

# Family Connections

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council  
Acts 20:16–18, 28–36 and John 17:1–13



*When a ray is projected from the sun, it is a portion of the whole sun; but the sun will be in the ray because it is part of the sun; the substance is not separated but extended. So from the Spirit comes spirit, and God from God, as light is kindled into light. This ray of God glided down into a virgin's womb and was fashioned as flesh, born of man mixed with God. The flesh was built up by the Spirit, was nourished, grew up, spoke, taught, worked, and was Christ.*  
—Tertullian

## EXPLORE TOGETHER:

I Believe—The Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council formulated and ratified the first seven articles of the Nicene Creed. As we know, the Creed contains the essential beliefs

we hold as Orthodox Christians. Gather as a family to recite the Creed.

If you have very young children, they can repeat after you line by line. Discuss each line as a family, reflecting on the meaning of each so that everyone has a better understanding when they pray.

Imitators of Christ—This Gospel reading vividly shows the importance of prayer. Jesus asks for His Father's sanctification for Himself and His disciples. Using a Bible concordance or [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), find instances of Jesus Christ praying at various times during His ministry. You will quickly learn that prayer was a critical part of Jesus's life and thus is necessary in our lives as Christians. Discuss ways to engage more regularly in prayer.

**Before church next week, read the scripture passages for the Holy Pentecost**

**Acts: 2:1–11 and John 7:37–52; 8:12**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR COUPLES AND FAMILIES, VISIT:**



Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
[www.family.goarch.org](http://www.family.goarch.org)