

Unit 3: GOD'S GREATEST GIFTS

Special Lesson 3.5: WE, THE CHURCH

Dedicated to 125th Anniversary of the Armenian Church of America (Part 3)

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Video Lesson: [What is Church?](#) (duration 2:10)

Activity: "Together to Church We Go!" coloring and activity page (found on the fifth page).

You will need: coloring pencils, crayons or markers.

Words of the week:

տաճար - dajar - temple/cathedral

աստուածընկալ - asdvadzungal - holds God

երկրպագութիւն - yergbakootyoon - worship

Memory Verse:

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

New Prayer:

Ի մէջ տաճարիս եւ առաջի աստուածընկալ եւ պայծառացեալ սուրբ նշանացս եւ սուրբ տեղոյս խոնարհեալ երկիւղի երկիրպագանենք, զսուրբ, զհրաշալի եւ զյաղթող զտէրութիւնդ Քրիստոսաւորենք, եւ Քեզ մատուցանենք զօրհնութիւն եւ զփառս ընդ Ռօմ եւ ընդ Ռօմոյդ Սրբոյ, այժմ եւ միշտ եւ յաւիտեանս յաւիտենից. Ամէն:

Ee mech dajarees yev arachee Asdvadzungal yev baydzaratzyal soorp nushanatzus yev soorp deghevoos, khonarhyal yergyoogheev yergeerbakanemk; Uzsoorp yev uzhrashalee yev uzhaghtogh uzde-rootyoon ko paravoremk, yev kez madootzanemk zorhnootyoon yev uzpars, unt Hor yev unt Hokvooyt Surpo, ayjhm yev meeshd yev haveedyanus haveedeneets. Amen.

In the midst of this temple, O Lord, and before the holy signs and before this holy place that hold God up to us and are made resplendent, we bow down in awe and worship; we glorify Your holy, wondrous and triumphant dominion, and we offer praise and glory to You with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body:

During our previous lessons we talked about a great achievement of the Armenian Community in the United States. The building of the first Armenian Church, then the Diocesan center, opening schools and continuing to create Armenian history far away from the Armenian homeland. This is a great legacy that our immigrant ancestors left for us to continue. These truly remarkable milestones will always be an inspiration to those who inherited that legacy.

With all this in mind, it is appropriate to say that the development of the first Armenian Church in America was built when a few Armenians came together in Christ's name to fulfill a dream of hope, faith, and unity. Yes, that church did not have walls, a dome and a cross on top. It was the Church that Christ asked us to build, and our ancestors followed His request.

The phrase "We are going to church" does not do justice to what it truly means. If we try to understand this the way the Bible teaches us, we are not just going to a physical church every Sunday, but we are becoming one body in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Without unity, prayers, hymns, and worship, there is no point in a building, a house of God, a place where Christians come together.

Just as smoke coming out of a chimney shows us that there are people there who are making that house a home, likewise, the smoke rising from the censer shows our prayers going to heaven, along with the beautiful tunes of the hymns we sing every Sunday and our unbreakable faith in our Lord is what makes the foundation of our spiritual home stronger.

Along with many beautiful hymns and prayers we hear and say every Sunday during the Divine Liturgy, there is a very special one. We say this prayer in the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, when the priest, deacons and people enter the church.

Words of the Week:

տաճար - dajar - temple/cathedral

աստուածընկալ -
asdvadzungal - holds God

երկրպագութիւն -
yergbakootyoon - worship



Image from www.stjohnarmenianchurch.org

Read Aloud This Prayer For Entering The Church

Ի մէջ տաճարիս եւ առաջի աստուածընկալ եւ պայծառացեալ սուրբ նշանացս եւ սուրբ տեղոյս խոնարհեալ երկիւղի երկիրպագանեմք, զսուրբ, զիրաշալի եւ զյաղթող զտէրութիւնդ. Քո փառաւորեմք, եւ Քեզ մատուցանեմք զօրհնութիւն եւ զփառս ընդ Զօր եւ ընդ Զոգուող Սրբոյ, այժմ եւ միշտ եւ յաւիտեանս յաւիտենից. Ամէն:

Ee mech dajarees yev arachee Asdvadzungal yev baydzaratzyal soorp nushanatzus yev soorp deguvoos, khonarhyal yergyooogheev yergeerbakanemk; Uzsoorp yev uzhrashalee yev uzhaghtogh uzderootyoont ko paravoremk, yev kez madootzanemk zorhnootyoon yev uzpars, unt Hor yev unt Hokvooyt Surpo, ayjhm yev meeshd yev haveedyanus haveedeneets. Amen.

