

# **SERVANTS PREPARATION PROGRAM**

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**ST, MARY & ST. MARK**

**COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH,**

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

**IMPORTANT RULES FOR  
TEACHING THE CHILDREN IN  
THE LAND OF IMMIGRATION?**



# WHY ARE YOU HERE?

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## DISCIPLESHIP FOLLOWING HIS FOOTSTEPS

Preparation of any believer to serve the Lord requires primarily discipleship combined with humility, while bathing the entire process in prayer.



# WHAT IS THE AIM OF SERVING GOD?

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## Where is society heading nowadays?


- The fast pace of life, working parents, recent trends in public schools, and the newer technologies such as the media and the internet; have all impacted the upbringing of our children and youths.



# THE TRUE SERVANT

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The real servant has special characteristics. He is someone who has denied his own self and honor, in humility and submission to the Lord. He considers himself a servant, accountable to His master, and cannot do anything of his own accord. He wearies and tires himself to serve. He does not choose an easy path.

- ✘ **(Matt 16:24 NKJV)** If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
  - ✘ **(Luke 14:27 NKJV)** And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
  - ✘ **(1 Cor 3:8 NKJV)** Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.
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# ARE WE DIFFERENT?

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- Our children, in the land of immigration, are influenced by the society and the culture they live in. This is considered perfectly normal and inevitable.
- Despite the similarities in the content of the Sunday school curriculum and the youth meeting topics across all the churches in the world, the difference lies in the presentation of the topic and the ability to tailor the content to fit the audience's background, culture and spiritual needs.
- This would greatly increase the topic's comprehension and its receptiveness.

# ARE WE DIFFERENT?

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- In Saint Paul's sermon to the Jews (Acts 13: 16-41) he spoke to them regarding Moses the arch-prophet and gave an account of their experiences with our Lord throughout their history.
- Moreover, in another instance, he spoke to the Greek philosophers (Acts 17: 18-33) in a manner that suited their cultural background.
- In both cases the content is comparable: both sermons aim to convey the message of salvation that our Lord Jesus Christ granted us on the cross.

# ARE WE DIFFERENT?

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- Therefore, whether the Sunday school / youth servants are first generation immigrants or are born in the land of immigration, it is important to observe the following guidelines when conveying the topic:



# I. A PERFECT LANGUAGE

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- Correctness of the language and its clarity...the servant must prepare the topic in an accurate, clear and coherent language.
- This language should be the audience's preferred first language.
- You may prefer Arabic now but you will be serving kids born here, and English will be their first language no matter how hard their parents try!

## 2. ORGANIZATION

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- Our children live in a society where organization and punctuality are governing characteristics.
- Hence, it is imperative to adopt those characteristics in order to portray to our children that our services and our churches are adhering to the norms of the society.
- After all, our Lord teaches us to be organized (parable of 5 loaves of bread and two fishes)

# 3. RESPECT

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- Mutual respect is the prevailing trait in the western societies.
- As a result, respect ought to be maintained at all times between the servant and those being served.
- This is manifest in good communication skills such as listening without interjecting and using appropriate words depicting respect.



## 4. DIALOGUE

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- Constructive discussions and valuing each other's opinions are fundamental in western societies.
- Dialogue often leads to persuasion and mutual love as opposed to merely giving orders.





## 5. REAL LIFE EXAMPLES

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- Give pertinent examples from the children's day to day life...during the topic we must reference examples that are suitable and related for emphasis and clarification.
- Look at all of Jesus' teachings, he gave parable that the audience can relate to, we learn from our Master.



## 6. QUESTION IT!

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- Questioning everything said or heard...Due to all the strong intellectual movements in the society, we as servants must be cognizant of any new infiltrating thoughts.
- This is achieved through research and analysis to be in a position to answer our youth's questions in a convincing and intellectual/well-informed manner.



# 7. LOVE BETWEEN THE SERVANT AND THE CHILDREN

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- Love between the servant and the children...our children often yearn for compassion and love in our fast pace materialistic society.
- Thus, it is extremely important that the servant uses expressions of love, affection and harmony.
- The servant must be sincere in caring about the children

**THE KIDS WHO NEED  
THE MOST LOVE  
WILL ASK FOR IT IN  
THE MOST UNLOVING  
OF WAYS.**



## 8. CHURCH AND CHILDREN BOND

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- Establish and maintain the bond between the children and the mother church...this is essential to our unity and there ought not to be any division or separation of any sort from the mother church nor its beliefs, holiness, saints, organization or any other matter.

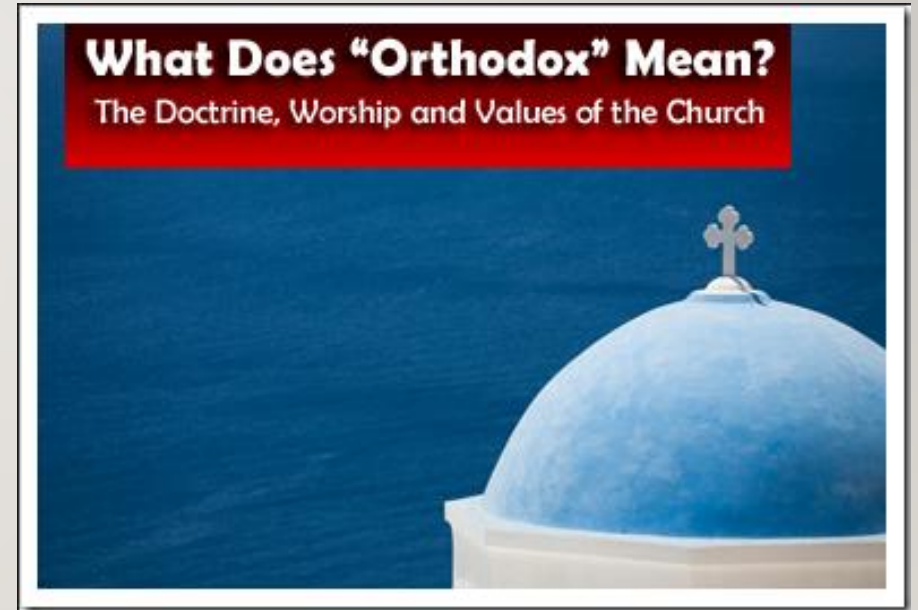
**“If you can't take the church as your mother, you can't take Jesus as your father”  
St. Cyprian**



# 9. ABIDE BY THE ORTHODOX FAITH

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- We ask all Sunday school youth servants to abide by the orthodox faith and dogma in all the topics and to use the ample biblical examples and references.



# 10. RELATIONSHIPS

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- All Sunday school / youth servants are to establish a good spiritual relationship with all those being served, their parents, other servants and everyone around.



# TO SUMMARIZE

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- 1. A Perfect Language**
- 2. Organization**
- 3. Respect**
- 4. Dialogue**
- 5. Real Life Examples**
- 6. Question It!**
- 7. Love Between the Servant and Children**
- 8. Church Children Bond**
- 9. Abide By the orthodox faith**
- 10. Relationships**



QUESTIONS

A 3D graphic featuring the word "QUESTIONS" in white, bold, block letters. The word is surrounded by a circular arrangement of colorful 3D question marks in shades of blue, purple, red, orange, yellow, and green. The entire scene is set within a white circular spotlight on a light gray background, with a wooden floor visible at the bottom.