

Class Structure

- 1: Lords Prayer English & Greek**
- 2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation**
- 3: Pick a Saint to talk about and Miracles**
- 4: Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English**

1: Lords Prayer English & Greek *(Pray with class)*

2: Gospel Reading, discussion and explanation

Ask the students who wants to read the Gospel

Luke 6:31-36 *(New King James Version)*

Be Merciful

31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

32 “But if you **love those who love you**, what credit is that to you? For **even sinners love those who love them**.

33 And if you **do good to those who do good to you**, what credit is that to you? For **even sinners do the same**.

34 And if you **lend to those from whom you hope to receive back**, what credit is that to you? For **even sinners lend to sinners** to receive as much back.

35 But **love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High**. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

36 Therefore **be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful**.

Ask questions about Gospel then explain it to the students

In today's world, when someone does something mean to us, we are expected to do mean things back. We are taught by the world if we don't, we are weak, but on the contrary, when we express the love we are strong and are in the likeness of God. Jesus tells us, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,**” and “**your neighbor as yourself.**” We must consider who we want to follow, the evil one of this world or our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus leads us by his example throughout the Bible, showing us his love to the point of dying on the cross for the salvation of our souls. In the Gospel, he points out

3 acts of being good, loving those who love you, doing good to those who do good to you, and lending to those to expect something back. The point in this Gospel is for us to do all these things expecting nothing in return because Christ did. When people take advantage of you or act toward you in a mean way, they are doing it because they want attention. Just as you can see toddlers picking on each other and creating problems for each other, so are we who are adults. The evil one tempts us to oppress others through jealousy, pride, hate, envy etc., all for attention which is harmful to our souls. When someone does these things, they drift away from God, and most of the time, they do not realize it's happening. Then one day, they wake up, and they are mad at God and the whole world. Our job as Christians is to counteract this with the love of Christ because it is the only way to reverse these actions.

Once there was a man who bought a piece of land, and he was walking the border of it; he came up on his new neighbor, and he said hello, I am your new neighbor. The neighbor said back Since you bought this property, I will be suing you because I was suing the previous owner because his fence was on my property three feet. Usually, this type of interaction could create a feud for years, even generations, But the new owner told his neighbor, move the fence back as far as you want, and I will pay you for the material and labor to get it done. The neighbor was shocked and didn't know what to do. The neighbor never moved the fence, and they became best of friends through an act of love.

When people hear this example, they say that it is impossible it is just a story, but all things are possible with God. How do we bring God closer to us to love like this? Through daily struggles of carrying our cross. Each one of us has our own trials and tribulations that plague us. The way to fight them is to team up against them. With the help of a spiritual father, daily prayers, reading of the Bible daily, confession, and attending Church every Sunday, this is an excellent start to getting closer to God. When God is with us, and we can feel him, we will be able to express the love in the example above. When praying, we should pray for our enemies that God will have mercy on them. This is very hard for us since we typically demand justice, fairness, and our own rights. When we love someone, we expect to be loved in return, and we're hurt when this is not so. With the guidance and support of our spiritual father, he can lead us closer and closer to God. We all hate the errors we and others commit, but we continue to love ourselves. We need to learn to do the same with others. Jesus said, "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**" To do this, we should hate the sin but love the sinner.

Ask students questions how can we tend our soil.

3: *Pick a Saint to talk about and Miracles*

4: *Read the Creed until learned by memory Greek & English*