

Lesson #11

Proper Church Behavior

Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 1st-2nd Grade

Duration: 30-40 minutes

Objective:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Recognize that the church is a sacred space where we worship God.
- Learn **how** to behave appropriately in church.
- Identify what we **should** and **should not** do in church.
- Understand that proper behavior helps us pray and show respect to God.

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin with the **Sign of the Cross** and this short prayer:

"Lord, help us to love and respect Your holy church. Teach us how to behave in a way that honors You. Amen."

2. Introduction: Why Do We Go to Church? (5 minutes)

Ask:

- *Why do we go to church?*
(To pray, to worship God, to receive Holy Communion, and to be with our church family.)
- *Who is always with us in church, even if we don't see Him?*
(Jesus Christ! He is present in the Holy Eucharist, in prayers, and in icons.)

Explain: The church is **God's house**. When we enter, we should act with **love, respect, and reverence**.

3. What Do We Do in Church? (10 minutes)

Discuss the proper conduct in church:

- Come quietly and respectfully. Walk in, make the sign of the Cross, and venerate an icon.

- Pray and sing along with the church. Even if we don't know all the words, we can listen and follow.
- Stand or sit properly. We do not run, jump, or play.
- Light a candle and say a prayer. Candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World.
- Listen to the priest. Please pay attention when he speaks and when the Gospel is read.
- Make the sign of the Cross. We do this at special times to show our faith.
- Receive Holy Communion with reverence. Cross your arms over your chest, open your mouth, and listen to the priest's words.

4. What Should We Not Do in Church? (5 minutes)

- ✗ Do not talk loudly, run, or play. This is a time to pray, not to play.
- ✗ Do not chew gum or bring food. The church is a holy place, and we fast before receiving Holy Communion.
- ✗ Do not use toys or electronics. Church is for worship, not for distractions.
- ✗ Do not turn around or distract others. Focus on God and what is happening during the service.

5. Role-Playing Activity: Church Behavior (10 minutes)

- **Scenario 1:** Walking into the church
(Demonstrate how to enter quietly, cross yourself, and venerate an icon.)
- **Scenario 2:** Listening to the priest
(Practice sitting still and paying attention.)
- **Scenario 3:** Receiving Holy Communion
(Teach them how to cross their arms, approach the chalice, and receive reverently.)
- **Scenario 4:** How NOT to behave
(Demonstrate silly or loud behavior, then correct it together.)

6. Activity: Church Behavior Sorting Game (5 minutes)

- Give students cards with different behaviors (ex, "Praying quietly," "Running in church," "Listening to the priest," "Chewing gum," etc.).
- Have them **sort** them into "**Good Church Behavior**" and "**Not Good Church Behavior**."

7. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

"Lord, help us always to show love and respect in Your holy church. May we pray with our hearts and listen with our ears so that we can grow closer to You. Amen."

Optional Follow-Up at Home:

- **Ask parents** to talk about how they prepare for church as a family.
- **Practice at home:** Show how to make the Sign of the Cross and recite simple prayers in front of icons.

STUDENT'S WORKBOOK PAGE

PROPER CHURCH BEHAVIOR

Activity 1: Circle the Good Behavior in Church

Activity 2: Solve the Maze

Activity 3: Complete the Crossword

Activity 4: Eliminate Items that do not belong inside the church

The activity pages are included below.

Circle the Good Church Behaviors

IDENTIFY THE ELEMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE RESPECT IN A CHURCH SETTING.



