

9th & 10th Grades

We recognize that students come with different experiences and levels of knowledge around these topics. The following Learning Ladder is meant to serve as a first reference point for Sunday church school educators and not a rigid rubric for instruction. Teachers may choose to explore these topics at different levels or in combinations of levels. We encourage you to see what your students might already know about a topic and let that inform your instruction around it. This Learning Ladder is meant to serve as a starting guide for teachers and Sunday church school program leaders as they discuss together what, when, and how they want to embed catechetical learning into their programs.



Focus Areas for the Year

- ☐ Examining times of division and persecution
- ☐ Engaging with spiritual struggle (hesychasm, repentance, witness)
- ☐ Deepening understanding of the sacraments and liturgy

Orthodox Worship

- ☐ Cycles of Feasts/Fasts

Feasts

- ☐ Revisit the Marian Feasts

Lent & Pascha

- ☐ Deep dive into texts of Holy Week
 - Holy Friday Lamentations
 - Holy Thursday Gospels
 - Bridegroom Parables & Exaposteilarion

Holy Mysteries

- ☐ Eucharist
- ☐ Baptism
- ☐ Chrismation
- ☐ Confession

Essential Questions for 9th & 10th Grades



- How do we stay faithful during hardship?
- What is the role of prayer in spiritual struggle and transformation?
- How has the Church endured and remained faithful throughout history?

Church Fathers & Lives of the Saints

- ☐ Gregory Palamas
- ☐ New martyrs under the Turks
- ☐ St Symeon the New Theologian

Church History

- ☐ Division, oppression, and deepening the spiritual life
 - The Great Schism
 - Fall of Constantinople
 - The hesychast controversy
 - Faithful witness under foreign rule.

Old Testament Literacy

- ☐ Messianic prophecies & types

New Testament Literacy

- ☐ John's Prologue
- ☐ "I am" statements

Texts of the Faith

- ☐ Psalm 51
- ☐ Anaphora
- ☐ Paschal Homily

Resources

www.orthodoxlearningladder.com

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