

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 Six: The Resurrection

Part II

Main Ideas: Discovering the Risen Lord!

*Supplies needed: Story of Mary Magdalene and the red egg (you may purchase the book *The Red Egg* at <https://store.ancientfaith.com/the-miracle-of-the-red-egg/> or download the handout *Miracle of the Red Egg* from *Orthodox Education Blogspot* (<http://orthodoxeducation.blogspot.com/2009/04/red-egg.html>).*

Materials for the family Pentecostarian Project (seen to left) Decorative Wooden wall plaque, paint or stain, small screw hooks, small wooden eggs or egg ornaments, markers, gems, Icon of the Resurrection. Wooden/ Plastic Dyeable/Real eggs. Information on the Sundays following Pascha to Pentecost. Resurrection Icon (found in Praxis Supplemental Materials)

Option: You may choose to utilize one of the special pysanky sessions created by the Ukrainian History & Education Center along with this session. They may be found list with the Additional Sessions.



*Copy of the book - *This was the Day* by Ann Kmit available at <http://www.ukrainiangiftshop.com/This-Was-The-Day/productinfo/BCH12/> . You may choose to purchase one copy to tell the story or a book for each child.*

Preparation: Ensure you have enough materials for each family to create their Pentecostarian Project. Invite the parents, well in advance, to join this session.

Choose your pysanky project. You can purchase wooden eggs at most craft stores or on-line. Plastic dyeable eggs are available at stores like Walmart and Hobby Lobby during the Easter shopping season. For both of these options, it is recommended to outline a design on the eggs prior to giving them to the children. Utilize permanent markers for them to color in the designs. If you choose to teach the traditional method of making pysanky, you will need to order the appropriate materials and fresh eggs (you may also want to schedule another session just for this purpose). You may read the book, *This was the Day*.

Begin by allowing the families to choose a paint color for their project and paint their boards. While the boards are drying, briefly review the events of the Christ's Resurrection. Proceed with reading the book *The Red Egg* {of the story of Mary Magdalene and the red egg. Allow time for questions. Pass out the Pysanky Symbols Matching Activity. Allow time to complete this with help as needed. Explain the use of eggs to symbolize Christ's resurrection are used throughout many countries in many different ways. Ukrainians use this special technique.

Allow time to decorate the eggs. At this point, explain the Families will glue an icon of the Resurrection in the middle of their painted board, then decorate eggs with colors and symbols to represent the Sundays after Pascha.

Start by having families travel to different spots to learn about the people who are commemorated on those days, or do a quick presentation first. (Directions for this activity may be found in the supplemental materials.) Complete the session in prayer by singing the tropar, Christ is Risen!

Tropar

Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs bestowing life!