

WEEK 11: LITURGY - EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

GOALS

What is an epistle? Who wrote them?
What is the Gospel? Who wrote them?

LESSON

*Lesson on epistles and the Gospel below - covers pages 41-44 in "Christ Amongst Us"
Sing "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John" <https://youtu.be/nRK-v9M-CAI>*

Lesson on epistles:

Have any of you ever received a birthday card or a letter from someone you know in the mail? The apostles would also write letters to groups of people or a person. These letters were called an epistle. Every single Sunday, during the Divine Liturgy, we hear one of these letters - or epistles - being read to us by one of our chanters.

These letters were very important to the people who received them. Each letter gave them instructions about how they should act towards one another and about God. The people cherished these letters and shared them with others. These letters were so important we still read and share them with each other even today!

You can find all of these letters in the Bible. Most of them were written by the Apostle Paul, but other men also wrote some epistles. Their names were James, Peter, John, and Jude. *Read today's epistle reading to the students from the Orthodox Children's Online Bible Reader: <http://cbr.goarch.org> - You can find the epistle reading at: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel>*

Let's see how much you remember!

What is an epistle? (It's a letter.)

Who wrote the epistles? (Paul wrote most of them but also James, Peter, John, and Jude.)

When do we hear an epistle being read? (At church every Sunday)

Who reads it? (One of our chanters)

Lesson on Gospels:

Do you remember from our song who wrote the four Gospel books? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) Let's sing it!

Right after we hear the epistle reading every Sunday, we hear the Gospel reading from Fr. Vasile or Dn. George. The Gospel reading is very important because all of the Gospels teach us about God. We learn about Jesus' birth. Then we learn about how and what Jesus taught people while he was on this earth. And finally, we learn about his crucifixion and Resurrection!

(Show picture of the priest holding the Gospel book.) You can find all of the Gospel readings in your Bible, but Fr. Vasile has a book on the altar that has been lovingly decorated - because we cherish the instructions that Jesus gave us - and only contains the four Gospel books. Every time we see the Gospel book being opened, we should listen carefully because we are about to learn something very important.

Read today's Gospel reading to the students from the Orthodox Children's Online Bible Reader: <http://cbr.goarch.org> - You can find the Gospel reading at: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel>

Now, let's see how much you remember about our lesson on the Gospel.

How many Gospel books are there? (4)

Who wrote them? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

When do we hear a story from the Gospel? (Every Sunday, after the epistle reading.)

What are the Gospels about? (Jesus' birth, what He taught people while He was on this earth, His death, and His resurrection)

WEEK 11: LITURGY - EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

1ST - 2ND GRADE

GOALS

What is an epistle? Who wrote them?
What is the Gospel? Who wrote them?

LESSON

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Let's see how much you remember!

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Who wrote the epistles? (Paul wrote most of them but also James, Peter, John, and Jude.)

When do we hear an epistle being read? (At church every Sunday)

Who reads it? (One of our chanters)

Lesson on Gospels:

Do you remember from our song who wrote the four Gospel books? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) Let's sing it!

Right after we hear the epistle reading every Sunday, we hear the Gospel reading from Fr. Vasile or Dn. George. The Gospel reading is very important because all of the Gospels teach us about God. We learn about Jesus' birth. Then we learn about how and what Jesus taught people while he was on this earth. And finally, we learn about his crucifixion and Resurrection!

(Show picture of the priest holding the Gospel book.) You can find all of the Gospel readings in your Bible, but Fr. Vasile has a book on the altar that has been lovingly decorated - because we cherish the instructions that Jesus gave us - and only contains the four Gospel books. Every time we see the Gospel book being opened, we should listen carefully because we are about to learn something very important.

Read today's Gospel reading to the students from the Orthodox Children's Online Bible Reader: <http://cbr.goarch.org> - You can find the Gospel reading at: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel>

Now, let's see how much you remember about our lesson on the Gospel.

How many Gospel books are there? (4)

Who wrote them? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

When do we hear a story from the Gospel? (Every Sunday, after the epistle reading.)

What are the Gospels about? (Jesus' birth, what He taught people while He was on this earth, His death, and His resurrection)

WEEK 11: LITURGY - EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

3RD - 5TH GRADE

GOALS

What is an epistle? Who wrote them?
What is the Gospel? Who wrote them?

LESSON

*Lesson on epistles and the Gospel below - covers pages 41-44 in "Christ Amongst Us"
Read today's epistle and Gospel readings*

Lesson on epistles:

An epistle is a formal letter written to a person or a group of people from one of the apostles - Paul, James, Peter, John, and Jude - to instruct the people about God. These letters were shared and read aloud by the early Christians. The epistles were greatly cherished. So much so that we still read these letters today! Every time we attend a Divine Liturgy, we will hear one of the chanters read part of the epistles just before we hear the holy Gospel reading.

(Show attached handout of the books of the Bible)

The book of Acts is included in our epistle readings but is not a letter. Rather, it is a historical account of the early Church during the time of the apostles.

The books of Romans - Jude are all letters written to a person or group of people from one of the apostles. These books are also read as part of our epistle readings.

