

Dear

The lessons in Unit Four, About Your Church, are centered on teaching that the church is a special place, and the church is made up of the people of God.

Your child will be introduced to the Divine Liturgy, emphasizing that through the Divine Liturgy we are joined with Jesus. In addition, your child will learn that through the Divine Liturgy, Jesus shares a meal with us and Jesus gives Himself to us through Holy Communion.

To assist your child in understanding this unity, show your child an icon of "The Last Supper." Emphasize that Jesus enjoyed sharing meals with His Apostles. Stress that each time we receive Holy Communion, we remember Jesus.

With love in Christ,

UNIT

4

About Your Church

LESSON 1 WE BELIEVE

The Orthodox Church Is Special

1. GETTING STARTED

OBJECTIVE

Recognize "church" as a special place and as the people of God.

NEW VOCABULARY

church - the home for the family of God

parish - the people who make up the church

congregation - another name for parish

altar - place where the priest stands during services

church services - all the services that are provided in the church - Liturgy, weddings, baptisms, funerals, memorial services, etc.

OPENING PRAYER

We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You and we pray to you, Lord our God. Amen.

MOTIVATION

Take a field trip to the church. Walk outside around the church (if weather permits). Point out that the church can be built in the shape of a cross, a square or rectangle, or it can even be round. Some churches have domes. Take the class into the church and direct their attention to the altar, the iconostasis, the icons, the candles, and the bishop's throne. Stress that our church is called the Orthodox Christian Church because we are Orthodox Christians.

2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Discuss the picture of St. Paul's Church on pages 74 and 75. Explain to the class the features of the church such as the dome and the shape of the church. Ask them to compare this church to the one they attend.

2. Read the text on page 76 to the class. Discuss the vocabulary words **church**, **parish**, and **congregation**. Ask the following questions:

a. What two things does "church" mean? (special building and the people of God.)

b. Why is the church a special place? (a place to pray and to talk with God)

- c. **What is a parish?** (the people who make up the church we attend)
- d. **What is another name for a parish?** (congregation)
- e. **What is the name of your parish?** (answers will vary)

3. Continue with the lesson. Read page 77 to the class. Comment on the activity depicted in the picture. Ask the following questions:

- a. **Do you light candles when you come to church?** (Most students will answer in the affirmative.)
- b. **Why do we light candles in the Orthodox Church?** (As a gift to Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and the saints. Jesus is the Light of the World. If the class does not offer that Jesus is the light of the world, be sure to extract this answer before continuing.)
- c. **What did Jesus teach some people?** (You are the light of the world, don't hide your light, let it shine for everyone to see.)

4. Proceed with the lesson on page 78. This is a good time to review if all the members of the class are properly making the sign of the cross. Ask the following questions:

- a. **Why do we make the sign of the cross?** (it reminds us of Jesus)
- b. **Why do we kiss the icons?** (in memory of the saints)

5. Before finishing the lesson, present the words **altar** and **church services**. Finish reading the lesson to the class. Ask the following questions:

- a. **What is the altar?** (a place where the priest stands during the church services)
- b. **What are the church services?** (Divine Liturgy, weddings, baptisms, etc.)
- c. **What does our parish priest do for us?** (prays to God to take care of us, teaches us to obey what Jesus has told us, he loves us, and helps us.)
- d. **What do we call our priest?** (Father)
- e. **What is the name of our parish priest?** (answers will vary)

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Drawing a Picture Recall the visit to the Church at the beginning of the class. Give each student manila paper and crayons and ask him/her to draw a picture of something that he/she saw in the church.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1. 9" x 12" manila paper
- 2. crayons

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Meaning of a Church Most six year olds will associate the word "church" with a building. It is imperative to broaden the child's understanding to include relationship with the people of God. Those who are baptized form the Church Community. The place where this community gathers to celebrate God's living presence is called a church. The child's awareness of the meaning of "home" is an experience upon which we can build an understanding of Church to be

both people and a building. Keep the explanation of the word "Orthodox" simple and help the student to identify himself/herself as an Orthodox Christian who is at home in the Orthodox Church.

