




FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

| Age | Term | Mod. | Module Theme | Module Title | Lesson Number and Title |
|-----|------|------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| 13 | 2 | 4 | CELEBRATIONS | GREEK FATHERS | 51: St Irenaeus of Lyons |

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)

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| Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Logical L <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Spatial S | Kinaesthetic K | Musical M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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: Lord's Prayer

Starter: Ask students what a saint is and how someone becomes a saint. Write down what saint do. Share and discuss them.

Learning objectives:

To have a general biographical knowledge of St. Irenaeus of Lyon and then to concentrate on understanding his teaching of apostolic succession against the heresy of Gnosticism.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The leader tells or reads the life of St. Irenaeus of Lyons.

RESOURCE: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irenaeus>

Discuss the life and ministry of St Ignatius in small groups and record the findings presenting these to class. What lessons can be learned from the witness of the saint? Included in your presentation to the students must be the material in (2) below.

2. St Irenaeus fought a long and hard battle against those who sought to draw people away from the Christian faith. Most important among these were the Gnostics who tried to present Christianity as a secret that only they knew how to explain, claiming ancient hidden knowledge passed down from Christ Himself. They often combined these ideas of secret knowledge with a very negative view of this world, thinking it as being created by a secondary deity or Demiurge. None of this is, of course compatible with Orthodox Christianity where the saving Gospel is preached openly, Christ Himself creating and commissioning the Church to continue this work. Neither is Gnosticism compatible with the Universe being both supremely good and created by one and the same God. Apart from exposing the self serving lies of the Gnostics, St Irenaeus had a crucial question for any heretic (false teacher): "Who is your bishop?" This is because all Orthodox bishops uphold the same faith by remaining united (in communion) with each other. Heretics do not maintain this unity and continuity.

Read the quotes from St Irenaeus on what is commonly called "Apostolic Succession" on Worksheet 51. Help the students (as a group exercise) to complete the task on the sheet. Explain how only the Orthodox Church has preserved this continuity in faith and practice to the present day.

3. Read or, preferably, sing together: Hieromartyr Irenaeus the Bishop of Lyons Troparion — Tone 4

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / you became a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. / Hieromartyr Irenaeus, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Resources: Resource Sheet 51, pens, notepaper etc.

Review: St Irenaeus fought for the faith of Church because only this faith can save/

Follow Up: Read the saint's life story and write down what impressed you most. Share with the group.