









FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
18	2	3	HOLINESS	Desert Fathers and Mothers	78: St Mary of Egypt

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	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: What does chastity mean?

Learning objectives:

NOTE: There are issues in this lesson that must be sensitively handled with clarity but without judgement. Some of the themes concern sexuality but, of course, this is now an adult group!

The lesson explores chastity and continence in the context of repentance and self-control using the life of St Mary of Egypt as an example and resource.

Core Activities and Learning

1. Intro (Leader)

Our venerable mother Mary of Egypt was a desert ascetic who repented of a life of prostitution. She lived during the sixth century, and passed away in a remarkable manner in 522. The Church celebrates her feast day on the day of her repose, April 1; additionally, she is commemorated on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, the fifth Sunday in Great Lent.

2. The group shares the reading of the Life of St Mary of Egypt. Summary here:- https://orthodoxwiki.org/Mary_of_Egypt

3. Ask the group to identify the MAIN POINT of the story. There should be some disagreement here to be resolved. To aid debate, here are a few options (all of these are correct but not all the points are primary in the story).

- a) Sex before marriage is sinful
- b) Casual sex is damaging and sinful
- c) Not everyone is called to be a monk or a nun but if you are you must be celibate
- d) St Mary was a really dedicated follower of Christ
- e) Any disordered desire can block your friendship with God but we can change (MAIN POINT)
- f) There's hope even for the worst of sinners.

4. A more wide-ranging discussion will certainly emerge up to and including this point in the lecture. Review the work in Year 16, Term 3 module 5 if necessary.

5. If this lesson raises any troubling matters for any student (which probably will only be raised privately), if necessary, encourage contact with the parish priest and / or spiritual father / mother.

Resources: https://orthodoxwiki.org/Mary_of_Egypt

Review: Disordered desires (the passions) can block your friendship with God but we can change.

Follow Up: Research the life of St Pachomius