3. REVIEW

RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the concepts before you dismiss the class by asking the following questions:

1. **What are the two meanings of the Church?** (special building and the people)
2. **What is another name for the Church?** (House of the Lord)
3. **Why do we light candles in the Orthodox Church?** (gift to Jesus, Virgin Mary, and the saints; and to remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World)
4. **Why do we make the sign of the Cross?** (reminds us of Jesus)
5. **Why do we kiss the icons?** (in memory of the saints)
6. **What is a parish?** (people who make up the church we attend)
7. **What is another name for a parish?** (congregation)
8. **What is the name of your parish?** (answers will vary)
9. **What does the parish priest do for us?** (prays for us, teaches us to obey what Jesus told us, he is our friend, he helps us whenever he can)
10. **What do we call our priest?** (Father)
11. **What is the name of your parish priest?** (answers will vary)

CLOSING PRAYER

Recite the Lord's Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD

The objective for Lesson 2, **WE BELIEVE Jesus Gave His Life for Us**, is as follows:

Recognize Jesus as our Leader.

LESSON 2 WE BELIEVE

Jesus Gave His Life for Us

1. GETTING STARTED

OBJECTIVE

Recognize Jesus as our Leader.

NEW VOCABULARY

follower - one who follows or obeys the leader

leader - a guide

Apostles - followers of Jesus

Son of God - another name for Jesus

rise - to get up; to soar

OPENING PRAYER

We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You,
Lord our God. Amen.

MOTIVATION

Recall playing the game of **"FOLLOW THE LEADER."** Discuss that one person is the leader and the rest follow the "leader." Then ask, **Do you know any leaders?** The answers may vary from the priest of the parish, Scout leader, school principal, mayor, and the President of the United States. Point out that most of the leaders are good, but sometimes we have bad leaders. Then say, **We are going to learn about a VERY SPECIAL LEADER, and this leader is a VERY GOOD LEADER. This Leader is Jesus and He had followers and these followers were called APOSTLES.**

2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Discuss the vocabulary words **leader** and **Apostles**. Read the text on page 80 to the class. Ask the following questions:

- a. **When did our Church begin?** (a long, long time ago)
- b. **Who started our Church?** (Jesus)
- c. **Who were the first Christians?** (the Apostles)
- d. **How many Apostles were there?** (12)
- e. **What did the Apostles do?** (traveled all over the world and taught others to become followers of Jesus)

2. Discuss the icon of Jesus and His Apostles on page 80 with the class. Continue reading the text on page 81 with the class and discuss the lesson with the class by asking these questions:

- a. **What city did Jesus visit?** (Jerusalem)

- b. What did Jesus tell the people of Jerusalem? (He was the Son of God)
- c. How did the people of Jerusalem feel about Jesus? (they did not like Him and did not believe Him)
- d. What did the people of Jerusalem do to Jesus? (they arrested Him, put Him on a cross and left Him to die)
- e. What do we believe? (Jesus is the Son of God)
- f. How much did Jesus love us? (He loved us so much that He died for us on the Cross)
- g. What finally happened to Jesus? (He rose from the dead and went to heaven)
- h. How do you think Jesus watches over us all the time? (helps us do good, helps us be healthy, helps us to make good decisions, helps us to be safe - crossing a street, riding a bike, riding in an auto, etc.)
- i. Who is the leader of our Church? (Jesus)

3. Discuss the "Icon of the Crucifixion" on page 81 with the class. Then ask, **Can you think of other icons of Jesus in the Church?** Allow a few moments for the class to think of other icons found in the church, then take the class to the Church and ask them to **QUIETLY** observe the icons. Return to the classroom and discuss the various icons depicting Jesus. Be sure to comment to the class that the Icon of Jesus is always on the right of the Royal Doors.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Drawing a Picture Distribute manila paper and crayons and ask the student to draw a picture of an instance of Jesus watching over him/her.

