

Unit 1: 7 Deadly Sins

Lesson 1.4 Covetousness (Greed & the Love of Possessions)

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

For the Lesson: Orthodox Study Bible or Holy Bible: Armenian Church Edition

Recommended Orthodox Study Bible [HERE](#).

Recommended Holy Bible: Armenian Church Edition [HERE](#).

Scripture Reference:

Luke 12:15; Genesis 3; 1 Kings 21; John 12:6; Matthew 26:14; Philippians 4:11

Activities:

Implement based on available time. Detailed instructions and materials lists are provided in the lesson.

Activity: "The Contentment Experiment"

Words of the week:

ազաւհութիւն - ak-ah-oo-tyoon - covetousness

դրամ - trahm - money

զոհ - koh - content

Objective:

Students will understand that covetousness is not simply wanting things. It's a craving that puts objects above people and possessions above God. They will learn how greed shrinks the soul and how contentment, generosity, and trust in God make the heart rich.

Moral Character Focus:

Knowledge: Understand that covetousness is the sinful desire for more and more, especially what belongs to others.

Understanding: Recognize that greed never satisfies, and that it leads to envy, jealousy, dishonesty, and idolatry.

Application: Reflect on their own desires and learn to practice gratitude, share with others, and find joy in God's blessings.

Values: Develop a heart of thankfulness, simplicity, and generosity, resisting the lie that more stuff means more happiness.

Memory Verse:

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

- Luke 12:15

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: Covetousness (Greed & the Love of Possessions)

A Hungry Hole

Have you ever tried filling a bucket with a hole in the bottom? No matter how much you pour in, it never stays full. That's what covetousness is like. Covetousness is the greedy desire to have more and more things, more praise, more attention, especially when it belongs to someone else. It tells you, "If I just had THAT, then I'd be happy."

But the truth is: *the more you feed it, the hungrier it gets. Covetousness isn't satisfied by having. It's only satisfied by wanting more.*

The Armenian word for greed is ազառութիւն (akahootyoon). It means excessive desire. This desire becomes sin when we love things more than people, or when we care more about stuff than God.

Covetousness doesn't just lead to disappointment. It leads to injustice, betrayal, and spiritual ruin.

God gives each of us time, energy, skills, and opportunities. When we choose not to use them, we are telling God, "I don't care enough to try." That's sloth.

Why Greed Is a Deadly Weed

Covetousness may not feel like a big sin, but here's what it does:

- Turns our eyes away from God and toward stuff
- Makes us ungrateful for what we already have
- Builds jealousy and resentment toward others
- Causes fights over money, toys, popularity, and praise
- Makes us forget the poor, because we're too busy wanting more
- Shrinks the soul and makes us spiritually sick

Jesus warned, "You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24).

Words of the Week:

ազահութիւն - ak-ah-oo-tyoon - covetousness

դրամ - trahm - money

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Memory Verse:

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

- Luke 12:15

What the Bible Says About Covetousness

Adam and Eve (Genesis 3): They had everything, yet they still reached for the one thing God said “No” to. Why? Covetousness.

Ahab (1 Kings 21): King Ahab wanted Naboth’s vineyard so badly that he pouted like a child. His greed led to Naboth’s murder.

Judas Iscariot (John 12:6, Matthew 26:14): His love of money led him to steal from the poor and ultimately betray Jesus for 30 silver coins.

Greed is not just about money. It can be about wanting:

- Attention
- Talent
- Praise
- Friends
- Clothes
- Achievements
- Beauty

The Power of Contentment

Contentment is finding joy and peace in what God has already given you, rather than always wishing for more. It’s the opposite of greed and jealousy. When we’re content, we trust that God knows what we need and will provide for us. We stop looking at what others have and start being grateful for our own blessings. Contentment doesn’t mean we never want anything or work toward goals, but it means we’re satisfied and thankful right now, knowing that our happiness comes from God’s love, not from things we own or achievements we gain. A content heart is a joyful heart that finds treasure in God’s goodness.

Contentment means:

- Being thankful for what you have
- Trusting God to take care of your needs
- Rejoicing in others’ blessings instead of feeling jealous
- Believing that your worth is not in what you own

When we choose contentment:

- We become more peaceful
- We stop comparing ourselves to others
- We become generous
- We remember God is enough

What the Church Fathers Say

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances” .

