**Presentation of the Theotokos (3-9)**



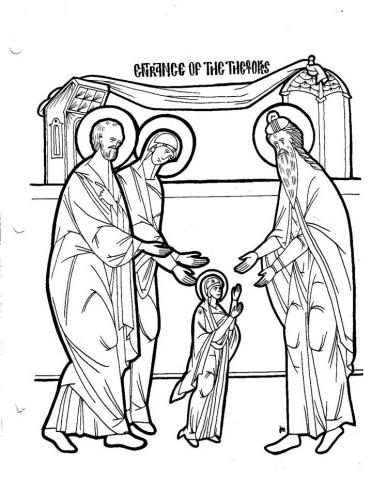
**Objectives:**

1. Student should identify the Presentation of the Virgin in the Temple as one of the twelve major feasts of the church.
2. Student should be able to identify the major characters in the icon.
3. Student should be able to simply tell the story of the feast.

**Lesson Plan:**

1. Open with prayer.
2. Tell the story of the feast, using the icon as a guide:
   * Mary was the daughter of Joachim and Anna.
   * They had prayed and prayed for a child.  They promised God that, if He would give them a child, they would dedicate the life of their baby to Him.  And God blessed them with a very special baby girl.  They named her Mary!
   * On Mary’s first birthday, Joachim called all the priests of the Temple to his home and there they all thanked God for this little girl.
   * When she was three, Joachim and Anna brought little Mary to the door of the Temple itself.  Mary was such a little girl!  How could she climb the 15 steps by herself? But, as she was placed on the first step, she confidently climbed the stairs to the very top.
   * Other girls met Mary at the door, carrying candles.  And the High Priest, Zachariah, met the family.
   * He took Mary and led her into the Holy of Holies, where even the priest could only enter once a year.  This was because Mary was God’s special child, chosen from before she was even born to be the mother of His Son.
   * Mary lived in the Temple until she was fifteen years old, learning the life of holiness and the teachings of God.
3. True or False:
   * Mary’s parents were Moses & Ruth
   * Mary went to the Temple at 3 years old.
   * Caiphas the high priest took Mary into the Temple.
   * Mary lived in the Temple until she was 15 years old.
   * Mary entered the Holy of Holies.
   * Joachim and Anna left Mary at the Temple because they hated her.

1. Introduce the children to the people in the icon: Mary, Joachim, Anna, and Zachariah.

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