

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!”

CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES:



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2022 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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Follow the Leader!

Have you ever played, “Follow the leader”? You know the game—the leader marches, and you march too. The leader claps, and you clap too. The leader shouts, and you shout too. You follow the leader, and try to copy him!

Today, in the Gospel reading we hear about when Jesus called His disciples, His special helpers. Andrew and Peter were out fishing in a boat, and Jesus called for them. “Follow me,” He said. The Gospel says that they dropped everything and followed Jesus Christ. And all their lives, they tried to “follow the Leader.” They tried to be like Christ, to act as He acted, to do as He did, to copy Him.

Did you know that our Lord wants us to “follow the Leader” too? He wants us to follow Him, to try to be like Him. But how can we be like Christ? Well, think about some of the things that Christ did during His life. He loved everybody. He helped everybody. He forgave everybody. He was nice to people even when they were mean to Him. He did the right thing even when people made fun of Him or even when they hurt Him. It's not a game, but we can always try to remember to “follow the Leader.” And the Leader is our perfect Lord, Jesus Christ!



Saints Andrew and Peter are following the Leader. Can you?

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Climb
- David
- Faith
- Follow
- Leader
- Prayers
- Strength
- Struggle
- Thessalonica
- Tree

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

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

After Saint David the Tree-Dweller came down from his tree, he lived in a monastery again.

This icon shows how people would visit him through a little window. Many sick people would be healed through his prayers.



SAINT DAVID OF THESSALONICA THE TREE-DWELLER

Have you ever climbed a tree? Have you ever spent the night in a tree? In the rain? In the wind? For three years?



Of course you haven't done that, but you might have climbed a tree before. Today, we celebrate a very different saint. Saint David was a monk who lived in the city of Thessalonica, Greece 1500 years ago. He had read about saints who lived before him, and he knew how hard they tried to grow close to the Lord. Some of the saints lived in the desert. Some of them fasted a lot. A few lived up on top of pillars. Saint David wanted to try harder too. He wanted to find a way to struggle for Christ.

So, one day, Saint David climbed a tree near his church! He stayed there in wind, storm, rain, and scorching heat for three years straight. He prayed there, and he fasted. He did not want to live a comfortable life, because he thought the struggles helped him remember God.

After three years, he came down and began living in a little room in a monastery. Saint David was a holy man, and many people would come to him for advice and for healing. He would touch people, and God granted healing to many, many people through David's prayers. Saint David had a very different kind of life than our own! But he shows us how we have to struggle sometimes too. God doesn't always want us to take the easy path, but God gives us the strength!

We celebrate this Saint David today, June 26th (OC: July 9th).