

TEACHER'S REFERENCE

Delivery & Differentiation



Lesson Purpose: Students understand that the Nativity of the Theotokos belongs to God's preparation for the Incarnation and learn from Joachim, Anna and Mary to trust, pray and remain faithful.

Core Teaching: Mary's birth is part of God's plan of salvation and prepares the way for the coming of Christ.

Early Learner Emphasis: Names and relationships: Mary; Joachim and Anna; Mother of Jesus; simple trust and prayer.

Elementary Emphasis: Meaning of Theotokos; why the feast matters; patience in prayer; obedience and faithfulness.

Older Student Extension: Connect the Nativity of the Theotokos to the Incarnation and salvation history. Ask students to explain how Mary's birth forms part of God's preparation for the coming of Christ.

Activity Guidance: Use the icon hunt with A/B/C depth rather than creating three separate activities.

A. Early Learners: Find and point to named figures/objects:

- Saint Anna
- The infant Mary
- Saint Joachim
- The women helping Saint Anna
- The cradle or bed
- The home setting
- Anything that shows this is a joyful birth

B. Elementary: Identify figures and explain in simple terms what is happening in the icon.

C. Older Students: Observe composition and connect visible details to the theological meaning of the feast.

Main Point to Remember

Have the students repeat:

"God prepared the way for Christ, and Mary was chosen to become the Mother of God."

For older students:

"The Nativity of the Theotokos begins the preparation for the Incarnation of Christ."

Optional Early Learner Resource: Nativity of the Theotokos colouring page — see the Activities folder.

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Answer Key & Resource Control



Discussion Questions — Teacher Answer Key

1. Who were the parents of the Virgin Mary?

Answer: Saints Joachim and Anna.

2. Why was Mary's birth special?

Answer: Because God chose Mary to become the Mother of Jesus Christ. Her birth was part of God's preparation for the coming of the Saviour.

3. What does Theotokos mean?

Answer: "Birthgiver of God" or "Mother of God."

4. Why is the Nativity of the Theotokos important to Christians?

Answer: Because Mary's birth was part of God's plan of salvation and prepared the way for the birth of Jesus Christ.

5. What can we learn from Joachim and Anna?

Answer: We can learn to pray, remain faithful, be patient, and trust God even when life is difficult.

6. Why is patience important when we pray?

Answer: Because God may not answer our prayers immediately or in the way we expect. We should continue trusting Him and His timing.

7. What can we learn from Mary's willingness to obey God?

Answer: We should be willing to listen to God, trust Him, and follow His will even when we do not completely understand what will happen.

8. How does Mary's birth connect to the birth of Jesus?

Answer: Mary would grow up to become the Mother of Jesus Christ. Her birth was therefore part of God's preparation for Christ's birth.

9. What does it mean to trust God's plan?

Answer: It means believing that God loves us and continuing to follow Him even when we do not understand everything that is happening.

10. What is one thing you can do this week to become more faithful to God?

Possible answers:

- Pray every day.
- Go to church.
- Read Scripture.
- Help someone.
- Obey my parents.
- Forgive someone.
- Be kind.
- Thank God.
- Be patient.
- Remember God during the day.

The Law of God

Suggested Reading | Part III — New Testament, Chapter 1, The Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary (PDF pp. 416–419) (BOOK pp. 223–224).

Image/icon Provenance: See lesson Sources & Rights record.