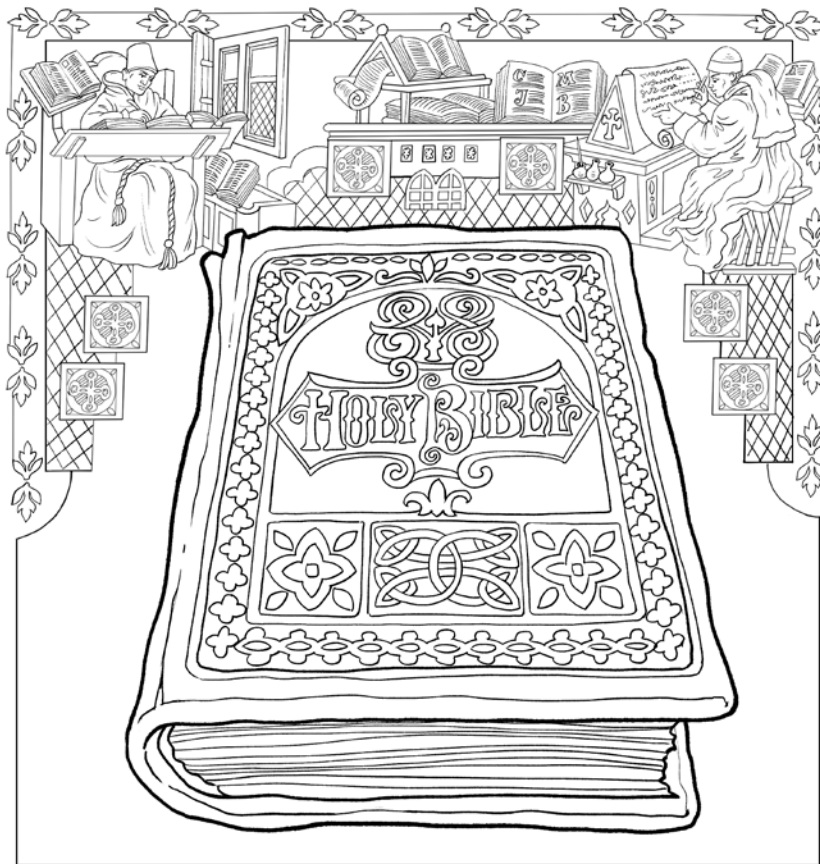


Journey THROUGH Church History

CHRISTA PETZOLD



LEADER GUIDE



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How to Use This Leader Guide

Journey through Church History can be read and enjoyed as a stand-alone book. This leader guide seeks to provide extension activities, such as vocabulary words, Bible studies, a coloring page for each chapter, and more for those who would like to expand on the content in the main book with their own children or in a classroom. *Journey through Church History* is accessible as a read-aloud for elementary-age children, may be read independently by middle school students, or may be useful as an overview or reference guide for older students as they progress in their studies. If all you do is read the book with your children and talk about each chapter (discussion questions are included), your children will receive a solid, age-appropriate introduction to church history. If you desire to extend this study, this leader guide provides the following for each chapter:

- ◆ a short list of vocabulary words
- ◆ a brief Bible study or devotion
- ◆ a coloring page
- ◆ a page for older students that includes a summary of the individual or topic from the chapter, a map with relevant locations, a quotation from the church father or a historical document pertinent to the chapter, and an extension activity

The extension exercises will vary with each chapter, but the other elements will remain the same. Feel free to make it your own by using whichever elements are helpful to you and your children or students. Younger students may only wish to do the coloring page while they listen to you read, while older students may benefit from doing the Bible study and extension activities. For those of you who use copy work as part of your educational routine, the quotations on the student page may serve as copy work passages.

Some of the Bible studies and activities accompanying each chapter may be somewhat advanced for young students. If the study questions for each Bible passage are too challenging, reading the passage aloud and talking about how it connects to the chapter will still be fruitful. The Holy Spirit promises to work through the words of Scripture; therefore, it is never time wasted to read the Bible to our children, even if they do not fully understand it. We should never underestimate the Holy Spirit's power or our children's ability to grasp the truths of God's Word by faith.

