

# Special Lesson: Red Sunday - Brave in Faith

## Red Sunday: Brave as a Saint

### Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

**Craft Activity:** Loving God Memory Game

**Song:** [I Shall Not be Moved](#)

### Words of the week:

կարմիր - gar-meer - red

քաջ - kach - brave

լոյս - looys - light

### Moral Character Focus:

Students will understand that Red Sunday celebrates love and bravery in the Christian faith, and will learn how small acts of courage — inspired by Jesus, the saints, and biblical heroes — can make a big difference as they shine their light for Christ in everyday life.

### Memory Verse:

**“You are the light of the world.”**

**Matthew 5:14**

# Lesson

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## Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

Open with prayer:

**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 a happy and special day in our Church. It's called Red Sunday! Let's say it together. It's Red Sunday! Doesn't that sound exciting?

Red is a bright, bold color. It's the color of hearts and love. It's also the color we use to remember people who are very brave. On Red Sunday, we remember how much Jesus loves us — and how He helps us to be strong and brave too!

Are you ready to hear something interesting about brave heroes who loved Jesus and never gave up, even when they were scared and in danger?

A long time ago, there were people who loved Jesus so much that they were brave, even when things were scary. There was a girl named Hripsime who said, "I will always love Jesus!" She stood brave even when the king was threatening her. Saint Gregory, stayed in a dark pit for many years but never gave up on God became someone who helped Armenians to learn about Christianity and love Jesus. Another brave leader was named Vartan, who told his army, "We will never stop following Christ!" and became an example and an inspiration for the entire Armenian nation. Even in the Bible, there were brave people too! Like Daniel, who prayed even when the king said no. And Esther, who spoke up to help her people, even though she was afraid. They all trusted in God and God gave them strong hearts.

God can make your heart strong too. You don't have to be big to be brave. Jesus helps even the littlest ones to shine His light. When you are kind, you shine. When you tell the truth, you shine. When you pray or say, "I love Jesus," your heart shines like a candle in the dark. Do you remember the very special thing Jesus said? He said, "You are the light of the world." That means YOU! Your smile, your prayers, your goodness — it all shines!

So today on Red Sunday, let's remember that Jesus loves us very much. He gave His life for us because His love is that big! And now we can love Him back by being brave and kind — just like the saints and the heroes in the Bible. Can you do that this week? I know you can!

## Let's Prayer Together

Dear Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank You for loving me. Help me to be brave like You. Make my heart shine with Your light. Help me to do what is right, even when it's hard. We love You and in Your name we pray.

Amen.

## Song: [I Shall Not be Moved](#)

### Craft Activity: Loving God Memory Game

#### Materials Needed:

- Printed sheets with 16 saint images (2 copies or more if playing as an individual game)
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Optional: laminator or clear tape for durability

#### Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Print two (four, six, eight or more if playing as an individual game) copies of the heroes' image sheet on cardstock paper. This will create matching pairs.
2. Carefully cut out all hero image cards. You should have two of each saint per set.
3. Shuffle all the cards in each set well.
4. Lay them out face down in a grid pattern (e.g., 6 rows of 6, with a few cards left over if needed).
5. Explain the Rules
6. Tell students that this is a memory match game.
7. The goal is to find two matching images of the same hero.
8. Set up a timer if desired (optional if playing as an individual game).
9. If the images match, they keep the pair and get another turn (does not apply if playing an individual game).
10. If they don't match, they flip the cards back over and the next player takes a turn.
11. Continue until all pairs have been found.
12. The player with the most pairs wins.

#### Encourage Learning:

Each time a match is made, say the name of the hero out loud and share a quick 1–2 sentence fact about their bravery (for this feel free to use provided info cards about the heroes as cheat sheet).

