

Saint John, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 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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Just passing the test?

Let's say you have a test at school next week. What do you do? You study, don't you? You study a lot! You don't want to just pass with a 70 percent... you'd like to get an A, wouldn't you?



"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Today, in the Gospel reading, a man asks Jesus how he can get into Heaven. He says he has already followed the rules in the 10 Commandments. That's great! But then comes a hard thing for him. Jesus told him, "then sell all that you have and give it to the poor." The man was so sad, because he was very rich! He didn't know if he could make it to Heaven after all!

We all want to go to Heaven, and we all want to be with God forever, don't we? So let's think of it like a test at school. We want to pass with flying colors! We want to get an A! The man in the story today wanted to do *just enough* to pass.

God wants us to always try our hardest to love Him and to love our neighbors. We can read stories about the saints of our Church, and we find that they loved God so much that they did even more than just passing the test! They helped their neighbor more, they gave to the poor more, they fasted more, they read the Bible more, they forgave more, they loved more. We can all do a little more, can't we?

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

Damascus
Icons
Fasting
John
Love more
Miracles
Praying
Test
Theotokos
Three hands

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

What's in an icon?

Look closely at this icon. It is called the icon of the Theotokos “of the 3 hands.” Do you see why?

When you read about Saint John, you’ll hear about his hand. St. John prayed to God and His Mother. When his hand was healed, he had a silver hand added to this icon to remember the miracle!



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BRAVE SAINT JOHN FROM DAMASCUS, SYRIA

Do you listen to the news? Even if you listen just a little bit, you have heard about Damascus, in the country of Syria. Christians have lived in Syria for many, many years. Saint Peter even told the people there about the Good News of Jesus Christ!

On Saturday, we will celebrate the feastday of a saint from Damascus, in Syria. Saint John lived 1300 years ago. He was a super smart boy who was interested in all kinds of things. He followed his father, and became kind of like a judge. At that time, the emperor made a law against icons. He made it illegal to have icons in public places.

Saint John knew this was wrong, and he knew he had to say something! Saint John knew icons were a part of the Christian faith, so he wrote something to show the emperor why he was wrong. The emperor, of course, did not like this and punished Saint John by cutting off his hand. But in a miracle, God restored his hand so he could finish his work.

Saint John went on to write lots of hymns that we still use in our church today—especially around Easter, Christmas, and even at funerals. Let’s pray to Saint John—He can ask God to bring peace to Damascus and Syria and the Middle East.

We celebrate St. John from Damascus on Sat., December 4th (OC: Dec. 17th).

