

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
3	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Special times	2: Birthdays

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 <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: Dear God, we offer you grateful praise for the gift of life. Hear the prayers for your servant, who recalls today the day of their birth and rejoices in your gifts of life and love, family and friends. Bless us with your presence and surround us with your love. Amen

Starter:

In God's Image. Form pairs. Have partners decide who'll be the "model" and who'll be the "mirror." Standing face to face, have the models move about and have the mirrors imitate their actions. After several minutes, switch positions so the model is now the mirror. Ask: What do you see when you look into a real mirror? Say: God sees someone very special when He looks at you. Say the child's name and name the Patron Saint.

Learning objectives:

To understand that on our birthdays we thank God for His mercy in allowing us to be born and for giving us the opportunity for eternal life with Him, for giving us parents to guide us in a loving, safe Orthodox home.

To learn that with each birthday celebration we should learn how to let the love of Jesus shine through us.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that on our birthdays we thank God for His mercy in allowing us to be born and for giving us the opportunity for eternal life with Him, for giving us parents to guide us in a loving, safe Orthodox home. The Bible says that Christians should be the light of the world. Each year that we live should be filled with the desire to do good things and be good so that people can see Jesus in us, the brightest light of all. With each birthday celebration we should learn how to let the love of Jesus shine through us.

The teacher will read from Psalm 139 verses 13-14 *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."* The teacher will tell children that we should praise God for His wonderful creation. We are a marvellous creation, and we are designed exactly the way He wanted us and we will continue to work with God, to grow "in wisdom", growing closer and closer to God! And that's something we can all do children and mothers and fathers and grandparents too. We can all keep "growing up," growing closer to our Lord!

2. The teacher will remind children: "But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

The teacher will encourage children to take part in a discussion about what "Kingdom of God" means and explain to children that the Kingdom of God is life in and with God. It is a life where we worship and obey God and do His will by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

3. Birthday candle craft activity: Give each child an empty paper towel tube. Cover the tube with a piece of coloured construction paper and then give children square pieces of yellow, red and orange tissue paper. The children will then stuff the tissue paper into the paper roll with their fingers to make it look like a flame. Let children hold their new candles up and sing Happy Birthday to the church.

Resources:

christ_light2.jpg, christ_children.jpg, paper towel tube, coloured construction paper, tissue paper

Review:

Celebrating our birth makes us give thanks to God for our lives.

Follow Up:

In the next session we will learn more about happy times in Church.