








FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
6	1	1	Faith	New Beginnings	18: Candelmass (Meeting of the Lord / Presentation in the Temple, Purification of our Lady)

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: Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that, as your Only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Starter: *Chatter Bee.* Two players stand back-to-back. At the signal, they face and chatter/ talk non-stop for 30 seconds about a specific topic such as the Nativity story. A judge decides who did the best talking. Criteria for the best could be: fewer hesitations, creative, funny, most accurate and informative.

Learning objectives: To learn about The Meeting of our Lord and Candelmass and how we can prepare through prayer to meet Jesus. To understand that the light of the candles represents the inner light of Christ, which he brought to share with the world.

Core Activities and Learning

Children will be told that they will be learning about the feast of The Meeting of our Lord.

1.The feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, celebrated on the 2nd of February is known in the Orthodox Church as The Meeting of our Lord. The teacher will read the story of The Meeting of our Lord from the Bible for the Young People.

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. If the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice. When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer. Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said:

"Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel."

Also, in the Temple was Anna the Prophetess. Anna was very old and spent her time in the Temple worshipping, fasting, and praying. When she saw the Christ Child she praised God and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the Messiah. After Jesus was presented in the Temple, the family returned to Galilee to the town of Nazareth. The Bible tells us that Jesus grew and became strong, and was filled with wisdom. The feast of the Presentation of the Lord is also known as Candelmass, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in the liturgy. The parish priest blesses the candles that we will be using on our home prayer corner for the coming year (The candles are generally considered to represent the inner light of Christ, which he brought to share with the world). Talk briefly about some of the details of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, leading up to the words of Simeon which declares that Jesus would be a light to the whole world. We talk of Jesus as the 'Light of the World'.

2. The teacher will explain to the children that only those who pray like Simeon and Anna, are open to the breath of the Spirit. They know how to recognize the Lord in the circumstances in which He manifests Himself because they possess an interior vision, and they have learned how to love with the heart of the One whose very name is Love.

3. Exploring creatively what the Meeting of our Lord represents to each of us. Children will use The Holy Virgin Mary, the Righteous Joseph Simon and Anna cut out puppets to act out the story.

Resources The Bible for Young People, icon of Meeting of our Lord (meeting.jpg), candles, pictures illustrating the Candelmass service, The Holy Virgin Mary, the Righteous Joseph, Simon and Anna cut out puppets.

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 Zacchaeus.