







FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
9	1	2	WORSHIP	THE CHURCH IS HOLY	31: The 12 Major Feasts

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 Num [NO. column] and Title)

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

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

Prayer: “God be in my head and in my understanding. God be in my eyes and in my looking. God be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be in my heart and in my thinking.”

Starter: Ask children how many feasts of the Orthodox Church they know and what they usually do on that day with their family.

Learning objectives: To learn the 12 Major Feasts of the Orthodox Church and what days we celebrate them on during the year.

Core Activities and Learning

- 12 Major Feasts Leader’s Guide: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Feasts_of_the_Orthodox_Church
12 Major Feast Icons: <https://oca.org/fs/icons-of-twelve-great-feasts>
(These 12 feasts are focused on the major events in the life of Christ as well as the Theotokos.
- The Leader distributes the 12 Icons to the children in jumbled up order. If necessary, a child may hold more than one icon. The Leader reads out the dates in order and the child holding the corresponding icon holds it aloft, standing up.
- Of course, 3 icon holders will not be called. Get children seated and explain (simply!) why we cannot give one date for each of these 3 feasts – lunar month and the beginning of spring (vernal equinox). Refer to the fact that Ascension Day is always on a Thursday being 40 days after Pascha and Pentecost on a Sunday being 50 days after Pascha. Explain why Pascha is not considered one of the 12 Great Feasts - too important to put on the list as it is called “the feast of feasts.”
- Split the children into groups such that each group has 3 icons ... Group A: Nativity / Theophany / Meeting
Group B: Annunciation / Palm Sunday / Ascension; Group C: Pentecost / Transfiguration / Dormition;
Group D: Nativity of the Theotokos / Exaltation of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross / Entrance of the Theotokos. Put the card explanations of each feast mixed up in a basket in the centre of the room. Each group goes up in turn and takes ONE (NOT all 3) card which matches ONE of their icons. Groups must NOT cooperate at this stage or indeed talk outside their group about their choices. This happens 3 times until all the cards have been taken. If any children are not happy with their chosen cards (or the ones left) they have 5 minutes to trade with other groups until everyone is happy with the result. The Leader asks each group to report back and the choices are corrected with explanations if necessary. If this task proves too easy or quick to complete proceed to optional extra task 5 (below).
- (Optional Extra Task) Each group chooses one icon and shares with all the other children what they can see in each icon, the references and the meanings.

Resources: Websites (above), Prepare (if possible, laminated) icons of the 12 major feasts A4 size. Resource Sheet 31

Review: There are 12 Major Feasts in the Orthodox Church Year in addition to Pascha. All Orthodox Christians should attempt to attend Church on these days for the Divine Liturgy in addition to their participation on Sundays.

Follow Up: Try and find out where we get our information about the Birth of the Theotokos and her Entry into the Temple since these events are not recorded in the Holy Scriptures. Students will probably need to use the internet.