

FOLLOWERS - LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Title and Number
5	1	1	Faith	Christ is born	13: Christmas Traditions

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 cell)

							
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

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

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Amen

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, ever green branch, Christmas ornaments). 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 to celebrate the birth of Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ and share the joy and the blessings of the Nativity with friends and family. To explore Christmas traditions and share how they celebrate with family and friends.

Core Activities and Learning

Children will be told that they will be learning about Christmas traditions to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.

The teacher will share with the children the religious traditions that are kept in the Orthodox church. All aspects will be illustrated by visual aids such as the icon of Nativity, images with celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord.

1. The *Nativity* according to the flesh of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ, also called *Christmas*, is one of the great feats of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on the 25th of December. In the fullness of time, our Lord Jesus Christ was born to the Holy Theotokos and Virgin Mary, entering into the world as a man and revealing Himself to mankind. On Christmas Day, Orthodox Christians will attend Divine Liturgy in Church. For most Orthodox Christians it is a time of reflection and renewal, of affirming the bonds of friendship and family.

Most families have a Christmas tree in their house for Christmas. The decorating of the tree is usually a family occasion, with everyone helping. Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe are also sometimes used to decorate homes. Most villages, towns and cities are decorated with Christmas lights over Christmas. Like a lot of countries, Nativity Plays are also very popular at Christmas time. There is a tradition of Christmas carolling in which groups of singers travel from house to house, singing carols for which they are often rewarded with gifts, money, mince pies. Throughout the holidays, the carollers go from house to house at twilight ringing hand bells and singing Christmas carols. The teacher will invite children to sing *Away in a manger*.

2. The teacher will talk to the children about the cultural traditions that are kept within their families and their communities. Pictures of family scenes celebrating Christmas will illustrate what the teacher expose to the children and serve as a starting point for a discussion on how they celebrate Christmas at home with their own family and friends. Children write letters to Father Christmas/ Santa listing their requests. Children believe that Father Christmas leaves presents in stockings or pillow-cases. After the children fall asleep on Christmas Eve, Father Christmas comes to visit. He wears a long, red robe, carries a sack of toys, and arrives on his sleigh pulled by reindeer. He fills the children's stockings with candies and small toys. Children sometimes leave out mince pies and for Father Christmas to eat and drink when he visits them.

The main Christmas meal is usually eaten at lunchtime or early afternoon on Christmas Day. It's normally roast turkey, roast vegetables and 'all the trimmings' which means vegetables like carrots & peas, stuffing and sometimes bacon and sausages. It's often served with cranberry sauce and bread sauce. Dessert is often Christmas Pudding. Mince pies and lots of chocolates are often eaten as well! The dinner table is decorated with a Christmas Cracker for each person and sometimes flowers and candles. A Christmas cracker is a paper-covered tube. When the end tabs are pulled, there is a loud crack. Out spills a paper hat to wear at dinner, small trinkets, and a riddle to read aloud to everyone at the table.

3. The teacher will suggest to the children to play Snap with a set of Christmas traditions flash cards. (the teacher will create this set of flash cards using various printed copies of the icon of Nativity, the images that illustrate the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord and the pictures of family scenes celebrating Christmas).

Resources

Icon of Nativity (nativity-lord.jpg), images with celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord, pictures of family scenes celebrating Christmas, ever green branch, Christmas ornaments, Christmas traditions set of flash cards.

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 Saint Stephen.