

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2024 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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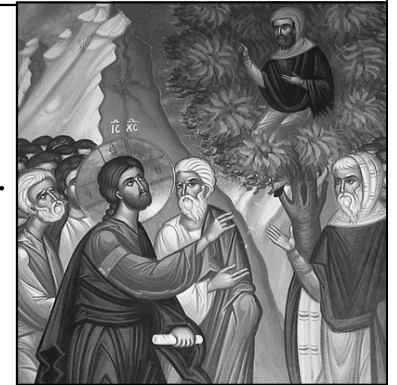
Seeing Jesus

Do you like learning how to do things for yourself? Maybe you know how to make a little snack when you come home from school, or maybe you can clean your own laundry. You might have heard your parents tell you, "You have to do some things on your own!"

But as a kid, you still have some things you depend on others for—like if you want to learn about our Lord. Right now, you probably hear about Jesus and about His Church from your parents. Or you might be blessed to have church school each Sunday, when you learn even more. When you are older, you will still want to grow closer to God, but how will you do that?

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about a man named Zacchaeus. He was the one who climbed up into a tree so he could see Jesus. Zacchaeus wanted to know more about Jesus, so he went out of his way to see Him!

In a way, we are like Zacchaeus too. Sometimes people will tell us about God, but sometimes we have to go out of our way to "see" Him, or to learn more about Him! One great way is by reading your Bible. Do you have your own Bible you can read sometimes? Another great way is by coming to church as much as we can. We can go out of our way too, just like Zacchaeus!



"Zacchaeus, Come down!"

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Bible
- Growing
- Learning
- Presentation
- Savior
- Simeon
- Temple
- Tree
- Waiting
- Zacchaeus

K	N	W	Q	R	F	I	D	J	E	H	V	V	T	H
E	E	K	Z	C	H	P	E	D	Q	I	U	T	T	B
M	Y	L	K	A	S	A	V	I	O	R	T	H	C	H
U	F	M	P	L	C	X	P	Z	C	R	N	H	W	V
B	T	L	X	M	R	C	G	W	E	L	Y	Z	Y	E
R	H	O	U	P	E	D	H	E	P	O	Z	X	S	Z
E	B	P	O	S	G	T	C	A	K	C	P	I	E	O
N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	Q	V	O
K	Z	O	J	A	Y	G	I	C	I	U	X	N	G	A
O	D	T	B	K	N	B	A	W	N	E	S	S	I	B
I	Q	M	L	I	Z	I	L	K	O	I	U	N	W	L
S	D	E	T	T	T	B	I	H	E	R	X	C	H	R
T	M	I	J	B	D	L	N	H	M	S	G	A	X	T
P	A	I	O	A	A	E	G	N	I	N	R	A	E	L
W	U	H	W	A	C	X	U	Q	S	O	P	W	I	O

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is a detail of the icon of the feastday of the Presentation of the Lord into the Temple (see page 3).

We can see Mary, the Theotokos, and Joseph. Do you see what Joseph has in his hands? Two doves. They brought them to the temple as an offering, a gift.



WAITING, WAITING, WAITING

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD INTO THE TEMPLE

Sometimes it's hard to wait, isn't it?

Waiting for your birthday, waiting for a friend to come over, waiting for school to get out, waiting for dinner to be ready.

We're always waiting for something. But imagine waiting for something bigger. Imagine waiting for heaven to open. Imagine waiting for Christ to be born. Imagine waiting for somebody to save the world!

This Friday, we celebrate one of the 12 Great Feasts of our Orthodox Church. We will celebrate the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple. When baby Jesus was still a baby, only 40 days old, His parents took Him to the Temple for the first time. The elder there was named Simeon, and he was very old. He was waiting. Waiting for the Savior. All his life he had been waiting.

When he saw baby Jesus and when he held Him in his arms, he said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation." After all these years of waiting, Simeon knew that he could die in peace. He had finally seen the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ! Let's thank God again that He sent His Son to us!



We celebrate this great feast on Fri., February 2nd (OC: February 15th).