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September 2024

**JOSHUA
JERICHO**



The perfect obedience of Joshua,
Meanwhile in Byzantium,
Classroom connections, Sense-Ability,
New Liturgical New Year, Saint's Joachim and
Anna, Choir practice, Word Search,
AND MORE...

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Scan the QR code to see the links for the activities

This month is filled with so many fun and interesting things to do!
Visit the Activities Index on the ByziKids page at [ByziMom.com](https://www.byzimom.com/byzikids-magazine-extras) for all the links!
<https://www.byzimom.com/byzikids-magazine-extras>

September 1

Happy New Liturgical Year!

- Today we commemorate Joshua!
- Get our New Years Resolution Worksheet
- Read about Sitting with St. Simeon Stylite



September 8

- Happy Birthday, Dear Theotokos!
- Read The Birth Story of the Theotokos
- History of the Salutation Prayer to the Theotokos
- Learn to pray The Rule of the Theotokos
- Rehearse the Nativity of the Theotokos Play, by Khouria Sylvia Dorham
- I'Con Spy: Nativity of the Theotokos
- Nativity of the Theotokos Coloring Page



September 17

- St. Sophia & her Daughters, Faith, Hope, & Love
- Make a batch of St. Sophia Breakfast Bread



September 2

- Sharing Warm Milk with St. Mamas : (it's a yummy recipe)
- St.Mamas Cheese-making Activity



September 19

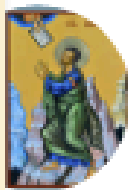
- St. Zosimas Lion Cupcakes



September 4

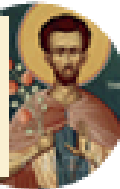
Commemoration of the Prophet Moses

- Know Your Faith: Review the 10 Commandments
- Get the Coloring Page
- Learn the Old and New Commandments Song Lyrics



September 11

- St. Euphrosynas the Cook Apple Crisp Recipe



September 21

Feast of the Prophet Jonah

- I Spy in My Little Icon: The Prophet Jonah
- Know Your Faith: The Story of Jonah
- Prophet Jonah Coloring Page
- Jonah & the Whale Jello Snack
- Would Jonah Go?: learn the song by Khouria Sylvia Dorham
- Prayer of Jonah Bookmark Template



September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- Holy Cross Macaroni Craft (make a beautiful cross for your own icon corner!)
- Review of the Sign of the Cross
- Why Do We Exalt the Cross?
- Discovery of the Cross, A Play by Khouria Sylvia Dorham
- I'Con Spy: Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Maze: Help St Helena find the True Cross
- More Ways to Celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Prayer to the Precious Cross Before Sleep Bookmark Template



September 5

- Sts. Elizabeth & Zacchariah Sticky Peanut Butter Treats (an even yummiier recipe!)



September 25

- Revelation of the Trisagion Hymn +Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!



September 7

- Read about St. Sozon Silver Treasure Packets (recipe for dinner)



September 26

- St. John the Theologian Eagle Snacks



CHOIR PRACTICE



By Sylvia Dorham

Obedient to God



Chorus: **F** God says come and we **C** come. **C** God says stay and we **F** stay.

F God says pray **Bb** and we **F** pray. **C** God loves us so we **F** o - **F** bey Him.

F We prac - tice be - ing o - **C** bed - i - ent **C** so we'll be read - y when we are sent. Our **F**

F life here on earth is ___ meant for us to do **C** God's will. **F** for God is with us **C** **C7** still. **F**

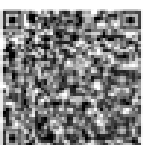
God says come and we come
God says stay and we stay
God says pray and we pray
God loves us, so we obey Him.
We practice being obedient

So we'll be ready when we are sent
Our life here on earth is meant
For us to do God's will
For he is with us still.

God says come and we come
God says stay and we stay
God says pray and we pray
God loves us, so we obey Him.

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Scan
to
Listen



KNOW YOUR FAITH



The Perfect Obedience of JOSHUA

By Lynne Wardach

Joshua 6:1-5 Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. The LORD said to Joshua,

shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."

"See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. Also, seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then, on the seventh day, you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. "It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people

God told Joshua that he would be the one who would lead the Israelites into the land that they had been promised. He had a hard time understanding God's plan because a very hostile nation occupied the city that God had promised to them. The Israelites were afraid to enter it! Three times, God told him he had to be courageous and do exactly as he was told. Have you ever been scared to do something you were told to do? Joshua listened.

