GRADE 4

Being a Disciple

It's Not Just a Fan Club!

***We Believe* Curriculum**

Student Text

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Being a Disciple

It's Not Just a Fan Club!

Barbara Hovsepian

By order of
Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate

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Table of Contents

Unit 1: Jesus, Lord of My Life

1. The Greatest Story Ever Told 2
2. Marked For Life 6
3. Miracle Worker 10
4. Teacher 14
5. Savior 20
6. The Church Begins 25
7. We Are Jesus' Disciples Too! 30

Unit 2: Being a Disciple…It's Not Just a Fan Club!

1. Listening and Talking in Prayer 34
2. Loving and Praising in Worship 38
3. Learning About You: Scripture 43
4. Doing Good Works: Service 47

Unit 3: Sacraments: A Call to Holy Living

1. Seven and More: An Overview 51
2. The Living Water: Baptism 56
3. The Sealing of Oil: Chrismation 59
4. Saying I'm Sorry: Penance 65
5. Sharing in the Lord: Eucharist 69
6. Marriage/Holy Orders 72
7. Prayers for the Sick 76

Unit 4: The Church Celebrates

1. Five Major Feasts 80
2. Christmas 85
3. Easter 89
4. Transfiguration/Assumption 94
5. The Exaltation 97

Unit 5: We Worship God

1. A Sunday People (Overview) 100
2. We Get Ready (Preparation) 105
3. We Listen and Learn (Preparation and Synaxis) 109
4. Receiving the Lord Together (Holy Communion) 112
5. Taking Sunday Into the Rest of the Week (Last Blessing and Dismissal) 115

Jesus, Lord of My Life

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

UNIT 1 LESSON ONE

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, we come to you in prayer to tell you about ourselves and to get to know you better. Open our hearts and minds to your love. Amen.

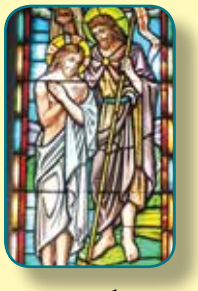
My World

My world is full of so many wonderful things – family, friends, special events. Sometimes I'm so busy I hardly have time for everything. But I never forget to take some time with Jesus. I pray. I go to church. I attend Sunday School. My world is more wonderful because God is with me.

Getting Closer to God

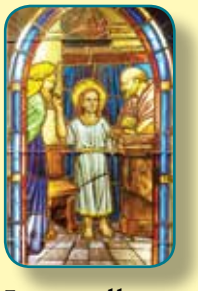
We all have family photo albums. Pictures in your family photo album would probably start with you being born and continue as you are growing up. God's story is also often told in pictures. They are the illustrations in our Bibles and the stained glass windows in our church. Armenians have a wonderful tradition of painting pictures illustrating the Bible. These were called miniatures or "illuminations" (for the gold paint used).

Here are some pictures showing Jesus' life. Number them in order (1 – 10) starting with his birth:

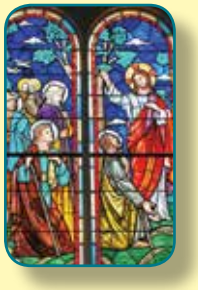


Jesus is baptized by John. _____

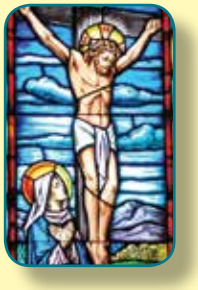
Jesus was born in Bethlehem. _____



Jesus talks to the men in the Temple when he was 12 years old. _____

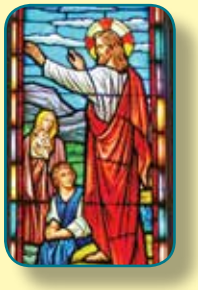


Jesus chooses twelve disciples. _____



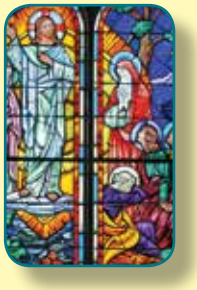
Jesus is crucified. _____

Jesus ascends into heaven. _____

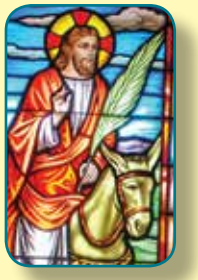


Jesus teaches people about how God wants them to live. _____

Jesus blesses the children. _____



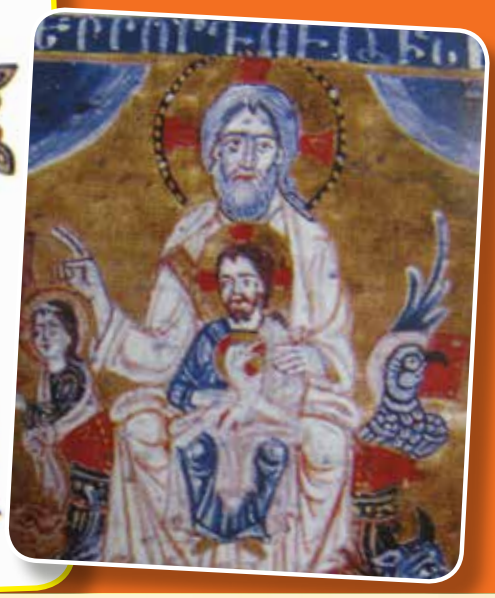
Jesus is transfigured before his disciples Peter, James and John. _____



Jesus rides into Jerusalem. _____

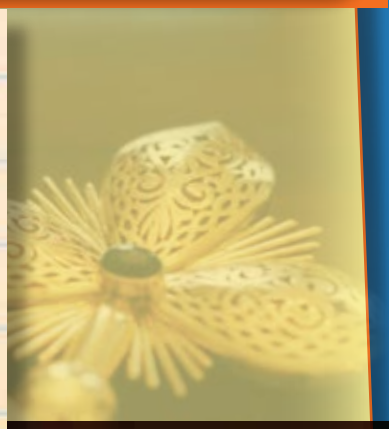
Our Armenian Way

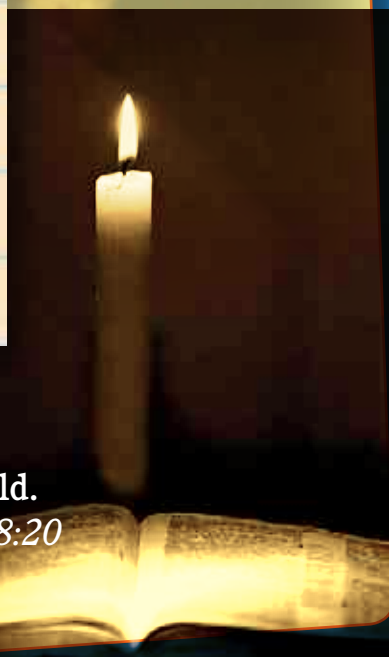
Here are some symbols used to represent the Holy Trinity.
Look at each picture and think of how it represents the Holy Trinity. Draw a picture with one of these symbols in it or make up your own representation of the Holy Trinity.



Taking a Closer Look

We have only ONE God. He has helped us understand him by showing himself to us in three ways: as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit. We know God the Father as creator of the universe. In the New Testament we get to know God the Son, Jesus Christ, friend, teacher, and Savior. We also learn about God the Holy Spirit who is in us and with us always. We call the three persons of God the **Holy Trinity**.





GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

I will be with you always, until the end of the world.
Matthew 28:20

Time to Celebrate

Armenians love to get together. We are a "**we**" people! And when we are together, we like to share food.

Jesus liked the same thing. The Bible tells of his sharing food many times. Once he shared fishes and loaves with a crowd of people (Mark 6:30-44). Even after his resurrection he shared a meal with some travelers (Luke 24:13-35). At his last supper with his disciples, he wanted his followers to remember him. We call this event the **Lord's Supper**. We re-enact this most special meal Jesus shared with his followers. We do this today by receiving Holy Communion.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Heavenly Father, we thank you for creating this world. Jesus, we thank you for loving us. Holy Spirit, we ask you to help us day by day. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Welcome to the Family Corner. This will be a feature of each lesson. **Sharing Our Faith** summarizes our day's lesson. **Living our Faith** gives suggestions for activities relating to the lesson you can do at home. Choose one (or more) to do as a family.

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson reviewed important events in the life of Jesus Christ and that Jesus, the Son of God, is part of the Holy Trinity. We learned Jesus knew it was important to share a meal together. We meet Jesus in the Divine Liturgy and share the Lord's Supper at Badarak.

Living Our Faith

Choose one of the activities below to do together as a family during this week.

1. Share your favorite stories about Jesus. Tell why you like the story so much.
2. Prepare a family meal together.
3. Create a family tree – go back as far as you can. If you already have one, look it over together with your fourth grader.

Jesus, Lord of My Life

MARKED FOR LIFE

UNIT 1 LESSON TWO

From Our Hearts to God

Here I am again, Lord. How great you are that you know me by my name! You know what's inside my brain and heart. Help me to know you, Lord. Amen.

My World

- the new boy
- the kid with the scar
- that sweet little girl
- Haig
- the fastest runner in fourth grade
- she's caring
- a fantastic artist
- comes up with great ideas
- you can count on her
- the tallest boy in our class
- a great singer
- the class clown

Who are you? Most everyone would answer that question by giving their name. Your name is important to you. It is a **marker** you will have all your life most probably. But who you are is not just your name. Who you are is shown by your behavior, your way of doing things, your attitude and personality. And who you are develops as you grow older.

Write three things about yourself that would identify you to others:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Markers are like labels. They help us categorize, group, define and separate things. "Put all the blue pencils in this box and all the red ones in that box." "All the left-handed children line up here and the right-handed ones line up there." Some markers are obvious and very noticeable and some are not. Everyone would know you are Christian if you wear a cross necklace, wouldn't they? The cross is a marker.

Sometimes people are marked for something special. A good athlete might get special training to make the most of those skills. People sometimes show a talent for music from early childhood.

At your chrismation (one of the three sacraments of initiation) you were **marked** with holy oil as a Christian. **Marked for life**. What sort of life? A life that should show your relationship with Jesus Christ. A life that reflects the good things that Jesus wants you to do.

A **righteous** life. A **consecrated** life. CONSECRATED means set apart for God's use. RIGHTEOUS means doing what is right for God.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Before I was born, the Lord chose me.
Isaiah 49:1

Getting Closer to God

Jesus' Presentation at the Temple (Luke 2:22-38)

Even Mary and Joseph wanted to mark baby Jesus as God's child. Eight days after his birth they made a special trip to the Temple. In those days the Jews had a ceremony for the firstborn baby boy to be presented to God. It was not like our sacraments of initiation, but similar in its meaning.

At the Temple, the holy family met two people who recognized Jesus as the Messiah (the one chosen by God). Simeon and Anna knew Jesus was God. They were overjoyed to be able to meet the Lord.

What would you say if you met Jesus?

Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, we joyfully remember Jesus' presentation to the Temple on the Feast of the Presentation or *Dyarnuntarach*. In some of our churches today, a special blessing is given connected with *Dyarnuntarach* called "The Blessing of Babies." It is usually done on the Sunday in February closest to the Feast of the Presentation (February 14) just before the Badarak ends. Babies who have been baptized in the year before are presented to God and rededicated to him.
The service recalls the Presentation of Jesus. As he blesses the baby, the priest prays: "O Christ our God … protect and keep your people and especially this child…"

Taking a Closer Look

In past centuries and even in Armenia today, Dyarnuntarach has quite a fun side. The people attend church and light candles which represent the light of Jesus. After church they use the candles to light a bonfire. People jump over the fire for good luck. The fire celebrates the end of winter and coming of spring.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, I love you. Guide me in ways to show that love. Amen.

Time to Celebrate

A Pre-sen-**CAKE**-tion Celebration

Happy Birthday to us! Today we are celebrating that we were born. Decorate your birthday cupcake.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today, students learned about how special they are as God's children. In their baptism and chrismation, they were marked for a righteous life in God. In the prayer over the oil of the baptismal service, we hear that we are "anointed for holiness, for strength to keep the commandments that leads to virtue and service…. and for salvation." How wonderful! We also learned about the presentation of Jesus to the Temple by his parents (very much like the children's own anointing) and how we celebrate it in the Armenian Church. The children enjoyed a cupcake to celebrate their own birthdays.

Living Our Faith

1. Sit together and talk about what your child would like to inherit from his or her parents or siblings. Don't just think of things. Think of talents (mom's piano playing) and abilities (dad's joke telling), personality traits (the way my brother makes new friends so easily), objects that you value that they also value such as a favorite family photo.
2. Have your own "Family Awards" night. Decide what object will be awarded. For example, chocolate bars, computer-generated award sheets, fresh fruits, etc. Everyone's name should be written on a slip of paper and each person pulls a slip to present an award to the person whose name they got. (If someone pulls their own name they have to put it back and pull another.) Think of what you would give that person an award for. Now start the "Awards Ceremony." Each person should stand and say something like "The award for the person who (tell the category) goes to (name the person)" and present that person with the award object. For example "The award for the person who is the best family chauffeur goes to MOM!" and give mom an apple, "The award for best homework coach goes to DAD!" and give dad a plum. "In the category of best bed maker, the award goes to TOMMY!" and give him an orange.

Jesus, Lord of My Life

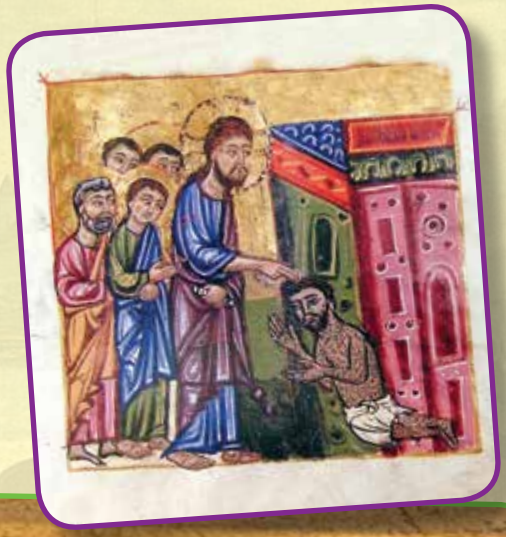
MIRACLE WORKER

UNIT 1 LESSON THREE

From Our Hearts to God

When I have tried my hardest and still need help, I turn to you, Lord. I know you want me to do well and do right things, and I trust that you will give me the help I need. Amen.

My World



It's a miracle!

Today we use these words rather easily.

It's a miracle I passed my test. I didn't even study!

It's a miracle mom didn't crash the car. She swerved away just in time.

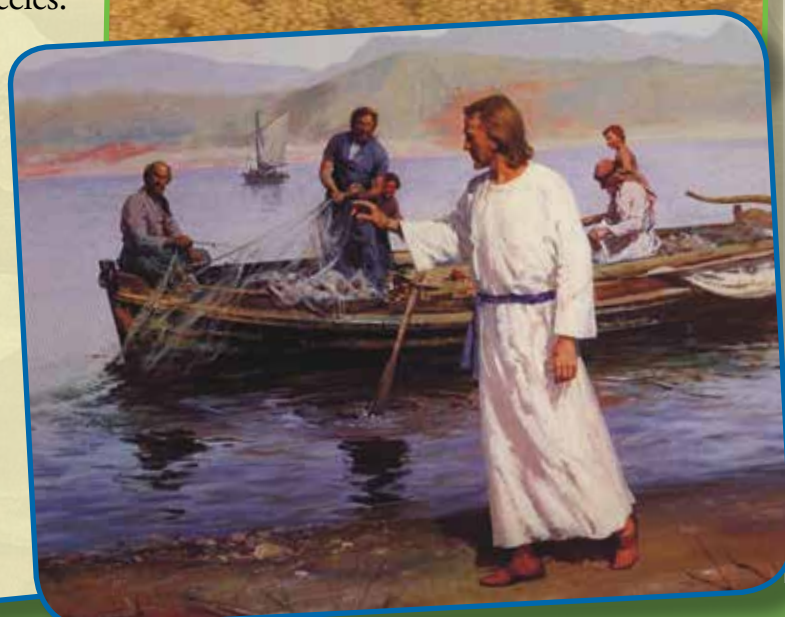
It's a miracle … (You fill in the rest from your experiences.)

One of the things Jesus is best known for is performing miracles.

What is a miracle? Is it like magic?

A miracle is when God makes something happen that could not happen in any natural way. Magic is a clever trick that fools people into believing what they think they see.

A miracle is God's ability to change what we think of as normal into what is better. Jesus performed miracles to glorify his Father and fulfill the Old Testament prophecies.



Some Miracles of Jesus

Mark 4:35-41

Matthew 14:22-33

Luke 9:10-17

Luke 5:1-11

Mark 5:21-24; 35-42

John 2:1-11

Mark 1:29-31

Luke 7:11-17

Mark 7:31-37

Luke 13:10-17

Choose one of the miracle stories above. Read it. Write a title for it here:

_____

Now be prepared to tell the class the story in a few sentences.

Taking a Closer Look

Why did these miracles happen?

Because Jesus wanted to share the greatness and glory of God through miracles. Jesus is God and with God nothing is impossible. God made the universe and he can change it as he pleases. God changed the normal to what he wanted, the "real" normal.

Questions and answers about miracles

Q. Why did Jesus perform miracles?

A. To give people a glimpse of God's glory, out of love for people who were suffering, and to fulfill the prophecies about him.

Q. Was Jesus the only person who performed miracles?

A. No. Many of Jesus' disciples performed miracles with Jesus' help.

Q. Can miracles happen now?

A. Yes, but we need to be looking to truly see the miracles God sends our way.

Q. Should we ask for a miracle such as when someone is hurt or sick and you want them to get well?

A. Yes. You can pray to God and ask him to change things to an outcome you would like. But remember, sometimes it will not happen for reasons we don't understand now.

Q. What is the final miracle we will experience ourselves?

A. Heaven. There we will be in the presence of God. There we will find complete peace and happiness.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Everyone was amazed at God's great power.
Luke 9:45

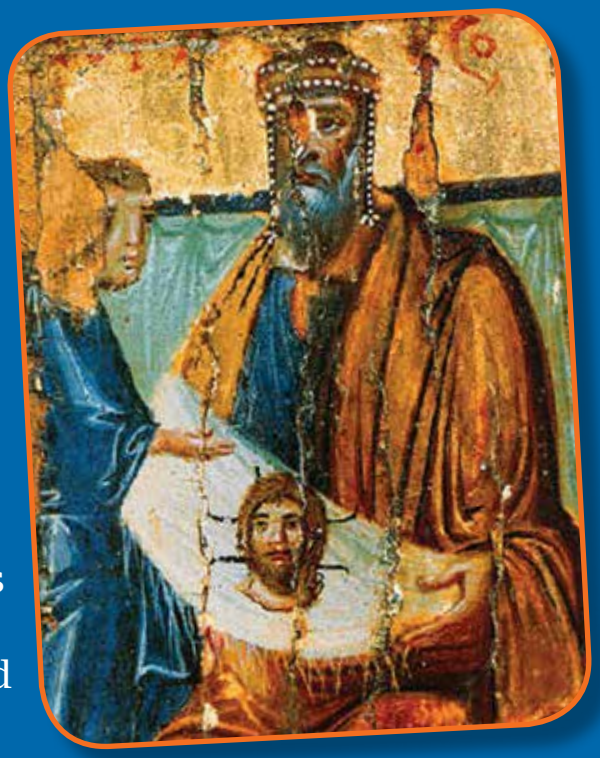
Getting Closer to God

Jesus' enemies even demanded a miracle from him. Read Matthew 12:38-40. The Pharisees are asking Jesus to perform a miracle. They don't really think he can do it. They think what Jesus does is a trick and they want to trap him. Jesus scolds them calling them evil and godless because he knows their purpose. So Jesus tells them the only miracle they will experience is one like the miracle the Prophet Jonah experienced. Jonah was in the belly of the big fish for three days and came out alive and well. Jesus was telling those people who didn't believe in him that he would be buried for three days just like Jonah was in the fish for three days and then he would be out and okay. They would see the miracle of Jesus' Resurrection.

Our Armenian Way

A MIRACLE IN ARMENIA

When Jesus was in Jerusalem, the Armenian King Apkar ruled the kingdom whose capital was Edessa. Armenia was a land of many kingdoms at that time. King Apkar had heard of Jesus and his miracle healings and sent a messenger to Jesus asking if Jesus could come to Edessa and heal him. He suffered from a terrible disease. Jesus was unable to go there, but said he would send his disciple Thaddeus. After the death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord, Thaddeus set out on his journey to King Apkar and healed him. The King had faith in Jesus and told others of Jesus' love and concern for him.



