

# Scripture and Tradition

What is your understanding of the term "Tradition"?

Find several definitions from different sources.

	Source	Definition of "Tradition"
Source 1		
Source 2		
Source 3		
Source 4		

The term "tradition":



in the Bible

refers to the different collections of materials or schools of thought.

e.g.

- oral tradition
- synoptic tradition
- etc



outside the Bible  
often suggests

- ✓ a collection of propositions
- ✓ customs
- ✓ practices
- ✓ "truths" handed from one generation to another

The word tradition literally means that which has been "*handed over*" or "*passed on*".

Paul refers to both the **Eucharistic institution** and to an early **summary of the entire Gospel** as the objects of tradition.

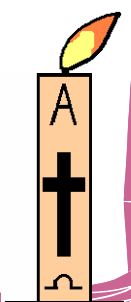
Read the following references.

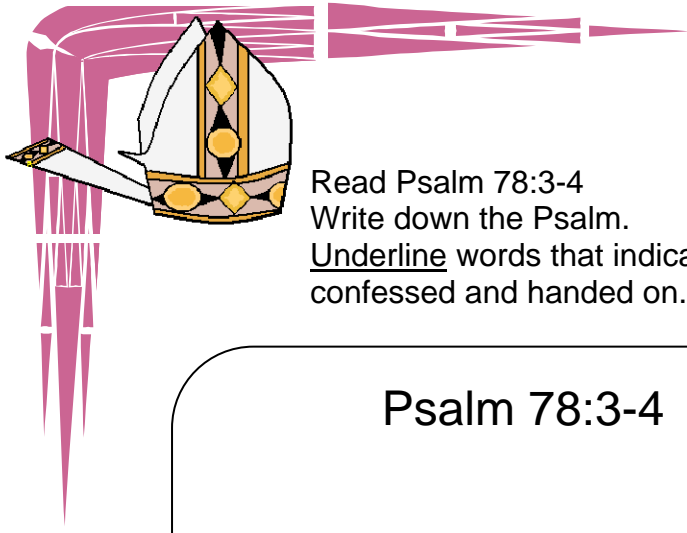
Write words that suggest the notion of tradition.

Eucharistic institution  
1 Cor 11:23-25

Summary of Gospel  
1 Cor 15:3-7

Therefore, tradition refers to the living faith experiences of the Christian Community.



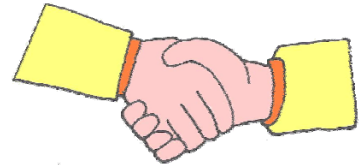


Read Psalm 78:3-4

Write down the Psalm.

Underline words that indicate tradition as a living faith that is shared, confessed and handed on.

## Psalm 78:3-4



*Today the primary theological sense of tradition is the community's shared experience of the Lord through faith.*

*The second sense of tradition is the handing on – in different ways – of that faith experience.*

This tradition is expressed in two forms:

### Official **tradition**

is expressed in

- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Sacraments
- ✓ Written works of the Church
- ✓ Sacred scriptures
- ✓ creeds

### Unofficial **tradition**

comes to expression in

- ✓ hymns
- ✓ Christian art
- ✓ theology
- ✓ catechetical material
- ✓ various spiritualities
- ✓ devotional practices
- ✓ life stories of individual Christians

Therefore "tradition" helps a community to grow and assimilate new experiences in a way which preserves fundamental integrity and identity.

**Sacred Scripture** is the living tradition of the community or Church coming to written expression.

Those books which the early Christian community deemed as authentic expressions of its faith became part of its official canon of sacred writings, which remain the expression of the faith of the Apostolic Church.

Adapted from Rausch T.P *The Roots of the Catholic Tradition*, pages 13-32

Worksheet may be copied for classroom use only.

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