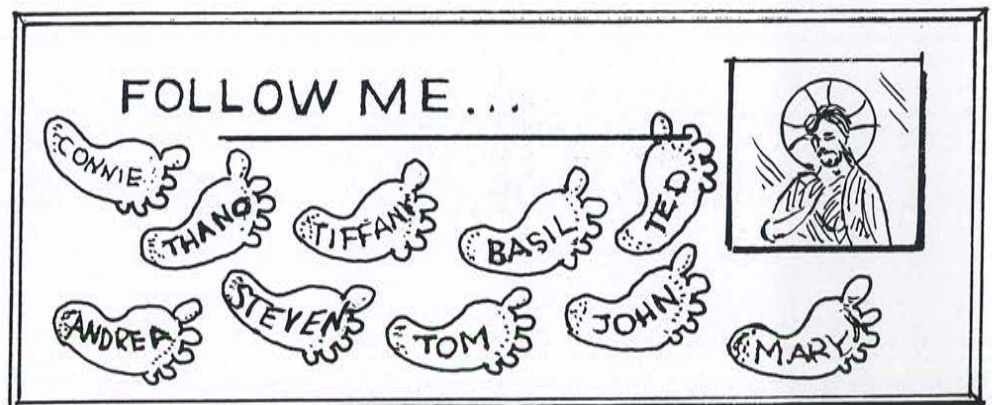
MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1. manila paper
- 2. crayons

Making a Bulletin Board Give each student an outline of a footprint. Have him/her print his/her name on the footprint and place it on the bulletin board that has been given a heading of Follow Me. You may also wish to have an icon of Jesus on the bulletin board.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1. Bulletin Board
- 2. icon of Jesus Christ
- 3. letters: FOLLOW ME
- 4. footprints - one for each student in the class



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Icons on the Icon Screen In the tradition of the Orthodox Church, the Icon of Christ is to the right of the Holy Doors on the Icon Screen (Iconostasis) and the icon of St. John the Baptist is next to the Icon of Christ. To the left of the Holy Doors is the Icon of the Theotokos and the Christ Child. Immediately to the left of this is the icon of the patron saint of the church.

3. REVIEW

RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:

1. **Who started our Church?** (Jesus)
2. **Who were the Apostles?** (the first Christians)
3. **How many Apostles were there?** (12)
4. **What did the Apostles do?** (They went all over the world and taught other people how to become Christians)
5. **What did Jesus tell the people in Jerusalem?** (He was the Son of God)
6. **Did they believe Him?** (no)
7. **What did they do to Jesus?** (arrested Him and put Him on a cross to die)
8. **What happened to Jesus?** (He rose from the dead and went to heaven)
9. **How much did Jesus love us?** (He died for us)
10. **What do we believe?** (Jesus is the Son of God)

CLOSING PRAYER

Recite the Lord's Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD

The objective for Lesson 3, **WE BELIEVE God Wants Us to Pray and to Sing in Church**, is as follows:

Recognize and explain proper church behavior.

(In the next lesson, be prepared to teach the class to sing the hymn "Kyrie eleison." The words of this hymn can be found on page 83 of the pupil's book.)

LESSON 3 WE BELIEVE

God Wants Us to Pray and to Sing in Church

1. GETTING STARTED

OBJECTIVE

Recognize and explain proper church behavior.

NEW VOCABULARY

choir - a group of singers who sing during the church service

hymns - songs sung in honor of the Lord

Kyrie - Lord

eleison - have mercy

OPENING PRAYER

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You,
Lord our God. Amen.

MOTIVATION

Have one of the students choose a quiet game that everyone knows. Play the game for two or three minutes using the rules. Then have the children play the game without rules for two or three minutes. Stop the game and ask, **What happened when you played the game without rules?** Allow time for answers, then ask, **How did the rules help?** (responses should be that "everyone had a chance" "the game was played fair")

Have the class think about the rules they use everyday at home, school, Scouts, restaurants, on the street, and so forth. Discuss why these rules are necessary and then tell them that "We also have rules for Church."

