

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
10	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	FEASTS OF THE THEOTOKOS	36: Nativity

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	Musical M	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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: Your Nativity, O Virgin, Has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, Has shone from you, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life. – **Troparion** - (You will want to have the words readable for the students on a whiteboard or chart.)

Starter: Ask children if they know when we celebrate in the Church the Nativity of Theotokos.

Learning objectives: To learn about the Feast of Nativity of Theotokos.

Core Activities and Learning

Introduction: The very first feast of the new Church year is the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (8th September), and it is a very good place to start! After all, the birth of the Theotokos is where many of the other feasts begin. In this feast, we celebrate the miracle which God worked in the lives of Sts. Joachim and Anna, who were His faithful servants, but were never blessed with a child. Childlessness was a hardship for them. They had reached old age and had borne no children! In those days, barrenness was considered punishment from God for sins.

Read the story to the children: <http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/26.pdf>

Ask children why the birth of Theotokos was important for us as humans. For your answer, you can refer to the Kontakion of Nativity that you sung at the beginning of the session. **Explain** that we are not just celebrating the miracle of Sts. Joachim and Anna's release from barrenness. Through Mary, the child given to them, Christ was born. And through His birth, death, and resurrection, Adam and Eve were released from Hades; and we ourselves are set free from the guilt of our sin.

At this point, you can either remind briefly to children the story of Adam and Eve fall into sin or if time allows it, you can read the story from **Genesis 3:1-24**.

Emphasize that God's plan was at work from the earliest days of Mary's life. She was the one He wanted to be the mother of Jesus Christ, but it only happened with her agreement.

Group activity: Bring an icon of the Nativity of Jesus Christ and one of the Nativity of Theotokos. Alternatively, you can print one from the Followers Resources Folder here:-

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

Ask children to spot similarities and differences where they can between the two icons. Identify key persons (or events) shown in the festal icons. For your answers, see the link below: <https://iconreader.wordpress.com/2011/09/08/the-nativity-of-the-theotokos-icon/>

Resources: Genesis 3:1:24.

<http://dce.oca.org/focus/theotokos>

<https://orthodoxchurchschoolteachers.wordpress.com/category/feasts/>

<https://iconreader.wordpress.com/2011/09/08/the-nativity-of-the-theotokos-icon/>

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

Supplies: Festal Icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos and the Nativity of Jesus Christ, Crayons, coloured pencils or markers.

Review: The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos is a celebration of the very first preparation of God for the salvation of the world.

Follow Up: Print and distribute from the link below. <http://dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/179.pdf>

Colour the icon of the Nativity of Theotokos to familiarise yourself with the context of the icon.