



Teacher Note: Thank you to all of the Church School teachers, Sunday School coordinators, and Youth leaders who serve their communities across the nation. Because of people like you, who have a heart for Christ, our youth can form a connection with Him so they can connect and strengthen their relationships with those around them (friends, family, neighbors, etc.).

This document is to provide additional materials to assist teachers with this year's Mission Sunday Sunday School Lessons. As we experience a unique time where classes are either in person, virtual, or not meeting, utilize this lesson plan to serve your students best when sharing the Good News of Christ through missions in class or at home. Consider sharing different activities throughout Great Lent to include in your normal Sunday School plans or release them to families to work on at home.

Bonus Elementary School Lesson Material:

Lenten Book Series - Mission Sunday Mini-Books

Designed by Pres. Alexandria Ritsi, OCMC Missionary to Albania.

Included in this document are mini books that follows each story. Walk your students through each step as they assemble their book(s). Once finished, begin reading the story and as they color the pages. Ask for volunteers to take turns reading a page from their book to summarize the story and share their pictures.

Every week throughout Great Lent until Pascha, Pres. Alexandria will release new books to help our tiny theologians learn about the Faith! To follow along with this easy craft and mini-lessons each week, go to bit.ly/minibookandlessons to find and print them out.

Expanded Readings & Discussions for all Grade Levels:

Activity #1: Read Matthew 14:22-33

Consider beginning the story *Christ Walking on Water*, on Matthew 14:22, to help the children understand how Christ was on the water and why His disciples were afraid of him. The focus of this lesson is found in Matthew 14:28-33. Here is an adapted version of the story to read with your children.

Jesus and His disciples were with crowds of people for a long time. Jesus decided that He wanted some time alone to pray. He told the disciples to go in their boat and go to the other side of the lake, which was the Sea of Galilee. So the disciples obeyed Jesus and went out on the boat. Jesus then went up on a mountain to pray.

The waters of the lake were very rough. It was rocking the boat and it was very stormy weather. In the middle of the night the disciples realized they had only gotten half way across the lake.

Remember that Jesus was on the mountainside praying? He looked out and saw that the disciples hadn't gotten very far. He saw them trying very hard to get to the other side despite the storm. Jesus began walking down the mountainside and then walked on top of the water, as if it was dry land. Jesus did not swim, He did not take a boat. He walked on top of the water and did not sink.

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on top of the water they became very afraid. They thought they were seeing a dream, or a ghost, and they started to scream. But, Jesus heard them and said "Do not be afraid! Be brave. It is I!" One of the disciples, Peter, could not believe his ears! It was definitely not a ghost or a dream. It sounded and looked just like Jesus, the Son of God. Peter thought again that maybe it could be a trick. So he decided to ask Jesus: "If it is You, make me come on to the water."

Then Peter heard Jesus' voice say: "Come!" So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on top of the water to Jesus. He was walking on top of the water just like Jesus was. But then all of a sudden Peter started looking around and noticed all of the waves, the storm, and the strong wind. He stopped thinking about Jesus and started thinking about how scary the storm was. It was then that Peter started to sink into the water.

Peter yelled out to Jesus: "Save me, Lord!" Jesus reached out and grabbed Peter's hand. Jesus said to Peter: "Why did you not believe Peter? You should always have faith in Me!" Then Peter and Jesus stepped into the boat and the storm stopped immediately. The disciples in the boat saw the miracle that just happened. They realized that Jesus was the Son of God.

Additional Discussion:

- How did Jesus get to the boat? What was He doing when the disciples saw Him?
- What did the disciples think he was?
- Who did Jesus call out of the boat onto the water?

Teacher Notes: When we are like Peter looking for/focusing/seeking out a relationship with Christ we are a witness to those around us, just like Peter was to the Disciples.

Ask the children: Think of a time when you were a Christian example to those around you? Did this help your relationship with Christ? Reinforce the importance and parallelism that when we have a relationship and connection with Christ it strengthens our relationship and connection to those around us.

(An example of a child 5 years old: One morning my cousin wanted to do something that our parents said we could not do. I explained to him that we should not do this because we need to obey the rules of our parents. We decided together to follow directions and obey our parents. This brought me and my cousin closer to Christ because He tells us that we need to follow directions and obey our parents.)

