

“What must I do to have eternal life?”



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2026 Alexandra Houck.  
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# The Children's Word

“Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Mark 10:14

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## Good teacher...and God!

**Have you ever asked your** teacher how to do something? Sure, you have! Your teacher knows more than you do and usually knows the answer!



Our God gives us eternal life!

In today's Gospel reading, we hear about the rich man who came to Jesus and asked Him, “Good teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” This man came to Jesus, his “good teacher,” because he thought Jesus would know the answer.

One of our Church's great teachers, Saint Justin Popovich, once wrote about this same Gospel reading. He wrote that if Jesus is just a man, and just a teacher, then He couldn't really answer that question! Only God can tell us how we can have eternal life. Only God can show us how we can live forever! Only God can show us the way into heaven.

So, when the man called Jesus a “good teacher,” he didn't know that Jesus was more than just a “good teacher.” He was asking Jesus, the Son of God, this great question! Sometimes we might hear people say nice things about Jesus like “He was a good man” or “He was a good teacher” or “He was a nice and peaceful person.” Those things are true, but Jesus is so much more than that! Jesus is God, and He gives us life with Him forever!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

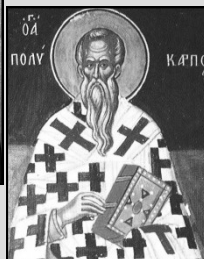
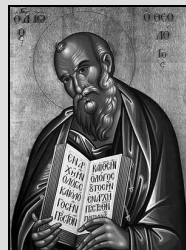
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- Bible
- Church Father
- Eternal
- Gospel
- Irenaeus
- Learning
- Lyons
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- Teacher

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## WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is an icon of Saint John, his student Saint Polycarp, and *his* student Saint Irenaeus.

Do you see how they all hold the Gospel? The Gospel teaches us about our Lord!



## LEARNING FROM THE APOSTLES SAINT IRENAEUS OF LYONS

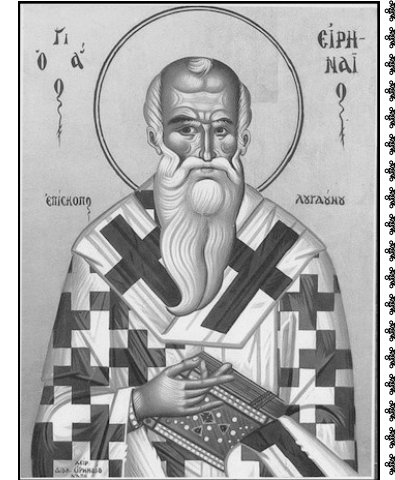
**Have you ever thought about** your teachers? You know they were students once, too, don't you? You know they learned from their teachers.

In our Church, our teachers once learned from teachers, too. Today is the feastday of Saint Irenaeus, and he had a very special teacher. His teacher was Saint Polycarp, who taught him so much about the Christian life. But Saint Polycarp's teacher was Saint John. That's the same John who was Jesus' friend, the one who was with Jesus when He was up on the Cross!

So Saint Irenaeus had a good teacher, a really good "grand-teacher" and the best "great grand-teacher," Christ Himself!

Saint Irenaeus was a bishop who wrote lots of things to teach people what we believe as Christians. Sometimes people got mixed up about the teachings of the Church. Saint Irenaeus set things straight.

Sadly, the emperor didn't want to hear about Christianity. So, Saint Irenaeus was killed for his faith. But now he is a saint in heaven. We thank God for this "great grand-student" of Christ. That's because he taught us so much about our Christian faith. We can still read his writings today!



**We celebrate St. Irenaeus today, August 23rd (OC: September 5th).**