

# Following the Saints to God

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**stories and activities to introduce students to tithing and much more!**

## Teacher Notes

This material is designed so that it can be customized to the needs of your class to best fit in with the other curriculum that you use.

For example, you could use the 5-10 minute format once a month for nine months using only some of the materials. Or you could use the longer 30-45 minute lessons during a five-week period using most or all of the activities. Feel free to adapt the lessons to be most useful in your setting.

Be sure to include personal stories of your own experience with tithing, generosity, and stewardship.

You can find additional materials, such as audio files of the stories, posters, coloring sheets, and links to other resources at [www.antiochian.org/tithe](http://www.antiochian.org/tithe). You may also download and adapt materials from lower or higher grade levels.

Be sure to visit the site to fill out an evaluation so that we can improve our materials to better serve you and your students.

### Contents

Page T2	Condensed Lessons (nine lessons, approximately 5-10 minutes each)
Pages T3-T7	Extended Lessons (five lessons, approximately 30-45 minutes each)
Page T8	Answer Key

## CONDENSED LESSONS (approximately 5-10 minutes each)

### Suggested Schedule

September	Lesson 1	Introduction, pages 2-3
October	Lesson 2	Saint Joachim and Saint Anna, page 4
November	Lesson 3	Saint Joachim and Saint Anna, page 5
December	Lesson 4	Saint Raphael of Brooklyn, page 6
January	Lesson 5	Saint Raphael of Brooklyn, page 7
February	Lesson 6	Saint Innocent of Alaska, page 8
March	Lesson 7	Saint Innocent of Alaska, page 9
April	Lesson 8	Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil, page 10
May	Lesson 9	Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil, page 11

#### Lesson 1 (pages 2-3)

Read the *Meet the Saints* section on page 3.  
Define *Exemplar* and *Tithe* (see page 2 and poster).  
Read *Then and Now* on page 3.  
Do the *Let's Count* activity.

#### Lesson 2 (page 4)

Read *Meet Saint Joachim and Saint Anna* (or play CD, track #1).  
Have students trace the names of the saints at the bottom of the page.

#### Lesson 3 (page 5)

Read *Meet Saint Joachim and Saint Anna* on page 2 (or play CD, track #1).  
Do the *Which Came First?* activity (see answer key in appendix).

Note: To make it easier to order the events, download and print copies of the six book pages at [www.antiochian.org/tithe](http://www.antiochian.org/tithe). Hold up and read any two pages and ask, "Which came first?" arranging them until all six are in order. Then assist students in numbering the page thumbnails on page 5.

#### Lesson 4 (page 6)

Read *Meet Saint Raphael of Brooklyn* (or play CD, track #2).  
Have students trace the names of the saint at the bottom of the page.

#### Lesson 5 (page 7)

Read *Meet Saint Raphael of Brooklyn* on page 6 (or play CD, track #2).  
Do the *Find the Words* activity (see answer key in appendix).

Note: In the word search, students find the words that are NOT crossed out above.

#### Lesson 6 (page 8)

Read *Meet Saint Innocent of Alaska* (or play CD, track #3).  
Have students trace the name of the saint at the bottom of the page.

#### Lesson 7 (page 9)

Read *Meet Saint Innocent of Alaska* on page 8 (or play CD, track #3).  
Do the *Join Saint Innocent on His Travels* activity (see answer key in appendix).

#### Lesson 8 (page 10)

Read *Meet Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil* (or play CD, track #4).  
Have students trace the names of the saints at the bottom of the page.

#### Lesson 9 (page 11)

Read *Meet Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil* (or play CD, track #4).  
Do the *Stick to It!* activity (see answer key in appendix).

Note: Read the four words on the lower door. Then read each of the sentences on the upper door, allowing students to suggest the appropriate words to fill in the blanks.  
Show the students the review activity on page 12 and send the booklets home with them.

## **EXTENDED LESSONS**

### **Lesson 1 Overview**

#### **Materials**

Student booklet for each student, pages 2-3

Definitions poster

Pencils for the *Let's Count* activity

Trail mix, cereal, dried fruit, or crackers (beware of nut allergies) for tithing activity

Antibacterial hand cleanser for tithing activity

Containers or plastic snack bags for trail mix

#### **Opening prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 2. Read a segment and ask the children to repeat after you.

