

Grade Two

Circles of Faith



We Believe Curriculum
Student Lessons

Circles of Faith

Yn. Talin Petoyan

Table of Contents

Unit 1 Circles of Faith

1. Circles of Faith
2. Everything Comes From God!
 3. Jesus, Son
 4. Follow Me
 5. A Holy Guide
6. My Church Family
7. A World of Faith

Unit 2 Jesus & Me

1. Prayer is Talking With God
 2. A Way of Life
 3. Day and Night
 4. Help!
5. David's Prayers For All Feelings
 6. Thank You!

Unit 3 Being the Church

1. Many Become One
2. A Gift For Everyone
 3. This Is My Body
4. God Gives Us Laws
5. We Make Choices
6. God Forgives Us
7. Jesus With Us

Unit 4 Celebrating Jesus: The Church Year

1. The Church Remembers & Celebrates
 2. The Church Year
 3. Christmas
 4. Easter
 5. Ascension
 6. Pentecost
 7. Transfiguration
 8. Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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*With appreciation for photographs contributed by Armen Edgarian and the
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By order of Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate • Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
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We Pray Together

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us a special family – the church! We come today, as your disciples, to share our faith and spread your love.

Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyh Srpo. Amen.

Յանուն Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

Can you imagine a school with only one student or a summer camp with one camper? Or how about going to a baseball, football, or soccer game with only one fan in the stadium? All of these activities become exciting and fun because we do it all together. Can you think of other activities that you like to do that are more fun with a group rather than by yourself?



Our Story

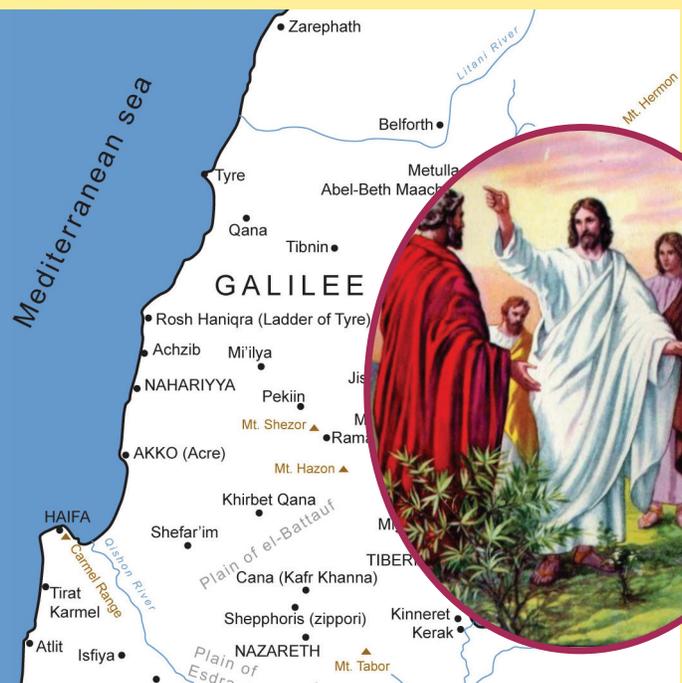
Mrs. Hovsepien's Second Grade class was preparing for their exciting annual Fall Harvest Festival. Each class was responsible for a game booth including decorations, supplies, games and prizes. Unfortunately, Mrs. Hovsepien got sick and was absent from school that entire week. She was very concerned as to how all the work was going to



get done. She sent instructions and a diagram to the substitute teacher and asked if the students could help put it together. She assigned each student a special task and explained what needed to be done in detail. They all worked together and prepared a wonderful booth. Not only did the booth look nice, the class felt so proud that they were able to help and be part of an event so special. They took pictures of the booth and sent them to Mrs. Hovsepien so that she could imagine being there.

God's Word

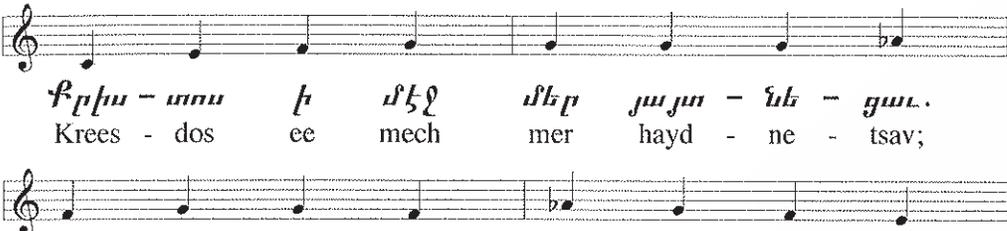
Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." *Matthew 28:16-20*



We Learn About God

Jesus chose his 12 disciples to carry out his work on earth. In many ways, the disciples (Jesus' students) were also his messengers. Before Jesus returned to heaven, he had one final meeting with his disciples to give them their biggest job. They were to go and tell everyone about Jesus. It is because of the disciples and their great work of sharing Jesus' message that we are Christians today. You see, God did not want us to be alone. All of us praying together and sharing Jesus' love make up the church. The church is not a building. The church is a family of people who pray together. We are members of God's family. We sing a very special hymn that reminds us that Jesus is with us during Badarak: "Kreesdos Ee Mech Mer," which means Christ among us.

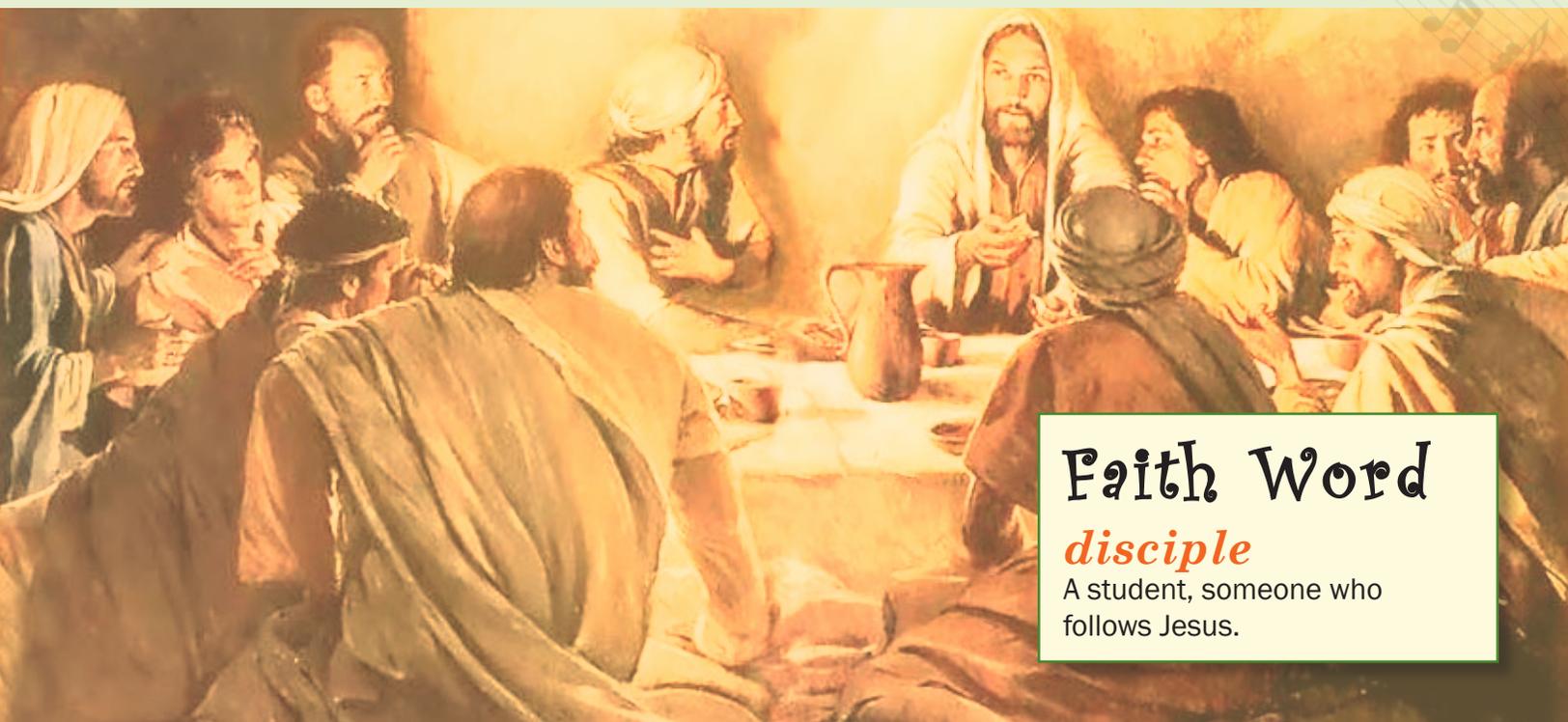
Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ
Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav



Քրիս - տոս ի մէջ մեր յայտ - նե - ցաւ .
Krees - dos ee mech mer hayd - ne - tsav;

որ էնն Աստ - ուած աստ բազ - մե - ցաւ :
vor Enn Asd - vadz asd paz - me - tsav.

Christ is revealed among us; God is seated with us!



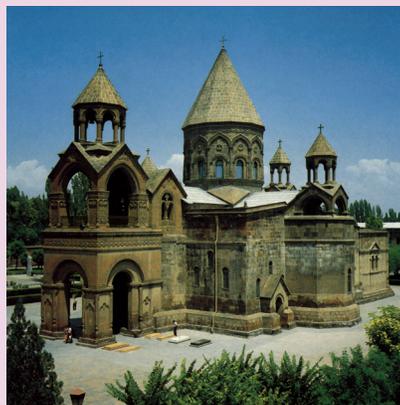
Faith Word

disciple

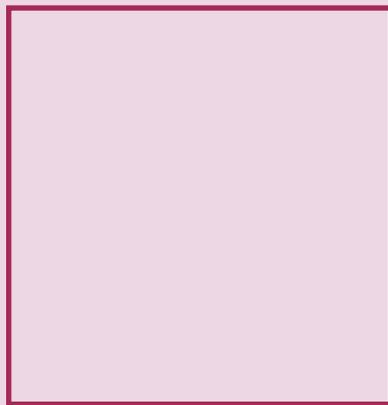
A student, someone who follows Jesus.

Our Armenian Way

The disciples Thaddeus and Bartholomew brought the message of Jesus to Armenia. Because of their work, Armenians became Christian and our faith has been passed down from century to century. We are able to pray and celebrate the same Badarak in Etchmiadzin, Armenia, at your Cathedral, or even at your local parish. Wherever you are, it's a special feeling and honor to celebrate Badarak knowing the message of Jesus has traveled so far. It is our job as Jesus' disciples to continue to share his message.



Holy Etchmiadzin



Handmade With Love

"Disciple of Jesus" ID card

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson was about Jesus' final command to his disciples to go and share his message with the world, making everyone a disciple of Jesus. We continue the work of the disciples when we come together and share the love and message of Jesus. We also learned that we are all part of God's family because he never intended for us to worship alone. We are reminded of this special family bond when we sing the hymn *Kreesdos Ee Mech Mer*.

Living Our Faith

1. Have your child carry or take their Disciple of Jesus ID card to church and Sunday School as a constant reminder of their job to spread the word of Jesus.
2. Practice singing the first line of *Kreesdos Ee Mech Mer* at home and sing the entire hymn together during Badarak.

Everything Comes From God!



We Pray Together

Dear Holy Trinity, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you for all of the beauty and wonder of your creation.

You are the source of all life. Thank you!

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

Have you ever looked out the window on a beautiful day? What would you see in...

Winter? Չմեռ Tzu-mer

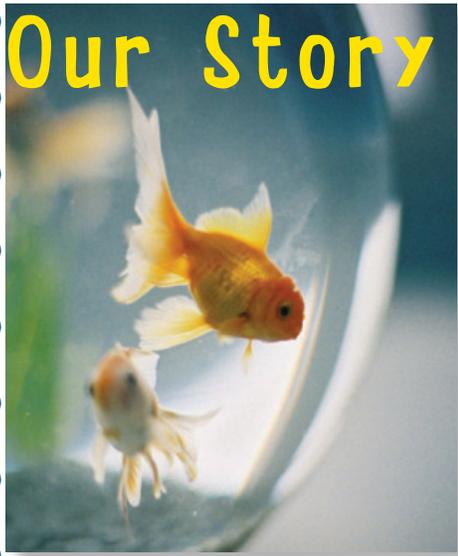
Spring? Գարուն Ka-roon

Summer? Ամառ A-mar

Fall?
Աշուն
A-shoon

Draw a picture of one thing you would see.

Our Story



For his birthday, Ara got a gift of two beautiful goldfish. He went with his mom to the pet store and bought a big tank for his fish. “What should we put in the tank to make a home for your fish, Ara?” his mom asked. Ara decided to buy colorful stones for the bottom. Then he chose two pretty trees and a little coral castle. “I want my fish to be happy when they swim around in their new home,” Ara decided. “What about a friend for your fish? Here’s a crab, and here’s a little statue of a diver,” his mom noticed. Ara bought the diver and a few sea shells to put on the bottom. Now his “fish world” was a beautiful place!

God's Word

God created the world a very long time ago. Every step of the way, God had a plan that was always right and good.

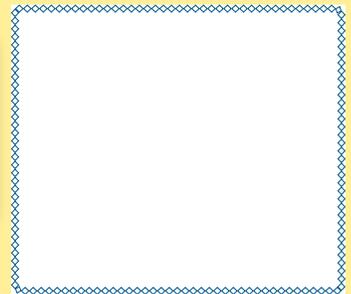
1. First, everything was dark, so God created light which was the day and the darkness was called night.



2. On the second day, he separated the sky from the oceans. *Draw a cloud you would see in the sky.*



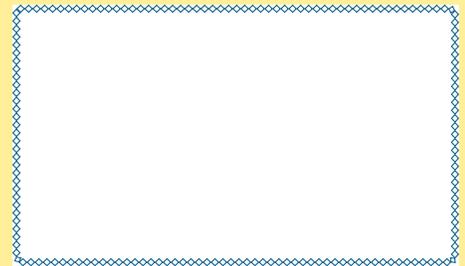
3. Next, God created land made up of mountains, hills, and valleys and the waters were called the seas. God also created every type of plant that would cover the land and make it beautiful. *Draw a tree you would like to find on the side of a mountain.*



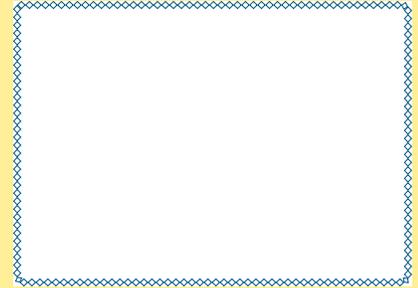
4. On the fourth day, God added lights to the sky, the larger one called the sun and the smaller one called the moon and all the stars. *Draw the sun, moon, and some stars.*



5 On the fifth day, God created all the birds to fly the skies and all the sea creatures to swim the seas. *Draw a bird in the sky and a fish in the sea.*



B God made all the animals of the land from the tallest giraffes to the smallest ants. *Draw an animal.*



God then created the first people in his own image, a man and woman, whom he named Adam and Eve, to take care of all of his creation. "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." *Genesis 1*

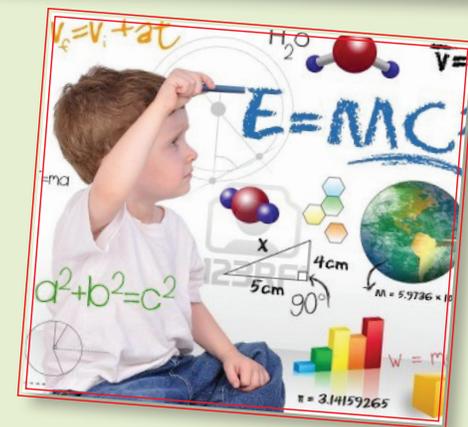
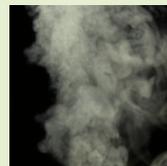


Draw Yourself!

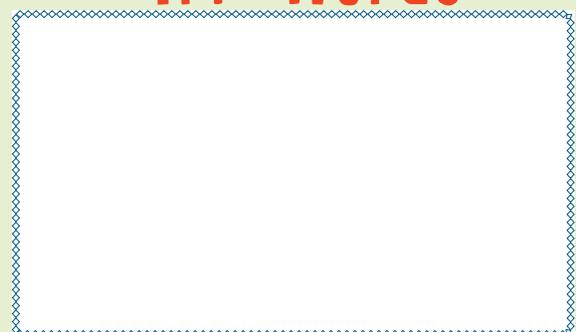
We Learn About God

At school, you probably complete many math lessons and solve different types of equations such as $3 + 7 = 10$, $2 + 4 + 6 = 12$, and so on. Well, the most famous equation in the Bible is the following: **Father + Son + Holy Spirit = God**. This equation makes up the **Trinity** because the prefix "tri" stands for number three.

God has always been here. No one created him. Our Scripture reading for today gives a very important clue telling us that Jesus and the Holy Spirit were in fact present at Creation. If God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit then we know that they were all there. Everything comes from God! When we pray we make the sign of the cross. Did you ever stop to think that the three fingers that you use represent the Trinity? The three fingers come together as if they are glued to make one sign for God. As we make the sign of the cross we are reminding not only ourselves but others that we belong to God.



"Tri" Words





We say: In the name of the Father (Hanoon Hor), and of the Son (Yev Vortvo), and of the Holy Spirit (Yev Hokvooyin Srpo). Amen.

Faith Word

Trinity: Three

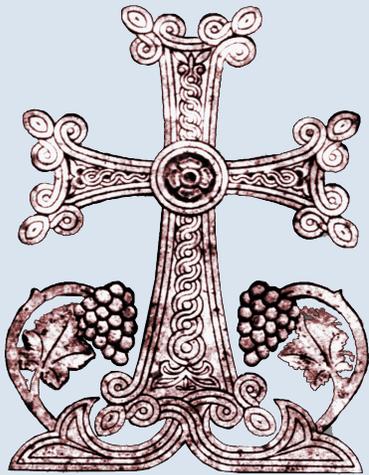
Holy Trinity. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Our Armenian Way

The Armenian Cross has special features. It is often pictured with grapes and wheat and sometimes leaves and flowers coming out of the base. These stand for the hope of new life that comes from the Cross of Christ. Grapes and wheat also stand for Holy Communion.

Each arm of the cross ends in a three-pointed design, reminding us always of the Holy Trinity.

Cross Խաչ khach



Handmade With Love Stand-up Cross Craft



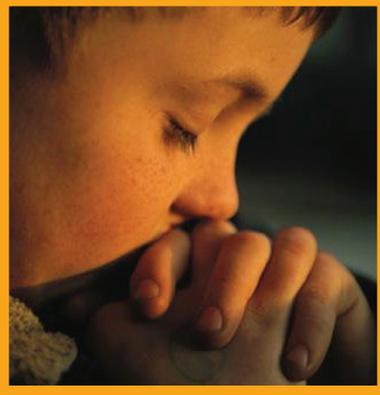
For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today second graders were reminded that everything comes from God. We reflected on the beauty of the world and drew images from the 6 days of creation as written about in Genesis 1. The children reviewed signing themselves with the cross - each time we make the sign of the cross, we are reminded of our Christian belonging and that God is always with us. They also made a beautiful stand-up cross.

Living Our Faith

1. Place your child's cross at the center of the dining room table to be visible at mealtimes.
2. Ask your child to identify favorite aspects of God's creation and thank God for his gifts to us.
3. Alternate saying the sign of the cross in both Armenian and English during family prayer time so your child may hear it in both languages.



We Pray Together

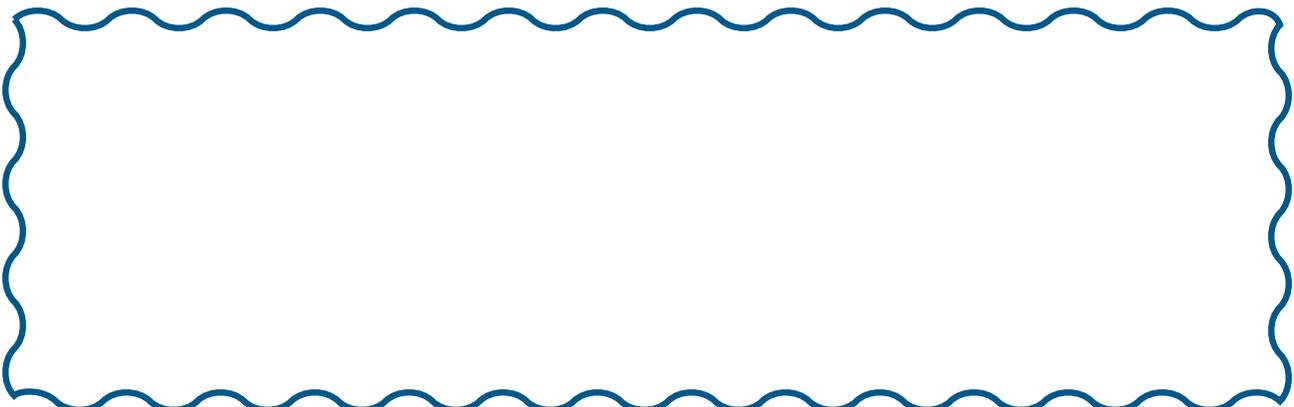
Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for loving us so completely. Your love and kindness is so great that you gave us your most precious gift, your Son, Jesus. Through Jesus Christ we learn how to live the best life we can in your eyes, always pleasing and praising you, Almighty God. Thank you for sending Jesus to us!

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Srpo. Amen.
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Let's Discover

Think back to your last birthday and all of the thoughtful gifts you received from family and friends. You probably couldn't wait to open your presents and once you did you were so excited about each one of them. Did you have a favorite gift? Why was it your favorite? What made it so special? Would you give this same gift to a friend for their

birthday? Draw a picture of the gift.



Our Story

Daniel was really looking forward to summer vacation. Since his parents worked full-time outside of the home, Daniel needed to keep busy. His parents signed him up for a local day camp. This was his first camp experience and although he was nervous, he was thrilled that he was going to go with Gregory, his best friend from school. During the last month of school, the boys looked at the camp brochure daily, excited about horseback riding, canoeing, swimming, hiking, woodshop, science lab and so much more!



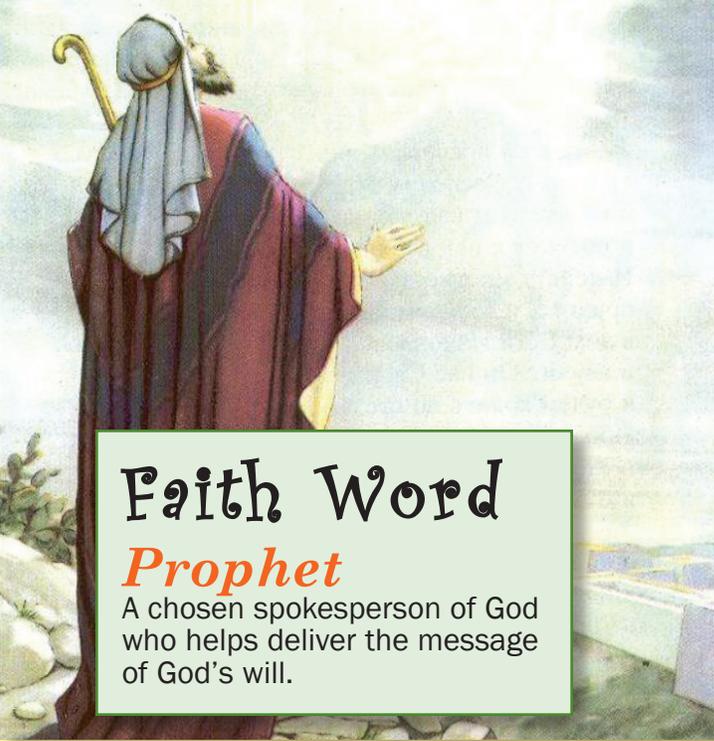
The day before camp started, Daniel's mom shared the news that Greg was not going to camp. His family had to change plans and visit Greg's grandmother who was ill. Daniel was so upset! What was he going to do without his best friend? Daniel started to worry, thinking terrible thoughts:

"What if no one likes me? What if my parents forget to pick me up? What if I get sick?" All of a sudden there were too many "what ifs." Daniel did not want to go. That was his final decision. His parents hugged him and promised over and over that he would be fine. They promised to pick him up on time each day. They promised Daniel that he would make friends and love camp so much that he wouldn't want it to end.



