

## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
4	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Enjoying Church	6: Incense and Censing

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	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:** O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who is everywhere present and fills all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One. 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 burning incense before Jesus is also a way of showing that Jesus is our God.

To understand that the incense, is offered as "an odour of spiritual fragrance," for the glorification of God.

### Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that we as Orthodox Christians we use incense when we worship God. Our Church has always expressed the value of rites and ceremonial observances, not only for increasing the solemnity of the holy services but for rising a spirit of devotion in those who minister and those who attend them.

The teacher will explain children what incense is – a granulated aromatic resin, obtained from certain trees. When sprinkled upon a glowing coal in the censer it burns freely and emits a white smoke of very fragrant odour. Various spices are sometimes mixed with the resin to increase its fragrance. The sweet-smelling smoke stands for our prayers as they rise to God. Psalm 140:2 says: "Let my prayer rise like incense before You, the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice." The sweet-smelling smoke that rises from the censer tells us that our prayer are like perfume to God. He is very pleased when we pray to Him. The teacher will tell children that the act of burning incense before Jesus is also a way of showing that Jesus is our God. The incense, is offered as "an odour of spiritual fragrance," for the glorification of God. After censing Jesus and the saints, the priest turns to the people and censes each person. By doing this he is paying respect to the image (icon) of God in each one of us.

2. The teacher will show children pictures that illustrate a censer and explain the symbolism. There are twelve bells on the censer, they stand for the twelve apostles who spread the joy of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. The three chains of the censer that hold the basin, stand for the Father Who loves us, the Son who saves us and the Holy Spirit Who lives in us. The teacher will let children explore some granules of incense then will use a home censer to burn some incense and let children observe and sense the sweet-smelling smoke.

The teacher will explain to the children that the Orthodox Church's worship is to engage the human person, in body and soul. Censers are also made for the home, where people and families can cense their homes to remind us that it is God who blessed us with these things and that we offer them back to him in the forms of what we do with our homes. Many orthodox families will use a home censer when the family prays together. It is kept next to the family icon. As the parents cense the home every Saturday evening, the presence of God fills every room of the house. God is so real in Orthodox worship that He can be seen in the icon, heard in the Bible reading, tasted in Holy Communion, touched as we kiss the icon, and smelled in the fragrance of the incense. He can be experienced as living God through all five senses. The fragrance of incense that greets us as we enter church reminds us of Jesus Who "loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" (Eph. 5:2).

3. Censer collage – craft activity. Children will be invited to create a censer collage using golden and silver tissue paper that they will glue onto a censer cut out shape.

**Resources:**

pictures that illustrate celebrations of the Divine Liturgy, picture that illustrate the censer, home censer, incense, charcoal, censer cut out shapes, golden and silver tissue paper, glue

See here:- <https://onedrive.live.com/?id=A9A1ECF554B8525%2125828&cid=0A9A1ECF554B8525>

**Review:**

In the next session ask one of the children to recall what we have learnt this Sunday.

**Follow Up:**

In the next session, we will learn more about Icons.