#### **Define/review the term "exemplar"**

Refer to the Definitions poster.

Ask questions about the students' or other parish members' giftedness. For example, "Who in our class/parish is an exemplar of helpfulness? Of singing/chanting? Of baking? Of spelling?"

#### **Introduce the saints**

Read *Meet the Saints* on page 3. Explain that these saints are exemplars of various traits.

#### **Define/review the term "tithe"**

Refer to the Definitions poster.

Tithing activity: Have students wash their hands or use antibacterial hand cleanser. Give each student a scoop of one type of trail mix pieces to count. Have them put one of every 10 pieces in a separate container to be given to the priest. Students can eat the remainder, share it with others, or take it home in the containers you provide.

#### **Read the *Then and Now* section**

#### **Do the *Let's Count* activity**

#### **Talk about *What Happens to Your Offering?***

Assist students in spelling the names of your priest and bishop.

#### **Talk about the specific giving procedures of your parish**

Remind students to bring money to put in the collection.

#### **Closing prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 2.

## **Lesson 2 Saint Joachim and Saint Anna**

### **Materials**

Student booklet for each student, pages 4-5

Theme poster

Definitions poster

Pencils, to trace names, for the *Which Came First?* Activity, and *Practice Thankfulness*, item 3

Crayons and/or markers, for *Practice Thankfulness*, item 2

Paper, for *Practice Thankfulness*, items 2 and 3

### **Opening prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 5. Read a segment and ask the children to repeat after you.

### **Review the terms tithe and exemplar**

Refer to the definitions poster.

### **Introduce theme**

Refer to the theme poster, "To tithe is to show God we know how to say 'Thank you' for what He gives to us."

### **Read "Meet Saint Joachim and Saint Anna" (or play CD, track #1)**

#### **Choose any or all of the following activities:**

Have students trace the names of the saints at the bottom of page.

Read the *Did You Know?* facts.

Do the *Which Came First?* activity (see answer key in appendix).

Note: To make it easier to order the events, download and print copies of the six book pages at [www.antiochian.org/tithe](http://www.antiochian.org/tithe). Hold up and read any two pages and ask, "Which came first?" arranging them until all six are in order. Then assist students in numbering the page thumbnails on page 5.

Read the *Thankfulness in the Bible* verse together, memorize.

Do one or more of the *Practice Thankfulness* activities together.

Talk about *What Happens to Your Offering?* Discuss other facility-related examples.

### **Talk about the specific giving procedures of your parish**

Remind students to bring money to put in the collection.

### **Review the verse**

### **Closing prayer**

Invite the students to listen for the names of Saint Joachim and Saint Anna when the priest prays the prayers at the end of the divine services.

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 5.

### **Lesson 3 Saint Raphael of Brooklyn**

#### **Materials**

Student booklet for each student, pages 6-7

Theme poster

Definitions poster

Pencils, to trace the name, the *Find the Words* activity, and *Practice Dedication to God*, item 1

Paper for *Practice Dedication to God*, item 1

#### **Opening prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 7. Read a segment and ask the children to repeat after you.

#### **Define/review the terms tithe and exemplar**

Refer to the definitions poster.

#### **Introduce theme**

Refer to the theme poster, "To tithe is to take a step on the path of being dedicated to God."

#### **Read "Meet Saint Raphael of Brooklyn" (or play CD, track #2)**

#### **Choose any or all of the following activities:**

Have students trace the name of the saint at the bottom of page.

Read the *Did You Know?* facts.

Do the *Find the Words* activity (see answer key in appendix).

Note: In the word search, students find the words that are NOT crossed out above.

Read the *Dedication to God in the Bible* verse together, memorize.

Do the *Practice Dedication to God* item 1.

Talk about ways to implement *Practice Dedication to God* item 2.

Talk about *What Happens to Your Offering?* Discuss other education-related examples.

#### **Talk about the specific giving procedures of your parish**

Remind students to bring money to put in the collection.

#### **Review the verse**

#### **Closing prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 7.

## **Lesson 4 Saint Innocent of Alaska**

### **Materials**

Student booklet for each student, pages 8-9

Theme poster

Definitions poster

Pencils to trace names, the *Join Saint Innocent on His Travels* activity, and *What Is Your Favorite Verse?*

Whiteboard or large sheets of paper for *What Is Your Favorite Verse?* activity

### **Opening prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 9. Read a segment and ask the children to repeat after you.