● Sitting quietly



● Running around the pews

● Singing the hymns



● Talking loudly during prayers



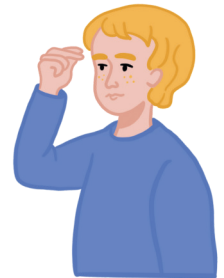
● Lighting a candle

● Using our phone



● Playing with toys

● Listening to the priest



● Making the sign of the Cross

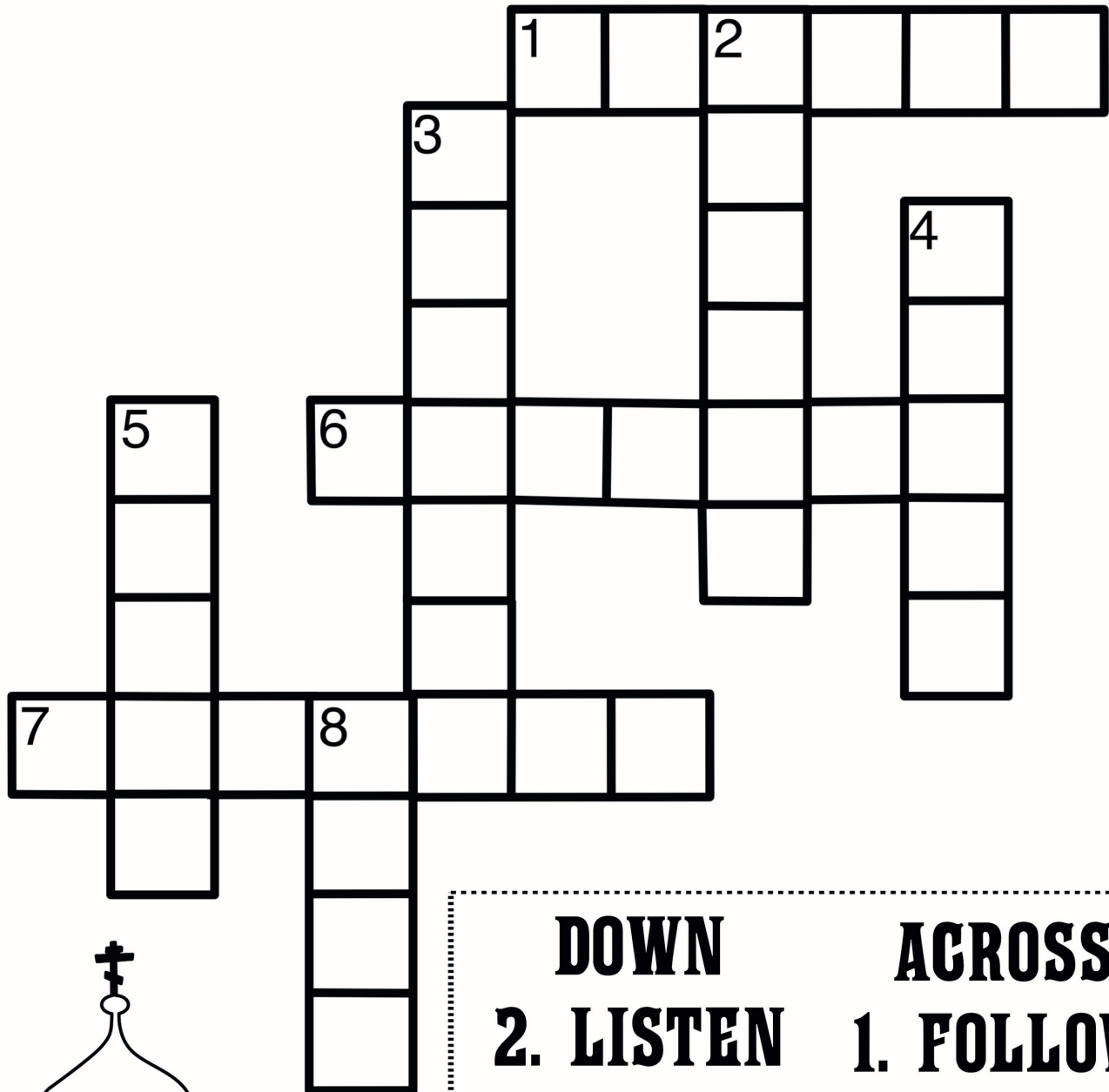
● Making a silly face



FIND THE WAY THROUGH THE MAZE



COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD



DOWN

- 2. LISTEN
- 3. SILENCE
- 4. CLEAN
- 5. QUIET
- 8. PRAY

ACROSS

- 1. FOLLOW
- 6. BELIEVE
- 7. RESPECT

Eliminate items that do not belong within the church.

