









## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
4	3	5	Christian Living	Caring	10: Caring for My Home

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:** O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come and dwell in us, and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

**Starter:** Eyes closed. Children will be invited to close their eyes, the teacher will describe something to them, then ask the children to draw on paper what they think the teacher is describing. The children will be given description of a church building, the cross and the bell will be mentioned as distinctive elements so it will be easily recognised by the children.

**Learning objectives:** To learn that the centre of worship for a family is their home. To begin to comprehend that the homes which our Lord and his Apostles entered and sanctified by their presence became small hearths from which the Gospel began to spread throughout the world. To understand that the home is a "little church", it's where we continue to encounter Christ by seeking Him through prayer.

### Core Activities and Learning

1. The teacher will tell children that the centre of worship for a family is their home. The home is where our family grows, where we gather with our family to eat, to read the word of God. Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14: 23). As Orthodox Christians, we live with the certainty that our homes are "little churches." The homes which our Lord and his Apostles entered and sanctified by their presence became small hearths from which the Gospel began to spread slowly, but irresistibly, throughout the world.

Explain to the children that with our spiritual eyes, we discern God's presence, the architype of the Holy Trinity or the reflection of Christ's Church, so it is with the very essence of the Christian family: in it we see the image of the Holy Trinity and the Church itself. The Holy Apostle Paul begins some of his epistles with greetings such as: "Greet Priscilla and Aquila... and the church that is their house"(Rom.16:3-5);

The family is, indeed, a home church, a small church. This idea is manifested visibly, through morning, evening, mealtime, or before-school prayers of the family members, or when the family is celebrating their Patron Saint Day. The love between parents it is the means by which they grow together "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephes. 4:13). Our love as parents towards our children is not only care for their material well-being, for their physical upbringing and education (although all of this is necessary): our parental love culminates when we strive and do everything we can to illumine our children with the light of Christ in accordance with the talent which was given to them by God.

The teacher will tell children that we need to create and nurture family relationships in such a way that they reflect Christ's Church. Our vocation is to live within our family, to love all our family members, and to sustain the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift of joy. Our family life requires continual care, we are called to care for our total self first, physical, emotional and social, intellectual and spiritual. We care for our physical self through adequate sleep, nutritious food, exercise; we care for our intellectual self through stimulating reading, inspiring music and other forms of intellectual engagement. We care for our emotional and social self by cultivating trustworthy friendships, disclosing our deepest thoughts and behaviours in and out of confession, by being more aware of and owning our feelings. We care for our spiritual self through intimacy with Jesus Christ. Like any visible relationship, intimacy with the Lord includes private time with Him in quiet meditation daily, contemplating His Word in the Bible daily, and trying to please Him by doing His will for us. We try to keep His commandments of love as best we can and go to His holy Church services. Care for Family Members - we are called to love our God-given family members to pray for them, look after them, and live in this unity of love.

2. The teacher will tell children that according to Saint John Chrysostom, the home is a "little church." It's where we continue to encounter Christ by seeking Him through prayer and study and where we struggle to acquire the virtues of the Christian life. By bringing our experience of the Church into the home, we more fully recognize and appreciate what it means to be the Church when we gather during the Liturgy. The teacher will suggest some things we can all do to make our home a little church: a. Pray, study scripture, and talk about the spiritual life; b. Practice hospitality; c. Encourage and correct one another. Children will be told that the icons in our homes, our "little churches," remind us that God is with us, always. They remind us to pray. They are witnesses to Who it is that is "The Way, They Truth and The Life." They are examples of the path we must follow if we are to live a life of godliness. The icons would not be only "windows into heaven", but the safe haven in the storm, the place where we can go and feel welcomed. Children will be invited to recreate the "little church" in our homes.

3. Distribute patterns of multi-coloured people figures, along with supplies to decorate, and mirrors. The teacher will invite children to decorate a person to look like himself/ herself. Once completed, attach the people by their hands to make a garland or use them to decorate a bulletin board. (Place the people to form the shape of a house.) The caption could read "Our Lives, His Home."

**Resources:** Icon of Christ, icon of the Holy Trinity, pictures that illustrate churches, family homes and family scenes, pictures that represent a home prayer corner

**Review:** Christian homes are places of prayer and practical Christianity in caring for our families and communities.

**Follow Up:** Take time to pray in your icon corner at home.