Camp started the next day and Daniel dragged his feet and went. At the end of the day, during pick-up time, Daniel was beaming. He ran to his parents and shouted, "I love camp!" His counselor turned out to be an older brother of one of his classmates; there were kids from his school that he knew; he made friends with Sam at lunchtime; and he went horseback riding. Daniel told his parents that they were right and thanked them for keeping their promises. Daniel's summer ended up being better than ever!





Faith Word

Prophet

A chosen spokesperson of God who helps deliver the message of God's will.

God's Word

The prophet Isaiah lived long before Jesus was born. In the Old Testament of the Bible, he wrote about God's promise of Jesus:

'For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. His royal titles will be: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He will rule forever with fairness and justice. This is the promise of God the Father.'

Based on Isaiah 9:6-7

We Learn About God

In today's story, we read about Daniel's fear and concern about going to camp and the promises his parents made to him.

God promised to always take care of us. He kept his promise by sending us his best gift, Jesus.

Through Jesus, we learn about God, and how to live. God describes Jesus through the prophet Isaiah as:

Jesus, Wonderful, glorious in every way.

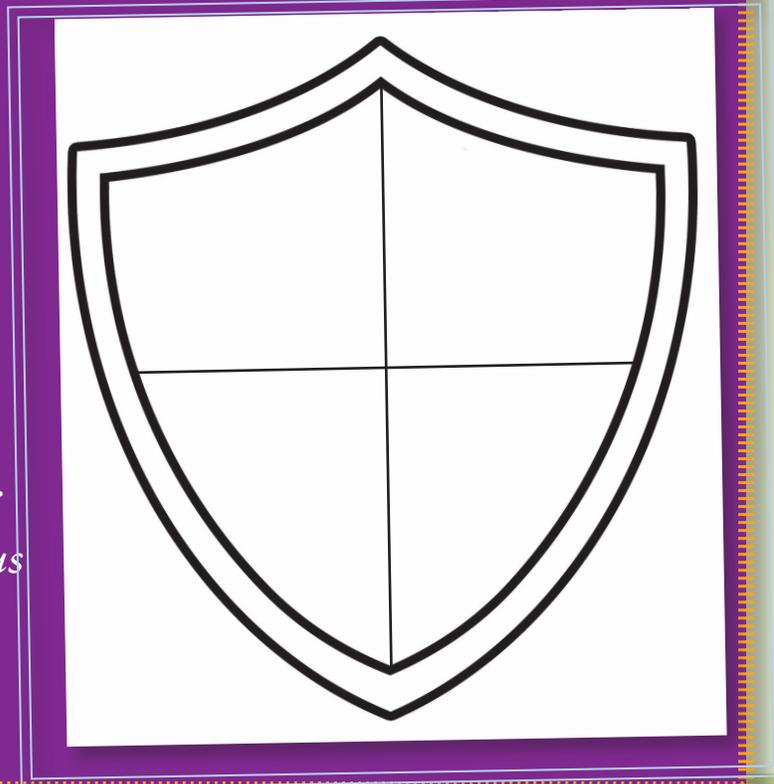
Jesus, Counselor, always giving the best advice.

Jesus, Mighty God, all-powerful.

Jesus, Everlasting Father, a loving parent.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, bringing peace to us and the entire world.

Jesus ᅆhunlu Hee-soos





Our Armenian Way

Each Sunday in the Armenian Church, we sing *Vortee Asdoodzo* as a reminder of God's wonderful gift of his Son, Jesus. This beautiful hymn is sung in preparation for Holy Communion. We are thanking Jesus for his sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

Before you, Lord, Son of God, you are sacrificed to the Father to unite us with him.

Որդի Աստուծոյ - Vortee Asdoodzo

Ա - րա - շի քո Տէր: Որ - դի
A - ra - chee ko Der. Vor - tee

Աս - տու - ծոյ. որ պա - տարա - դեալ
As - doo - dzo; vor ba - da - ra - kyal

Հոր է հաշ - տու - թիւն
Hor ee hash - doo - tyoon



St. Nersess Shnorhali, (the Gracefilled) is considered one of our greatest Church Fathers. He was a Catholicos and also known for his many prayers, hymns and poems praising God. One of his poems, *Jesus Son (Heesoos Vortee)*, is a long poem that tells about the Old Testament, the life and teachings of Jesus and his crucifixion.



Handmade With Love

We began this lesson discussing gifts and God's greatest gift to us, Jesus. Just as we write thank-you cards to our friends and family, why not write a note of thanks to our Heavenly Father?

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students read about God's promise and gift of his Son, Jesus. God the Father, who loves his children, sent his son Jesus to save us from our sins. We remember his greatness and his sacrifice during the Divine Liturgy especially as we sing *Vortee Asdoodzo*. We learned that the great Catholicos St. Nersess Shnorhali wrote a world-famous poem about Christ called *Jesus, Son*. We thank God for his gift of love.

Living Our Faith

1. As a family, pray together and thank God for sending his Son, Jesus.
2. Display your child's thank you card in a visible place and refer to it often.
3. During Badarak, locate the hymn *Vortee Asdoodzo* in the Badarak book and sing with the congregation.



We Pray Together

Dear Lord, we thank you for our church. Through our baptism, we became part of your great family of believers and are so happy to grow in our faith at Sunday School and at home. Thank you for the love that you make possible.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Srpo. Amen.

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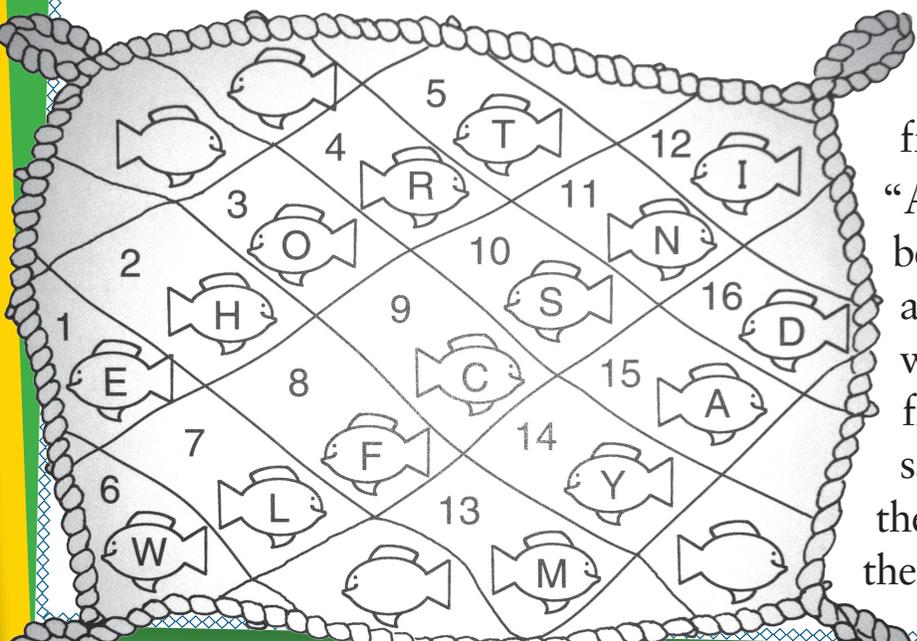
Let's Discover

Here's a very famous story from the Gospel of Mark (1:16-18) about how Jesus called the first few disciples to follow him and learn God's ways.

“Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw Simon and his brother Andrew fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them: ‘Follow me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of fish.’” They didn't ask questions... What happened next? You will be given some math problems. Solve them and fill in the blanks.

Here's the rest of the story from Mark (19-20):

“A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee's sons. They were in the boat mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.”



Our Story



Once a month, Vartan's Sunday School attends Badarak and hears a special sermon prepared just for them by their Der Hayr. It's always a fun Sunday because everyone has a chance to sing *Soorp Asdvadz* together, participate in the Kiss of Peace, receive Holy Communion and listen to a talk just for the kids. On a particular Sunday, during the sermon, Der Hayr kept on talking about how the church is really not a building but is made up of people. He kept on saying that the faithful make up the church, and everyone has an important job.

Vartan, who wants to be an engineer one day, was really stumped by Der Hayr's message. He was so confused as he looked around and saw walls, beams, a roof, windows – the church was definitely a building – how could it be anything else?



After services, Vartan had the courage to go up to Der Hayr and ask him his question. Der Hayr smiled and reassured Vartan that the church was a building but also and more importantly, it was the Body of Christ. Der Hayr continued to say that the church was like the human body. Christ is the head, and all of us represent the different parts of the body. Each part has a special job and if it is not working properly it affects the entire body. The same is true for the church; all of us work together as a family under Christ. No one person is more important than the other. Der Hayr told Vartan that as part of God's family, he and all of his Sunday School friends have a special role in the church. Vartan was glad that he

spoke with Der Hayr and started thinking about his role in the church.

Church Եկեղեցի Yeh-geh-gheh-tsee

Faith Word

Deacon

(sargavak)

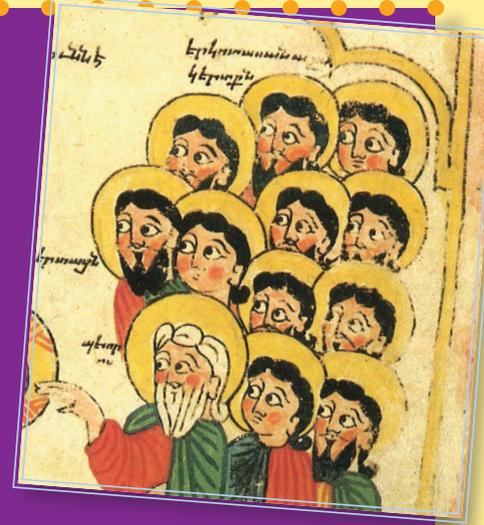
An ordained helper of the priest.

God's Word

Jesus was looking for disciples that would be willing to follow him and help spread the word of God. Jesus didn't look for them at schools or at the temple. Jesus was often found preaching to large crowds around the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee was a very busy fishing area. We just read about what happened on a particular day.

twelve chosen men were called Jesus' disciples.

Here's a poem to help remember their names.



Can you retell that story in your own words?

Jesus also called on Levi or Matthew, a tax collector, to follow him and so Matthew joined them too. Jesus continued traveling with his chosen followers, and called more people to follow him making up a group of twelve. He invited them to learn the best way to live as God wanted and then share that message with everyone. These

The 12 Disciples

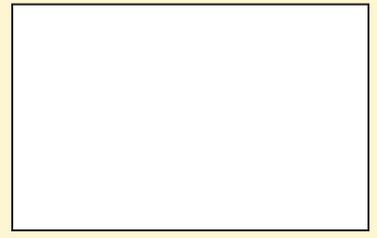
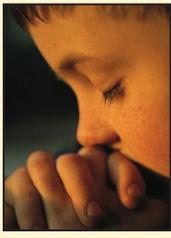
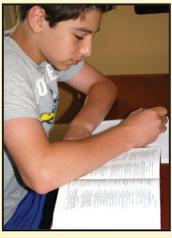
*Peter, Andrew, James and John,
fishermen of Capernaum.
Thomas and Matthew too,
Phillip and Bartholomew,
James, his brother Thaddeus,
Simon and the one called Judas.
Twelve disciples here in all,
following Jesus' call!*

We Learn About God

Let's visit our friend Vartan again from our story. The following Sunday he asks his Sunday School teacher about what he and his classmates can do in the church. Vartan took his job in the church very seriously as he was only seven years old. Their teacher said that all members of the church help others know and share Jesus' love. She also said that the Sunday School students are like the new disciples, learning about Jesus and sharing his love with others. So even as a student, Vartan had a special job. Their teacher also said that each Sunday, right before the priest gives his final blessing, he says a special prayer written by one of our Church Fathers, St. John Chrysostom. The prayer asks God to bless each person in the church for everything that they do. The prayer makes sure that no one is forgotten.



Look at the pictures and fill in the blank from the word box describing the deed in the picture. Remember, God blesses you for every kind deed that you do.



Word Box* visiting, praising, studying, praying, serving

Our Armenian Way

The Armenian Church, like other churches, is blessed with important parish helpers. On any Sunday, aside from the priest, there are several people serving at the altar. The deacon (*sargavak* in Armenian) is a special helper who is ordained by the bishop in the church. To be ordained means to receive a blessing and special rights to do things in the church. The deacons wear a robe called a *shabig* with a stole called an *oorar* over the left shoulder. To be a deacon requires time and practice.



A deacon.... reads the Gospel, sings sharagans and prayers, censes with the poorvar, and assists the priest.

Deacon

Սարգաւակ

Sar-ga-vak

Handmade With Love

We are a church family. Each one of us has a special gift to offer our church as we are all important in God's eyes. As a reminder of our church family, decorate a photo frame entitled "We are God's Family" and insert a group picture of your entire church family or Sunday School.



For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students read about Jesus' calling of the disciples. They also learned that each one of us is a disciple of Jesus as we learn and share his message. Each and every one of us has a special role in God's family and we all make up one church.

Living Our Faith

1. Practice saying the poem of the 12 Disciples.
2. Acquaint yourself with the deacons of your parish. Listen for the blessing of all church members by St. John Chrysostom.
3. Display the framed church family prominently in your home as a reminder that we are one family in God.



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, we are grateful to you for sending us the Holy Spirit as our guide in living a Christian life. We feel your presence and protection in all that we do through your Holy Spirit.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.
Յանուն Հօր եւ Ռրդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

Read the following “firsts.” Do any of them sound familiar to you?

First day of school
Moving to a new city
Riding a roller coaster
Watching a scary movie
Receiving a shot
Riding a bike

Jumping off a diving board
Going away to summer camp
Sleepover at a friend's house
A cavity filling
An airplane ride
Performing on stage



Were you scared? How did you handle your fear?

Draw a picture of your fearful first and describe how you got through it.





Our Story

For as long as Ani Hovsepian could remember, her mom Lucy was always home and ready to greet her after school. Her mom was the one who would help her with homework, bake cookies, cook dinner, help in the classroom, read bedtime stories, and take her to ballet class,

play dates and the doctor. For Ani, things were about to change as she started the second grade. Ani's mom was going back to work after being home for seven years!

One evening at dinner, Lucy announced that her new job was going to require some traveling. Her first business trip would be next week and she would be gone for the entire week. "A whole week?" Ani was upset – a week seemed forever. Ani's mom arranged to have grandma come over and spend the week while she was gone. For the days leading up to the trip, Ani would mope around the house begging her mom not to go. She would ask, "What if I get sick, or don't understand my homework, or have nightmares?"

For every worry, Lucy would hug and kiss Ani reassuring her that she would be just fine. Ani's mom also promised that she would call and text her every day so that Ani could hear her voice and communicate. Lucy also promised to bring back something special for her. Ani's mom made sure that she would be taken care of and have nothing to fear.

God's Word

During the Last Supper, Jesus spoke about many important things with his disciples. It was Jesus' last meal with his disciples, one of the very last times they would all be together. He told the disciples that in the near future he would be returning to heaven to be with his Heavenly Father. The thought of Jesus leaving the disciples caused a lot of fear and sadness. What were the disciples going to do without their leader, Jesus? Jesus reassured them that he would send the Holy Spirit in his place. The Holy Spirit was going to come and offer comfort, share Jesus' love, teachings, and truth and reveal what would happen in the future. Everything that the Holy Spirit was sent to do and say was also in the name of God the Father and Jesus.

(from John 16:5-15)

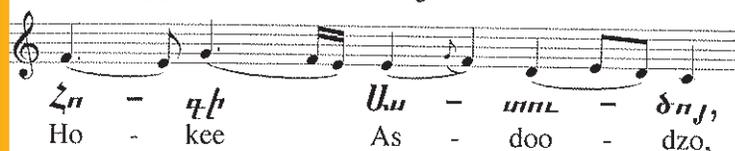


We Learn About God

Remember our friend Ani? She was scared that her mom was going to leave her when she went on her business trip. Her mom comforted her by saying she would be back and as a way to keep in touch, they were going to text and talk on the phone each day. Just as in Ani's story, Jesus reassured his disciples that they would not be forgotten. He gave his word that they would have someone to take care of them when he was gone. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to help the disciples pray, teach others about Jesus, and give them strength, courage and faith.

Hokee Asdoozo, meaning *Spirit of God*, is a beautiful hymn (*sharagan*) sung during the Divine Liturgy. In the *sharagan* we are praying to God that he send his Holy Spirit on the gifts of bread and wine and make them truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We also pray that the Holy Spirit blesses those members of our church family who have died.

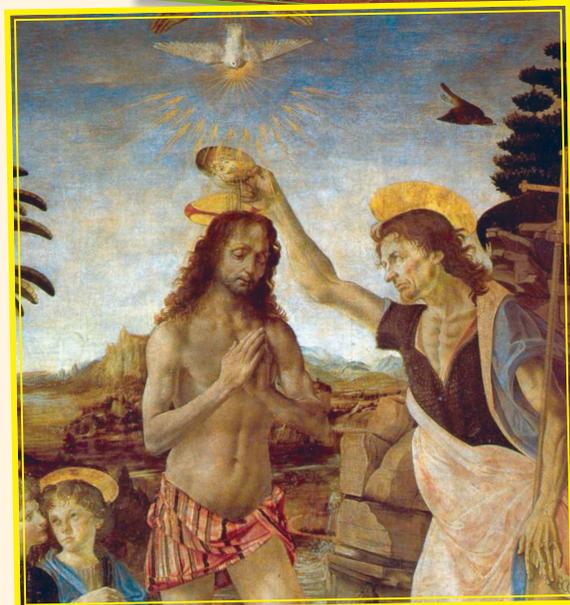
Հոգի Աստուծոյ - Hokee Asdoodzo



Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, the dove (*aghavnee* in Armenian) symbolizes the Holy Spirit. If you have ever attended an Armenian baptism or remember your own through pictures or video, you will notice that the priest blesses the water with a very special oil called Holy *Muron*. The priest also anoints nine parts of the body with the muron during the sacrament of chrismation, which follows right after baptism. The Holy Muron is stored in a dove-shaped container as a reminder of the Holy Spirit. During chrismation, the muron acts as a special seal, representing the gift of the Holy Spirit who guides, protects, and strengthens the newly-baptized Christian.

Holy Spirit Սուրբ Հոգի Soorp Ho-kee



Handmade With Love



Make your own dove and hang it somewhere to always remember that the Holy Spirit is your guide and you are never alone.

Faith Word

Chrismation

The sacrament that seals us with the Holy Spirit.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students read about Jesus sharing the news of his return to heaven to the disciples and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The students also learned that the Holy Spirit is a reminder of Jesus and serves as our guide, strength and protector. We made a dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit who lovingly counsels the Church and every Christian.

Living Our Faith

1. Display the dove that your child made and remind them that the Holy Spirit is always with us.
2. During Badarak, point out the sharagan, *Hokee Asdoodzo*, and sing with your child.
3. Revisit the pictures of your child's baptism and discuss that special day.



We Pray Together

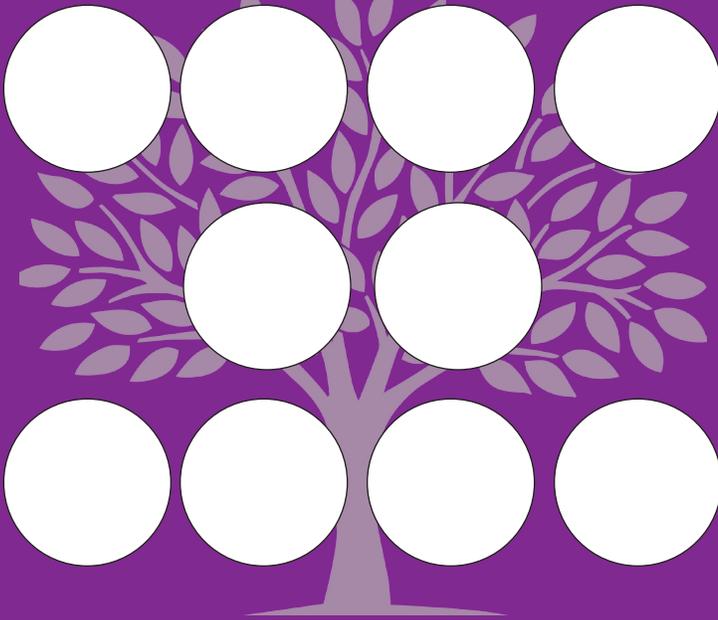
Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for our church and for being the Father of our family. Guide us, teach us, love us and may our actions always bring praise to your name.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyñ Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

Each one of us is blessed to be part of a loving family. Look at the family tree diagram and fill in the apples. Put your name and any brothers or sisters that you may have on the top row of the tree. On the middle row, write the names of your parents. On the bottom row write the names of your grandparents, remember you have two sets! Then on the line provided share what you love most about your family.



Our Story

Aram was so excited because in exactly three weeks he would celebrate his 8th birthday! He ran to his parents and asked if he could have a birthday party. His parents agreed and asked him to prepare a guest list of friends and family that he wanted to invite. When he presented the guest list to his parents, they were a little shocked. They were expecting a list of about 15 people and were surprised to see a total of 50.

Aram invited many members from his parish, including his Sunday School friends, his Sunday School teacher, some choir members, deacons and of course his Der Hayr, Der Sarkis. Aram's parents were curious as to why so many members from the church were on his list. They said, "Aram, they are all nice people, but isn't that too many people?" Aram very simply explained that his Sunday School teacher said, "The church is a family and that we are all part of God's family." Aram said that he wanted to be surrounded by all of his family members on his special day. His parents smiled and agreed and told Aram that they would find a nice park in the area to host all of the "family."



God's Word

In the New Testament, in a letter called "Hebrews," we hear that some people had gotten out of the habit of worshiping and praying together, which was not good. Rather, we are encouraged to pray together and prepare for the Lord's return. *Hebrews 10:25*

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus reminded his followers that whenever two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is especially present. *Matthew 18:20*





We Learn About God

Our Scripture readings for this lesson tell us that Christians should come together, worship and pray in church. When we are together at our parish, praying with our church family, we are comforted in knowing that Jesus is with us!

Would it sound strange to you if your priest said that Badarak would be celebrated at a playground, or in a parking lot, or at a super-market? What makes a church different from a house, park or parking lot? The church is consecrated, which means that it has been blessed and has been set aside for holiness. Within our church, you will notice the altar, which is also consecrated. We don't play on the altar, we don't wear shoes on the altar, we keep it clean and special as it is holy. Think about your parish church. Circle the items you think would be consecrated as holy items.

Which items are consecrated?

chalice electric sockets **door knobs** candles
picture of Mary & Jesus **baptismal font**
carpet **CROSSES** choir chairs chandeliers
dove vessel offering plates altar
icons/pictures organ *priest's vestments*

Would you be surprised to hear that you have been consecrated and set aside for holiness? When do you think that happened?

Holy Unhpp Soorp

Faith Word

Consecration

Setting something apart for a holy purpose.

Our Armenian Way

Every member of the Armenian Church throughout the world belongs to a parish church. Although each Armenian parish is unique, there are many characteristics which are the same.

Our parishes are named after a special saint (St. Gregory, for example) or an event (Holy Resurrection, for example) and the church is often built in the shape of a cross. Each Sunday we celebrate Divine Liturgy (*Badarak*). Our parishes are led by a priest whom we call Der Hayr or Hayr Soorp. We have altar servers and choir members. The parish council is a group of people who help take care of the church's needs. There is often a ladies society or women's guild, Sunday School, Armenian School, and youth group.

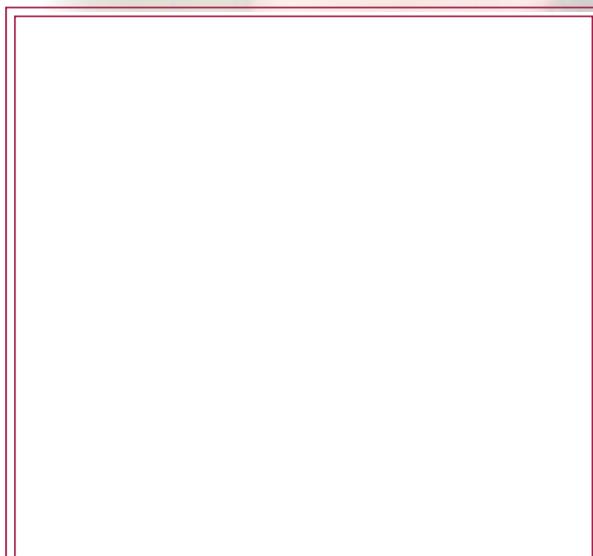
In our parish we celebrate happy occasions such as weddings, baptisms, and picnics and we come together to comfort each other at funerals. Just like our family at home, our parish is our Christian family where we all enjoy each other's friendship and also worship together and serve God and others.

