Compass Life Adult Sunday School

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**“The Hermitage”**

1. **The Hermitage Museum**

The Hermitage sees over 4,000,000 visitors per year and is located in St. Petersburg, Russia. Russia is the largest country comprising 6,593,000 square miles with a population of about 144,000,000 people. The museum was originally a “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” for Russian Monarchs including Empress Elizabeth Petrovna……. Elizabeth was Peter the Great’s daughter. Designed by a Russian architect, Bartolommeo Francesco Rastrelli, construction started in 1752 and took eight years to complete. Peter the Great’s granddaughter Catherine (later to be called “The Great”) became empress in St. Petersburg and wanted to make a significant statement to the world that Russia was a sophisticated and well-educated country that had and will continue to make contributions to the world. She hired new architects from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to redesign the Hermitage and went on an aggressive expansion plan including the acquisition of paintings from all over the world. Today they have over 3,000,000 items and 765,000 square feet of space. (The Getty has over 1,200,000 square feet and 230,000 items.) They have the largest collections of paintings in the world. The Museum consists of six historic buildings along the river Nave of which 5 are open to the public. The five buildings are the Winter Palace, Small Hermitage, Old Hermitage, New Hermitage and the Hermitage Theater. The public generally enters the Winter Palace building. The Museum is open to the public and foreigners pay the same fee as Russian citizens. (Don’t visit on Monday because the Museum is closed on Mondays.) Experts say that if you were to spend one minute looking at each exhibit, it would take you about \_\_\_\_\_ years to get out the exit.

1. **Catherine the Great**

Catherine the Great was born “Sophia” in April 1729 to a German prince and was raised in an area that is now part of Poland. She was charming, energetic and educated by tutors. She took the name Catherine when she converted to the Russian Orthodox Church and was “selected and approved” to become the wife of Grand Duke Peter III (later to become Tsar Peter III and grandson of Peter the Great) when she was \_\_\_\_. Catherine the Great married Peter III in 1745 and Peter III came to power when Empress Elizabeth died in 1761. It was a horrible marriage and shortly after the wedding Peter took a mistress and never lived with Catherine. Rumors tells us that Catherine also had numerous affairs including one with a “handsome” court chamberlain. Six months after Peter became the ruler of Russia there was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Peter was out and Catherine became the ruler of Russia. The people of Russia and the insiders of the ruling party were so done with Peter it was fairly easy for Catherine to take over. Catherine’s leadership style was very different than Peters’ and included an approach where she used persuasion and rational thinking, which was very successful. She brought significant reforms to Russia, was active in foreign policy and even expanded the borders during her reign. Catherine was determined to change the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Russia throughout Europe because it was perceived as an empire lacking culture. She ruled for 34 years (the longest reigning female leader of the Russian Empire) and was personally responsible for the expansion and development of the Hermitage museum.

1. **The Collections**

The Hermitage’s collection was started by Peter the Great as part of his “Window on Europe” program. Catherine the Great significantly expanded the collection even though she was not an expert on art but knew the value of great art for the country. She hired experts (Diderot and Voltaire and others) to find the best collections of art and purchase them in their entirety. She bought entire \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, including 600 works from a French baron and 225 works from a Prussian king. Her first acquisition was from a dealer in Berlin.

Catherine’s favorites included works by Frans Hals, von Aachen and Rubens. She really liked Rembrandts and bought his art whenever she could. The Hermitage has 15 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ paintings. By 1783 she acquired 2,658 paintings, 10,000 sculptures and carvings and 10,000 drawings. Some believed that Catherine’s art collection in the palaces didn’t help the Russian people. She was criticized for not supporting Russian artists and for focusing on Western art. She didn’t think much of Russian art or Russian architects, with a few exceptions.

1. **Treasures of the Hermitage**

Ancient Egyptian Limestone stele of a chief potter 18th century BC

Russian Plaque in the Form of a Deer Late 7th Century BC

Russian Gold Hair Comb 4th – 5th Century BC

Leonardo da Vinci Madonna with a Flower (Benois Madonna) 1478 – 1480

Leonardo da Vinci Madonna with Child 1490-1491

Titian Penitent Magdalene 1565

Rembrandt Portrait of an Old Man in Red 1652 –1654

Jean-Baptiste Simeon Chardin Saying Grace 1744

Claude Monet Woman in a Garden by Claude Monet 1867

Vincent van Gogh White House at Night 1890

Pablo Picasso Femme au café (Absinthe Drinker) 1901–1902

Wassily Kandinsky Composition VI 1913

1. **The Bible and the Hermitage**

Raphael Loggias Hermitage - Russia

Raphael Loggias Vatican City, Rome

Unknown Christ Pantocrator 13th Century

Fillippo Lippi, Fra Vision of St. Augustine 1460

El Greco Saint Peter and Saint Paul 1592

[Annibale Carracci](https://www.conservapedia.com/Annibale_Carracci). The Holy Women at the Tomb of Christ 1597-1598

Peter Paul Rubens A Feast in the House of Simon the Pharisee 1618

Rembrandt The Descent from the Cross 1634

Rembrandt The Sacrifice of Isaac 1635

Rembrandt David’s Parting from Jonathan 1642

Rembrandt The Return of the Prodigal Son 1661–1669

Hogarth, William Paul before Felix 1697-1764

**VI. The Museum of the Bible, Washington D.C. - 400 4th St SW, Washington, DC 20024**

The museum opened to the public in November 2017, encompasses 430,000-square-foot of space, is located just three blocks from the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. and has over 3,150 items on display. The Museum of the Bible aims to be among the most technologically advanced and engaging museums in the world. There are 7 levels that include:

(B) Exhibits exploring the Bible’s history and impact,

(1) The Gutenberg Gates, The Grand Hall Ceiling with extraordinary features and images and a children’s area (2) The impact of the Bible including the Bible in America, the Bible in the world, The Bible now and Washington Revelations,

(3) The stories of the Bible including The Hebrew Bible Experience, The World of Jesus of Nazareth and a New Testament Theater,

(4) The History of the Bible including The History of Bible Artifacts, The Drive Through History of the Bible Theater, A Bible Reading Room, an Illuminations section discussing various translations and a New Discoveries Gallery,

(5) The People of the Land of Israel including a 472-seat theater, a section titled The People of the Land: History and Archeology of Ancient Israel and

(6) a place to eat, a garden and a Glass Enclosed Promenade.

## 9/2/2018 No Class

## 9/9/2018 The Heavens Declare the Glory of the Lord – Rethinking Creation