

Lesson #9

The Nativity of the Mother of God

Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 1st-2nd Grade

Duration: 30-40 minutes

Objective:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Know the story of the Nativity of the Theotokos.
- Understand why her birth is essential.
- Discover how the Church celebrates this feast.

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

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

"O Most Holy Theotokos, pray for us as we learn about your holy birth. Help us love God as you did. Amen."

2. Introduction: A Special Birthday (5 minutes)

Ask:

- *Have you ever been to a birthday party?*
- *Why do we celebrate birthdays?*

Explain: Today, we will learn about a very special birthday—the birth of the **Mother of God, Mary!** This is called the **Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos.**

3. The Story of the Nativity of the Theotokos (10 minutes)

Tell the story in a simple, engaging way:

A long time ago, there was a kind and faithful couple named **Joachim and Anna**. They were good people who loved God, but they were very sad because they had no children. They prayed and prayed for many years, asking God to bless them with a baby.

One day, an **angel** appeared to Anna and told her:

"God has heard your prayers! You will have a daughter, and she will be exceptional. She will be the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world!"

Anna was so happy! Soon, she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named **Mary**. Everyone rejoiced because they knew that God chose Mary for something very special.

Mary grew up to be **pure, kind, and deeply devoted to God**. She would one day say "Yes" to God's plan and become the **Mother of Jesus!**

4. Why Is This Feast Important? (5 minutes)

Explain:

- The birth of Mary was a **gift from God** to the whole world.
- She was chosen to be the **Mother of Jesus**.
- We celebrate her birth because she is our **heavenly mother** who prays for us.

Ask: *Why do you think God chose Mary to be Jesus' Mother?* (Guide them to answers like: because she was holy, loving, and faithful.)

5. How Do We Celebrate This Feast? (5 minutes)

- The Feast of the **Nativity of the Theotokos** is celebrated on **September 21**.
- In church, we **sing hymns, light candles, and pray**.
- A special hymn we sing is:

"Your Nativity, O Theotokos, has brought joy to all the world!"

- Some families **bake a cake or make a small feast** to honor Mary's birth.

Ask: *How do you celebrate birthdays in your family? What could we do to celebrate Mary's birthday?*

6. Activity: "Birthday Card for Mary" (10 minutes)

- Give students paper and crayons.
- Have them **draw a birthday card** for the Theotokos.
- Encourage them to **write a short prayer** like:
"Dear Theotokos, pray for me and help me love Jesus your Son more deeply. Amen."
- Let them **share** their cards with the class.

7. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

End with a prayer together:

"Holy Theotokos, we thank you for saying 'yes' to God. Pray for us and help us love Jesus Christ more each day. Amen."

Optional Follow-Up at Home:

- Encourage children to **venerate an icon** of the Theotokos at home.
- Have families **light a candle** and pray together on September 8.
- Sing the hymn: *"Your Nativity, O Theotokos, has brought joy to all the world!"*

STUDENT'S WORKBOOK PAGE

THE NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

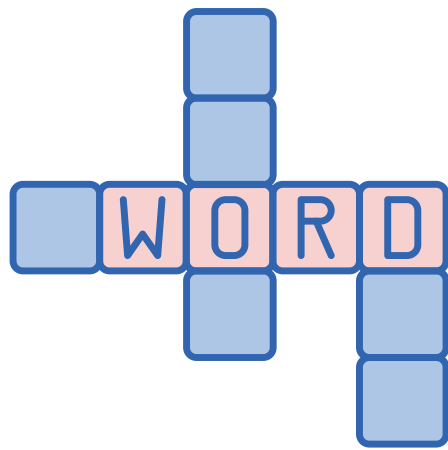
Activity 1: Fill in the blanks

Activity 2: Solve the Puzzle

Activity 3: Find the Objects Which Do Not Belong

Activity 4: Spot the Difference

The activity pages are included below.



Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences with words from the word bank.

A long time ago, there was a husband and wife named _____ and _____.
They loved God very much but were sad because they had no children.

