

Using the Theme Throughout the Year

2007 – 2008



At the beginning He made
them male and female.
"For this reason a man shall
leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife and
the two shall become one flesh."

Matthew 19:5

THEME IDEAS: wedding, creation

ICON: Wedding at Cana

SYMBOL: rings, crowns

DECORATING: Wedding theme!!!

- Flowers, bells, toile, crepe paper, candles
- Use place cards, table #'s
- Guest book
- Favors

MUSIC:

- Music from the Orthodox Wedding service
- "Bless Them O Lord" by Gigi Shadid – download at (www.antiochian.org/festivals)
- "The Wedding Song (There is Love)" by Noel Paul Stookey

CREATIVE FESTIVALS: see downloadable lesson plans provided by AODCE
(www.antiochian.org/festivals)

SERVICE PROJECTS/CHARITY:

- Help support a couple's decision to marry in the church - provide the choir, take pictures, serve refreshments, or have a fundraiser toward their expenses.
- Throw a shower! – for someone in need, or your church or church school! Send invitations and 'register' for needed items (books for the library, supplies, curriculum, or items for the church kitchen or office).
- Send cards to those in the parish celebrating anniversaries and those being married. Make your own cards using the theme and logo.

ACTIVITIES:

- Have a show and tell of all the items used in a wedding – candles, rings, crowns, Gospel Book, and Cross can all be displayed on the Analogion (small table). A role play can take place to show what each is used for and to enact parts of the wedding service – Betrothal, Crowning, and the Dance of Isaiah.
- Attend a wedding!! Many of the children may never have been to an Orthodox wedding. Wouldn't it be wonderful to witness one together as a class or entire church school?
- Sex Ed - This would be a good year to present topics on sex education to appropriately-aged children and parents.
- Adult Ed – How about a class on the meaning of the wedding service? Make it Pan-Orthodox and invite other Orthodox churches in your area!
- Display of parishioners wedding pictures – let people guess who they might be then label them with their offspring and their families – a family tree project!
- Game Day/Family Night – Play all sorts of wedding related games – Bridal Bingo, Newlywed Game, Trivia Games, etc. – all the games can include trivia from the wedding service, biblical figures from the prayers, hymns – and prizes can be wrapped as wedding gifts!

DINNER: For any occasion – After the Christmas Program, Godparent's Sunday, Recognition Day or a fundraiser

- Make it a real “reception” complete with place cards, centerpieces, favors, a head table and, of course, dancing!
- Or, how about “My Big Fat _____ Wedding”?? Serve ethnic food for the meal, and the centerpiece...a “bundt” cake with flowers in the middle!!

END OF THE YEAR/RECOGNITION DAY: – Use the theme and logo as the central part of the certificate or award being given. Decorate certificates and scrapbooks with the cutouts from the bulletin boards. Any gifts given to teachers or students can reflect this year's theme. An icon of the “Wedding at Cana” would be appropriate!

RESOURCES:

- “Holy Matrimony” Video, GOTELECOM (Greek Arch.)
- Teaching Posters – download and print beautiful full color posters for classroom display and for teaching the theme. (www.antiochian.org/festivals)
- Teaching Pics (Sacraments #12 – 16), OCEC

These ideas are only suggestions to tie in the theme with Church School activities for the year. If you have an idea that can add to this, please share it with the rest of us! E-mail the Christian Education office at AODCE@aol.com