

Stay close to the Church!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 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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"I'm sorry"— In words and actions

Have you ever said you were sorry for something...but you didn't really mean it? Maybe you said it because your parents told you to. Or maybe you said "I'm sorry" because you didn't want to get in more trouble!

Today's Gospel reading tells us about a man who said he was sorry...really, really, sorry. He owed a lot of money, and he asked his master to have mercy on him. He promised to pay him back. His master forgave him. But then, this man demanded money back from somebody else! First, he said he was sorry. But when somebody said he was sorry to *him*, he wouldn't accept it!

Do you think the man really meant he was sorry in the first place? Or do you think he asked for forgiveness because he wanted something?

God is good to us! He loves us and wants to forgive us when we ask Him. But God wants us to be honest too. When we ask God to forgive us, we should try to really mean it. But how? We can say "I'm sorry" in words, but what really matters is when we say "I'm sorry" in actions! So, if you hurt somebody, try to think of a way to really help that person.

Can you think how the man in today's Gospel could have said "I'm sorry" in actions?



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Anoint
- Compassion
- David
- Forgiveness
- Listen
- Old Testament
- Prophet
- Saint
- Samuel
- Servant
- Sorry

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

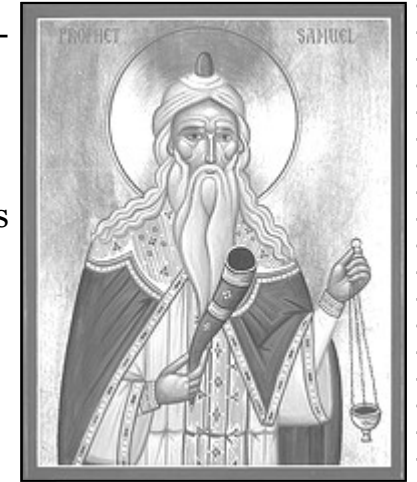
Here is an icon of the Prophet Samuel. Do you see in this icon (and the other one on page 3) what he is holding?

It's a horn! Prophet Samuel kept oil in the horn. Samuel was the one who anointed the shepherd David. He poured oil on him, making him King!



THE PROPHET SAMUEL CALLED BY GOD

Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night? When the Prophet Samuel was a kid, he heard a voice in the night. Samuel was lying in bed, but he still heard, “Samuel!” He jumped up and thought it was the priest, Eli. He heard the voice again. And a third time! Then Eli told him to say, “Speak, because your servant is listening.”



God wanted Samuel to do something for Him, and when Samuel heard the voice again, he told God he was listening. The Prophet Samuel went on to dedicate his life to God. He listened to Him, and he did what God wanted. He told the people to worship only the one true God. God did not want them to worship idols.

The Prophet Samuel lived a thousand years before Christ, but he is a saint of our Church. That's because he was a good man who did what the Lord wanted. Plus, he still gives us an important message today! In our lives, we always want to be ready to hear God's voice. You probably won't hear your name like Samuel heard his, but when you are close to God, and you pray to Him, you will know what God wants from you.

Do you think you can remember what Samuel said? “Speak, because your servant is listening!”

We celebrate the Prophet Samuel today, August 20th (OC: September 2nd).