

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA



Christ IS Risen!

2018/2019

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Leader Manual ages 4 - 8

Leader notes

Thank you for serving as a Youth Leader in 2018/2019! This year's curriculum aims to help the children answer the questions:

- *What is Great Lent?*
- *What is Pascha?*
- *How is Christ Risen in my life?*

This curriculum is designed to be carried out in one session per class meeting, but please feel free to adjust in response to the children. If you find that they want more time to discuss a particular idea or session, others may be shortened or abbreviated, as long as the main understandings above are addressed. Youth can take turns reading the text to the class, or you may choose for them to read it to themselves if they need to adjust the pace.

Sessions are divided into two types: Traditional and Praxis (Experiential). The first nine sessions are developed in a traditional format and the following eight are set in an interactive format. It is suggested that the praxis sessions be interspersed or combined with the traditional sessions based on your discretion. The praxis sessions may be found in the Praxis Session Plan.

This leader's guide includes many suggested topics and activity ideas, and notes are in italics. Again, feel free to modify based on your class and their maturity. Be sure to check with your priest if any significant changes are made.

Most sessions require chart paper, post it notes, and pencils. Other supplemental materials are provided –please be sure to see what you need ahead of time.

General Notes and Suggestions:

Modifications: This curriculum is written for grade school level youth, but the maturity and academic abilities of 4 -8 year-olds can vary greatly, as can their familiarity with the topics being discussed. Although there are some specific ideas for modification listed throughout the curriculum, here are a few general suggestions:

Modifying for younger youth/lower abilities:

Rephrase sections of the text, or ask a quick question as youth read to be sure they are comprehending. This may also be useful if you find the youth need more time working on a different section of the session. Answer questions together.

Modifying for older youth/higher abilities:

Have youth read passages individually and paraphrase them in their own words to share with the class. You may also give a particular youth "homework" to read and prepare an explanation of a passage in order to begin the class discussion the next day. Be sure to communicate with parents so that youth have support as they work at home.

Sensitivity: Sensitivity and empathy are key to any learning environment. Encourage youth to talk freely about experiences they have had. As facilitator of these discussions, it is important to remind the youth that everyone deserves our respect as images of Christ, and that God is the only judge. Keep an eye on all of the youth

and be sure to address any unusual/unexpected conversations with your priest in case further discussion is needed. Young people tend to be more comfortable sharing in situations where they have developed relationships with the other youth and adults in the room. If this is the first time being together for the majority of the group, it might be helpful to do a few “get-to-know-you” activities first. Be sure to include yourself in some of these activities so that the youth begin to develop a relationship with you as well as their peers

The content of sessions and conveying that content is an important part of your ministry. However, the time spent together and relationships created and maintained are just as crucial. It is within this combination of worship, relationship, interaction, learning and living that our youth encounter Christ and deepen their relationship with Him and His church.

Iconography use: Icons exist first and foremost as a tool through which we glorify God. Access to images of icons on the internet can enhance the understanding of your students and bring authenticity to their work, however it is important to consider the source of the icon, to be respectful of the author's work, and to be thoughtful about any applicable copyright issues. When possible, it is best practice to use icons after receiving permission from the iconographer. Most of the icons provided in the curriculum materials are used with the permission of the iconographer, however not all were able to be identified. Please consult your parish priest for guidance in the selection of appropriate icons.

Taking it Home

It is highly recommended that you create a strong link between your youth programming and the families of youth that you serve. Send home a weekly summary of what you worked on with the youth. This could be accomplished through handouts, email, Facebook groups, etc. You may want to include some points or questions for discussion in the home. Ask the youth to provide suggestions for how they can “take home” and live what they learned. These could be included with the parent update.

We have included a template for this correspondence. There are suggestions throughout the curriculum for activities to be completed at home and brought to the next session. We understand that many parishes struggle with consistent attendance, however, setting this as a habit and expectation may help to keep youth as involved as possible.

**** NOTES FOR SESSION STRUCTURE ****

Each session should contain an element of prayer. You may simply choose an appropriate prayer to begin and end the session, choose a tropar of a saint who you are discussing that day, or join together in a service such as evening prayers, vespers, or an akathist.

