**  
Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs

**May 16**  
St. Vukašin of Klepci

**May 21**  
Ss. Constantine and Helen

**May 26**  
Greatmartyr George of Bulgaria

**May 28**  
St. Germanus, Bishop of Paris

**May 30**  
Venerable Isaac of the Dalmatian Monastery in Constantinople

**June 1**  
Martyr Justin the Philosopher

**June 11**  
Appearance of the Archangel Gabriel and the Revelation of the Hymn, “It Is

Truly Meet...”

**June 29**  
Ss. Peter and Paul

**June 30**  
Synaxis of the Holy Apostles

**July 2**  
St. John (Maximovitch) of San Francisco

**July 4**  
St. Andrew of Crete

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# Growing Through Scripture Curriculum

## Unit 8: Lesson Plan Syllabus

## Sunday Gospel Readings of the Pentecostarion (II)

Sunday of the Fathers

### “As the Fathers Proclaimed”

Epistle: **Acts 20:16-18, 28-36**

Gospel Reading: **John 17:1-13**



- Why does St. Paul warn the faithful to be strong in their faith, believing in Jesus Christ?
- How does St. Paul’s message apply to your life?
- Why do we honor and remember the Church Fathers who met in 325 AD?  
*(Hint: it has something to do with the Nicene Creed...)*

Sunday of Holy Pentecost

### “Come, Holy Spirit”

Epistle: **Acts 2:1-11**

Gospel Reading: **John 7:37-52; 8:12**



- How do you use the gifts of the Holy Spirit you’ve received?
- Why does Jesus Christ call Himself Living Water?
- What can we do to celebrate the feast of Pentecost each day of our life?

Sunday of All Saints

### “Called to Holiness”

Epistle: **Hebrews 11:33-12:2**

Gospel Reading:

**Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30**



- Why does St. Paul talk about the saints as a great cloud of witnesses?
- What are we witnesses to in Church?
- Do you want to be like the saints? Which one(s)?

Sunday of All Saints of North America

### “Saints We Call Our Own”

Epistle: **Hebrews 11:33-12:2**

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 4:25-5:12**



- How can we be inspired by the saints who lived in our lands, or even our own city?
- What does St. Paul mean by having the law written on our hearts?
- How would you respond if Christ commanded you to follow Him? Do you?



## Feasts & Saints

**July 8**  
Icon of our Lady of “Sitka” (Alaska)

**July 12**  
St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

**July 20**  
Prophet Elijah  
St. Maria of Paris

**July 26**  
St. Jacob of Alaska

**August 1**  
Beginning of Dormition Fast  
Procession of the Holy Cross

**August 6**  
Transfiguration of our Lord, Jesus Christ

**August 9**  
St. Herman of Alaska

**August 13**  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the  
Transfiguration

**August 15**  
Dormition of the Theotokos

**August 23**  
Leavetaking (Apodosis) of the  
Dormition

**August 28**  
St. Moses the Black

**August 29**  
Beheading of John the Baptist

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