### **Define/review the terms tithe and exemplar**

Refer to the definitions poster.

### **Introduce theme**

Refer to the theme poster, "To tithe is to trust that God will provide for all we truly need."

### **Read "Meet Saint Innocent" (or play CD, track #3)**

#### **Choose any or all of the following activities:**

Have students trace the names of the saint at the bottom of page.

Read the *Did You Know?* facts.

Do the *Join Saint Innocent on His Travels* activity (see answer key in appendix).

Do the *What Is Your Favorite Verse?* activity.

Talk about verses that might be the children's favorites. Write the verses on a whiteboard or a large sheet of paper for the children to copy.

Read the *Trust in the Bible* verses together, memorize one of them.

Talk about the *Practice Trust* activity together.

Talk about *What Happens to Your Offering?* Discuss other worship-related examples.

### **Talk about the specific giving procedures of your parish**

Remind students to bring money to put in the collection.

### **Review the verse**

### **Closing prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 9.

## **Lesson 5 Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil**

### **Materials**

Student booklet for each student, pages 10-11

Theme poster

Definitions poster

Pencils, to trace names, the *Stick to It!* activity, the *I Take care of...* activity, and *Practice Stewardship*, item 1

Paper for *Practice Stewardship*, item 1

### **Opening prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 11. Read a segment and ask the children to repeat after you.

### **Define/review the terms tithe and exemplar**

Refer to the definitions poster.

### **Introduce theme**

Refer to the theme poster, "To tithe is to be a good steward of what God has given."

### **Read "Meet Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil" (or play CD, track #4)**

#### **Choose any or all of the following activities:**

Have students trace the names of the saints at the bottom of page.

Read the *Did You Know?* facts.

Do the *Stick to It!* activity (see answer key in appendix).

Note: Read the four words on the lower door. Then read each of the above sentences.

Ask children to draw a picture on the refrigerator poster, of something they care for.

Read the *Stewardship in the Bible* verse together, memorize.

Do one or more of the *Practice Stewardship* activities together.

Talk about *What Happens to Your Offering?* Discuss other mission and outreach-related examples.

### **Talk about the specific giving procedures of your parish**

Remind students to bring money to put in the collection.

### **Review the verse**

### **Send the booklets home with the students**

Show the students the review activity on page 12.

### **Closing prayer**

Pray together the prayer at the top of page 11.

**ANSWER KEY**

Page 5

**Which Came First?**

1. Joachim and Anna were thankful to God for their child.

2. Joachim and Anna asked God for a child.

3. Gabriel visited Joachim and Anna.

4. God gave Joachim and Anna a child.

5. Joachim and Anna gave their child back to God.

6. Joachim and Anna got married.

(5 or 6 could be reversed)

Page 7

**Find the Words**

SERVE ~~PLAY~~ YES

~~SOCK~~ ~~CAT~~ CHURCH

GO ~~WIND~~ ~~JUMPED~~

S	A	G	O	I	N	T
R	S	E	R	V	E	A
C	H	U	R	C	H	P
H	A	E	Y	E	S	L

**SAINT RAPHAEL**

Page 9

**Join Saint Innocent on His Travels**

START

THE	WAY	HE	MAN	A	SAFELY
LORD	GUIDES	GO	HE	IN	GUIDES
THE	A	IN	THE	WAY	THE
WAY	MAN	SAFELY	A	HE	LORD
HE	GO	LORD	GUIDES	SHOULD	GO

END

Page 11

**Stick to It!**

Page 12

**Match It!**

- Saint Innocent of Alaska: waited many years to have a child
- Saint Joachim and Saint Anna: exemplars of Stewardship
- Saint Raphael of Brooklyn: exemplar of Trust
- Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil: exemplars of Thanksgiving
- Saint Raphael of Brooklyn: traveled to a faraway place to teach people about God
- Saint Innocent of Alaska: started churches in North America
- Saint Raphael of Brooklyn: raised 10 children
- Saint Emmelia and Saint Basil: exemplar of Dedication to God