As Christians we always have to remember when we live as a Christian witness, like Peter was to the Disciples or our example, we do not want to show off or be better than other people. We are Christian witnesses and examples for Christ in our relationship with Him. It is through this relationship we have with Christ that others may also believe that He is the Son of God.

Activity #3: Read the Life of St. Photini

To help reinforce this lesson to the children, begin the lesson by reading the story of the Samaritan Woman, who is St. Photini.

The story of the Samaritan Woman adapted from the Gospel of John (4:5-42).

One day Jesus and His disciples were leaving Judea and wanted to go to Galilee. But they had to travel through an area called Samaria. When they got to the city of Sychar, which was in Samaria, Jesus decided to stop and rest by a well called "Jacob's well." (A well is a spot where the people of the city came to get clean water, because they did not have water faucets in their homes.)

Jesus wanted to sit by the well and His disciples went into the city to get things for lunch. There was a woman who came to the well for some water. Jesus asked her to get Him some water. The woman was so surprised. Jesus was a Jew and she was a Samaritan. They were not supposed to be friends or even really talk to one another.

The Samaritan woman asked Jesus why He would ask her for water. She was even more surprised when Jesus said He could give her living water so that she could never be thirsty again. The idea of never having to get water or feeling thirsty again sounded amazing. The Samaritan woman said that Jesus must be a prophet, meaning He was someone who spoke for God.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that the way of praying and worshiping was going to change.

Then the Samaritan woman also told Jesus that she knew that the Messiah was coming and is called Christ. This man will tell us what we need to know.

Jesus then told the Samaritan woman that He is the Messiah, the one with the name Christ.

A few moments later, the Disciples returned with lunch and they could not believe that Jesus was talking with a Samaritan. They didn't say anything, but they were surprised.

The Samaritan woman left her water jug at the well and ran to the city. She told some of the men what Jesus had said. They left the city and went to see Jesus at the well.

Many of the people that lived in Samaria believed in Jesus Christ because of the woman that told them what Jesus said. Many more believed because of hearing Jesus' words. The Samaritan people begged Jesus to stay with them. He decided to stay there for two days with His Disciples.



GUIDE TO MINI BOOK

1. Print out the page letter-size paper.
2. Next, fold and unfold along all of the dotted and solid lines.
3. Cut along the solid line that runs perpendicular to the dotted lines.
4. Make sure to only cut up to the next dotted line, not all the way to the edge!
5. Unfold, then fold in half along the long side.
6. Grab the paper on both sides where the fold on top is still intact, then move your hands together until you've flattened the center section (the part with the cut edge) and the sheet of paper looks like a cross when looking at it from above.
7. Redo the folds between the pages, making sure to end up with the title page at the front and the back cover at the back of the assembled book.



OPEN THE CAMERA ON
YOUR PHONE.
PLACE THE FOCUS BOX
ON THIS QR CODE.
SEE A VIDEO ON HOW TO
MAKE YOUR MINI BOOK.

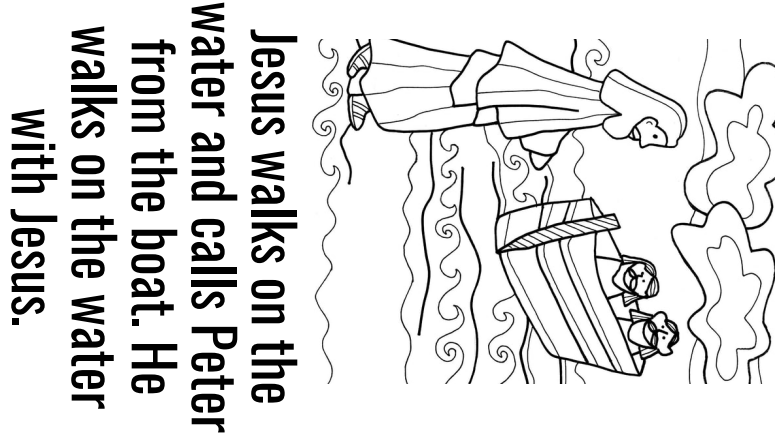


Christian Witness

The Disciples see the
miracle and know that
Jesus is the Son of God!



Peter stops thinking about
Jesus and sinks! Jesus
says: "Do not be afraid!"