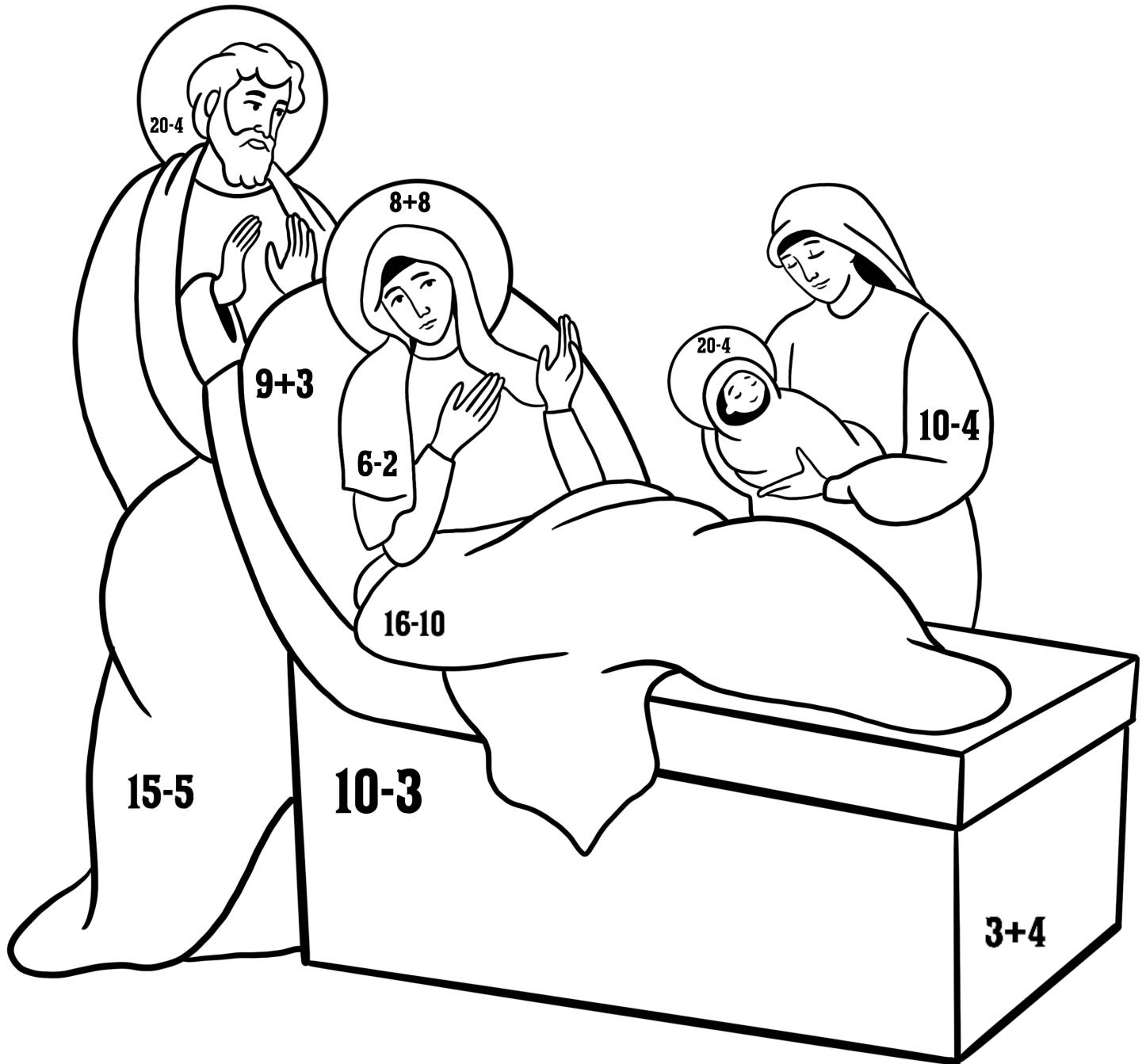
They prayed and prayed, and one day, an _____
appeared to them.

The angel said that God had heard their _____ and that
they would have a baby girl named _____. She would
grow up to be the Mother of _____, the Savior of the
world!

ANGEL
MARY
JESUS
ANNA
JOACHIM
PRAYERS



SOLVE THE PUZZLE AND COLOR THE PICTURE



GREEN = 6

BLUE = 10

RED = 4

YELLOW = 16

BROWN = 7

ORANGE = 12

FIND THE OBJECTS WHICH DO NOT BELONG



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot five differences between these two images?

