

Lesson #12

Topic: Sts. Cyril and Methodius – Apostles to the Slavs

Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 5th & 6th (Ages 11-12)

Lesson Duration: 45-60 minutes

Lesson Objective:

Describe who the Sts. Are. Cyril and Methodius were and explain why they are called *Apostles to the Slavs*.

Understand the importance of hearing and reading the Gospel in one's own language.

Recognize the role of the Glagolitic and Cyrillic alphabets in spreading Christianity.

Reflect on how they, like Cyril and Methodius, can share God's love and truth with others today.

1. Introduction

Sts. Cyril and Methodius are known as the *Apostles to the Slavs* because they introduced the Christian faith to the Slavic peoples. They are remembered for their great missionary work and for creating the first Slavic alphabet, which allowed the people to read the Bible and prayers in their own language.

2. Their Lives

- **Cyril (born Constantine)** and **Methodius** were brothers from Thessalonica (in present-day Greece).
- They were highly educated. Cyril was renowned for his wisdom and knowledge of languages, and Methodius possessed strong leadership skills.
- In the year 863, Prince Rastislav of Moravia (a Slavic land) asked the Emperor of Byzantium to send missionaries who could teach his people about Christ *in their own language*.

3. Their Mission

- The brothers traveled to Moravia and began teaching the Gospel.
- They created an alphabet (called **Glagolitic**, which later developed into **Cyrillic**) so that the Slavs could read the Scriptures, prayers, and services.
- They translated the **Bible**, the **Liturgy**, and many hymns into the Slavic tongue.
- Their work made Christianity take root deeply in the hearts of the Slavic people.

4. Their Legacy

- St. Cyril died in Rome in 869, and St. Methodius continued the mission until he died in 885.
- The Orthodox Church honors them as *Equal-to-the-Apostles* because they spread the Gospel with the same zeal as the first Apostles.
- Today, many Slavic Orthodox nations (Serbs, Russians, Bulgarians, etc.) still use the Cyrillic alphabet and continue to benefit from their work.

5. Message for Us

Sts. Cyril and Methodius demonstrate the importance of sharing God's Word in a way that people can understand. They remind us that faith should be part of our culture, our language, and our daily lives.

Story: Sts. Cyril and Methodius – Apostles to the Slavs

Long ago, in the city of Thessalonica, two brothers grew up who would one day change the world. Their names were **Cyril** (born Constantine) and **Methodius**. They loved God deeply and wanted to serve Him with all their hearts. Cyril was very wise and loved to study languages, while Methodius was strong in leadership and good at guiding people.

One day, Prince Rastislav of Moravia, a land where many Slavic people lived, asked the emperor for missionaries who could teach his people about Christ in their own language. The emperor chose Cyril and Methodius because they were fluent in the Slavic language and had great faith. The brothers joyfully accepted the mission.

When they arrived in Moravia, the people wanted to learn about Jesus, but there was a problem: all the prayers and Scriptures were in Greek or Latin, languages the Slavs could not understand. Cyril and Methodius realized that if the people were going to follow Christ, they needed to hear His Word in their own tongue. So, they created a

brand new alphabet called **Glagolitic** (later it developed into **Cyrillic**, which is still used today). They translated the **Bible, the Divine Liturgy, and many hymns** into the Slavic language.

Because of their work, the Slavic people came to know Christ more deeply. The brothers gave their whole lives to this mission. St. Cyril died in Rome in 869, and St. Methodius continued teaching and guiding until he died in 885. Today, we remember them as **Equal to the Apostles** and honor them as **apostles to the Slavs**, who brought the Light of Christ to many nations.

WORKSHEET: STS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS – APOSTLES TO THE SLAVS

Fill-in-the-Blank

“Sts. Cyril and Methodius are called the _____ to the Slavs.”

“They created the first _____ alphabet so the people could read the Bible.”

Matching Game

Cyril

Methodius

Glagolitic

- A teacher and linguist created the alphabet
- The leader who organized the Church in Moravia
- First alphabet for the Slavic language

Discussion Prompt

Why do you think it was so crucial for the Slavic people to hear the Gospel in their own language? Write 3–4 sentences.