The name of my parish church is _____.

It is located in _____.

My priest is _____.

I love my parish because _____.



Handmade With Love

Sharing a meal is a sign of love and togetherness in a family. Just like home, our church family shares a meal when we all receive Holy Communion. The chalice holds the bread and wine prepared for Holy Communion. To remember this very special meal and the cup that holds it, you will make your own tissue paper mosaic chalice (*sugih* in Armenian).

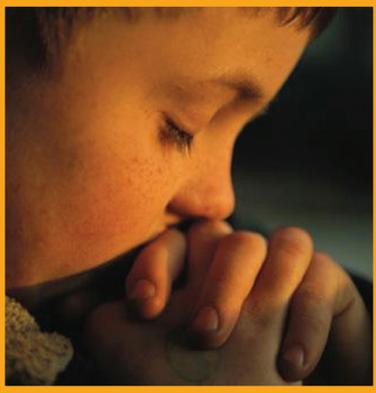
For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students learned about the church family. Jesus instructs us to worship and pray together and to know that he is always with us. The church and many items in the church are holy because they are consecrated. The children learned that Armenian Christians across the land might belong to different parish families but they all share in many of the same experiences unique to the Armenian Church. They made a stained glass chalice to remember the special meal of Holy Communion.

Living Our Faith

1. Display the mosaic chalice in a prominent place to remember our Christian family.
2. With your child, take the time to learn more about your parish family.
3. Point out to your child the various items mentioned in the lesson that are consecrated.



We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, thank you for our church family everywhere in the world and for the chance to pray, learn, and share your love with one another.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

A compliment is saying something nice about someone else.

In the Bible, we learn all about loving one another!

Serve one another
Galatians 5:13

Accept one another
Romans 15:7

Care about one another
Romans 12:10

Honor one another
Romans 12:10

Encourage one another
1 Thess. 5:11

How did you feel after each compliment that you wrote about your classmate?

How did you feel after reading the compliment that your classmates wrote about you?





Kasparian Family Thanksgiving Dilemma - Can You Help?

Mrs. Kasparian was a little worried. Thanksgiving was her favorite holiday and it was only a month away and she didn't quite know how she was going to get everything ready. The tradition was that all of Mr. and Mrs. Kasparian's family, including both grandmas and grandpas, and all the brothers and sisters and their families would celebrate together. At last count there were 52 people on the list. Instead of worrying so much, the Kasparians held a family meeting and decided that the best solution would be to have everyone pitch in.

As a class, brainstorm a list of all the things you think that the family would need do in order to pitch in to have an enjoyable celebration.

Our Story

Stone Soup by Marcia Brown, is a classic story about how one village worked together to make the best soup ever. In many ways, stone soup reminds us of our church. Just like all the different ingredients, our church community comes together and shares their talents and gifts so that our church will grow and be successful.



God's Word

The apostles worked hard to spread the word of Jesus to others. They taught people about Jesus every day and amazed the crowds with miracles. On one particular day in Jerusalem, there was a crowd of 3000 new Christians listening and eagerly learning about Jesus from the apostles. The early Christians enjoyed fellowship as they met together and shared what they had with one another, just like one family. They shared meals and they prayed together. God blessed the early Christians by helping their church grow larger and larger. This was the start of the early church.

Based on Acts 2:42-47

We Learn About God

Our Scripture reading for this lesson describes the early Church. The first Christians were a great example of teamwork and community. They did the following:

- Learned about God
- Broke bread in Holy Communion
- Prayed together
- Praised God
- Looked for miracles
- Spent time together in fellowship
- Shared with others
- Looked for those in need
- Were happy and sincere
- Grew in number

Look at the list above, which items describe your church community?



Faith Word

Breaking Bread

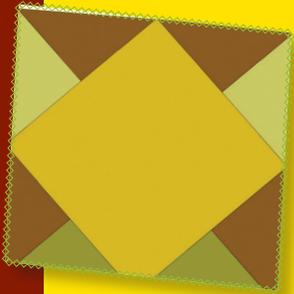
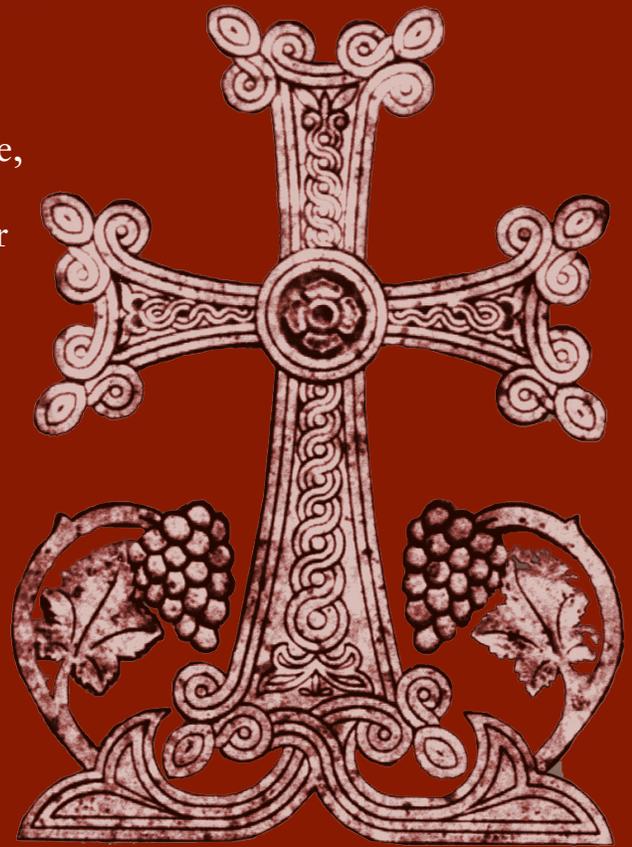
Eating together, sharing a meal. In the early Church, it meant remembering the Last Supper of Jesus.

Our Armenian Way

If you were to look at a map of the world or a globe, you would be surprised at how many Armenian churches you would find. What's amazing about our Armenian Church and our Soorp Badarak is that wherever you might be in the world, you would fit right in because Armenian churches all celebrate the same Badarak! All of the Armenian churches are doing just as the early Christians did: praying, breaking bread, learning, and sharing fellowship.

How many countries did you count that contain an Armenian church? _____.

Where were you surprised to find an Armenian church?
_____.



Handmade With Love

Our church community offers something special for each and every one of us. Think about what you like most about coming to church. What do you look forward to the most? On the paper quilt square, illustrate your thought. Your piece will be added to a larger class quilt and displayed in a special place at church.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students learned about the church community and the early Church. Each one of us is an important part of a greater community. The Armenian Church all over the world has carried on with the tradition of the early Church by learning, praying, breaking bread, and having fellowship with one another.

Living Our Faith

1. Actively participate in the Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion with your family.
2. Create a list of people who need prayer.
3. Try to create time at home for Bible study.
4. Offer to help organize a Sunday School-sponsored fellowship hour with refreshments.

Prayer is Talking With God

1



We Pray Together

Dear God, thank you for always being with us!
Through our prayers, we grow closer to you and are comforted knowing that you are always listening.

Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyñ Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

Look at all of the items on this page. What do they all have in common?



Our Story

Over the summer, Anahid and her family took a trip to Armenia. While in Armenia they traveled to all of the important sites, seeing beautiful cities and churches, eating delicious food, dancing Armenian dances, laughing and making new friends. One of her new friends was Sosi who lived in Yerevan, the capital city. Anahid was sad because in a few days she was going to fly back home to California to start school.

She asked, “Sosi, when will I see you again? How are we going to keep in touch? We can write letters but that takes too long. Talking on the telephone is hard because when I am awake, you will be sleeping and when I am sleeping you will be awake!” Sosi had a great idea and grabbed Anahid by the arm and took her to the computer.

She said, “We can write on the computer by sending emails to one another!” All of a sudden, Anahid smiled and liked the idea very much. Both girls were so excited as they ran to their parents to get their new email addresses. At that moment, Anahid realized that not seeing Sosi every day did not mean that they had to stop talking and being friends.

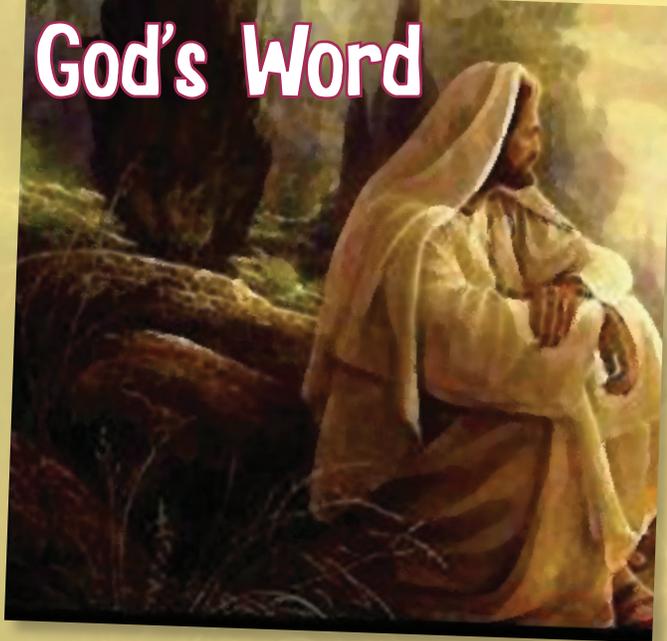


Faith Word

Prayer

Communicating or talking and listening with God.

God's Word



Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place where he prayed.

Mark 1:35

Jesus often went to be by himself to pray.

Luke 5:16

The apostle St. Paul was speaking with the Christians about Jesus. His advice to them was, ‘Don’t worry about anything; instead pray about everything and thank God. Your hearts will then be at peace in Jesus Christ.’

Philippians 4:6-7

We Learn About God

Our Scripture readings for this lesson remind us how important it is to pray to God. Even though we can't telephone God or mail him a letter, we can certainly still talk to him through prayer. God is always listening. We can pray at home, alone, and we can pray at church, together. In our church services, there are times that we pray together as a group and times where we are on bended knee praying alone.

During the Divine Liturgy, there is a time when we place our two hands tightly together and, as one church family, chant a prayer that sums up our beliefs. This special prayer of faith is called the Nicene Creed, the *Havadamk* in Armenian. It explains God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Տէր Ողորմեա - (Կոմիտաս) Der Voghormya - (Gomidas)



Before Holy Communion, we kneel and pray while the choir sings *Der Voghormya*, a hymn that means “Lord have mercy.”

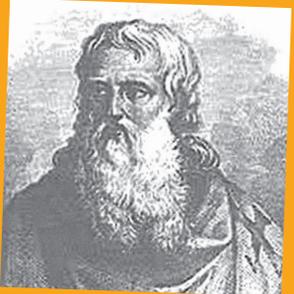
It is during this prayer and hymn that we ask God to remember family and friends who might be ill or those who have died.

Our Armenian Way

If the Armenian Church had superheroes then St. Gregory of Narek and St. Nersess Shnorhali would definitely be part of that group! These two saints wrote many prayers, poetry, and songs and some are used in our Divine Liturgy. They were both from very religious families and had a deep love for God.

St. Gregory of Narek wrote a special prayer book containing 95 prayers, called *Speaking to God From My Heart*, which shared his feelings about God.

St. Nersess Shnorhali wrote many prayers, hymns and poems praising God. One his of best known prayers is “I Confess with Faith” which has 24 verses, one for each hour of the day.

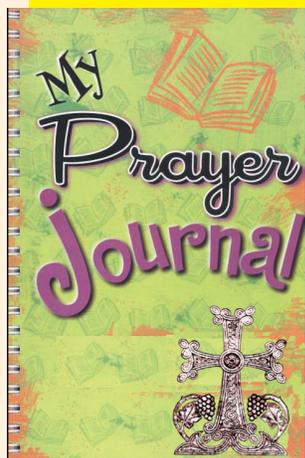


See if you can solve the message that we learn from St. Gregory and St. Nersess.



A _____ian _____s for
o_____ and praises _____ always.

Prayer Աղոթք Aghotk



Handmade With Love

It can be a good idea to keep a prayer journal. Decorate the cover of your journal so it becomes something that you look forward to using. When you are writing or drawing in your journal, always try to include:

- A **praise to God** such as *God, you are the best!*
- An **I'm sorry to God** such as *I'm sorry I hurt my friend's feelings.*
- A **request for others** such as *I pray for the health of my grandmother.*
- A **request for you** such as *God help me study hard for my math test.*
- A **thank-you to God** such as *thank you for my wonderful family.*

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students learned about prayer as a way of communicating with God. We also learned that God wants us to share our worries and needs with him. Church prayers and declarations of faith such as *Der Voghormya* and the *Havadamk* and the great works of Sts. Gregory of Narek and Nersess Shnorhali are all reminders of the central place of prayer in Armenian Christian living.

Living Our Faith

1. Ask your child to share thoughts from his or her prayer journal.
2. Attend church services and participate in the recitation of the *Havadamk* and singing of *Der Voghormya*.
3. With your child, Google St. Nersess Shnorhali and St. Gregory of Narek.



We Pray Together

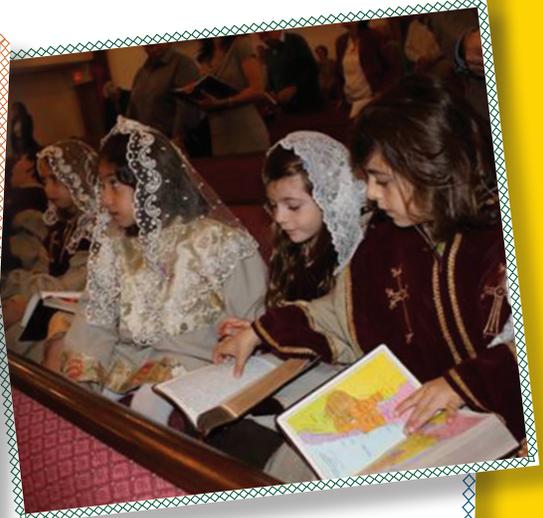
Dear Jesus, we look to you as our example. Guide us as we learn more about you today. We know we can get to know you better and better through prayer. Thank you for your love.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.
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Let's Discover

Think about the exercise. What is the easiest way to know someone? _____.

God wants us to know him too. What are some ways that we can best do that? _____





Our Story

It was Saturday morning and as usual Armen's mom Rose was straightening up the house as they were preparing for guests that evening. Rose was a very busy lady. She worked full time during the week and her weekends were spent with family. In the family room, Armen heard his mom making huffing and puffing sounds like "oof, akh, aman" expressing her confusion over all the different chargers that went with

the family's electronics. There were chargers for everything all in a big mound—chargers for the cell phones, Ipad, Ipad, laptop computer, portable DVD player... she didn't know which cord went with what. At the same time, her five-year-old daughter Sophie came to her crying that her talking bear Mr. Teddy wouldn't talk anymore. Rose threw her hands up in the air and said, "I GIVE UP! I NEED A RECHARGER FOR MYSELF!"

Armen was only seven and didn't quite understand what his mom meant. He knew that a charger was necessary for all the gadgets to work. If the battery was low or flashing, then it needed to be plugged in. His sister's bear wasn't working which meant they had to add new batteries in order for Mr. Teddy to speak and giggle. But what did mom mean by "I need a recharger!"?

What do you think Rose was trying to say?

What are some ways that Armen could suggest his mom recharge?

Faith Words

Monk

A priest who lives, prays and works in a monastery, serving God and others.

Monastery

A religious community where monks live, study and pray together day and night.



God's Word

But he withdrew to the wilderness and prayed. *Luke 5:16*

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. *Luke 6:12*

And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed. *Mark 1:35*

Can you guess who is praying in each Scripture passage?

We Learn About God

Jesus was traveling all around Galilee, constantly preaching, teaching, and performing miracles. Just like Armen's mom in our story, Jesus was physically and spiritually tired and needed to be recharged. Our Scripture readings for this lesson teach us that Jesus prayed all the time and everywhere. This was his way to recharge. Jesus knew that it was important for him to spend time talking to God the Father for strength.

Jesus always led by example. Even though he was God's Son, he still prayed. We are called to do the same. In our Divine Liturgy, the deacons lead the worshippers in prayer asking the Lord to hear their prayers and bless everyone. The line that they repeat is "*Again in peace let us pray to the Lord.*" In many ways, just as Jesus led by example, the deacons are leading the worshippers by example in prayer.



Again in peace let us pray to the Lord

Yev yevus khaghaghootyamp uzDer aghachestzook

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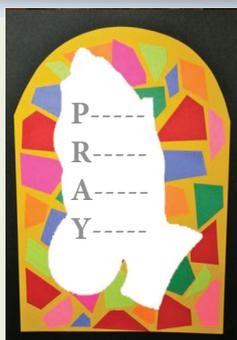
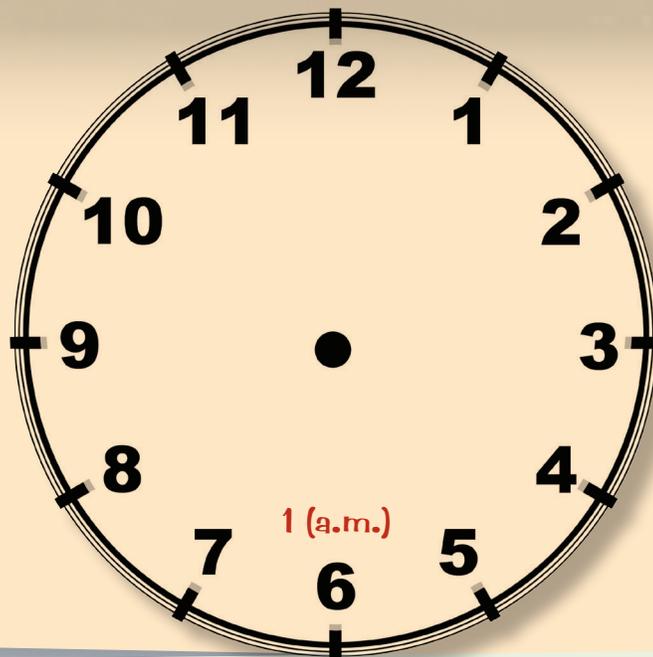
Our Armenian Way

Armenian Church history is rich in prayer. The monks who live in monasteries pray at all times. A monastery is a place for study and prayer for monks. To this day, the monks come together and pray seven times a day. These prayer times are called Hours. The prayer Hours are divided into services throughout the day:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1✱ Sunrise Service | 5✱ Night Service |
| 2✱ Morning Service | 6✱ Peace Service |
| 3✱ Midday Service | 7✱ Rest Service |
| 4✱ Evening Service | |

Look at the clock and write the number of the service where you think it might take place. The first one was done for you.

Remember to put a.m. for morning till noon and p.m. for noon till midnight after the number.



Handmade With Love

Create a stained glass window with your hand in prayer. Write an acrostic poem with the word PRAY and remember that Jesus prayed all the time.

Praise the Lord
Remember everyone
Always with love
You are God's child

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Prayer is important for all Christians since it's the best way to grow closer to God and know him. Today we saw that knowing someone means spending time with him and that goes for God! Jesus prayed to his Father all the time as a means of recharging and finding spiritual strength. We follow Jesus' example by praying often and wherever we are. The children learned that there are seven prayer services ("hours") held daily in the Armenian monasteries.

Living Our Faith

1. Display your child's stained glass window prayer prominently and refer to it often.
2. Set aside special times during the day for prayer with your children. Lead by example as Jesus did.
3. Attend church services and pay attention to the bidding to prayer by the deacons.



We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, we look to you as our example. Guide us as we learn more about you today. Thank you for your love and for this day as we come together to be your Holy Church.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyñ Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

What does a typical day look like for you? List what you do each day on the chart, from the time you wake up to the time you sleep.

My Daily Schedule

7:00 AM	
8:00 AM	
9:00 AM	
11:00 AM	
12:00 PM	
3:00 PM	
4:00 PM	
6:00 PM	
7:00 PM	
8:00 PM	
9:00 PM	
10:00 PM	

Look at your schedule. Did you write down prayer? What time do you pray? How often do you pray? Hopefully, you didn't forget to make prayer part of your daily routine!





Our Story

Daniel was a hard-working servant of King Darius in the kingdom of Babylon. He had impressed the king so much that he was put in charge of the entire country. The king's other servants were extremely jealous of Daniel. They wanted to find a way to get

Daniel fired. Unfortunately for them, Daniel was not only a good servant to King Darius, he was also very faithful to God, praying to him three times a day!

The other servants realized that the only way they could trap Daniel was to make a law that everyone needed to pray to King Darius ONLY. This way, Daniel would finally get caught and thrown into the lion's den as punishment. So they went to King Darius and said, "O great king, you are so wonderful that no one should pray to anyone but you." The servants also insisted that this law be unchangeable. King Darius loved the new law and gave his approval.

Upon hearing of the king's new law, Daniel prayed to God. When the jealous servants spotted Daniel praying, they ran to tell the king. The king was very upset as he realized that he had been tricked. Unfortunately, the law was the law. Although the king did not want to punish Daniel, he had to keep his word. Daniel was thrown into the lion's den and kept praying to God all through the night. Miraculously, the lions did not harm him! The next morning, the king ran to the lion's den and asked if Daniel was okay. He was so happy to hear Daniel's voice. He had Daniel taken out of the lion's den, punished the other servants and made a new law that everyone was to pray to Daniel's God, as he is truly the greatest King of all!

Complete the sentences, using the words from the Word Box.

1. King Darius was _____ with Daniel's work.
2. The servants _____ the king into making a law against praying to any other god.
3. Daniel prayed _____ times a day.
4. Daniel _____ when he heard about the law.
5. King Darius did everything he could to _____ Daniel.

6. God shut the _____ of the lions so they couldn't hurt Daniel.
7. King Darius ordered the servants that had tricked him to be thrown to the _____.
8. King Darius _____ God after God had kept Daniel from being destroyed by the lions.

Word Box

lions pleased save prayed three tricked mouths praised

God's Word

Evening, morning, and noon, I will pray.
And he hears my voice.

Psalm 55:17

Who do you think "he" is? _____

We Learn About God

In the story of Daniel, we read that Daniel prayed three times a day, not just in his greatest time of need, but also giving thanks to God for all of his many blessings. Today's Bible verse also instructs us to pray all the time: evening, morning, and noon. God is always listening to us! We pray together in church. But there are also many times when we just talk to God ourselves. We find a special place and speak to him, just as Daniel did.

A prayer does not have to be long or fancy; it should be from your heart. You need to be yourself and just talk to God. Practice composing prayers in your own words that you could say in the morning, at noon, and at night.

Morning: Dear God, thank you for a good night's sleep and this beautiful morning.

Noon: Dear God, thank you for getting me through the first part of my day.

Evening: Dear God, thank you for all the blessings of this day. I am especially thankful for...

Our Armenian Way



In the Armenian Church, we have many types of services. There are morning prayer services called *matins* and evening prayer services called *vespers*. During these services, we chant from the Book of Psalms, sing Soorp Asdvadz, and give thanks to God.

Faith Word

Matins

A morning service of prayer.

Vespers

An evening service of prayer.



Handmade With Love

Imagine that you were Daniel and you were facing lions in the Lion's Den. What would your prayer to God sound like?

Write your prayer on the index card. Then, either draw your own or color the picture and glue both to construction paper.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today the children thought about how prayer fits into their day and they practiced writing a prayer for morning, noon, and evening. We read the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den and saw how important prayer was to this faithful young man, not just in difficult times, but always. We read about the Armenian morning and evening services. The children wrote a prayer and added it to an activity page on Daniel.

Living Our Faith

1. With your children, set aside a time in the morning and evening to say a prayer each day. Encourage them to pray freely, speaking from the heart.
2. Attend a Sunday morning matins service before Divine Liturgy as a family.
3. Pray in front of your kids. You are their best example!



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for listening to all of our prayers. We pray anywhere and anytime, knowing that you will always be with us, listening and caring. We come ready to learn about the greatest gift from you, your Son Jesus Christ.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

Who would you call for help in each of these situations below? Write the letter of the correct “helper” on each line.

