

Pre-Kindergarten

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.



Themes for the Year

- How to be in Church
- God loves everyone.
- Celebrating Jesus together

Focus Areas

- Experiencing God's love through the Church's rhythms and people
- Knowing "I belong" in the Church
- Practicing reverence through simple actions (crossing, icons, candles)

Orthodox Worship

- We make the sign of the cross and light candles to show reverence in church.
- We show love for Jesus and the saints by kissing icons.

Feasts

- Palm Sunday
- Sunday of Orthodoxy

Lent & Pascha

- Pascha is a joyful Feast of Light celebrating Jesus's victory.

Holy Mysteries

- Jesus is with us when we receive Holy Communion.
- We receive Holy Communion with reverence.

Essential Questions for Pre-Kindergarten



- Who is Jesus, & how do I know He loves me?
- What do I do when I come to church?
- What makes the Church a holy place?

Church Fathers & Lives of the Saints

- Who is my patron saint?
- The saints help strengthen our faith and connection to God through prayer.

Church History

- The Church is a place of worship.

Old Testament Literacy

- Stories of God's love.
 - Noah's Ark
 - Daniel & the Lion's Den

New Testament Literacy

- Stories of Jesus welcoming others
 - Jesus blessing the children
 - Zacchaeus

Texts of the Faith

- Say/sing words and phrases from the Liturgy like "Alleluia" and "Amen"
- Sing "Lord Have Mercy"

Resources

www.orthodoxlearningladder.com

Email: aodce@antiochian.org