2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Read the lesson on page 82 to the class. Discuss the picture of people kneeling and praying. Be sure that the students know that they should also kneel and pray in church. Present the following questions:

a. **Whose house is the Church?** (the Lord's)

b. **What do we do in Church?** (we listen to what the priest says, we stand and sit quietly and we pray).

2. Present the vocabulary words **choir** and **hymn** to the class. Read the text on page 83 to the class. Now teach the class to sing "Kyrie eleison."

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Drawing Pictures Give each student two sheets of manila paper. On the one sheet, instruct the students to draw a picture showing how a church is when people follow the rules, and on the other sheet show a picture of a

church where people do not follow the rules. After the pictures are completed, ask, Which Church would you like to attend? Why?

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. 9" x 12" manila paper
2. crayons

Teaching a Hymn Teach the class the hymn "Holy God," ("Agios o Theos"). The music can be found below.

3. REVIEW

RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:

1. What does God want us to do in Church? (pray and sing)
2. What does "Kyrie eleison" mean? (Lord have mercy)
3. How should we act in Church? (sit quietly and pray)
4. What is the House of the Lord called? (Church)

CLOSING PRAYER

Recite The Lord's Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD

The objective for Lesson 4, **WE BELIEVE During the Divine Liturgy We Are Joined with Jesus**, is as follows:

Recognize that through the Divine Liturgy we share the life of Jesus.

Agios O Theos

Ho - - ly God, - Ho - - ly Migh-ty,

A - gi - os O The-os, a - gi - os is - hi-ros,
 "A - γι - ος 'Ο Θε-ός, ἁ - γι - ος ἱσ-χυ-ρός,
 Ho-ly Im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

a - gi - os a - tha - na - tos, e - le - i - son i - mas.
 ἁ - γι - ος ἁ - θά - να - τος, ἐ - λέ - η - σον ἡ - μάς.
 Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spl-rit

Thoxa Patri ke lo ke Agio Pnevma- ti
 Δόξα Πατρὶ καὶ Υἱῷ καὶ Ἀγίῳ Πνεύμα-τι
 now and forever- more. A - men. Ho-ly Im -

ke nin ke ai ke is tus eonas ton e- onon. A - min. A - gi - os A -
 καὶ νῦν καὶ αἰ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰ-ώνων. Ἀ-μήν. ἁ-γι-ος Ἀ-
 mor - tal have mer - cy on us.

tha - na - tos e - le - i - son i - mas.
 θά - να - τος ἐ - λέ - ι - σον ἡ - μάς.

LESSON 4 WE BELIEVE

During the Liturgy We Are Joined with Jesus

1. GETTING STARTED

OBJECTIVE

Recognize that through the Liturgy we share the life of Jesus.

NEW VOCABULARY

Liturgy - the Church Service at which we receive Holy Communion

Holy Communion - the special meal with Jesus that joins us with Jesus

OPENING PRAYER

We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, Lord our God. Amen.

(Teacher's Note: You may wish to have the icon of the Mystical Supper at the Worship Center that you set up during Lesson 1)

MOTIVATION

Discuss with the class having friends come to their homes for dinner. Ask how they feel when they are invited to a friend's home to eat. Discuss how good it feels to share meals with friends. Allow time for the students to express their feelings. Next, show the prosphoro and a bunch of grapes and tell the class, **We are going to learn about a VERY SPECIAL MEAL.** Break the prosphoro into pieces. Explain that the bread is made from many grains of wheat. Show the grapes and explain that wine is made from grapes pressed together. This is why bread and wine are good signs of God's family. We are many different people, but together we make up one large family because we share the life of Jesus.