1. The kitchen faucet keeps on leaking. _____
2. You are researching books about rain forests for school. _____
3. There are termites in your house. _____
4. You have questions about the Bible, God, and Church. _____
5. The light switch in your bedroom doesn't work properly. _____
6. You have a toothache. _____
7. You smell smoke on your street. _____
8. Your parents' car disappeared from the driveway. _____
9. You have a stomach ache that doesn't seem to go away _____
10. You are having trouble understanding the math lesson. _____
11. You have some worries or fears, big and small, that mom and dad can't even help you with. _____

Word Box

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| A. Fireman | D. Plumber | G. Priest | J. God |
| B. Librarian | E. Policeman | H. Dentist | K. Exterminator |
| C. Doctor | F. Teacher | I. Electrician | |



Our Story

On Thursday afternoon, Kevork came home from school, threw down his backpack and immediately flipped on the T.V. From the kitchen, he could hear his mom saying, “Kevork don’t you have to study for your math test?” He replied, “A little later. I want to relax and have a snack.” Then the phone rang; it was Alec, his best buddy from

school. After speaking with Alec, Kevork grabbed his Nintendo DS and started to play some games. It was already time for dinner, and Kevork hadn’t even unzipped his backpack! After dinner, Kevork’s mom asked how his studying was coming along. Kevork confidently said that there was no need to study and that he would just pray to God and ask for help that he does well on the test. Kevork’s mom shook her head and said, “Well, you seem to know best. Good luck on the test tomorrow.”

The next day after school, Kevork walked into the house with his head down unable to look at his mom in the eyes. She asked, “So, how was the math test?” Kevork showed his mom the test with a big D circled in red. He then said, “I thought the Bible said that we should not worry about anything because God will take care of everything. Anytime we need help, God is there to the rescue.” His mom smiled and said, “Yes, God is there for us all the time. But we also need to do our part. Even though you prayed, Kevork, you should have taken the time to study. You expected God to help you remember things that you didn’t review.” Kevork realized his mistake and promised to do his part and to continue praying to God.

God’s Word

Jesus and his disciples shared their unforgettable last meal together. It was there that Jesus said that he would be leaving them soon. Jesus broke bread, blessed it and asked all the disciples to eat. He did the same with the cup of wine, lifting it up, blessing it, and asking all to drink. These would forever after be Jesus’ Body and Blood.



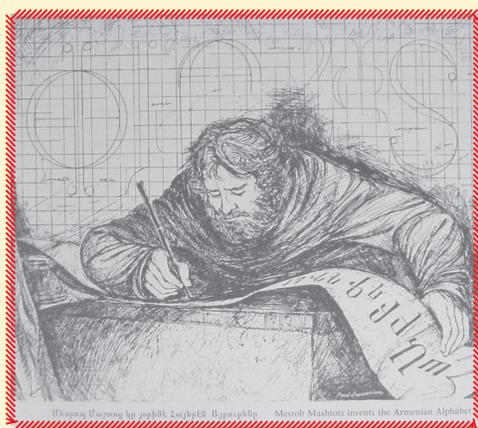
Afterward, Jesus and the disciples went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Everyone was sad as they did not want to see Jesus leave them; it was like a shepherd leaving his sheep. Jesus needed to pray to his Father as he was deeply troubled. He took Peter, James and John with him and asked that they wait and watch as he prayed. Jesus prayed to his Father saying, "Oh, my Father, if it is possible, let all of this suffering be taken away from me. But if I must suffer and die for the sins of the people, then let your will be done." Then Jesus went back and found Peter, James and John sleeping. "Couldn't you be with me for one hour? Watch and pray so you won't fall into sin." Then Jesus went back to pray two more times as the disciples continued to sleep. Jesus then woke them and prepared to leave.

Based on Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:32-42 and Luke 22:39-46



We Learn About God

Jesus knew that he was going to die on the cross. He knew that he was sent to earth for a reason, to take away sin and to give all of us a fresh, new start. This is why we have Holy Communion and remember the sacrifice of Jesus when we ask for forgiveness. But this did not mean that Jesus was not troubled. That is why he prayed to God the Father for courage and understanding.



St. Mesrob Mashdotz was the inventor of the Armenian Alphabet in 404 A.D. He also wrote beautiful musical prayers in the Armenian language. You will be hearing one of his prayers that seeks God's forgiveness. St. Mesrob refers to different people and stories from the New Testament. Some examples are the prodigal son, the tax collector, the thief on the cross next to Jesus. Listen to the prayer as your teacher reads it to you and see if any of the people mentioned sound familiar.

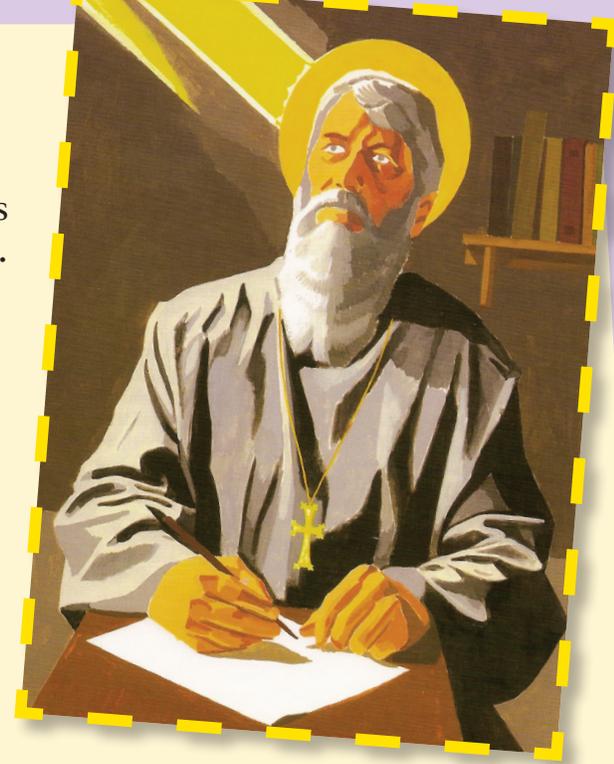
Our Armenian Way

St. Nersess the Gracefilled is one of the greatest writers of prayers, hymns and poems in the Armenian Church. Remember him from earlier lessons? His best known set of prayers is called “I Confess with Faith” which is read during the Lenten season. This prayer has 24 verses, one for each hour of the day. Each verse asks God to have mercy on us as we are sinners. In today’s lesson, you will be introduced to one of the most popular verses of this prayer, verse 11:

O, Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom that I may always think, speak and do that which is good in your sight.

Save me from evil thoughts, words and deeds.

Have mercy upon all your creatures and upon me, a sinner.



Handmade With Love
Illustrate “Oh Jesus Wisdom of the Father” with examples of how you can think, speak and do what is good in God’s sight!

Faith Word
Mercy
God’s love and forgiveness.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today the students learned that even Jesus turned to his Heavenly Father in times of trouble and distress in the Garden of Gethsemane. In our story, we read about Kevork who didn’t study but prayed to God hoping that he would do well on a test. We learned we need to do our part along with praying to God! The students were introduced to more Armenian prayers: one by St. Mesrob Mashdotz and St. Nersess Shnorhali’s verse 11, from “I Confess with Faith,” the famous prayer, “Oh Jesus Wisdom of the Father.” The students had an opportunity to illustrate their understanding of the prayer as an activity.

Living Our Faith

1. Post your child’s illustrated prayer where everyone can see it.
2. With your child, practice saying “Oh Jesus Wisdom of the Father.”
3. Continue modeling daily prayer in front of your child.

David's Prayers For All Feelings



We Pray Together

Dear God, thank you for always being there for us, listening to our prayers of happiness, sadness, excitement, fear or whatever the feeling may be. We love you and enjoy learning more and more about you.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

Think about the charades you just saw. Complete the sentences:

I feel happy when _____

I feel sad when _____

I feel angry when _____

I feel scared when _____

I feel shy when _____

I feel excited when _____

When you have these feelings, do you pray to God about it?





Our Story

Narrator: Sevana was in the 2nd grade and her older sister Karen was in the 8th grade. Karen came home from school one afternoon looking upset.

Karen: There is just no one to help me with my problems! My friends don't

understand me, my teachers are too busy, and mom and dad, well they just don't get teenagers! There are days that I am happy because I love to be with my friends. Other days, I am angry because I received a poor grade on a test, even though I studied. Some days I am scared because I start high school next year. So many feelings, and I don't have anywhere to turn!

Narrator: Sevana was just listening to her sister and said:

Sevana: I have an idea. What about the Bible? My Sunday School teacher says that the Book of Psalms has a message about every feeling. We can read them and pray to God about it. He's always listening to us and understands our many feelings.

Karen: But the Bible is such an old book, how can something written so long ago help ME?

Narrator: The girls went to their parents who were happy to open the Bible and read different psalms together. Karen liked what she heard and made a note of them:

Karen: Wow, these psalms are so perfect! They are talking about all of my feelings.

Parents: You see, the Bible is not an old book; it's there to help us all, all of the time! And yes, we do understand you — we were teenagers once too, you know.

Sevana: See, I told you so!

Narrator: They all smiled and gave each other a family hug.

Faith Word

Psalm

A prayer-poem.

The Lord is my Shepherd;
I shall not want. He maketh
me to lie down in green
pastures: he leadeth me
beside the still water.
He restoreth my soul; he
leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for his
name's sake. Yea, though
I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil: for

thou art with me; thy rod
and thy staff they comfort
me. Thou preparest a table
before me in the presence
of mine enemies; thou
anointest my head with
oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the
days of my life: and I
will dwell in the house
of the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

God's Word

These are the psalms that Karen's parents read. Can you match the verse with the right feeling?

1. O God, your greatness is seen in all the world. *Psalm 8:9* _____

2. I thank you, God, with all my heart. I sing praises to you. *Psalm 138:1* _____

3. Remember me, O God, when you help your people. *Psalm 106:4* _____

4. Then no harm will happen to you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angel to guard you in all your ways. *Psalm 91:10-11* _____

5. May your constant love be with us, O God, as we put our hope in you. *Psalm 33:22* _____

6. With the Lord on my side I do not fear. What can man do to me? *Psalm 118:6* _____

7. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24 _____

8. O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. *Psalm 139:1* _____

9. For I know my sins, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your decision and punishment.

Psalm 51:3-4 _____

10. Am I not sad, O Lord, about those who rise up against you?

Psalm 139:21 _____

FEELING BOX

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| A. Help | F. Thanks |
| B. Hope | G. Courage |
| C. Guilt | H. Sadness |
| D. Praise | I. Understanding |
| E. Happiness | J. Safety/Protection |

We Learn About God

When we pray, we can express any feeling we have to God. God created our feelings and wants us to share openly and honestly with him. The Psalms are a good example of honest prayers.

The Book of Psalms is one of the greatest collection of prayers. It is the longest book of the Bible, containing 150 psalms. Almost half of the psalms were written by King David.



Our Armenian Way

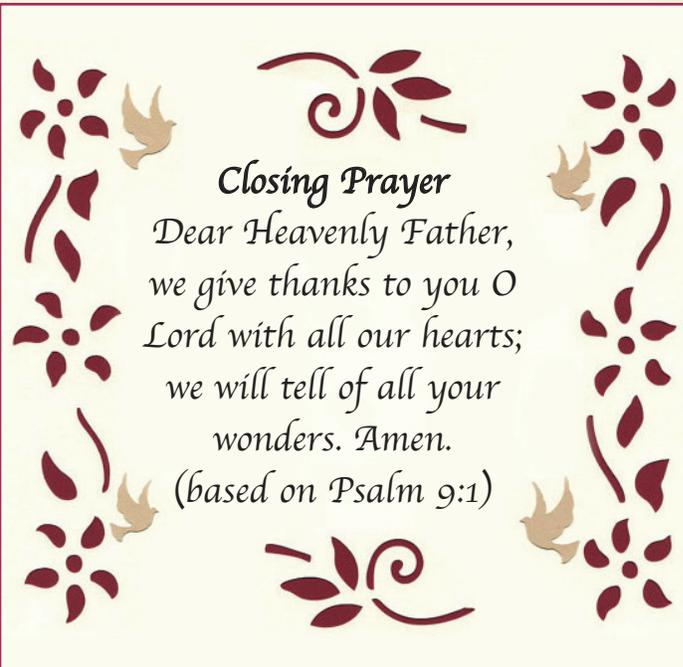
In our Divine Liturgy, the deacon raises the chalice from the side altar and brings it to the holy altar. This very special entrance is called the Greater Entrance. Who is entering? Someone is coming. Who is coming? Jesus. A beautiful passage from Psalm 24:7-10 is read that tells us that the King of glory may enter the gates and we should be ready. The first line asks a question: “Who is this King of glory?” In Armenian, this line is: *Ov eh sa takavor paratz?*



Handmade With Love

Create an inspirational psalm poster. Choose a psalm of your choice or use one of the Scripture references from the lesson and illustrate

what it means to you. Display the poster in a special place as a reminder of its important meaning for you.



For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students had a chance to explore different feelings and realize that we can pray to God at anytime about these feelings. Through our story and Scripture exercise, the students read a number of psalms that identify different emotions. They also learned about a psalm (Psalm 24) in our Divine Liturgy that reminds us that the King of glory is coming. The students were able to apply their lesson to a craft by creating a psalm poster.

Living Our Faith

1. Place your child's psalm poster in a central place where they can refer to it often.
2. Include readings from the Psalms during prayer time with your child.
3. Next time during Divine Liturgy, point out the Greater Entrance and the line of *Ov eh sa takavor paratz?* to your child.



We Pray Together

Dear Lord Jesus, we welcome you into our hearts and minds. In everything we do, we give thanks to you and your many blessings upon us.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover



What kind of 'attitude of gratitude' do you have? What were some of the people or things that your team had a tough time being thankful for? When you see a glass of water, do you say it's half full or half empty? Do you try to look at things in a positive way? It seems that there is always something to complain

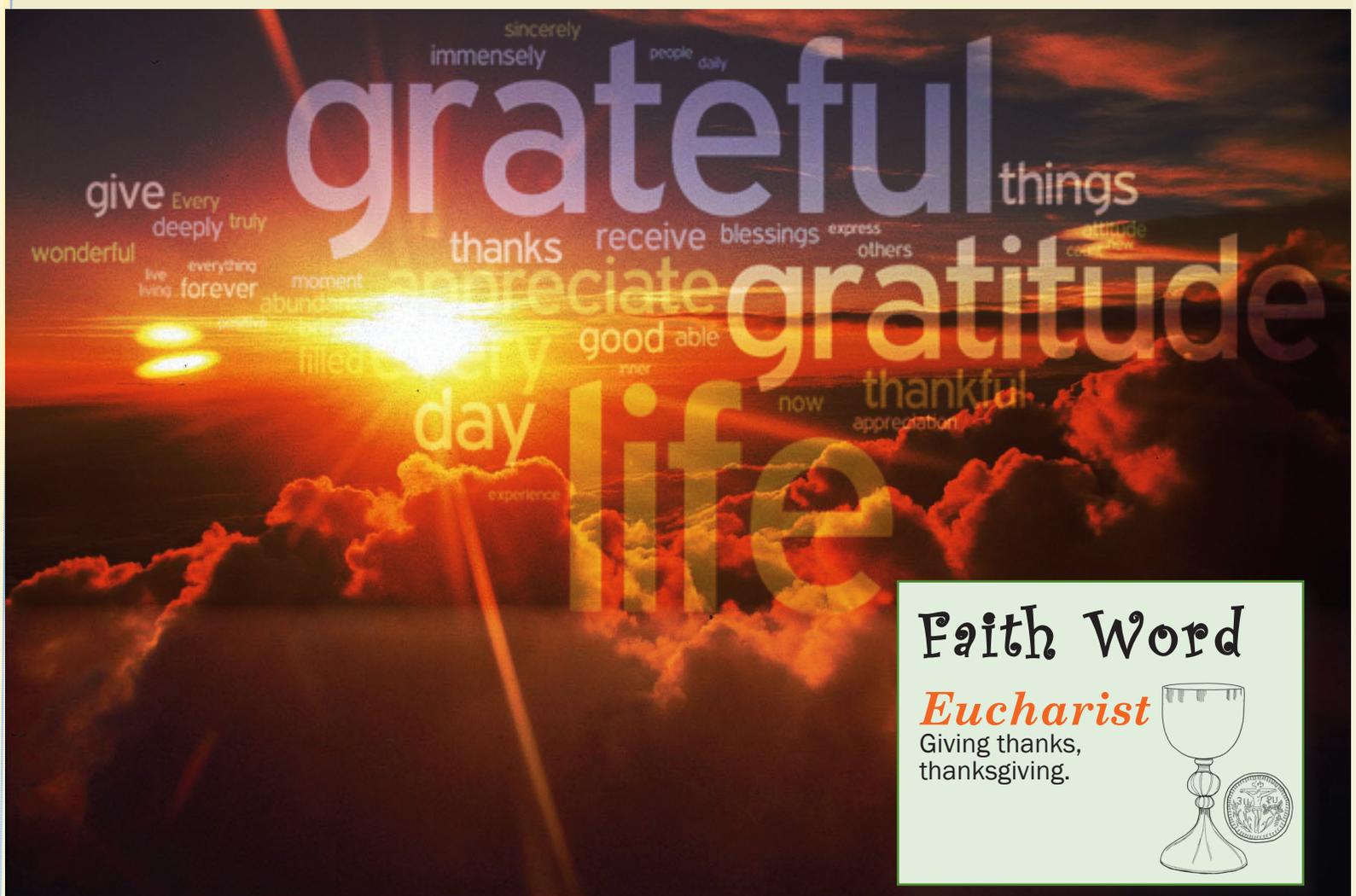
about! But God asks us to be grateful at all times. What are some things that you complain about that you could be grateful for?



We Learn About God

Unlike the boy in *The Giving Tree*, we need to give ourselves completely to God. We can't take from God and not give back. We need to express our thanks and help one another. Our Scripture reading for today's lesson teaches us that we need to keep God at the center of everything we say and do.

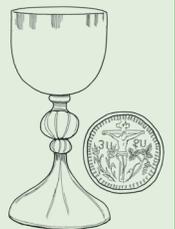
When we are together in church, we are not there to judge others or be angry. We are there as one family, praising God and thanking him for every blessing he has given us. We need to invite Jesus into our hearts and sing praises and psalms thanking God for his goodness.



Faith Word

Eucharist

Giving thanks,
thanksgiving.



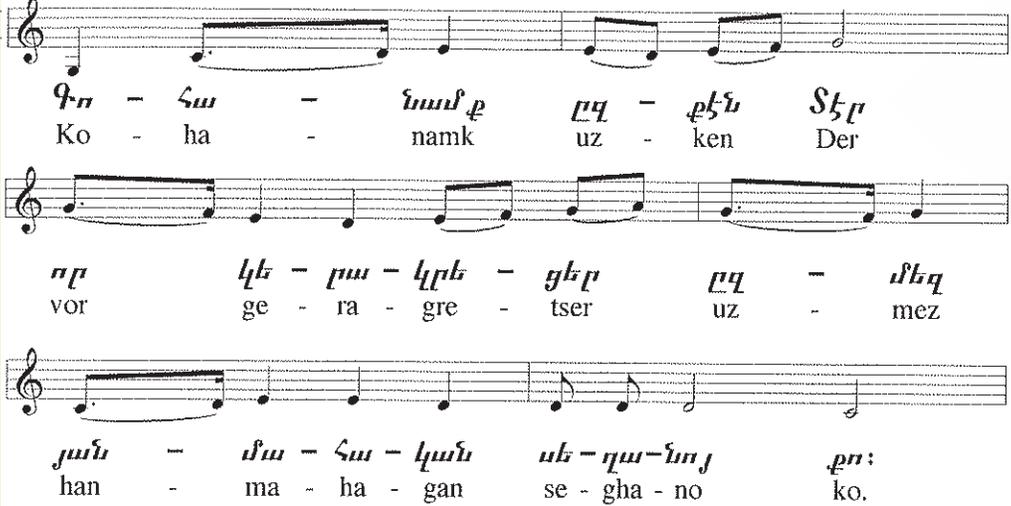
Our Armenian Way

A Thankful People

In our Divine Liturgy, after we receive Holy Communion, as one family, as one body, we sing a beautiful and upbeat hymn of thanksgiving called “Kohanamk.” The meaning of the hymn is the following:

*We give thanks to you, Lord,
who has fed us at your table of immortal life.*

Գոհանամք - Kohanamk



Գո - հա - նամք ըզ - քէն Տէր
Ko - ha - namk uz - ken Der

որ իր - րա - իր - ցեր ըզ - մեզ
vor ge - ra - gre - tser uz - mez

հան - մա - հա - ցան սե - րա - նոյ քո:
han - ma - ha - gan se - gha - no ko.

Handmade With Love

Make a Jashagestzook keepsake placemat. Include drawings or pictures of things that you are thankful for.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students read *The Giving Tree* and learned that gratitude is essential to a good life. The Scripture passage for this lesson taught the students about putting God and gratitude at the center of everything they say and do. Thankfulness is deeply engrained in Armenian Church traditions; the children learned the thanksgiving hymn “Kohanamk” and the prayer before meals, *Jashagestzook*. The students made a keepsake *Jashagestzook* placemat.

Living Our Faith

1. Say the prayer before meals daily, using the placemat, alternating between Armenian and English. Encourage your child to offer the prayer.
2. Next time you attend Divine Liturgy together, point out the sharagan “Kohanamk” and sing with your child.
3. Unexpected thank-you notes. Have your child write thank-you notes for special people. It can be their teacher, babysitter, coach, priest, school secretary, etc.



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for our class. You have blessed each one of us with different talents and strengths. We come to you, ready to serve as one body in Christ, the Church.

Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyñ Srpo. Amen.

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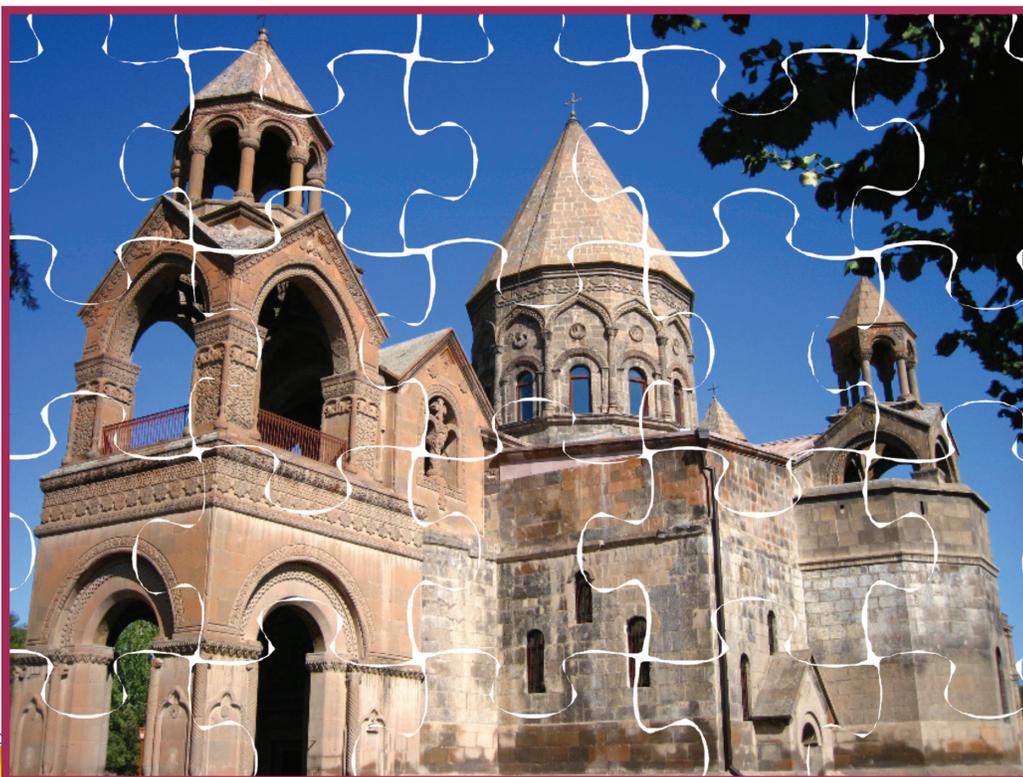
Let's Discover

Why was the one piece of the puzzle that you had so important?

What if you had not been present to bring your puzzle piece?

What if you lost your piece?

Can you think of other jobs or groups that require many parts to get the job done?



F a i t h
W o r d

Worship

Giving praise and thanks to God through prayer and song.

Our Story

What's My Place?

Teacher: Good morning, class! Today we are going to church for Holy Communion and to hear the special children's message.

