

Saint Gideon, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2020 Alexandra Houck.
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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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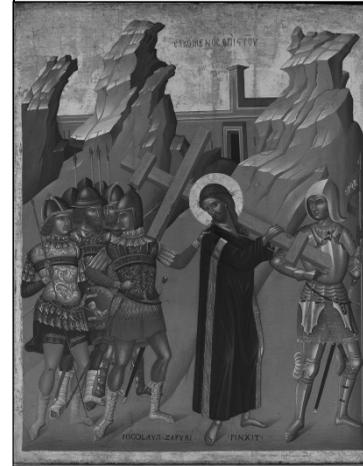
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Follow me!

Have you ever had to say "no" to something? Maybe you can think of a time when you really wanted to do something, but you knew you shouldn't. So, you said, "no."

In today's Gospel reading, we hear how part of being a Christian is saying "no" to things. The Gospel reads, "The Lord said, 'If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"



Do you know what it means to "deny yourself"? Well, it means that sometimes we don't get to do what we want. Sometimes we don't eat what we want. Sometimes we don't say what we want to. When we "deny ourselves," we are saying "no" to something.

The Gospel is telling us that part of being a Christian is saying "no" to things. We might want to play with our friends on Sunday morning, but we say "no" to that. We might want to eat a cheeseburger during a fasting time, but we say "no" to that. We might want to watch a bad movie, but we say "no" to that. Or, we might want to say something mean to somebody, but we say "no" to that.

God wants us to deny ourselves so that we can follow Him and be close to Him forever!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

CROSS
DENY
ELECTION
FOLLOW ME
GIDEON
HUMILITY
JUDGE
LORD HAVE MERCY
RULER

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

What's in an icon?

This icon is a little hard to see, but it shows one of the miracles God showed to Gideon.

Gideon put sheep's fleece on the ground and it was the only part that got wet with dew. Everything else was dry!

We hear about this miracle in the Akathist hymn service at Church (in Great Lent).



SAINT GIDEON A JUDGE OF ISRAEL



Do you ever listen to candidates before a big vote? In the United States, we hear our candidates for president telling everybody why they are the best for the job. They want to prove why they should win the election!

But this week, we celebrate the name-day of somebody who became a great leader, but he wasn't so sure he was right for the job!

Many years before Jesus was born, Israel was ruled by judges. God called these judges to rule over the people, to show them the right way to God. There is even a book in the Bible, the book of Judges, and it tells about how they ruled.

Gideon was one of these judges, and God called him to rule over Israel. The people were worshipping idols, and God wanted Gideon to put them back on the right path. The funny thing was that Gideon didn't think he should be a ruler! He asked God for miracles to prove it to him. God showed Gideon three times, with three miracles, that He wanted him to be in charge.

We can look to Gideon as a great example of humility, and we can pray that God will give us leaders who follow God first!

We celebrate Saint Gideon on Saturday, Sept. 26th (OC: Oct. 9th).