Time to Celebrate

Celebrate the Miracles of Jesus by creating Miracle Posters to place in your classroom.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Help me, Lord, to always see the miracles you have performed for me. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we read and talked about Jesus' miracles. These were performed out of our Lord's love for people who were suffering, to give people a glimpse of God's glory, and to fulfill the prophecies about him. Today, we need to look for the miracles that God sends our way.

Living Our Faith

Sharing in God's Miracles

1. Take a family hike. Take a picture of your family on the hike. Pick up interesting items along the way. Use a box picture frame to display some of the items with your photo and call it *God Gave Us The Miracle of Nature*. Display it in your home.
2. At the dinner table have everyone take turns finishing the sentence "I'm glad God made ___ because…"
3. As a family, read the Bible stories of Jesus' miracles.

Jesus, Lord of My Life

TEACHER

UNIT 1 LESSON FOUR

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, teach me your ways. Guide me to be a true reflection of your love so that I will be happy and proud of myself. Amen.

My World

List five things that make you happy:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

We think that being rich or having a lot of things or being a "star" will make us happy. Most of us will never be rich or have *everything* we ever dreamed of having. And very few of us become famous athletes or music stars or movie stars.

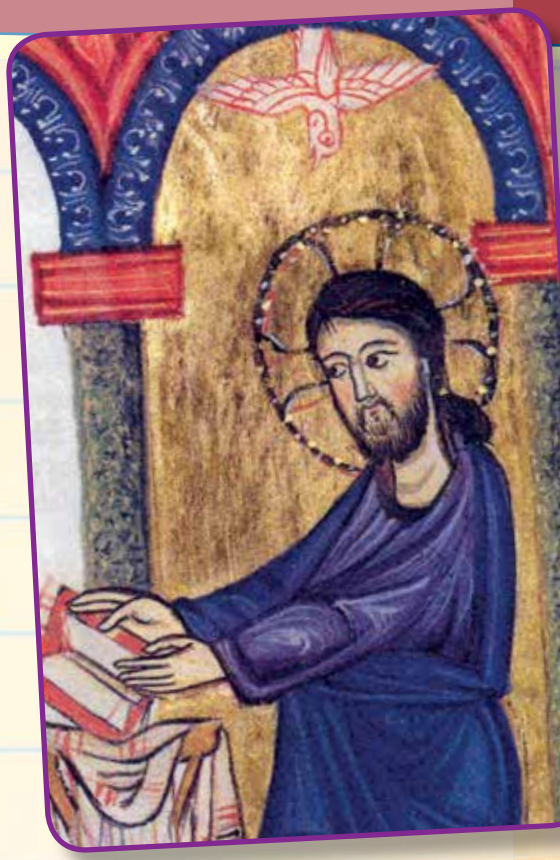
God ***does*** want us to be happy. Jesus taught us how to be truly happy. He was and is a great teacher. Many times he spoke directly to people as a teacher. They called him ***Rabbi*** which means teacher.

Taking a Closer Look

Jesus spent as much time as he could teaching the people. He wanted them to know God and to love him. He often taught with stories. These were called "parables" and were simple stories about everyday life. And yet they always ended with important questions for us to think about. For example, Jesus taught a famous parable about mercy that we now call "The Parable of the Good Samaritan." It can be found in Luke 10: 25-37. Read the story and decide: what was the question we each have to answer? Write it here:

_____

_____



Getting Closer to God

God gave the Israelites rules to live by called the Ten Commandments. One day Jesus was asked, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

Jesus answered, "To love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. And the second is to love your neighbor as you love yourself." (Mark 12:28-31)

Jesus did not give a bunch of DON'Ts. He gave us two big DOs. The Ten Commandments are important and we should follow them. What Jesus said summarized them in two statements.

The first is how we should feel about _____.

The second is how we should feel about _____.

Who does Jesus say is our neighbor? Circle the people you would consider your "neighbors."

GODS GUIDING WORDS

The Beatitudes *(Matthew 5:3-10)*

One special time Jesus taught has come to be called the Sermon on the Mount. People had gathered to hear him speak. One of the things he told them about is called The Beatitudes, a set of principles that teach us what we need to be happy: love, peace, justice, mercy, and generosity.

Jesus wants us to depend on him and said that when we live in his way, we are truly happy. We are already with God in our hearts and already sharing in his Kingdom! This is the first lesson.

"God blesses those people who depend only on him.
They belong to the kingdom of heaven."

You know that many people in your school, in this country, in this world do not live according to God's plan and there is meanness and hurtfulness. There is war, hunger, poverty and many other awful things. It makes you sad that these sinful things happen. Jesus said if you are saddened by sin, evil, and suffering in the world or if you are sad to have lost someone you love, you can depend on God to comfort you. God will give you ways to help and feel better. This is the second lesson.

"God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!"

Children who only think of themselves don't have time to think of others. They don't want to think of others. But all God's children, including you, should think of others as your sisters and brothers and care for them. A person who puts the needs of others first is called *HUMBLE*. Humble people show gentleness and patience towards others. Another word for this kind of person is *MEEK*. Jesus said God loves this kind of person and will reward them. This is the third lesson.

"God blesses those people who are humble.
The earth will belong to them."

"That's not fair!" is a phrase you have probably used when you think someone has been unjust towards you. It is a phrase God wants everyone to use if people are not being treated fairly. God wants you to stand up for your rights and the rights of others. When you get justice for yourself and others you will be happy. God wants

things to be right. When you work for righteousness for all you are doing God's will. This is the fourth lesson.

"God blesses those people who want to help him make the world right even more than they want to eat or drink. They will be given what they want."

God wants you to be concerned about the feelings of others and show them the same loving kindness that you want for yourself. Jesus taught us this fifth lesson.

"God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy."

Jesus said that what you say and do should always be what is right with God. This is called being pure in heart. When you are pure in heart you see God guiding you. This is lesson six.

"God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They will see him!"

God knows you can only be happy when you are at peace with yourself and others. Jesus was a peacemaker and he wants you to be peacemaker like him. This is the seventh lesson.

"God blesses those who make peace. They will be called his children."

Sometimes doing the right thing is very hard. You may lose a friend or an opportunity because you did what is right and good. You may feel hurt because others laugh at you when you do what you know is God's will. Jesus said to come to him in his kingdom and all things will be better there and you will be happy. This is lesson eight.

"God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the kingdom of heaven."

Our Armenian Way

A MIRACLE IN ARMENIA

Up until very recently, Armenians who came from the same town or village considered themselves part of the same family. If they came from the town of Marash, they were all "Marash-tzees." People from Palu were all Palu-tzees. The "tzee" ending in Armenian is just like some of the ways we refer in English to people from the same place. Someone from New York is a New York-er. Someone from Wisconsin is a Wisconsin-ite.

But for Armenians, coming from the same town made for a strong bond. *Everyone* from that town was a true neighbor and friend. This was a great example of taking Jesus' command seriously by caring for *all* the people who occupy your world.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

One of the best things Jesus taught us is how to pray. He taught us what we call the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-14).

Here is a simple way to think about what the prayer says:

Father of all of us, you who are in heaven, you are more special than anyone.

I pray I always follow your ways.

Give me what I need today to live the kind of life that pleases you.

Forgive my wrongs as I forgive the wrongs done to me by others.

Lead me away from sinful thoughts, words, and actions.

Rescue me from evil things.

I pray this for myself and for everyone for I want your blessings for me and for all.

Time to Celebrate

Share with the class a teaching of Jesus, using your DO/DON'T masks.

Family Corner

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson was about Jesus as our greatest teacher. We explored some of the many beautiful lessons Jesus taught the people of his time and all time, such as the Beatitudes, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the Two Great Commandments. Jesus taught us about how to live a happy life. We learned that Jesus taught us how to pray and gave us the Lord's Prayer to say.

Living Our Faith

Many of Jesus' lessons were in the form of stories called parables. Read some of the Parables of Jesus this week as a family. Each night this week read one of Jesus' parable stories listed below and talk about what he is teaching. How do we incorporate these lessons into our daily life?

Parables of Jesus Christ

This is a list of some of the parables of Jesus Christ. A parable is an earthly story with a spiritual truth.

Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Budding fig tree	24:32-35	13:28-32	21:29-33
Great physician	9:10-13	2:15-17	5:29-32
Hidden treasure	13:44		
Humbled guest			14:7-11
Laborers in vineyard	20:1-16		
Lost coin			15:8-10
Rich fool			12:16-21
Salt without taste	5:13	9:50	14:34-35
Sheep and goats	25:31-46		
Ten talents	25:14-30		
Unmerciful servant	18:21-35		

Jesus, Lord of My Life

SAVIOR

UNIT 1 LESSON FIVE

From Our Hearts to God

Jesus, you gave your life to save me from death. You give me new life beyond this life. Thank you, Lord, for this great gift. Amen.

My World

You're watching a movie. The hero is about to be shot. His friend steps in front of him to protect him and gets killed. The hero lives because his friend sacrificed his life. But it is only a movie.

Jesus did it for real. He saved you by giving up his own life so that you can live. That is why we call Jesus our SAVIOR. (John 15:13)

Jesus wants all of us to be with him in heaven, our new life together with God.

About This Story

Did the hero need saving?

Did the hero ask the friend to die for him?

Why do you think the friend saved the hero's life?

What would have happened to the hero if his friend had not stepped in?

How do you think the hero felt about his friend's death?

How do you think the hero felt about being alive?

How do you think this will change the hero's life?

Tell in your own words what a savior is.

Taking a Closer Look

God created the world and gave it to Adam and Eve to enjoy and care for. He put Adam and Eve in a paradise we call the Garden of Eden and told them they could eat all but the fruit of one tree, the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil."

There was another tree in the garden called the "Tree of Life." Adam and Eve could eat from that tree, but before they did, they were tempted by the devil in the form of a snake to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, to disobey God.

That is what sin is, willfully disobeying God. Adam's and Eve's disobeying is called ORIGINAL SIN. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were driven out of the Garden of Eden before they could eat from the Tree of Life. So now they would never be as naturally close to God as they were in the Garden. (There, they walked and talked with him!) And their lives would not go on forever, but would end.

You know that when you do something wrong, it is important to "make it right." You must recognize that you did something wrong, apologize, and make amends or pay what is owed - the debt. If you are playing baseball and hit a ball through your neighbor's window, you should go to the neighbor and say you did it, apologize, and pay to have the window fixed.

Even though Adam and Eve sinned, even though we sin, God still loves us. Jesus came to save us from the consequences of our sins, to pay our debt. The sin of Adam and Eve kept humankind from everlasting life. But Jesus fixed that. He died for all of us so that we could all live again with God in his Heavenly Paradise. Jesus saved us from death. Jesus sacrificed his life so that our life with God could continue.

Jesus is our **SAVIOR**.

We try to live obedient to Jesus' teachings. We pray that we will follow God's will and not choose to turn away from how he wants us to live.

Getting Closer to God

I wanted to look at my friend's answers to a test at school because I wasn't sure I knew the correct answer. God does not want me to be a cheater. So I _____
_____
_____.

I may not get a good grade, but I feel good about myself for not cheating. Jesus is smiling at me for being honest.

Mom made me chocolate chip cookies for my after-school snack. My friends came over after school to work on a class project. If I shared the cookies with them there would be much less for me. I wanted to tell them I didn't have any snacks. I remembered what Jesus said about loving your neighbor as you love yourself so I _____
_____
_____.

Jesus is smiling at me when I share what I have. When I am selfish I don't feel good about my greediness, but when I share I feel good about myself.

I wanted to go to my friend's party but my parents didn't know the family of my friend and said I couldn't go. I was angry at my parents, but I remembered God wants me to honor my mother and father so I_____
_____
_____.

Jesus is smiling at me. I feel good about things now.

I broke a dish. My little brother was standing next to me. He saw how afraid I was. When dad looked at the broken dish and us I wanted to blame it on my brother. My brother said, "Sorry, dad." He was willing to get punished for me, but I said _____
_____
_____
_____
_____.

Jesus is smiling at me for telling the truth. I feel badly that I broke the dish and have to give up a week's allowance. But the punishment is fair and I feel better. I love my brother more because he_____
_____.

Our Armenian Way

Have you ever noticed that the Armenian Church doesn't have many pictures or statues of Jesus crucified on the cross? That is because we in the Armenian Church focus on his resurrection! In the Armenian Church we use "empty" crosses, many with a radiance like sunlight coming from them. Our crosses show that Jesus has risen and gone ahead to heaven to prepare a place for us. He paid for our entrance into heaven with his life. He has NEW LIFE now and we will have that new life also.

Our holy pictures have radiances or halos around the heads of saints and around the head of Jesus the halo has actual arms of the cross. You can always tell which person is Jesus by this special halo.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten son, that all who believed in him would never die.

John 3:16

Time to Celebrate

We can celebrate God's love for us in many ways. One way we celebrate the great love Jesus has for us is by attending church. When we love someone we want to be with them. Jesus loves all of us and wants us to be with him. We show Jesus we remember and appreciate his sacrifice by sharing in his story each Sunday in the Divine Liturgy. *Badarak* means sacrifice. Each Sunday we recall Jesus' saving sacrifice for us, thank him, receive his strength in Holy Communion, and tell him we love him.

We show our love for God and our love for each other in many ways. Some people show their love through song, some through dance, some through painting or sculpture, some through writing poems or stories, some through helping others, some through working to protect and better our environment, some by becoming a priest or deacon.

To show your love for God, what might you do?

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Thank you, Jesus, for saving me. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

This week we learned how very much God loves us. We learned that Jesus is our Savior, that by Jesus' sacrifice for us, we can have new life after death with God in heaven. He died so that we could live again with God. He saved us from being separated from God. He gave us new life.

Living Our Faith

1. Do a good deed each day and before bed get the family together and each tell what he or she did. Keep a notebook of Our Family's Good Deeds.
2. Read John 15:1-17 and discuss it together during the week. Monday talk about staying connected to Jesus like the vine (1-3). Tuesday talk about the fruits we will produce (4-6). Wednesday talk about what Jesus has taught us (7-10). Thursday talk about what friendship is (11-15). Friday talk about how lucky we are to be chosen by God (16-17).

Jesus, Lord of My Life

THE CHURCH BEGINS

UNIT 1 LESSON SIX

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, let us be your church! We can do your work in so many ways: we can sing, serve, help, and use all the gifts you gave us to grow closer to you. Help us make the world a better place so that your will is truly done here on earth as well as in heaven. Amen.

My World

Dad and mom were working on the dining room table. There were pictures spread out everywhere and pages of words. We have not had dinner in the dining room for weeks because of their project.

"What is all this?" I asked.

"We're on the booklet committee for the church's anniversary. We are putting together the history of our church," dad said.

Mom showed me an old black and white picture of a bunch of men and women standing in rows with a priest in the middle. "These are the founding families of our church. Each family gave money so our church could be built. Before our church was built the people used another church for services once a month when an Armenian priest could come. After many years these people in the picture saved enough money to buy the land and build the church."

"Look at this picture," dad said, showing me a picture in color. There were many people standing on the front steps of the church with the priest. "Some of these are the sons and daughters of the people in the first picture. These people were responsible for building the church hall. Before the hall was built we used the space under the church for our hall and church schools."

"And here is the next picture. This is the committee that helped build the classroom and activities building next to the church," mom said, showing me a pretty recent picture of people I recognized even though they are older now than in the picture.

On the table were eight photographs of the church. I was looking at about 70 years of our church's life. "Our church has really grown!" I said.

"From 23 families to 276. We have grown. Having an anniversary celebration gives us the opportunity to look back at our beginning, enjoy our present and think about our future," dad said.

My Church

Name of Church _____

When Started _____

First Priest _____

Priest Now _____

Taking a Closer Look

Jesus' followers were very confused and scared after his crucifixion. They were amazed at his resurrection. For 40 days after, Jesus stayed with his followers. He continued to teach them and tell them what was coming. He told them that soon the Holy Spirit would come to them and be their guide and helper. He told them to go throughout Jerusalem and then the world teaching others about God and the Good News of the new life ahead with God.

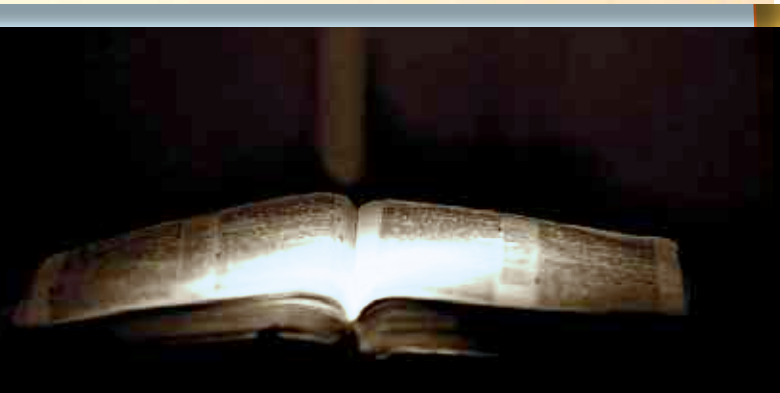
Then Jesus went up to heaven to join the Father. This is the day we call Ascension.

Fifty days after the Resurrection (ten days after the Ascension) the disciples met in the same room they had gathered in for their last supper with Jesus. This time when they were there the Holy Spirit came to them. This event is called Pentecost and we call it "the birthday of the church." (Acts 2: 1-4) From that day the disciples started their mission of spreading the Good News.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them everything I have commanded you."

Matthew 28:19-20



Getting Closer to God

The word church means a community of believers and it also means the building built for worship by the community. So the church is people and the church is a building.

1. Believers share in Jesus through Holy Communion.

2. Jesus' disciples Thaddeus and Bartholomew share the Good News in Armenia.

3. The church is a gift from God to help us know him, be with him, and be with others who feel the same way about him.

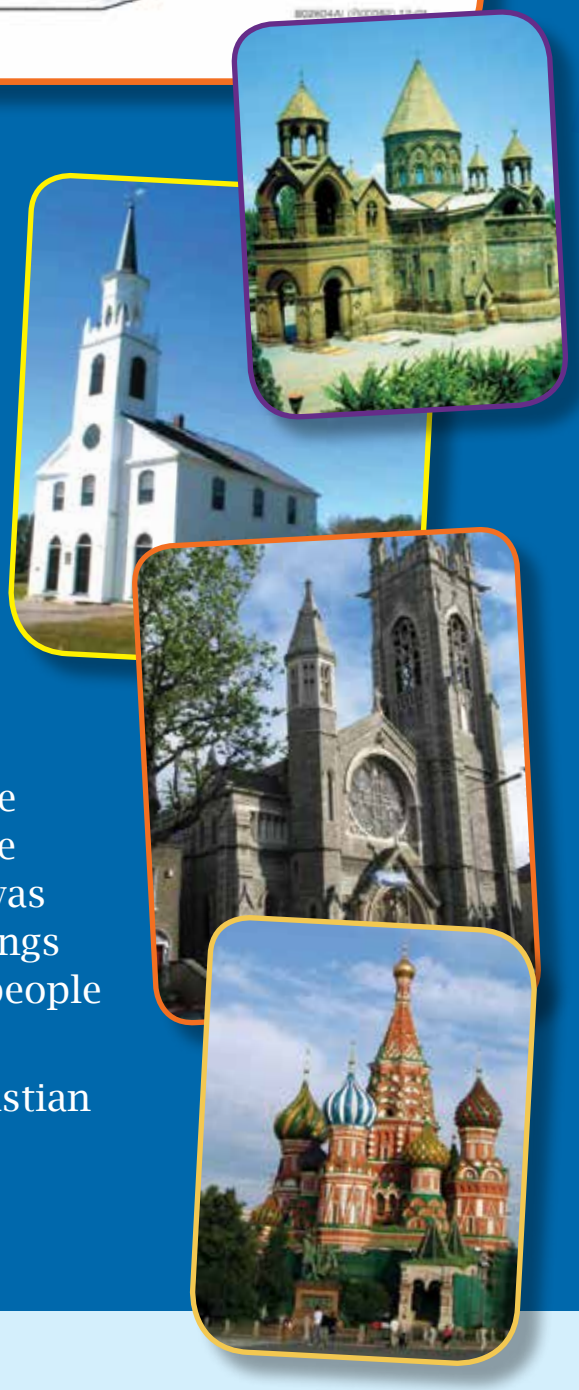
Our Armenian Way

Having our own church – an Armenian Church – has always been very important to us. Wherever Armenians go in the world one of the first things the community does is build a church so they can gather and be with God in our special Armenian way.