**Example:** "That's Saint Hripsime — she was brave and never gave up her faith, even when it was dangerous."





Mary, Mother of God



Jesus Christ



St. John the Baptist



St. Peter



St. Bartholomew



St. Thaddeus



St. Paul



St. Sandukht



St. Hripsime



St. Gregory the Illuminator



St. King Trdat III



St. Mashtots



St. Ghevont Yerets



St. Vartan Mamigonian



St. Shushanik



St. Nersess the Great

## Loving God Memory Game Information Sheet

Use this info sheet each time a match is made,  
say the name of the saint out loud  
and share a quick 1–2 sentence fact about their bravery.

### 1. Mary, the Mother of God (Asdvadzadzeen)

With humble obedience and unwavering love, Mary bore Christ and stood courageously by Him—even at the Cross—becoming the first and greatest witness to His Gospel.

### 2. Jesus Christ

The source of all love and courage, Jesus, the Son of God, willingly endured betrayal, suffering, and death out of infinite love for humanity, defeating sin and death through His Resurrection.

### 3. St. Thaddeus

One of Christ's apostles, Thaddeus brought the Gospel to Armenia with fearless devotion, converting many and laying the foundation of the Armenian Church.

### 4. St. Bartholomew

A holy apostle who journeyed after Thaddeus to Armenia, boldly preaching the Gospel and ultimately embracing martyrdom for his love of Christ.

### 5. St. John the Baptist

The forerunner of Christ, John fearlessly proclaimed repentance and truth, even before kings, and gave his life rather than deny God's righteousness.

### 6. St. Peter

Though once afraid, Peter became a fearless leader of the Church, preaching Christ crucified and risen—unto his own martyrdom in Rome.

### 7. St. Paul

From persecutor to apostle, Paul's love for Christ drove him to endure imprisonments, beatings, and rejection as he preached boldly across the world.

### 8. St. Sandukht

The first Armenian martyr, she refused to renounce her faith even under torture by her own father, King Sanatrouk, dying out of love for Christ.

### 9. St. Hripsime

A Roman virgin and nun who fled to Armenia to preserve her faith and purity, she was martyred by King Trdat, choosing Christ over royal favor or safety.

### 10. St. Gregory the Illuminator

Despite years of imprisonment, Gregory held fast to Christ. His faith moved the heart of King Trdat and transformed Armenia into the first Christian nation.

### 11. St. King Trdat (Tiridates III)

Once a persecutor, he was transformed by Christ's healing grace. His conversion marked the beginning of Christian Armenia—an act of royal courage and faith.

### 12. St. Mesrop Mashtots

With burning love for Christ and his people, Mesrop created the Armenian alphabet to preach the Gospel, courageously defending faith through education.

### 13. St. Ghevont Yerets

A priest and warrior of faith, he inspired Armenian soldiers before the Battle of Avarayr, giving his life rather than submitting to forced conversion.

### 14. St. Vartan Mamigonian

A noble general who loved Christ above life, Vartan chose martyrdom on the battlefield of Avarayr rather than betray the Christian faith of his people.

### 15. St. Shushanik

A faithful Armenian princess and daughter of St. Vartan, who was imprisoned, beaten, and killed by her pagan husband for refusing to abandon Christ—remaining steadfast to the end.

### 16. St. Nersess the Great (Nerses Medz)

As Catholicos, he fearlessly reformed the Church and served the poor, standing firm in faith even against kings for the love of Christ and His flock.

**Memory Verse:**

**“You are the light of the world.”**

**Matthew 5:14**

**Words of the Week:**

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## Review

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### Memory Verse Review:

“You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)

### Lesson Review:

1. What Sunday follows Green Sunday? (Red Sunday)
2. What does the word ‘martyr’ mean? (Witness)
3. What did the martyrs do? (They testified of God’s goodness and were killed because of that)
4. When do we celebrate the Holy Martyrs of the Genocide? (April 24)
5. Are you a descendant of the Holy Martyrs? (Yes. You have their blood in you)

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### Life Application:

Red Sunday is a special day that reminds us to be brave because Jesus loves us so much. Just like He was brave on the cross, we can be brave too—by being kind, telling the truth, and loving others even when it’s hard. When we feel scared, we can ask Jesus to help us be strong and do the right thing. His love makes our hearts strong and full of courage!

### Close with prayer:

**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.**