Aren: (walks into class) I'm sorry to be late, Mrs. Ohanian.

Teacher: That's okay, it's perfect timing as we are getting ready to go into church.

Aren: Oh, we are not having class? I love our class. I guess I like church, but I don't seem to have a place there.

Teacher: What do you mean, you don't have a place?

Aren: Well, when we go into church, I really don't know what to do. I just sit there. I feel like I am watching a show. I feel like Badarak is for the grown-ups.

Teacher: I am sorry you feel that way, but Badarak is for everyone. Class, let me share this example with you. Look at the Legos in the basket or that box of building blocks. If you were to take just one Lego or one block, would you be able to do anything with it? Could you build something?

Class: Not really...

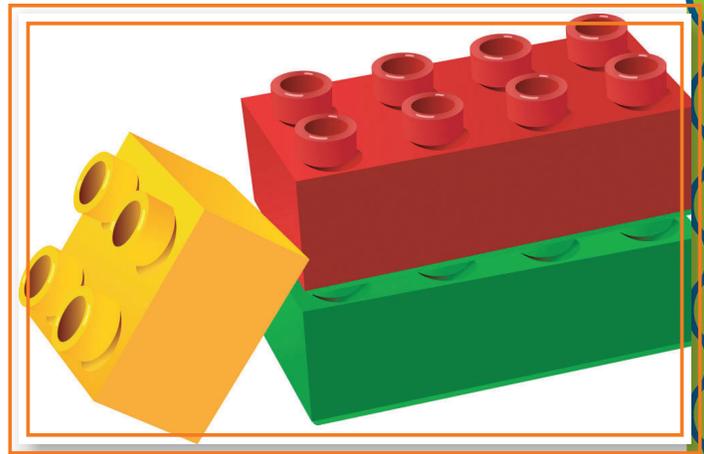
Teacher: But, it's still an important piece.

Aren: I am not following you, what do these toys have to do with church?

Teacher: Well, (holding up a piece) by itself, this piece doesn't do all that much. Just like one person in church.

Aren: Exactly, that's what I'm saying!

Teacher: (spread out all of the pieces of the Legos). You see, think of this piece as you, Aren, and this piece as John, and this piece as Ani and so on! All of us together become the church at Badarak. Or think of it this way, about the whole church family – this piece could be the choir, and this piece the Sunday School, and this piece the women's group, and this piece the youth, and this piece the Parish Council and so on. Each of these pieces, are important but they can't do much by themselves. When we start putting the pieces together, like this house I made, it becomes something really special and important. This is the same for our church. Each one of the pieces has a role, they need to come together and make up a church. This is how God designed it to be.



Aren: So, are you saying that each of us is important? Our church would not be complete without us?

Teacher: Exactly, without all of you, our church would be missing an important piece. Our church is made up of many, many important parts, and it's only when we come together that we have our completed church.

Aren: Mrs. Ohanian, I don't mean to rush you, but I think we should get going; we don't want to be late for church. We wouldn't want to keep everyone waiting for us; we have a job to do!

Teacher: You are absolutely right, Aren. Come on class, let's line up.

God's Word

And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord. *I Corinthians 12:5*

The body is a unit though it is made up of many parts. So it is with Christ. Remember, we were all baptized by one Spirit into one Body. And you are the Body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it.

I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27



We Learn About God

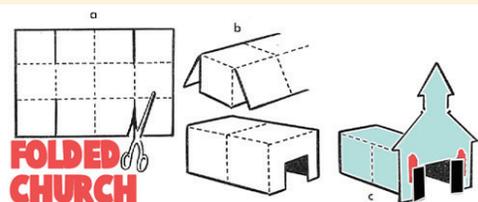
Our church is made up of many members. Each and every one of us has a part, a job, a purpose, and a place to fit in our church, just like in the story that we read.

Christians come together to worship as the church - the Body of Christ.

Our Armenian Way

Our Soorp Badarak or Divine Liturgy is a perfect example of how we are one body in Christ. Our church is not a church without the people. One person cannot do everything. Our priest cannot celebrate Badarak without the choir, altar servers, and, of course, you. When we are together on Sundays, we become – as a group, as a body – the Church. We cannot do this on our own. When we share the Kiss of Peace, we sing: “The Church has become one soul!”

The place where the faithful sit in our church is called the nave. In Armenian, we say *nahv*. It actually comes from the Latin word for ‘boat’ (and also brings us the English word “navy”). Amazingly, *nahv* also means boat in Armenian! The idea is that we are all traveling together in a boat with lots of people, and our captain is... can you guess? Jesus.



Handmade With Love

Assemble the church and either draw or write the different ways you can be part of your church.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students learned that our church is made up of many people, each contributing in a special way. Our story and Scripture taught us that while we are important alone, we become even more important when we come together in church to worship and serve God. The children put a puzzle together and created a cardboard church as further examples of becoming one out of many.

Living Our Faith

1. Display the church your child made. Discuss what he or she has written on it.
2. Attend church together with your child.
3. Make an effort to be involved in your parish on an ongoing basis.

Unit Three Being the Church

A Gift for Everyone



We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, we come to you today and thank you for our church. We have been blessed by your great, over-flowing love. Our church is our home, just like the early Church, which began in the homes of the disciples. We praise you!

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Srpo. Amen.
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Let's Discover

grace community fellowship prayer worship

Was it hard to work together and make words out of letters?

What was the easiest part of word-building as a group?

Do you like working on your own or doing things as a group?

Describe why.



Faith Word

Body of Christ

The term Jesus himself gave to describe the Church, the family of believers.

Our Story

Best Summer Ever

Anita was so excited to begin the third grade. She couldn't wait to tell her new teacher and class what she did over summer vacation. Anita wanted everyone to know about her first experience at Armenian Church Camp. On the first day of school, Mrs. Roberts, Anita's second grade teacher gave all of the students a writing journal and the first entry was "The Best Part of My Summer Vacation . . ." Anita started right in...



My favorite part of my summer vacation was going to Armenian Church Camp in the beautiful mountains. We all met at church and rode the bus. It was so much fun because I already knew some of the girls in my cabin from my Sunday School class and then I met new friends from all over the Diocese.

We stayed in a cabin in bunk beds and had the coolest counselors, Anoush and Ani. We did everything together: eating, sports, crafts, classes, campfire and so much more. Each day we had to clean up our cabins because they would judge our cabins and give points. The cabins with the highest points won ice cream sundaes at the end of the week! My priest from St. Mary Church was there and taught a class and I met other priests from other parishes in other states. I really enjoyed the classes and learned so much!

Once when I realized that I forgot my flashlight, one of the girls in my cabin, Susan, offered to share her flashlight with me. We became best buddies! We had a great cooking class, where the grandmas taught us how to make choreg. Now, I can help my mom make choreg for Easter. Another girl, Lorig, taught me how to canoe.

Each night after dinner, we would practice for the talent show. Our cabin decided to perform an Armenian dance, the Tamzara, that we learned in

one of our classes. On the last day, we had a special Badarak service, it was great! I love Armenian Church Camp because we were like a family of campers, priests, and counselors who were learning, eating, praying, sharing, and helping one another. I didn't want the week to end. I can't wait to go back next summer!

God's Word

The Scripture reading for today's lesson is from St. Paul's letter to the Christians in Corinth. It tells us more about what it means to be a member of a church.

One Body with Many Parts

All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church:

first are apostles,
second are prophets,
third are teachers,
then those who do miracles,
those who have the gift of healing,
those who can help others,
those who have the gift of leadership,
those who speak in unknown languages.

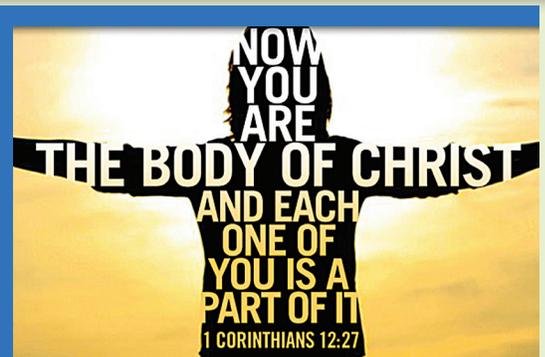


Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not!

1 Corinthians 12:27-30

We Learn About God

Remember, *the church is not just a building, it's the people!* Jesus taught people to see how special it was to pray and worship together; in this way they became the true Church. St. Paul described it as something like a human body. There are so many different parts to our bodies. But all of them are important – the eye, the ear, the hands, the feet – everything makes it possible for us to function well. Like the parts of the body, we all bring something special to our community. God has given us gifts. Some of us are good teachers; some of us can heal people's feelings with warm words; some of us are great leaders. *Everyone* has some gift to offer to building up the church.



Our Armenian Way

Early Christians met in each other's homes. Their homes were their church. The home was a special place to share ideas, traditions, community, eating together, learning and prayer.

For Armenians and the Armenian Church, the home was so important that the church has a special blessing for the home. The home can be blessed at Christmastime, Easter, or even when moving to a new home. In the "Home Blessing," the priest asks for God's blessing and protection for the family. An Armenian home blessing requires three main ingredients from the family: a cup of water, a dish of salt, and a piece of bread.

- Bread reminds us of Jesus Christ who is the bread of life. Bread is also a very basic food and we need food to live.
- Water reminds us of our baptism. Water is also the most important element for all living things.
- Salt is a seasoning. Jesus called us the salt of the earth. But he reminded us that salt needs to be flavorful to do its job.

During the blessing, all who are gathered sing "Amen, Alleluia!" Alleluia is a word of praise and rejoicing. Amen Ամէն



Handmade With Love

Make a little dish to put salt in for a home blessing.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson was about God's gifts to all his faithful who share in the life of the Church. The children worked together to create words out of letters. We read a story about the teamwork involved in a day at a summer camp. After learning about the Armenian Home Blessing, the children made a little clay pot to put salt in for the blessing service. We would love to see all our families arrange for a home blessing – your child would be happy to see his or her pot in use for such a special occasion. See our pastor to arrange one.

Living Our Faith

1. Place your child's salt pot in a prominent place. Discuss the symbolism of bread, water, and salt with him or her.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-30 together and discuss the gifts God gives to his faithful.
3. Schedule a home blessing with your parish priest.

Unit Three Being the Church

This Is My Body



We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, we thank you for your great sacrifice which we reenact each and every Sunday during Divine Liturgy. Your sacrifice is a symbol of your unending love. You are the bread of life for all of us. The more we learn about you, the closer we grow to you. We love you!

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

In the boxes, list and illustrate what you would do if you were having a special guest for dinner at your home. How would you prepare? What would the menu be? What would the table and room look like? What if Jesus were the special guest? Would you do anything differently?

My To Do List:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Our Story

Andrew and Saro were best buddies ever since kindergarten. One summer day in July, Andrew's family invited Saro's family over for a barbeque. The boys were having loads of fun playing in the back yard, swimming and playing basketball. At dinnertime, everyone was seated around the patio table when Saro's dad made an announcement. He said, "My company is transferring me to our California office and we will be moving to Los Angeles by the end of summer." Andrew couldn't believe what he was hearing. Was it just Saro's dad that was moving or was it the whole family? Saro turned to Andrew and said, "Yeah, I really don't want to move, but we have to because of my dad's work." Andrew replied, "Gee, who I am going to play with? Who's going to be my buddy at school? Do you really have to move?" Andrew turned to Saro's dad and asked, "Will you ever visit New Jersey again?" "Of course, we will. We have family and good friends here. Don't worry we will always stay in touch, Andrew," reassured Saro's dad.

That night, Andrew's parents could see that he was sad about Saro moving soon. Andrew's mom hugged him and reminded him that they could still be friends even though they would live far away. She also reminded Andrew that he could easily send an email, telephone or even FaceTime with Saro. Andrew looked around his room, picked up a photo album, and saw the

jersey that Saro had given him on his last birthday. There were just so many great reminders of his friendship with Saro. Andrew felt much better knowing that there were many ways to stay in touch with his friend. His parents even said that maybe they could visit California. Andrew then realized it wasn't going to be that bad after all.



Faith Words

Divine Liturgy

Soorp Badarak – Մուրթ Պատարագ
Our Sunday worship service.

Holy Sacrifice

The remembrance of the Last Supper.
Sharing in Jesus Christ in the bread and wine.



God's Word

One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, met with the high priests and made a deal with them to betray Jesus in exchange for money.

A few days later, it was time for the Jewish Passover Feast and the disciples wanted to know where Jesus wanted to have the Passover meal. Jesus directed his disciples to arrange for a special upper room for their meal. Normally, the Passover feast was a happy celebration, filled with laughter and joy. This particular Passover was going to be different for Jesus and his disciples. As they sat around the table, Jesus looked at his disciples and said he would be leaving them soon. It would be like a shepherd leaving his sheep.

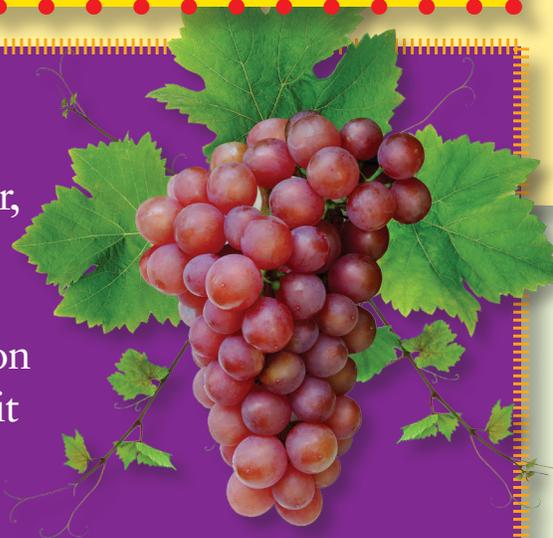
Jesus said, "One of you will betray me tonight." They were all surprised, including Judas, by what Jesus was saying. They said: "We will never betray you." Jesus turned to Peter and said "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will say three times that you never knew me." Peter said, "I would never say I don't know you; I would die with you!"

Then Jesus took the bread on the table and gave thanks to God. He broke it very slowly, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you." The disciples were puzzled as they didn't quite understand what was going on. Then Jesus took the cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He said, "This is my blood, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins. All of you must drink from this cup. Remember me by always doing this." After they shared the bread and the wine, they all sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives to pray.

Based on Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-26 and Luke 22:1-38

We Learn About God

The Scripture reading for today describes the Last Supper, which was the first Holy Communion. Each Sunday, we all gather in our churches to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and we reenact this very holy meal. In preparation for Holy Communion, the priest prays for the Holy Spirit to come down upon the bread and wine. In this way, they truly become Jesus himself. Jesus is with us as our Bread of Life. This is why 'Divine Liturgy' means "holy sacrifice." Jesus is the sacrifice. The day after the Last Supper, Jesus died on the cross for all of our sins. Jesus gives himself to us in Holy Communion so that we may grow as children of God and become more like him.





Our Armenian Way

During our Divine Liturgy, in preparation for Holy Communion, the priest faces the altar, raises the holy chalice (*soorp sugih*) and says the following words in Armenian: “*Arek, gerek, ays eh marmeen eem vor vasun tser yev pazmats pashkhee, ee kavootyoon yev ee toghootyoon meghats.*”

The priest is reenacting the Last Supper of Christ saying:

“Take, _____; this is my _____, which is given for you and for many, for the forgiveness of your _____.”

(Select the three words below that would best fit the above blanks.)

Jesus comes to us as Holy Communion. In the Armenian Church, we pray and fast before we receive Communion as a way to show that we are preparing ourselves for something very special, holy and important, the body and blood of Jesus. The following is a list of the six steps we take for Holy Communion. See if you can number them in the right order based on your visits to the church during the school year.

- _____ We all stand in line and one by one go up to the priest.
- _____ We cross ourselves, say “Megha Asdoodzo,” and receive Holy Communion.
- _____ We sing Der Voghormya (Lord Have Mercy).
- _____ The priest absolves us (which means to forgive) of our sins.
- _____ We walk to the side of the church and remain standing until the priest gives his blessing.
- _____ We recite the Confession as one family in Christ, saying “Megha Asdoodzo.”

sip • sins • wine • body • munch • tasks • blood • deeds • eat



Handmade With Love

Preparing a Table of Fellowship

Design and decorate a tablecloth of thanks and love.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today your child read about the first Holy Communion that took place during the Last Supper. We discussed what it might mean to prepare for a special meal with a special guest. The students also reviewed how we remember Jesus and share in him in the bread and wine each Sunday during Divine Liturgy. We read the priest’s words as he invites us to eat and drink – they are the same as Jesus’ more than 2000 years ago! The children then worked together on a tablecloth used to share refreshments.

Living Our Faith

1. Designate a day, ideally a Sunday, for a special family meal.
2. With your child and family, volunteer at a soup kitchen by taking food or serving a meal.
3. Receive Holy Communion with your child, pointing out the “Arek, gerek . . .” words of the priest and the steps for receiving Holy Communion.

Unit Three Being the Church

God Gives Us Laws



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us abundant life and love. We are grateful for your commandments as they help us live in a way that is pleasing to you at home, at church, and in the world. We thank you again for sending us your Son, Jesus, the greatest gift of love to us.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

What are some rules that we have in our classroom?

What are some laws that we have in our country?

Why do we need rules and laws?

What would the class be like if we had no rules? Draw a picture or explain in the box provided.

Our Story

What Should They Do?

1. James was playing at a friend's house and really liked the video game they were playing. He really wanted one at his house and thought it wasn't fair that his friend had it but he didn't. What should James do?



2. Kristine was at a birthday party at Chuck E Cheese and she was up at the counter trying to decide on what color ring she should get with her tickets. The woman at the counter turned around to help someone else. Kristine realized that she could pick up the red, blue and green rings since there were so many to choose from. She figured with so many rings, the woman would never know she took three. What should Kristine do?

3. Sammy had a bad day at school, failed his math test and just wanted to come home and play video games. The minute he walked in the house, his mother asked him to please take out the garbage. He rolled his eyes, didn't want to do it and said he would do it later. What should he do?



4. Clara had been going to church and Sunday School for the last two years. Some of her friends were making fun of her because she went to church every week and was not able to do other things on Sunday like play soccer. This year Clara decided to tell her parents that she didn't want to go to Sunday School so she could be on the team. What should she do?

5. Bedros loved to play basketball. One day he was dribbling the basketball in the house and knocked over his mom's favorite vase. Luckily, his mom was not in the room. Only his 3-year-old brother was there. Bedros was afraid his mom would get mad so he was thinking of just blaming his brother. Anyway, his brother was young and cute and could get away with it! What should Bedros do?



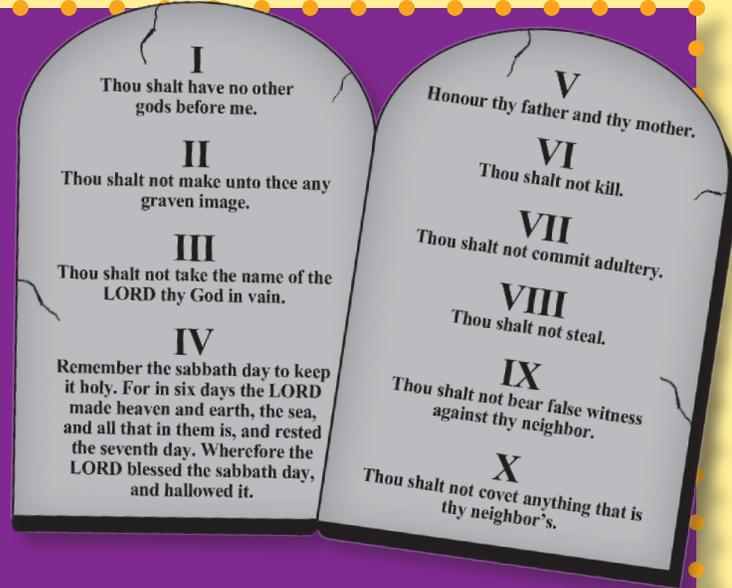
6. Amy and Sarah were whispering to each other on the playground. They were talking about the new girl in their class, Rosa, who came from Mexico. Rosa did not speak English very well. Amy felt sorry for Rosa because she was playing by herself and wanted to get to know her. Sarah, on the other hand, wasn't interested. What should Amy do?

God's Word

One day, God called Moses to the top of Mt. Sinai and gave Moses and the people of Israel the Ten Commandments. These commandments, special laws, were written on two stone tablets for all the people to obey:

1. We know that God is our Creator and Lord.
2. We put God first in everything that we do.
3. We use God's name with reverence, love and respect.
4. We keep Sunday holy, going to church, as this is God's special day of prayer and rest.
5. We listen to and obey our parents and all those who care for us.
6. We respect and care for all human life.
7. We care and respect for our bodies and the bodies of others.
8. We do not steal; we are fair to everyone.
9. We are truthful in what we say and do.
10. We are not greedy, we are thankful for what we have.

Based on Exodus 20



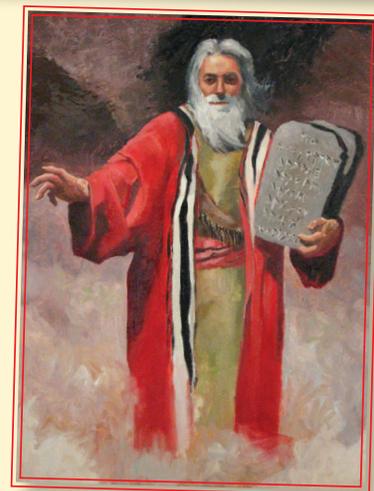
Jesus was found teaching to the crowds when a man stood up and asked him, "Teacher, which commandment is the greatest, the most important?" Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord your God, with all of your heart, with all of your soul, and with all of your mind." Then Jesus said that not only must we love God but also love others, "Love your neighbor as yourself." These are the two greatest commandments.

Based on Matthew 22:35-39

We Learn About God

God the Father gave his people special laws called the Ten Commandments. These laws are found in the Old Testament of the Bible. They help us to live as God's children. Look at the Ten Commandments and write a "G" next to the ones that help us love God. Write an "O" next to the ones that help us love ourselves and others.

Our second Scripture reading tells us that the Greatest Commandment or the Law of Love is to love God and others. If we obey the Ten Commandments then we are keeping the Greatest Commandment. If we follow God's laws, then we are making good choices.



Our Armenian Way

Most of us have been on some type of vacation trip and probably have done some souvenir shopping. Generally, we bring back things for loved ones as a way of sharing our experience, happiness and love.

In a way, the Armenian Church has a similar souvenir called “mahs.” At the end of Badarak, each faithful receives this blessed or holy bread to take home for those who were not in church to receive Communion. The mahs is blessed by the priest. The actual word “mahs” means a fraction or a portion. Mahs, just like the nushkhar, is made of water and flour. A nice custom to follow is to take some to those who are ill, or in the hospital as a sign of fellowship and being part of God’s family. By sharing the mahs, we are sharing God’s love with one another.

Write down the names of some people you could share mahs with:



Handmade With Love Commandment Handbook

Faith Word

Commandment

A direction given by an authority.
A law of God.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today your child learned about the importance of laws and especially of God’s laws, called commandments. They learned about the Greatest Commandment taught by Jesus: to love God and others. Your child also participated in exercises about the Ten Commandments and how they apply to daily life. The class learned about the significance of the mahs distributed at the end of Badarak and how it is a way of sharing God’s love with others. The class made their own Commandment Handbook as a reinforcement of today’s lesson.

Living Our Faith

1. Take mahs to someone after church so that your child can share God’s love with others.
2. Display the Commandment Handbook visibly so that you can refer to God’s laws on a regular basis.
3. Introduce yourself to a new family at church and make them feel welcome.

Unit Three Being the Church

We Make Choices



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the laws that you have given us, as they help direct us in the decisions that we make. Guide us each day as we try to make the best choices, those that are pleasing in your eyes. We appreciate your grace and forgiveness and thank you for your steadfast love.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.

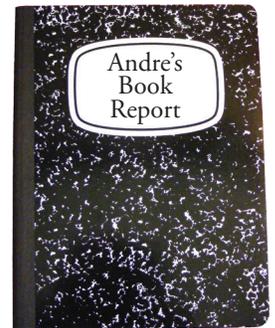
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Let's Discover

You Be the Judge

Case #1: Andre's book report was due tomorrow. He still had 20 pages left to read and had to also do the actual writing and illustrations. When he got home from school his best friend, Brian called and asked him to come over and play some basketball. He thought about it and figured he could work on his school project after he played. Then, another friend called and wanted to come over to show Andre his new video game. It was now 6:00 p.m., and Andre had not started on any of his school work. Did Andre make the right choices?

