

# Special Lesson: Green Sunday - We the Church

## Green Sunday: Be the Church - One and Holy

### Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

**Video Lesson:** [Tongues of Fire](#) (duration 6:29)

**Class Activity:** Letter to the Church of the Future

**Activity 1:** Marks of the church crossword

**Activity 2:** Marks of the church word search

### GOAL OF THE LESSON:

To emulate the marks and characteristics of the Church in our own lives.

### Words of the week:

մի or մէկ – mee or meg – one

սուրբ – soorp – holy

ընդհանրական – untanragan – universal

առաքելական – arakelagan – apostolic

### Memory Verse:

**“For where two or three are gathered  
in my name, there am I among them.”**

**– Matthew 18:20**

# Lesson

## Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

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

### Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տու՛ր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՛ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց եւ 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 yev paneets yen 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:

Today is called Green Sunday in the Armenian Church calendar. On this day, we remember the beautiful gift that Jesus gave to His followers — the gift of the Universal Church. The Church was first gathered together in the Upper Room, when the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, became brave and began to spread the Good News of Jesus to the whole world. We will remember the coming of the Holy Spirit in a special way again on Pentecost, but today we think about how the Church first began to grow and become strong.

Green Sunday reminds us that the Church is not just made up of stone walls, tall domes, and grand altars. Those are beautiful gifts, but the real Church is made up of people — the faithful men, women, and children who love Jesus and live by His teachings. Each one of us is a part of the Church. We are all members of the Body of Christ, working together to bring His love and His light into the world.

As members of the Universal Church, we are called to live with the same spirit that the Church has. The Church has four very important characteristics. Without these, it would not truly be the Church. We hear about these four characteristics every Sunday when we recite the Havadamk — the Nicene Creed — during the Divine Liturgy (on pages 18-19 of our Badarak book).

Հաւատամք եւ ի մի միայն ընդհանրական եւ առաքելական սուրբ եկեղեցի, ի մի մկրտութիւն, յապաշխարութիւն, ի քաւութիւն եւ ի թողութիւն մեղաց: Ի յարութիւն մեռելոց, ի դատաստանն յաւիտենից հոգւոց եւ մարմնոց, յարքայութիւնն երկնից եւ ի կեանսն յաւիտենականս:

We believe also in only one, catholic, apostolic, and holy Church; in one baptism, in repentance for the remission and forgiveness of sins; in the resurrection of the dead, in the everlasting judgment of souls and bodies, in the Kingdom of Heaven and in the life eternal.

**Memory Verse:**

“For where two or three are gathered  
in my name, there am I among them.”

– Matthew 18:20

**Words of the Week:**

մի or մէկ – mee or meg – one

սուրբ – soorp – holy

ընդհանրական – untanragan – universal

առաքելական – arakelagan – apostolic

**One** – The Universal Church is united together and is indivisible. Of course, we may have different traditions and languages, but we all belong to the same Christ and are baptized in the name of the same Holy Trinity. Similarly, we, the faithful, all belong to the same Church and must remain as one body. When we disagree or hold grudges against another, we divide the Body of Christ and are no longer one, but two or more. This is what Satan tries to do and we cannot allow him to succeed.

**Holy** – The Universal Church is holy and pure. It is made of individuals who make mistakes and sin, but this does not mean the Church is unholy. Think of the hand of a body. If it is dirty with mud, does this mean that the entire body is dirty or bad? Of course not. We just must wash the hand clean. Likewise, we as faithful must strive to live clean and holy lives. It is natural to make mistakes, sin, and fall, but we must get up, recognize our faults and weaknesses and change our ways so that we do not sin again.

**Catholic** – The Universal Church is catholic which means it is universal and general (ընդհանրական/untanragan). Catholic does not mean we belong to the Roman Catholic Church, but that, applied to the Church, the adjective “catholic” means that in the Church, the wholeness of the Christian faith, full and complete, all-embracing, and with nothing lacking, is proclaimed to all people without excluding any part of the faith or any class or group of people. We are not selective and do not refuse people who in truth and love, wish to become part of the Body of Christ. As such, each of us must be willing to love and help those around us, proclaiming the Gospel, no matter who they are. If non-Armenians come to our churches and wish to join in worship with us, we must welcome them with love because if they belong to Christ, then they belong with us.

**Apostolic** – The Universal Church is apostolic. This means the Church was spread by the apostles, our faith was taught by those who lived with Christ, and our priesthood is a direct line from them. This also means that the apostles were people who went out and preached the Gospel of Christ. They did not stay in Jerusalem and do nothing, waiting for people to come to them. We as apostles too must go out and preach the Gospel by living it as an example of discipleship, bringing people close to Christ and building up the Universal Church.

Green Sunday is a day for us to remember the Universal Church and remind ourselves that we within our communities and families are little churches, temples of God, which must be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Just as the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in the Upper Room and led them to deliver the good news of Christ’s resurrection to others, may it always be with us, guiding and directing us.

**Video Lesson:** [Tongues of Fire](#) (duration 6:29)



### **Class Activity: Letter to the Church of the Future**

**Activity:** Students write a short “letter” imagining themselves as an apostle writing to a new Christian community today.

- What advice would they give about staying one, holy, catholic, and apostolic?
- What encouragement would they offer about living as the Body of Christ?

**Purpose:** Helps students think creatively about faith and internalize how the Church continues to grow through them.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Marks of the Church Crossword

Complete the crossword puzzle by using the clues below.

1					2					
3		4								



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### Across

3. With the tradition of the church directly from the apostles, the church is considered this as well.

### Down

1. The second aspect of this mark, the Church has been sent to proclaim Christ to the entire human race.

2. The church \_\_\_\_\_ because it is Christ's church.

4. Just as God is in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the church is also.

## Marks of the Church

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

APOSTLES  
DOCTRINE  
HOLY  
TRUE

APOSTOLIC  
FAITH  
MARKS  
UNITY

CATHOLIC  
FOUR  
ONE  
UNIVERSAL

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## Review

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### Memory Verse Review:

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

### Lesson Review:

#### Questions:

1. What are the marks of the Church? (One, holy, catholic, and apostolic)
2. When was the Church established? (On Pentecost in the Upper Room)
3. What does it mean that the Church is catholic? (That it is universal and general. It does not belong to one group, class, or race of people, but is open to all)
4. When do we remember and recite the marks of the Church? (In the Nicene Creed every Sunday during Holy Badarak)

### Words of the Week:

մի or մէկ – mee or meg – one

սուրբ – soorp – holy

ընդհանրական – untanragan – universal

առաքելական – arakelagan – apostolic

*\* 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 keesher-ee, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sa-sanetsayts 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.