

Teachers



The saint we will study in this session is St. John Chrysostom (KRIS-SOS-TOM).

Write his name here: _____

St. John Chrysostom was born in the city of Antioch in 347 A.D. Antioch was a large beautiful city and had a strong Christian community. But there were non-Christians as well in Antioch. St. John Chrysostom's father was a non-Christian and his mother was a Christian. When he was a young boy, St. John became a Christian. He became a monk. He went out into the wilderness and lived as a hermit in a cave with only animal skins to keep him warm. He studied and prayed to God all day and night. His study of the Bible and prayer gave him spiritual strength. When he returned to Antioch he was ordained a priest.

As a priest in Antioch St. John became well known as a preacher. He was a small man, but he seemed great to the people who listened to him preach. He spoke the word of God; he told of the kingdom of heaven; and people listened to him and learned. They gave him the nickname, "Chrysostom," which means "golden-mouthed" (the Armenian is *Vosgeperan*).

One of St. John Chrysostom's teachings was that people should live simple lives. They should not be concerned with money or fancy clothes or homes, but they should pay more attention to studying the Bible, learning the way to righteousness. He even criticized some of the priests for being too worldly which they did not like.

St. John Chrysostom was consecrated as the Patriarch of Constantinople in 398 A.D. The Emperor of Constantinople was a very weak man. His wife the Empress Eudoxia (U-DOX-EE-A) was an evil person who had power over her husband. She knew that the people had a great love and respect for St. John Chrysostom and she was jealous of him. The Empress mocked him by pretending to be a humble person, but she was really making fun of him. Some of the priests and bishops were also against St. John because he had criticized their fancy, un-Christian ways. They took Empress Eudoxia's side.

The Empress had St. John sent into exile. This means he was forbidden to live in Constantinople. Can you imagine the Patriarch of the church being sent away? But remember, St. John was a pious, humble Christian leader. He was a great Christian teacher and he knew he would be victorious.

While he was gone, an earthquake shook the city. Empress Eudoxia was very frightened and the next day she had St. John brought back from exile. He returned, but continued to speak against Eudoxia and her evil ways.

She had a large silver statue made of herself and had it placed near the

cathedral where St. John Chrysostom preached.

St. John spoke against the statue, saying it should be melted down. This was the last straw for the Empress. This time St. John would be sent into exile for good.

For many years St. John wandered in exile. He continued to write against evil-doers. And he continued the work of our Lord, teaching wherever he went.

He reached Armenia a very weak and tired man, and he died there on September 14, 407 A.D.

St. John Chrysostom will always be remembered by the church for his way of making Jesus come to the people. They could truly understand the teachings of the Lord and their knowledge of his love for them was great.

□

Here are some of the greatest sayings and teachings of St. John Chrysostom:

The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much.

All seek joy, but it is not found on earth.

The ashes of martyrs drive away demons.

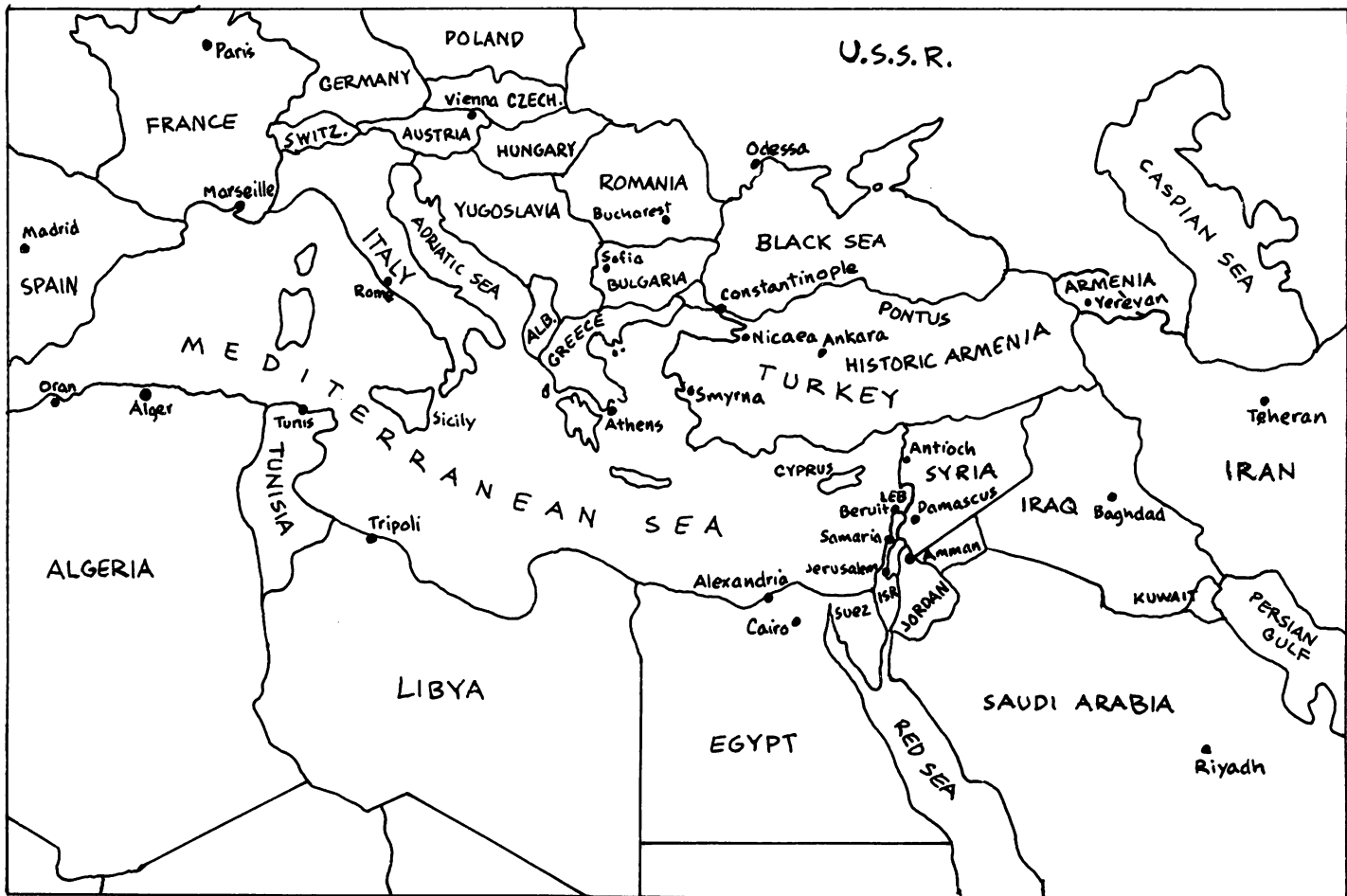
Riches are not forbidden, but the pride of them is.

