

## 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
4	1	2	WORSHIP	Me in Church	10: Taking part in worship

(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	Musical M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intra - personal P1	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:** O Lord, We lift our eyes to see your glory, we open our hearts to receive your love, we use our minds to understand your truths, we offer our songs to praise your Name. Lord, as we give you our lives, please take everything that we are, so that we may show your blessings to the world. Amen

**Starter:**

Create a psalm to worship God: Present selected phrases from psalms and then help children sing their own song of praise to God. Inviting children to complete the beginning of a praise line: "Praise God for ....., when I see .... I know my God is real, in the morning I say to God ... .

**Learning objectives:**

To learn that the central worship service of the Orthodox Church is called the Divine Liturgy.

To understand that worship is actively thinking about God, thanking Him and praising Him through songs and other expressions.

**Core Activities and Learning**

1. The teacher will tell children that worship services of the Orthodox Church are liturgical. Liturgical worship makes mystically present the earthly life and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is through our worship that we obey the Lord's command to 'Do this in remembrance of me'. Tell children that we remember God in our services, we ask for His grace and His mercy, that we might be united with Him in a communion of love and that this is the purpose of all our worship services.

The central worship service of the Orthodox Church is called the Divine Liturgy. Our Orthodox Church has always made use of vestments, candles, incense, and icons in worship. The inside of an Orthodox church is to be, as much as is possible, a reflection of the heavenly temple. Our worship is to be, a reflection of heavenly worship. Our parish priest will be clothed in richly coloured vestments, candles will adorn the altar and iconostasis, and we will sense the sweet smell of incense. These things are meant to draw our minds upwards, away from the cares of this life, so that we may focus on Christ and the life that is to come.

The teacher will tell the children that all children are a vital part of our Christian faith and worship. Worship is not just sitting and listening, but is actively thinking about God, appreciating God for who He is, thanking God for what He has done, giving back to God, and praising God through songs and other expressions. Children will be told they are encouraged to participate to the Divine Liturgy as much as possible. They will be encouraged to stand, pray, kneel and sing responses with the rest of the congregation. They are invited to place their offerings in the offering basket and bring it to the priest, ring the church bell during the Divine Liturgy. They're also invited to hold the Children's Liturgy book during the service and follow the pages, to sit and listen to the sermon (which will include examples that involve their lives and experiences), to take part in the processions and to partake of the Holy Communion.

The teacher will help children feel more connected to what is going on during the worship service by teaching them what we do during the service. Explain the physical actions (when to stand, sit, bow, kneel, cross themselves). Encourage them to participate in the choir responses (Litanies, Nicene Creed, Lord's Prayer). Children will be encouraged to look through the Children's Liturgy book, say a prayer that is said during the Liturgy or sing a hymn. The teacher will show pictures that illustrate worship during the Divine Liturgy and will invite children to talk about what they see and help them to remember taking part in the worship, recall what they were doing. Encourage discussion and help children make sense of their personal experience in worship.

2. Children will be told they are a vital and important part of worship. To be an altar server or serving as an Acolyte is a great way to learn and participate in the Holy Mysteries of the Church. Altar servers assist the clergy during services. They might carry the cross, candles or liturgical fans in processions and entrances; maintain the censer, ensuring it has enough live charcoal, loading it with incense and handing it to the priest or deacon when required; preparing the hot water in time for it to be added to the chalice at the Divine Liturgy; prepare the antidoron for the people to receive after Holy Communion. An altar server is vested in the sticharion only.

3. *Worship craft activity.* Children will be invited to create a collage using heart shapes made out of song sheets. Show the children how to fold the song sheets in half and cut half heart shapes on the fold to make hearts, glue them on a paper card on which is written "Jesus, You Make My Heart Sing", then decorate the paper with musical notes or whatever they would like.

**Resources:**

icon of Holy Eucharist, Children's Liturgy book, pictures that illustrate worship during the Divine Liturgy, cut out heart shapes, paper card, glue

**Review:**

In worship our hearts are raised to God in thanksgiving and He is very close to us.

**Follow Up:**

Think about what you could do more to enter actively into the worship of the Church.