In the midst of this temple, O Lord, and before the holy signs and before this holy place that hold God up to us and are made resplendent, we bow down in awe and worship; we glorify Your holy, wondrous and triumphant dominion, and we offer praise and glory to You with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto ages of ages. Amen.

This beautiful prayer teaches us three main truths:

- 1. The word for cathedral – տաճար – is also the word for temple, referring to a place of worship. The Armenian word for տաճար comes from two separate words: տայ and ճար. Տայ means “He gives” and ճար means “a remedy or cure”. So, the temple of worship, the church, literally is the place where God gives us a remedy and cure for our spiritual illnesses and weaknesses, namely the Body and Blood of Christ, Holy Communion. It is in the physical church, the տաճար, where we physically come into contact and commune with God.*
- 2. The objects in the church and throughout the sanctuary hold God up to us, that is to say, they show us who God is and what He has done. He is the creator of everything and the one who defeated demons, sin, and death. Objects such as the cross, icons, and the chalice remind us of this important truth.*
- 3. God is deserving of our worship. Worship is an outward act and recognition of our respect, love, awe, and obedience to another, but with God, it is also an acknowledgement of His supremacy in our lives. He is the only one worthy of our worship and we do this when we enter His home, the church.*

This prayer is very special in many ways, and it teaches us many things. It is not only dedicated to be said when we enter the church but it can also be prayed daily, referring to our bodies as temples.

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20



St. Paul

Ultimately, the church is the people who come together in faith, just as Christ says, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I shall be among them” (Matthew 18:20), but the physical building is a holy place, reserved for worshipping, praising, addressing and communing with God. It is a place that deserves our respect, just as God does, and a home for our wearied souls and bodies. It is each of our responsibilities to preserve our churches and our mother cathedral of St. Vartan so that they may remain our beacons of light in the dark world we live. As the final lines of the first hymn of our Holy Badarak say, “Heavenly King, preserve your Church unshaken and keep in peace those who worship your name.”

Overcoming the challenges which life has bestowed upon our nation, we pass on the torch year after year, teaching our faith, heritage and values to remain strong Christians who are able to fight evil and inspires generations to come.

Video Lesson: [What Is Church?](#) (duration 2:10)

Activity: “Together to Church We Go!” coloring and activity page (found on the fifth page).

Review

Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. What two words does the word տաճար come from? (տայ and ճար)
2. What else does տաճար mean for us? (It can also mean “He gives a cure or remedy)
3. What is the cure that God gives us in the church? (Holy Communion)
3. What do the objects, like crosses, icons, and chalice, remind us of? (That God is the creator of everything)

Memory Verse Review:

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Words Of The Week:

տաճար - dajar - temple/cathedral

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* *Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