God instructed him to get seven priests with seven trumpets to circle the city for seven days. He told him they should march around the city walls seven times on the seventh day. Then, and only then, at Joshua's command, as instructed by God, should the people shout and expect the city walls to fall so that they could easily enter and occupy the city that God had promised them.

So now we must ask ourselves, what's with all the sevens?

The number seven in Hebrew numerology symbolizes the perfection of God. Let's think a bit about the virtue of perfection. Some people consider themselves to be followers of God, yet they hardly follow God at all. They do the necessary bare minimum to call oneself a Christian. They follow only those directives that are pleasing to them and are easy to do. This is not what God requires of us.

What would have happened if the Israelites had decided that they were too tired and had only marched around the city three or four times? What if they chose to shout on the second day instead? God would not be pleased. It would not be perfect, as He is perfect, and His perfect plan would not have been achieved.

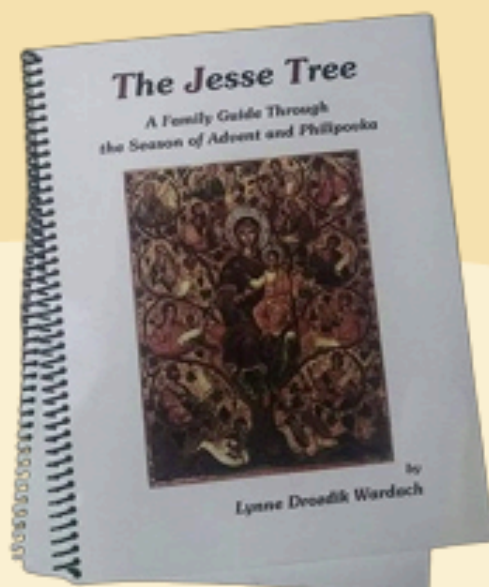
Why would God give such specific instructions? We do not know. Presumably, Joshua didn't know either, but one thing he DID know is that he believed and trusted in the power of God to do what seemed impossible. He knew that God had expected him to follow the instructions exactly as they were given to him, without

deviation, and that if he did so, God would be faithful to His word, and he would achieve His goal. God wants us all to follow His directives perfectly! If we do so, we can expect great things to happen!

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout, and the wall fell down flat so that the people went up into the city, every man straight ahead, and they took the city.

So, what is the lesson we must learn today? God gives us all instructions, just as he gave instructions to Joshua. We are taught by our parents, His Word, and the teachings of His Church. When we learn our catechism, we must be perfectly obedient, even if we do not entirely understand why the directive is so. Yes, we must investigate and discover why God has ordained things this way, and we must always pray for enlightenment and His will. Meanwhile, we must obey, even if we don't yet understand.

Many things must remain a mystery to our simple human minds while we remain here on this earth. We just can't grasp everything yet. We must remain faithful to the God who created all things and knows the order of everything in the universe. We must trust that He has a perfect plan for us and that His perfect love would never lead us astray. We must offer Him the gift of our love and trust and always strive to obey Him perfectly!



The Nativity Fast is only a few weeks away!
Prepare for the coming of the Savior with...

THE JESSE TREE: A Family Guide Through the Season of Advent and Philipovka

Includes 40 daily scripture accounts, a guided discussion for each day, as well as instructions for a simple commemorative ornament. A complete craft supply list is also provided in the appendix.

Make memories while you make ornaments!

Available in print or as a digital download on the Gift Shop page at ByziMom.com

Once Upon a SAINT

by Rebecca O'Loughlin

Saints Joachim and Anna



My dearest children, have you ever heard of the phrase "break down the wall?" Literally it means breaking down a physical wall, just as God brought down the walls of Jericho through the obedience of Joshua and the Israelites. Joshua and the Israelites needed to pass through the walls of Jericho in order to get to the promised Land. But the phrase "break down the wall" has other meanings too, such as breaking down a barrier within oneself and allowing healing, or confronting the fear of asparagus and trying the first bite, or beginning that homework assignment that just seems too big and difficult. This story is about the grandparents of Jesus, saints Joachim and Anna. The tale can be found in the Protoevangelium of St James. Joachim and Anna had a wall in their lives that

was very painful to them: they were unable to have children.

Joachim and Anna loved one another dearly, and they tried to accept God's will for them, even the fact they could not have children. They were wealthy, and so when the Feast of Harvest came around, Joachim went to the temple to offer sacrifice. The feast occurred when the harvest was ripe and the Jews would bring the first fruits of their harvest to offer at the Temple. Joachim brought twice as much as what was expected from him and asked God for His mercy.

"Lord, please let us have a child!"

The High Priest Reuben stood over Joachim as he was praying.

