

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
6	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Songs of Mary	16: Hail Mary

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	Inter - personal P2	Natural N

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

Prayer: Hail! Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, O Virgin Theotokos: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls. Amen.

Starter: On the board write vertically the letters that spell MARY. Demonstrate writing the name MARY on the board first so the children have a model to follow. Ask the children to copy the letters that spell MARY. Encourage the children to find with you descriptive words that start with each letter.

Learning objectives:

To understand that the Holy Virgin Mary is called Theotokos, meaning "God-bearer", and that she is the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To learn that we "venerate" the Theotokos and show Her great honour, we believe that the Virgin Mary is an image of the Christian goal of becoming Christ-like.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher explains to the children that Hail Mary / Rejoice Mary is a prayer asking for the intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary known in the Orthodox Church as Theotokos and meaning "God-bearer", the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. In our Orthodox faith, we turn fervently to the most beloved Mother of our Saviour Jesus Christ, asking her to pray for us, as intercession on our humble behalf. If we look closer to the Liturgical life of the Church and to the hymns offered to the Mother of God, we realize that the Most Holy Theotokos is much loved by the Church. We honour her because Jesus Christ Himself honoured her on several occasions recorded in Scripture. He fulfilled her requests and also gave her special thought even while He was dying on the cross. The teacher will tell children that we "venerate" the Theotokos and show her great honour, we believe that the Virgin Mary is an image of the Christian goal of becoming Christ-like.

2. The first part of the prayer is taken directly from the greeting of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Theotokos found in Luke 1:28: "And having come in, the angel said to her, *Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!*" The second part is taken from Luke 1:42, where the Righteous Elizabeth, while being filled with the Holy Spirit, greets the Theotokos: "Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, *Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!*" The teacher will tell children that the greeting of the angel Gabriel opens this prayer. This greeting indicates a new and profound kind of joy, experienced by the angel and the Blessed Virgin and, indeed, to be experienced henceforth by the entire Church of God. This is the joy of that special "good news" which is the Gospel.

The teacher will tell children that these two phrases of the angel's greeting shed light on one another. The Virgin Mary is full of grace because the Lord is with her. The grace with which she is filled is the presence of Him Who is the source of all grace. The teacher will tell children that Saint Luke the Evangelist explains in his Gospel that the Holy Spirit revealed to Elizabeth that Mary had become the Mother of the Lord, the promised Saviour of mankind. The Holy Virgin Mary visited the righteous Elizabeth and on entering the house, she saluted Elizabeth. Upon hearing Mary's voice, Elizabeth, being filled with the Holy Spirit, recognized Mary to be worthy to become the Mother of the Lord. She cried out aloud and said: *"Blessed art Thou among women, and Blessed is the Fruit of Thy womb!"*

The teacher will explain to the children that from the earliest of times, the Church has seen fit to call her exalted among women, even more exalted than the heavenly hosts. Her role in the history of salvation has been seen as essential from the time of the very first century for her humility and obedience before God made her the New Eve.

3. Colouring pages – Annunciation. Offer children the Annunciation icon colouring pages and invite them to colour and decorate.

Resources:

the icon of the Annunciation, colouring pages – icon of Annunciation, colouring pencils, felt tip pens
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 Songs of Mary - Magnificat