Some suggestions for how to use this leader guide with children of various ages follow. All students are unique and learn at their own pace, so parents and teachers should use their discretion. You may wish to do all of the activities in this book, or just a few of them, as best fits the needs of your family or class.

Students Ages 6–8

Read the chapter from *Journey through Church History* aloud to students as they color the coloring page. Talk about the discussion questions in the main book. If desired, read the corresponding Scripture passage to students as a brief devotion and use the questions provided to guide discussion. The chapter and devotion can be separated into different days to allow for shorter attention spans.

Students Ages 8–10

Read the chapter from *Journey through Church History* aloud to students as they color the coloring page. Or have students read the chapter aloud to you! Talk about the discussion questions. Use the Bible study and the student page to extend the lesson as desired. Students in this age group may either use the quotation as copy work, or simply read it through a few times and discuss how it connects to the content of the chapter.

Students Ages 10–14

Students in this age group may enjoy having *Journey through Church History* read aloud to them, but they can also read it on their own. Either way, students will benefit from the Bible study and extension activities, as well as studying or copying the quotation on the student page.

Students Ages 14 and Up

Journey through Church History would make a great gift for high school students and up. Young people who would like to know more about church history will find this book a welcome resource that is easy to read and answers many questions they may have about why the church is the way it is today. Older students may enjoy leading their younger siblings in some of the activities provided in this book.

CHAPTER 1

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

Terms to Know

Ask your children if they can define these words after reading the chapter for today. If they cannot, help them go back and find the definitions.

Culture

Diaspora

Septuagint

Martyr



James, brother of Jesus

Dates: AD ?–62

Feast Day: October 23

BIBLE STUDY

Read: Mark 6:1–6

Discuss:

- ◆ What happens in this text?
- ◆ What does Jesus mean when He says, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household”?
- ◆ Do we ever assume things about Jesus? Do we ever fail to honor Jesus because we are used to Him or comfortable with the way things are?

Pray:

Dear Jesus, thank You for the faithful service of Your brother James to the church in Jerusalem. Thank You for preparing the world to receive the Gospel and for allowing it to spread rapidly after Your ascension. Thank You for the work of the Holy Spirit, who creates and nurtures faith in our hearts as He did in the hearts of the first Christians and the hearts of all believers. May we, strengthened by Your Holy Spirit, build a culture centered on You in our homes, families, and churches. Amen.

Terms to Know

Culture—The things a group of people do together, including their beliefs, the way they speak to one another, the way they dress, and the art and stories they tell.

Diaspora—The Jewish people who lived throughout the Roman Empire, “dispersed” or “spread out” from their native land.

Septuagint—The Greek translation of the Old Testament used in New Testament and early church times.

Martyr—Someone who gives witness to Jesus by dying for the faith.

Bible Study with Answers | Mark 6:1–6

Discuss:

◆ **What happens in this text?**

Jesus and His disciples go to Jesus’ hometown, where He teaches in the synagogue. Those who heard Him were surprised and confused because they knew that He was the Son of Mary and Joseph and they knew His brothers. Jesus ends up leaving without being able to do any mighty work there. Jesus marvels at their unbelief.

◆ **What does Jesus mean when He says, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household”?**

Jesus’ brothers and others who had known Him growing up thought that they knew who He really was because they were used to Him. They did not honor Him because they could not get past the way they saw Jesus—as a simple carpenter’s son.

◆ **Do we ever assume things about Jesus? Do we ever fail to honor Jesus because we are used to Him or comfortable with the way things are?**

This conversation could tie into the concept of family culture mentioned in the chapter. Talk about family habits and cadences. Discuss what you can do to continue to put Jesus first and recognize His authority and lordship in your lives as a family.

Scripture Hunt with Answers

What can we learn about James from the Bible? Look up these passages where James is mentioned to see what you can discover about him!