St. Paul wrote the books of Romans - Hebrews. He wrote to the people of Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, Thessalonica, and to individuals (and their families) - Timothy, Titus, Philemon, as well as to the Hebrews which was "written to Greek-speaking Jewish Christians, perhaps in Palestine, who were being drawn back to Judaism." (Orthodox Study Bible)

Read today's epistle reading to the students from the Orthodox Children's Online Bible Reader: <http://cbr.goarch.org> - You can find the epistle reading at: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel>

Lesson on Gospels:

Directly after the epistle reading, either the priest or the deacon will read the Gospel reading for the day. Gospel means “good news.” It is called the good news because it tells us about the life of Christ and that He came down to earth in order to save each and every one of us.

(Show handout of the books of the Bible.)

Do you remember who wrote the four Gospels? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) These were men who wrote down the life of Christ, what He taught, and some of the miracles He did while on the earth. These stories would be read or told over and over again by the early Christians. Eventually, great meetings were held to determine which writings would be included in the Bible, but during the early years of Christianity, the Bible as we know it today didn't exist yet. The Bible is split into two main sections - the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament.

Read today's Gospel reading to the students from the Orthodox Children's Online Bible Reader: <http://cbr.goarch.org> - You can find the epistle reading at: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel>

Review:

What is an epistle? (A formal letter)

Who wrote the epistles? (Some of the apostles)

How many Gospels are there? (4)

Who wrote the Gospels? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

Who reads the epistle reading during the Divine Liturgy? (One of our chanters)

Who reads the Gospel reading during the Divine Liturgy? (Either the priest or the deacon)

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

The New Testament

THE GOSPELS

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

BOOK OF HISTORY

Acts

EPISTLES OF ST. PAUL

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

THE GENERAL EPISTLES

James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

BOOK OF PROPHECY

Revelation

WEEK 11: LITURGY - EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

What is an epistle? Who wrote them?
What is the Gospel? Who wrote them?

LESSON

Lesson on epistles and the Gospel below - covers pages 41-44 in "Christ Amongst Us"
Read today's epistle and Gospel readings

Lesson on epistles:

An epistle is a formal letter written to a person or a group of people from one of the apostles - Paul, James, Peter, John, and Jude - to instruct the people about God. These letters were shared and read aloud by the early Christians. The epistles were greatly cherished. So much so that we still read these letters today! Every time we attend a Divine Liturgy, we will hear one of the chanters read part of the epistles just before we hear the holy Gospel reading.

(Show handout of the books of the Bible)

The book of Acts is included in our epistle readings but is not a letter. Rather, it is a historical account of the early Church during the time of the apostles.

The books of Romans - Jude are all letters written to a person or group of people from one of the apostles. These books are also read as part of our epistle readings during the Divine Liturgy.

St. Paul wrote the books of Romans - Hebrews. He wrote to the people of Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, Thessalonica, and to individuals (and their families) - Timothy, Titus, Philemon, as well as to the Hebrews which was "written to Greek-speaking Jewish Christians, perhaps in Palestine, who were being drawn back to Judaism." (Orthodox Study Bible)

Read today's epistle reading to the students: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel>

Lesson on Gospels:

Directly after the epistle reading, either the priest or the deacon will read the Gospel reading for the day. Gospel means “good news.” It is called the good news because it tells us about the life of Christ and that He came down to earth in order to save each and every one of us.

(Show attached handout of the books of the Bible.)

The 4 evangelists - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - wrote the 4 Gospels. An evangelist is one who wrote a Gospel. These men wrote down the life of Christ, what He taught, and some of the miracles He did while on the earth. These stories would be read or told over and over again by the early Christians. Eventually, councils were held to determine which writings would be included in the Bible, but during the early years of Christianity, the Bible as we know it today, didn't exist yet. The Bible is split into two main sections - the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament.

Read today's Gospel reading to the students: <https://www.goarch.org/chapel>

Review:

What is an epistle? (A formal letter)

Who wrote the epistles? (Some of the apostles)

How many Gospels are there? (4)

Who wrote the Gospels? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

What do we call someone who wrote a Gospel? (An evangelist)

Who reads the epistle reading during the Divine Liturgy? (One of our chanters)

Who reads the Gospel reading during the Divine Liturgy? (Either the priest or the deacon)

If you have icons of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John: Oftentimes, we are given a major clue into the life of the saint by looking at what they are holding in their hand. What are each of the four evangelists holding in their hands in these icons? (A Gospel)

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE:

The New Testament

THE GOSPELS

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

BOOK OF HISTORY

Acts

EPISTLES OF ST. PAUL

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

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Philippians

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Hebrews

THE GENERAL EPISTLES

James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

BOOK OF PROPHECY

Revelation

WEEK 11: LITURGY - EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

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LESSON

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Read today's epistle and Gospel readings

Lesson on epistles:

Just before the epistle is read, the prokeimenon is said. It is a short verse from the psalms related to that day or feast. It is meant to introduce the epistle reading and to show the revelation of God's Word to the prophets from the Old Testament. For example:
Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 103. "He makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire. Bless the Lord, O my soul."

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