There are many other churches in the world. Some are a lot like our church and some are very different. Look at the pictures of the four churches and tell what you see in them that is the same. What is different?

The Armenian Church is a very, very old church. The first church leaders worked hard to teach the people about God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Bible was translated into Armenian and many important writings about Jesus were translated or written to help our people know God and follow the teachings of Jesus.

The Armenian Church is very respected among Christian churches.



Time to Celebrate

Pentecost is celebrated in May or June, often after Sunday School has ended for the summer. It marks the beginning of the church and is a day for giving thanks for those who choose a church vocation – priests, deacons, acolytes, choir, organists, and teachers, for example. But *any* day is a good time to think about how ***you*** can serve your church so the church can continue to tell the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Think about your future. Write about what you might want to do: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Today, we recalled how our church was "born." So let's have a birthday party!

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, help your church grow and bless all those who serve the church. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Our lesson today was about the birth of the Armenian Church from its founder, Jesus Christ, through his apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew who preached in Armenia. We learned about Pentecost and even re-enacted the event!

Living Our Faith

Here are some suggestions for a family activity this week:

1. Did your family always belong to this church? If not, make a chart of which churches they have attended through the years. How about the grandparents? See if you can find pictures of the churches to put on your chart. (You may find them online.)
2. Visit different houses of worship in your town. Call and make an appointment for your family to visit. Take a camera along if it is allowed and take some pictures. Later discuss similarities and differences.
3. We all belong to our personal family and our church family. Let every member of your personal family write a list of people in your church family you enjoy spending time with. Invite a family of a classmate to your house for dinner.

Jesus, Lord of My Life

WE ARE JESUS' DISCIPLES TOO!

UNIT 1 LESSON SEVEN

From Our Hearts to God

Jesus, you are my teacher. Help me to teach others about you. Amen.

My World

"At Armenian School last week, we learned a dance," James announced to his family around the dinner table. "When Mr. Balian told us we were going to dance, the girls got excited and the boys all groaned, but it turned out to be a lot of fun."

"What dance did you learn?" Dad asked.

"It was called the 'hal-lah,' I think," James said.

"I know that dance," Mom said with a smile. "It is lots of fun. I think I have the music for it. After dinner let's all try it."

Everyone helped clean up after dinner and then James and Robert pushed the furniture out of the way in the living room while Mom put on the music. Dad grabbed the baby and started swaying.

"I'll show you what to do, Robert. Watch me." James put his arm over his brother's shoulder and they began to hop forward. Dad put the baby on the floor and joined in. Mom grabbed Suzanne and they both followed the steps; she was only three years old and needed lots of help learning.

The family danced around playing the music over and over until everyone was laughing. "Time to do homework, boys," Dad said as he turned off the music. "That was a good work out!"

"Mom, keep that music out. I want to teach my cousins that dance when they come over Sunday after church," James said.

- Can you think of a skill or some information you learned that was really exciting and wonderful?
- Do you like sharing what you learn with others?
- Are you happy when you see what you have taught makes others excited and happy?

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

He has shown me the path to life, and he makes me glad by being near me.

Acts 2:28

Getting Closer to God

Jesus picked twelve men to teach what was wonderful and exciting about God. The twelve followed Jesus everywhere and learned from him. They were amazed at his miracles, thrilled when he answered tough questions people asked him, and touched when they saw him help others. Jesus brought people closer to God. The people were so much happier. The twelve original disciples and the other men and women who also followed Jesus wanted to be just like their Lord. They wanted to be his *disciples*.

A disciple is someone who learns from a special teacher.

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, his disciples knew they must continue what Jesus was doing. They were now the teachers and others followed them. They told the people the **GOOD NEWS** that Jesus made it possible for us to live a truly complete and happy and good life and to be with God in heaven after we die. The disciples had a mission to teach people everywhere.

The Good News is that Jesus rose from the dead and gave us the promise of a truly good life on earth and eternal life with God after our life on earth is finished.

Our Armenian Way

St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew are the two disciples of Jesus who came to Armenia. St. Thaddeus was the first disciple to go to Armenia. He preached in Syria and places in present-day Iraq before he entered Armenia in 44 AD and made many converts.

A convert is one who changes from one belief to another.

Among those he converted was Princess Santookht. Her father did not want her to be Christian. He wanted his daughter to worship his pagan gods. When she refused, he had her put in prison. The king had St. Thaddeus killed in 66 AD. Finally the king had his guards bring his daughter to him and put a crown and a sword on a table for her to choose. If she chose the crown, she would become a pagan queen. If she chose the sword, she would die with her new faith. She chose the truth of Jesus Christ over the false gods of her father. The king had his guards take her out and she was put to death.

Santookht was a martyr. A martyr is someone who dies for his or her faith.

St. Bartholomew (who is also called Nathanael) went to Armenia after St. Thaddeus. He preached in Arabia and Persia (present day Iran) before going to Armenia. There he was martyred in 68 AD.

Christianity spread in Armenia but in secret as the pagan kings would have Christians killed. Later, in 301 AD, King Drtad, Queen Ashkhen and the king's sister Princess Khosrovitookht were converted to Christianity by St. Gregory the Enlightener. Armenia became the first Christian nation.

An "Enlightener" brings the light of God to the people.

Churches were built. Seminaries were started to teach men how to be priests. About 100 years later, in 406 A.D., St. Mesrob created the Armenian alphabet so the Bible could be written in the language of the people. Writings from the early church leaders were translated into and written in Armenian so we could be the new disciples of Christ.

Time to Celebrate

The Followers of Christ

(Sung to the tune of America, the Beautiful)

How beautiful are our Lord's words.
He taught us how to pray.
His sacrifice upon the cross
gave us new life today.
(chorus)

To be with God, to love our God
to have God's love always.
We are disciples now you see,
the followers of Christ.

From Pentecost Saint Thaddeus
went to our Hayasdan
to spread the Good News of God's love.
Armenian hearts were won.
(chorus)

Saint Santookht's choice
was to believe
and follow Jesus Christ.
Bartholomew came to
Armenia too.
Armenians soon rejoiced.
(chorus)

Saint Gregory, he healed the
king
and Drtad was baptized.
Armenia was the first of lands
to become Christianized.
(chorus)

Today we sing with joy and pride
and love of our dear church.
Armenians everywhere rejoice,
because we have our church.
(chorus)

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Jesus, you are the Lord of my life. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Our lesson today explored the line of people of the Church - from its founder, Jesus Christ, right up to our own discipleship as we learn about Christ and then teach others. There are many ways we can teach. The best way is to be a good example of Christianity to our family and to others.

Living Our Faith

1. Read **Saints for Children from the Tradition of the Armenian Church** – let each family member pick a story to read to the rest of the family and assign a night to each to read the story aloud to all. (Your Sunday School has copies of this book to borrow or you can purchase one.)
2. At the dinner table have each family member tell "What I learned about Jesus" (a story or fact that is of particular interest and importance to the member). The next night tell "What I will tell someone about Jesus." A disciple shares his knowledge of God with others.

Being A Disciple…
It's Not Just A Fan Club!

LISTENING AND TALKING IN PRAYER

UNIT 2 LESSON ONE

From Our Hearts to God

Jesus, you have the wisdom of your Father. Give me that same wisdom so that I may always think good thoughts, speak good words, and do good works. Teach me how to stay away from unkind thoughts, words and actions. Show your loving kindness to all and especially to me because I always need your help. Amen.

My World

"I'll bet this is the best volcano project anyone has ever done," Armen said to his father.

"Why do you say that, Armen?" his dad asked.

"Ours shows the magma under the earth and the moving plates and the lava flowing up."

"You researched it and I had the know-how to show you how to make it work. We're a good team."

"We've had a really fun time working on it together. I like spending time with you working on stuff and talking, Dad."

"Maybe we should have a project time each week. We could work on all sorts of things," his father said. "There are some pieces of wood in the garage. Would you like to make a bird house next Saturday?"

The next day Armen and his dad set up the volcano at the Science Fair and Armen showed all the other fourth graders why it worked and how it worked.

Tommy shouted, "He didn't do it! It's not fair. His dad did it. Miss Jones, you said we had to do it all by ourselves."

Armen got angry. Tommy was being unkind to him again. Armen clenched his fists and grit his teeth. Just as he was about to shout something mean back to Tommy, Armen felt his father's hand on his shoulder. It was warm and calming. His anger subsided until he could speak without a mean voice.

"My dad showed me how to put it together, but he did not help me put it together. I did it all by myself. It took me lots of tries. Every time I failed, my dad showed me how to fix the problem, but he didn't fix it for me. I did it myself."

Miss Jones said, "Armen is lucky his father is a great mechanic. But all of you have terrific projects

whether you had guidance from your parents or not. They show your teachers you really understand the science lessons."

Armen's dad spoke softly to Tommy. "You showed the life cycle of the frog in a very clear and beautiful way. You are quite an artist. Your parents must be very proud of you."

Tommy was still angry. "I did it all by myself. My dad is always traveling and my mom is too busy with my little sisters."

"Well, then, your project not only shows the life cycle of the frog but it also shows a lot of determination on your part to do a super project," Armen's dad said.

Armen realized how lucky he was he had a dad that could spend time with him and help him. He realized Tommy was not just angry but jealous. "Tommy, why don't you come over my house on Saturday? My dad and I are going to build a bird house. I think you would like to try it too."

Again Armen felt his dad's hand on his shoulder. It was soft and warm. It made him feel peaceful.

Getting Closer to God

When we want to talk to someone, we say their name so they know we are talking to them.

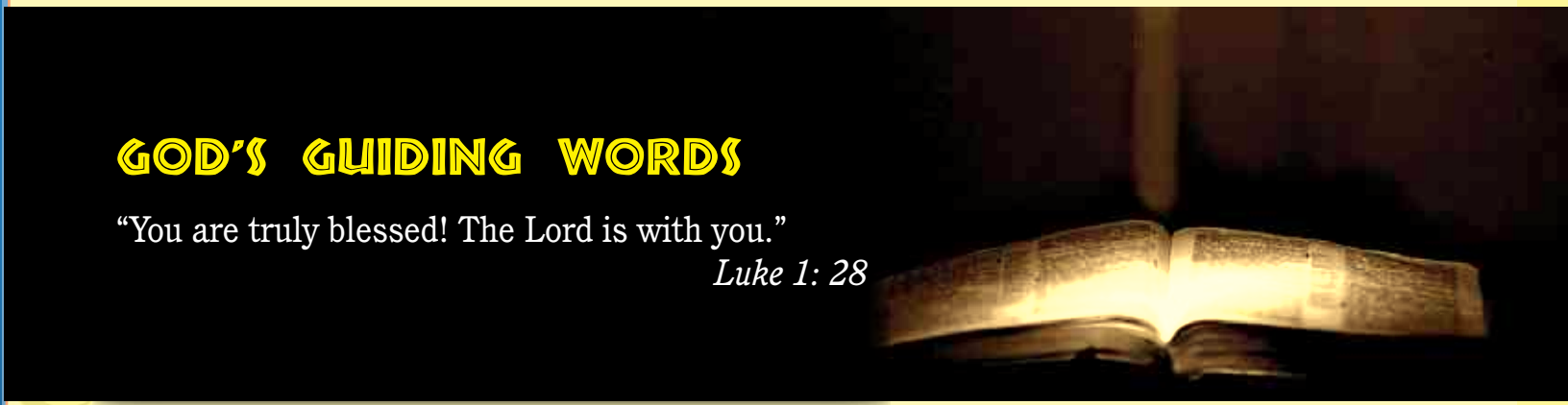
The person whose name we call will usually turn and listen.

The same is true of God. When we pray, we call his name. He will listen to us.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1: 28



Taking a Closer Look

When do we say....?

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...

Jesus, wisdom of the Father ...

Our Armenian Way

Prayer has always been an important part of our Armenian way. We include God in all we do. Our daily life and church services and pious practices are full of prayer!

Check which prayer experiences you and your family have had:

____When we get a new apartment or house, we have a home blessing.

____When a baby is born, we have a baptism.

____Before a trip we pray for a safe journey. And when we arrive home, we thank God for our safe return.

____Before a test, I pray I will do well.

____When I see a beautiful sunset or how wonderfully the snowflakes fall or how amazing the autumn leaves are, I say prayers of thanks to God for this great earth he has created.

____When I go to bed at night I pray.

____When I wake up, I thank God for the peaceful sleep I had and a new day to experience.

WE ARE A PRAYERFUL PEOPLE!

Time to Celebrate

Prayer Ball Toss

RESPONDING IN FAITH

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, and have mercy upon me, a great sinner.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today, the children learned about prayer. Since God is the most important person in our lives, communication with him is also essential. Students read about prayer in everyday life and participated in a "Prayer Ball Toss" that made us aware of how much there was to be grateful to God for and how good it felt to tell him about it.

Living Our Faith

Do at least one of these prayer activities this week.

1. It's great when families pray together! Say the Lord's Prayer (Hayr Mer) at meals this week.
2. The prayer conversation is not one-sided. Be silent and listen for God. He talks in many different ways including through the church, through the Bible, and through other people. Say a prayer together and then stay quiet for a few minutes.
3. Share with your children the first prayer you learned and who taught it to you or what your favorite prayer is.
4. Your child has a card with a wonderful Armenian prayer created by St. Nersess Shnorali. It is one of his 24 prayers that we say during the services of Great Lent. Say this prayer together this week as often as you can. If you speak Armenian, teach it to your fourth grader in Armenian as well as English. *Jesus, Wisdom of the Father* is a prayer for guidance and help. As you guide your child to adulthood and help him or her become a faithful, prayerful, worshiping member of the Armenian Church, remember that God is counting on you.

Being A Disciple…
It's Not Just A Fan Club!

LOVING AND PRAISING IN WORSHIP

UNIT 2 LESSON TWO

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, our prayers are from all and for all. Amen.

My World

"Mom, do we have to go to church tomorrow?" Michael groaned as he sat down for dinner. "None of my friends at school go to church and some of the guys are getting together at Jerry's house to play video games. Jerry's got some new ones."

"Jerry's Video Games Fan Club. It sounds like a lot of fun. You'll be telling Jerry how great his new games are and how lucky he is that his parents got them for him. You'll be so involved in playing the games that you'll think nothing else could be so much fun. You'll be begging Jerry for more turns and if you lose you'll be asking to try again. You'll be talking to your friends about how to win and what to do in tricky spots in the game. You'll be wondering what new game will be created."

"Yea, mom, it will be great."

"I'm going to be doing the same thing tomorrow morning with my fan club," mom said.

"Mom, stop kidding me. You don't even play video games."

"No, I don't. But I'll be with my friends at my best friend's house. I'll be telling my wonderful friend how great it is that I can visit. My friend means a lot to me. My friend always gives me the best gifts and I am thankful. My friend makes me feel good inside, feel good about myself. I enjoy talking to this special friend. It always makes me feel better when I share things that worry me or that I want to happen or care about. I often talk to this friend about you."

"Who is this friend? Did I ever meet her? I don't remember you going anywhere like that."

"You know this friend. You go with me every Sunday."

Michael looked at his mother and wondered if he misunderstood her. "Mom, we go to church every Sunday. You don't go to your friend's house!"

"Now, don't laugh when I say this, Michael. If you think about what I'm going to say, you'd probably agree. *God* is my best friend. Jesus invites me to his house every Sunday. I enjoy being with God. I am with my friends who are like family to me. After all, if God is my Father, then everyone is my brother and sister. We talk to God together every Sunday. We pray and sing together. I love it. It makes me feel good and peaceful and happy. I add my voice to all the voices there. We ask for God's help and the Holy Spirit to guide us through the days ahead. We get strength from Jesus through Holy Communion. We look forward to being together again. We are one prayerful voice talking to God about the things that we all need and want and are happy to have. Together we express our love for God. God is kind to us. He forgives us for the things we have done wrong and we ask for his help. We all want the same things and care about the same things. We ask for God's loving kindness for all of us, even you."

"But mom, I don't feel that way at church," Michael groaned.

"You will if you go with an open heart and mind. If you remember God is more important to you than Jerry and his video games. If you give these feelings a chance to grow in you as I did when I was your age, you will feel this way. God will help you know him.

"You like your video games and enjoy playing them with your friends and teaching friends to play them. I like going to church and being with my fellow worshipers, learning from the Bible readings and the priest's sermon, and then going home to put it into play, put it into practice. I learned from my parents and you are learning from me and you will teach *your* children. We are disciples of Christ. We learn and pass it on."

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Sing to the Lord, all the world!

Worship the Lord with joy; come before him with happy songs!

Psalm 100

RESPONDING IN FAITH

I will praise the Lord at all times. Praise will be in my mouth always. Amen.

Getting Closer to God

The Sunday worship service of the Armenian Church – the Badarak – is our special time with God each week. Through this service we strengthen our relationship with him. We talk with God, we pray to God, we worship God. We sing together the wonderful songs that tell us how good God is, how powerful God is, how amazing God is. We speak to God as his family. We receive his strength through Holy Communion. Our separate minds and hearts join together as one, just as the separate parts of our body – arms, legs, head – are joined together as one.

The Badarak has four major parts:

The Preparation – We get ready, the priest gets ready, and the church is made ready.

The Teaching – We hear God's words to us through the Bible readings and the priest's sermon and proclaim our faith through the Creed.

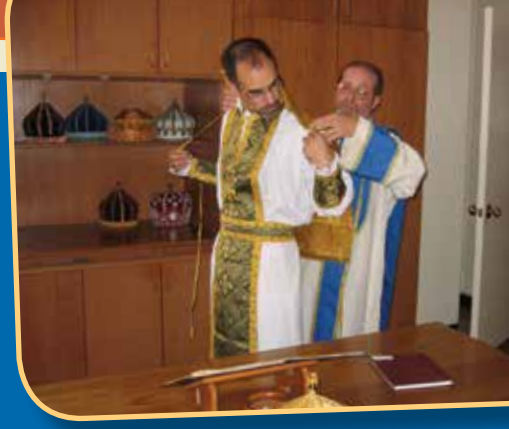
The Sacrifice – We share the meal Jesus has for us to strengthen our spirit and faith.

The Last Blessing and Dismissal – We are blessed with words of encouragement for the week ahead and leave singing about God's blessings.

During the **Preparation**, the priest dresses in special clothing called vestments The deacons help him dress. With each vestment he says a special prayer to make him worthy to offer the Badarak.

We get ready also. We dress nicely to come to church. When we arrive, we cross ourselves as we enter the church. When we get to our pew, we say the Lord's Prayer silently. We may light a candle and say special prayers for our own special needs. We are ready to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness. We look forward to God's special meal – Holy Communion. We are ready to worship with everyone else in church saying the prayers together.

Our Armenian Way



The priest comes to church and puts on special clothes called vestments. He is putting on the "Armor of God" – like a uniform for the work he is about to do. As he puts each part on, he prays.

He starts with a headpiece called a **crown** and says:

Lord, put the helmet of salvation upon my head to fight against the powers of the enemy.

He takes the crown off and continues to dress and when he is finished he puts the crown back on.

Here are some of the other prayers he says as he dresses:

When he puts his stole (***poroorar***) on, he says:
Clothe my neck with righteousness, and clean my heart of sin.

When he puts a **belt** (***kodee***) on, he says:
May the belt of faith encircle me round about my heart and my mind; and may the power of your grace live in my heart and mind at all times.

When he puts on the cuffs called **maniples** (***pazban***) on each arm, he says:
Give strength, Lord, to my right and left hand and wash me that I may serve you in health of soul and body.

When he puts his **cape** (***shoorchar***) on, he says:
Clothe me with a radiant garment and give me strength against evil.

Finally, he puts his crown back on and says:
My soul will rejoice in the Lord, for he has clothed me with an outfit of salvation and with a robe of gladness.

The priest is ready to come out of the dressing place called the **vestry** and take his part in our worship.

As the priest is getting ready, we ready ourselves for worship.

How do you get ready for church?

What are some prayers you might say as you get dressed Sunday morning?

Here's one idea:

As you put on your shoes – God, guide my steps to your holy place.