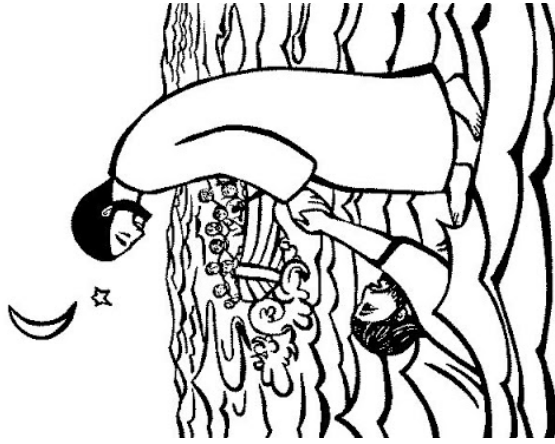
Jesus walks on the
water and calls Peter
from the boat. He
walks on the water
with Jesus.



This book belongs
to the
Servant of God:

Peter on the
Water

LENTEN SERIES BOOK 5



Jesus went to pray.



He sends the disciples
to the boat on the sea.
But a big storm comes!

The disciples see
someone walking on
the water! They are
very afraid.



Servant of God:

This book belongs

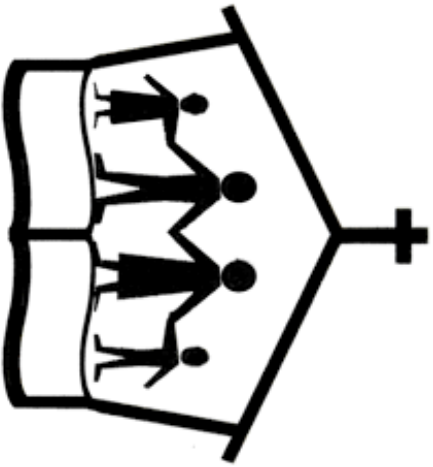
to the



**We see Jesus Christ
in all people!**



**Missionaries connect
people with Jesus Christ.**



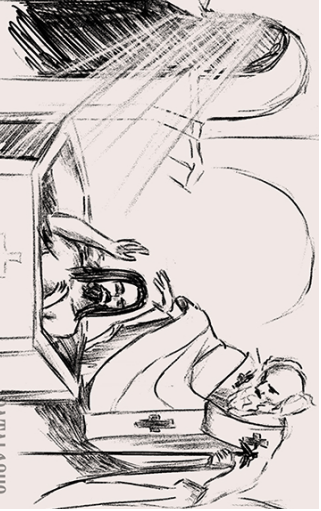
**Jesus Christ in
South Korea**
LENTEN SERIES BOOK 6



**Fr. Chris,
Pres. Jennifer and
their 3 sons**



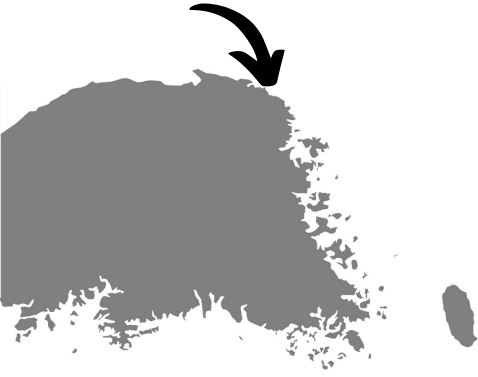
**The man repented and
turned away from his bad
ways. He was baptized
Orthodox Christian!**



