





FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

| Age | Term | Mod. | Module Theme | Module Title | Lesson Number and Title |
|-----|------|------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 3 | 2 | 4 | CELEBRATIONS | SPECIAL TIMES | 5: Hopeful times in church |

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)

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| 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: Heavenly Father, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in You all day long. Amen.

Starter: Before starting the class, the teacher can make large construction paper letters (one letter for each piece of construction paper) to hide around a designated area. There should be a large letter for every letter of HOPE and TRUST. Children can hunt for the letters and bring them back to tape to the classroom door or a special wall or poster board! Tell children to ask each other questions about today's lesson.

Learning objectives: To learn that hope is the confidence that the light of the loving forgiveness of God is upon us to do with us and for us what we ourselves cannot do. To learn that we are the *"temples of the Holy Spirit"* and that God's Spirit dwells in us. To understand that by our own membership in the Church, have received *"the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit"* in the sacrament of Chrismation.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that the virtue of hope goes together with the power of faith. Hope is the assurance of the good outcome of our lives lived by faith in God. Hope is the power of certain conviction that the life built on faith will produce its fruits. Hope is the confidence that the light of the loving forgiveness of God is upon us to do with us and for us what we ourselves cannot do. Jesus, the Son of God, is all-powerful. He wants us not to be afraid but to have faith. In John 14:1, Jesus says, *"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me."* No matter what we are facing, Jesus promises to be with us always. We need to put our trust in Him and let His peace calm us like He calmed the wind and the waves. Read to children Romans 5:5 *"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."* The teacher will tell children that once, when Jesus told His disciples that He would be going away, He meant that He would be leaving this earth for heaven. *"How can we follow?"* they asked. *"We don't know where you are going, and we don't know the way."* Jesus answered, *"Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me . . . I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* The teacher will remind the children about the Ascension of our Lord - forty days after Christ's resurrection, when He was taken up into the Heavens in a cloud. It is the token of Pentecost, the promise of the Holy Spirit and the sign of its coming, *"The Lord has ascended to heaven and will send the Comforter to the world"*. Jesus understood that we all need help in times of trouble. When He was here on earth, He was a source of help and comfort to His disciples. When He was preparing to return to heaven, He knew that there would be times when disciples would need help and comfort and that He would not be there to give it to them. He told the disciples that He would ask his Father to send them another Comforter Who would stay with them forever. He asked the Father, and He sent the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit is with us in times of trouble. He is there to comfort and to guide us. We are the *"temples of the Holy Spirit."* God's Spirit dwells in us. We, by our own membership in the Church, have received *"the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit"* in the sacrament of Chrismation.

2. The teacher will explain children that, as we wait for Christ's return, Faith and Hope are precious to us. The teacher will explain to children how these two great comforts interrelate as we move through our journey here on earth. The word *"hope"* in the Bible expresses confidence and assurance concerning the future because it's based on God's promises and love. Hope gives strength, teaches patience and brings encouragement. As hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen we should put our hope in God and all of the blessings he provides. We pray that we may have the desire and the innate reaction to bring our worries, fears, and dreams to our Heavenly Father and trust that He holds us in His loving arms.

3. The children will be making virtue mobiles using heart cut outs showing love in the family, love between friends, love of neighbour, the love expressed by people who serve in special ways. Pictures and illustrations of people, both adults and children expressing and professing feelings of love will be glued onto the heart cut out. As they create the mobile the teacher will remind children about love, hope and faith in God.

Resources: Icon of the Ascension of our Lord, icon of Pentecost, pictures and illustrations of people both adults and children expressing and professing feelings of love, heart cut outs, string, glue, juice straws

Icons Resource Folder: <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiWFS1XPHpoKgdJr-uQxYQwSc8a5Q>

Review: We live by hope because God is in charge.

Follow Up: In the next session, we will learn more about Christian living – Families.