



ADDITIONAL PROGRAM IDEAS GREAT LENT GIVEAWAY 2008 – CHAPEL CHALLENGE:

Younger Children Ages 4 – 7

Total time needed for session one hour thirty minutes – or split into several sessions.

Begin by reviewing objectives and steps provided in the full Chapel Challenge Program.

Items Needed:

- ✓ Copies of the handouts – one per child
- ✓ Poster Board – three white
- ✓ Crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- ✓ Mod Podge or Elmers Craft Glue – sticks or paint brushes to glue with
- ✓ Print pictures of items found within the church especially in the altar area. These may be found in a church goods catalog such as www.istok.net, Holowiaks Church Goods or you can print the pictures provided with this lesson. Small icons may be found in catalogs such as Light and Life Publishing.

Preparation

- Make copies of all needed handouts
- Have pictures pre-cut for use during the lesson
- Review with your Parish Priest the layout of your home parish. Each parish is designed differently and contains different appointments. Many aspects in the individual churches must be exactly the same, while others may be left to the decision of the parish.

Additional Resource: *The Orthodox Church Volume II: Worship* by Fr. Thomas Hopko. Department of Religious Education – Orthodox Church in America. New York 1997. This book may also be downloaded by section at www.oca.org.

More resources listed in main programming.

The Program

- Begin your session in prayer.
- Take the children into the church. Take the children through each section of the church explaining the different appointments or items.
- Once you have completed your tour begin the Design Your Church Interior Project.

The Tour

Begin by explaining to the children that everything within the church has a purpose and meaning. They will be learning about the various items in the church and why they are there.

1. The Vestibule

- ✓ Review with the children of the purpose for the vestibule or narthex (see main Chapel Challenge lesson).
- ✓ Begin discussing what items are in your vestibule/narthex. These may include:
 1. Icons (which icons are present and why were they chosen for the vestibule?)
 2. Candles (Candles are present in the vestibule to offer up sacrifice and prayer upon entering the Lord's house.)
 3. Prayer Shrines (These small areas, normally with icons and candle stands, are provided for individuals to offer up prayers quietly before entrance into the

church. They were also provided for catechumens who originally were not permitted into the nave of the church. Review with the children who catechumens are.)

Utilize the explanations provided in the glossary to explain the items and why they are located in this area.

2. The Nave

- ✓ Review with the children the purpose for the nave (see main Chapel Challenge lesson)
- ✓ Begin discussing the items in your nave. These may include:
 1. Banners
 2. Pews
 3. Tetrepod
 4. Icon Stands
 5. Side Altars
 6. Baptismal Font
 7. Chanters Stand
 8. Standing Cross
 9. Table Cross
 10. Tetrepod Icon
 11. Rushnyks – Embroidered Towels
 12. Altar server/Vestry candles
 13. Lectern
 14. Iconostas

Utilize the explanations provided in the glossary to explain the items and why they are located in this area.

3. The Sanctuary

- ✓ Review with the children the purpose for the sanctuary (see main Chapel Challenge lesson). It is important to note that the Sanctuary reflects the Kingdom of Heaven as seen in St. John's revelation. Tell the children that the various items represent different things St. John tells us about heaven and the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Begin discussing the items in your sanctuary. Ask your Spiritual Father how the children may be able to see the items. Perhaps he would bring them out one at a time to show the children. These items may include:
 1. Altar table
 2. Altar cloth
 3. Antimins
 4. Bishop's Chair
 5. Censor and Stand
 6. Chalice and Chalice Covers (veils)
 7. Discos
 8. Fans
 9. Gospel book
 10. Hand Cross
 11. Seven Branch Candle Stand
 12. Spoon and Spear
 13. Standing Cross
 14. Star
 15. Tabernacle

16. Table of Oblation

4. The Sacristy
 - ✓ Explain to the children that the Sacristy is the preparation room for the priest and altar servers. This is where the priest keeps his vestments and other needed liturgical items such as incense, altar clothes, liturgical books, etc..
 - ✓ Show items that are kept in the Sacristy.
5. The Choir Loft (if you have one)
 - ✓ Some parishes have choir lofts, while others have chanters/choir sections of the church in the front or back of the nave. Review with your children what type of choir area your church contains and the items needed by the choir.
 1. Chanters stand(s)
 2. Music Books
 3. Liturgical books
 4. Tuning Fork

The Project

Once you have completed your tour of the interior of the church, take the children back to the project area. Explain to them that they are going to break up into three groups or one large group (depending on the number and general age of your group).

Based upon what they learned they are going to design the interior of the parish. One group will design the vestibule, one the nave and one the sanctuary or they will work on the project together as a whole. Allow them to choose from the pictures provided to put together their church interior. Have your Spiritual Father on hand to answer questions. These interiors may be put on display for the whole parish family to share.

Wrap-up

Provide time for the children to ask questions, have a snack/meal and spend some time socializing together.

It is advisable with this age group to review several times throughout the lesson and provide them time to break-away and then refocus. You may want to add some interactive games to the day.

You may be able to end the session with a prayer service/Moleben for the those involved with the All Saints Camp Chapel its completion, fundraising, consecration and care.