

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
5	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Celebrations	13: Memorials

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 <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: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Lover of mankind. Amen.

Starter: Jesus Loves You. Play the game Duck, Duck, Goose, but instead of saying “duck, duck, goose,” have the child who is “It” say, “Jesus loves, loves, loves YOU!” Children sit in a circle. One child walks around the circle and pats each child’s head while saying only one word in the phrase. When the child says “you,” the child whose head is tapped jumps up and chases him back to the tagged child’s space. If the tagged child catches him, then that child must sit in the middle of the circle until someone replaces him or her. Remind children to make sure everyone gets a turn because Jesus loves everyone in the circle.

Learning objectives:

To learn that a memorial is done in remembrance of those departed from this life and prayers are offered so that they may receive mercy and forgiveness for the sins they may have committed in their lives.

To learn that the memorial service is a proclamation that Christ has risen from the dead and that, in His love, even death cannot separate us from one another.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell the children that prayer for those departed of this life is an essential component of our faith in Jesus Christ. Praying for those who have died is not merely an expression of mourning – it is a proclamation that Christ has risen from the dead and that, in His love, even death cannot separate us from one another.

Just as we love and respect the living persons, so do we love and respect those who have departed this life. We express our love for our departed friends and relatives through prayer. Just as we pray for the living that the Grace of God may be upon them, so do we pray for the dead that they may become worthy of the vision of God.

The teacher will tell children that a memorial is done in remembrance of those departed. This service is most commonly added to the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, and the family and friends of the deceased sit in reserved seats in the front of the church. During the service, prayers are offered so that the deceased may receive mercy and forgiveness for the sins they may have committed in their lives. Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the saints are all asked to intercede. “Memory Eternal” is sung. The song is meant to comfort the family and friends of the deceased. Forty days after the death of a loved one (or on the nearest Sunday to the 40 days), it is the custom of our Church to celebrate a prayer service in remembrance of the deceased known as a Memorial Service. In this service, we ask God to “grant rest” to the deceased “in the bosom of Abraham” and to place him/her “in a place of light, a place of happiness, a place of refreshment, where there is no pain, no sorrow and no suffering”.

2. The teacher will tell the children that each year the relatives observe the memorial of the departed to proclaim that they live and their souls are immortal and they shall be restored when the Creator raises up their body. The offering of Boiled Wheat (Kolyva) bears witness that, as Christ died according to the flesh and was raised up and lives, thus, we too shall be raised up and live in Him. This practice is based on the words of the Lord Jesus used to describe His own death and resurrection, “Amen, I say to you: unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat. But if it dies, it brings forth a good harvest” (John 12:24). Kolyva is a symbol of our faith in the life-giving death and resurrection of Christ.

The teacher will explain to children that we know from the Bible that the souls of the departed in Christ, after they are freed from the body, live in another world, beyond this world.

3. Children will be given colouring pages representing the Resurrection of Jesus Christ to colour and will be reminded that as Christ died according to the flesh and was raised up and lives, thus, we too shall be raised up and live in Him.

Resources:

Resurrection.jpg, pictures illustrating a memorial service, picture of kolyva, colouring pages representing the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, coloured pencils, felt tip pens

Review:

Jesus conquered death by his resurrection granting us eternal life in Him.

Follow Up:

In the next session, we will learn more about Saints’ Days.