

## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
3	1	2	WORSHIP	What we do in Church	2: Icons and Lighting candles

*(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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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:** "Set our hearts on fire with love for You, O Christ our God, so that in its flame we may love You with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our soul and with all our strength, and our neighbours as ourselves, so that by keeping Your commandments we may glorify You, the giver of all good gifts. Amen."

**Starter:** *Finding something special.* The teacher will show to children the icon of Jesus Christ, icon of the Holy Trinity, icon of the Mother of God, the icons of the major feasts of the Church and they will discover what each icon represents.

**Learning objectives:**

To learn that the icons are the witnesses of the presence of the Kingdom of God to us and they are spiritually necessary.

To understand that we can become a living candle for the Lord and shine for Him to light the fire of God's presence in ourselves and in others.

**Core Activities and Learning**

Children will be told they will be learning about Icons and Lighting candles.

1. In the Orthodox Church the icons bear witness to the reality of God's presence with us in the mystery of faith. The icons are spiritually necessary because "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1.14). Christ is truly man and, as man, truly the "icon of the invisible God" (Colossians 1.15). The icons are not just human pictures or visual aids to contemplation and prayer. They are the witnesses of the presence of the Kingdom of God to us, and so of our own presence to the Kingdom of God in the Church.

The teacher will tell the children that when we enter the church, it is traditional to venerate (kiss) the icons. When venerating an icon, especially the principal icons, we make two reverences (sign of the cross followed by a bow), sign of the cross a third time followed by kissing the icon, then a final reverence (sign of the cross followed by a bow).

The teacher will explain to the children that we do not worship the icons. We worship God. Icons help us to worship and honour God. An icon is like a window that helps us look into heaven. When we stand in church and we see all the icons of Christ and the saints, we feel that we are not alone. We feel that we are part of God's family. All the saints are our brothers and sisters. We, too, are called to be saints – God's holy people. Because each one of us is made in the image of God, we, too, are icons. The word *image* means icon (picture). We are living icons of Christ. Other people are also living icons of God.

The teacher will invite children to observe how icons are placed in the church – the icons on the Iconostasis or altar screen, the icons on the royal gates / holy doors / deacon's doors, the Pantocrator, the icon of the Mother of God on the front wall.

2. The teacher will tell the children that lighting candles and placing them in the candle stands is an important part of Orthodox worship. We do this as we pray, making an offering to accompany our prayers as we do each time when we start the class. The ideal time to light candles and place them in the candle stands is upon entering the church, after venerating the icons.

Vigil lights will be seen hanging in front of icons of the saints. This is to show that as the light of Christ shines in them the saints come alive and shine as living icons of Christ.

The Bible says that God is fire. Through the Holy Spirit He looks for material to set on fire with His love. We are that material. Jesus came to light the lamp of love in each person's soul.

The teacher will invite the children to become a living candle for the Lord and shine for Him to light the fire of God's presence in ourselves and in others, then people will feel the warmth of God's presence in us.

The teacher will tell the children that Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

3. *Create a candle* craft activity. Children will be invited to create a candle using cardboard tubes and tissue paper that they will also decorate with glitter, sequins, scraps of a paper, yarn.

**Resources:**

Icon of Jesus Christ, icon of the Holy Trinity, icon of the Mother of God, icons of the 12 major feasts, icons of Saints pictures that represent the iconostasis, cardboard tubes, tissue paper, glue, glitter, sequins

Followers Icon Store here ... <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiWFS1XPHpoKgdIJr-uQxYQwSc8a5Q>

**Review:**

Icons help up to love God. Candles remind us to pray and share God's love.

**Follow Up:**

Next session we will learn more about Signing with the Cross. Ask the children to try and remember how they should do this.