

Lesson #4

Topic: The Holy Tradition in the Orthodox Church

Lesson Plan

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

Lesson Duration: 45-60 minutes

Lesson Objective

- Students will learn about Holy Tradition.
- Students will understand its role in preserving and guiding the life of the Orthodox Church.

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Begin with prayer.
- Ask: *"How do families pass down important things like stories, recipes, or customs?"*
- Explain: Just as families pass down what is important, the Church has handed down the faith of Christ through something called **Holy Tradition**.

2. Teaching Points (10 minutes)

What is Holy Tradition?

- Holy Tradition is the life of the Church guided by the Holy Spirit.
- It encompasses the teachings and practices handed down from the time of the Apostles to the present.
- Holy Tradition is more than just "old customs"; it is the living presence of the Holy Spirit within the Church.

What is included in Holy Tradition?

1. **Holy Scriptures** – the Bible came from within the life of the Church.
2. **Creeds and Councils** – like the Nicene Creed, which summarizes our faith.
3. **Divine Liturgy and Worship** – the way we pray and celebrate the sacraments.
4. **Holy Fathers and Saints** – their writings and examples guide us.
5. **Holy Icons** – sacred images that teach us about God and the saints.
6. **Practices of Faith** – fasting, feasts, prayers, and blessings.

Why is Holy Tradition important?

- It keeps us connected to the Apostles and to Christ.
- It helps us understand the Bible correctly.
- It shows us how to live as Orthodox Christians.

3. Activities (15 minutes)

1. Discussion Questions

- How is Holy Tradition like a family recipe passed down?
- Why do we need both the Bible and Holy Tradition?
- Can you name a tradition in your family or parish that helps you feel closer to God?

2. Visual Activity

- Draw a tree labeled "Holy Tradition." The roots represent Christ and the Apostles, the trunk is the Church, and the branches include Scripture, Liturgy, Icons, Saints, and Practices.

3. Matching Game

- Match words (Bible, Icons, Liturgy, Nicene Creed, Fasting) with their place in Holy Tradition.

4. Take-Home Message

- Holy Tradition is the living faith of the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit.
- It is how the teachings of Christ and the Apostles are kept alive today.
- By following Holy Tradition, we stay united with the whole Church—past, present, and future.

5. Closing Prayer

"O Lord, keep us always faithful to Your Holy Church, and guide us to live in Your truth. Amen."

WORKSHEET – THE HOLY TRADITION IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Part A: Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the missing words.

1. Holy Tradition is the life of the _____ guided by the _____.
2. The Bible (Holy Scriptures) came from within the life of the _____.
3. The _____ Creed summarizes what we believe as Orthodox Christians.
4. Holy _____ are sacred images that teach us about Christ, the Mother of God, and the saints.
5. Holy Tradition keeps us connected to the _____ and to the present.

Part B: Matching

Draw a line to match the part of Holy Tradition with what it teaches.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Holy Scriptures | God and His saints. |
| 2. Creeds and Councils | c. The Word of God given to us through the Church. |
| 3. Divine Liturgy | d. The summary of faith, like the Nicene Creed. |
| 4. Holy Fathers and Saints | e. The way we worship and celebrate the sacraments. |
| 5. Holy Icons | |
| a. Their writings and examples guide us. | |
| b. Sacred images that teach us about | |

Part C: Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.


1. Holy Tradition is:
 - a) Just old customs from the past
 - b) The living faith of the Church guided by the Holy Spirit
 - c) Only about fasting rules
2. Why do we need Holy Tradition together with the Bible?
 - a) To help us understand and live the Bible correctly
 - b) Because we don't need the Bible
 - c) Only to make the Church more complicated
3. Which of these is NOT part of Holy Tradition?
 - a) The Bible
 - b) The Saints
 - c) Video games

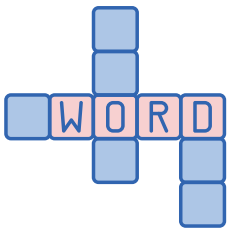
Part D: Short Answer

Answer in 1–2 sentences.

1. Why is Holy Tradition important for Orthodox Christians?

2. Can you name one tradition in your family or parish that helps you live your faith?

 **Teacher Note:** Encourage students to see Holy Tradition not as something old and distant, but as something alive and present in their daily Orthodox Christian life.



WORKSHEET

Discover the concealed words in this
word search puzzle.

A	O	F	V	A	T	G	X	F	I
P	R	I	C	O	N	S	A	U	Y
O	G	B	D	H	M	I	L	A	K
S	C	S	C	F	T	I	E	D	Z
T	M	M	Z	H	C	S	E	O	Q
L	G	Q	T	N	U	E	V	S	Q
E	R	B	U	C	R	R	U	U	N
S	Y	O	W	C	S	R	C	O	U
C	C	R	K	H	Y	L	O	H	Q
T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	S

**HOLY; TRADITION; CHURCH; APOSTLES;
COUNCIL; CREED; FAITH; ICONS**