









FOLLOWERS - LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
12	2	4	CELEBRATION	SAINTS OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST	48: St Ephraim the Syrian

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	Kinaesthetic K	Musical M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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: St. Ephraim's Prayer: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, meddling, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother, for thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Starter: Ask students to name one thing that impressed them from St John Chrysostom life. Why?

Learning objectives: To have a general biographical knowledge of St. Ephraim the Syrian; how he became a saint; his writings and theology.

Core Activities and Learning

1. Read the life of St. Ephraim the Syrian here: https://orthodoxwiki.org/Ephrem_the_Syrian Discuss the life and ministry of St Ephraim in small groups and record findings, presenting them to the class. Discuss why he was glorified as a saint. What were his gifts?

Activity 1: Leader ask the students to listen carefully while one of them reads again the prayer of St. Ephraim. What does the prayer says, what does it teach us? Ask them to share their thoughts. How difficult is it to put the prayer into practice? Why? What can we do to improve that situation

(Here the leader can talk a little about the saint being a hymn writer and tell them the story about his parents dream (see Resource Sheet 48)

2. Ask the students if they have heard of any of the writings of St Ephraim? One of his most well-known poems is: - "The Harp of the Spirit." (Syriac Kenârâ d-Rûhâ). He is also referred to as the Deacon of Edessa, the Sun of the Syrians and a Pillar of the Church. Why do they think he was called these things?

Activity 2: Ask the students what they think about people who do bad and foolish things. Can they become good people again? Tell them the stories from St Ephraim's youth (see the Resource Sheet 48) and how God's providence brought him to the light of wisdom. Ask them to share what would they do if they have a friend who acted bad or foolishly? Do they know someone who changed their life with God's help?

3. Read or preferably sing together:

Troparion (Tone 8): By a flood of tears, you made the desert fertile, and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles, you illumined the whole universe. O our holy father Ephraim, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

Kontakion (Tone 2): O holy father Ephraim, as you meditated constantly on the final judgment, You shed abundant tears of sorrow, Making your struggles examples that we could follow and imitate, And awakening the slothful to repentance: You are indeed a father of high renown.

Resources: paper and pens

Review: In spite of the gifts which God bestowed upon him, St. Ephraim remained deeply humble.

Follow Up: Research and read some of St. Ephraim's hymns. Choose one you especially like and share this with the other students in the next lesson, saying why you like it. (The Leader may need to help the students during the week find his hymns on the internet or in parish libraries / library).