




FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
4	1	2	WORSHIP	Me in Church	6: When I was baptised

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	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: I am baptised to show to show that I am truly a child of God. I am baptised to show that I truly want to follow Jesus. I am baptised to show that I want God's Holy Spirit to be my friend and helper. Amen.

Starter: *My Portrait game* - The children use the mirrors to draw themselves on the pre-cut people shapes. This is best done in small groups so that there is enough time to talk with the small group about their eye colour, hair colour, etc. Then children are encouraged to decorate the paper doll shapes.

Learning objectives: To understand that baptism is a "new birth by water and the Holy Spirit" into the Kingdom of God. To reconnect with their own personal experience of a new birth in Christ as they remember their god parents and their personal experience of worship and partaking of the Holy Eucharist in church.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will help the children recall that in the Gospel we find John the Baptist baptising the people as a sign of repentance in preparation for the Kingdom of God. Christ himself was baptised by John to show that indeed he was God's "Beloved Son". Children will discover that the meaning of baptism is that of "starting anew," of dying to an old way of life and being born again into a new way of life. Baptism was always connected with repentance which means a moral conversion, a "change of mind," a change in living from something old and bad to something new and good. In the Orthodox Church baptism has a new significance. It no longer remains a sign of moral change and spiritual rebirth. It becomes the act of a person's death and resurrection in and with Jesus. Christian baptism is participation in the event of Easter. It is a "new birth by water and the Holy Spirit" into the Kingdom of God (John 3:5).

2. The teacher will explain to the children the sacrament of baptism, will share and discuss pictures that portray baptism. Baptism begins with the rejection of Satan and the acceptance of Christ. Before being baptised, our godparents proclaim the symbol of Christian faith, the Creed. Because the godparent speaks on behalf of the child, sponsors his entrance into the Church and "receives" the child out of the baptismal waters into the Church and cares for his spiritual life. After the proclamation of faith, the baptismal water is prayed over and blessed as the sign of the goodness of God's creation. The child to be baptised is also prayed over and blessed with sanctified oil as the sign that his creation by God is holy and good. And then the child is immersed three times in the water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Through the immersion, the baptised person dies to this world and is born again in the resurrection of Christ into eternal life. He is clothed with the "garments of salvation" symbolized by the white baptismal robe which is the "new humanity" of Jesus himself who is the new and heavenly Adam (John 3, Rom 5, 1 Cor 15). The newly-baptised is led in procession around the baptismal font three times as the symbol of his procession to the Kingdom of God and his entrance into eternal life: "For as many as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia" (Gal 3.27).

3. In the sacrament of Chrismation we receive "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Rom 8, 1 Cor 6, 2 Cor 1.21–22). If baptism is our personal participation in Easter - the death and resurrection of Christ, then chrismation is our personal participation in Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit upon us. Chrismation, the gift of the Holy Spirit, is performed in the Orthodox Church by anointing all parts of the person's body with the special oil called holy chrism. After the baptism and chrismation, the person newly-received into God's family is tonsured. The tonsure, which is the cutting of hair from the head in the sign of the cross, is the sign that the person completely offers himself to God. Together with being baptised and chrismated, the new-born child is also "churched." The mysteries of baptism and chrismation, called "holy illumination," are fulfilled in the immediate reception by the "newly-enlightened" of Holy Communion in the eucharistic liturgy of the Church.

4. *My Baptism book craft.* Children will be invited to create a baptism book where they will be inserting pictures that illustrate their baptism, the name of their godparents (they can also draw their own picture) and the name of their patron saint.

Resources: Icon of Jesus Christ, pictures that illustrate baptism, picture of baptismal fountain, pre-cut people shapes, coloured pencils, folded paper card to create a baptism book, pictures that illustrate baptism, glue.

Review: May baptism means that I am member of the Church and a believer in and follower of Jesus Christ.

Follow Up: In the next session we will learn more about our patron saint. Ask the children to bring some information to share about their patron saint at the next session.