

# Ascension and Pentecost

## Youth Group Session Five – Session Leader

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry – Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Written by Natalie Kapeluck Nixon and Kira Haluszczak

Edited Rev. Fr. John Haluszczak and Catherine Bucharew

Objective: To provide a good understanding of:

- ✓ Mary's role in our Lord's Ascension and the birth of Christ's Church on Pentecost

Items in **blue** are notes for the Session Leader. For younger children read for them – you may want to paraphrase and ask questions often to keep their interest. For older children, allow them to read aloud or to themselves.

This curriculum was written to be used in conjunction with the book *The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children* by Georgia and Helen Hronas. This book is published by Light and Life and can be obtained from them at [www.light-n-life.com](http://www.light-n-life.com) or by calling 952-925-3888.

### **Related books for Session Leader's Reference:**

*The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children* by Georgia and Helen Hronas – Light and Life Publishing.  
*The Incarnate God: The Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary* editor Catherine Aslanoff translated by Paul Meyendorff. St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2002.

### **Pre-session Preparation**

Make needed copies of Lesson Five Handouts.

Purchase needed number of books for *The Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children*

### **Craft – Mosaic Icon of the Theotokos and Child**

This craft will be worked on at each session. It is labor intensive but is extremely beautiful and will stay with the youth for their entire lives. See the attached explanation for the craft.

### **Session**

**Begin the session in prayer.**

## Ascension and Pentecost

At some point in the lesson, use the list of hello, goodbye, Christ is Risen and/or Lord Have Mercy in different languages. Have the participants say these words/phrases in the different languages all at the same time. Although they are speaking in different “tongues”, they understand what each other are saying. This represents what happened on Pentecost.

Start class with charades. Use only these words – balloon, smoke, airplane, prayers, etc. or any other words that can be associated with “going up”. At the end of the game (about ten minutes), ask the class what all of the words had in common. They all go up. This will come up later in the lesson.

After Jesus' Resurrection from the dead He came back to earth for two final events. Open and read page 53.

We just read about the Ascension of our Lord. Do you know what the word ascend means? [To go up – use the game at this point as a clue.](#)

The Ascension of our Lord shows us that both Jesus' body and spirit went to heaven. Why did Jesus leave the earthly world in body and spirit? What does it mean?

If you look at the icon on page 52 we get a better understanding of why. Where is Mary in the icon? [Front and Center](#)

She is in the most important spot (other than Christ) for a reason. Jesus is at the top center of the icon and He is the first thing that you see. Directly beneath Him is His mother, Mary. Her arms are upraised toward Him. Mary isn't just saying good-bye to her son. She symbolizes Jesus' connection to human nature on earth.

Jesus ascends into heaven both body and spirit because He can!! He is reuniting God's creation, His body, with its creator. This has been the promise since Adam and Eve left paradise. Adam and Eve, God's creations were sent away from God the Creator and since that time man and woman were separated from God. Now, because of Jesus, we can be reunited with him. The door is open and none of this could have happened without Mary accepting God's will! Ascension takes place 40 days after Pascha.

[At this time explain that this is a lot to understand. Ask the participants if they have questions or to explain it back to you in their words.](#)

Someone else is taken into heaven body and soul, who is that? [Mary – explain that this will be discussed in future weeks.](#)

At the Ascension, Jesus told those present not to be sad because He would send the counselor to them. This brings us to page 55.

The Feast of Pentecost takes place how many days after Ascension? [10](#)  
How many days after Pascha? [50](#)

How did you know this? [Pente means fifty – and the event took place fifty days after Pascha.](#)

Who was the counselor that Jesus spoke of on Ascension? [The Holy Spirit](#)  
What exactly happened on Pentecost?

[The Holy Spirit came to those gathered in the form of fiery tongues. He granted them wisdom, knowledge and the ability to speak to all people in all languages.](#)

Mary the Birth-giver of God, was present during the descent of the Holy Spirit. Do you think this was important? Why?

We once again are shown the honor and importance of Mary the Mother of God – that she would not be left out of the special gift of the Holy Spirit.

Wrap up the lesson and review what was discussed.

At this time you may do any of the following:

- Have a short discussion time about the material or for teenagers an open Q & A.
- Review and discuss the icons of Palm Sunday, the Crucifixion, Pascha
- Present a copy of the icon of the Ascension or Pentecost to each participant
- Give time for a snack and short break for the participants to play games
- Move right into the next activity
- End the session in prayer to the Theotokos, “Hail Mary Full of Grace”. This prayer should be used for the remainder of the lessons.
- Add their worksheet to their worksheet binder

Have the participants use the remaining time to work on their mosaic icons.

## A Phrase of Many Languages Worksheet

Hello	Good-Bye	Christ is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!
1. "Dobry Den" Ukrainian	1 "Do Pobachanya" Ukrainian	1. "Hristos Voskres" "Voistinu Voskres" Ukrainian
2. "Hello" English	2. "Good Bye" English	2. "Christ is Risen" "Indeed He is Risen!" English
3. "Hola" Spanish	3. "Adios" Spanish	3. Cristo ha resucitado! Verdaderamente ha resucitado! Spanish
4. "Konnichi wa" Japanese	4. "Ja ne" Japanese	4. "Harisutosu Fukkatsu" "Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu!" Japanese
5. "Ciao" Italian	5. "Ciao" Italian	5. "Cristo è risorto!" "È veramente risorto!" Italian
6. "Shalom" Hebrew	6. "Shalom" Hebrew	6. "Ha Mashiyach qam!" "Ken hoo qam!" Hebrew
7. Urdu Arabic	7. "Ila Lika Arabic	7. "Al Maseeh Qam!" "Haqqan Qam!" Arabic
8. "Bon Jour" French	8. "Au Revoir" French	8. "Le Christ est Resuscite" "En verite il est resuscite!" French
9. "Ni Hao" Chinese	9. "La Revedere" Romanian	9. "Hristos a-inviat" "Adevarat a inviat!" Romanian
10. "Aloha" Hawiiian	10. "Aloha" Hawiiian	10. "Ua ala hou `o Kristo!" "Ua ala `I `o no `oia!" Hawiiian
11. " <b>Geia sou</b> " Greek	11. "Khairate" Greek	11. "Christos Anesti" "Alithos Anesti" Greek
12. "Jambo" Swahili	12. "Tot Siens" Afrikaans	12. "Krisu Amefufuka" Afrikaans
13. "Dia Dhuit" Irish Gaelic	13. "Slán go fóill" Irish Gaelic	13. "Tá Críosd ar éirigh!" "Go deimhin, tá e ar éirigh!" Irish Gaelic
14. "Guten Tag" German	14. "Auf Wiedersehen" German	14. "Christus ist auferstanden" "Er ist wahrhaftig erstanden!" German

Lord Have Mercy – English  
Senior Ten Piedad – Spanish

Kyrie Elison – Greek  
Bwana Udu Mea – Swahili

Hospodi Pomiluy – Ukrainian  
Doamne Miluieshte - Romanian

Yarab Burham – Arabic