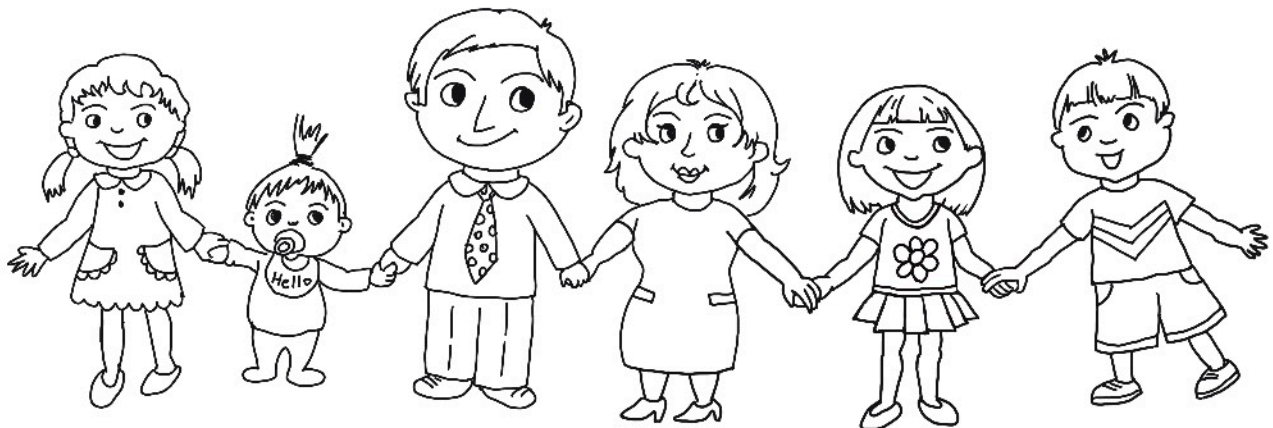
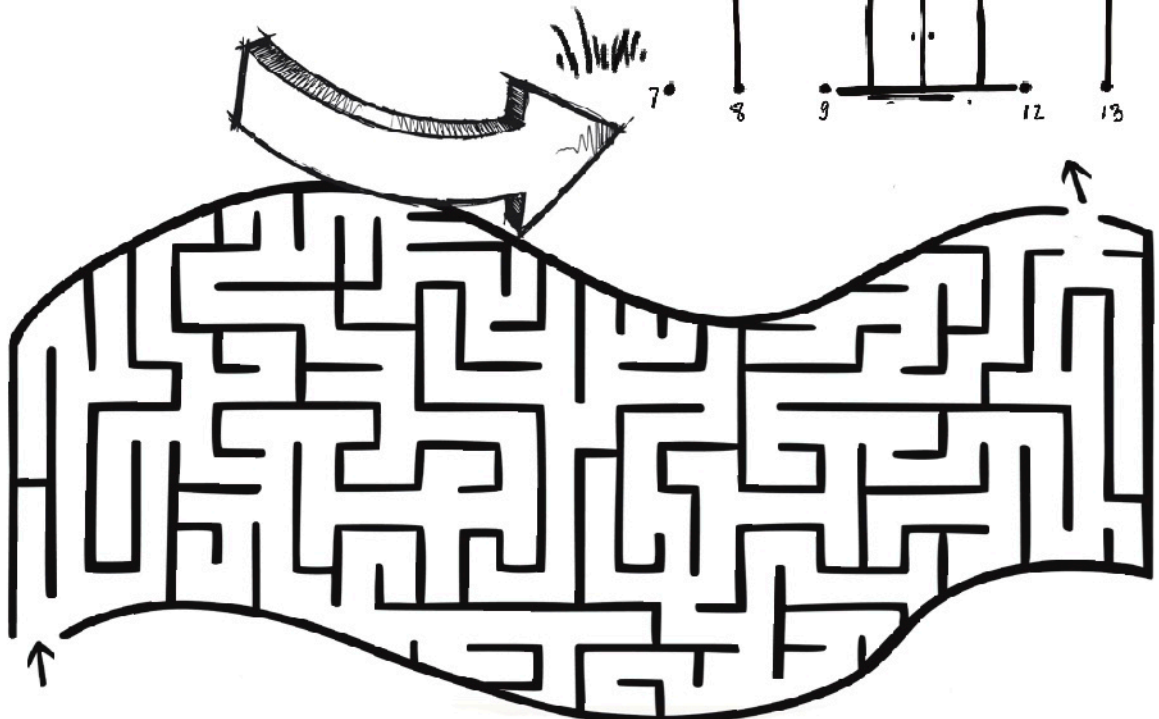
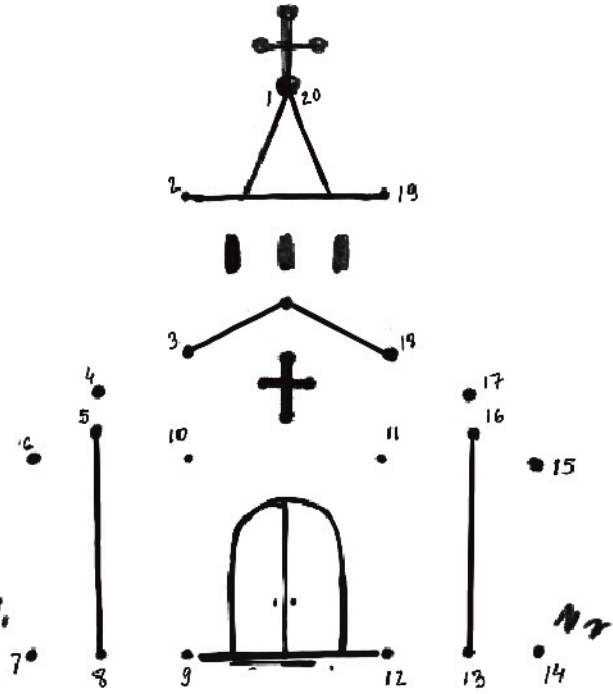
Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Together to Church We Go!

Connect the dots to build the church and help the family find their way there.



At Home

Memorize by next class:

Bible Verse:

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

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