









FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
17	1	1	FAITH	SCRIPTURE	71: Biblical Genres and Use

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes (Mod. = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spatial S	Kinaesthetic K	Musical M	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [copy this:] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

Prayer: "Shine into our hearts, O loving master, the pure light of your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds to an understanding of your Gospel teachings. Amen"

Starter: Write down examples of NON-religious texts that are mainly HISTORY, POETRY, FICTION, MYTHOLOGY, NOVELS, PLAYS, NON-FICTION, SELF HELP BOOKS

Learning objectives:

- To understand that the Bible is a library of books written by different people at different times with different genres and goals. These are inspired words, collected and authorised by the Church. They are "words about the Word (Christ)".
- To learn the basics of how the Bible should be used rather than abused.

Core Activities and Learning

- Hand out the Bibles (share if necessary). From the students' existing knowledge (the Leader may have to prompt a little here), try and get the group to identify the genres of literature identified in the Starter task (above) which apply (predominantly) to different books of the Bible. For example, History in the Gospels, Poetry / Hymns in the Psalms, Self Help / Wisdom in Proverbs etc. Make it clear that the Bible is not a primitive science text book if they raise issues about Genesis and evolution!

The Leader explains that the Bible is a library of books collected and authorised over thousands of years by the Church of the Old Testament and the Church of the New Testament – the People of God, the Community of Faith. Inspired by God and having the authority of the Church as her own books, every Christian should take pains to study the texts with help from the Fathers who have given us reliable interpretations.

- Nice and neat distinctions between fact and meaning, between history and interpretation cannot be made. Consider this from St. John's Gospel: - How does it help us to understand the purpose of the Gospels better?

"³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31)

DISCUSS: What difference would it make to the Gospels if they were only historical records? What difference would it make if historical accuracy was unimportant and they only consisted of stories with meanings? Why does the Church teach that, instead, these are historical records WITH meanings embedded in the accounts themselves?

- Have a discussion about how the Bible can be abused (by separating it from the Church), by treating it as a personal oracle, by removing it from the context of worship, by taking everything literally etc.

Resources: Notepaper, pens, complete Bibles to share (preferably the Orthodox canonical texts / collection)

Review: Christ is God the Word made flesh. The Bible is a collection of inspired words about this Word. (Christ).

Follow Up: For next week as the students to bring with them one of their favourite biblical texts and to share why this is so.