TEACHER'S REFERENCE

Delivery & Differentiation

Lesson Purpose: Students learn that Holy Scripture belongs to the living worship and Holy Tradition of the Orthodox Church. Scripture is proclaimed, prayed, preserved, and interpreted within the Church.

Core Teaching: Holy Scripture is the Church's inspired written witness. The same Holy Spirit Who inspired Scripture guides the Church in preserving and rightly understanding it.

Early Learner Emphasis: The Bible is a holy book. We hear it in church, pray its words, and learn about Jesus through it.

Elementary Emphasis: Distinguish Old and New Testaments; Gospel, Epistle, and Psalter; introduce Scripture within Holy Tradition.

Older Student Extension: Divine inspiration; apostolic Tradition; reception and preservation of Scripture; liturgical and patristic interpretation.

Theological Safeguard: Do not present Scripture and Holy Tradition as competitors. Do not present private interpretation as an Orthodox method of reading Scripture.

Main Point to Remember
"Holy Scripture lives in the Church: we hear it proclaimed, pray it, preserve it, and learn to understand it within the life of God's people."

Patristic Interpretation Safeguard
Teachers must not present their own private interpretation of difficult or disputed passages as the teaching of the Church. Use the Holy Fathers, canonized Saints, or trustworthy contemporary Orthodox teachers whose explanation clearly rests upon the patristic tradition.

Personal reading is encouraged. Private interpretation is not.

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Answer Key & Resource Control

SAINT SERGIUS SCHOOL

Discussion Questions — Teacher Answer Key

1. What is Holy Scripture?
Answer: The sacred writings of the Bible received by the Church. Its two great parts are the Old Testament and New Testament.

2. What does the Old Testament prepare us for?
Answer: The coming of Christ, the Saviour.

3. Name two ways Scripture is used in Orthodox worship.
Answer: Examples include Gospel and Epistle readings, Psalms, Old Testament readings, prayers, and hymns filled with biblical words and images.

4. Matching:
Gospel → C
Epistle → A
Psalter → D
Holy Tradition → B

5. Why read Scripture within the life of the Church?
Answer: Because Scripture was received and preserved by the Church and is rightly understood within Holy Tradition, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the witness of the Holy Fathers and Saints.

6. How could Scripture become a greater part of Christian life?
Answer: Answers vary. Encourage prayerful reading, attentive listening in worship, learning a Psalm or Gospel passage, and seeking faithful Orthodox guidance when a passage is difficult.

The Law of God
Supporting Reading: Part IV, Chapter 2 — Supernatural Divine Revelation. Holy Tradition and Holy Scripture; Part V, Chapter 5 — Divine Service Books.

Controlled Sources
SSS Year 1 Annual Curriculum MASTER v1.1; The Law of God; official Orthodox catechetical and patristic resources approved for this lesson.

Image Provenance
See lesson Sources & Rights record.