









FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	1	2	WORSHIP	Talking to God	11: Thanking God

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

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

Prayer: Father in heaven, we praise You that so many people love us. Thank you most of all for Your great and wonderful love. Make us loving too and help us, dear Lord, to be thankful for all the gifts we have received from You. Amen.

Starter: *Prayer of Esteem.* Children hold hands in a circle. Walk around the outside of the circle and place your hand over each child one at a time. When you place your hand over a child's head, children pray and thank God for that person. Encourage children to be specific in their prayers, such as "God, thank you for Abigail's sense of humour" or "Thank you for Daniel's brains."

Learning objectives: To understand that thanksgiving is an active process and it means providing these same blessings we received to others. To learn that we are "Eucharistic beings", created according to the image and likeness of God, and we receive our lives and all that is in the world around us as a gift from our Creator.

Core Activities and Learning

Children will be told that they will be learning about offering thanksgiving prayers to God for all the blessings we have received.

1. The teacher will tell the children that God has provided all of these basic human needs for us. As is likely true for most of us, we can't count a single day in our life that we were without such blessings as food, clothing, shelter and companionship. And we're all grateful for these blessings. But saying "thank you" isn't enough. The teacher will explain to the children the expectation is that we will provide others with blessings, too. Near the end of Matthew's Gospel, Christ teaches about the final judgement. And how does he judge us? Jesus says, "...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." (Matthew 25:31-46). He doesn't even mention whether we thanked him for having such things ourselves but would like to see whether we offered such blessings to those who are in need. The teacher will explain that thanksgiving is an active process, the same way that loving a person is an active process. So the correct display of our gratitude for God's blessings is that we work to provide these same blessings to others.

What are some of the ways we can show our thankfulness by helping others? We can be friendly to a child that has just moved on our street, we can speak and be friendly to a child that has just started in our class and he doesn't know anyone, after liturgy, we can talk to someone we don't know instead of going straight to our friends. When we do these things, we reach out to others we are expressing our love of them and our gratitude toward God. It is through our Christian actions and interactions with others that our "thank you" list becomes personal. And people no longer need to ask what we're thankful for, because they can see it in our actions. By this active response, we have shown that we are truly thankful to God for our family, friends, and His church, for our very lives, and for our salvation.

2. The teacher will explain to children that to be thankful (from the Greek *eucharistia* or thanksgiving) is a profound biblical reality and practice. a) We are "Eucharistic beings." Created according to the image and likeness of God, we receive our lives and all that is in the world around us as a gift from our Creator. We are not self-sufficient beings, but dependent on God for all things. b) We belong to a "Eucharistic society." This is one more way of describing the Church. It is as members of the Body of Christ that we fulfill our role as eucharistic beings by a constant sense of thanksgiving and gratitude. "Thine own of Thine own we offer unto Thee on behalf of all, and for all." And this offering is made with a deep sense of thanksgiving. c) We receive the Eucharist. The Divine Liturgy can be called the Eucharistic service of the Church, in and during which we receive the Eucharist after we thank God for the entire economy of our salvation.

3. Create a Holy Eucharist picture. Children will be invited to create a picture of children partaking of the Holy Eucharist by doing a collage using pre-cut shapes of the chalice, the cross, the grapes, the wheat and children paper silhouettes.

Resources: Pictures that illustrate offering prayer and praise to God, pictures that illustrate children being helpful towards other children; children partaking of the Holy Eucharist, pre-cut shapes of chalice, cross, grapes, wheat and children paper silhouettes. Followers Free to Use Orthodox Clip Art Store here:- https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiWFS1XPHpoKqclmPMT_tYha9-DqHQ

Review: In the next session ask one of the children to recall what we have learnt this Sunday.

Follow Up: Ask the children for next week to bring ideas about what truly praising God in worship means.