








## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
17	2	4	CELEBRATIONS	Martyrs	74: St Demetrios of Thessaloniki

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	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:** Trisagion Prayers

**Starter:** Ask the students for their opinions on the idea of a “Just War”

(Teacher Resource: [https://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl201/modules/Philosophers/Augustine/augustine\\_justwar.html](https://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl201/modules/Philosophers/Augustine/augustine_justwar.html))

**Learning objectives:**

1. To be able to recall the main events in the life and martyrdom of St Demetrios and what these teach us about the cost of confessing Christ and following Him.
2. To understand some of the ethical issues in the arenas of war and persecution.

### Core Activities and Learning

1. Watch the first 5 minutes of this video on the life and martyrdom of St Demetrios of Thessaloniki:  
<https://youtu.be/sqhsPlwVBXg>
2. Leader Resource to review the life of the Saint with the students: [https://orthodoxwiki.org/Demetrius\\_of\\_Thessaloniki](https://orthodoxwiki.org/Demetrius_of_Thessaloniki)
3. A number of martyrs and saints in our calendar (including St Demetrios) were soldiers. Nothing was considered incompatible in the early Church between being an active soldier and a Christian. Nonetheless, shedding blood in battle still prevented a Christian soldier returning from war from participating in Holy Communion for 3 years (St Basil - <https://incommunion.org/2006/02/19/st-basil-on-war-and-repentance/>). The Church still recognised that taking human life, although sometimes necessary as the lesser of two evils, was intrinsically wrong. Discuss these issues among the students.
4. What might our proper response to persecution be today? What can St Demetrios and St Nestor teach us about the difference between protecting the weak and vulnerable and saving one's own life?

**Resources:** Laptop for showing YouTube video.

**Review:** St Demetrios' sacrifice was for the protection of the weak and the defence of the faith. Soldiering on this basis is justifiable but not otherwise.

**Follow Up:** Research other soldier martyr saints. What do we learn from their lives and deaths?