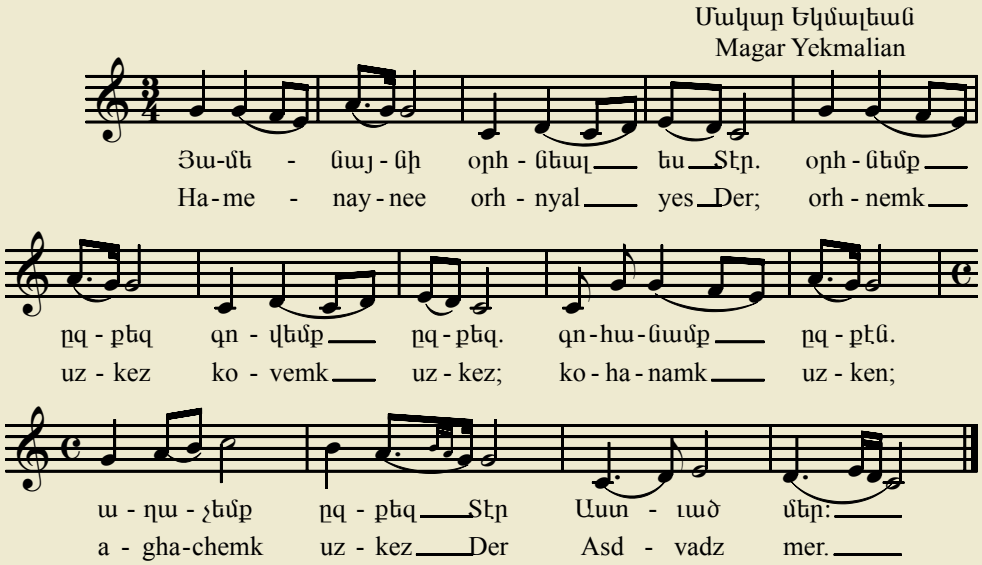
Time to Celebrate

We sing praises to God in many of our hymns.

In Hamenaynee, we cover it all: praise and thanks and blessing!

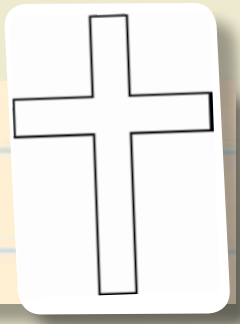
ՅԱՄԵՆԱՅՆԻ HAMENAYNEE

Մակար Եկմալեան
Magar Yekmalian



In all things blessed are you, O Lord. We bless you, we praise you, we give thanks to you. We pray to you, O Lord our God.

Taking a Closer Look



FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we learned about worship and the Divine Liturgy. The class reviewed the four parts of the liturgy and identified some of the important words and gestures that take place in each part. We reflected on the preparation of the priest through prayer and special vestments and thought about how we ourselves prepare for worship in a similar way.

Living Our Faith

1. During this week take the time to go through your child's wardrobe and put the clothes that are appropriate for church in one section of your child's closet or dresser. Your child may choose from these clothes what he or she will wear to church next Sunday.
2. Attend church one Sunday with your child when there is no Sunday School, and be there as Badarak begins. Notice the priest's vestments together.

Being A Disciple…
It's Not Just A Fan Club!

LEARNING ABOUT YOU: SCRIPTURE

UNIT 2 LESSON THREE

From Our Hearts to God

Jesus, you are the way, the truth, and the light. Guide me. Amen.

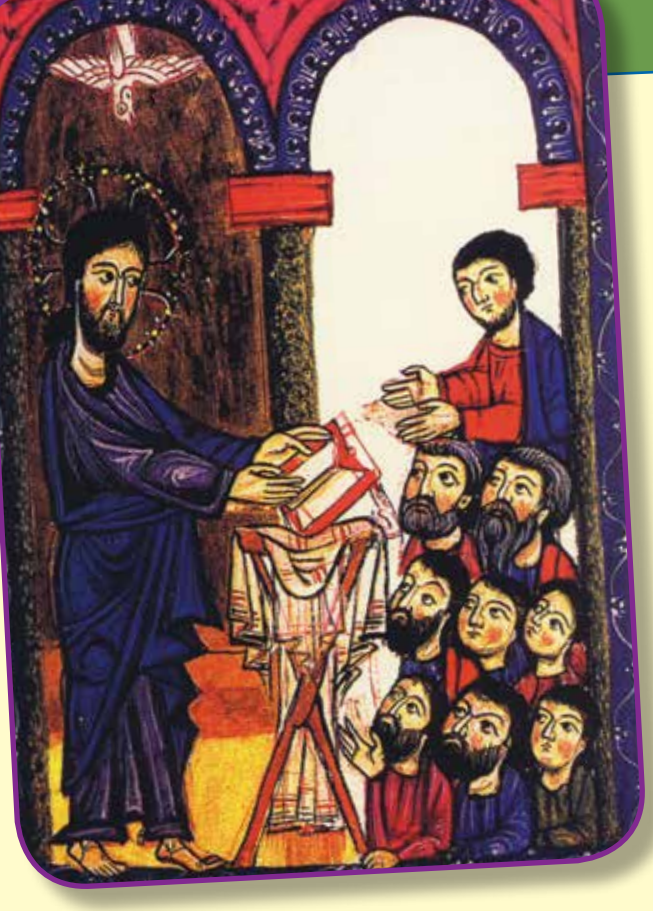
My World

Wow, to be a fan! How long does this sort of commitment last? Until the next popular group or singer comes along? Until you get to the highest level? Your whole life?

Jesus had fans. They followed him about and listened to every word he said. They didn't get his autograph, but they did ask for things – healing, lessons, answers.

Many of Jesus' followers were more than fans. They didn't think he was just another teacher or person who could save them from their Roman rulers. They recognized Jesus as God in human form. They saw Jesus as the Messiah, the savior. They knew he was the greatest teacher and they wanted to learn from him. They became his disciples, his students. And when Jesus left us, his disciples went out into the world to teach others what Jesus had taught them and to spread the Good News that the Kingdom of Heaven is there for us after this life is finished.

Fans get their information through videos, websites, and magazines. Followers of Jesus learn about him through the Bible and the Church.



Getting Closer to God

Read the following Bible passages about the teacher Jesus and answer the questions below.

1. Matthew 14:22-27
2. Matthew 14:28-33
3. Matthew 15:10-11
4. Matthew 18:1-5
5. Matthew 22:35-40

a. In which passage did Jesus teach us to have faith in him? _____

b. In which passage did Jesus teach us two rules to always follow? _____

c. In which passage did Jesus teach us not to be afraid? _____

d. In which passage did Jesus teach us to be as humble as a child? _____

e. In which passage did Jesus teach us to be careful of what we say? _____

The Bible tells us what God wants us to know about him and how to live a God-pleasing, Christ-centered life. We learn about what Jesus did and what he will always do for us.When we read about people and events in the Bible we learn more about God and what he wants for us.

Our Armenian Way

Thaddeus and Bartholomew, two of Jesus' disciples, came to Armenia to pass on to the Armenian people what Jesus had taught them. They made disciples of many Armenians who, in turn, taught others. In this way Christianity spread throughout Armenia.

Who is called the "Second Enlightener" of Armenia? Clue: He made Armenia officially Christian in 301 A.D.

Our Catholicos, bishops, priests, parents and Sunday School teachers are Jesus' disciples today, passing on to us the great teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And you are a disciple, too.

Below are 5 lessons Jesus and then his disciples taught. If you had to teach them to someone else, which would you teach first? Second? Last? Put number 1 next to the first lesson you would teach and number the rest using number 5 for the last lesson.

—— Love God. (Matthew 22:37-40)

—— Always be ready for God when he comes again. (Matthew 25:1-13)

—— Take care of others. (Luke 10: 25-37)

—— Forgive others as God forgives you. (Matthew 6:9-15)

—— Show your parents respect and obedience and love. (Ephesians 6: 1-3)

—— Treat others the way you want to be treated. (Matthew 7:12)

Now pick one lesson and think about how you would teach it to a younger brother or sister. Try being a disciple!

Taking a Closer Look

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he told his disciples another Person would come to help them. (Acts 1:8) The Holy Spirit would be their inner voice of God. The Holy Spirit is with us also. Every Sunday we remember the Holy Spirit in our Creed: "We believe also in the Holy Spirit, the uncreate and the perfect, who spoke through the Law and through the Prophets and through the Gospels; who came down upon the Jordan, preached through the apostles, and dwelled in the saints."

Look at these other names or titles for the Holy Spirit:

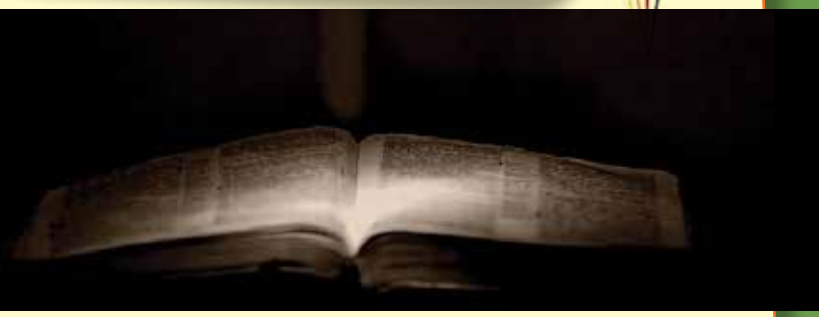
Comforter John 14:16
Truth John 14:17
Promise Ephesians 1:13
Wisdom and understanding Isaiah 11:2
Counsel and might Isaiah 11:2
Fire Acts 2:3
Grace Hebrews 10:29

Time to Celebrate

The Bible is the very foundation of the Holy Tradition of the Armenian Church. We show love and respect for the Bible in many ways in our church. We hold the Gospel Book with a cloth so we don't dirty it. We place the Gospel Book on the altar along with the cross and candles and holy picture. We have a special procession when the deacon carries the Gospel Book around the altar while we sing *Soorp Asdvadz*. The person who will read from the Bible in church comes up to the Gospel Book and kisses it at the end of the procession.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"I do have faith! Please help me to have even more." *Mark 9:24*



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Let me read your holy book, Lord, and learn from you. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we learned that being a fan of Jesus in the church is like no other fan club! It's about a life-long relationship in which we will learn and grow and then share the good news with others. Students looked up specific teachings of Jesus in the Bible which is the foundation of our faith and a great treasure for us. We even discussed how we might read it more diligently.

Living Our Faith

During this week at home try one or two of the following activities to reinforce the lesson that we are disciples of Jesus.

1. Make a chart of things Jesus taught you. Let everyone in the family contribute one statement to the chart.
2. Read a Bible story one night this week and talk about the lesson it teaches.

Being A Disciple…
It's Not Just A Fan Club!

DOING GOOD WORKS: SERVICE

UNIT 2 LESSON FOUR

From Our Hearts to God

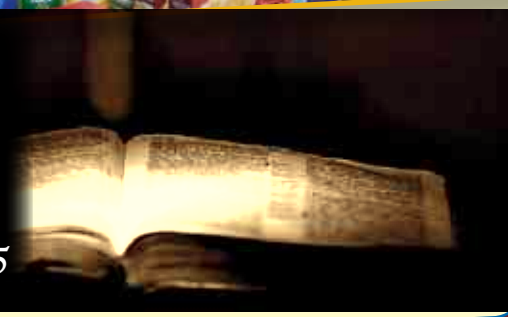
God, you have given me so much. Show me how I can give to you. Amen.

My World

Many organizations help others in need. Jesus wants us to be compassionate, to care about others and help them. Seth started a clothing drive for children in a group home in Armenia when he was in second grade in Sunday School. Mary brought cans of food to school for a food pantry drive to feed needy families in her community. Aline visited the nursing home with the youth group at church. David and his father take their dog to visit people in an assisted living home in his town.

Seth, Mary, Aline and David are doing God's will here on earth. They are doing good works. The children know that believing in Jesus means we do what Jesus would do. God is watching and loving them for their Christian service to others.

God's Guiding Words



Jesus said: "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

Matthew 25:31 – 45

Getting Closer to God

When Jesus ascended to heaven, he went to sit at God's side and judge the living and the dead. Jesus is our judge. He looks into our hearts and minds and knows what we do and why we do it. He will decide if we are called to live with him in his kingdom or not based on what he knows about us and our behavior.

He has told us what to believe: Believe in God; follow me.

He has told us what to do: Treat others the way you want to be treated. Love others as I love you. Think about them as God would.

Fill in what you would do in these situations:

My friend Billy laughed at a kid because he got an F on his spelling test.

I _____

My classmate Jackie comes to school in the winter in a very thin jacket.

I _____

My cousins Daria and Beth are complaining about how their moms won't let them have a sleep-over.

I _____

My friends Robert and Greg were sent to the principal's office for fighting.

I _____

Our class is collecting backpacks of clothes for children living in a homeless shelter.

I _____

Taking a Closer Look

St. Nersess the Great was head of the Armenian Church in the 4th century. He was Catholicos for twenty years (353-373). He loved his people and he wanted to help them in all the ways that Jesus taught us to help others. He did not want people to be hungry, lonely, in danger, sick without care or without a roof over their heads. He wanted Christ to be in everyone's heart. But they needed to feel God's love from others first. He did so much to care for the people of Armenia that he is now known as "the enlightener of the hearts of the Armenians."

St. Nersess used his own land and asked the rich lords of Armenia to donate their land to build amazing places for the good of the people. Find out what some of these were!

Use the code below to find the answers.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
✂	🖉	□	@	!	*	+	=	(	)	1	2	3	✋	×	✓	☒	☑	4	5	6	⊗	7	⦸	8	&

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Our Armenian Way

During Great Lent before Easter, we make a special effort to be charitable. Our Diocese selects service projects for our Sunday School children to support. Students bring in gifts of money for these projects. Sometimes students use their school snack money for these charities. Or they might ask their parents if they can do jobs around the house to earn money for these charities. The Sunday School will often run a special event like a pancake breakfast or a movie night to raise money. Whatever students decide to do, God is always happy to see Christian love in action!

Time to Celebrate

Grade Four Service Project: _____

The students in our class will _____

_____

Our Service Project will be completed by _____

Now be a good disciple. Plan your project. Do you need posters? Do you need to write an article for your church newsletter? Do you need to write an article for your town newspaper? Do you need to teach others to be charitable?

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, let me be your compassionate helper. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

All of us, young and old, are called to be disciples. Part of discipleship is following Christ's example of compassion and charity. The Armenian Church has always promoted Christian charity and service. St. Nersess the Great is one of our most important examples of this.

Our lesson today emphasized that our love of God finds natural expression in good works. The Bible reminds us: Faith without works is dead (James 2:17). Encourage your child to live a God-pleasing life.

Living Our Faith

Plan a charitable project for your family. Here are some suggestions:

1. Go through your clothing and collect good, usable but no longer wanted or needed clothing to give to charity.
2. Check supermarket sales and coupons and go on a food pantry shopping excursion. Donate the food to your local food pantry.
3. Check out the United Nations UNICEF program website and see if there are programs there you might want to support.
4. Support a needy child in Armenia through the CASP program. Decide how much the family will contribute and how each will raise his or her portion of the contribution.

Sacraments:
A Call to Holy Living

SEVEN AND MORE: AN OVERVIEW

UNIT 3 LESSON ONE

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, you are our Father and we are your children. You unite us and make us a family. You are there when we celebrate the special moments of our lives because you want to be with us and we grow with your blessing and grace. Amen.

My World

Families share special events, special times. Some of these times are very happy and some are very sad. Some are new beginnings and some are endings. Here are some special times to think about:

the birth or adoption of a child

initiation into a special group or club such as Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts

admitting our mistakes to each other and giving our loving forgiveness

the sharing of a special holiday meal

a wedding

a graduation

a funeral

We want the people we love most to be with us at our special times and we want God to be with us also. There are seven very important times when we are sure to include God in those events. We call them the **SEVEN SACRAMENTS**. Not everybody has all these seven events happen in their life, but all members of the Armenian Church do experience at least four of them.

Here is the list of the **SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH**.

1. The Sacrament of Baptism – being born again or adopted into God's family.
2. The Sacrament of Chrismation – being marked with holy oil as special to God.
3. The Sacrament of Penance – recognizing our sins and asking God's forgiveness.
4. The Sacrament of Holy Communion – Jesus said, "*Eat this bread in remembrance of me. This is my Body. Drink this wine in remembrance of me. This is my Blood.*"

All of us have received these first four sacraments.

5. The Sacrament of Marriage or Holy Matrimony – when two people become one new family.
6. The Sacrament of Holy Orders – when a person becomes officially ordained into church service – as an acolyte, deacon or priest.
7. The Sacrament of Extreme Unction and Prayers for the Sick – the anointing of a priest who has died and prayers for the sick.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"Jesus came to the River Jordan where his cousin John (who was called the Baptizer) was baptizing people. Jesus asked John to baptize him. John objected knowing that Jesus did not need to be baptized. But Jesus said, "For now this is how it should be, because we must do all that God wants us to do." *Matthew 3:13-15*

Getting Closer to God

Have your parents or a teacher ever asked you, "What happened?" and you told what you saw happen? This is what we call being a **WITNESS**. A witness can tell anyone the truth about what he or she has seen.

We witness in church all the time. We witness to tell the truth about events. At a baptism, we witness that the child became a member of God's family. At a wedding we witness that two people married and became a new family. At confession time in church, we witness that people are sorry for their sins.

We are members of the Armenian Church. We witness the sacraments. We share in the event by being with our fellow Christians. It is an important part of being a community of believers. God is present and our Christian family is present at these events. In earlier centuries, and even today in some places, baptisms and weddings take place for everyone to attend, as one big church family. But these are now mostly invitation-only events.

Have you ever witnessed a baptism or wedding? Have you ever seen a person become an acolyte, deacon or priest? Write about one of these experiences:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Our Armenian Way

It is the practice of the Armenian Church to baptize babies in their first few months (40 days is the traditional guideline). When a baby is baptized in the Armenian Church, that baby receives the sacrament of baptism, the sacrament of chrismation, and the sacrament of Holy Communion! We call these three sacraments together the sacraments of initiation. They start the baby in his or her Christian life.

What gift would you give a baby who has just become a Christian? Write two good ideas:

_____

_____

Taking a Closer Look

Match the symbol to the sacrament it could represent:

Baptism

Chrismation

Penance

Holy Communion

Marriage

Holy Orders

Extreme Unction/Prayers for the Sick

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, walk with me through my life. Amen.

Time to Celebrate

This Is Sacrament Jeopardy!

You will be given an answer to one of these questions.

What is baptism?

What is chrismation?

What is penance?

What is Holy Communion?

What is matrimony or marriage?

What is holy orders?

What is extreme unction or prayers for the sick?

Raise your hand if you know the questions to the answers. For every correct response you will get a sticker. The student with the most correct responses will win a prize.

Family Corner

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson introduced our unit on the seven sacraments. The children had an opportunity to recall all that they've learned about the sacraments so far and then surveyed basic information about all seven. They participated in two enjoyable games for a further review. Ask your child to share what he or she learned today!

Living Our Faith

Try one of these activities at home this week:

1. Help your child make a poster of his or her baptism. Title it and add pictures. Write captions for the pictures. Note who the godparents are and other things about this special event. Be sure to put the date of the baptism. Have you still got your child's christening outfit? If so, get it out and let your child see it.
2. Look through your wedding album with your child. Talk about the wedding. Tell your child who your best man (godfather) and maid/matron of honor (godmother) were.

Sacraments:
A Call to Holy Living

THE LIVING WATER: BAPTISM

UNIT 3 LESSON TWO

From Our Hearts to God

Bless my parents and godparents, Lord. Give them long life and good health. Amen.

MY WORLD

single copy: free

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Gregory Baptizes King Drtad In Euphrates River

301 AD. Hundreds gathered along the banks of the Euphrates River to witness the baptism of King Drtad and the royal family by Bishop Gregory. The king was recently healed from his illness by Gregory who was released from his imprisonment of 13 years in the pit at Khor Virab by the king. Upon the restoration of his health, the king accepted Christ and wished to become a Christian.

This amazing change of heart from persecutor of Christians to becoming one himself shocked the nation. There has been an underground Christian community in Armenia for three centuries. It is even said that the king's wife, Queen Ashkhen, and his sister, Princess Khosrovitookht, were following Christ. Now Armenian Christians can worship openly with their king.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Jesus said: I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom you must be born not only by water, but by the Holy Spirit.

