

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a basic understanding of Orthodox Christianity, including its history, beliefs, and practices.

Materials and Prep

- Internet access
- Notebook or paper
- Pencil or pen

No prior knowledge is required for this lesson.

Activities

- **Research:** Use the internet to find information about Orthodox Christianity. Take notes on important details such as the history, major figures, and key beliefs.
- **Create a Timeline:** Create a visual timeline of the history of Orthodox Christianity. Include important events, such as the Great Schism and the Councils.
- **Interview:** If possible, interview a member of the Orthodox Christian community. Prepare questions in advance and take notes on their answers.
- **Icon Art:** Learn about the significance of icons in Orthodox Christianity and create your own icon using paper, markers, and other art supplies.
- **Virtual Tour:** Take a virtual tour of an Orthodox Christian church or monastery. Pay attention to the architecture, artwork, and rituals.

Talking Points

- **History:** Orthodox Christianity has a rich history that dates back to the early days of Christianity. It originated in the Eastern part of the Roman Empire and has been influenced by various cultures and traditions.
- **Beliefs:** Orthodox Christians believe in the Holy Trinity, which consists of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. They also believe in the importance of sacraments, prayer, and the teachings of the early Church fathers.
- **Church Structure:** Orthodox Christianity is organized into autonomous churches, each led by a bishop. The highest authority in the Orthodox Church is the Ecumenical Patriarch based in Constantinople (Istanbul).
- **Worship and Rituals:** Orthodox Christians have distinct worship practices, including the use of icons, incense, and chant. Liturgy is an important part of their worship, and it is conducted in a reverent and symbolic manner.
- **Great Schism:** The Great Schism in 1054 AD led to the split between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church. The main points of disagreement were related to the authority of the Pope and theological differences.