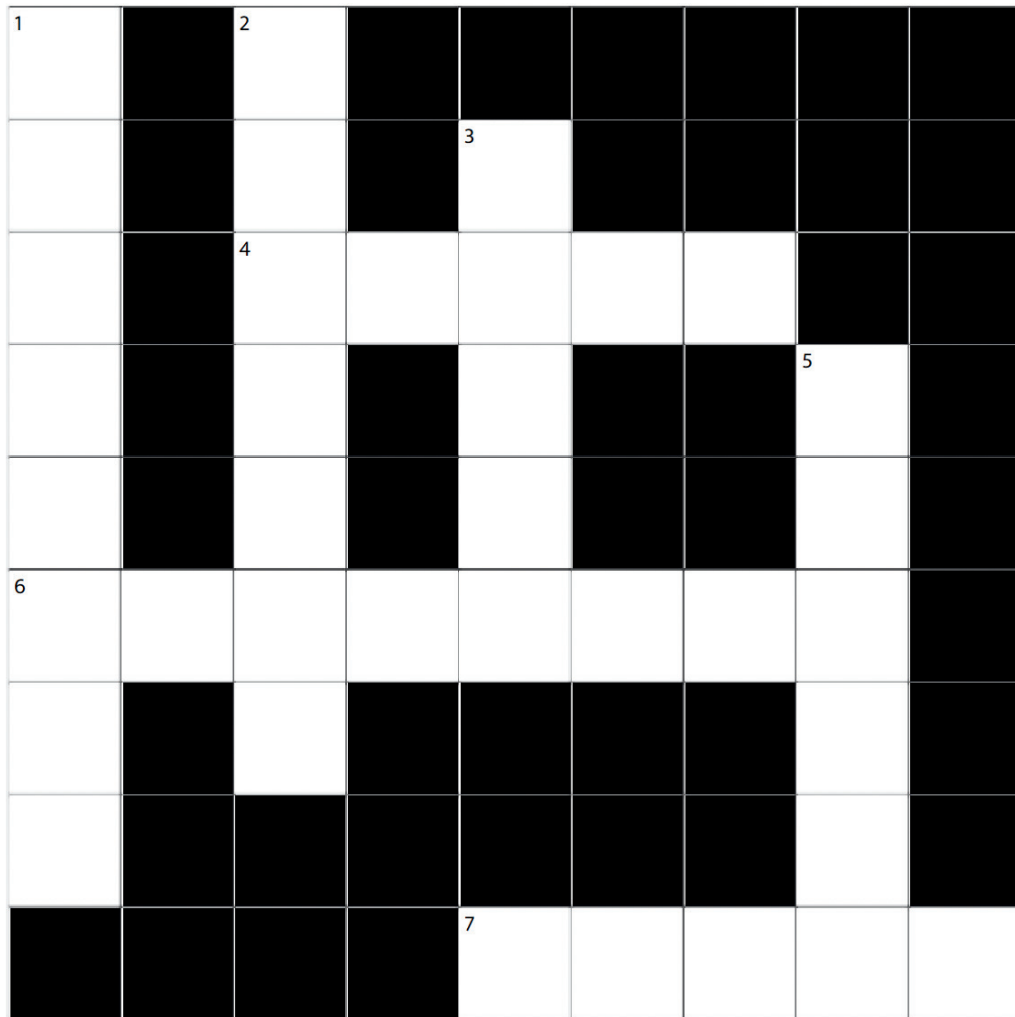
Creative Project

Using a simple Cyrillic alphabet chart, try writing your name in Cyrillic letters.

WORKSHEET



Complete the Crossword Puzzle



across

- 4 The people who received Cyril and Methodius' mission.
- 6 Cyril and Methodius were two holy
- 7 Holy book translated for the Slavs.

down

- 1 They created the Slavic _____ to read the Scriptures.
- 2 Cyril and Methodius were sent on a holy
- 3 Strong belief in God.
- 5 The Good News of Jesus Christ.