**Badarak: Meaningful Moments**

*45 minutes to a richer worship experience (5th grade and above)*

**9. Last Blessing and Dismissal**

*Be in church for the singing of Kohanamk (p. 51). This session is 40 minutes (church attendance included), 5 additional minutes will need to be conducted at the beginning of your next class, as students will be dismissed directly after the hokehankeesd (if there is one) in church.* *As in all of these sessions, a teaching script is provided. You can use the text as is, or improvise in your own words.*

**Materials Needed**

* For Teacher: This lesson, Bible, Pew Book *have written on the board: Psalm 28:9, Psalm 9:10, James 1:17*
* For Students: Bible, Pew Book, Scripture hand-out
1. *Begin:* “Let’s turn to p.52 of our Divine Liturgy books. We have now arrived at what is called “The Last Blessing and Dismissal” of Badarak. The curtain has opened after the two hymns of thanksgiving following Holy Communion and the priest and altar servers come down from the bema and stand in the chancel. There’s a lovely exchange here between priest and people.
2. You know we are so unaware of how strong a biblical foundation our liturgy has. This little exchange is an excellent example. So let’s do a little exercise first. *Hand out sheets and ask students to look up Scripture references and write out the verse on the space next to the reference.*
3. Okay, have what you wrote in front of you as we go through this prayer. I’ll take the priest’s part and you respond as the people or the choir. *When you come to “Save your people…” have a student read Psalm 28:9 (Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.) At “sanctify those…”, have a student read Psalm 9:10 (Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.) At “For all good gifts…”, ask a student to read James 1:17 (Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.)*
4. Amazing, isn’t it? There is such an immediate connection with Scripture at almost every line! And then, Psalm 113:2. *Amen yegheetzee*. Following this, the first chapter of the Gospel of John is read from which sums up the Person of Jesus Christ as the Word of God, light, life, creator, and savior, who made it possible for us to once again be children of God*.* (If there’s a hokehankeesd, this Gospel is not usually read since there is a Gospel reading during the requiem.) And then (p. 55) we end with a very joyous refrain from Psalm 34. Can someone please read the English? Yes, we will bless the Lord at all times and praise shall be in our mouths. Hmmm..what does this mean? How can we be blessing God? Doesn’t he bless us? Blessing and praising God are common themes in the Psalms. The word “bless” comes from the same root as the Hebrew word “knee.” So, to bless is literally “to bend the knee”–to kneel before.  (15 min)
5. So we are ending liturgy by pledging to bless and praise God always. This is exactly what the angels in heaven are doing around the clock– blessing and praising God*.* So we are being given the privilege of doing the same. What are some ways we can do this? Write a few of them in the space on your handout. It’s not as hard as you think – it can be about how you express your Christian values, your relationship with God, what you do, what you say…. *Discuss. Have students read their ideas. These might include mini prayers at different times and circumstances throughout the day, spending less money on themselves and being more generous to others, performing random acts of kindness, etc. Conclude by asking students to underline the one thing they will try to do throughout the coming week.*
6. Great. So once we make this pledge and the priest gives us his final blessing, we proceed up to the chancel to kiss the Gospel Book. We cross ourselves and kiss it. What’s this mean? What is the significance of a kiss in a church context?? The kiss of peace? Kissing the cross? And now kissing the Gospel. (*Respect, love. In the case of the cross and the Bible, acknowledging its holiness and sharing in it through this kiss.)*
7. We’re going to church now to experience what we just talked about. When you go up to kiss the Gospel book at the end, please make that special pledge to God. (10 min)
8. Church. *Dismiss students directly from the sanctuary.*  (15 min)
9. **At next session**. *Survey students about whether they were able to “bless and praise the Lord” with the concrete action they chose last session.* (5 min)

**Last Blessing and Dismissal**

Psalm 28:9 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 9:10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

James 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I can bless and praise God often by….

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3.

4.

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