Matthew 13:54–58 *Jesus was not respected in Nazareth because people thought they knew His parents and siblings. James is listed as His brother in verse 55.*

Mark 6:1–4 *See above devotion.*

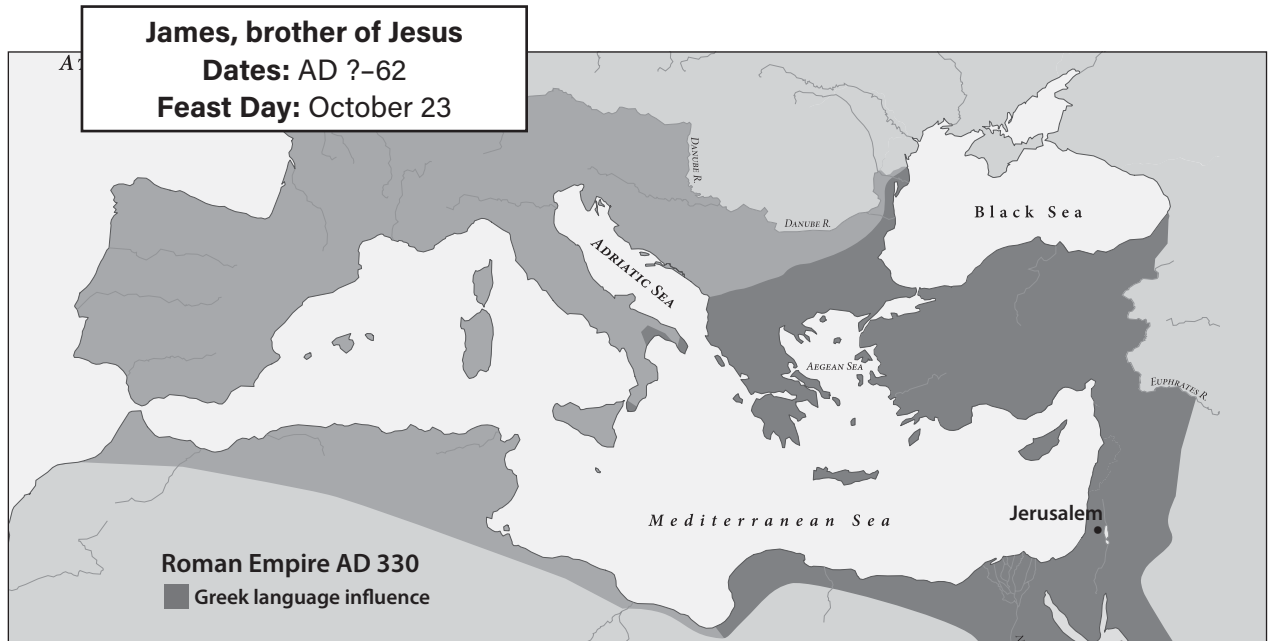
John 7:3–5 *Jesus’ brothers did not believe in Him. They told Him He should do miracles openly if He was really God, but Jesus said it was not yet His time.*

1 Corinthians 15:7 *Jesus appeared to James after He rose from the dead.*

Galatians 1:19 *When Paul went to Jerusalem, he saw James, the Lord’s brother, there.*

Galatians 2:9 *James was a “pillar” of the church in Jerusalem, and he received Paul and Barnabas in fellowship. James focused on ministry to the Jewish people, while Paul went to the Gentiles.*

James 1:1 *James wrote his epistle “to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion.”*



Quote from Scripture

For study or copy work

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil and He Himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. . . . Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

James 1:12–14, 16

Scripture Hunt

What can we learn about James from the Bible? Look up these passages where James is mentioned to see what you can discover about him!