"Joachim!" Reuben said sternly, "it isn't good that you have brought these offerings to the Temple. You have had no children, and therefore you must have done something very wicked. God rejects your offering. Go away until you have made things right."

Joachim was horrified. He couldn't think of anything bad he had done that would have made the Lord so angry with him! He was very ashamed and sad, and decided not to go home to Anna. Instead he went out to the desert and fasted in great sorrow.

"My Lord God!" Joachim prayed, "what did it do that cursed my wife and made us unable to have children? I am so sorry for whatever it is. She is better off without me!"

After a long time, an angel appeared to him, saying: "Joachim, Joachim, the Lord God has heard you. Go home! Your wife Anna will have a baby to honor the Lord!"

Meanwhile, Anna didn't know what could have happened to her husband. She put on mourning clothes, assuming that Joachim was dead.

"Woe is me!" Anna wailed, "I have no husband! I have no children!"

Judith, Anna's servant, saw Anna looking sad. "Why are you looking so sad? It is a sin to be sad on a day of celebration! Here, let me dress you up fancy and put a crown on your head!"

"No, I mustn't dress up with Joachim dead!" Anna replied. "And where did you get such a royal-looking crown? Perhaps it was stolen?"

Judith turned up her nose at Anna: "I didn't steal the crown. And anyway, I'm not nearly as sinful as you are! God has cursed you and made you unable to have children."

Anna was very sad. So she allowed Judith to get her dressed up for the feast. But because she was so sad, she left the party and went on a walk in the garden instead. Sitting under a Laurel tree she wept and prayed: "Oh God! Bless me as you blessed Sarah and gave her Isaac!"

Anna heard a chirping in the Laurel tree and she saw a little sparrow's nest, and a sob broke forth from her mouth: "why was I born? I am cursed, criticized by my own servants! Even this sparrow has her children! Water brings forth life, and the earth gives fruit in its time! But I alone am unable to bless you with a child, Lord, and my husband is dead!"

Do you remember what laurels mean in the ancient world? Victory. A wreath of laurels or bay leaves were often given to poets, runners and other victorious people. In Christianity it signifies Christ's victory over death. And in one important way this victory of Christ's was about to be set in motion. An angel appeared.

"Anna, Anna, the Lord has heard you. You will give birth to a very special baby who will bless all the world."

Anna fell to her knees: "Thanks be to God! I promise that I will give back this baby you have promised to me, as an offering to the Lord, as soon as the child is old enough!"

"It is good," the angel replied, "and look, here comes Joachim!"

Anna jumped up with a cry of joy, and laughing and running, she threw her arms around Joachim's neck and kissed him: "Now I know that the Lord God has blessed me! See! The widow is no longer a widow, and the childless shall have a baby!"

Joachim offered his ten best lambs and twelve best calves to the temple, and another hundred goats were given to the people to have a great feast in celebration of his new promised baby. This is beautiful, because his action showed that Joachim and Anna trusted the word of the Lord through the angel long before they had their baby.

Nine months later, Joachim and Anna had a little girl who they named Miriam (in the West we often call her Mary). She was born on September 8th. Joachim and Anna raised Miriam until she was old enough to be weaned, and then Miriam worked in the Temple weaving and serving the Lord. When she was a young lady, the angel Gabriel came to Miriam and she conceived baby Jesus. On the feast day of Miriam's birth, it is a tradition in many countries to make a wreath of herbs such as laurel (bay leaves) to be blessed in the Church and used in the winter season. Do you remember why? Because it was under the laurel tree that Anna first learned that she would conceive the Blessed Theotokos.

There are many lessons to learn from this beautiful story. Sometimes it looks like bad things are happening to people who God loves very much and has a plan for. Saints Joachim and Anna thought God had cursed them, when in reality the time wasn't yet right for them to have baby Miriam. But God not only gave them a baby, but gave them a very special baby who would grow up to be the Mother of God and Queen of Heaven and Earth, and who gave birth to the Savior of the world, Jesus.

You will find walls that seem insurmountable in your own life. Times of trouble that look like they are impossible and overwhelming. When this happens, pray: "Lord, I surrender myself to You. Take care of everything." And I promise you that He will!

WORD SEARCH

The Righteous Joshua

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



PROMISED LAND
 EIGHTY FIVE
 COURAGEOUS
 OBEDIENCE
 EIGHTY FIVE
 RIGHTEOUS
 ISRAELITES
 RAMS HORN
 JERICHO
 PRIESTS
 CIRCLE
 FELL
 MARCH
 NUN
 JOSHUA
 SHOFAR
 HORN
 SEVEN
 WA

