









FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
4	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	SPECIAL TIMES	9: The Holy Gifts

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kinaesthetic K	Musical M	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: Dear Lord, make me worthy to be a partaker of Thy Holy Mysteries and may this Eucharist bring me joy, health, and gladness. Amen

Starter: Holy Communion jigsaw puzzle. Create a jigsaw puzzle using a picture of children partaking of the Holy Communion. Children will be invited to fit the pieces together to make the jigsaw puzzle. Talk through what they are doing encouraging children to recognise what the picture illustrates.

Learning objectives: To learn that the Holy Gifts of bread and wine, which become for is the Body and Blood of Christ, are offered to God for the salvation of all people, and indeed the entire world of God's creation. To learn that in Christ we can offer ourselves and each other and the entire world to God. To begin to comprehend that the bread and wine prepared by our priest at the beginning of Divine Liturgy truly become the Body and Blood of Christ which we receive in Holy Communion.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that they receive God in their hearts through Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) they partake each Sunday. The Holy Communion is understood as being the real presence of Christ, His true Body and Blood mystically present in the bread and wine which are offered to the Father in His name and consecrated by the divine Spirit of God. (Icon of Holy Eucharist will be shown to children, along with pictures that show the Holy Gifts and Holy Eucharist given to children). The teacher will explain to the children that in Christ we can offer ourselves and each other and the entire world to God. In and through Him, we can offer all that we are, and all that we have, to God the Father. We can do this because we are in Christ, and have received the Holy Spirit from Him. The teacher will tell children that the Gifts of bread and wine bear Christ Himself, and in Him, this is given for all men and the entire world of God's creation when we offer them to God. The teacher will explain to the children that the Eucharist in the Orthodox Church is understood to be the genuine Body and Blood of Christ precisely because bread and wine are the mysteries and symbols of God's true and genuine presence and manifestation to us in Christ. By eating and drinking the bread and wine which are consecrated by the Holy Spirit as the Body and Blood, we have true communion with God through Christ who is Himself "the bread of life" (John 6.34, 41)

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh" (John 6.51).

2. The teacher will tell children that the bread and wine prepared by our priest at the beginning of Divine Liturgy truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus. The teacher will explain how can bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. Our priest who is chosen by God to continue the work of Jesus, asks God the Holy Spirit to come to the Altar to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. It is hard to understand how this change happens because our human eyes cannot see it taking place. Explain children that the bread of the Eucharist is Christ's flesh, and Christ's flesh is the Eucharistic bread. The two are brought together into one. The word "symbolical" in Orthodox terminology means exactly this: "to bring together into one." The teacher will explain the use of symbols in Orthodox church. The sign of the Holy Cross is the symbol of victory over death, and the intersection of the heavenly and the earthly. It reminds us that Jesus died on the cross to save us. The dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit and used especially in icons of our Lord's Baptism and the Pentecost. The fish symbol was created using the Greek letters which spell out ICHTHUS: Jesus Christ Son of God, Saviour. The Romans persecuted the Christians and it became dangerous for them to meet. So the Christians had a secret code. They drew a fish in the sand. Under the fish sign the Christians wrote the Greek word fish. These letters stood for: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. However, these signs point TO Jesus. The Eucharistic symbols ARE Jesus Himself.

3. **Holy Communion craft activity:** Children will be invited to create a collage using chalice cut out shapes they have made themselves, then will be encouraged to decorate the chalice with felt tip pens, decorative gem embellishments and glitter. Children are invited to write their own name on their collage.

Resources: Icon of the Holy Eucharist, pictures that illustrate receiving the Holy Communion, chalice cut out shapes, felt tip pens, decorative gem embellishments and glitter. Resources for icons may be found here:
<https://onedrive.live.com/?id=A9A1ECF554B8525%2126889&cid=0A9A1ECF554B8525>

Review: Jesus comes to us in Holy Communion and we receive Him present in a very special way.

Follow Up: For next week, ask the children think about how we sing, chant and move about in church.