Matthew 13:54–58 _____

Mark 6:1–4 _____

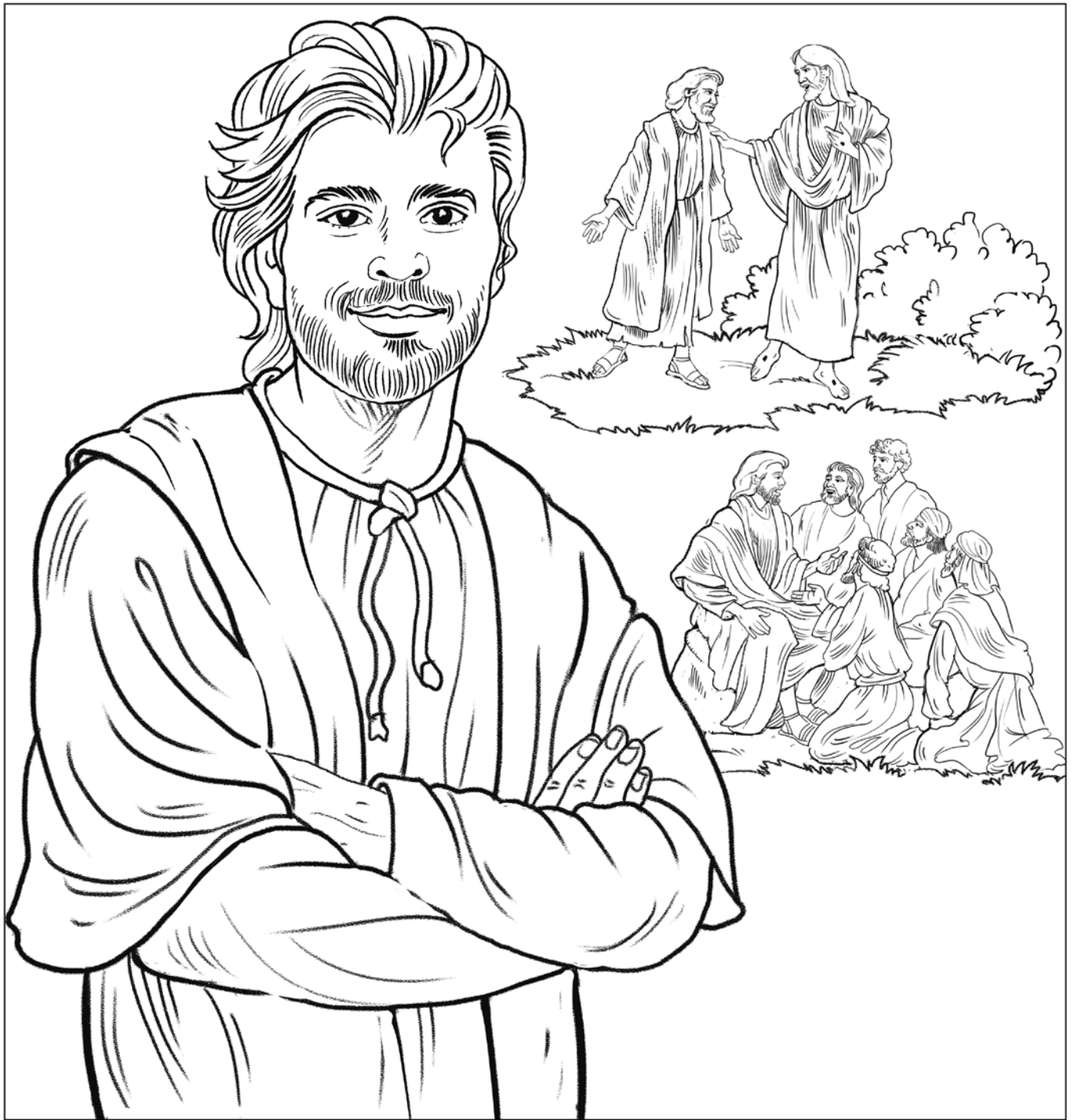
John 7:3–5 _____

1 Corinthians 15:7 _____

Galatians 1:19 _____

Galatians 2:9 _____

James 1:1 _____



James, Brother of Jesus

James did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah during the time of Jesus' ministry, but when Jesus appeared to him after His resurrection, James came to faith. James was the first leader of the Christian Church in Jerusalem.

