

## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
4	1	2	WORSHIP	Me in Church	9: Readings in Church

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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:** Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Amen.

**Starter:** *Mystery bag.* Children will be invited to explore and discover the contents of the mystery bag – pictures that illustrate the Gospel Book cover and a game of jigsaw puzzle to recreate the pictures. Ask what the front and back cover represent (the picture of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead and the picture of the Crucifixion of Jesus). Tell children that the front cover faces up on Sunday when we remember the Resurrection of Jesus – every Sunday is a little Easter.

**Learning objectives:**

To learn that the readings for the Divine Liturgy are found in the Gospel Book and in the Epistle Book.

To understand that God is with people in the Church, revealing Himself and His Holy Will to the world.

### Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that the readings for the Divine Liturgy are normally found in a Gospel Book (*Evangelion*) which means Good News and an Epistle Book (*Apostól*). The readings are in the form of selections from scripture containing only the portion chanted during the service, and are arranged according to the order in which they occur in the church year, beginning with the Sunday of Pascha (Easter), and continuing throughout the entire year, concluding with Holy Week.

The Gospel Book is God's Good News book. Bound beautifully with embroidery or in gold or silver, it is kept always on the Holy Altar Table. It is as if the Altar Table is a throne for the Gospel Book. Whenever the priest brings the Gospel book to us we kiss it to show how much we love Jesus and His words. Christ is always present on the Altar Table both as the Word of God in the Gospel Book and as the Bread of Life (Holy Communion) in the tabernacle. In each Liturgy God gives us two things we need for living. He gives us light to show us the way (the Gospel Book). He gives us also food to keep us alive and growing in Christ (Holy Communion). It is from this Gospel Book that the priest reads God's word to the people in the Liturgy. In every Liturgy, the priest carries the Gospel Book out to the people, holds it high, and tells the people that Christ will give us His wisdom when the Gospel is read. He says, "Wisdom! Let us attend." (attend = pay attention). He does this in "The Little Entrance."

2. The four Gospels are part of the Holy Bible. The Bible is God's love letter to us. In this book God tells us how much He loves us. He tells us how He wants us to live. The Bible is like a road map that gives us God's directions for life. When we read the Bible, or a Bible story book, we are letting God speak to us. If we read the Bible, we will always find our way home to God.

The annual cycle of the Gospels is composed of four series: a) The Gospel of St. John; b) The Gospel of St. Matthew; c) The Gospel of St. Luke; d) The Gospel of St. Mark.

The teacher will tell the children that the Apostolos is the liturgical book containing the various Apostolic Readings. In the context of the Divine Liturgy or other liturgical service, *epistle* may refer to a passage from a New Testament epistle, or from the Acts of the Apostles, that is to be read on a certain day or at a certain occasion.

The reading from the Epistle Book proceeds the reading of the Gospel Book in the Divine Liturgy. During the singing of the *Trisagion Hymn*, the Reader will enter the Altar through the south deacons door, approach the priest, present the Epistle book and say, "Father, bless." The priest will bless the Epistle book with the sign of the Cross, and the Reader should to the very centre of the Church. The Epistle is chanted.

A reading from one or more of the four Christian Gospels follows the reading of the epistle at the Divine Liturgy. In between these two proclamations of the Word of God, Alleluia is solemnly chanted. At this time incense is also offered, with the incensing of the Gospel Book, the icons, the reader and all the people.

The Alleluia and the incensing at this moment in the Divine Liturgy signify the very presence of God with His People, teaching them Himself through Christ the Word and the Holy Spirit (*Jn 6.45*). The teacher will emphasize that God is with people in the Church, revealing Himself and His Holy Will to the world. The Gospel is God's glad tidings of salvation, His official good news to mankind. It contains and proclaims His presence and His power among men.

**3. Gospel cover craft activity.** Children will be invited to create a Gospel cover with paper card, papercraft embellishments such as gems and sequins using the collage technique.

**Resources:**

gospel-book-covers.jpg, paper, card, gems, sequins, glue

**Review:**

Reading Scripture, Praying the Scriptures and Living the Scriptures is essential for every Christian.

**Follow Up:**

In the next session we will learn more about taking part in worship. Ask the children how they experience this next time.