

10th – 12th grade Sunday School teaching template – by George Koulianos
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A Few Basic Concepts

- Adolescents are busier now than ever
- Sunday School is optional
- Have fun
- Sunday School attendance drops dramatically in High School for all faiths
- Lectures do not work
- Tying lesson to current events helps. It's amazing what you will find in the newspaper
- Allow students to choose a few lessons
- A shorter more meaningful lesson is better than a longer drawn out lesson
- Bring food
- Adolescents are looking for meaning
- The strongest influence on an adolescent is a strong Church youth group
- Peer pressure is both an asset and a liability
- The adolescent brain is wired differently than yours or mine (The New York Academy of Sciences had an excellent symposium a few years ago. You only need to read the introduction)
 - § Shorter attention spans
 - § Need greater stimulation to keep attention

Sample Curriculum

1. First Chapter of Genesis. Discuss mankind's creation and the importance of being created in his image and likeness.
2. Church calendar, church year, major feast days and that history is circular rather than linear (Revolving around Christ's death and resurrection). Two weeks.
3. Interchangeable modules each lasting 6 to 8 weeks
 - a. The Sacraments
 - b. The Bible
 - c. The Creed
 - d. The Divine Liturgy

- e. Teenage 10 Commandments
4. Advent and Christmas (four weeks).
 - a. Review Old Testament prophecies and play Handel's Messiah
 - b. Read the Conception and Nativity stories in the New Testament and discuss
 - c. Discuss the Wise men and their significance
 - d. Read portions of Dickens Christmas Carol relations to Malory and the chains that bind him. Use chains as prop.
5. Christmas break
6. Discuss Theophany and John the Baptist (one week)
7. Review each Oratorical topic and discuss (6-8 weeks). All students to work on topic in class. Host a writing party the week before your Parish event with food and all the resources. Have mentors there and help students with their topics
8. Discuss Prelent, Lent, daily Bible readings with an emphasis on daily Old Testament readings and Proverbs, Paraklesis and the Panayia, Holy Week, Pascha (4 weeks).

Resources

- Orthodox Study Bible
- The Divine Liturgy books (St. John Chrysostom, St. James and St. Basil) and Zine
- Zines
- The Orthodox Church by Bishop Timothy Ware
- The Law of God
- The Prologue of Ochrid
- OCA Junior High curriculum book for Church calendar and Dickens lessons
- Fr. Calivas' 4 volume set
- Holy Week book
- Paraklesis book
- Hear Me
- Goarch.org
- Protoevangelion of James

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need additional info,