

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
4	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Enjoying Church	8: Flowers and Colours

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: I will enter Your house O Lord, in the multitude of Your mercies, in the fear of Your presence, I will worship You. Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, Have mercy on us and save us. Amen

Starter: *Create a psalm to worship God:* Present selected phrases from psalms and then help children sing their own song of praise to God. Inviting children to complete the beginning of a praise line: "Praise God for, when I see I know my God is real, in the morning I say to God

Learning objectives:

To learn that the inside of an Orthodox church is to be, as much as is possible, a reflection of the heavenly temple.

To understand that the rich-coloured vestments, the candles and icons that adorn the altar and iconostasis, the sweet smell of incense are meant to draw our minds upwards and focus on Christ and the life that is to come.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell the children that during the central service of the Divine Liturgy our Orthodox Church has always made use of vestments, candles, incense, and icons in worship. The inside of an Orthodox church is to be, as much as is possible, a reflection of the heavenly temple. Our worship is to be, a reflection of heavenly worship. Our parish priest will be clothed in rich-coloured vestments, candles will adorn the altar and iconostasis, and we will sense the sweet smell of incense. All of these things are meant to draw our minds upwards, away from the cares of this life, so that we may focus on Christ and the life that is to come.

The teacher will explain to children that flowers enhance the beauty of our Church and greatly contribute to the atmosphere in the building. Flowers can be donated by parishioners to adorn our church, to mark special events such as birthdays, anniversaries or in memory of a loved one, flowers are placed in front of the Iconostasis by the donour on Sundays before Liturgy.

2. The teacher will invite children to explore the fascinating and colourful world of Orthodox Christian vesture and church adornment by presenting them pictures of vestments and liturgical objects as well as pictures that illustrate the services of our Orthodox Church. Then the teacher will explain to children that beauty within the Church is essential. The teacher will talk to children about the origin of Orthodox Christian liturgical vestments and their significance, the meaning that is contained in the textiles, colours and designs used in Orthodox Christian liturgical practice. The teacher will tell children that the craftsman who makes vestments is like the artist who writes or paints icons. The iconic nature of both tailor and painter displays the picture of God's presence everywhere in the Church. The teacher will explain to the children how we can show reverence through adornment.

The teacher will tell children that the liturgical colours used in the Orthodox Church are white, green, purple, red, blue, and gold. We can reverence the beauty of the aesthetics of liturgical clothing and ornamentation and realize, through that reverence, a pure and pious dimension to the practice of our faith.

The teacher will explain to children that the external and sanctified clothing we put on our bodies must co-ordinate with the inner man of the soul that St Paul talks about in his letters to the churches.

3. Worship craft activity. Children will be invited to create a collage using heart shapes made out of song sheets. Show the children how to fold the song sheets in half and cut half heart shapes on the fold to make hearts, glue them on a paper card on which is written "Jesus, You Make My Heart Sing", then decorate the paper with musical notes or whatever they would like.

Resources:

Pictures that illustrate the services of our Orthodox Church, pictures that illustrate vestments and liturgical objects
heart shapes made out of song sheets, glue, coloured pencils, felt tip or coloured pens

Review:

God gave us our senses so that we can worship Him through them.

Follow Up:

In the next session we will learn more about the Holy Gifts.