2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Read the lesson beginning on page 84. Emphasize that Jesus enjoyed sharing meals with His Apostles. Stress that each time we receive Holy Communion, we remember Jesus. Examine the Icon of the Mystical Supper (the Last Supper). Point out that St. John the Beloved is resting his head on Christ's breast and Judas is stretching his hands towards the bread he has been given. The icon also depicts the sanctified bread as the Body of Christ and the cup of sanctified wine as the Blood of Jesus. Then ask the following questions:

- a. **What did Jesus do with the bread at the last meal He had with His Apostles?** (thanked God for it, and broke it)
- b. **What did He say?** (Take, eat, This is My Body)
- c. **What did he do with the cup of wine?** (He thanked God for it and told His Apostles to drink)

d. **What did He tell His Apostles?** (Remember Me whenever you do this)

2. Be sure you comment that this was the first Liturgy. Continue with the lesson. Read the text on page 85. Discuss the picture of the girl taking Holy Communion. Ask these questions of the class:

a. **What is the most important service of our Church?** (The Liturgy)

b. **What happens during the Liturgy?** (we join Jesus)

c. **What do we remember about Jesus?** (what He taught and what He did for us)

d. **What words of Jesus does the priest say in every Liturgy?** (Take, eat; This is My body. Drink of this all of you; This is My Blood)

e. **What is Holy Communion?** (The special meal that joins us with Jesus)

3. Draw a line down the middle of your classroom bulletin board and draw a simple sketch of the Holy Bible on one side and the prosphoro with the chalice on the other side. Print **GOD SPEAKS TO US** under the sketch of the Bible. Under that print **WE LISTEN AS GOD SHARES HIS WORD**. Under the sketch of the chalice and prosphoro, print **JESUS GIVES US THE BREAD OF LIFE**, and under that, print **WE SHARE THE FOOD JESUS GIVES US**. During the appropriate time in the lesson, explain that the Liturgy has two important parts - one centers around the Bible, God's Word, and one centers around the bread and wine that Jesus gives us in Holy Communion.

4. This is a good time to rehearse taking Holy Communion. Spend adequate time with each member of the class in role-playing taking Holy Communion. Have the student give his/her name, hold the red cloth under the chin and open the mouth wide to receive Holy Communion. Practice making the sign of the cross and backing away from the Holy Cup.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Receiving Holy Communion Take the class to Church for Holy Communion.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Make arrangements to take the class to Church to receive Holy Communion.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Divine Liturgy The word "liturgy" is from the Greek words LAOS meaning people and ERGON meaning work. Originally, the term was used to mean public duty of any kind, and in modern Greek, apart from its religious connotation, it still means to carry out ascribed duties of an official nature as well as to denote a process. Do not interchange the word "Mass" for "Liturgy," as the word "Mass" is from the Latin and means "to send" or "to dismiss."

3. REVIEW

RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:

1. **When was the first Liturgy?** (When Jesus shared His meal with His Apostles)
2. **What is the most important service of our Church?** (the Liturgy)
3. **What do we remember during the Liturgy?** (what Jesus taught us and what He did)
4. **What do we believe?** (During the Liturgy we are joined with Jesus)

CLOSING PRAYER

Recite Lord's Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD

The objective for Lesson 5, **WE BELIEVE God Wants Us to Receive and to Give in Church**, is as follows:

Realize that we give and receive in church.

LESSON 5 WE BELIEVE

God Wants Us to Receive and to Give in Church

1. GETTING STARTED

OBJECTIVE

Realize that we give and receive in Church.

NEW VOCABULARY

receive - to take something offered or lent

give - hand over as a present without pay

OPENING PRAYER

We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You,
Lord our God. Amen.

