

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	1	2	WORSHIP	Talking to God	12: Praising 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

Prayer: “Glory be to God on high, and on earth, peace, good will among men. We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We worship Thee. We glorify Thee. We give thanks unto Thee for thy great glory. Amen.”

Starter: *Give God the glory.* A matching game that teaches children to give glory to God. Children will be invited to match sentences from the doxology prayer. *Every day will I bless Thee and I will praise Thy name forever*, use same coloured paper for a full sentence to help children reconstruct the line; the other sentence will be printed / written on a different coloured paper.

Learning objectives: To learn that we give thanks to our God the Father for the blessings of grace given to us and we return those blessings with our love. To learn that we express our gratitude with songs of glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that all of the Orthodox Church services of worship begin with either “*bless*,” or “*glory*.” We continually thank the Almighty Lord for the blessings of grace given to us and we return those blessings with our love. We also express our gratitude with songs of glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It reminds us of who we are in God’s eyes made from dust to rise in glory and live with God for eternity. In this sense, all our prayers represent a meditation about this profound mystery. The teacher will explain to children that we may begin our prayer with some request; either for ourselves or those we love that are in need of immediate comfort or attention. Maybe a family tragedy or sufferings brings us to our knees. As we continue to pray, if the prayer is to be complete, we should rise with the reawakening of God’s constant blessings showered on us, and for which we give Him blessings and glory. Glory is a term we use throughout our prayers. Glory describes and defines us. We know why we give glory, and to Whom we give glory. God our Father is the One who has enlightened us. He it is Who He opens our spiritual eyes, and He it is Whom we see with the eyes of our souls. We perceive Him to be God, and we discern that He is not just One, but Three Persons in One Essence. We should be happy to worship God. We should be so overwhelmed by the beauty of what He does and who He is that we cannot help but offer our adulation. We are not giving Him compliments because He needs them, but because we need to express our devotion. If we truly love and delight in our Heavenly Father, praise should be a method to enhance and increase that sentiment. Our dwelling in His presence is not based on emotion but who we are and who He is, God our Father.
2. The teacher will invite the children to think about the following questions: *When did you last praise God in a heartfelt way? What were you doing at the time? How did you learn about the importance of praising God when you pray? ; Why is it important to learn to praise God?; If you were all alone and there was no one to see or hear you, how would you best like to praise God?* (allow children to respond and discuss answers).
3. The teacher will read *Psalm 148* to children and then will encourage them to discover the message: everything and everyone in heaven and on earth should praise the Lord.
4. Read to children from the *Akathist in Praise of God's Creation*.
5. Praise balloons. Take a balloon and write a sentence or two of praise to God, such as ‘I praise You God for the way You have made me! It’s amazing!’ Take it in turns, around the circle, to read out the praise phrases on the balloons.
6. Noisy praise. After reading *Psalm 148* talk about the different instruments mentioned in the psalm, then sing a familiar praise song with the children and invite them to praise God using the different instruments you have available.
7. Picture psalm praise. Provide the children with a wide range of pictures. Invite them to choose one that especially appeals to them. Give the children a few minutes to look at the pictures and to use them as inspiration as they write a sentence or two of praise to God.

Resources: Bible, pictures that illustrate the God’s creation, assorted balloons, inflated; permanent marker pens; balloon (curling) ribbon or string; variety of musical instruments; a variety of beautiful nature scenes. *Akathist in Praise of God’s Creation* (PDF).

Review: When we praise God we praise the Trinity. We give his due as the Lover of Humankind, the Saviour and Creator.

Follow Up: In the next session we will learn more about saying sorry to God. This week ask God to forgive you for something.