Dates: AD ?–62

Feast Day: October 23

CHAPTER 2

IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

Terms to Know

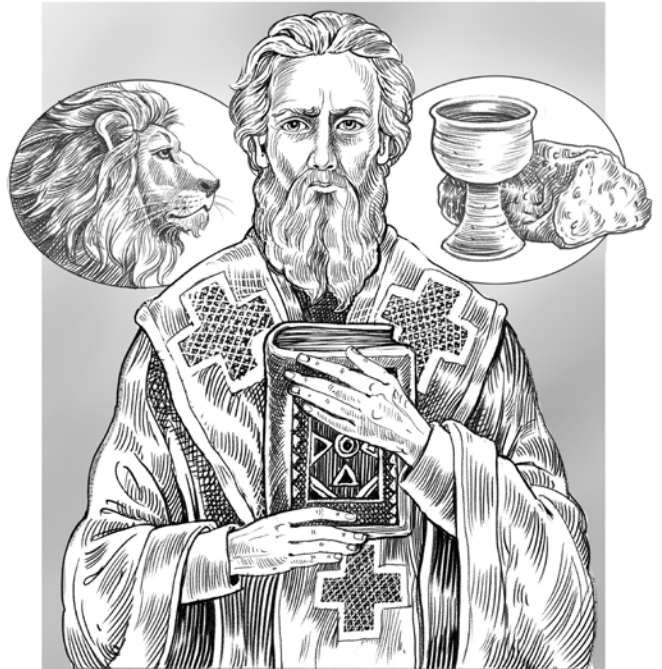
Ask your children if they can define these words after reading the chapter for today. If they cannot, help them go back and find the definitions.

Syncretism

Bishop

Eucharist

Colosseum



Ignatius of Antioch

Dates: 30-107

Feast Day: October 17

BIBLE STUDY

Read: Matthew 16:24-28

Discuss:

- ◆ Ignatius referred to this passage in his letter to the Romans. What is Jesus saying in this text?
- ◆ What does Jesus mean when He says, “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”
- ◆ In verse 28, what does Jesus mean that there are “some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom”? When does Jesus come in His kingdom?
- ◆ What are some specific ways that we can bear witness to our faith through the way we live?

Pray:

Dear Jesus, thank You for the strong faith You gave to Ignatius. Thank You for blessing the church with people who are willing to be uncomfortable and even die to proclaim the truth about You to the world. Thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, who works this kind of faith in our hearts. Amen.

Terms to Know

Syncretism—Mixing together religious beliefs from many different religions.

Bishop—The head pastor, or leader, of the churches in a city.

Eucharist—From the Greek word for thanksgiving; another word for Communion.

Colosseum—The amphitheater in Rome where Christians were killed as entertainment.

Bible Study with Answers | Matthew 16:24–28

Discuss:

- ◆ **Ignatius referred to this passage in his letter to the Romans. What is Jesus saying in this text?**
Jesus is telling us that following Him means giving up the things that the world values and being willing to suffer as He suffered. People who do not know Jesus think that the good things in this world are all that there is to life. They don't want to suffer, because now is all they have. We can live differently than the world because we know that Jesus' kingdom is coming and is already here.
- ◆ **What does Jesus mean when He says, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?"**
What is more important: being comfortable, having nice things, and getting to do what you want, or the salvation that comes through faith in Jesus? Obviously, faith in Jesus is more important than things we might think of as "gaining the whole world." For us, this means we focus more on sharing this faith with others than on our own material comfort and enjoyment. Of course, God has created a world that is meant to be enjoyable! There is nothing wrong with comfort, unless we put our own comfort above our faith or the needs of others.
- ◆ **In verse 28, what does Jesus mean that there are "some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom"? When does Jesus come in His kingdom?**
This verse shows us that the kingdom that Jesus refers to comes in power when He dies, rises, ascends, and sends His Holy Spirit. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus teaches that "the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15). We will one day see Jesus return in glory, but even now, His kingdom has come. It is here, in the church, now!
- ◆ **What are some specific ways that we can bear witness to our faith through the way we live?**
Get creative with this one! Answers will vary. Perhaps it means caring for someone else when we'd rather be playing, sharing toys when we don't want to, speaking with kindness when it's hard, or telling someone we know about Jesus!

