

**2017 Creative Festivals Lesson Plan:
Grades 4-6**

Theme:

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” (Mark 11:17)

Goal:

To help the students understand the theme well enough to express it in art, photography, poetry, and creative writing.

Lesson Objectives:

The students will be able to:

- State reasons for coming to church.
- List ways we show respect for the church.
- Describe the events in the Cleansing of the Temple icon.
- Demonstrate ways to create a House of Prayer.
- Discuss how our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Prayer Handout (*attached- print one copy for each student*)
- Large white poster board and markers.
- Role Playing Activity Sheet (*attached- cut apart activities in advance; you may need to print more than one sheet if there are many students*)
- Bibles
- Icon of the Cleansing of the Temple (*attached*)
- Church Behavior Worksheet (*attached- print one copy for each student*)
- Pencils
- Index cards

Opening Prayer:

Give each student a copy of the prayer handout and read together the “Prayer on Entering a Church.”

Introduction:

Have students work in small groups or with a partner. Ask them to brainstorm reasons why they come to church with their families. Have each group share responses and take turns writing their responses on the poster board. (Encourage honesty- such as to see friends, for special events, etc.) Next, ask them if they can think of additional reasons why other people may come to church. Add those ideas to the list on the poster. Discuss with the students that we have many different reasons for attending church, but our main purpose should always be to worship God. Worshipping God includes showing respect for His house.

Role Playing:

Give each student or pair of students a role playing activity. (See Role Playing Activity Sheet.) Allow 5-10 minutes for them to talk about the scenario. Have them take turns acting it out. Then discuss the following:

1. How did the person/people show disrespect? How would you feel if that was done to you?
2. When all activities are completed, discuss how God would feel if we showed disrespect in His House.

The Cleansing of the Temple:

Read together John 2:13-16, and Mark 11:15-17. Ask the following questions:

1. Why was Jesus angry?
2. What does Jesus mean by “den of thieves?”
3. How were the men showing disrespect for the Temple?
4. Have you ever behaved disrespectfully in church?
5. What are ways we can show respect for God’s Holy House?
6. Show the students the icon of the Cleansing of the Temple. Have them describe what is happening in the icon.

Church Behavior:

Discuss proper church etiquette/behavior. (How to enter church, coming to services on time, when to bless ourselves, proper times to leave if necessary, standing/kneeling/sitting, remaining still and quiet, turning off cell phones.) Also discuss showing respect for the clergy. Altar boys can tell how they show respect while serving. Explain to the students that these are some examples of how we show respect for God’s house. Pass out copies of the Church Behavior Worksheet and pencils. Have the students complete the worksheet. Then read it aloud with the correct answers.

The Church is a House of Prayer:

Explain to the class that God wants us to create a worshipping environment for all people. (All nations, all types of people.) He wants His church to be a House of Prayer. Prayer is worship and we worship God in many ways. We also need to show respect for the various ages and cultures of the people who attend our church.

Activity:

Have each student choose one or more of the following activities. (Write them on index cards in advance.) Students may also come up with ideas of their own.

- ❖ Walk with an elderly person to Communion.
- ❖ Learn a response or prayer in another language.

- ❖ Create quiet bags for young children to have during services.
- ❖ Try to communicate with someone at church who speaks another language.
- ❖ Help a handicapped person in church or coffee hour.
- ❖ Sit with an elderly person at coffee hour.
- ❖ Be helpful to parents with babies or very young children.
- ❖ Greet visitors, give them a bulletin, and invite them to coffee hour.
- ❖ Create a prayer list for parishioners to take home.
- ❖ Hold an icon near the entrance of the church for people to venerate.

After they have chosen an activity, have them work in groups to help each other discuss and plan how they will carry out the various ideas. (For instance, they may want to choose a particular family or elderly person they know.) It can be on one designated day, or as an ongoing project.

Our Bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit:

Read together I Corinthians 6:19. “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” Each of us was created to be a “house of prayer.” We should treat our bodies like a Holy Temple. Ask students to share ways that God wants us to treat our bodies. (Cleanliness, safety, not smoking or using drugs, proper diet, etc.) What are ways that God wants us to treat our minds? (Prayer, attending church, reading the Bible, receiving the sacraments) When we show respect for ourselves, we show respect for God and His Church.

Conclusion:

Remind students of the Cleansing of the Temple. Ask them, “If Jesus walked into our church today, would He consider it to be “A House of Prayer?”

