









FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
13	2	4	CELEBRATION	GREEK FATHERS	52: St Gregory the Theologian

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: Lord's Prayer

Starter: Why might poetry sometimes be a more powerful means of communicating Christian doctrine? (St Gregory's teaching has a strong poetic dimension. Poetry "stretches" language which theology needs when talking about God).

Learning objectives: To have a general biographical knowledge of St. Gregory the Theologian and understand his contribution to the doctrine of the Trinity in the 4th Century.

Core Activities and Learning

- The leader tells or reads the life of St. Gregory the Theologian
RESOURCE: https://orthodoxwiki.org/Gregory_the_Theologian

Discuss the life and ministry of St Gregory in small groups and record the findings presenting these to class. What lessons can be learned from the witness of the saint? Include in the lesson that he is a great author. His literary works (orations, letters, poems) show him as a very talented preacher of the truth of Christ. His most significant theological contribution is his defence of the doctrine of the Trinity. At the Second Ecumenical Council in 381, Saint Gregory was chosen as Patriarch of Constantinople. After the death of Patriarch Meletios of Antioch, Saint Gregory was selected to lead the Council.

- Activity 1: Read the quotes from St Gregory on Worksheet 52. Help the students (as a group exercise) to complete the task on the sheet. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the most hidden mystery. In his vision is the unity of the three hypostases, equal with each other, united among themselves? Explain according to St Gregory the Theologian, the Holy Trinity is one because the Father is the eternal cause of the Son and Spirit. Gregory solves the question of divine unity by using together consubstantiality and the monarchy of the Father. The one God is God the Father, just as we confess in the Nicene Creed: "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty."

- Activity 2: Divide the students into two groups. Ask the first group to draw a river and the other – sun. The first group should think about what a river is, where is it coming from, where is its beginning etc. and the second to think about the sun. Report to the class. Then the leader explains that St Gregory used these images to explain the Holy Trinity.

- Read or, preferably, sing together:

Apolytikion: (First Tone) The pastoral flute of your theology conquered the trumpets of orators. For it called upon the depths of the Spirit and you were enriched with the beauty of words. Intercede to Christ our God, O Father Gregory, that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion: (Third Tone) O Glorious One, you dispelled the complexities of orators with the words of your theology. You have adorned the Church with the vesture of Orthodoxy woven from on high. Clothed in this, the Church now cries out to your children, with us, "Hail Father, the consummate theological mind."

Resources: Resource Sheet 52, pens, notepaper, art materials.

Review: St Gregory (Nazianzen) is one of only 3 saints in the Church to be given the title "Theologian." His brilliance was in his God given wisdom to express the historic teaching and experience of the Church in restrained and intelligible forms.

Follow Up: Who were the Cappadocian Fathers and why are they important?