


FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
18	1	1	FAITH	HOLY TRADITION	79: 5 th & 6 th Ecumenical Councils

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: Trisagion Prayers

Starter: Discuss: When Jesus made a decision, what was happening with his will?.

Learning objective: To understand how the 5th and 6th Ecumenical Councils require us to understand and believe that the human powers of Christ always sit alongside, distinctly and in an unconfused union with his divine powers in His single Person.

Core Activities and Learning

There was “unfinished business” left over from the 4th Ecumenical Council, but only because this Council was not accepted by the Monophysites who denied any kind of duality in the human and divine natures of Christ. Understandably Emperors and Bishops wanted to deal with this unhappy situation. They turned their attention to the powers of Christ, his will / wills and his energy / energies in order to see whether any compromise could be reached with the Monophysites.

The Leader should read the Resource Sheet (79) which deals with these issues in more depth. It is NOT expected that students learn and recall all the historical details but it is necessary that they understand why monothelitism and monoenergism are heresies and unacceptable to the Orthodox. The best way to do this is to take an event from the life of Christ and examine the consequences should these heresies be accepted. Correspondingly, they need to appreciate the positive aspect of affirming the two will and the two energies united in a Chalcedonian manner in the single Divine Logos and Personhood of Christ. These failed heretical compromises, in any case, did not reconcile the Monophysites.

SUGGESTED NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGE FOR EXAMINING THESE HERESIES

Christ's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)

- Read the passage together.
- Answer these questions:
 - If Jesus had one will and one energy could he even pray to the Father? How would he even know God's will perfectly unless his human and divine wills were perfectly connected yet distinct?
 - Apply the same question to (a) his reluctance from a human point of view to drink from the cup of suffering and yet his freely willed submission to this (b) the need for his flesh to be harmoniously subject to His Spirit (not falling asleep). Can he truly share our human condition AND present an obedient response to the call to sacrifice Himself without the “united duality” presented to us by the 4th, 5th and 6th Ecumenical Councils.
- Ask the students if they can think of any other examples in the Gospels where NOT accepting the 4th, 5th and 6th Councils would misinterpret Scripture and compromise our salvation. You will need to explore examples where Christ's energy and will are involved; for example, when he exorcises demons by prayer or heals the sick.
- Although this is not formally part of the lesson, if they are interested, the students can take away with them a copy of the Resource Sheet for session 79.

Resources: 5th and 6th Ecumenical Council Resource Sheet, Bibles

Review: The 5th and 6th Ecumenical Councils define clearly the humanity and divinity of Christ as expressed in the necessity for conjoined human and divine wills and energies in Christ. Without this, salvation is impossible.

Follow Up: Over the remaining course of this half term the students should memorise the Nicene Creed off by heart. At the end check that they can actually do this!