**A man came to the
Church. He was not
Christian. He spoke
with Fr. Chris about his
problems.**



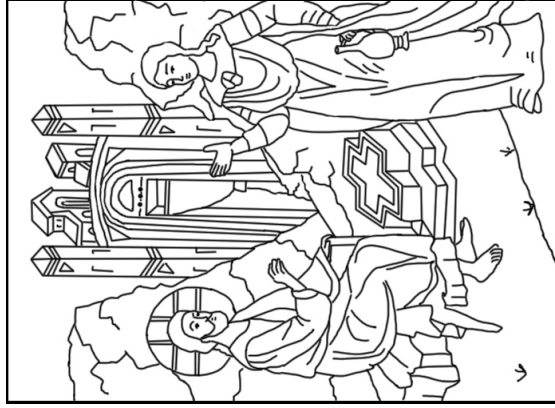
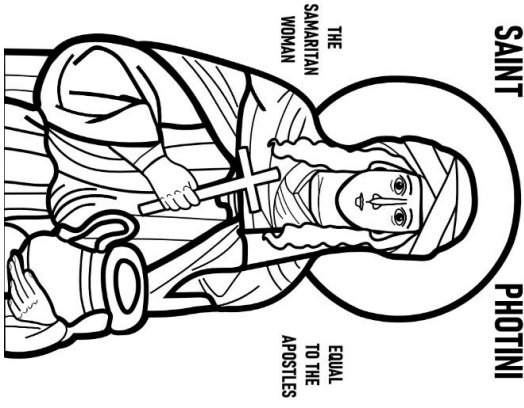
**are OCMC Missionaries
in Ulsan, South Korea!**





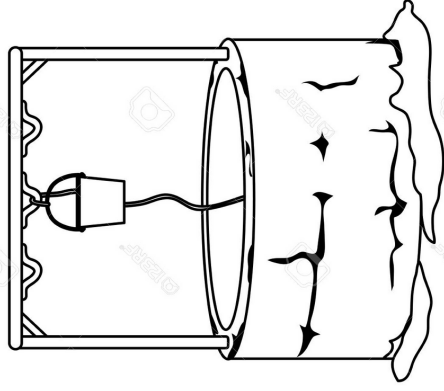
This book belongs
to the
Servant of God:

Holy St. Photini Equal
to the Apostles
Pray for us!



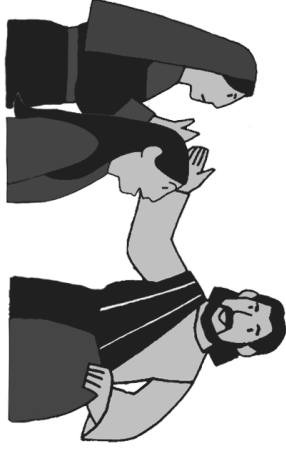
Saint Photini
LENTEN SERIES BOOK 7

He met a Samaritan
woman near the well.

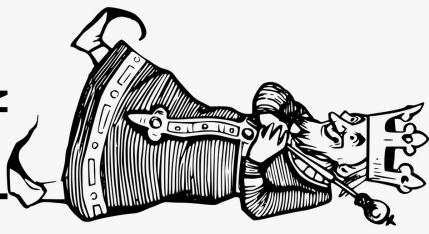


Jesus went to Samaria.

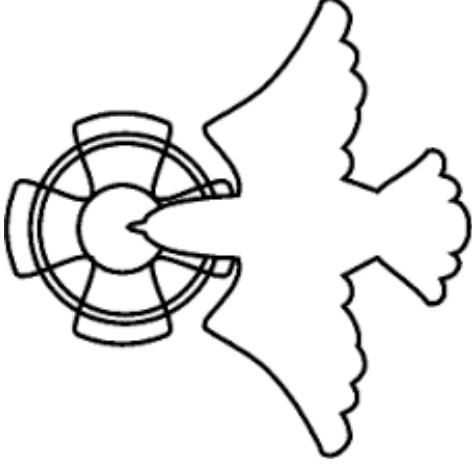
She was a Christian
witness preaching the
Good News. She went to
Rome with her friends.



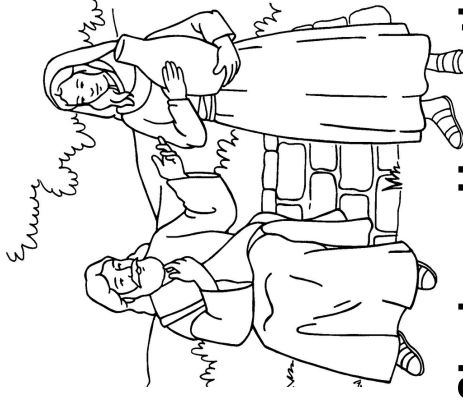
Emperor Nero hurt and
put St. Photini and her
friends in jail. But they
never stopped believing
in God.



The Samaritan Woman was
baptized by the Apostles.
She took the Christian
name Photini.



Jesus told her He could
give her living water.



She knew He was the
Son of God.