









FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
6	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Songs of Mary	17: Magnificat

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: More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word true Theotokos, we magnify you.

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 more Christ-like.

To join in singing the refrain of the *Magnificat*.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell the children that in our Orthodox Church, a special place of honour is given to the Mother of God the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who is venerated by the Orthodox as being more honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious, beyond compare, than the Seraphim.

The teacher will explain to children that the Holy Theotokos is honoured because she is the supreme example of the cooperation between God and Man. God, Who always respects human freedom, did not become incarnate without her free consent which, as Holy Scripture tells us, was freely given: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

The teacher will tell the children that the *Magnificat* hymn is spoken by Mary on the occasion of her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth. After the Annunciation, she kept the secret of God's plan for her. She quickly visited her cousin, Elizabeth, not thinking of her own needs, but only the need of Elizabeth to share her joy. In the narrative, after Mary greets Elizabeth, who carries John the Baptist in her womb, he moves within Elizabeth's womb. The *Magnificat*, the song of Mary, is actually a response to Elizabeth's words. The Holy Virgin Mary expresses her gratitude to God and she praises God for his power, His holiness and His mercy; she compares how differently God deals with the proud and the humble; and recalls that all the ancient prophecies to the Jews are now being fulfilled in the Lord, Who was at that moment present in her womb.

2. The teacher explains that the *Magnificat*, the hymn composed by our Lady under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit with expressions from the Old Testament, is a portrait of Mary's soul. It is a song to the mercy of God, who is great and all-powerful, and at the same time a manifestation of our Lady's humility. Although I have done nothing myself, she says, the Lord has wished to accomplish in me what He had announced to our forefathers, to Abraham and his posterity forever. *My soul magnifies the Lord*, not because my soul is great, but because the Lord has done great things in it. Mary is the humble handmaid of God and the servant of mankind. She remains three months in Elizabeth's home, until the birth of John. The Virgin Mary, aided by Divine Grace, carried out these actions in a real world with real effort and sacrifice. She is for us a model of many virtues."

3. The teacher will invite the children to join in singing – the refrain of the *Magnificat*.

"More honourable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word true Theotokos, we magnify you."

They may then colour in an icon of the Annunciation.

Resources:

annunciation-theotokos.jpg, colouring materials

Review:

Mary sings to God in thanksgiving for His grace and offers her whole life so that Christ can come and save us.

Follow Up:

In the next session we will learn more about the songs of or about Mary > *It is truly meet*.