Instructions for History Hunt

Look up pictures or more information about the Colosseum in Rome. Use a history textbook or look online to see images of the place where Ignatius died for his faith.

Tips: Search online for "Roman Colosseum" or "Colosseum early Christian history" for images and articles about the Colosseum.



Quote from Ignatius

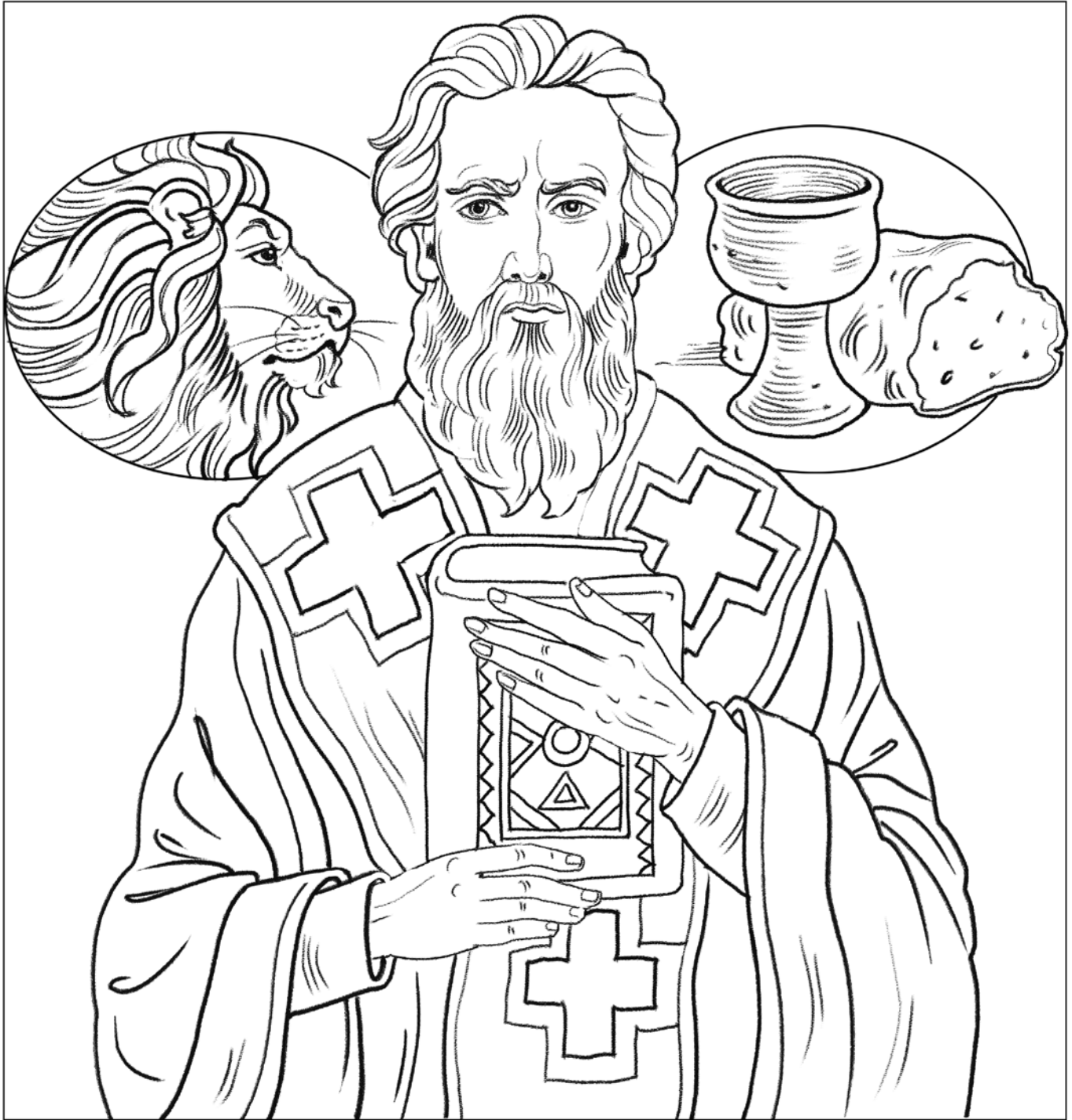
For study or copy work

All the pleasures of the world, and all the kingdoms of this earth, shall profit me nothing. It is better for me to die in behalf of Jesus Christ, than to reign over all the ends of the earth. "For what shall a man be profited, if he gain the whole world, but lose his own soul?" Him I seek, who died for us: Him I desire, who rose again for our sake. This is the gain which is laid up for me.

Letter to Rome, Chapter 6

History Hunt

Look up some pictures or more information about the Colosseum in Rome. Use a history textbook or look online to see images of the place where Ignatius died for his faith. Use the space below to take notes.



Ignatius of Antioch

All the pleasures of the world, and all the kingdoms of this earth, shall profit me nothing. It is better for me to die in behalf of Jesus Christ, than to reign over all the ends of the earth.

~ *Letter to Rome*

Dates: 30–107

Feast Day: October 17

CHAPTER 3

