


FOLLOWERS - LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	1	1	Faith	Christ is born	11: Nativity Story Part 1

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes
(Mod. = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Title - lowercase in the

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L	Spatial S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kinaesthetic K <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Musical M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intra - personal P1	Inter - personal P2	Natural N

cell) Tick the appropriate box(es) above [copy this:] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

Prayer O Lord Jesus, Who for love of us lay as a baby in the manger, we thank you that by your coming you brought joy to all the world. Help us at this glad time to try to make others happy for your sake.

Starter Mystery Bag. Take a bag into the classroom that contains objects which have a connection to the lesson (plastic/ soft toys or figurines of a Nativity scene). Pass the bag around and let the students feel the object inside the bag. The first person to guess what it is, is the winner.

Learning objectives To learn about the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and what it represents for our Christian life. To retell the story of the Nativity by reading the icon and identify the holy people depicted in it.

Core Activities and Learning

Children will be told that they will be learning about the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the feast that is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church.

1. The teacher will tell the children the story of the Nativity from the Bible for Young People.

The teacher will show to the children the icon of Nativity and while telling the story will identify the holy people depicted in the icon.

To encourage a better understanding of the spiritual treasury of the Nativity icon the teacher will generate a discussion in order to reveal the symbolism of the icon.

The main focus of this icon is the Christ child and His mother, the Most Holy Mother of God and Virgin Mary. Archangel Gabriel told her that she will bear the Son of God. He then led her to Bethlehem. The Virgin Mary is seen resting on a red blanket that symbolizes the colour of life.

The Son of God, who was with the Father in the beginning and was in the closest and most intimate fellowship with Him, and who was God, was sent by the Father to the world to save His creation. The baby Jesus we see in the manger is fully God who came to earth to die so that we could have forgiveness of our sins, so that we would receive the greatest gift of all, the eternal life. The Christ child, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is wrapped in swaddling clothes. This not only represents His total submission to the human flesh, but also foreshadows His death and resurrection. He is lying on an altar that symbolizes He is the bread of life.

St. Joseph the Betrothed is seen as an elderly man, he is the protector of the Virgin Mary and guardian of Jesus Christ the Savior.

The star that represents the heavens and the Trinity rejoicing the birth of our Lord. Shining brighter than any other star, it is what guided the magi to the new-born King. The three lines coming from heaven represent the Trinity.

The angels, the heavenly beings brought the "good news of great joy" to shepherds guarding their flocks, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."

The shepherds were among the first to worship the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This symbolizes the Christ is the Good Shepherd.

While the Wise-men brought what they thought was the most appropriate gifts to offer to the Son of God (gold and frankincense and myrrh), what God would say to us is that we should bring our best to Him, which is our very souls.

God wants us to bring ourselves to Him first, and when we have done that, then we can bring our gifts. When we bring ourselves and all of our talents to Him and surrender them to Him in faith, He accepts our offering and renews our souls.

2. The teacher will encourage children to retell the story by reading the icon offering help and guiding children to present the narrative in the right order.

The teacher will talk about and describe to the children the celebrations of the feast as it takes place in the church with the beautiful and spiritual enriching services and the rich caroling tradition. Children will be invited to sing a carol of their choice. (*Away in a manger, While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, Once in royal David's city*).

Resources

Bible for Young People, icon of Nativity, mystery bag (plastic/ soft toys or figurines that could create a Nativity scene, such as the Virgin Mary, baby Jesus, the Righteous Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, the wise men)

Review

In the next session ask one of the children to recall what we have learnt this Sunday.

Follow Up

In the next session we will learn more about the Nativity of our Lord and will create a Nativity scene.