John 3:5

Getting Closer to God

Baptism is our first sacrament.

Jesus was baptized. What do you remember about his baptism?

Turn to Matthew 3: 13-17. Imagine you are there.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

Along with the sacraments of Chrismation and Holy Communion, Baptism brings us into a holy life, our life with God. We are called to holy living and our parents and godparents respond by having us baptized. This sacrament opens the doors of heaven to us, making us a child of God. Christ is now our brother. The grace of God can now enter our lives. With baptism we are adopted by God. God becomes our heavenly, spiritual father. A new bond and closeness begins.

Parents choose a godfather (gnkahayr) and godmother (gnkamayr) to sponsor their child at baptism. The priest asks the godfather, "What does this child want?" and the godfather replies, "Faith, hope, love and baptism." Our parents and godparents guide us to living a God-pleasing life, a good life.

As we grow up to adulthood our parents and godparents, our grandparents and Sunday School teachers, our priest and our church are there to help us live a holy life. What do you think shows we are living a holy life?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Thank you God for adopting me into your family. Amen.

Taking a Closer Look

Jesus called himself the LIVING WATER. Being baptized in water we are born again of the Holy Spirit. We have a new life through the living water of Jesus Christ.

Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, a special necklace is prepared by the priest to place around the baby's neck. It is made of two strands of ribbon or yarn, one red and one white. Red is the color of blood. It is a symbol of life and of sacrifice. White is a symbol of purity. A cross is placed on the narod. Together they represent Jesus himself. To place this around the baby's neck is a beautiful way of saying: "You are now walking with Christ. He is with you and around you!"

Time to Celebrate

Making a narod

White= purity and hope

Red=sacrifice and life

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we learned more about baptism and becoming part of a Christian family. The children reviewed the story of St. Gregory's baptism of King Drtad, making Armenia the first Christian nation. They also reflected on what makes a life holy, since baptism calls us to holiness.

Living Our Faith

1. If your child's godparents live nearby, invite them for dinner.
2. If your child's godparents life far away, sit with your child and make a card for them.
3. Make a "Growing Up Booklet" with pictures of your fourth grader from infancy to today, including their baptism. Put one picture on each page and have everyone in the family write a comment around the picture.

Sacraments:
A Call to Holy Living

THE SEALING OF OIL: CHRISMATION

UNIT 3 LESSON THREE

From Our Hearts to God

Dear Lord, let all I do show that I love you with all my heart and all my soul and all my mind. Amen.

My World

I was born with this beauty mark under my right eye. Most people don't even notice it. I never paid much attention to it either until our family reunion last year. Thirty of us Haroutunians gathered at my Aunt Barbara's home for some good food, fun, and sharing of stories and memories. All of us are descendants of Sarkis and Satenig Haroutunian. They had eight children, 22 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren of which I am the youngest.

Aunty Barbara set up a big photograph display on the wall with Sarkis and Satenig at the top. I stood looking at the pictures for a long time and I noticed every one of my grand uncles and grand aunts had a beauty mark under their right eye except Uncle Vahan. His was under his left eye. I looked up at the photos of Sarkis and Satenig and there under Satenig's right eye was a beauty mark also. WOW! Then I started looking at the first cousins and found most of them had a beauty mark either under their right or left eye.

I went over to Grand Uncle Vahan and asked him why his was on the left side. He told me he was a lefty while all his brothers and sisters were righties. WOW! I went back to the cousins' pictures and checked left and right sides and then went to ask if they were lefties or righties.

We're a big, loving, proud Armenian family. We think of our non-Armenian relatives who married into our family as Armenians too! Most of us have the Haroutunian beauty mark. It is our special mark, our special sign of membership. My brother Harry joked with me and said his must be invisible because he really doesn't have one but wishes he did.

Most people don't even notice the beauty mark, but I know it is there. It is always there and I love that it ties me to this family. I am proud of my family and I want my family to be proud of me.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

There are some things people cannot do, but God can do anything. *Luke 18:27*

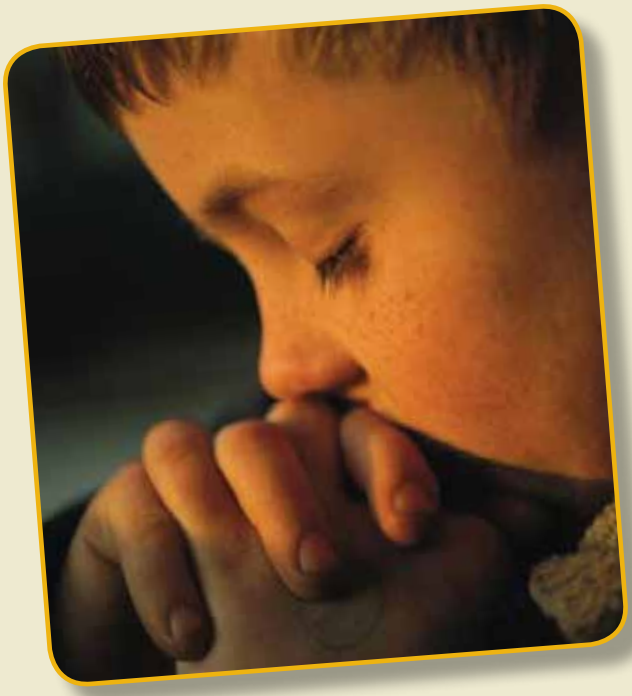
Getting Closer to God

What does it mean to live a holy life? It means

- choosing to go to church.
- remembering to say your prayers.
- thanking God for the blessings he gives you.
- caring about others.
- helping when people need help.
- you know you aren't perfect, but you keep trying to be the best you can be.
- remembering always that you belong to God.

Write one more thing about living a holy life:

_____



Taking a Closer Look

Holy *muron* is the special oil the church uses in the sacraments of baptism, chrismation and unction. During the sacrament of chrismation the priest anoints the person with holy *muron* in nine places – eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, feet, heart, back, and forehead.

Put a cross on the picture of the baby on each of the nine places the priest anoints by making a cross with the holy *muron*.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, we are so happy to be sealed in the Holy Spirit. Help us be worthy of that special mark in everything we do and say this week and always. Amen.

Our Armenian Way

Holy *muron* is made every seven years. The priests at Etchmiadzin make it by mixing olive oil with the essential oils of many flowers and the *muron* left from the last time it was made. When it is ready to be blessed, the Catholicos stirs the pot with the golden arm which holds a relic of St. Gregory the Illuminator.

Priests and representatives from Armenian churches around the world come to witness the making of *muron*. When it is done, each Bishop who is the Primate of a Diocese takes a container of *muron* back to his Diocese and distributes it to all the churches in his Diocese.

Look at the pictures of the making of *muron*. Here are some of the traditional ingredients.

Balsam oil	Cinnamon	Violet	Myrtle
Olive oil	Incense	Water Lily	Narcissus
Carnation	Crocus	Orange flower	Laurel seed
Nutmeg	Sweet Marjoram	Allspice	
Gooseberry	Chamomile	Laurel	

Do you know what each of these are? Look them up in a dictionary.

Oil was used in Jesus' time for many purposes such as creating light in oil lamps, treating hair and skin, in cooking of course, for treating wounds, caring for animals, and in religious services.

In Jesus' time not everyone was educated to read and write. Marks were important ways to know what belonged to whom. Back then and today, sheep and cattle are marked or branded to show who owned them. Kings had special rings or seals that would be used to mark their written orders. Soldiers may not have been able to read the signature of the king, but everyone knew the king's sealing mark.

Chrismation marks a person as belonging to God. The holy *muron* does not remain visible, but all who have been chrismated know they are now part of the special group of God's people.

Time to Celebrate

Many Christian symbols show others that a building, a house, a car belong to people who are Christian. Some people put crosses on walls in their homes. Some people wear cross jewelry. Some homes have religious statues on their lawns. Buildings with crosses usually are churches or church property. People put the Christian fish symbol magnets on their cars which show they are Christian.

All these are outer and visible signs of Christianity. Our anointing with oil at our chrismation doesn't show. It is a very personal and intimate mark of our belonging to Christ.

What would you choose as a symbol of your Christian faith?

Family Corner

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson highlighted the sacrament of chrismation as a mark of membership in God's family and the sealing with holy *muron* of our commitment to live a holy life. Students discussed the symbolism of the nine parts of the body blessed at their chrismation and created their own pretend *muron*. They also imagined and drew their own symbols of faith.

Living Our Faith

Try one of these family activities at home this week:

1. Create a family crest or seal. You might want to do this on your computer and print out labels that your family can place on items in your house that are representative of your family such as family pictures, or a family Bible.
2. Gather different kinds of oil that you have in your house – cooking oil, machine oil, baby oil, lubricant oil. Talk about the use and purpose of each. Oil a pair of scissors with your lubricating oil. Rub baby oil on the back of your hands. Squirt a bit of machine oil in an appliance that needs oiling. Finally, have the whole family make a salad and have your fourth grader add the salad oil to it.

Sacraments: A Call to Holy Living

SAYING I'M SORRY: PENANCE

UNIT 3 LESSON FOUR

From Our Hearts to God

Sometimes it is hard to take responsibility for the wrong things I do, Lord. Give me courage to say I'm sorry. Amen.

My World

I disobeyed my mom and dad. They told me I couldn't play my video game after 7 PM but they caught me playing at 9 and took it away for a week.

Dad told me that the Bible says children should obey their parents, especially when the parents are trying to help their children grow into good adults who love God and do right.

When mom and dad caught me, I went from enjoying playing my game to feeling like a great big stone was pressing on me. I couldn't even keep my mind on the game. I felt bad and even a little silly for not following their instructions for such a stupid reason.

Dad said doing something wrong is like a heavy yoke on a person. I asked dad what a yoke was. He said farmers have a wooden thing they put on the cattle to attach the plow to dig up the dirt. And people put a yoke on their shoulders to carry two buckets of water or other stuff at each end.

When God forgives us for our sins it is like having the weight of the yoke's burden taken off our shoulders.

I told mom about feeling like a big stone was on me when she and dad caught me playing the video game. I guess that was like the yoke's burden. I will not play my video games for a week, but I feel like the stone on me is gone since I talked with mom and dad and told them I am sorry I disobeyed them.

What was the heaviest thing you ever carried?

How long were you carrying it?

How did you feel when you put it down?

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

Getting Closer to God

We feel close to God when we talk to him. Every Sunday we get a chance to talk with God about what we have done wrong during the week so God can strengthen us to do better in the future. We do this when we confess our wrongs, our sins, to God and then receive Holy Communion. Here is what we say:

- I have sinned against the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- I confess before my fellow Christians and before God all my sins.
- I have sinned by thinking wrong things, by saying wrong things, by doing wrong things.
- I sinned on purpose and accidentally.
- I have sinned by letting my **pride** hurt others, by being meanly **jealous** of others, by being **angry** with others, by being **lazy** and not doing what I should, **by wishing I had what others have** and being upset with them because they have what I want, by **eating too much** while others in this world go hungry, by **wanting more** and more instead of being content with what I have and sharing with others.
- I have sinned because I didn't do what I know God would want me to do and I did things God would NOT want me to do. I knew what was right and what was wrong, but I didn't care. I know what Christians should do, but I didn't do the Christian things I should. I was tempted to do the wrong things and didn't stop myself. I could have done good things but I didn't. I feel miserable, God, because I am not behaving like the good Christian I really want to be.
- I have sinned against God.
- I will ask the priest, who is your representative, to release me from feeling tied up by my sins.

Our Armenian Way

You just learned the group confession as recited in the Armenian Church. It used to be done before Badarak starts, but now we do it just before Communion. It is our time to make things right with God after a week of small and big sins. God knows we are not perfect and every day we have opportunities to do or not do what God wants. Confession gives us all a chance to say to God: I know I have sinned and I am sorry. Please forgive me and strengthen me to make right choices in the future.

We have individual confession also. Sometimes people want to confess their sins in private with the priest. It gives them a chance to talk more about what they have done wrong and to get the priest's help in finding the right way to do things. Anyone who wants private confession can call the priest and set up an appointment.

Taking a Closer Look

Մեղայ Աստուծոյ ME-GHA AS-DOO-DZO. This is the phrase we say after each part of the confession. It means "I have sinned against God" and it is our way of acknowledging that we have made a mistake, a wrong choice. It is a form of **CONTRITION** which means recognizing that we have done wrong and saying it.

Time to Celebrate

Take your "forgiveness" stone. Write

"Megha Asdoodzo"
Forgiveness Stone

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, your forgiveness feels like new clothes for the first day of school. It makes me feel lighter, as if I have set down a heavy stone and am ready for a new start. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today, we learned about the burden of doing wrong and how every Sunday God gives us the chance to "come clean." The sacrament of penance is the opportunity for all Christians to pledge a new start before God. The children reviewed a simple and meaningful version of group confession and even made their own "forgiveness stone" as a symbol of how heavy we can feel when we're not following God. Have your child use the stone as a paperweight.

Living Our Faith

1. Encourage confession and forgiveness in your family life by modeling it yourself. Be quick to apologize if you've done something wrong.
2. Let forgiveness free you. Purchase a helium balloon from your local supermarket or other store. Be sure the string is long enough so that when it is let go in the house, it can be retrieved. Gather as a family each day and have everyone hold the string close to the balloon. All say together "I am sorry for anything I did to hurt you today. I forgive anyone who has hurt me." Then let the balloon go. Do this as often during the week as you feel comfortable.

Sacraments: A Call to Holy Living

SHARING IN THE LORD: EUCHARIST

UNIT 3 LESSON FIVE

From Our Hearts to God

Feed me, Lord, with food for my spirit. Amen.

My World

1. List or draw three things that keep you busy each weekday.
2. List or draw your favorite thing to do on a Saturday.
3. List or draw two things you look forward to on Sunday.

What keeps you healthy?

What keeps you spiritually healthy?

God's Guiding Words

Jesus took some bread in his hands and gave thanks for it. He broke the bread and handed it to his disciples. Then he said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this as a way of remembering me."

Luke 22:19

Getting Closer to God

The First Holy Communion

Read all of the story about how Jesus shared his very own self through bread and wine at the first Holy Communion in Luke 22: 7-19. Then be ready to answer these questions:

1. Who did Jesus send to make preparations for the feast?
2. What feast were they preparing for?
3. What kind of room did they find?
4. Was Jesus happy to be eating with his friends?
5. What was he talking about when he said that he would "suffer"?
6. What did he do and say with the cup?
7. What did he do and say with the bread?

Our Armenian Way

Of the seven sacraments, Holy Communion is the greatest as it unites us with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Receiving Holy Communion nourishes our souls and feeds our spirits. In the Armenian Church, there is a certain way we receive Communion.

Put these events in the order they occur by numbering them 1 – 5.

___Confession

___ The priest holds up the chalice and gives a blessing

___ Return to the pew

___Step up to the priest, make the sign of the cross and say Megha Asdoodzo (I have sinned against God)

___Tilt head back a bit, open mouth, receive Communion, make the sign of the cross, and step aside

Taking a Closer Look

One of the Communion hymns joyfully says: **Taste and see how sweet the Lord is.** We feel good when we receive Holy Communion. We are spiritually ready to face the week ahead.

Time to Celebrate

Attend church for confession and Holy Communion. Then "break your fast" with your teacher, parents, and classmates.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, thank you for opening the doors of heaven to me. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

This morning, 4th graders discussed the different ways we stay physically healthy and nourished. We then turned to spiritual health and the nourishment we receive for our souls when we receive Holy Communion. Students read the Bible story in Luke about the very first Holy Communion that Jesus established at the Last Supper. We concluded our lesson by going to church and receiving the sacraments of penance and Holy Communion. You may have been with us, as all parents were invited!

Living Our Faith

1. Read Matthew's account of the Last Supper in Matthew 26:17-30.
2. Discuss with your fourth grader what going to church and receiving Holy Communion means to you.

A Call To Holy Living

MARRIAGE / HOLY ORDERS

UNIT 3 LESSON SIX

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, help me know the life you want for me. Open my heart to loving you and others and wanting to serve. If you call me as you did so many, let me say, as so many did, "Here I am!" Amen.

My World

A Family Wedding

Ara was attending a cousin's wedding at Holy Martyrs Armenian Church. They had arrived early and were able to sit in the third pew. He had a great view of the bride coming down the aisle and going right up to stand in the chancel next to his cousin Ben. Ara's mom was a Sunday School teacher and every few minutes he would ask her about what was going on.

"Mom, why are they sitting in those tall chairs that look like thrones?"

"Well, they are now going to be like a king and queen of their own home. In a way, they left their families and are starting their own little kingdom, right?"

A bit later, Ara asked: "And why is Der Hayr tying that braid around each of their heads?"

"Those are crowns, just like a king and queen are crowned. But these are red, white and green braids. Remember your baptismal narod? Well, this is the same with the red and white strands that stand for purity and sacrifice. The green stands for new life since the new couple might someday grow to be a family.

"And now why are they sipping from the same cup of wine?"

'Why do you think they are, Ara? What might it stand for?"

"I guess they're going to share life, you know, they will be sort of drinking life from the same cup."

"Beautifully said, Ara."

As the wedding came to a close, Ara began to think about what it might be like to get married. Why would you get married? What made you sure about the person? Then he noticed the priest and the deacon. He wondered about them, too. What would make you choose to be ordained? To be a priest?

Getting Closer to God

Let's learn more about the sacraments of marriage and ordination from the Bible!

On Marriage

Read Genesis 1: 26-28

Who did God create us to be like?

What happens when a man and woman marry?

Then read Acts 18: 1-3

Priscilla and Aquila were husband and wife. What work did they do together?

On Ordination

Read Acts 6: 1-6

What did the first deacons do?

Our Armenian Way

Sometimes a person feels "called" not only to live a godly life but to serve God in a very specific way. Maybe it's to hold a candle at the altar. Maybe it's to assist the priest at the altar as a deacon. They will serve and learn and when they are ready, the bishop will ordain them in the sacrament of ordination or holy orders.

Sometimes, a person feels so strongly about serving God and bringing others to know him that he will want to give his entire life to this job and become a priest.

Where would he go to study? To a Seminary. A Seminary is a special school for preparing to work in the church. Men and women can study to work as teachers, educators, and youth workers, for example. But above all, men can study to be priests. St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New York State is very well known – the only Armenian Seminary in all of North America. Those who attend learn the details about what the Armenian Church believes, and study the Bible, the church services, prayers, and the sacraments. Often they will go to Armenia or Jerusalem to study more. In the end, they earn a Master's Degree.

And when he is ready, with all the necessary knowledge, he is ordained by the bishop in a beautiful ceremony.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

A man will leave his father and mother to get married, and he becomes like one person with his wife.

