

Presentation or Entrance of Mary to the Temple

November 21/December 4

Youth Group Session Two – 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 beginning knowledge about Mary

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 is 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 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 Two 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

As participants are walking towards the “classroom”, stop them outside of the entrance and pick out about two characteristics of participants that will allow them to enter. (ie: Only those that are wearing red and if you are a boy). Then pick out one participant who does not fit those qualifications and allow him/her to enter also. This symbolizes Mary's entrance into the Temple. **You may also possibly reenact her entrance to the temple with Joachim and Mary and all of the children following her. Show how joyous it was.**

As Mary grew, she continued her journey to becoming the Mother of God. Let us read pages 6 – 10 concerning her presentation into the temple. **Relate this to the way they entered the room.**

How old was Mary when her parents took her to the temple? **Three years of age.**

Who met Mary at the Temple stairs? **Zacchariah.**

What was special about Mary's consecration at the Temple? **Zacchariah wanted to take Mary into the Holy of Holies. This is forbidden to all people except the High Priest once a year.**

God telling Zacchariah to take Mary into the Holy of Holies shows us she is truly blessed by God in a way that no one else was.

Mary lived in the Temple for twelve years. What did she do there? [Prayed and helped.](#)

Mary's parents left her at the Temple, just as they had promised God they would. Do you think this was easy for Joachim and Anna? Do you think you could leave your parents at such a young age? [Let the students discuss this idea.](#)

We are told that Mary was always kind, humble, happy and helpful. She was blessed by God. Mary understood that her life was a gift from God and that she should accept whatever God gave her.

How old was Mary when she left the Temple? [15 years of age.](#)

Were her parents still alive? [No](#)

What happened to Mary? [Her relatives had her betrothed \(engaged\) to a man named Joseph so that she would have someone to provide for her and protect her.](#)

Would you find it easy to marry someone you did not know? Most of us would find it pretty difficult to accept. However, this was common during the time that Mary was engaged to Joseph. She happily accepted her new husband to be. Again, we witness Mary's ability to humbly accept God's will.

Joseph became a special person in Mary's life. He helped her to fulfill God's plan. We will learn more about Mary and Joseph at our next session.

[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 icon of the Presentation of Mary to the Temple](#)
- [Present a copy of the Presentation Icon to the Participants](#)
- [Give time for a snack and short break for the participants to play games](#)
- [Move right into the next activity](#)
- [Add this worksheet to their worksheet/activity binder](#)

[Have the participants use the remaining time to work on their mosaic icons.](#)