

# Sunday School Grade 8 A.G.A.P.E. Curriculum

[Appreciating God-Given Abilities of Persons with Exceptionalities]



## Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

Under the Auspices of His Grace Bishop Youssef

Πατρισταρκοπος ηρεμνηνηι ηορθοδοζος ητε ηιθωψ ετζωτπ ετσαρης

# **Sunday School Grade 8**

## **A.G.A.P.E. Curriculum**

- The AGAPE curriculum is for exceptional student education [ESE] for Sunday School. It is designed by the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States.
- This is a modified curriculum designed for individuals with special needs.
- This curriculum is intended to be taught alongside with the general Sunday School program for each grade.

# **Sunday School Grade 8**

## **A.G.A.P.E. Curriculum**

- Inclusion is an important aspect of the social and learning paradigm of individuals with special needs.
- Stewards serving children and youth with special needs should try to integrate the students in the mainstream classes for as much time as can be tolerated by the student with special needs.
- Integration and inclusion foster friendships among the same age peer group.

# Preparation for Tapers and Incense in the Church

## Lessons for the Month of November

- **Lesson Outline: Week 1**

- Candles were lit by the baptism font as a sign of enlightenment and the new birth. Candles are lit when the Gospel is read in Liturgy. It is the light that fills the universe.
- Candles are lit before the icon of the saints indicating that they “Shine like the brightness of the firmament”.
- In the Liturgy two lit candlesticks are set on the two sides of the altar. They refer to the two angels who were by the tomb of Jesus at the time of His resurrection.
- The candle lit before the Icon of Christ declares that He is the Light of the World. And for St. Mary the Virgin declaring that this is the Mother of light.
- The incense in the church comforts souls when they followed and looked at the circles of smoke rising to heaven. It carries our prayers to heaven.
- Offering incense to the Icons of Saints is not worship to persons or to pictures and statues. We do all this with the spirit of fellowship.

# Word Bank

- Light of the World



- Taper



- Incense



- Light of Universe



- Offering Incense



- Two Angels



**Objective: The church rites help us to offer sincere worship.**



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**Memory Verse: “Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God” (Revelation 4:5).**



**Candles were lit by the baptism as a sign of enlightenment and the new birth. Candles are lit when the Gospel is read in Liturgy. It is the light that fills the universe.**



**Candles are lit before the icons of the saints indicating that they “Shine like the brightness of the firmament”.**



**In the Liturgy two lit candlesticks are set on the two sides of the altar. They refer to the two angels who were by the tomb of Jesus at the time of His resurrection.**



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**The candle lit before the Icon of Christ declares that He is the Light of the World. And for St. Mary the Virgin declaring that this is the Mother of light.**



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**The incense in the church comforts souls when they followed and looked at the circles of smoke rising to heaven. It carries our prayers to heaven.**



**Offering incense to the Icons of Saints is not worship to persons or to pictures and statues. We do all this with the spirit of fellowship.**



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# Tapers and Incense in the Church

## Lessons for the Month of November

- **Conclusion**
  - Candles were lit by the baptism font as a sign of enlightenment and the new birth. Candles are lit when the Gospel is read in Liturgy. It is the light that fills the universe.
  - Candles are lit before the icon of the saints indicating that they “Shine like the brightness of the firmament”.
  - In the Liturgy two lit candlesticks are set on the two sides of the altar. They refer to the two angels who were by the tomb of Jesus at the time of His resurrection.
  - The candle lit before the Icon of Christ declares that He is the Light of the World. And for St. Mary the Virgin declaring that this is the Mother of light.
  - The incense in the church comforts souls when they followed and looked at the circles of smoke rising to heaven. It carries our prayers to heaven.
  - Offering incense to the Icons of Saints is not worship to persons or to pictures and statues. We do all this with the spirit of fellowship.
- To God be the glory, forever, Amen.

# Resources

- Application
  - Coordinate a time for A.G.A.P.E. students to interact with non- A.G.A.P.E. students.
- Activities—Customize according to student abilities, speech, and fine and gross motor skills.
  - Coloring/Painting
  - Cut and Paste
  - Music/Games
- References
  - <http://www.suscopts.org/ssc/Grade08.pdf>