Ephesians 5:31

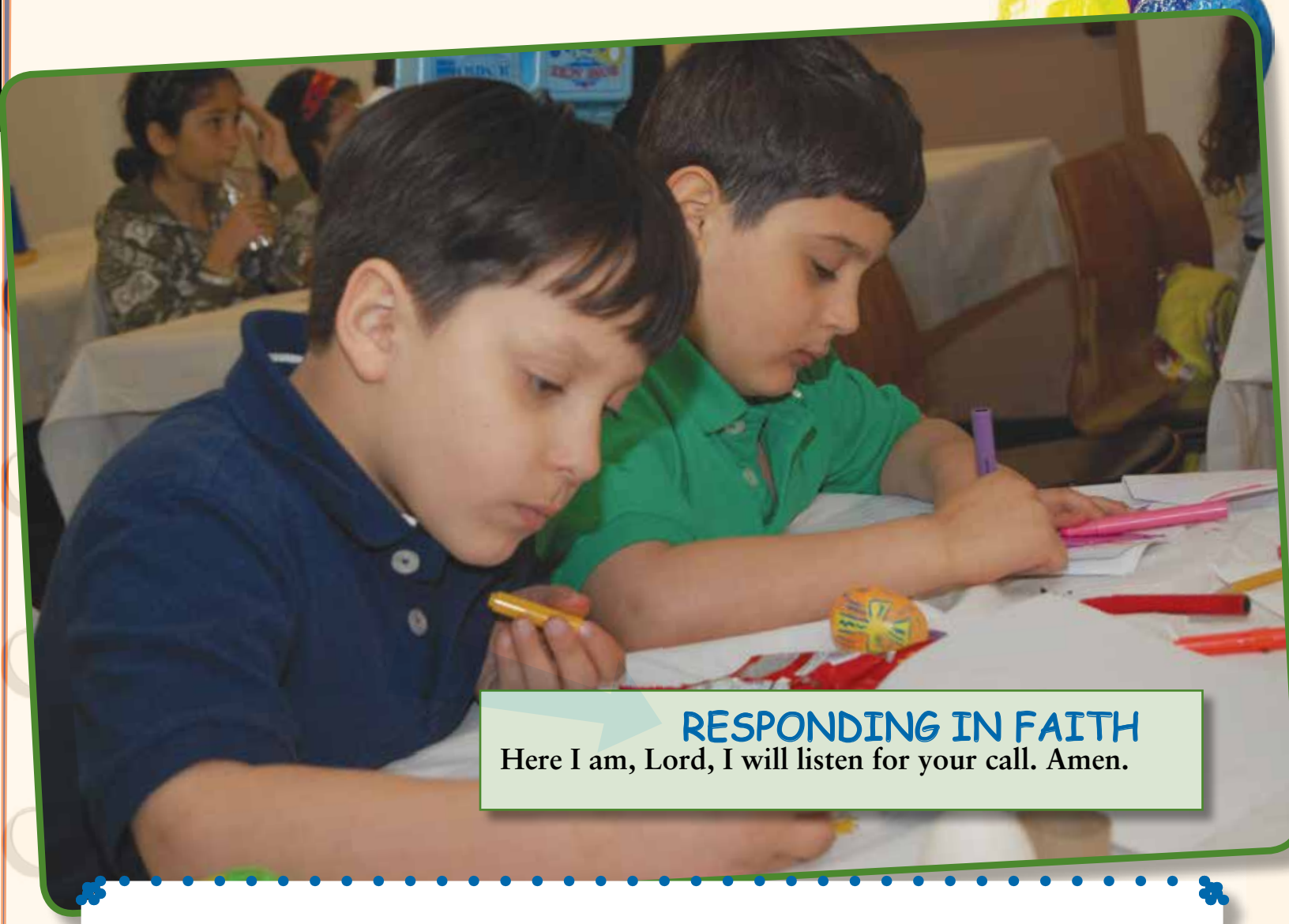
Taking a Closer Look

The sacrament of ordination has elements of the sacraments of baptism and marriage. The person being ordained....

- gets a new name. *A baby is named at birth and then baptized; in marriage women often assume their husband's last name.*
- has a sponsor or godparent. *Godparents sponsor the child in baptism. In marriage the best man is called the godfather of the cross.*
- wears special clothes; he is vested. *At baptism, the baby is dressed in white; the bride and groom wear special clothing.*
- declares his faith in a creed
- receives Holy Communion

Time to Celebrate

Make a wedding narod and a deacon's stole bookmark!



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Here I am, Lord, I will listen for your call. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

The sacraments of marriage and holy orders were the focus of our lesson today. We read a story together, looked at verses in Genesis and Acts that gave us good insights into both of these sacraments, and then made 1)wedding narods out of red, green and white yarn and 2)deacon's stole bookmarks. Ask your child to see them and post them somewhere for everyone to see.

Living Our Faith

Share photographs and/or video of your wedding with your fourth grader. Talk about how you are united as one, how you serve each other to live a holy, blessed life together.

A Call To Holy Living

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

UNIT 3 LESSON SEVEN

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, we call on your special healing in the seventh sacrament. We know it is always possible to ask for courage and strength for our loved ones who are sick. Please hear our prayer, as we ask for your grace for….

What family members or friends who are sick or injured are in need of prayer?

Sacraments Savvy

List the sacraments you have learned about so far. Then describe what happens to you in each one.

1._____. In this sacrament_____

_____

2._____. In this sacrament_____

_____

3._____. In this sacrament_____

_____

4. _____. In this sacrament_____

_____

5. _____. In this sacrament_____

_____

6. _____. In this sacrament_____

_____

My World

Harry was in the hospital. He was very sick. Der Hayr came to visit him. After chatting a while, Der Hayr said a prayer for Harry. When the priest left, the boy in the next bed asked Harry if the priest was a relative of his.

Harry explained that he belonged to the Armenian Church and the priest visits members who are sick to say prayers for their healing.

"I learned in my Sunday School that Jesus cares for us. He healed many sick people. God wants our lives to be good with all of us caring for each other. One of the ways we care for each other is to pray for each other."

"Do the prayers help?" Harry's neighbor asked.

"Yes. They remind me that God loves and cares for me and so do the people in my church no matter how healthy or sick I am. The prayers help me deal with this sickness."

"But what if you don't get better?" the boy asked Harry.

"Then God will help me handle whatever happens to me and I will thank him for the good life he has given me. This is how I can live a holy life the way Jesus teaches us to do."

"What if you do get better?" the boy asked next.

"Then I will thank God, my doctors and nurses, my parents and my priest and my church. I will try to care for others as others have cared for me."

"Are you afraid to die?" the boy asked.

"Yes and no. We all die one day. Death is really not important. Life is important. How we live is important. Living is sometimes scary, but God is always with me to help me. When I am dead I will go to God's kingdom and have a new life with him."

"Can I pray for you to get better?" the boy wanted to know.

"Yes. You can pray for me and I can pray for you."

God's Guiding Words

Jesus spoke to them about God's kingdom and healed everyone who was sick.

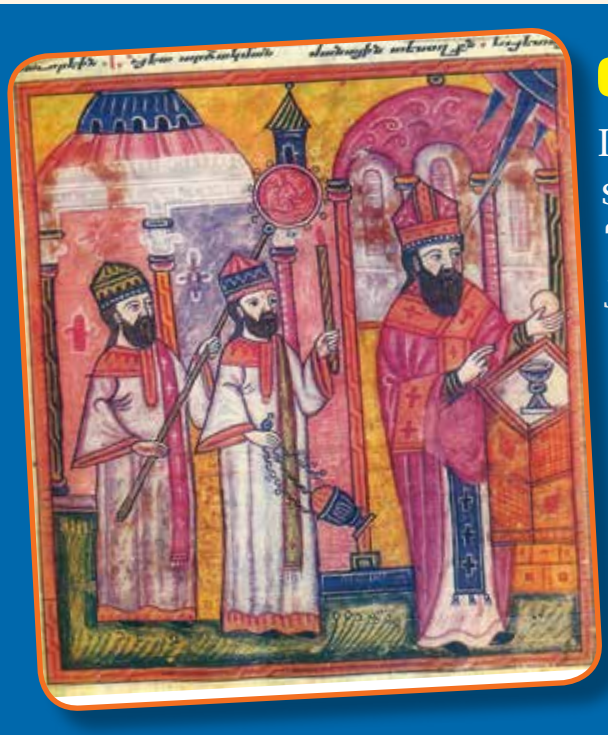
Luke 9:11

Getting Closer to God

The priest in the Armenian Church has two roles. He represents God to the people and he represents the people to God. When the priest prays, he prays for his entire congregation. He prays as their representative.

When the priest visits people who are sick, he represents the entire parish and he represents God. He prays with and for the person who is sick. He places his hands prayerfully on the person and blesses him.

The priest helps us get closer to God.



Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, this seventh sacrament is really two. One, is for all people: "prayers for the sick." The other is reserved just for priests who have died and is called "extreme unction."

When an Armenian priest dies he is buried in his priestly vestments. All his brother clergy attend the funeral.

A bishop officiates at his funeral service and anoints the priest's body with holy oil. A priest is anointed when he was chrismated, just as we all were. But then he was anointed again as a priest, on his right hand, the one that he would use to bless with the sign of the cross and to consecrate the bread and wine. When he dies, he receives the "final or "extreme" anointing or "unction."

Time to Celebrate

A time to share heart-felt wishes for God's healing!

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, help us to care for and love one another. When we pray for healing, we know you will grant everything needed for strength, peace, and courage. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we reviewed our "sacraments savvy" so far and learned about the seventh sacrament, the prayers for the sick and extreme unction. Students learned the important lesson that prayer is not a wish list but a true conversation with their God and that he will give all the courage, strength and peace needed for us to endure sickness and injury. They also read about a priest's final anointing or extreme unction. Finally, we all made cards using prayers, Bible verses, and Armenian miniature art.

Living Our Faith

1. At mealtime, remember those who are sick in your family or among friends. Mention them by name and ask for God's grace and courage for everyone.
2. The next time you make a visit to a loved one in the hospital, take your child. (Use your judgment so that this not a traumatic visit – perhaps to someone who is there for a routine operation or a broken limb.) Ask if you can both say a prayer for them and use one of the prayers or Bible verses from your child's card. You might want to leave them with the card itself.

The Church Celebrates

FIVE MAJOR FEASTS

UNIT 4 LESSON ONE

From Our Hearts to God

Jesus, I love my special days. Thank you for them. Amen.

My World

"We all have our special days. So does the Church. What days do you celebrate in your family? Mark them in the correct month on the calendar.

Find the Bible reading on your birthday. Write it here: _____.

What is it about?

Just as we have special days and special celebrations we look forward to each year, the Church has special days and special celebrations we look forward to as a church family each year. Your family may keep a book or calendar of these celebration days. The Church keeps a book which is a calendar of its celebration days also. It is called a Donatzooytz. In Armenian, this literally means a book that will "show you the feasts."

What five important feast days, called "Major Feasts" does the Church celebrate? Mark them on the calendar.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
MAY	**JUNE**	**JULY**	**AUGUST**
SEPTEMBER	**OCTOBER**	**NOVEMBER**	**DECEMBER**

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Leviticus 23:1-2

The Lord said to Moses: "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: 'these are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.'"

1. *To me, this means that*_____

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build up,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance,

a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

a time to search and a time to give up,

a time to keep and a time to throw away,

a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak,

a time to love and a time to hate,

a time for war and a time for peace.

2. *To me, this means that*_____

Getting Closer to God

What would you do to get ready for….

1. A birthday party?
2. A family vacation?
3. The first day of school?

We need to prepare for important events in our family life. We prepare for important events in our church life as well. We prepare for events that come again each year and enjoy those days.

Our church celebrates **Five Major Feast Days:** Christmas, Easter, Transfiguration, Assumption of St. Mary and Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Before each of these Major Feast Days there is a week of preparation. As a Church, our most important Feast Day is Jesus' resurrection (Easter). It is our greatest day of celebration because through his death and resurrection we are saved from death and can look forward to a new life with God in heaven after this life is finished.

One of the ways we prepare for these Feasts is to think about our relationship with God.

- We pray.
- We attend special services.
- We try to focus on God more and everyday things less.
- We eat simple foods.
- Sometimes we say special prayers.
- Sometimes we give money and food to the needy because God wants us to think about those who are less fortunate than we are and help them.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

O God, thank you for this life and the new life to come. Amen.

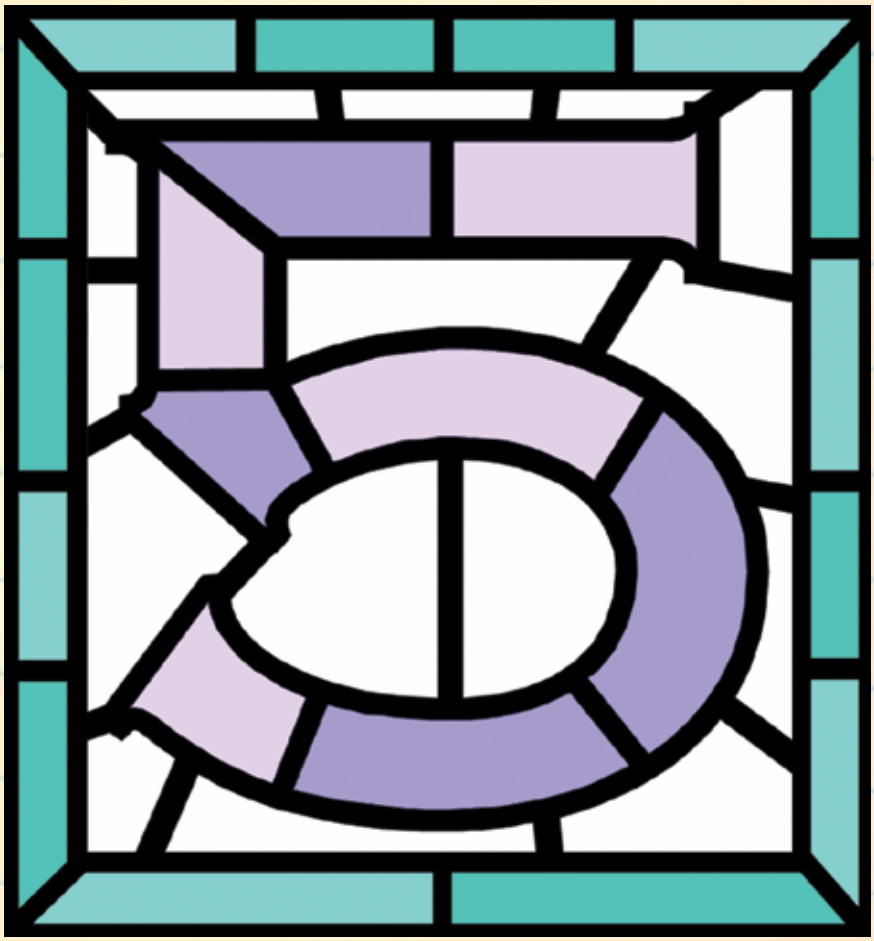
Taking a Closer Look

Remembering the Five Major Feast Days

There are eight sections inside the number five.

Starting in the first section at the bottom write

EASTER
CHRISTMAS
TRANSFIGURATION
ASSUMPTION
HOLY CROSS
FIVE
MAJOR
FEASTS



Our Armenian Way

The Five Major Feast Days: Who, What Where When!

The Five Major Feast Days in the Armenian Church are called “Tabernacle” or “Daghavar” feasts. The word “tabernacle” means “booth” and comes from the Old Testament tradition of setting up special little booths during the harvest festival.

You’ll be making special memory cards on these important feasts.

Time to Celebrate

Decorate your Feast Day cards and play a review game!

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

This week we learned about the church calendar which marks feast days and saints days year after year. The ***Donotzooytz*** is the calendar of the church which guides us through the year. Students did a thorough review of the Five Major Feast Days of the Armenian Church – ask them to tell you about these feasts!

Living Our Faith

1. At home this week look through your family's photo albums. Look for all your Christmas and other holiday gatherings. Dye a few hard boiled eggs red with onion skins in the traditional Armenian way.
2. Together with your child look at the church calendar. Show your child the feast days marked on it. Look for your name day if you were named for a saint. Look at the weeks before Easter and their special names. Look for days when special events are celebrated.

The Church Celebrates
CHRISTMAS

UNIT 4 LESSON TWO

From Our Hearts to God

We thank you, God our Father, for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, as a person just like us so we might know God as a friend. Amen.

My World

Look at the pictures on this page. What is being celebrated? Check all appropriate answers.

Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ _____

The Resurrection _____

Visit and Adoration of the Wise Men from the East _____

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross carried through Armenia _____

Baptism of Christ by John _____

All that we celebrate on January 6th, Armenian Christmas _____

The Assumption of St. Mary into Heaven _____

The Transfiguration – when Jesus appeared with Moses and Elijah on Mt. Tabor _____

The Revelation of Jesus as the Son of God _____

The reason we do the service of the Blessing of Water on January 6th _____

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior. God cares for me, his humble servant... He always shows mercy to everyone who worships him.

Luke 1:46-50

Getting Closer to God

Five Major Feasts Challenge

You have 10 minutes to create something that would teach your classmates about one of these Armenian Church **Daghavar** Events. You may work with a friend or two or you may work alone. Work fast as you only have 10 minutes!

You can

- Make a chart
- Write a song
- Put on a short play
- Draw a picture
- Create a puzzle (crossword, acrostic or other sort of puzzle)
- Write a poem
- Come up with your own idea

Taking a Closer Look

1. Birth of Our Lord Luke 2:1–22
2. Visit of the Wise Men Matthew 2:1–11
3. Baptism of Our Lord Luke 3:21–22

Our Armenian Way

On January 6th, as part of the celebration of the Revelation of Christ or Christmas, the Armenian Church conducts the service of the **Blessing of Water**. A person is chosen to be the Godfather of the Cross. A large bowl of water is brought to the altar. Holy Muron is dripped from a dove container into the water. Then the cross that the Godfather holds is put into the water. The cross represents Jesus and putting it into the water represents his baptism. Prayers are said and hymns are sung for this special celebration. The cross is brought out of the water and the Godfather holds it again. After services are completed, the people come forward and take a portion of the holy water. They kiss the cross the Godfather holds. This is part of how we celebrate Christmas in the Armenian Church.

Time to Celebrate

When is Christmas?

The Early Church (Christianity in the very beginning) decided that the birth of Christ should be celebrated on January 6th. The actual date of Jesus' birth was not known, but the Church wanted to commemorate and celebrate it, so a date was set. At that time there was only one Church. Later, the Church separated into Western (Roman Empire) and Eastern branches.

Almost all churches now celebrate Christmas on December 25th. This is because in the Roman Empire the pagan people celebrated the winter solstice (return of the sun) at that time. Church leaders thought it would be a good idea to replace this pagan feast with the celebration of Christmas.

The Armenian Church continues to celebrate the birth of Christ on the ancient date of January 6.

In the Armenian Church we celebrate the revelation of Christ or Epiphany. It includes the **Birth of Jesus, Visit of the Wise Men** and the **Baptism of the Lord** when the Dove of the Holy Spirit appeared and God's voice from heaven said "This is my Son."

All holidays have special foods associated with them. In the tradition of the Armenian Church a special dessert called *anooshaboor* is made by cooking wheat, stewed fruits and nuts together. Yummy!

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Christ is the best gift of Christmas because he is always with us. We never outgrow him; instead we grow with him. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Our lesson today reviewed the Five Major Feast Days (*Daghavar*) of the Armenian Church as well as what we commemorate and celebrate at Armenian Christmas: the Birth of Christ, the Visit of the Wise Men, and the Baptism of the Lord. We read these stories in the Bible, learned about Christmastime blessing of the water and even had a Godfather of the Cross reenact the blessing! Class ended with a taste of the traditional Armenian Christmas pudding, *anooshaboor*

Living Our Faith

1. Having your home blessed at Christmas and Easter is a tradition of the Armenian Church. Arrange with your priest to have your home blessed.
2. Anoushaboor is a traditional Armenian Christmas food. Make it with your fourth grader this year.
3. If Armenian Christmas is on a work/school day this year, plan to take off from work and school and attend church services. Your priest will give you a letter of acknowledgement of our religious holy day for your child's school.

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, sometimes we pray for things to help us enjoy life. But we thank you today for life, so that we can enjoy many things. Following your ways can make us happy and wise. You make it possible for us to live forever with God. Thank you! Amen.

My World

Time for a look back. Go to Lesson Two of this unit and write one question that you can ask the class. Write the answer here as well:

Question:

Answer:

God's Guiding Words

Christ died to free us from sin once and for all. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. Christ did this to bring you to God...

