

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Celebrations	12: Weddings

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2	Natural N

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

Prayer: Holy God. Holy Mighty. Holy Immortal Have mercy on us. Holy God. Holy Mighty. Holy Immortal Have mercy on us. Holy God. Holy Mighty. Holy Immortal Have mercy on us. Glory to the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Starter: Celebration Circle. Play this game to celebrate each child's unique abilities. Have children join hands and walk in a circle as they sing this song to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell": God made you special, God made me special, amazing and wonderful, just look what you can do! Each time the song is sung, have a different child tell one of his or her talents and then move to the centre of the circle for the remainder of the game. Continue singing until you're the only one left in the circle.

Learning objectives:

To learn that man is made in the image of the Most-Holy Trinity, and he is intended by God to live in a family and it requires a gift of charism from the Holy Spirit.

To learn that Jesus taught the uniqueness of human marriage as the most perfect natural expression of God's love for men and women, and of his own love for the Church and for all.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that Holy Matrimony is one of the Sacraments of the Holy Orthodox Church in which a man and woman are united by the Holy Trinity. The man is made in the image of the Most-Holy Trinity, and he is not intended by God to live alone, but in a family. Just as God blessed the first humans, Adam and Eve, to live as a family, the Church blesses the union of a man and a woman. The teacher will explain to children that marriage, is a state of grace, and married life is a special vocation requiring a gift or charism from the Holy Spirit, this gift being given in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

The teacher will explain to children that Jesus taught the uniqueness of human marriage as the most perfect natural expression of God's love for men, and of his own love for the Church.

2. The teacher will explain to children the significance of the acts as the Mystery of marriage is rich in ritual and symbolism. The rings are blessed by the priest and are the symbol of betrothal and their exchange signifies that in married life the weaknesses of the one will be compensated for by the strength of the other, the imperfections of one by the perfections of the other. together they are made perfect. Each will be enriched by the union.

The candles symbolize the spiritual willingness of the couple to receive Christ, Who will bless them through this Mystery. The right hand of the bride and groom are joined when the priest reads the prayer that beseeches God to "join these thy servants, unite them in one mind and one flesh." The hands are kept joined throughout the service to symbolize the "oneness" of the couple. The crowns are signs of the glory and honour with which God crowns them during the Mystery. The groom and the bride are crowned as the king and queen of their own little kingdom, the home - domestic church.

The service of crowning is followed by the reading of the Epistle and the Gospel. The Gospel reading describes the marriage at Cana of Galilee which was blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ. In remembrance of this blessing, wine is given the couple. This is the "common cup" of better life that signifies the mutual sharing of joy and sorrow, the expression of a life of harmony.

The priest leads the bride and groom in a circle around the table on which are placed the Gospel and the Cross, the one containing the Word of God, the other being the symbol of our salvation by our Saviour Jesus Christ. As the couple follows the priest, their journey together begins.

Craft Activity: Help the children to make their own wedding crowns out of white card, suitably decorated. The crowns could be pre-prepared if necessary and with small "stick-on" icons provided (Slav style).

Resources:

Card and art materials for the crown. Pictures of Orthodox marriage services for illustration purposes.

Review:

In marriage, the couple are to become one in their love for each other and in Christ's love.

Follow Up:

In the next session, we will learn more about celebrations – memorials.