








## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
12	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	SAINTS OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST	50: St John of Damascus

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 <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 to name one thing that impressed them from St Simeons's life. Why?

**Learning objectives:** To have a general biographical knowledge of St. John of Damascus; how he became a saint; his writings and theology

### Core Activities and Learning

1. Read the life of St. John of Damascus here: [https://orthodoxwiki.org/John\\_of\\_Damascus](https://orthodoxwiki.org/John_of_Damascus) or here <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2016/12/04/103473-martyr-john-of-damascus>

Discuss the life and ministry of St John of Damascus in small groups and record findings, presenting them to the class. Discuss why he was glorified as a saint. What were his gifts?

2. Ask the students if they know what iconoclasm is and what it means? Tell them about the heresy of Iconoclasm and that Saint John wrote three treatises entitled, "Against Those who Revile the Holy Icons." Because of this Saint John was removed from his post and his right hand was cut off. Tell them the story about how his hand was healed.
3. Activity 2: Leader asks the students what they think about giving away to the poor their favorite items/goods. Would they be able to do it in the name of God as St John did? What do they think about his obedience? Do we have to obey in our own way to be saved? What makes this so difficult and what can be done about it?
4. Read or preferably sing together:

#### Troparion (Tone 8)

Champion of Orthodoxy, teacher of purity and of true worship, the enlightener of the universe and the adornment of hierarchs: all-wise father John, your teachings have gleamed with light upon all things. Intercede before Christ God to save our souls.

#### Kontakion (Tone 4)

Let us sing praises to John, worthy of great honour, the composer of hymns, the star and teacher of the Church, the defender of her doctrines: through the might of the Lord's Cross he overcame heretical error and as a fervent intercessor before God he entreats that forgiveness of sins may be granted to all.

**Resources:** paper and pens

**Review:** Saint John of Damascus was a theologian and a defender of Orthodoxy. His most important book is the Fount of Knowledge. The third section of this work, "On the Orthodox Faith," is a summary of Orthodox doctrine and a refutation of heresy. Since he was known as a hymnographer, we pray to Saint John for help in the study of church singing.

**Follow Up:** Research others saintly defenders of the icons (such as St. Theodore the Studite, St. Nicephorus [Nicephoros], Patriarch Of Constantinople)