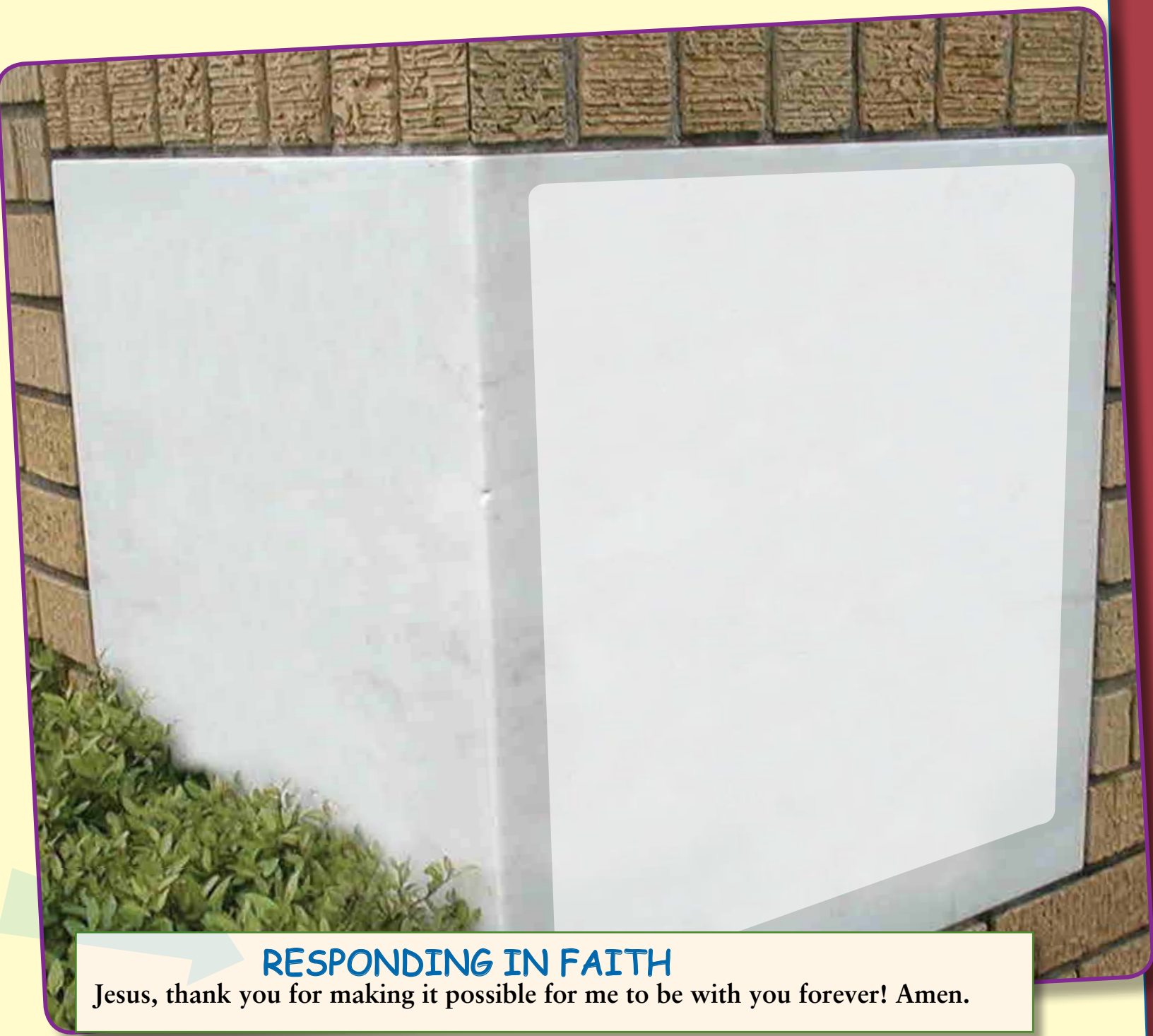
1 Peter 3:18

Getting Closer to God

Jesus has been compared to a rock. He is the rock that became the cornerstone of the new relationship with God. When a building is being erected, the cornerstone is the first stone laid in the corner where two walls begin and form the first part of the new building. Later, it would be placed anywhere but was thought to be the most important stone, often marked with names and dates to dedicate it.

God was building a new creation. Jesus holds it together for us.

Put Jesus' name in the cornerstone then put your name and the names of your family and people you know in church. These are all people who are part of the Church.



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Jesus, thank you for making it possible for me to be with you forever! Amen.

Our Armenian Way

During the days before and after Easter, the Armenian Church has many special services that give us the opportunity to be with God in a remarkable way. Celebrating Poon Paregentan, attending Lenten services, rejoicing on Palm Sunday, going to the Holy Week services, renewing ourselves at Easter, commemorating the Ascension of the Lord to Heaven, and remembering that the followers of Christ started the Church at Pentecost, are all of the ways we Armenian Christians remember what Easter means.

OUR SALVATION HISTORY AND THE EASTER CYCLE

- God made heaven and earth and everything on the earth.
- He created all living things. In the story of Adam and Eve we see how the first people enjoyed a life of direct contact with God in the Garden of Eden which was an earthly paradise.
- We celebrate the beauty and perfection of that paradise with the Feast of Poon Paregentan.
- God told Adam and Eve they could have everything there except they must not eat the fruit of one tree. Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God. Eve and Adam ate from the *Tree of the Knowledge of Right and Wrong*. God punished Adam and Eve by sending them out of the Garden of Eden so they could not eat from the *Tree of Life*.

- **The Expulsion** of Adam and Eve is the first story of the **Sundays of Great Lent**.
- The Bible tells us how we can get back to a new paradise – heaven.
- The Second Sunday of Lent tells the story of the **Prodigal Son** (Luke 15:11-32). He leaves his wonderful home and father to live life in his own way. He soon finds himself without money and without friends doing a job he hates. He realizes he made the wrong choice. He decides to go back and ask for a job with his father because he knew having the worst job at his father's was better than the terrible life he was living. On his way back his father sees him on the road and welcomes him because it was as if his son had died and now was alive again. The story teaches us if we truly are sorry for the wrong things we do and the wrong choices we make and we want to put things right again, God welcomes us.

- The Third Sunday of Lent tells the story of the **Steward** (Luke 16:1-13) who was trusted to do a good job managing his employer's business. He did not and when the employer demanded an accounting of the business, the steward went to all those who owed his boss and made deals with them to collect some of what they owed. He knew his boss would fire him anyway, but he hoped he could get a job with one of the people with whom he had made a deal. Jesus tells us that if we can be clever like the steward to provide for ourselves on earth, we should also try hard to live a life that would please God. God hopes we will do right things and make right choices.
- The Fourth Sunday of Lent tells the story of the **Judge** (Luke 18:1-8) who would not bother with a widow's problem. The woman was persistent and went to him every day asking for his help. Finally the judge helped her just to get rid of her, not because he wanted to be fair. Jesus teaches us that we should always pray because God listens to our prayers and answers them fairly. He is a loving God. He cares for us and wants us to talk to him in prayer.
- The Fifth Sunday of Lent is called **Advent or the Second Coming.** The word advent means "coming." This day reminds us that Jesus will come again and that we need to always be prepared for him by living by God's rules.
- Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday which celebrates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and continues with many others that recall the Last Supper, Jesus' lonely prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, his crucifixion, and burial.

- Easter is the way Jesus opened Paradise to us again. He did this by his death and resurrection. JESUS IS THE TREE OF LIFE. When we receive Holy Communion we eat the fruit of that tree. Adam and Eve were not allowed, but we are!
- The Feast of the Ascension commemorates Jesus rising to heaven to make a place for us.
- The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Church – us! All those who believe in Jesus are the Church.

Taking a Closer Look

An Armenian cross often has leaves, branches, and fruit at its base, reminding us that Jesus is the Tree of Life.

Time to Celebrate

Pop a balloon and explain how the picture inside relates to the Easter story.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Our lesson this week presented the Easter Cycle from Poon Paregentan to Pentecost. The children reviewed the entire cycle, created their own "cross of life" and popped balloons to find a special Easter Cycle remembrance inside.

Living Our Faith

1. At home this week, gather up the family's shoes and line them up creating the "steps to Easter and the steps to Church." Write the following words on index cards or pieces of paper and on the back of the card put the number of that card. Work with your fourth grade student to put the cards in the shoes in the correct order according to the story. Then check the numbers on the back of the cards to see if your child was right on target. If not, work together to get the cards in order.(If you don't want to use your shoes, cut the index cards in the shape of feet – perhaps tracing your child's foot.)

1. Poon Paregentan
2. Great Lent Begins
3. Sunday of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve
4. Sunday of the Prodigal Son
5. Sunday of the Steward
6. Sunday of the Judge
7. Sunday of Advent
8. Palm Sunday
9. The Last Supper
10. Washing of the Disciples Feet
11. Crucifixion
12. Resurrection
13. Ascension
14. Pentecost

The Church Celebrates

TRANSFIGURATION / ASSUMPTION

UNIT 4 LESSON FOUR

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, you were glorified by the Father in front of your dearest friends, Peter, James, and John. Great men of the past appeared at your side. And the Father said again how much he loved you. Help us see and understand your glory, too! Amen.

My World

Sometimes it's hard to know what is real and what is not real. Television, computers and movies can make things look as if they really happened even when we know it is not true. We can do almost anything through computers and models and animation.

In Jesus' time, television, computers and movies did not exist. When we read the story of the Transfiguration and the Resurrection and the Assumption and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, we know they are actual events.

The story of the Transfiguration appears in the Bible in the Gospels of Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13 and Luke 9:28-36. Read these and tell your classmates about it in your own words. When you go home today, tell the story of the Transfiguration to your parents.

The feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated in the early summer in the Armenian Church.

God's Guiding Words

"This is my own dear son and I am pleased with him. Listen to what he says"!

Matthew 17:5

Getting Closer to God

Jesus says of himself, "I am the true vine." (John 15:5)

A vine grows and grows and grows. A grape vine can grow many feet long. If you put a section of the grape vine in the ground, a new grape plant will grow.

Make a grape vine of what you have learned about Jesus and what Jesus has taught you.

Our Armenian Way

The story of the Assumption of St. Mary is not found in the Bible. It is found in other very early writings of the Church. Like the Transfiguration, this feast is one of the Five Major Feast Days of the Armenian Church.

Years after the resurrection, St. Mary, Jesus' mother, died. She was buried in a tomb as was the custom of that time. The disciples and others heard angels singing around her tomb day and night. The disciple Bartholomew had been away when Mary died and when he returned he wanted to see her body and say his good-bye to her. Her body was gone. Jesus had taken it to heaven.

There is a special tradition on this feast day to bless grapes. Most plants grow from seeds, but grapes grow by planting the vine, not the seed. The Church uses the example of new grapes coming from the vine to show that Jesus came from God through Mary. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit, not of man.

On the Feast of the Assumption, celebrated in August, the priest blesses grapes and everyone gets some grapes to eat and enjoy. It is an Armenian Church tradition.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Jesus, you are the vine and we are the branches. This coming week, help us to live fruitful lives, pleasing to you. Let us be as faithful as Mary, your mother. Amen.

Taking a Closer Look

Grapes are the fruit of the vine. Jesus is the fruit of God. Grapes are used to make wine. At the Lord's Supper Jesus held up a cup of wine and told his followers to drink it to remember him. We eat the bread which is dipped in the wine. They are the Body and Blood of Jesus when we take Holy Communion.

Time to Celebrate

Remembering Jesus with Grape Juice and Bread

Celebrating *Asdvadadzin* with Grapes

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Our lesson today explored two of the Five Major Feasts of the Armenian Church. The students reviewed the beautiful story of the Transfiguration using different Bible translations for enrichment. We created a vine of yarn in the classroom, and attached grapes and leaves listing things we learned about Jesus. The Assumption of St. Mary was reviewed and celebrated with a snack of grapes.

Living Our Faith

1. Be sure to attend church as a family on the Feasts of Transfiguration and Assumption.
2. Read the Transfiguration story in the Bible; your child will know where to find it (from today's lesson).
3. Buy and enjoy grapes and retell the story of the Assumption of St. Mary.

From Our Hearts to God

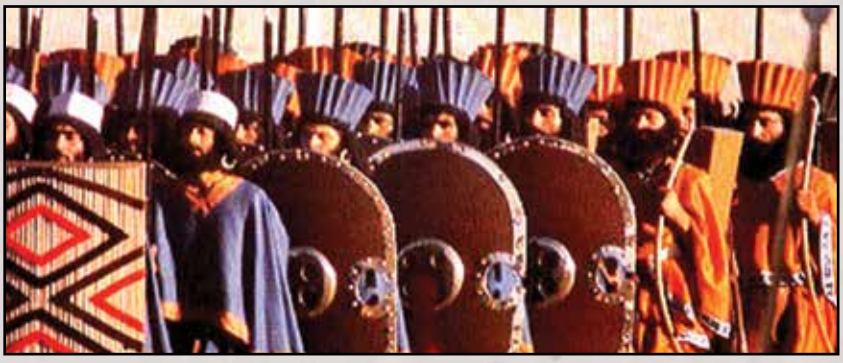
Jesus, your cross is _____

Amen.

Free Issue **MY WORLD**

MULTINATIONAL FORCE WINS HOLY CROSS FROM PERSIANS

Special report — 628 AD — town of Karin, Armenia



Today Christians throughout the world celebrate the victory of their armies which have marched on the Persian Empire and won back the Cross of Jesus Christ.

A little history first, dear readers. In 610 AD, the Persian King Khosrov with a large army attacked the Byzantine Empire. Enthusiastic about the initial victory, in 614 AD the Persian army entered Jerusalem. Many people were killed and many people were imprisoned. The Persians entered the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and took the Holy Cross.

Three months ago, the Byzantine army led by the King Heracles fought against the Persians to rescue the Holy Cross. The Armenian army regiment, led by Mzhezh Gnounie, supported the Persian army. With the Lord's help, the Byzantine army won the battle. The Holy Cross was solemnly brought to our town today, from where it will be carried to Constantinople, and then to Jerusalem.

Huge crowds gathered by the roadside as the army passed through. As the soldiers lifted up the cross for all to see, people were seen crying, crossing themselves, and falling to their knees.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"You must take up your cross each day and follow me." *Luke 9:23*

What do you think Jesus means when he tells you to take up his cross?

Getting Closer to God

The cross is used in many places and in many ways. Our priest blesses us with his hand cross. There is a cross on the altar. There are crosses all around the church. There are crosses in holy pictures. We wear a cross on a necklace.

A crucifix is a cross with Jesus on it. In the Armenian Church we see a crucifix during Lent and Holy Week, but most crosses in the Armenian Church do not have the figure of Jesus on them. The empty cross like the empty tomb on Easter morning shows us Christ rose from the dead and gives us a new life after our death – life with God in heaven.

Number the reasons you feel the cross is important starting with #1 as your most important reason. You do not have to number every line.

__ It is beautiful.

__ It reminds me of Jesus.

__ It tells everyone I am Christian.

__ It is the way criminals were killed during Jesus' time.

__ It shows people that a building is a church.

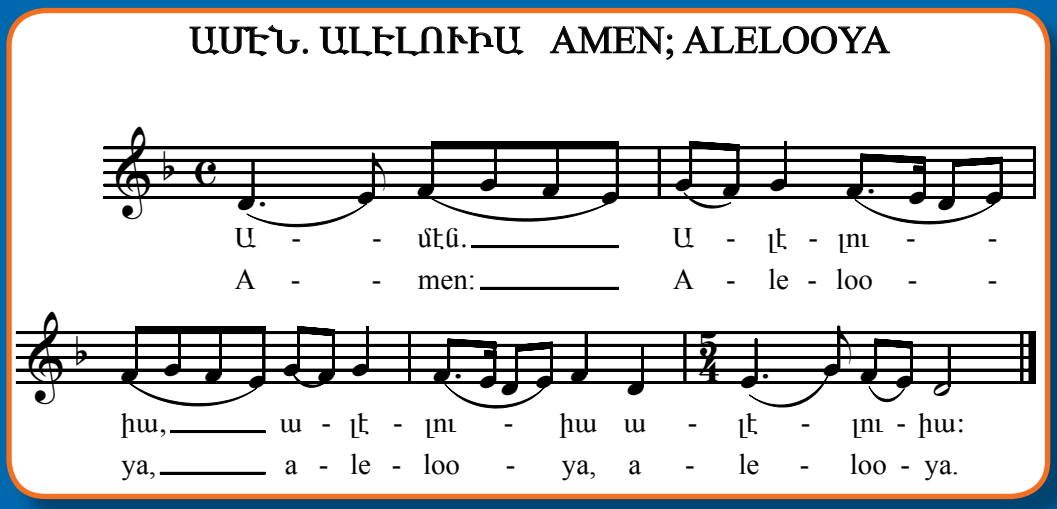
__ When I wear my cross I show others I am Christian.

__ When I see others wearing crosses I know they are Christian.

Our Armenian Way

To celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a special service called Antasdan is performed. During this service the priest and altar servers lead us in blessing the four corners of the world.

After each of the four blessings, we join the priest and altar servers in singing "Amen, Alelooya."



A cross is decorated with basil and flowers and the priest blesses the basil.

After the service the congregation can take the basil home and use it to season their food that day.

Taking a Closer Look

Today we will make and decorate a cross with basil and flowers. Take it home and put it in your room for this week. Every day look at your cross and remember that Armenians took part in the efforts to bring Jesus' holy cross back to Christians.

Time to Celebrate

We can celebrate this feast day in our classroom. Choose classmates to be the priest, the deacon, the censor, two acolytes. The rest of the class can be the congregation.

The priest should lead the altar servers to each of the four corners of the classroom and holding the cross say:

Bless the world and make it holy by the sign of this cross.

The deacon should say:

Let us sing.

The censor should swing the incense as the class sings:

Amen. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, your cross is special to us because it reminds us of your great gift to us, salvation. Amen

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today our fourth graders learned the story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; ask your child to teach it to you! The children decorated a cross with flowers and basil and then participated in a very abbreviated version of the Antasdan blessing service, which seeks God's blessing on the whole world.

Living Our Faith

1. Cook a dish with basil in it together this week.
2. Use your computer to research more information about the Armenian Church's Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Try the ministries website of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church: www.vemkar.us.

We Worship God

A SUNDAY PEOPLE (OVERVIEW)

UNIT 5 LESSON ONE

From Our Hearts to God

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
Praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his acts of power;
Praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
Praise him with the harp and lyre,
Praise him with tambourine and dancing,
Praise him with the strings and flute,
Praise him with the clash of cymbals,
Praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

1. What sounds are you hearing?
2. How do you think whoever wrote this was feeling?
3. What instruments would you want to play while praying this psalm?

My World

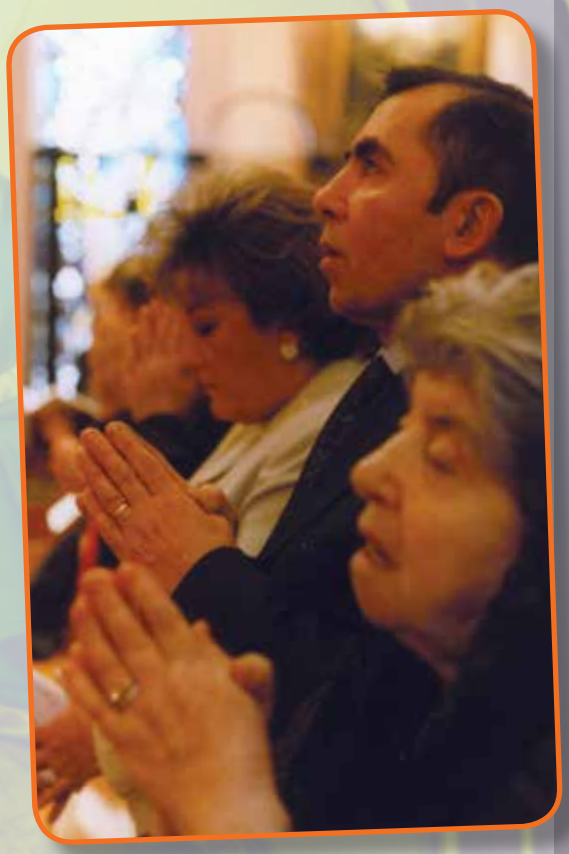
Karen just didn't feel like going to church one morning. It was a beautiful summer day and she was going to the neighborhood pool after church with friends. The last thing she felt like doing was sitting in church, since she would be thinking of other things anyway.

She told her mom who just smiled and said, "You know Karen, it's fine if once in a while you don't want to go to church. But I just want you to understand one thing. When we go to church, we can forget what's going on in our lives. In fact, we really *should*!

Because church is about leaving our own private selves at the door as we walk in and *becoming* the church. You can't be the Church by yourself! That takes all of us being together. And that happens on Sundays. When we pray in church, we're praying with one voice, really feeling the words and sharing the feeling.

Jesus asked us to remember him in this special way and when we do we're stronger in our faith and in everything we do. So it might be a good idea to come with us today, forget about your afternoon plans, and be the Church. What do you say?"

How would you have answered?



Getting Closer to God

It is good to be in church with God and our church family. As Jesus himself said, he will be with us when we gather in church. We are people who worship God. We come together in his special place to thank him, praise him, become stronger in our faith in him. We are a Sunday People. Sunday was the day Jesus rose from the dead and it became the first and holiest day of the week for Christians. It is our special day, our special time to be with God and each other.

Unscramble these words which list some reasons why we attend church.

pwosirh _____

apyr _____

gnis _____

momuncino _____

Finish the sentence:

In church I can _____.

Some feelings I have in church are _____.

What I like most about church is _____.

I am a Sunday person because _____.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"For wherever two or three have come together in my name I am right there among them!"

