

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
7	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	FASTING IN THE CHURCH YEAR	24: Great Lent (3)

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: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner, (*quietly and slowly, 9 times*)

Starter: Do you know any of our Saints that had lived in the desert? Why do you think they choose to live away from the world?

Learning objectives: To learn about the life of St Mary of Egypt and St Lazarus, understand the significance of repentance and the symbolic meaning of the resurrection of Lazarus.

Core Activities and Learning

Introduction: On the Fifth Sunday of Lent the Orthodox Church commemorates our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt. The feast day of Saint Mary of Egypt is April 1, however, she is also commemorated on this Sunday due to her recognition by the Church as a model of repentance.

Refer to the following points:

- She left home at 12 years old, to live a life of sinfulness in the city, one which would not bring her happiness, but emptiness and distance from God.
- When God prevented her entrance into the Church to venerate the Cross of Christ, it was a BIG WAKE UP CALL, to stop and look at herself as unworthy, and in need of healing.
- She did not flee to the desert to punish herself, but TO FIND HERSELF, that is, the true self that God created her to be, beautiful in His eyes.
- She departed for the desert without much, but had one important thing: faith in God that He would provide for her daily food and shelter for 47 years.
- Lastly, the four miracles show us that she became transformed and pleasing to God: she had the gift of clairvoyance and knew Father Zossimas' name before he told her; she was seen elevated off the ground in prayer; she walked on water to cross the river to receive the Holy Eucharist, and lastly, the lion was sent by God to help bury her.

The rising of **Lazarus** from the death is celebrated in the Orthodox Church the day before Palm Sunday. From the Holy Gospels, we learn that Lazarus was the brother of Martha and Mary and lived in Bethany.

Briefly refer to the story in the Gospels, John 11: 1-44.

Explain to the children in a simple way that this miracle is performed by Christ as a reassurance to His disciples before the coming Passion: they are to understand that, though He suffers and dies, yet He is Lord and Victor over death. It foreshadows Christ's own Resurrection eight days later. It also anticipates the resurrection of all the righteous on the Last Day.

Group activity: Colour the pages with the icon of St Mary and the resurrection of Lazarus. See line drawings provided.

Resources: The Bible, John 11, 1-44. http://lent.goarch.org/saint_mary_of_egypt/learn/ , <http://orthodoxeducation.blogspot.co.uk/2014/04/st-mary-egypt-turn-life-around.html> , http://lent.goarch.org/saturday_of_lazarus/learn/ **Supplies:** colouring pens or pencils.

Review: On the Fifth Sunday of Lent the Orthodox Church commemorates our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt, as model of repentance. On the Fifth Sunday of Lent the Church commemorates St Lazarus of Bethany, whom Jesus raised from the dead, to foretell His death and Resurrection.

Follow Up: Who was St Mary of Egypt and who was St Lazarus of Bethany?