

# THE BIBLE and the CHURCH FATHERS

## Lesson 1: An Introduction to the Fathers

### Themes Covered

- Who are the Church Fathers?
- The four criteria to be a Church Father
- The Fathers as a link to the teachings of Christ

### Scripture in this lesson

- 1 Corinthians 4:15-16

### Review Questions

1. What is a father?
2. What are the four criteria necessary to be a Father of the Church?
3. When was the Patristic period in the Church?
4. What does “orthodox” mean?

### Table Discussion Questions

1. Is there anything in this lesson that you have just heard for the first time?
2. Why was it so important to the fathers to guard the Church’s doctrine? What made that work particularly challenging?
3. Which one of the four criteria to be a Church Father do you find the most compelling when discussing the Fathers with someone considering coming into the church?

Memory Verse for this lesson: 1 Corinthians 4:15-16

Even if you should have countless guides to Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Therefore, I urge you, be imitators of me.

Prep for Lesson 2

John 21:15-19

1 John 4:1-3