

## SPECIAL LESSON

# Bible Study: Green Sunday - You are the Church A Reflecting on Growing Into the Mission

### Bible Study Preparation and Materials Needed:

Reflecting on: New Sunday, New You

Scripture Reading: *John 20:20-29*

Verses used in this Bible Study:

**John 20:19:** *“Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’”*

**Colossians 3:9–10:** *“You have taken off the old self... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”*

**John 20:21:** *“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”*

Memory Verse:

**“You have taken off the old self... and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”**

**- Colossians 3:9–10**

## Bible Study Lesson

### 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, ee 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.

## A Reflecting on Growing Into the Mission

After the joy of Easter, after the empty tomb and the bright Alleluias, something amazing happens — something we often don't stop to think about. Jesus rose from the dead, but He didn't just leave His followers with a memory. He left them with a mission. Green Sunday, which we celebrate today, reminds us that the Church wasn't meant to be a museum where we admire what God once did. It's a living, breathing Body — alive because Christ is alive. And we are a part of it, as it reflects in **1 Corinthians 12:27**, “*You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*”

**Q:** *In what way do you see yourself being a part of the Church?*

It's easy to think that being a Christian is mostly about believing the right things or following certain rules. But the Church isn't just about ideas or even about being good. It's about carrying the life of Christ inside of us, so much so that it changes the way we walk through the world. It's about growing — every day — into the people God always dreamed we would be. Green Sunday invites us to remember that the same Spirit who filled the apostles at Pentecost is living in us right now. We aren't just spectators to God's story; we're written into it. **St. John Chrysostom** said it beautifully: “*The Church is not walls of stone but the hearts of men who believe in Christ.*”

**Q:** *Christianity has been passed from generation to generation. Can you recall an example or an older person who became an inspiration for you to live the life Christ calls you to live?*

When Jesus rose from the grave, He didn't go straight to heaven. He spent time with His disciples — walking with them, eating with them, encouraging them, and preparing them to carry His light into the world. That same light is meant to shine through you and me. The Apostle Paul says, “*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*” (**Galatians 2:20**)

Let's think about that for a second: Christ lives in you. Not just an idea about Him, but His actual life — His love, His mercy, His courage — alive inside your heart.

**Q:** *What does this mean for you, and how does it make you feel?*

In our previous Bible studies, we talked about the world and the expectations it lays on us. We also discussed the impact and the weight of those expectations. Striving for vain, godless perfection does not fulfill or heal our souls. The world doesn't need more people pretending to be perfect. It needs people who are real — people who are so full of Christ's love that they can't help but forgive, heal, encourage, and offer hope. That's what being the Church

looks like. And the truth is, it doesn't happen all at once. Just like a tree doesn't shoot up overnight, our spiritual life grows little by little. Some days, the growth is hard to see. Some days, we mess up. Yet on Green Sunday, we're reminded that what matters is not perfection — it's staying rooted in our Christian faith. It's letting the sunlight of Christ's love reach us every day, so we keep growing, even when it's slow, even when it's hard, even when we feel it's not worth it.

During moments like this it is appropriate to remember **Jeremiah 17:7–8** *“Blessed is the man whose trust is in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river.”*

**Q:** *Have you had moments in life when difficulties made you question your faith? If so, how did you overcome that?*

**Q:** *What does carrying Christ's mission mean to you? Is this meaning any different from what it means for your parents or grandparents?*

Maybe you don't feel ready. Maybe you wonder if your love for Christ shines brightly enough. Maybe you wonder if you're brave enough to carry His mission in a world that sometimes seems so dark. If that's you — you're not alone. Every saint, every apostle, every ordinary believer who ever lived felt the same way at some point. What made the difference wasn't that they were fearless. It's that they were willing to take the next step. To say yes. To trust that Christ's strength would fill in where their own ended.

Today, Jesus looks at you with the same love He had for His disciples, the same love He had when He conquered death itself. He sees not just who you are now, but who you're becoming. And He says, *“Come. Walk with Me. Carry My light.”* He bequeathed us His trust and His mission and we witness this through **St. Paul's** words *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”* (Ephesians 5:8)

We don't have to know exactly what our future will look like. We don't have to have it all figured out. All we have to do is keep our heart open, keep growing, keep letting His love shine through us — in the way we listen, the way we forgive, the way we hope, the way we live. Because the Church isn't just a building, and it isn't just history we look back to. The Church is us and Christ's mission is in us.

## Reflection Questions:

1. When you hear that the Church is “alive” and that you are part of it, how does that make you feel?
2. What is one way you have seen Christ's light already shine through you — even in small ways?
3. What holds you back sometimes from letting Christ's love shine more fully in your life?
4. Green Sunday reminds us that growth can be slow and hidden. Where in your life right now do you need patience as God helps you grow?
5. If you could picture Christ looking at you right now, what do you think He would be encouraging you to do or become?
6. How can we support each other as a Church family to keep growing and carrying Christ's light into the world?

**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.