Closing Prayer: Read together the “Prayer on Leaving the Church” from the Prayer Handout.

PRAYER HANDOUT

Prayer on Entering a Church

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy; and in thy fear I will worship toward thy holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before me, that with a clear mind I may glorify thee forever. One Divine Power worshipped in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer on Leaving a Church

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Prayer Before the Icon of Christ

We reverence thy spotless icon, O gracious Lord, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God; for of thine own good will thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that thou mightest deliver from bondage to the enemy those whom thou hadst fashioned. Wherefore, we cry aloud unto thee; thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Saviour, for thou didst come to save the world.

Prayer before the Icon of the Theotokos

Forasmuch as thou art a well-spring of tenderness, O Theotokos, make us worthy of compassion; Look upon a sinful people; Manifest thy power as ever, for hoping on thee we cry aloud unto thee: Hail! As once did Gabriel, Chief Captain of the Bodiless Powers.

Role Playing Activity Sheet

Cut apart and distribute one to each student or pair of students. Some can be used more than once if you need more.

1. Pretend that you came home from school one day and went into your bedroom to relax. When you walked into your room, you noticed that your brother had been playing with your games and left a mess all over the room.

2. Pretend that you had a birthday party at your house. When people were done eating, they threw their plates and napkins all over the floor. After everyone left, your parents told you to pick up all the trash from the floor.

3. Pretend that you walked into your classroom and when you opened your desk, you noticed that someone mixed up all your supplies and everything was a mess inside the desk.

4. Pretend that you and a friend were studying together in the library. Someone walked in and sat at your table. He turned on his music very loudly and didn't seem to care that it might be disturbing you.

5. Pretend that you went camping in a tent. When you left the campsite to take a hike, someone came and used your tent without permission. When you came back, you noticed they left all their trash inside your tent.

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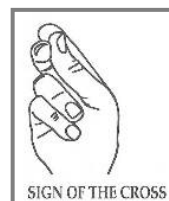
CHURCH BEHAVIOR WORKSHEET

On Sunday, I Go to Church to Worship God

I have fasted that morning from food and drink, so that I may be thinking about God when I receive Holy Communion. I ask forgiveness from anyone I have sinned against. I think about how God has blessed me this week, and about the people I want to pray for. Then, when I arrive . . .

1. I may light a **c** _____ and say a _____ **r**. I kiss the icon.

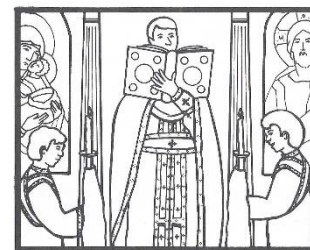
2. Because the Church is a holy place, I **b** _____ and make the Sign of the _____ when I enter and when I leave.



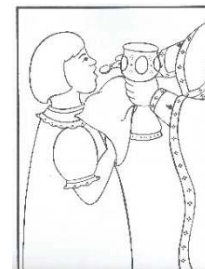
3. I **p** _____ and sing during the service and think about the words.

4. I _____ when I hear the word “bow” in the service.

5. I _____ **d**, especially during the Gospel and the Great Entrance, and when Father is blessing or censuring.

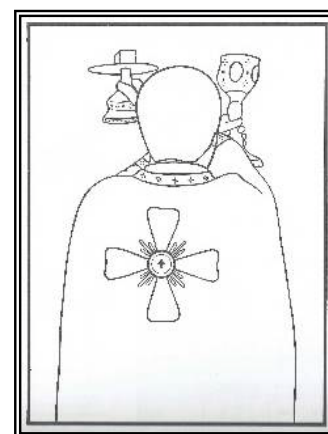


6. I bow and make the sign of the cross many times:
when I pray to the “_____, Son, and Holy Spirit,
when I sing the Trisagion Hymn, “_____ God,”
at the Great Entrance when Father passes by,
before and after Holy Communion.



7. When it is time for Holy Communion, I quietly stand in line with my arms _____ over my chest. This shows my humility.

8. If I have to leave the service and enter again, I wait if it is during the **L** _____ Entrance,
the Epistle or Gospel,
the Great _____,
the Consecration, when we say “**A** _____” three times
the Creed and the Our Father.



God made me and loves me and saved me—that is why I behave with great respect during Divine Liturgy.