

## Level 3: We Are God's Children

### Focus: *Jesus Becomes Our Teacher*

Students will explore relationships with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. Among the "ancestors of God" are major Old Testament patriarchs, kings and prophets. Jesus surprises his parents and the priests with His wisdom when He comes to the Temple. The Nativity hymns describe Him as the "Sun" of righteousness and the "Orient from on high!" who shows us the "light of wisdom."

### Session 1 What is the Nativity Fast?

- **Describe/demonstrate** the difference between external and internal changes.
- **Compare** the preparation that occurs during Great Lent to the preparation that occurs during the Nativity Fast.
- **Make** an Advent Calendar and add each week the major events or interesting things that are celebrated and/or commemorated.
- **Share weekly preparation** for Christmas by creating cards on the theme of the week for other church school classes and/or church members to take home (a new card each week until the Nativity)

### Session 2 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

- **Sing** the Troparion of the Feast and **examine** the key words of it, especially the words "prelude," "anticipation," and "dispensation."
- **Compare** a musical prelude with the concept of Mary's preparation for becoming the mother of Jesus.
- **Tell** what it means when Mary is described as a "living temple of God."
- **Give examples** of others who are "living temples of God" and how we also can become "living temples."

### Session 3 The "Winter" Saints

- **Role play**, creatively, the life story of St. Romanos the Melodist. Present the play to other classes.
- **Define/name** St. Romanos as the composer of the Christmas kontakion.
- **Sing** the Christmas kontakion.
- **Locate** other kontakia from the feasts of the Church.

### Session 4 St. Nicholas of Myra and Lycia

- **Define** the word "patron" and identify St. Nicholas as the patron saint of many groups of people.
- **Appreciate** that St. Nicholas is their patron also.
- **Discuss** how we can be patrons to others and decide upon ways to demonstrate this.
- **Plan** and **carry out** one major way of reaching out to people in need in your town or city.

### Session 5 The Ancestors of Christ

- **Read and recall** the story of the

### Session 6 The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

- **Locate** the genealogies of Jesus

Three Holy Youths.

- **Compare** the faith of the Three Holy Youths to the type of faith that is necessary to live in today's world.
- **Locate** on a map of the ancient world the territory of Babylon, where the three young men were held captive.
- **Prepare a Play** based upon the story of the Three Youths and present it to the parish.
- **Chant** the verses or **Sing** the refrains for the Song of the Three Youths.

(See **Murals, Mapping, Dioramas, Posters** )

Christ in the Gospel of St. Matthew.

- **Find** the names of familiar Old Testament personalities in the genealogies.
- **Locate** stories about these personalities (with the aid of a Concordance).

### Session 7 The Prefeast of the Nativity

- **Define** and **explain** the various phrases of the Nativity troparion such as "Sun of Righteousness," "those who worshipped the stars," and "Orient from on high."
- **Demonstrate** the ability to use a Concordance and Bible dictionaries by finding other biblical references to the above phrases.
- **Sing** the troparion of the Nativity.

### Session 8 "God is With Us!"

- **Write** a journal entry listing and describing the many ways that "God is with *You!*"
- **Discuss** ways that you can make God known to other people through your own behavior and witness.
- **Give examples** of ways we can demonstrate, in our own lives, growth in wisdom, righteousness, humility,