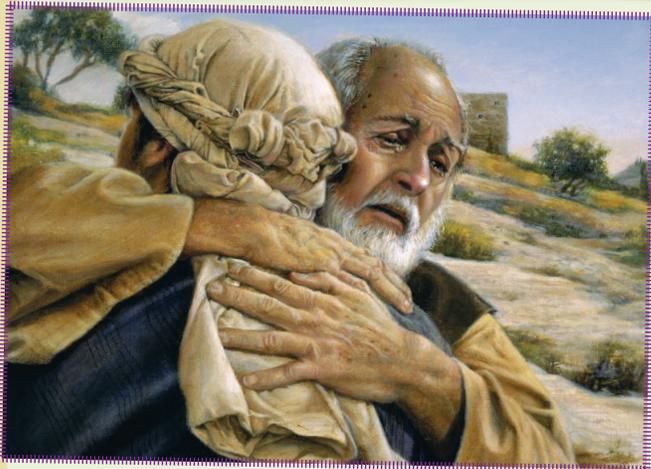


Case #2: Isabella was invited to her friend Amelia's 8th birthday party on Saturday. Isabella had already told Amelia that she was coming to her party. Isabella's other friend, Annie, who was not invited to the birthday party, called and said that her mom was going to take her to the mall and then to lunch and a movie and invited Isabella to join her. Isabella skipped the birthday party and decided to go to the mall and movie instead. Did Isabella make the right choice?



Case #3: Nora and Michelle were best friends. One day, something was troubling Nora and she wanted to share it with Michelle. Nora told Michelle that her parents were fighting a lot and she was worried about them. She asked Michelle to keep it a secret. At the end of the day, Jennifer, Sophia and Natalie ran up to Nora saying, “Don’t worry, my parents fight a lot as well.” Nora was surprised at their comments and asked how they knew. Did Michelle make the right choice of sharing Nora’s private matters with other friends?

Can you think of a time when you made the wrong choice?



Our Story

A hard-working and caring father had two sons who worked with him on his farm. One day, the younger son told his father that he wanted to stop working, take his share of the family money and travel and enjoy life. The father, who loved his son very much, granted his wish. The boy took the money and started spending it. He bought new clothes, went to fun places, ate at different restaurants, and treated his new friends to everything. He was the life of the party; everyone wanted to be with him.

One day, he realized that all of the money he had was gone. He had spent it all. All of those “friends” left him and he was alone with no money for food or shelter. He had to find work somewhere. He finally got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry even the pigs’ food looked good. That was when he started to think about the choices he had made. Life was good at his father’s house. He had everything he needed.



What he would do to have just a little of that life back! So the son decided to return home and ask to work for his father just like the other workers. As he walked home, his father saw him coming from a distance and ran to welcome him. The son apologized for his poor choices and asked for forgiveness. The father forgave his son and prepared a feast in his honor.

Based on Luke 15:11-24 (Parable of the Lost Son)

God's Word

Turn your back to sin and always follow God's laws. Don't let sin rule over you, be careful of temptation and make the right choices.

Based on Romans 6:11-12



We Learn About God

How are we different from a computer or a robot? Have you ever thought about that? The main difference is that we can think on our own. We are not programmed to do things.

God has given us the gift of making our own choices. God never forces us to love and obey him or others; that's completely our choice. It's our choice to obey the commandments. No matter what our choices are, we are also responsible for our actions. When we make choices that we know are wrong, then we are committing a sin. We sin when we disobey God's laws. We are turning away from God and not doing his will. Even when we sin, God never stops loving us and is always ready to greet us with open arms and forgiveness when we are sorry. Just like the father in our story.





Our Armenian Way

The Lord's Prayer

Hayr Mer Յայր Արք

In the Lord's Prayer, *Hayr Mer*, we say "yegheetzeen gamk ko" which translates to "Your will be done." Whose will is the prayer referring to? Of course, it's *God's* will. As

Christians, we are called to follow God's laws and when we do so, we are doing what pleases him. Draw a cross beside each of the ways we can follow God's will:

Obedying the Ten Commandments

Skipping your chores to play

Helping your teacher clean up the classroom

Not doing your homework

Loving your neighbor

Ignoring a friend

Loving God

Calling someone a name and hurting their feelings

Starting a fight

Sharing your special toys with friends

Praying for those who are ill

Trying to do "what Jesus would do"

Faith Words

Sin

Any thought, word or act that we choose that goes against God's laws.

Free Will

God's gift to us to make our own choices.

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

Handmade With Love

"What Would Jesus Do?" should be at the heart of all of the choices that we make. As a constant reminder of God's laws and the choices we make, design a bookmark with those words.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the students learned about sin, making good choices, and God's gift of free will. The Parable of the Lost Son is a great lesson about the son's poor choices and his father's forgiveness. In the Lord's Prayer (*Hayr Mer*), we are reminded to do God's will. We can please God by obeying his laws and remembering his teachings. As a beautiful reminder, we made a bookmark featuring the words *What Would Jesus Do?*

Living Our Faith

1. Ask to see your child's WWJD? bookmark.
2. Help your child make a list of the family rules.
3. Pray together and practice forgiveness.

Unit Three Being the Church

God Forgives Us



We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, we come to you as the sheep of your flock. We ask that you always protect us and guide us in the right path so we may never wander away. We ask for your mercy when we sin and take the wrong path. Teach us to forgive others just as you forgive us.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

Have you ever lost anything that was important to you? What did you do?



The Parable of The Lost Coin

Suppose a woman has ten coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep her house and search until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, "Celebrate and be happy with me; I have found my lost coin!" In the same way, God is so happy when we say sorry and come to him.

Faith Word

Reconciliation

Restoring a relationship; in the Church, restoring our relationship with God and one another.

Based on Luke 15:8-10



Our Story

Sevag and Levon and their families were good friends from the time that the boys were born. They attended the same school and church, played on the same soccer team and even took vacations together. The boys loved coming to Sunday School, serving at the altar as junior acolytes and helping their priest whenever possible. They were excited, because tomorrow would be the first time they would assist Father Kevork with Holy Communion, holding the cloth under the blessed chalice.

It was Saturday, and as usual Levon came over to Sevag's house. They were talking about their soccer team and suddenly they started yelling at each other. Sevag and Levon each started shouting that they were the best soccer player and would be the goalie for their team. "No, I'm the best player, Coach Gary said so!"

Levon replied, "No, I am. I am the one who made all of the assists in the practice game and Coach Gary said that I would make a terrific goalie!"

Back and forth, back and forth, the boys were shouting at each other. Finally, Sevag's mom came in the room and said, "Boys, boys, please stop all of the yelling! I am disappointed in both of you. You are the best of friends, how can you let a sport get in the way of your friendship? You are both excellent soccer players and Coach Gary will make the best decision for the team. Maybe the goalie will be somebody else. Besides, you both serve at the altar, and tomorrow you have a special job helping Father Kevork while he gives Holy Communion. How can you serve at the altar and be angry at each other?"



What do you think the boys will do? What should they do?

God's Word

There are many verses in the New Testament that talk about apologizing and asking for forgiveness. These are just a few:

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go, say sorry and ask for forgiveness. Then offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24



When we confess and say sorry, God will forgive us of our sins.

John 1:9

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.

James 5:16

God accepts all of us because we have faith in Jesus, not because we try to obey his laws. God treats each of us the same. We all sin, but we are saved because of Jesus' sacrifice.

Romans 3:21-26

Circle every third letter to find the missing word.

S Q P O T E R V A X F C B W E

When we confess, say sorry and ask for forgiveness what do we feel - with God, others and ourselves? _____



We Learn About God

God loves us all the time, even when we sin. He is so loving, that he is always ready to forgive us when we are sorry. As Christians, we have the opportunity to reconcile with God by confessing our sins, saying we are sorry, and asking for forgiveness. Our goal is not to sin, because when we sin we are not at peace with God, others, and,

of course, ourselves. Practice saying the following:

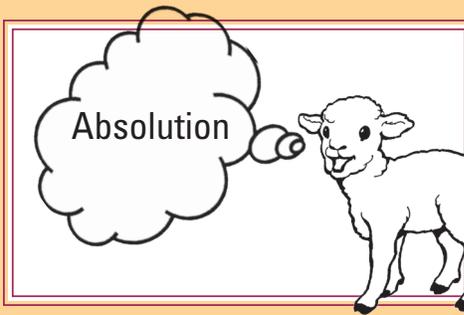
"I am sorry, please forgive me." "It's okay, you're forgiven."

Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, we have a special way of reconciling with God during Divine Liturgy. We gather as a group for confession before the altar. During confession, we read the confession words telling God our sins, stating that we have sinned against God, “Megha Asdoozo,” and asking for forgiveness. After the confession, the priest grants us absolution, which means God’s forgiveness. Then we all stand and one by one go toward the altar, make the sign of the cross, say “Megha Asdoozo” (I have sinned against God), receive Holy Communion and cross ourselves again.

“Megha Asdoozo.” Մեղայ Ասուծոյ

Draw a line from the lamb word to its meaning.



“You are forgiven.”

“I’m sorry.”

“You have received Jesus and are cleansed.”



Handmade With Love

Is there someone you’d like to say “I’m Sorry” to?
Say it now with a special card (or save it for later).

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today, your child learned about the process of reconciliation with God. They read the parable of the lost coin (and actually searched for one, for fun!) and discussed a story about friends who needed a lesson in Christian forgiveness. Your child also learned about confession and absolution and learning to say “I’m sorry” as well as being able to forgive others just as God does. The lesson ended with the class making an “I’m sorry” card to someone they have wronged (now or in the future).

Living Our Faith

1. Ask to see your child’s “I’m sorry” card.
2. Participate in confession and Holy Communion with your child in church.
3. Just as we ask our children to apologize, make sure you also apologize and offer forgiveness at the appropriate time.
4. Pray together daily and think about your actions with each other and others.

Unit Three **Being the Church**

Jesus With Us



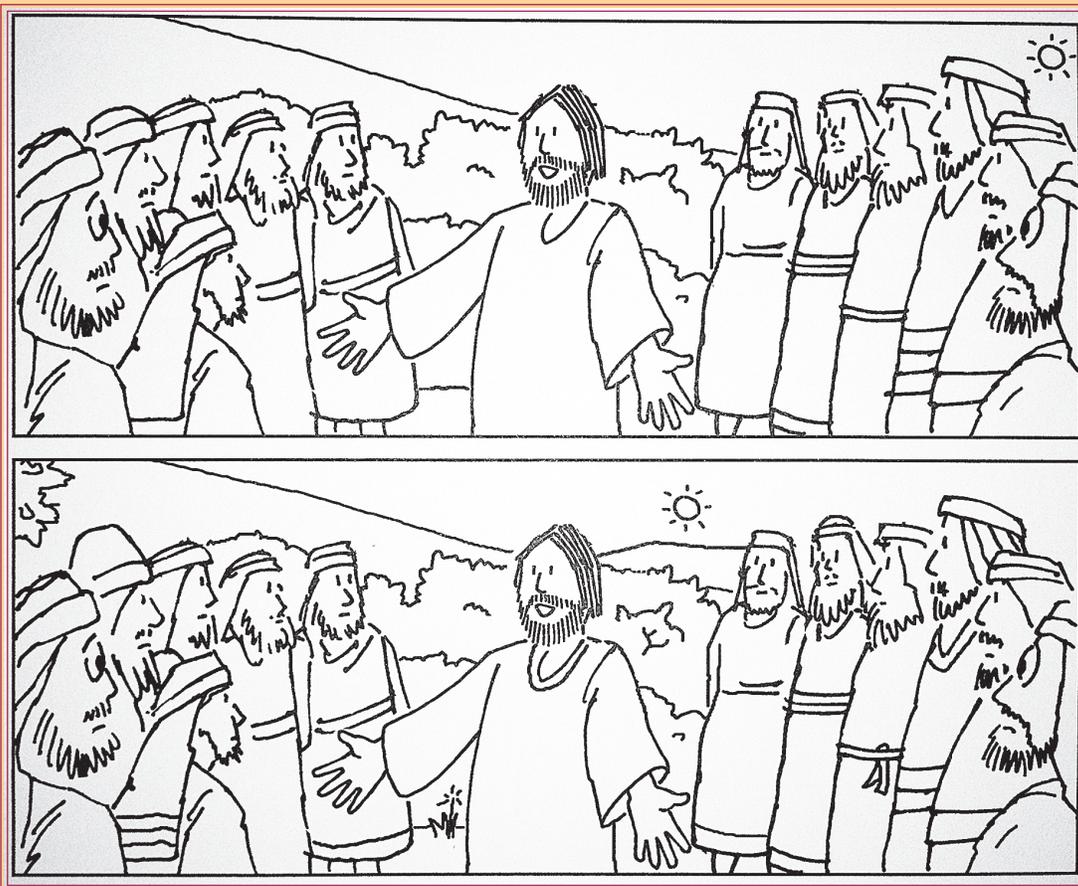
We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, we adore you. We love you. We thank you. We ask you to watch over us and help us grow closer to you. We will strive to obey your commandments and always bring glory to your name.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Srpo. Amen.
Յանուն Հօր եւ Ռրդոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

Jesus is telling his disciples: "I am making everything new!" (Rev. 21:5)
Find 15 differences in the pictures below.



Our Story

Each month, Aram and Emma's Sunday School class would go into church for Holy Communion. Their teacher, Mrs. Mesrobian, would always invite the parents. After several months, Aram and Emma noticed that some of the parents chose to stay in their seats and not receive Holy Communion.

One Sunday, Aram raised his hand and asked, "Why doesn't everyone in church go up for Holy Communion?" "Won't God get upset?" asked Emma. Mrs. Mesrobian liked the questions and gave the following example as an answer.

"Have you ever been invited to somebody's house for dinner? People go to a lot of trouble to welcome their guests. They clean their house, they set the table and they prepare delicious foods. Let's say it's you who's been invited. What if the host says, 'Please, let's sit down to eat'? And they start passing the plates, and you don't take anything. The host will say, 'Well, aren't you eating?' And you say, 'Oh, no, I'm not hungry. I will just sit and watch everyone.' Does that seem right?"

All the students blurted out "NO!" and laughed. "Well, in many ways," continued Mrs. Mesrobian, "going to church is the same thing. If you don't receive Holy Communion, it's like telling Jesus, 'You know, we are not hungry for you. We don't need you now. We don't need any help making good choices.' Is that ever the case? Don't we need Jesus all the time?" The kids agreed with Mrs. Mesrobian. Then Aram raised his hand and said, "It looks like all of our parents need to be in your Sunday School class, Mrs. Mesrobian!"





God's Word

Jesus was teaching at the Mount of Olives in front of a large crowd.

The temple leaders brought a woman who had broken a commandment and asked Jesus what punishment she deserved. The temple leaders reminded Jesus that the law says that a person should be stoned to death when they break a commandment. The temple leaders were really trying to test Jesus

and wanted to know his answer. Jesus stood for a moment and then replied by saying, "Anyone who has not sinned can throw the first stone!" One by one, the people left, leaving Jesus and the woman all alone. Jesus then asked, "Where did all the people trying to punish you go? Is there anyone left to punish you?" The woman said, "No." Then Jesus told her that he would not punish her either and to go and not sin anymore.

Based on John 8:1-11

Jesus said "If you love me, then you will obey my commandments. I will ask God the Father to send the Holy Spirit to help guide you and be with you." *John 14:15-16*

We Learn About God

We all need Jesus to make us strong in spirit and faith! After receiving Holy Communion, we continue to have a special feeling. We are renewed in him. Jesus, who loves us and who is so good, has given us himself. He wants us to share this love and renewed holiness with everyone we come across. People can then see that Jesus is in our hearts and minds.

Write or draw one way you will be kind and loving this week with:

Parents	School	Friends	Jesus (in prayer)

Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, once we have all received Holy Communion, the curtain closes. It is at this time, that the choir and people join together and sing the hymn “Lutzak” which means “to be filled” with Jesus. Lutzak is a hymn of thanksgiving. We are praising the Lord for filling us with good things and sending us the Holy Spirit.

Լցաք - Lutzak



Լց-աք ի բա-րու-թեանց քոց Տէր.
Lu - tsak ee pa - roo - tyants kots Der;

Faith Word

Radiance Jajanch Ճաճանչ

Located on each altar, a round or oval disc of silver or gold, surrounded by rays of metal, and fixed on a stem and base. It is where we permanently display a blessed nushkhar. It is another reminder of Jesus being with us.



Handmade With Love

Decorate your own “radiance” as a reminder of Jesus being with you always.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today, your child learned that when we receive Holy Communion, we are renewed in Jesus. Strengthened by the bread and wine of Holy Communion (the Body and Blood of our Lord), we are then able to share his love with everyone we meet. Students reflected on the various ways they can demonstrate that love to others. For our craft today, the children decorated a “radiance.”

Living Our Faith

1. Post your child’s craft. Ask him or her what a “radiance” is!
2. Attend Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion as one family.
3. Point out the radiance on the altar and sing “Lutzak” together.
4. As a family, develop a list of ways you can share God’s love with others.

Unit Four Celebrating Jesus* The Church Year

The Church Remembers & Celebrates

Lesson

1



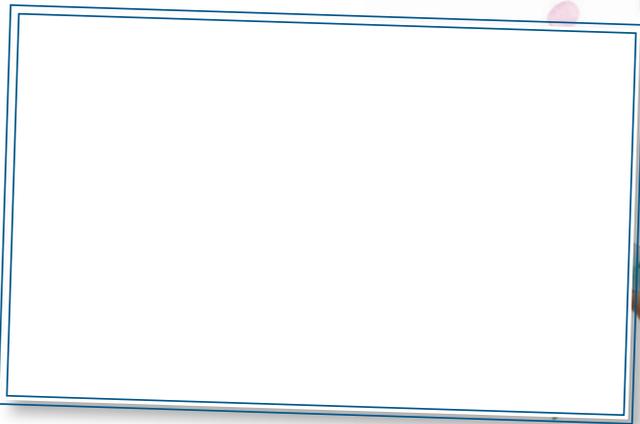
We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, we are learning from your example, trying to be like you in all that we do. Thank you for the chance to celebrate your life on the special feast days of the Church.

Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyñ Srpo. Amen.
Յանուն Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

What special days do you celebrate with your family?
Draw a picture of your family celebrating a special day.
My celebration of _____



I love this celebration because



Our Story

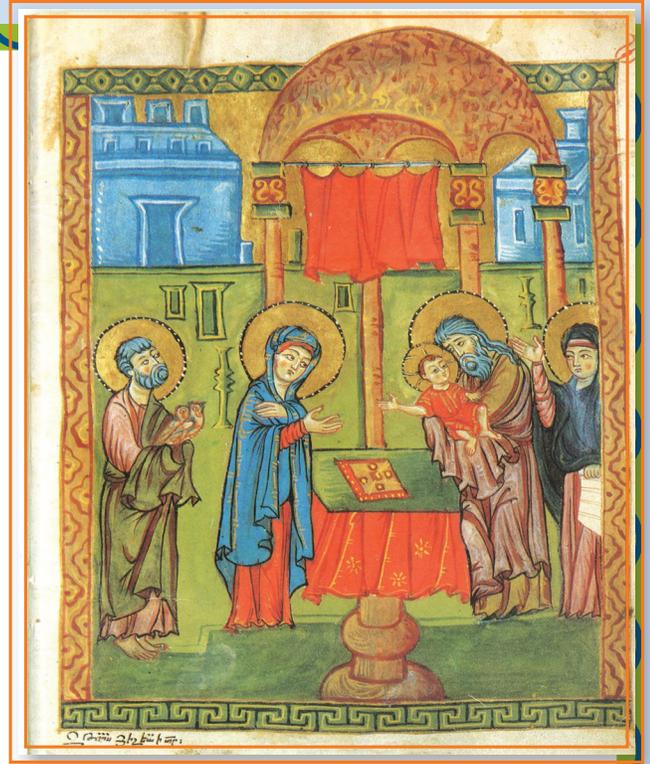
Տեանընդառաջ *Dyarnuntarach*

Paul Kevorkian was very excited because he just became a big brother. His mom had a baby boy, Narek, last month. Narek did a lot of the same things each day: eat, sleep, and have lots of diaper changes. Paul liked to hold Narek and would often look at him and dream of the time when Narek would play soccer or build towers out of building blocks with him.

On one Saturday, Mrs. Kevorkian was baking cookies when Paul asked, “When are we going to take Narek places? The only place he goes to is Dr. Jensen’s office for his baby check-ups. Can he come with me to Vasken’s house on Friday?” His mom smiled and said, “Actually, tomorrow we will take Narek out for the first time. We will take him to church for a special blessing by Der Hayr. In the Armenian Church, we have a custom that the first place a baby visits is the church, 40 days after they are born. Afterwards, we will host the refreshment hour in honor of Narek’s birth. That’s why I am baking the cookies. We did the same for you.”

“Why the church and why 40 days?” Paul asked.

“Well, you see, we celebrate Jesus’ birthday on January 6th and 40 days later, February 14th, we remember when his parents, Joseph and Mary, took Jesus and presented him to God at the temple. The elderly priest, Simeon, had prayed for many years that he would be blessed to see the Lord, Jesus. When he saw baby Jesus, he knew that this was God’s Son, the Savior, the light of the world. We call this event from Jesus’ life, his “Presentation” or, in Armenian, *Dyarnuntarach*, which is a feast day of our church. Although tomorrow is not *Dyarnuntarach*, it is the day that we will present baby Narek to the church.” Paul liked the plan and helped his mom with the cookies while practicing to say *Dyarnuntarach*.

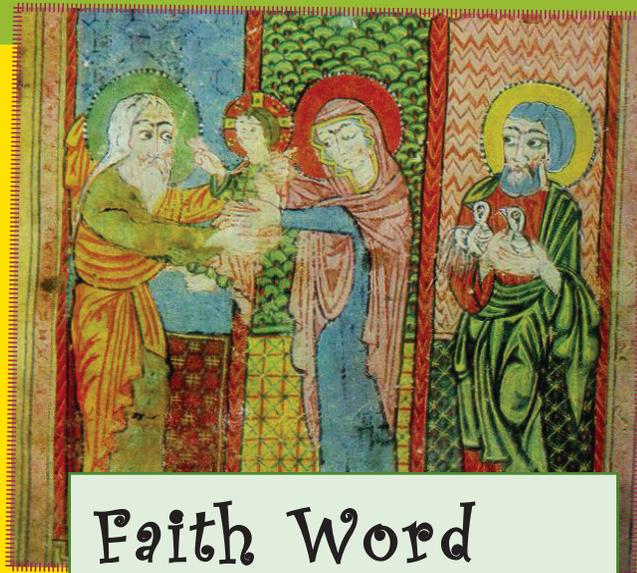


God's Word

Luke 2:22-40. Listen to the story of how Jesus' parents brought him to the temple to present him to God the Father.

As you hear their names, list the people in the story here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Faith Word

Feast dohn Soû

A special celebration remembering an event or a person connected to the life of Jesus and the Church.



We Learn About God

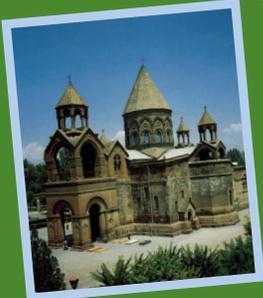
Jesus is the basis for all of the feasts and celebrations in our church. Our Scripture reading for today reminds us that at the Last Supper, which was the very first Holy Communion, Jesus told his disciples to always remember him.

A feast is a special celebration in the church. It reminds us of something that happened long ago or of a saintly person. It is a happy day as we become closer to God and to one another. The church has feast day celebrations throughout the year. Each feast day celebration has its own set of special hymns and prayers that are dedicated to that feast.

Our Armenian Way

The seasons of the Armenian Church recall the life of Jesus Christ and all the people and events that are part of his story through time. In addition to Christmas and Easter, which are the major and most well-known feasts, the Armenian Church has other feasts that are just as important. In Armenian, a feast is called a *dohn*. Some of these dohns remember saints or events that are linked to Jesus and our Christian faith. The following are examples of some of the many feasts of the Armenian Church.

The feasts below are missing some letters. Read the description and see if you can complete them.



Holy Etchmiadzin

Saints Hripsime & Gayane

Dyarnuntarach

Holy Translators

Saint Gregory

40 Martyrs of Sepastia Vartanantz

This feast is for our Church Fathers who translated the Bible and other important books into Armenian.

