

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
6	1	2	WORSHIP	God Forgives	16: Think first!

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	Natural N

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

Prayer: Dear Lord, grant us a spirit of wisdom and discernment as we stand strong in all our decisions to put You first before all things. Help us keep close to you in spirit with every word and thought, Your word and will ever be our guide in every decision we make in life. Amen.

Starter: *Listen carefully.* Can you recognize the voice of God? A fun game to see how well you can listen for the Lord's voice and know the Will of God. After saying the prayer, the children close their eyes and listen to their hearts then share their thoughts and feelings.

Learning objectives:

To understand that some of our choices in life require deep thought, prayer, and consideration.

To understand that discernment is an interior search that seeks to align our own will with the will of God in order to learn what God is calling us to.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell the children that as Christians we are to grow up in the knowledge and love of God as our heavenly Father, and of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Children are encouraged to think through what they believe, and how their relationship with God is developing. Are we growing in your knowledge of him, in our trust of Him? Is our faith a living faith?

The teacher will tell the children that some of our choices in life require deep thought, prayer, and consideration. Discernment is a decision-making process that honours the place of God's will in our lives. It is an interior search that seeks to align our own will with the will of God in order to learn what God is calling us to. Every choice we make is an opportunity to align ourselves with God's will. The teacher will talk to children about some important things that can help discern God's will.

Talk to someone we respect. God often speaks to us through the wisdom of others. We might need to seek out the wisdom of someone who we feel has the gift of wisdom and ask for their advice. It's good to talk to parents, parish priest when making important decisions as it is also important to make some time to be alone with our thoughts and with God. Invite God into our decision-making process.

Tell God what it is that we desire and what we fear and let God speak to us. Be honest and tell God what our deepest desires and fears are in a particular situation. Most of us don't actually hear a voice when God speaks to us. However, we need to pay attention closely to the ways that God is speaking to us. What kinds of thoughts, feelings (especially love, joy, and peace, or a lack thereof), and memories might God be let us experience to help us make our decision? What Scripture story or saint's life comes to mind that might enlighten our decision? Find the passage or story and prayerfully read it.

Know that God has a plan for us and pray to do God's will. Remind ourselves that God has a plan for us and that his plan is driven purely by love. As difficult as it may be, we need to pray the words, "Thy will be done," asking God to give us the strength we need to continue to discern his will and to follow it.

Examine the Fruits. After we make a decision, we prayerfully evaluate it. If the fruits (outcomes) of our decision - our words, actions, and behaviours - are good, then the decision we made is good. If the fruits are not good, then that is a good indication that we may need to alter our course. True discernment results in good fruit (even if it's something we wouldn't normally pick out for ourselves). Discernment can help us when we face decisions. Even though making good decisions can be difficult at times, trust that the Holy Spirit is with us to guide and help us choose what is good and true.

2. The teacher will invite children to answer some questions: *Do the things you play with, watch, read, or listen to affect you in a positive way or a negative way? How do they affect you? and Would Jesus watch or listen to or play with the things you like? Why or Why not? and What are some good things that we can play with, or watch, or listen to, or read that are pleasing to God?* Provide visuals, such as illustrations of favourite toys, books, characters, games to discuss with children.

Resources: visuals, e.g. illustrations of favourite toys, books, characters, games

Review: Be thoughtful, patient and prayerful in preparing to do God's will.

Follow Up: In the next session we will learn more about knowing right from wrong. Ask the children to think about the issues.