

Sixth Grade: Choosing God

In Sixth Grade, the student becomes more aware of one's personal freedom to make right and wrong choices. Peer pressure is discussed and friendships are examined. Through the examples and teachings of Scripture and Tradition, the student is helped to recognize the basic Christian moral and spiritual values and to make the right choices for his/her life. (This definition is taken from the Scope and Sequence of our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.)

During the Sixth Grade Catechetical School year, students should learn:

I. God the Father

God offers us fullness of life and also requires love, truth, justice and peace among all His people.

II. God the Son-Jesus Christ

The trials and temptations that Jesus suffered through are shown as examples of choosing God over all other paths. Jesus calls us all to our personal faith.

III. God the Holy Spirit

Students learn that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and Freedom in the life of the Church and our hearts.

IV. Church

Examples of choices in Church life and growth are discussed.

V. Worship and Prayer

Students learn that God demands and deserves absolute loyalty and worship.

VI. Liturgy

This section explains what it means to choose God through the Liturgy.

VII. Sacraments and Other Services

An explanation of what it means to choose God through other sacraments is pointed out.

VIII. Prayers and Hymns

Students learn of prayer to the Holy Spirit and learn how to use a prayer book.

IX. Saints, Feasts, Cycles

In this section the concentration is on the lives of martyrs is covered.

X. Scripture

Children are taught to read the Bible, including the Book of Wisdom of Solomon, and the Book of James.

XI. Tradition

Students learn the meaning and methodology of fasting and icons related to their lessons.

XII. Christian Family

Students learn the importance of the Orthodox family choosing to follow God.

XIII. Ethics and Spirituality

Students learn of the meaning of being created in the image and likeness of God.

XIV. Service and Mission

This section teaches students that God is the source of all our possessions and talents and that we should use these talents to glorify God.

XV. Other Faiths, Society and World

The emphasis in this section is that the choices we make are important and that our choices have consequences in society.