H _ _ _ Y _ _ _ A N _ _ _ A T _ _ R S

This feast is for the brave men and women who defended our Christian faith against the Persians. _ A _ T A _ A _ T _

This feast remembers a person who converted and baptized King Drtad to Christianity.

_ A I _ T _ R E _ O _ Y

This feast always takes place on the same day, remembering the baby Jesus being presented at the temple. _ Y A _ N U N _ A _ A _ H .

This feast is about the place where St. Gregory had a dream of Jesus descending.

_ O _ Y _ T _ H _ I A D _ I N

This feast is for the Christian women who escaped the punishment of the Roman Empire. S A _ N T _ _ R I _ S _ M E &

_ A _ A _ E

This feast remembers the soldiers of the Roman Empire who were killed because they refused to leave their Christian faith.

_ O _ _ A _ T _ R S O F _ E _ A _ T I _ .



Handmade With Love

Presentation of the Lord candle

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today, your child learned about feasts and that Jesus is at the heart of all of our church celebrations such as *Dyarnuntarach* or his presentation at the temple, which we can read about in the Gospel of Luke. The Armenian Church remembers and celebrates Jesus' life and all of the people and events that are tied to our Christian history. As a constant reminder of today's lesson, the students made a candle remembering Jesus' presentation at the temple, bringing light to the world.

Living Our Faith

1. Place the candle in a prominent place in your home as a reminder that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
2. With your child, make an effort to attend different feast day celebrations of the church.
3. Read the Presentation story in Luke 2:22-40.

Unit Four Celebrating Jesus* The Church Year

The Church Year



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the seasons and for each and every day of the beautiful year. May we take every chance to honor you with what we do and say.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Srpo. Amen.
 Յանուն Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

Look at the school year timeline and then look at the special days listed below. Can you place the number for each special day in the correct month?

Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June



School Calendar – Special Days

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. St. Patrick's Day | 5. Halloween | 9. Memorial Day |
| 2. Valentine's Day | 6. Easter Break | 10. Labor Day |
| 3. Thanksgiving | 7. Martin Luther King Day | |
| 4. Last Day of School | 8. Christmas Vacation | |

Our Story

Mrs. Nersessian had a story time during her weekly Sunday School class. The kids would eagerly sit around and listen to her share another exciting Bible story.

One Sunday, she started reading, “Once upon a time, there was a young girl named Cinderella. She lived with her stepmother and two stepsisters.” Then Mrs.

Nersessian turned the page and read, “and the Prince and Cinderella were married and they lived happily ever after. The end.” Everyone looked at each other with puzzled faces saying, “Huh?”

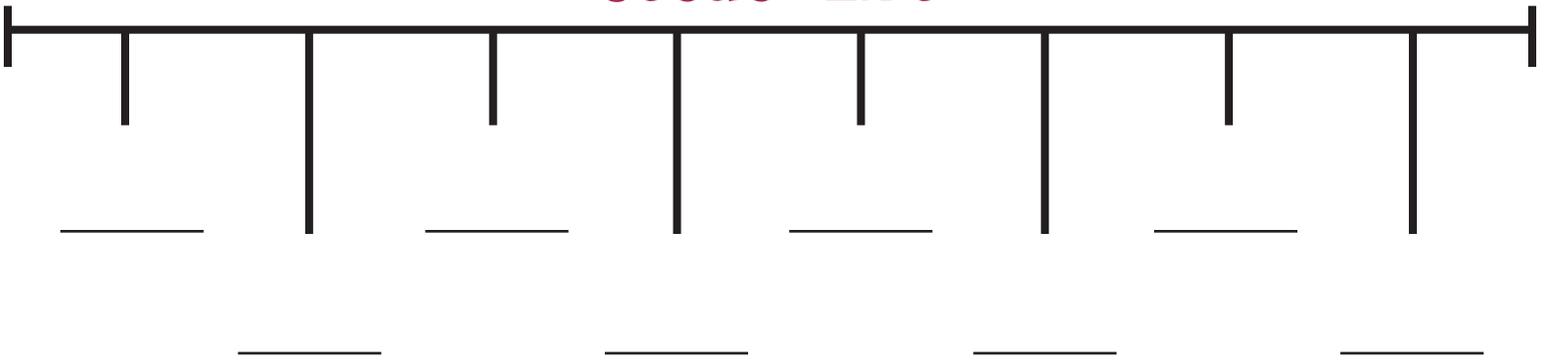
Peter said, “That was Cinderella, what does that have to do with Jesus?”

Mary raised her hand and said, “What happened to the rest of the story? You only read the first and last lines!” Sylvia said, “What about the pumpkin turning into a carriage?” Garo said, “What about the fairy godmother?” Aline mentioned the dress and glass slipper. Still others asked about the ball, turning midnight, trying on the glass slipper until Cinderella was found, and all of the story details. Mrs. Nersessian smiled and said, “Very good class, I am glad that you realized that I skipped a lot of important details of the story. I gave you the beginning and the end. You’re right, Cinderella doesn’t have anything to do with our lesson, but what if I did the same with Jesus? Baby Jesus was born in a manger. And he died, rose from the dead, and went back to heaven. The end. Would that be the entire story of Jesus?”

The class shouted, “No way!” Mrs. Nersessian said, “Exactly. There are many stories that make up the life of Jesus, it’s not just when he was born and when he rose from the dead. Our church year is based on the life of Jesus. We have special feasts throughout the year that celebrate those times as well as many amazing events and saintly people.” Sarkis raised his hand and told the class, “Mrs. Nersessian, it looks like we have a lot of celebrations to plan because Jesus was a very busy person while on earth!”



Jesus' Life



God's Word

The tradition of feasts and praise to the Lord begins in the Old Testament. This week's Scripture is from Exodus 10:9. When Moses was asked who will go to worship God, he answered this way:

"We will go with our young and old, with our sons and daughters, and we will even take our sheep, goats, and cattle, because we are to celebrate a festival to the Lord."

Faith Word

Major Feast

Daghavar Dohn

Տոնարար Տօն

There are five major feasts of the Armenian Church that are the basis of our calendar: Christmas, Easter, Transfiguration, Assumption of St. Mary and Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

We Learn About God

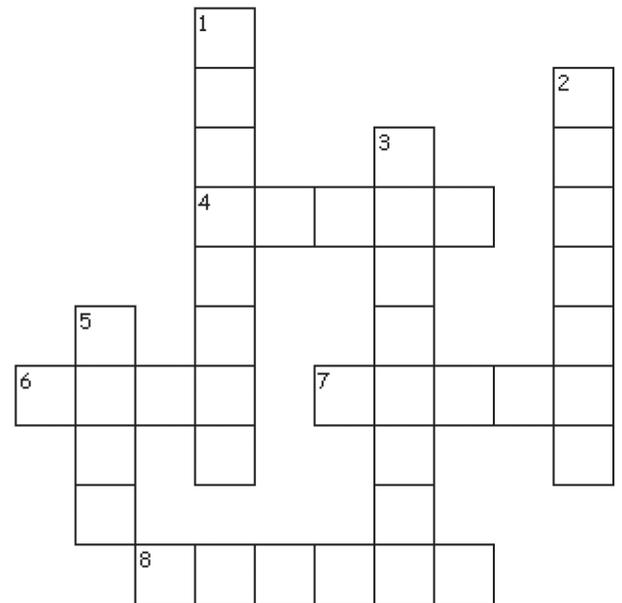
Psalm 145 is a psalm written by King David, a praise to God for all of his goodness, blessings and love. After reading it together as a class, try solving the crossword puzzle. Hint: Look for the lines containing the * in the psalm.

Across

- 4. The Lord is slow to show . . .
- 6. The Lord cares, watches, and is full of . . .
- 7. Everything that the Lord does is . . .
- 8. . . . used at least 9 times in the psalm

Down

- 1. We should think about the Lord's . . .
- 2. . . . praise the Lord's works to their children
- 3. The Lord keeps his . . .
- 5. All living things look to the Lord for . . .



Word Box

miracles
love
promises
food

praise
parents
anger
right

Our Armenian Way

The Armenian Church remembers and celebrates events and people through feasts that are important to the life of Jesus and the Church. Of the many feasts, there are five major feast days, *daghavars*, of the Armenian Church which are celebrated during the church year.

1. Christmas – January 6
2. Easter – March/April
3. Transfiguration – 14th Sunday after Easter (July)
4. Assumption of Mary – Sunday nearest to August 15th
5. Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September



Circle the best answer for each:

This feast celebrates the birth and baptism of Jesus. Water is blessed at this time.

- A. Easter B. Transfiguration C. Christmas

This feast celebrates Jesus taking his disciples Peter, James, and John to a mountain where he became as bright as the sun.

- A. Transfiguration B. Christmas C. Exaltation of the Cross

This feast celebrates Jesus' resurrection.

- A. Assumption of Mary B. Transfiguration C. Easter

This feast celebrates Jesus' mother Mary going to heaven.

- A. Easter B. Assumption of Mary C. Christmas

This feast celebrates the cross being returned to Jerusalem.

- A. Transfiguration B. Exaltation of the Holy Cross C. Easter



Handmade With Love

Daghavar Wheel

Design a major feast day wheel as a constant reminder of Jesus.

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today our class learned about the five major feast days of the Armenian Church, called *daghavars*. They participated in activities that helped them understand that the church year is filled with special events celebrating the life of Jesus. They also had an opportunity to read and reflect on Psalm 145 which praises the Lord for his goodness. As a reminder of the feast days, we made a major feast day “*daghavar*” wheel.

Living Our Faith

1. Read Psalm 145 with your child and talk about God's goodness.
2. Use the *daghavar* wheel and participate in the services for each of the major feasts.
3. For each feast day, think of how you can share this feast with those who are homebound.



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, the greatest gift of your love to us is your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for your gift and we pray that we always hold near to our hearts the reason for this wondrous season of Christmas. Jesus is with us now and forever.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.
Յանուն Հօր եւ Ռրդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

Draw some of the symbols or scenes that remind you of Christmas.

What is your favorite Christmas decoration at home? Christmas carol? Draw or write about it.

Does it remind you of Jesus?



Our Story

Mr. and Mrs. Minassian looked at the calendar in the kitchen and both said with a big sigh, “We have less than a month to get ready for Christmas.” Shaking his head, Mr. Minassian went into the garage and looked up and down at all twelve Christmas decoration boxes. He started to make a list and grumbled as he wrote,

“Lights outside the house, candy canes on the driveway, Santa and reindeer on roof, Frosty in the window, Christmas tree . . .” and the list went on.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Minassian sat at the kitchen table and started her list, “Family picture for Christmas card, decorate the house, mail cards, bake cookies, shopping, wrap gifts...” and her list went on and on, too.

In the meantime, Ani and John came inside for lunch. They noticed their parents busy with their lists. That’s when the kids remembered the Sunday School Christmas Pageant on December 24th. John said, “Hey Mom and Dad, don’t forget to write down on your list that I am going to be the shepherd in the pageant. Mom, can you help Mrs. Krikorian with the costumes?” Ani said, “Yeah, and I am going to be Mary. Mrs. Krikorian wanted to know if Dad could help with the set that day.” Both parents shook their heads and said, “But we don’t have time for the pageant! We have so much to do.” The kids couldn’t believe what they were hearing! Ani raised her hands up high and said, “Hold it. Isn’t the meaning of Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus? Are we missing something here? Santa, Frosty, cookies, those are all nice, but they have nothing to do with the true meaning of Christmas. Mrs. Krikorian has a huge banner in her classroom saying JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON! Let’s focus on what is important.”

Both Mr. and Mrs. Minassian nodded their heads, put away their lists, and said, “Ani, you are absolutely right. We have forgotten the meaning of Christmas and got all carried away with these details. Let’s not forget... it’s about Jesus!”

God's Word

After listening to the Scripture reading from Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:8-11, see if you can complete the story:

Joseph was from the town of _____. He and _____ had to travel there on a _____ to sign some important government papers. While they were there, it was time for Mary to have her _____. She _____ him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a _____, because there was no room for them at the _____.

On the nearby hills, there were _____ watching their _____. The shepherds noticed a bright _____ fill the sky with light. An _____ appeared telling the shepherds not to be _____. The angels brought news of great joy. "In the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is the _____." Also, there were three _____ who also noticed the same star. They followed the star which brought them to Jesus. They gave gifts of _____, frankincense and myrrh.

Word Box

Bethlehem • baby • Lord • sheep • gold • afraid • donkey • inn • star • angel • Mary wrapped • manger • shepherds • kings

We Learn About God

A beautiful Christmas hymn called Khorhoort Medz (Great Mystery) is sung by the choir and the faithful during the Christmas season.

Խորհուրդ մեծ _____ եւ _____ պարսկէ - չե -
Khorhoort medz _____ yev _____ skan - che -
ընտանիքս _____ հայսմ _____ ա -
lee _____ vor haysm _____ a -
- նոր յայտն - - - ճի - - - 3 - զայն.
- voor hayd - - - ne - - - - tsav;

Here are the words:
Great and wonderful Mystery
who was revealed today.

The shepherds sing with the
angels. They give good news to
the world.

A new king was born in the city
of Bethlehem.

Children of humankind give praise!

Because for our sake he
assumed a body.

What do you think this great Mystery is about? What was revealed?

What is the good news? _____

Our Armenian Way

One of the five major feast days or *daghavars* of the Armenian Church is Christmas which is celebrated on January 6th. On this day, two very important events are remembered, the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. At the end of the Armenian Christmas Divine Liturgy, a special service called “Blessing of Water,” *Chrorhnek* in Armenian, is conducted to remember Jesus’ baptism. All the faithful receive blessed water at the end of the service. During this joyous season, the faithful will turn to each other and greet one another with the following Christmas Greeting:



Kreesdos dzunav yev haydnetsav
Ohrnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee
Tsez yev mez medz avedis!

Christ was born and revealed
Blessed is the revelation of Christ
To all of us, good news!

Faith Word

Nativity

Birth; the birth of Jesus.



Handmade With Love

Nativity Cards

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today, your child learned about the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, through story and Scripture. During the Christmas season, we so often get caught up in details and lose sight of Jesus’ birth. The class was also introduced to the Christmas hymn “Khorhoort Medz” and made their own nativity cards.

Living Our Faith

1. Practice the Christmas greeting with your child and others.
2. Attend the Armenian Christmas Eve and Day liturgies with your child. Pay attention to the gestures and symbols in the blessing of the water service. Give the blessed water to those unable to attend church.
3. Focus on the true meaning of Christmas so that your child will always know it is about Jesus.



We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, you are the gift of life and we love you! Thank you for your sacrifice, love, and compassion. We will strive to be like you. You are our good news and hope and we rejoice in your name and sing Alleluia!

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

Յանուն Հօր եւ Ռդուոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

The flowers _____, *because spring is here.*

Everything around us is lush and _____, *because spring is here.*

The baby animals are _____, *because spring is here.*

The butterflies take their first _____, *because spring is here.*

The sun is shining nice and _____, *because spring is here.*

The wind is perfect to fly a _____, *because spring is here.*

It's time to go outside and _____, *because spring is here.*

Baskets are filled with chocolate _____ and jellybeans too, *because spring is here.*

Floral and ruffle dresses and shiny new shoes are ready to be _____, *because spring is here.*

The bunnies _____, full of life, *because spring is here.*

Colorful eggs are hidden over here and over _____, *because spring is here.*

We know that Easter is _____, *because spring is here.*

We say thank you _____, *because you gave us spring and new life! Alleluia!*

What do you like best about the season of spring? Does spring help you think of Jesus?

Word Box: Jesus • kite • play • flight • bloom • near • worn • green • born
bright • bunnies • there • hop

Our Story



Narrator: It was Friday afternoon recess at St. Mary Day School and Thomas, Michael, Angela and Pauline were playing handball and talking about their week off from school.

Thomas: Wow! I can't believe it. It's spring break and we have no school all next week. No homework, no schedules.

Angela: Yeah, no school, it's vacation time! We are going to Sea World and staying a few days in a hotel. Then when we return we will have an egg hunt at the park. I can't wait!

Michael: Well, my parents work so they are sending my little brother and me to a spring nature day camp. We will probably go to the mall and have our picture taken with the Easter Bunny because that's what we always do during spring break. I know that sounds babyish, but I do it because my little brother won't sit still unless I'm there.

Narrator: That's when Pauline jumped up and chimed in:

Pauline: Guys, it's not spring break, it's *Easter* Vacation. We have been learning about Easter these past few weeks. It's the most important church celebration. This is when we remember that Jesus rose from the dead.

Thomas: I guess you are right, that's what we learned in our religion class. Easter is the holiest time of the year.

Pauline: Aren't any of you coming to church for the services? Fr. Joseph will be performing the Washing of the Feet service on Holy Thursday and we can bring flowers to Jesus' tomb on Friday.

Michael: Oh that's right, I've always wanted to have my feet washed. I will ask my parents to bring me. Maybe my little brother would want to have his feet washed as well?

Pauline: What about the Family Easter Communion Breakfast? Aren't you coming? It's so much fun! We can go to church, participate in a special children's service, receive Holy Communion, have breakfast, and then have a really fun egg hunt in the church courtyard!

Angela: You know, you are right, I heard it was a lot of fun last year. Maybe I can tell my parents to bring us to church and do the egg hunt there instead of the park.

Pauline: C'mon guys, come. Let's celebrate Jesus and this very important feast. We are Christians, we go to a Christian school, we attend church on Sundays, we should be involved with the Easter celebration. We have the entire summer to goof-off and have fun. Let's use our time for Jesus this Easter break.

Thomas, Angela, and Michael: Pauline, thanks for reminding us of what is important!

God's Word

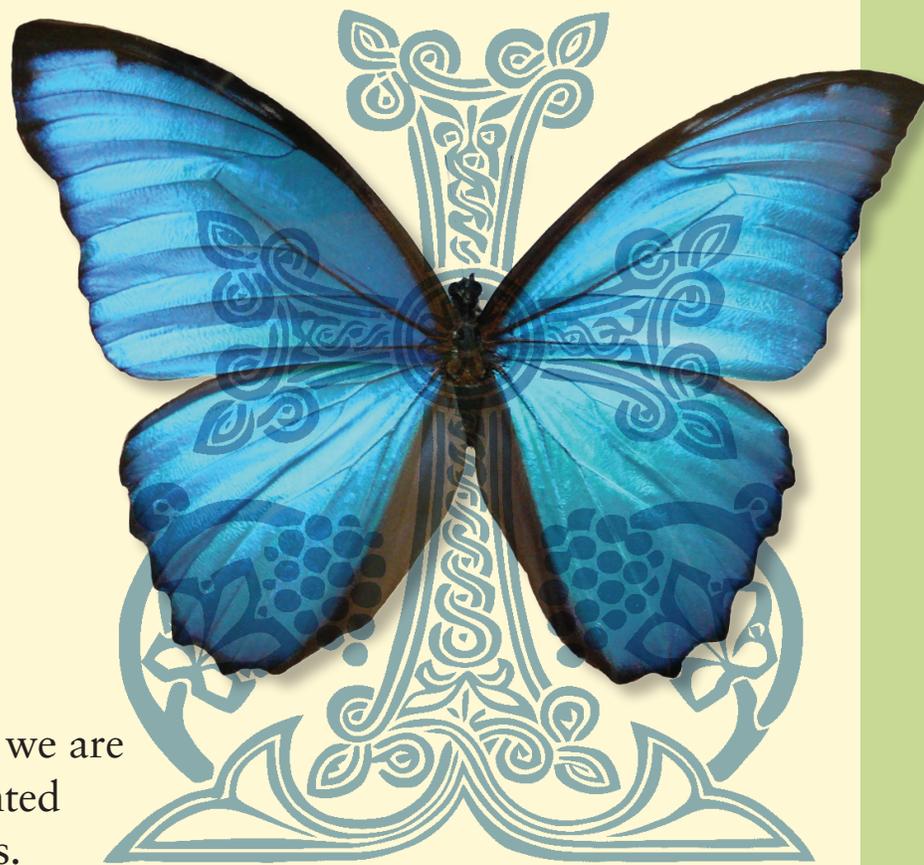
Early Sunday morning, some women who had been Jesus' followers went to his grave with spices to anoint his body. They were shocked to find out that the stone door to the grave was rolled away and even more surprised that Jesus' body was not there. As they stood in disbelief, an angel appeared before them. The women were trembling in fear. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Are you looking for Jesus? He is not here. Remember, Jesus said he would give his life for us and then rise on the third day. You will see him again in Galilee." The women were extremely happy. They ran to tell the news to the other disciples. Everyone was rejoicing. They were all to go to Galilee to meet Jesus. Alleluia!



Based on Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-12

We Learn About God

Jesus tried to share his good news with everyone, but, sadly, not everyone listened and followed him. People did not believe that Jesus was God's Son and they wanted him to be put to death. Jesus was crucified on the cross...but he rose to life on the third day! When we think of Easter, and Jesus' resurrection, we think of new life and a fresh start and we are reminded of these things by painted eggs, baby chicks, and butterflies.



Հարութիւն Harootyoon

Faith Word

Resurrection

Rising up, Jesus rising from the dead.

Our Armenian Way

Easter (in Armenian we say *Soorp Zadig*), is a very important time for the Church. It is the greatest feast of the year! Almost every day during the week before Easter (called Holy Week), families are in church together, remembering Jesus' last days and last words. At the Last Supper, he shared bread and wine with his disciples. This is why we receive Holy Communion every Sunday to this day. He also washed their feet, telling them that they came to serve others, not to be served. We remember these two events on Holy Thursday.



There are special traditions from long ago that still take place in many of our homes: baking Easter bread, serving fish, rice with raisins and dried fruit, and fried greens with eggs and, of course, the egg-cracking contest. Everyone selects a hard boiled egg, goes around the table, tapping each other's eggs. If your shell cracks, then you lost. The last one still uncracked is declared the winner.

The egg is a symbol of life. In the olden days, there were no food coloring or Easter egg kits, so people used onion skins. The onion skins give a rich brownish-red color which reminds us of Jesus' blood. The shell reminds us of Jesus' tomb, and when we crack the eggs, the egg white reminds us of the cloth that wrapped Jesus' body and the yolk is the "heart" of the egg just as Jesus is the heart of our faith. There is a special Easter greeting also said at this time of year:

Kreesdos haryav ee merelotz!

Ohrnyal eh harootyoonun Kreesdosee!

Քրիստոս Յարեալ ի մեռելոց

Օրհնեալ է Յարուրթիւնն Քրիստոսի

Christ is risen from the dead!

Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!



Handmade With Love
Easter Basket of Love for Jesus

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Your child read about the importance of the Easter celebration and that it is more than bunnies and eggs. The true meaning of Easter is Jesus' resurrection. This lesson was taught through poetry, story, Scripture and traditions. As a way to keep Easter in their hearts, the children made their own Easter basket of love.

Living Our Faith

1. Place your child's Easter basket in a prominent place; use it!
2. Paint eggs together, especially trying the onion skin method.
- 3 Practice saying the Easter greeting with your child.

Ascension



We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, you graced us with your presence on earth, teaching us how to live like you. On Ascension Day, you returned to God the Father but promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for all your gifts.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyñ Srpo. Amen.

Յանուն Հօր եւ Որդւոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

Look at the words in the clouds, and see if you can figure out what today's lesson is about.

_____ marks forty days after _____, when Jesus lifted his _____, blessed his _____ and was carried up to _____.



Our Story

Raffi loved his Uncle Sevag and enjoyed every chance that he had to see him. Uncle Sevag's work had him traveling all over the world. He would miss special family celebrations like Christmas, Easter and birthdays because of his work schedule.

When Raffi's mom surprised him with the news that Uncle Sevag was going to visit, Raffi's face lit up. Excitedly Raffi responded with, "Really? Uncle Sevag is coming here? Oh, I can't wait, I haven't seen him in such a long time! I want to show Uncle Sevag my Lego collection, especially the airplane I built. Maybe I can work at Uncle Sevag's company one day?" Raffi's mom smiled and said, "You never know. But right now, you need to go and clean your room and get ready. Uncle will be here very soon."

Uncle Sevag finally arrived the next day. Raffi ran to him and gave him the biggest, warmest hug. Uncle Sevag showered him with gifts from all over the world. Raffi sat down with his uncle and planned the week with him, "Today the park, tomorrow the kids' museum, Wednesday . . ." But the next day Uncle Sevag received an emergency work message stating that he needed to board the 5:00 p.m. flight to London, England. Uncle Sevag was heart-broken to have to leave his family, especially Raffi. He took Raffi aside and explained, "My work is requiring me to travel again; it's an emergency, that's why I have to leave so suddenly." I promise to return very soon. In the meantime, continue being the great boy you are, study hard, obey your parents and keep on Skyping with me. I will be back as soon as I can and promise to stay a much longer time." Raffi was sad to see his uncle leave so quickly. However, Raffi understood and knew that his uncle would keep his word and return at the first available opportunity.