Use space and breaks wisely- simply moving from tables to the floor for a story about a saint can help keep children of this age group focused. Break times have not been specifically designated within the session instructions, however it is a good idea to include a few short breaks at times that seem right for your group. Consider staying in one place and stretching, or marching around the room for a minute just to let off some steam.

Acknowledgments

Iconography – Archangel Icons - www.archangelicons.com

Orthodox Clip Art – Orthodox Church in America Department of Religious Education
<http://dce.oca.org/resources/line-drawings/>

Christ IS Risen! Logo Design/Photography – Myr Arts

Project Sample Graphics – Mommy & Me/Daddy & Me Camp and Diocesan Church School Camp

Christ IS Risen!

- 5 Session One: Christ IS Risen!
- 6 Session Two: Great Lent
- 7 Session Three: The Cross in our Lives
- 8 Session Four: Christ in the Tomb
- 9 Session Five: The Resurrection Part I
- 11 Session Six: The Resurrection Part II
- 12` Session Seven: The Resurrection is Celebrated Every Sunday!

Praxis Sessions available in the Praxis Session Plan

Created by Kira Senedak for Mommy& Me/Daddy & Me Camp 2018
Revised and edited for Parish Use Kira Senedak and Natalie Kapeluck Nixon 2018

Session Five: The Resurrection Part I

Main Ideas: Discovering the Risen Lord!

Supplies needed: Orthodox Study Bible, Podcast of “Christ Has Risen! Children” by Svetlana Visotskaya on Ancient Faith Radio

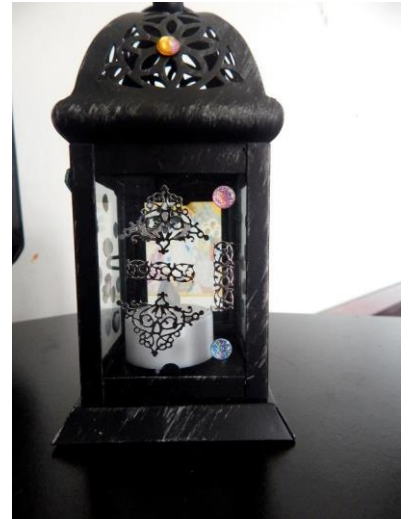
https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/grapevine/readings_from_under_the_grapevine_program_55 (the story start at 4:59 minutes left in the podcast), Lanterns, pre-glued gems, Icons of the Resurrection (to fit the lantern), appropriate stickers. **Ingredients for Resurrection Cookies.**

Preparation: Ensure that you are able to play the podcast for the children. Prepare any needed materials for the lantern project.

Briefly review the events of the Crucifixion. Proceed with reading the book Christ is Risen Children. Allow time for questions.

Decorate Lamps (to commemorate women coming to the tomb, the children can bring them to their Pascha services next spring. Have peel and stick gems and also an icon of the Resurrection for the glass. There are two option for creating your icon. You can print on regular paper and adhere with Modge Podge or make cling film icons. You can also create clear stickers utilizing the printable specialty paper which may be purchased from [https://www.amazon.com/Silhouette-Printable-Clear-Sticker-](https://www.amazon.com/Silhouette-Printable-Clear-Sticker-Paper/dp/B015RW7F7Q/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1513722225&sr=8-2&keywords=silhouette+clear+sticker+paper)

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When the lanterns are complete, proceed with making the Resurrection cookies. The recipe may be found at (<https://www.aroundmyfamilytable.com/resurrection-cookies/>);

While the cookies are baking, take time to learn the tropar of the feast “Christ is Risen”. There are many versions of this and you may teach the children more than one.

These cookies require being in the oven for several hours. One way to incorporate these cookies into the lesson would be to run this session on a Saturday evening. Families could attend Vespers either before or after the session, then work on the craft and prepare the cookies. Then, the cookies could be shared with the parishioners on Sunday after Divine Liturgy. Another option would be to have youth prepare the cookie batter, then take some home to bake in their own oven. You could also show them the ingredients and send families home with the recipe.

Please note that these cookies do contain both eggs and nuts so it is important to check with families to make sure that youth with food allergies can be included in the activity safely.

When the cookies are complete, warn the children that there will be a surprise when they break open their cookies. Allow them to break or crack them open. Ask them what is different about these cookies – what was the surprise? They are empty! Ask them how these cookies remind us of Christ’s resurrection.

Print a copy of the cookies to send home to the families or to add to their Journey Binder

