

**2020 Creative Festivals Lesson Plan:  
Preschool/Kindergarten**

**Theme:**

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:17)

**Goal:**

To help the students understand the theme well enough to express it in art, photography, poetry, and creative writing.

**Lesson Objectives:**

The students will be able to:

- Tell the story of Adam and Eve in their own words.
- State that Jesus is God's Son and Mary is His mother.
- Compare Mary's obedience to God with Adam and Eve's disobedience.
- Identify Jesus and Adam and Eve in the Resurrection icon.

**Time:** 40 Minutes

**Materials:**

- Children's Bible Story Book (*One that includes brief stories of Adam and Eve's sin and expulsion from the Garden of Eden, and the story of the Annunciation. "Children's Bible Reader" is an Orthodox Christian Bible story book that is recommended.*)
- Icon of the Nativity (*Attached.*)
- Icon of the Resurrection (*Attached.*)
- Icon of the Resurrection Coloring Page (*Attached. Print one for each child.*)
- Crayons

**Opening Prayer:**

*"Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us."*

**Introduction:**

*"Today we're going to talk about our Creative Festival theme. 'God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.' This Bible verse comes from the Book of John in the New Testament. St. John was a follower of Jesus. He was one of the four Gospel writers. We hear the Gospel during Divine Liturgy. Who reads the Gospel during Divine Liturgy?" (The priest or deacon.) "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were the four Gospel writers."*

### **The Story of Adam and Eve:**

*"Who created the world?" (God.) "Who were the first people God created?" (Adam and Eve.) "Where did Adam and Eve live?" (The Garden of Eden.)*

Read the story of Adam and Eve from a children's Bible Story Book. Then ask the following questions:

*"What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do?" (Not to eat the fruit from a special tree.)*

*"What did Adam and Eve do? Did they listen to God?" (No, they disobeyed God and ate the fruit from that special tree.)*

*"Who told them to go ahead and eat the fruit?" (The devil, in the form of a snake.)*

*"Did they have to listen to the devil and do what he told them to do?" (No.)*

*"Who should they have listened to?" (God.)*

*"What happened after they disobeyed God? Did they stay in the Garden of Eden?" (No. God sent them out of the Garden of Eden.)*

*"God gave Adam and Eve something called 'free will' which means they had the choice to do good or bad things. We have free will, too. We should always stop and think about what we're doing and if it's something God wants us to do or not."*

*"God created the world to be perfect, and for all people to live with Him forever, but because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin and death entered into the world and it would never be the same again. But God had a plan. He sent His only begotten Son into the world to save it."*

### **God's Plan:**

*"Who is Jesus?" (God's son.)*

*"Who is Jesus' mother?" (Mary or the Theotokos.)*

*"Mary was a very holy woman. God wanted Mary to be the mother of His Son. One day, an angel appeared to Mary."*

Read the story of the Annunciation from a children's Bible Story Book. Then ask the following questions:

*"What did the angel tell Mary?" (That God wanted her to be the mother of Jesus.) Tell the children that the name, Jesus, means "God saves."*

*"Did Mary **have** to be the mother of Jesus?" (No.) Explain that Mary had free will, just like Adam and Eve did. But Mary said, "Yes" to God. She chose to do what God wanted her to do.*

Show the children an icon of the Nativity. Point out the various figures in the icon (Mary, baby Jesus, angels, shepherds, etc.) *"God's plan for our salvation began on the day Jesus was born. What is the name of the holiday when we celebrate the birth of Jesus?" (Christmas.)*

**Jesus Shows Us the Way to God:**

*"Jesus grew up and showed people how they should live. He taught people to obey God, to pray, to be sorry for their sins, to forgive, and to love each other. Many people became followers of Jesus. But not everyone believed that Jesus was really the Son of God. Jesus was arrested and put to death. How did Jesus die?" (On the cross.)*

*"What happened after Jesus died on the cross?" (After three days, Jesus rose from the dead.)*

**Jesus' Resurrection:**

Show the children the icon of the Resurrection. *"Who is in the middle of the icon?" (Jesus.) "Do you know who Jesus is pulling up?" (Adam and Eve.) "The story of Adam and Eve has a happy ending! Jesus saved Adam and Eve and all other people from sin and death through His own death. The souls of all the people who had died before Jesus was born were in Hades. Jesus freed the souls of the good people who were there."* (Point out the gates of Hades beneath Jesus' feet [often in the shape of the Cross] that have been smashed wide open, along with the locks and keys.)

*"Jesus gave us the gift of eternal life. We will all have the opportunity to live in heaven with Him someday."*

*"Do you remember the hymn we sing at Pascha? Let's try to sing it together."* (Sing the Paschal Hymn together three times.)

*Christ is Risen from the dead,  
Trampling down death by death,  
And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!*

Have the children color the icon of the Resurrection coloring page.

**Closing Prayer:**

*"Thank you Lord, for sending your Son to us, that through Him, we might be saved."*







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