









FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
6	3	5	Christian Living	Listening to God	18: Listening to God in Holy People

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	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: Heavenly Father, you have called me to love you with all that I am, heart, soul, mind, and strength. Today I'm reminded especially of the opportunity I have to love you. All praise be to you, O God. Amen.

Starter: Friends circle. Invite children to sit in a circle and play a Friends Game. Each child can take a turn at saying another child's name and why he is a good friend. Encourage children to name children who have not been named yet. Children may need ideas of what to say, such as "you are kind, you listen to your parents, you smile, you helped me," etc. After playing the game for a little while so everyone gets called on, invite children to pray in that circle and thank Jesus for being their best friend.

Learning objectives: To begin to comprehend that Holiness is a gift given by God to people, through the Holy Spirit. To comprehend that we are to express an entire lifetime of striving and struggle to attain, by God's grace, the highest of vocations – the holiness. To understand that through the prayers of all the Saints and holy people of God, we may be encouraged to follow their example of virtue and holiness. To learn that the descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for human beings to become and remain holy.

Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell the children that the teaching of the Church comes alive in the lives of the true believers, the saints. The Saints are people who, before reaching the glory of heaven, lived a normal life, with joys and griefs, struggles and hopes. They followed God with all their heart and through their genuine piety and absolute obedience to God, they pleased Him and have therefore been "sanctified" both in soul and body, and glorified in this world.

The Saints are those who literally share the holiness of God. "Be holy, for I your God am holy" (Lev 11.44; 1 Pet 1.16). The lives of the Saints bear witness to the authenticity and truth of the Christian gospel, the gift of God's holiness to men.

The teacher will tell children that there are several categories of saints: prophets, evangelists, martyrs, ascetics, holy bishops and priests, and those who live a righteous life in the world. What they all have in common is holiness of life. God tells us to be holy, because He is holy. We must consecrate ourselves, for we are His people. Saint Peter reiterates this commandment in the New Testament, challenging us to obey God's commandments and submit our will to His will (1 Pet 1:16).

Everyone is challenged to manifest holiness in their lives, for we all must become saints! This is our special calling from God. It is not something reserved for the clergy, monastics, or those who are "more pious." Everyone who has been baptised into Christ must live in such a way that Christ lives within us. "Do you not know," Saint Paul asks, "that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16).

2. The teacher will explain children that God's holiness is manifested in the Church through these grace-filled men and women whose lives were pleasing to God. Through the prayers of all the saints, we may be encouraged to follow their example of virtue and holiness. God has revealed to the Church His innumerable saints, and we rejoice in their continuous presence, made possible by the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, holy by nature, makes human beings holy by grace.

The word we use for "saint" is the Greek word for "holy" – aghios. In a real sense, we are celebrating the presence of holiness in the world, incarnate in actual flesh and blood human beings. The descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for human beings to become and remain holy. Without the Holy Spirit, human beings can be nice, pleasant and even good – but not holy. And it is the holiness of the saints that is their one common characteristic, expressed in an endless diversity of vocations. Every baptized and chrismated member of the Church is already a saint – a person sanctified and set apart as a member of the People of God – and every such member has the vocation to become a saint. The teacher will explain children that we are to express an entire lifetime of striving and struggle to attain, by God's grace, the highest of vocations – the holiness of a genuine child of God, "born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" [John 1:13].

3. The teacher will tell children that if we love Christ before all else, then we would have a greater love for those around us, including our very family members. To love Christ above all else is to make our very notion and experience of love grow. If we live "in Christ," we can then love "in Christ." We share the most difficult of vocations – to live up to our high calling in Christ Jesus. This is not something that we achieve on our own, but a process that includes the Grace of God and our own self-determination, what we call our freedom of choice or "free will."

Resources: Icon of Jesus, icon of the Holy Theotokos, icon of all Saints of the British Islands and Ireland, icon of Saint Nicholas, picture of the iconostasis, colouring pages of Saint Nicholas, colouring page of patron saints, coloured pencils, felt tip pens.

Review: We should listen to holy people and follow their example if we want to achieve true happiness in life.

Follow Up: Next week we will learn what it is to listen with patience.