

## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	1	1	Faith	Christ is born	15: New Year: Saint Basil

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	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:** O righteous Basil, revealer of heavenly things pray to Christ God to grant us great mercy. Amen

**Starter:** *Do it for Jesus.* Children sit in a circle, the teacher will encourage children to talk about their favourite toy/ games, their special friends and how they enjoy their friendship while passing a ball around. When the teacher says: "Do it for Jesus" the child who has the ball is asked to share with the other children one thing that he / she will do for Jesus. The children will witness stories that will inspire them how to serve God (being kind, helpful, listen to their friends).

**Learning objectives:** To learn about the life of Saint Basil and his love for God and the people. To learn that Saint Basil served God and His church and discover how he can inspire them to lead a Christ-centered life.

### Core Activities and Learning

Children will be told that they will be learning about the life of Saint Basil the Great.

1. The teacher will tell the children The first day of the civil new year begins with the celebration of St. Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

Saint Basil was born in Cappadocia, which is in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey), in 329 AD His whole family was a God-loving family.

Saint Basil studied with the best teachers in Caesarea of Cappadocia and Athens. At Athens a close friendship developed between Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian (Nazianzus), which continued throughout their life. Basil grew up and went to university, he studied Greek, rhetoric (the art of speaking or writing well) and philosophy (the study of different ideas, what we consider right and wrong and why, examining questions about life and death and gaining knowledge about this and many other questions).

Saint Basil was responsible for forming monastic communities; groups of monks that live, work, worship, pray and dedicate their lives to God together. He established strict rules for monks to follow, in order to live with each other and serve God.

Saint Basil taught through his preaching, through his writings and the example of how he lived his life. Much of what he did, said and wrote was aimed at explaining the truths of our Church and correcting those who taught untruths.

He also taught that there is one God who has three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; that each of them are different but equal to each other.

Saint Basil feared God more than men. He loved all people and served and cared for them more than he did for himself. He was the first bishop to establish orphanages, hospitals and old-aged homes. He became a vessel or container of the Holy Spirit; that is, the Holy Spirit was in him and he began to perform miracles and to know what was in people's hearts. His many writings told the Truth and defended the Orthodox Faith - even under the threat of death. Saint Basil had learnt that Faith was more important than this life on earth.

Saint Basil's most famous writing is that of the Holy Liturgy - "St Basil's Liturgy". It is celebrated ten times a year; on the first five Sundays of the Great Lent before Easter, Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday, the day before Christmas and Theophany - the day of Jesus' Baptism, and of course on January the first, which is St Basil's feast day - the day we commemorate (remember and celebrate) his life.

2. Saint Basil was called "Great" because he conquered the hearts and souls of men for Jesus Christ. Saint Basil, pray that we too may be compassionate, loving toward others and burn with love for God and be courageous in defence of the One True Orthodox Christian Faith. The teacher will explain to children that the saints are the best role-models for us who are still struggling here on earth, trying to live holy lives in order that we too may one day be united to God in heaven. God calls us to be holy... and He gives us the saints to inspire and guide us. They, who in their own lives experienced difficulties and struggled with weaknesses as we do, yet succeeded in achieving sanctity, have traced out for us the path to heaven; we must imitate them in putting God first, bearing (and offering up) our crosses, and always doing His will.

**Resources** Icon of Saint Basil

**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 Theophany (Manifestation of God).