Mercy imitates God, and disappoints Satan.

Let us despise money.

Sorrow is given us on purpose to cure us of sin.

Although it be with truth thou speakest evil, this is also a crime.



Study the Map.

Find the cities on the map where these great Saints and Fathers of the

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. St. Polycarp | b. 69 A.D. |
| 2. St. Justin | b. 100 A.D. |
| 3. St. Justin | d. 165 A.D. |
| 4. St. Athanasius | b. 298 A.D. |
| 5. St. Athanasius | d. 325 A.D. (spoke at Council) |
| 6. St. John Chrysostom | b. 347 A.D. |
| 7. St. John Chrysostom | — Patriarch of which city? |
| 8. St. John Chrysostom | d. 407 A.D. |

church were born and lived.

Fill in the names and the year on the map.

- Peer pressure—style of clothing, behavior, drugs, alcohol, etc. (30 min.)
4. Vocabulary worksheet: Have students fill in words for definitions in student text. (*Answers:* heresy, Arius, Incarnation, Holy Trinity, martyr, saint, Athanasius, Nicaea, theologian.) (10 min.)
 5. *Homework Assignment:* Make a list of reasons why a person may become a saint. (5 min.)

Session 4—Teachers

Key Concepts

1. St. John Chrysostom was a great teacher and preacher.
2. He preached to all the people about Christian values, about Christ teaching us all to live righteous lives regardless of social or political position.

Objectives

Students will

1. Read a biography of St. John Chrysostom.
2. Analyze some of his teachings.
3. Locate on a map the birthplaces of some saints.

Materials Needed

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Crayons

Procedure

1. Opening prayer. (5 min.)

Notes

2. Have students read the student text aloud.

At the end of the text are a number of sayings from St. John Chrysostom's homilies. Read each one aloud and discuss:

- What is the surface meaning?
- What is the underlying meaning?
- How would congregations react to these statements?

Point out the imagery and symbolism. Explain difficult words. (15 min.)

3. Allow students to choose their favorite quotation and reproduce them on strips of construction paper to be placed on walls or bulletin boards in the classroom. (15 min.)

4. Following this exercise is a map exercise which will help to review the entire unit in preparation for the homework assignment. Instruct the students to study the map and fill in the correct answers right on the map. (This exercise is not to be done orally.)* (15 min.)

5. Check the map exercise in class; then review the following:

Believer, Martyr, Defender, Teacher.

St. Polycarp, St. Justin the Martyr, The 40 Young Men of Sepastia, St. Athanasius, St. John Chrysostom.

Have the students decide which words apply to each saint. Use the chalkboard so the words and names of saints are visible to all students. (10 min.)

6. *Homework Assignment:* Have students choose one of the people studied in the unit and write a short paragraph about why he is their favorite.

* *Answer Key:* 1. Smyrna, 2. Samaria, 3. Rome, 4. Alexandria, 5. Nicaea, 6. Antioch, 7. Constantinople, 8. Pontus. (Answers are from Sessions 1, 3, and 4.)