MOTIVATION

Have a plastic cup and a few deflated balloons on a table. Ask the class: **Do you think I can pick up this glass without touching it with any part of my body?** Allow the students to respond. Then say, **I can if I am willing to give a part of myself - my breath.** Put the deflated balloon inside the cup, blow up the balloon and lift the cup. (You may have to practice this a few times before you present it to the class.) Tell the class, **Let's pretend that this glass is the Church. We can help the Church best by giving of ourselves - our time, our help, our money.**

2. LESSON DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING THE LESSON

1. Present the vocabulary words and discuss their meanings with the class. Then, read the first part of the lesson which begins on page 86. Focus the students attention on the picture of the child praying in Church. Ask the following questions:

- a. **Why should the church be special to you?** (It helps you to be close to God)
- b. **When does Jesus come within us?** (When we take Holy Communion)
- c. **Where do we learn about God?** (In church)

2. Continue with the text on page 87. Discuss each picture and encourage the children to identify with each picture. Ask the class: **How can you help the church?** Allow the students to give their answers, then tell the class that they will help the church by coming on Saturday, (or any other convenient time), to help clean up the church property. Cleaning the church yard is one suggestion; however, there are other projects that can be undertaken that the class can do.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

Working at the Church Make arrangements for the class to come to the Church on Saturday (or another convenient time) to pick up the trash on the church property.

3. REVIEW

RECALLING THE LESSON

Review the lesson before dismissing the class by asking the following questions:

1. **Where do you feel closer to God?** (In Church)
2. **What things remind us to pray?** (Everything in Church)
3. **When does Jesus come within us?** (When we take Holy Communion)
4. **How can you help the church?** (answers will vary)
5. **How do you feel when you do things for the Church?** (answers should include good, happy, useful)

CLOSING PRAYER

Recite the Lord's Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD

In Unit 5, **ABOUT PEOPLE**, students will be learning about how we should treat other people.

UNIT 4 Review

New Words I Have Learned About



parish

congregation

altar

church services

parish priest

leader

Apostle

Son of God

rose

choir

hymns

liturgy

We Believe

The Orthodox Church is special.

Jesus gave His life for us.

God wants us to pray and to sing in church.

During the Liturgy we are joined with Jesus.

God wants us to receive and to give in church.



Checkup

Draw a line from the word on the left to the drawing on the right that best matches the word.

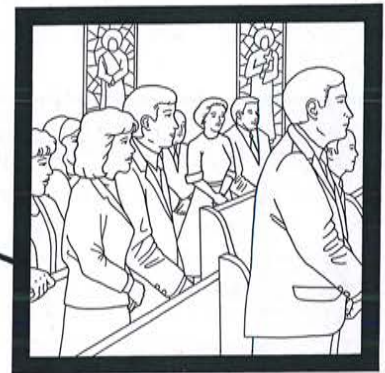
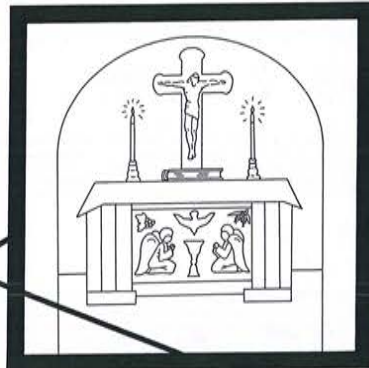
congregation

altar

parish priest

choir

communion



We Are The People Of God

The musical score is written on ten staves. The first verse (lines 1-5) includes the lyrics: "We are the people of God! Je- sus is our lead- er." and "We are His Church." The second verse (lines 6-10) includes: "God is ho- ly, God is great, God is for- e- ver He hears us say. We are the peo- ple of God! Je- sus is our lead- er. We are the peo- ple of God! We are His Church. Church is spe- cial, we sing and pray, we join with Je- sus ev- ry Sun- day! We are the peo- ple of God! Je- sus is our lead- er. We are the peo- ple of God! We are His Church." Chord markings (C, F, Am7, Fmaj7, G7sus, G7) are placed above the notes on various staves. The score ends with a "fine." marking.

Unit Four, "About Your Church," emphasizes two related themes: the **church** where we worship and the **Church** as the body of Christ.

The first verse reintroduces the children to Jesus as our leader and that we are His people and His Church. The Trisagion is included as: "God is holy, God is great, God is forever".

The second verse teaches the children that we sing, pray, and join with Jesus (communion) every Sunday within the building of our church.

This is a "lively" song and is learned quite effortlessly by the children.