POLYCARP OF SMYRNA

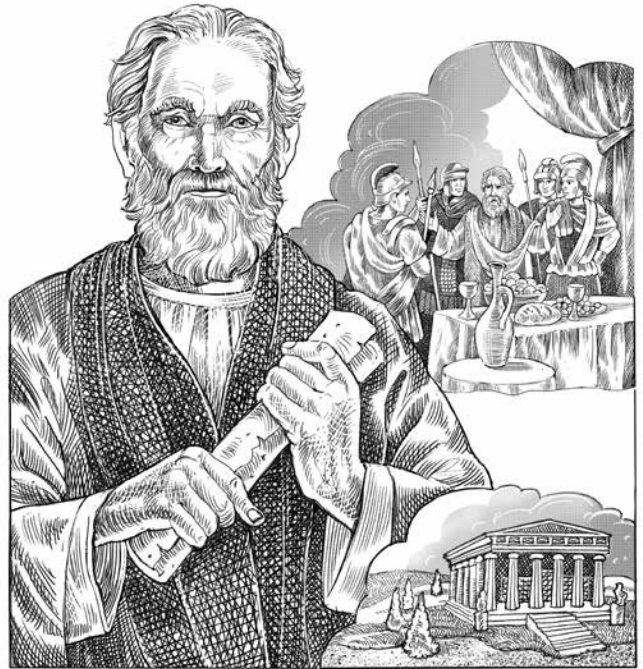
Terms to Know

Ask your children if they can define these words after reading the chapter for today. If they cannot, help them go back and find the definitions.

Paganism

Bishop

Martyr



Polycarp of Smyrna

Dates: 69–155

Feast Day: February 23

BIBLE STUDY

The book of Revelation was written around 95. If Polycarp was born in 69, he would have been in his mid-twenties when the apostle John was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write Revelation! Revelation begins with seven letters to the churches in seven cities, and Smyrna is one of these cities.

Read: Revelation 2:8–11

Discuss:

- ◆ In verse 9, what does it mean that the church is being slandered? What is a “synagogue of Satan”?
- ◆ What does Jesus tell the church in Smyrna to expect? What is going to happen to them?
- ◆ What is the “second death” mentioned in verse 11? What does it mean to be faithful unto death, and why will the one who is faithful not be hurt by the second death? (Hint: see Revelation 20:6)

Pray:

Dear Jesus, thank You for the courage of Christians like Polycarp and those in Smyrna who were willing to die rather than deny that You are the risen Savior. Give us courage in life to not fear suffering but to point others to You by our patience and faithfulness. Amen.