Matthew 18:20

Our Armenian Way

Our worship service is called the Divine Liturgy. In Armenian it is ***SOORP BADARAK*** which means holy sacrifice. The service is the same today as it has been for hundreds of years. It is formal which means it follows a routine. This is important when everyone needs to be praying together. It has four main parts.

1. Everyone Gets Ready (PREPARATION)

2. We Listen to God's Lessons (SYNAXIS)

3. We Share Jesus in Communion (EUCHARIST)

4. We Are Blessed and Sent Back Into the World (LAST BLESSING AND DISMISSAL)

The important focus of the BADARAK is Holy Communion or Eucharist. It is "the main event." During the BADARAK we are experiencing and hearing Jesus' teachings. Then we share in him through the bread and wine of Holy Communion which has become his body and blood through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Look at Luke 22:14-19. Retell what happened in your own words.

What did Jesus ask his disciples, and all of us, to do?

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, thank you for offering yourself to us in the gift of bread and wine. We remember you every Sunday on the day that is set aside for resting in God and remembering you. Amen.

Taking a Closer Look

Can you tell in which part of the BADARAK each picture belongs?

Time to Celebrate

LOOK UP LIST

1. Page 1 - What do the priests clothe themselves with?
2. Page 5 - What is the priest doing? (Hint: We do it later in the Liturgy.)
3. Page 6 top half - To Whom do we want the priest to remember us? (Hint: It is a title of Jesus.)
4. Page 14 - What is the version of Soorp Asdvadz we sing for Easter?
5. Page 22 - What are the words of the blessing the priest gives? (Hint: There's a cross in front of them.)
6. Page 25 - Twice the priest asks "Who is the king of glory?" and answers himself. Write the answer the priest gives the second time he asks the question.
7. Page 32 - What are we asked to do at the bottom of the page?
8. Page 37 - Three times the choir sings something we are asking the Lord to do. What does the choir sing?
9. Page 44 - At the bottom of the page, what does the priest tell us to do in holiness?
10. Page 55 - What does the priest tell us do as we leave the church?

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we learned how important it is for us to attend church on Sunday and worship with our fellow Christians. We identified ourselves as "Sunday people." We looked at the BADARAK as a reminder each Sunday of God's desire to be with us; his son Jesus Christ sacrificed himself, died on the cross, and then rose from the dead on a Sunday so that we could regain paradise. Jesus tells us to remember him by receiving Communion. The children made a craft to review the parts of the Badarak and played a relay race to look things up in the Badarak service book.

Living Our Faith

1. Attend Badarak as a family on days when there is no Sunday School.
2. Ask your child to tell you everything they know about the Divine Liturgy; review his or her lesson together, discussing the photos.

We Worship God

WE GET READY (PREPARATION)

UNIT 5 LESSON TWO

From Our Hearts to God

My soul is happy in the Lord, for he has dressed me in clothes that lead to salvation and has placed a robe of joy on my shoulders. He has put a crown on my head as if I were a princely bridegroom and has covered me with jewels as if I were a bride. All this by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; we glorify and honor him now and always.

Put a robe of joy and faith around our shoulders, too, Lord! Amen.

My World

Ready, Set, Go!

List three things that you do to prepare for coming to church and Sunday School.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three things you do to prepare for school on Monday.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three things you do to prepare for a vacation.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

God's Guiding Words

You prepare the way before me.

Psalm 23

Getting Closer to God

The church prepares for worship in many ways.

- Candles are lit
- Flowers are placed on the altar
- The priest gets dressed with the help of the altar servers
- The incense is prepared
- The gifts of wine and bread are readied

We the worshippers prepare by praying and quieting out thoughts to focus on God.

During the Preparation, the priest confesses and washes his hands. This is a way of making his heart, soul, and body pure as he prepares to lead us in worship.

Taking a Closer Look

Then in the second part of the liturgy, the Synaxis or teaching section, the priest goes up to the altar and the deacon carries the Gospel book around it to glorify the Word of God. We sing Soorp Asdvadz (Holy God). The Bible readings are next. The readers step forward to the Gospel book and kiss it. They read from the Old Testament and from the Epistles (or letters) in the New Testament. While they are doing this, the deacon reads the Gospel to the priest. The altar servers and choir let us know the most important reading is about to start. God will be talking to us through the Gospel reading.

The deacon holds the Gospel book in front of his face and reads it to us.

Then we all recite the Creed (Havadamk).

Our Armenian Way

1. _____

2. _____

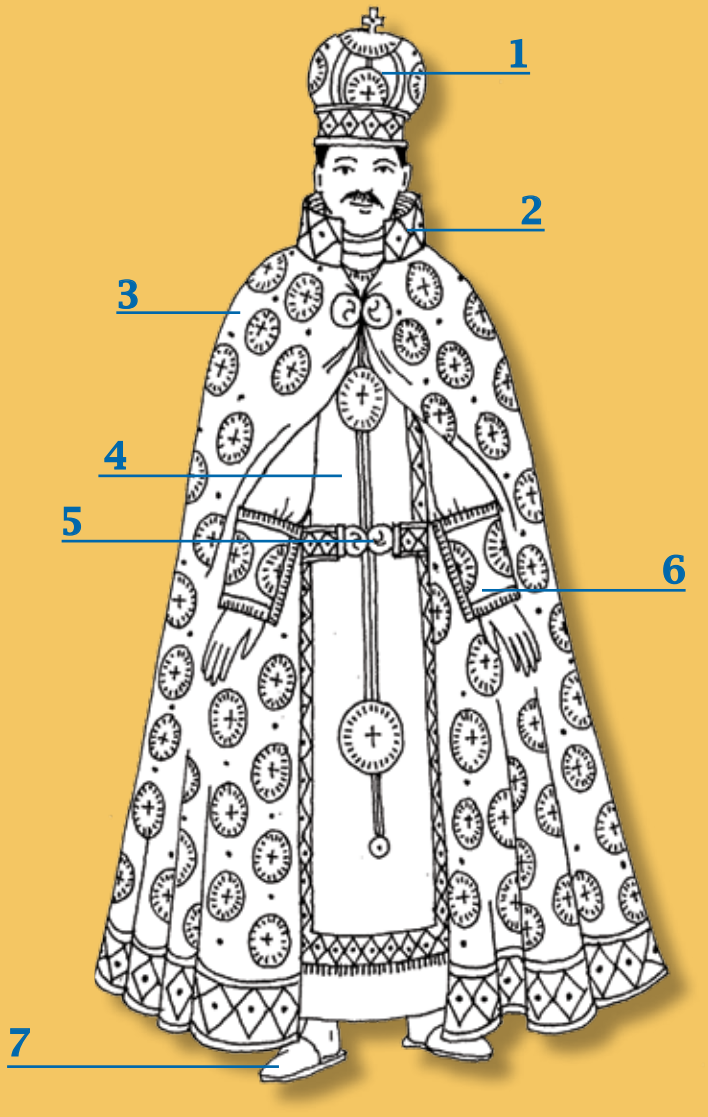
3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, let me listen to your teachings and make them part of my everyday life. Amen.

Time to Celebrate

After the Gospel reading, the priest gives the sermon. Sometimes it is given later in the service, but this is where it was traditionally. The priest may talk about the readings we have just heard. He may tell us how we can apply the lessons in our everyday life. He may offer good advice to help us live a good Christian life through the week and years ahead.

If you were going to give a sermon, what would you say?

Sermon topic:

Main ideas:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Family Corner

Sharing Our Faith

Today we learned about the Preparation and Teaching parts of the Badarak. We discussed what it means to prepare for something. The students took a closer look at the symbolic meaning of the priest's vestments. They even had an opportunity to think of a sermon they would give!

Living Our Faith

1. Ask your child what message they would give to people if they gave a sermon in church.
2. As the priest gets dressed in his vestments, he says a prayer for each thing he puts on as he gets ready to celebrate the Badarak. Create a prayer with your family that you can say each morning as you start your day.

We Worship God

UNIT 5 LESSON THREE

WE LISTEN AND LEARN (PREPARATION AND SYNAXIS)

From Our Hearts to God

Thank you, Lord, for my church. I love _____ . Amen
(Fill in the blank with what you love most about attending church.)

My World

Our teacher told us we would be going to church to see how the priest prepares for BADARAK and the first two parts of the service, the **Preparation** and the **Synaxi**s. I had never seen the priest get dressed in his vestments. We sat on the floor and were very quiet. The deacons helped him put on the special clothes. Our priest said a prayer for each thing he put on.

When he was done, we went into church and sat in the first pew. The priest came out. He said his confession and washed his hands. The teacher told us the people in church are called the congregation and the priest says his confession of sins to the congregation. After his confession, the priest went up to the altar and the curtain closed. This was the end of the Preparation part of the Badarak.

When the curtain opened, the priest came down and walked around the church with the altar servers in a sort of parade called **TAPOR**. We all got to kiss his hand cross and the teacher told us to say, "Remember me to Jesus." She told us we were asking the priest to tell Jesus we are here worshiping. The priest said "You will be remembered" back to us. He goes back to the altar and makes the sign of the cross to us giving us a blessing from God.

The priest and altar servers went up to the *altar*. It is so beautiful with the candles, cross, flowers and holy picture. Our teacher told us the altar is a special table with a covering like a roof above it. After a while, the deacon took the Gospel Book from the altar, held it up and walked around behind the altar, a little **tapor** again. We sang *Soorp Asdvadz*. The people who were going to read the Bible that day came and kissed the book as a sign of respect. Maybe one day I will be a reader. The *readers* recite from the Old Testament and the Letters of the Apostles.

While the readers read to us, I saw one of the deacons at the altar read the Gospel book to the priest quietly. Then the deacon stood in front of the altar and held the Gospel book in front of his face and read the same part to us. This is one of the most important jobs the deacon has. He also directs the congregation, telling us to stand, pay attention, bow and listen.

Right after the Bible readings, we all recite the Creed, which lists all the important things we believe.

Our teacher told us that the priest gives his sermon next or he might wait and give the sermon more toward the end of Badarak. The readings and sermon are part of the teaching part of *Badarak*, the Synaxis.

We didn't stay for the Eucharist part of the Badarak when we receive *holy communion* and we didn't stay for the Last Blessing and Dismissal. We quietly left church and went back to our classroom.

Taking a Closer Look

____The priest walks around the church

____The deacon reads from the Gospel

____The readers kiss the Gospel book

____The readers read from the Old Testament and Letters

____The priest vests

____We recite the Creed

____The priest goes back to the altar and blesses us

____The Gospel book is carried around the altar

____The priest gives the sermon

____The priest says his confession to us then goes up to the altar

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

My mother and my brothers are those people who hear and obey God's message.

Luke 8:21

Getting Closer to God

How can you learn more about God when you are in church? _____

_____

When we are in church we feel closer to God. The incense, the candles, the stained glass windows, the music, the priest – all of these help us feel we are in God's special place.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, protect and guide my priest and all priests of our Church. Amen.

Our Armenian Way

The sermon is usually about the Gospel reading for that day. The priest talks about what it means and how it can guide and help us today and every day.

Our priest has two roles during *Badarak*. He represents God to us and us to God. But most of all, he offers our gifts up to God and then offers God's gift back to us. He prays for each one of us individually and all of us together.

You can pray for your priest as he prays for you.
And pray for *all* the priests of our Armenian Church.

Time to Celebrate

A fun review…

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson was about the first two parts of the Badarak. We attended church (and if you came with us, thank you for joining us!) and then reviewed the important actions and meaning of what we experienced. The children discussed something they love about church. They started a crossword puzzle on the liturgy.

Living Our Faith

1. Complete today's crossword puzzle with your child. Send it in with him or her next week.
2. Take your camera to church. Take pictures of various parts of the service. Have someone take a picture of your family with the priest after church. When your pictures are ready, put them in order on a poster and talk together about what is happening. Perhaps you can group the pictures into the four parts of the Badarak: Preparation, Synaxis, Eucharist, Last Blessing and Dismissal.

We Worship God

RECEIVING THE LORD TOGETHER (HOLY COMMUNION)

UNIT 5 LESSON FOUR

From Our Hearts to God

Dear Lord, many things feed our bodies but you, Lord, provide for our souls. We know the bread and wine of Sunday can make every day different! Let this special food help us be stronger and wiser in our faith and more loving in our thoughts and actions. Amen.

My World

What is your favorite food? Write it here:

_____

Why do you like it? _____

How does it make you feel? Check whichever words apply:

Happy___

Energetic____

Satisfied___

Good___

Ready to go___

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Taste and see that the Lord is sweet!

Psalm *34:8 Orhnyal eh Asdvadz, hymn of the Divine Liturgy*

Getting Closer to God

We need food to grow and strengthen our bodies.

We need church, knowledge of God, the teachings of Jesus Christ, guidance of the Holy Spirit, and Holy Communion to grow our faith and strengthen our spirit.

Most importantly, Jesus asked us to do something very special in remembrance of him. Remember that phrase? Look at the following verses in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. Summarize each sentence in your own few words:

Luke 22: 14:_____

Luke 22: 19: _____

Matthew 26: 27 and 28:_____

Turn to the top of page 31 of your Divine Liturgy books. What do you notice?

Our Armenian Way

The high point of the Badarak is Holy Communion. We are present with Jesus at the supper he had with his followers before his crucifixion and resurrection. At that time he took the bread and wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples. He told them that this was his Body and Blood and to do this always in remembrance of him.

When we attend church we are with Jesus again. He comes to be with us in Holy Communion. The altar table is set with the bread and wine. It becomes the body and blood of Jesus which we are called to eat and drink to remember that Jesus was giving his body and blood to save us.

Yes, Jesus died on the cross. And yes, he rose to a new life. We will die also. And because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us, we will rise again to a new life with God in his Kingdom of Heaven.

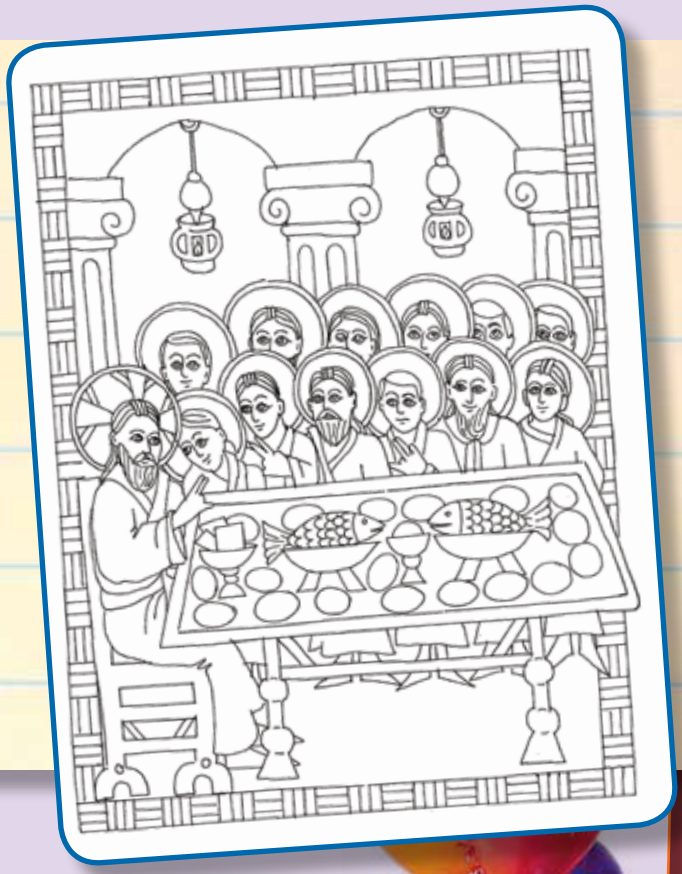
So when the priest calls us to eat and drink, we go to the altar and remember Jesus. Through his body and blood we receive our *spiritual* food to make our souls healthy. Our sins are forgiven and we have the promise of eternal life.

During confession, we think of the ways we may need to be stronger in our faith. We ask ourselves: Was I unkind? Did I lose my patience unfairly? Am I thinking of others as much as myself?

When we receive Holy Communion, we step up to the priest and make the sign of the cross. Then we tilt our heads back a bit and open our mouths and the priest puts the Communion into our mouths. He will pray for us as we do, saying: "May this be unto you for the forgiveness of sins." We make the sign of the cross again and step aside to wait until Communion is finished. The priest stands and gives a blessing; then we go back to our pews.

Taking a Closer Look

Every Sunday Holy Communion is offered. We should receive it every Sunday when we are in church.



Time to Celebrate

Let's eat and drink and remember …

all the good things God has given us.

The way our faith becomes stronger through the bread and wine of Communion.

That Jesus made it possible for us to enter God's Kingdom.

Let's celebrate the life and love of Jesus with our own special meal!

RESPONDING IN FAITH

We taste and see how sweet the Lord is. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson was about Holy Communion. We discussed our favorite foods and how they made us feel. But it's God's spiritual nourishment that we turned to next. We attended church and received Holy Communion (if you came with us, wonderful!) and then enjoyed a celebration back at class.

Living Our Faith

1. Tell your child about what you think and feel about receiving Holy Communion.
2. Have you ever made your own bread? Try making bread as a family project this week.

We Worship God

TAKING SUNDAY INTO THE REST OF THE WEEK (LAST BLESSING AND DISMISSAL)

UNIT 5 LESSON FIVE

From Our Hearts to God

I will bless the Lord at all times. Amen.

My World

When people gather to see or experience something together, there are always special endings!

For example…

What happens at the end of…

1. A family Thanksgiving?
2. A graduation ceremony?
3. A session of summer camp?

Getting Closer to God

The end of the Badarak is the **Last Blessing and Dismissal**. It starts when the curtain opens after Holy Communion.

The priest holds the gospel book, bows three times and kisses the holy altar and comes down into the chancel. He says the prayer of St. John Chrysostom and we respond with the choir.

- Lord, who blesses those who bless you and **sanctifies** those who put their trust in you.

Blessed is God.

- Save your people and bless your **inheritance**. Guard the fullness of your Church.

Amen.

- **Sanctify** those who have greeted in love the beauty of your house. Glorify us with your divine power and **forsake not** those who put their trust in you.

Amen.

- **Grant** peace to the whole world, to churches, to priests, to Christian rulers and to their armed forces, and to all your people.

Amen.

- For all good gifts and all perfect **bounties** come down from above, from you, the Father of light; and to you is **befitting** glory, **dominion** and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

Now we all sing: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time **forth** forevermore.

The priest says his final prayer: You are the perfection of the law and of the prophets, O Christ God our Savior, who did fulfill all your **economies** willed by the Father. Fill us also with your Holy Spirit.

The last gospel reading is read and we sing the last hymn of the Badarak: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall at all times be in my mouth.

The priest blesses us before we come forward to kiss the gospel book he holds and then leave. He says: Be blessed by the grace of the Holy Spirit. **Depart** in peace and the Lord be with you always.

As we kiss the gospel book, we should say: May the Lord remember all your sacrifices.

Our Armenian Way

We kiss each other hello and goodbye as a sign of love and respect. Grandparents, uncles, aunts and parents are people we kiss in this way.

In the church we give the Kiss of Peace when the deacon says: "Greet each other with a holy kiss." We kiss the priest's hand cross. At the end of the service, the priest stands before the chancel and holds the gospel book for all to come up and kiss.

As we leave the church we remember our promise to praise God and keep God with us through the week in everything we do.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Holy Spirit, guide us through the weeks ahead and all the days of our lives. Amen!

Taking a Closer Look

The language of the church and worship uses words we might not hear in everyday life. Look at the words below and match them with their meaning:

Grant_____	1. Make holy
Depart_____	2. Give
Dominion_____	3. Gifts
Dismissal_____	4. Leave
Sanctify_____	5. Deserving
Inheritance_____	6. Don't give up on
Forsake not_____	7. God's ways and plans
Bounties_____	8. Forward
Befitting_____	9. Leaving
Forth_____	10. Power over all things
Economies_____	11. Your people

Time to Celebrate

An end-of-the-year party!

Family Corner

Sharing Our Faith

We have finished our unit on the Divine Liturgy. Your child should now have an overall understanding of the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church. And we have completed our year together – congratulations to you and your child!

Living Our Faith

Attend church with your child as often as possible. Encourage your child to participate with singing, actions (kissing the hand cross, bowing, making the sign of the cross, standing, kneeling, confession and Holy Communion, kissing the Gospel). Point out items, actions, intentions during the service. Pray together as a family and as a community.

Department of Christian Education
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
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