

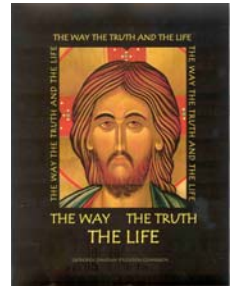
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION
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Dear Parents,

The Orthodox Christian Education Commission has embarked on a revision of the series of texts used in the Church School. One goal of the revision is to produce engaging and attractive texts that will reflect the beauty and depth of our faith. A second goal is to offer students and understanding of spiritual maturity, and personal growth in faith. A third, and very important goal, is to offer our students firm knowledge of the faith by the time they graduate from high school. We live in a culture that offers many expressions of Christianity. We believe that it is important for our students to be able to articulate their faith, as well as to live it. We have determined 100 questions, icons, and prayers that we wish the students to master at the conclusion of high school.

The new text for high school text, *The Way, The Truth, and The Life*, contains the educational standards for the series, and offers an optional award program for mastery of these standards. While each new book that is published will contain a portion of the educational standards, teachers have asked how they can prepare their students for *The Way, The Truth, and The Life* as they await new books. Most of the educational standards for the series do appear in the current texts, and for that reason, a listing of questions (educational standards) has been prepared for the current texts.



We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children. By your attendance at Divine Liturgy, and your giving of time, talent and treasure, you form your child's love of Orthodox Christianity. Now we can provide you with a list of questions, prayers, and icons that your child should know by the end of the year. Attached please find these educational standards for your child's text. The lesson number that correlates with the topic appears in parentheses. Please review this page regularly with your child. We ask that you also make every effort to have your child in Church School. We believe that with the co-operation of parents and teachers, our students will make progress in knowledge of our faith, and in spiritual maturity. May God bless your every effort.

In Christ Our Lord,

Carole A. Buleza
Chairperson

Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas

Educational Standards for Grade 4

Jesus, The Promise of God

1. Write the Ten Commandments. (1)

1. *I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other gods before me.*
2. *You shall not make for yourself any graven image.*
3. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*
5. *Honor your father and mother.*
6. *You shall not kill.*
7. *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. *You shall not steal.*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's house or anything that is your neighbor's.*

2. Why did God give us free will? (3)

God gave us free will so we could freely choose what is good.

3. What does "sin" mean? (3)

"Sin" means "to miss the mark." What is the "mark?" The mark is union with God.

4. Why did God make human beings? (4)

God made us to live united with him now and forever.

5. What does "Theotokos" mean? Who is the Theotokos? (Add on to lesson 4)

"Theotokos" means "God-bearer." Mary, the Mother of God is the Theotokos.

6. What is repentance? (Add to lesson 10)

Repentance is changing our ways and returning to the path of salvation. Repentance leads to the Mystery of Confession.

7. How do we arm ourselves against evil?

(Add to lesson 12: temptation)

Our armor for the struggle is prayer, fasting, and giving.

8. Jesus taught us that God forgives our sins.

Which parable did He use to teach this lesson? (17 See reading of Luke 15:11-32)

Add on: Which parable teaches us that we must forgive others? (see Matt. 8:23-35)

The parable of the Prodigal Son teaches us that God will forgive us. The parable of the Unmerciful Servant teaches us that we must forgive others.

9. What did Christ save us from? (28)

Christ saved us from the consequence of sin: death.

Prayers: Trisagion Prayers through "O Most Holy Trinity . . ."

Icons:

Crucifixion (Great and Holy Friday)

Resurrection (Pascha)

Ascension (40 days after Pascha)

Pentecost (50 days after Pascha)

Pantocrator (from Ascension icon)

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

O Lord, cleanse us from our sins.

O Master, pardon our transgressions.

O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy (3 times)



Icon of the Crucifixion
Great and Holy Friday



Icon of the Resurrection

Icon of the Ascension
Forty Days after Pascha



Icon of Pentecost
Fifty Days after Pascha



Icon of the Pantocrator
(Judge of All)
From the Ascension icon
Placed in the dome of the Church