Faith Word

Ascension

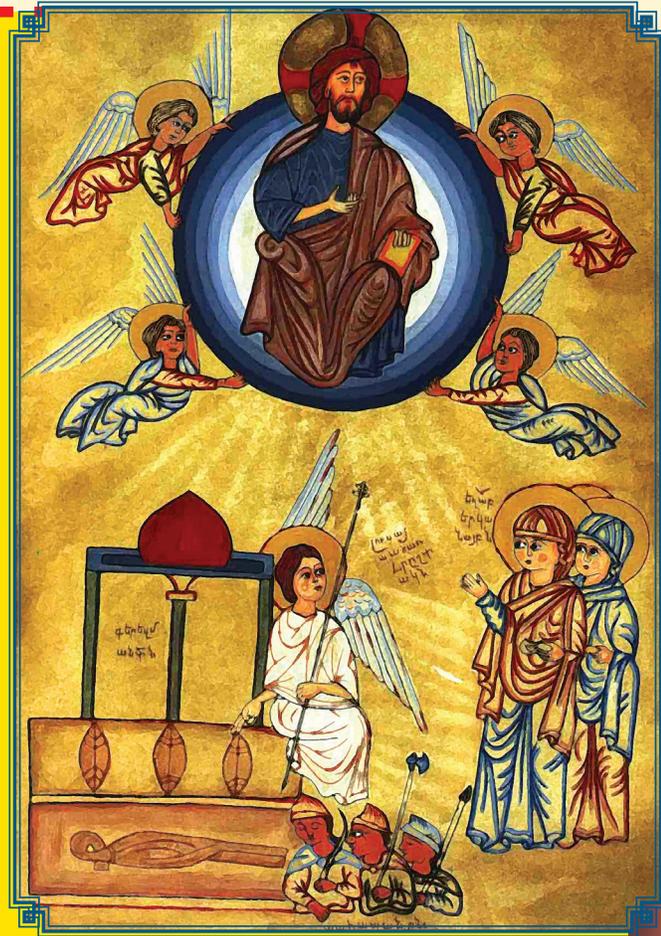
Hampartsoom Համբարձում
Rising, the rising of Jesus Christ from
earth to heaven 40 days after Easter.



God's Word

During the forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he gave very important instructions to his disciples. One day near the town of Bethany, Jesus spoke to them about God's kingdom, saying to wait in Jerusalem until God the Father sent the Holy Spirit as promised. Jesus also told his disciples that once they received the Holy Spirit they were going to tell the whole world about Jesus. The disciples would be Jesus' special messengers. While he was speaking, he blessed the disciples, raised his hands while a cloud came and lifted Jesus out of their sight. As the disciples were looking up, two angels asked the disciples why they were still gazing into the sky. The angels told the disciples that Jesus went to heaven and would return in the same manner.

Based on Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:1-11



We Learn About God



Forty days after Easter, the resurrection of Jesus, the church remembers and celebrates the feast of Ascension. This feast day falls on a Thursday and has a special Divine Liturgy and hymn. Ascension is very important because it marks the last event of Jesus' life and ministry on earth.

Our Armenian Way

Hampartsoom is a very special feast of the Armenian people. It is not only celebrated in the church but also through festivals, songs, dance, and games. Nature was very important during Hampartsoom as the Armenians believed that on the eve of Ascension, the sky would turn extra bright and that all of nature would be in celebration. Much of the fun and excitement was directed toward the youth, especially the young girls. One such tradition is a game called *vijagakhagh*. On the morning before Ascension Thursday, the young girls would gather flowers from seven different homes. Then, that evening the girls would take a pail and travel to seven homes or seven fountains and fill it with water. The flowers would be added to the same pail.



Each girl playing the game would also bring a small object (*nishan*) of theirs such as a ring or bracelet and place it in the pail. The pail would be placed outside, overnight under the stars with the hope that the stars would grant the wishes of the girls. On Hampartsoom Day, Ascension Thursday, the girls playing the vijag game would go on picnic. One of the girls, usually the oldest, would dress up as a bride. Vijag songs and poems would be sung. After each song or poem, the bride would select an object from the pail. The verse or song would be about the owner of that object. One of the most popular songs sung during the Hampartsoom vijag is *Hampartsoom Yaylah*.

ՀԱՄԲԱՐՉՈՒՄ ԵՎ ՅԼԱՅ ՀԱՄՔԱՐՏՈՍՈՒՄ ԵՎ ՅԼԱՅ HAMPARTSOOM YAYLA



Համ - քար - ձում եայ - լայ, եայ - լայ ջան եայ - լայ,
Ham - par - tsoom yay - la, yay - la jan yay - la,



Handmade With Love

Color and decorate an Armenian miniature of the Ascension!

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, our class learned about the Ascension of Jesus, and some of the Armenian traditions associated with it. Although Jesus completed his earthly mission, he made sure that the disciples were prepared to go forth and spread the good news by promising the Holy Spirit and his eventual return.

Living Our Faith

1. Post your child's coloring page on the Ascension in a prominent place and ask him/her to tell you the story.
2. Remind your child that as disciples of Jesus, we all strive to act in a way that is pleasing to him.
3. As a family, attend the Divine Liturgy on Ascension Day.



We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, thank you for your instruction and wisdom. Thank you for giving us new life through your Resurrection and for promising the Holy Spirit so that we may continue to spread your good news to others.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover



1. Why do you think God the Father sent the gift of the Holy Spirit ?

2. What does God expect you to do with the skills that you were given? _____

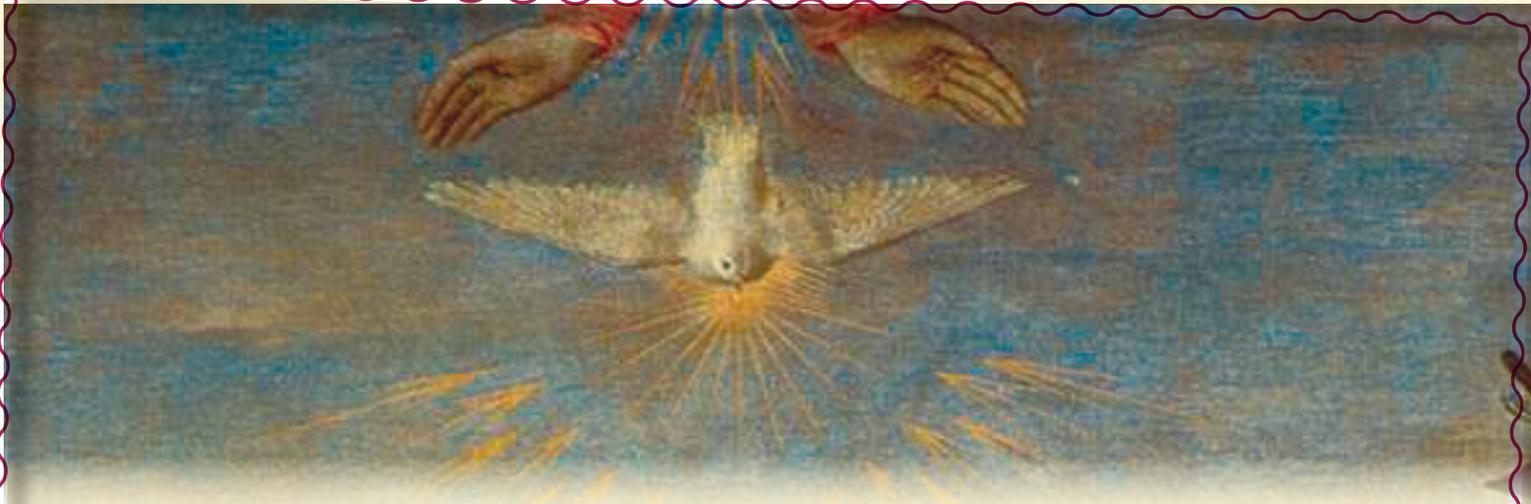
3. Did God expect the same from the disciples? _____.

Faith Word

Pentecost

Hokekaloost Հոգեգալուստ

The Feast day marking the coming of the Holy Spirit celebrated 50 days after Easter.



Our Story

Mrs. Tashjian's second grade class walked in one Sunday morning to see the entire classroom decorated for a birthday party. There were birthday hats, noisemakers, napkins, tablecloths, and cute party favor bags filled with candy. A happy birthday banner was hung on the wall with streamers and balloons crisscrossing the room. Kevork noticed that the birthday cake only said 'Happy Birthday' without someone's name on it.

Was it Mrs. Tashjian's birthday? Maybe she wanted to give herself a little party? Maybe it was the superintendent's birthday and the class was going to give a surprise party for her?

As everyone got seated, Mrs. Tashjian opened the class with a prayer thanking God for such a special birthday. The students were so puzzled about the birthday that they eagerly raised their hands asking the same question, "Whose birthday are we celebrating?" "Oh, today is the Church's birthday," replied Mrs. Tashjian. "You mean it's our parish, St. Peter's birthday, cool!" said Nicole.

"Actually, no, it's the birthday of the Christian Church." On Pentecost, which we celebrate today, we remember the disciples being filled with the Holy Spirit. They were given special skills such as languages to go and tell others about Jesus. The Church was born that day as people were being baptized as Christians and spreading the news of Jesus. Now class, let's all sing 'Happy Birthday Church' and enjoy some of that yummy chocolate cake." The class loved the idea and couldn't wait to taste the cake!



God's Word

Jesus' disciples were praying together in the upper room. All of a sudden a noise like a strong wind filled the room. The disciples were surprised as they saw tongues of fire appear on each of them. At that moment, they were speaking different languages that they did not know. The people of Jerusalem heard all of the noise and wanted to see what was happening. Everyone was shocked and asked them how they learned to speak these languages. Peter said that all of these events were part of God's plan. God sent his Son Jesus to save his people from sin. As promised, God sent the Holy Spirit to give the disciples the ability to spread the message of God. Peter then told the people that they should seek forgiveness from Jesus and be baptized. That day, over 3000 people were baptized by the disciples and became Christians. It was the birthday of the Church.



Based on Acts 2

We Learn About God

Jesus knew that his disciples would be afraid without him so he promised to send them a helper, the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Holy Spirit is called Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples courage to follow Jesus and to tell everyone the good news. The Holy Spirit continues to help all of us do the same as the Church. The Church is all of the people who are baptized in Jesus and follow his teachings. Find all 15 words from the Scripture lesson in the Word Search. They can be found vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards.

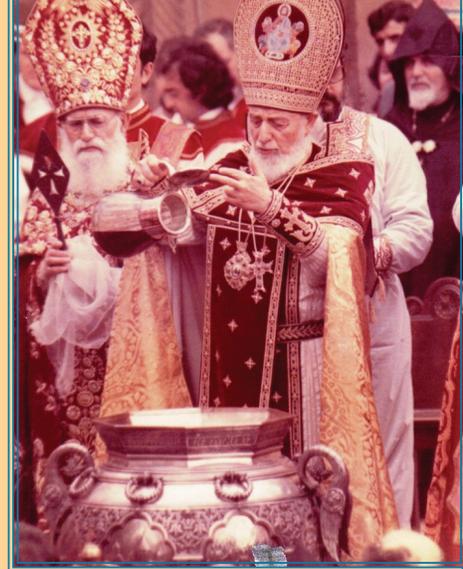
Q	T	V	R	P	U	M	W	E	S	X	D	G	J	H
Q	E	S	K	A	E	P	S	S	B	I	P	N	P	E
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F	F	P	I	E	T	V	T	C	T	U	M	W	C	V
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U	D	T	K	P	P	P	R	S	C	K	G	L	E	N
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A	U	I	Q	V	T	N	K	V	M	I	Y	J	R	R
M	W	K	Y	R	C	W	V	S	I	Q	N	W	I	J

baptize	Pentecost
Peter	heaven
feast	filled
fire	tongues
language	blowing
Spirit	Jerusalem
disciples	speak
wind	

Our Armenian Way

Pentecost is a very important feast day of the Armenian Church. One of our Church Fathers, St. Movses Khorenatsi, wrote the main hymn of *Hokekaloost* called *Arakelo Aghavno*. The title means the “dove being sent.” The hymn is not only sung on the feast of Pentecost but also during the Blessing of the Water service, Baptism, and Ordination, which are times when Holy Muron is used. The English translation of the hymn is the following:

With a mighty sound from above, the Dove came down like a bright light and armed the Apostles with a fire that could not burn them as they sat in the Upper Room.



U - nu - քի - լոյս — ա - - - ղաւ - նոյ
A - ra - ke - lo — a - - - ghav - no



Handmade With Love

Pentecost Wind Twirl
A reminder of the
Holy Spirit!

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, our class learned about Pentecost as the birthday of the Christian Church. Through activity, story, Scripture, song and discussion they learned the important aspects of this important feast day. The Holy Spirit is God's promise to all of us that we might grow stronger in our faith and help spread the Good News of Jesus. As a reminder of Pentecost and being filled with the Holy Spirit, your child made a Pentecost Wind Twirl.

Living Our Faith

1. Ask your child about his/her Pentecost Wind Twirl and the story of Pentecost.
2. Attend Divine Liturgy on Pentecost Sunday and take special note of the hymn *Arakelo Aghavno*.
3. Discuss the ways your family can be Jesus' messengers to the world (i.e. through a Christian lifestyle).

Unit Four Celebrating Jesus* The Church Year

Transfiguration

Lesson

7



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, with grateful hearts we thank you for this wonderful Second Grade Sunday School year! Thank you for the friends we have made, our teachers, our priest and our entire church family. Help us to remember all that we have learned so that we can be more like you.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Srpo. Amen.

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Let's Discover

It's a gorgeous summer morning and your parents announce that it's a perfect day for the beach. With a leap and a bound, you pile your sand toys, beach ball, towels, and snacks into the car and drive to the seashore.

When you arrive, it's mid-morning and there's a huge blanket of fog everywhere. Everything looks so different. What happened?





God's Word

Jesus took the disciples Peter, James and John to Mt. Tabor, a high mountain. While at the top, Jesus began to pray. Suddenly his face shone as bright as the sun and his clothes were dazzling white as snow. At that moment, the disciples were surprised to see the prophets Moses and Elijah standing and speaking with Jesus. Peter spoke up and said, "Lord, it's good that we are here with you!" While he was talking, a great, shining cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, and I am pleased with him. You must listen to him!" The disciples knew that they heard the voice of God and bowed down. When they opened their eyes, Jesus was alone. They walked down the mountain promising Jesus not to tell anyone about what they saw until after Jesus' Resurrection.

Based on the Gospel accounts of Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36

We Learn About God

The disciples had spent a lot of time with Jesus, traveling, eating, sleeping, teaching, and performing miracles. They knew Jesus as a teacher and a friend. However, the day he was transfigured before their very eyes was different; they saw Jesus in a way they had never seen him before. They saw him as God, powerful, awesome! This was their proof that Jesus was not only a man, but the very Son of God, full of wonder and love.



Faith Word

Transfiguration

Aylagerbootyoon

Այլակերպութիւն

A big change; the feast of Jesus' being transformed on Mount Tabor before Peter, James, and John.



Our Armenian Way



Every summer, Armenians look forward to celebrating the Feast of Transfiguration, *Aylagerbootyoon* in Armenian (also known as *Vartavar*).

This feast is celebrated on the 14th Sunday after Easter. Originally, *Vartavar* was an ancient festival for the goddess Astghig. *Vart* means rose in Armenian. People would decorate the temples and farm animals with roses and sprinkle one another with water. The sprinkling of water is still done and people sometimes decorate the church with roses. At the end of the Badarak in some churches, the priest places his hand cross in water, and sprinkles all the faithful during the final procession.

If you happen to be in Armenia on the Feast of the Transfiguration, don't be surprised if you are splashed with a bucket of water — another *Vartavar* favorite tradition. Like other Armenian feast days, those people with names such as Vartkes, Vartouhie, Nevart, Rose, or Vartanoush enjoy their name day celebration.

Celebration Time!

Congratulations are in order! You have successfully completed your Second Grade Sunday School Year. It's time to celebrate with your class and reflect on your wonderful year of learning and friendship. Always remember that you are an important part of a greater church that works together to bring glory to God.



Handmade With Love

Create an invitation for your family to attend Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Transfiguration!

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson was about the summer daghavar Feast of Transfiguration, also called *Vartavar*. It is on this day that we remember and celebrate Jesus' transformation on Mt. Tabor before his closest disciples. Festive traditions of spraying each other with water, decorating with roses, and name day celebrations are still popular today.

Sharing Our Faith

1. Ask your child what lesson they enjoyed the most in Second Grade. What was so special about it?
2. Post your child's invitation in a prominent place (as a reminder). With your child, mark your summer calendar and attend both the Feast of the Transfiguration in July and the Feast of the Assumption of St. Mary in August.
3. THANK YOU for bringing your precious child to Sunday School! Have a beautiful summer, see you in church, and may the season be a blessed one.

Autographs and Messages



Unit Four Celebrating Jesus* The Church Year

Exaltation of the Holy Cross



We Pray Together

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for our new Second Grade Sunday School year! Open our hearts and minds so we may grow to love and know you more.

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooy'n Srpo. Amen.

Յանուն Հօր եւ Ռրդոյ եւ Հոգւոյն Սրբոյ: Ամէն:

Let's Discover

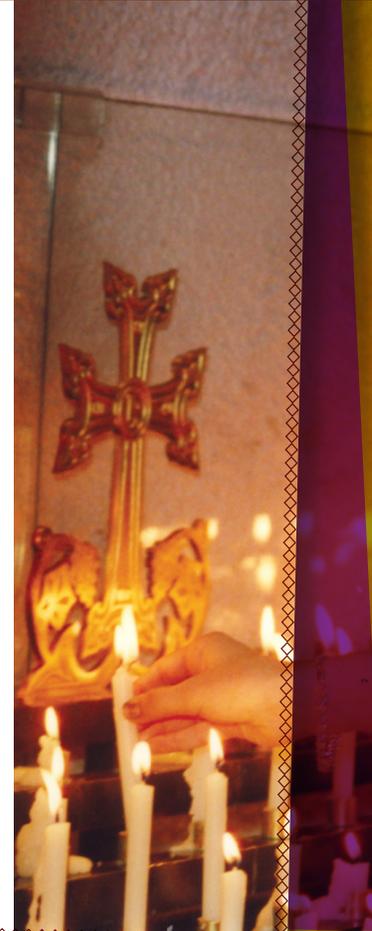
Circle the best answer.

1. When you see a  what does it remind you of?
a. Easter b. Memorial Day c. Halloween

2. When you see a  what does it remind you of?
a. Christmas b. Thanksgiving c. 4th of July

3. When you see a  what does it remind you of?
a. Valentine's Day b. St. Patrick's Day c. Christmas

4. When you see a  what does it remind you of?
a. Labor Day b. Jesus c. Halloween





Our Story

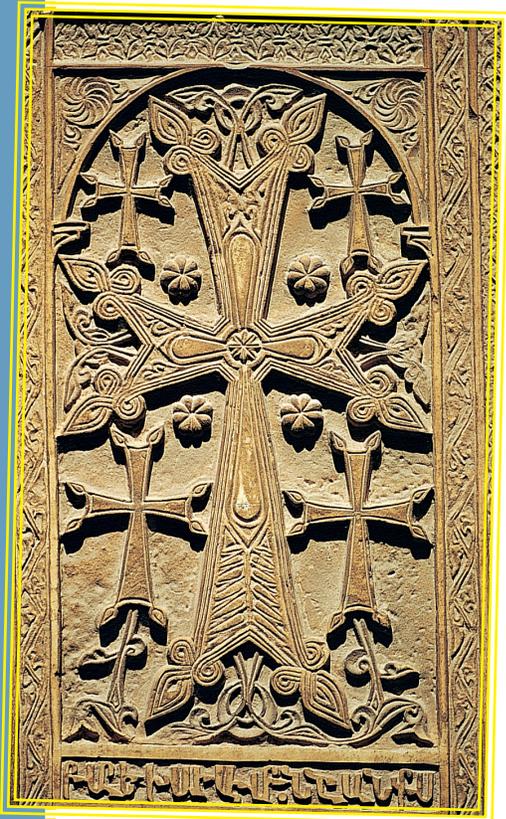
Chris was so thrilled when his parents told him about their upcoming trip to Armenia. He was very excited to see everything that he had read about in Sunday School. He couldn't wait to see Mt. Ararat, Etchmiadzin, St. Gregory's Pit (Khor Virab), and to hear Armenian spoken wherever he went. And of course the delicious food and music would be a treat!



As they were touring Armenia, Chris saw many, many old and beautiful churches. Chris also noticed many stones with fancy cross carvings. They were everywhere, at the museums, parks, churches and open fields. Chris asked Masis, their tour guide, "What are all those stones with crosses called?"

"Oh, those are called khachkars. A khach is a cross like the one around your neck and "kar" means stone. These khachkars are unique, because Armenians are the only people to make them in this way. The cross is a very important symbol for all of us, it is a sign of our faith in Jesus Christ." "Wow! That's so cool!" said Chris. Masis then told the family, "On Sunday, we are going to Etchmiadzin and participate in the Feast Day celebration called the Exaltation of the Holy Cross or *Khachveratz*. A

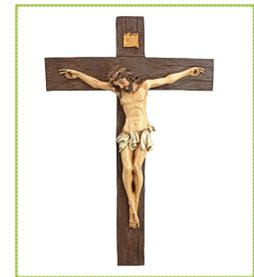
special procession is led by the priest with the cross that is decorated with basil, a symbol of royalty. During the procession, the four corners of the church are blessed. You are all fortunate to be here during this joyous feast day. Each of you will receive some blessed basil to take with you." Chris and his parents agreed that this was definitely the trip of a lifetime!



God's Word

Then Jesus said to all the people: "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up my cross each day and follow me."

Based on Luke 9:23



We Learn About God

When we see or make the sign of the cross, we should always think of Jesus. He is at the very center of our lives and when we live that way our faith, hope, and love grow and get stronger! When we wear a cross around our neck, it's not just a piece of jewelry, but a message to everyone saying, "Hey, I belong to Jesus. I follow him. I try to be like him!"

What does the cross mean to me?

Our Armenian Way

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is always celebrated on the Sunday closest to September 14th. There were some important times when the cross of Jesus was raised up and honored. One that we remember on the Exaltation is when, many hundreds of years ago, the True Cross was brought through Armenia on its way back to Jerusalem and exalted before the happy crowds. On the Feast Day, the cross is held high in a procession through the church. The priest and deacons stop at each of the four corners of the church to perform a blessing. The special service and procession is called in Armenian "antasdan" which can be done at other times of the year as well.

Faith Word

Exaltation

To praise highly, to raise up, to make important. We exalt the cross, we praise the cross.

Blessing the four corners of the church is a way of blessing all four directions of the world with the holy cross. How well do you know the Armenian Cross?

CIRCLE **TRUE** OR **FALSE** (T OR F)

1. Armenian crosses show the body of Jesus. T or F
2. All crosses used in our church have been blessed. T or F
3. Armenian churches are designed in the shape of a cross. T or F
4. The Armenian cross often features vines, grapes and wheat which remind us of life. T or F
5. There is only one celebration of the cross in our church. T or F
6. Babies are given crosses by their godparents when they are baptized. T or F
7. The cross was never used as a punishment. T or F



Handmade With Love

Decorate an Armenian Cross

For My Family

Sharing Our Faith

In today's lesson, the first of the Second Grade Sunday School year, your child played a fun "get-to-know-you" game with his/her classmates. In connection with this month's major feast day, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, students were introduced to the most important symbol of our faith, the cross. Jesus tell us that in order to follow him, we must put everything aside, and take up the cross. Through activity, story and Scripture reading, they learned that the cross is at the center of Christian life as well as an important motif in the life of the Armenian people. The Armenian Church honors the cross on Exaltation day with a special procession and blessing service. The class made their own jeweled crosses.

Sharing Our Faith

1. Place your child's cross in a prominent place in your home.
2. Pray with your child daily, always making a sign of the cross.
3. Research "khachkars" or Armenian stone crosses on the Internet with your child. There will be many photos you can enjoy together.