St. Paul (Philippians 4:11)

“The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry. The coat hanging unused belongs to the one who needs it.”

- St. Basil the Great

Activity: “The Contentment Experiment”

Materials needed: Small notebooks or index cards, envelopes

How it works:

Step 1: Each student creates a “Contentment Challenge Checklist” for the week with three components:

Part 1 - The Fast: Choose to give up wanting ONE thing you’ve been craving (a new game, certain brand clothing, more followers, etc.). Write it on a card and seal it in an envelope.

Part 2 - The Gratitude List: Each day, write down 3 things you already have that you’re thankful for (can’t repeat items)

Part 3 - The Generous Act: Do one act of generosity (give away something you value, use your allowance to bless someone else, share your time/talent with someone in need)

Step 2: After one week, students return, share and discuss:

1. Was it hard to give up wanting that thing?
2. Did you feel more or less happy during the week?
3. What did you learn about yourself?
4. How did generosity change your perspective?

Why this matters: *This creates a lived experience of the lesson’s core message. Rather than just talking about contentment, students actually practice it. The three-part structure addresses the whole problem: stopping the craving (fasting), recognizing abundance (gratitude), and countering greed with its opposite (generosity). At this age, experiential learning is powerful—they’ll remember what they experienced far more than what they heard.*

Special Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, true God, with your peace that surpasses all wisdom and understanding, comfort us your servants, by accepting our supplications. Through your benediction, blot out our transgressions worthy of dreadful punishment. Expiate and hear us, remit and forgive our sins. Make us worthy to thankfully glorify you, together with the Father and the Only-begotten Son, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Խաղաղութեամբ քով Յոգիդ Սուրբ Աստուած ճշմարիտ, որ ի վեր է քան զամենայն միտս եւ զխորհուրդս, մխիթարեա զանձինս ծառայից քոց, ընդունելով զաղաչանս մեր. անցո ի մէջ զգաստումն պատուհասի յանցանաց մերոց բարերարութեամբ քով: Ներեա եւ լուր մեզ, քաւեա եւ թող զմեզս մեր, արժանաւորեա գոհութեամբ փառաւորել զքեզ ընդ Յօր եւ ընդ Որդւոյն Միածնի, այժմ եւ միշտ եւ յաւիտեանս յաւիտենից: Ամէն:

Khaghaghootyamp kov Hokeet Soorp Asdvadz jshmareed, vor ee ver eh kan zamenayn meedus yev uzkhorthoortus, mukheetarya zantseenus dzarayeets kots, untoonelov zaghachanus mer. Antso ee mench uztsaoomun badoohasee hantsanats merots parerarootyamp kov. Nerya yv loor mez, kavya yev togh uzmeghus mer, arjhanavorya kohootyamp paravoreyl uzkez unt Hor yev unt Vortvoyn Meeadznee, ayjhm yev meeshd yev haveedyanus haveedeneets. Amen.

Review

Memory Verse Review:

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

Words of the Week:

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Life Application

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

This week, challenge yourself to fight against covetousness by practicing gratitude and generosity. When you find yourself wanting what someone else has, pause and thank God for what He’s already given you. Choose one way to be generous: share something you love with someone else, give a sincere compliment without feeling jealous, or secretly serve someone without expecting praise. Remember that your worth doesn’t come from what you own, how popular you are, or what you achieve. True joy comes from trusting God and being content with His blessings. Every time you feel greed creeping in, replace it with gratitude. Ask yourself daily, “Am I being greedy or grateful?” and let your heart grow in thankfulness instead of wanting more.

Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. What is our memory verse? (Luke 12:15: “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”)
2. What does covetousness mean? (The greedy desire to have more and more things, more praise, more attention, especially when it belongs to someone else)
3. What is the Armenian word for greed? (ազաւոյթիւն - akahootyoon, which means ‘excessive desire’)
4. Name one Bible character who showed covetousness and what happened. (Examples: Adam and Eve reached for what God said no to; King Ahab’s greed led to Naboth’s murder; Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 silver coins)
5. True or False: Greed only happens with money. (False: greed can be about wanting attention, talent, praise, friends, clothes, achievements, beauty, etc.)
6. What did Jesus say we cannot do? (Serve both God and money - Matthew 6:24)
7. What does contentment mean? (Being thankful for what you have, trusting God to take care of your needs, rejoicing in others’ blessings instead of feeling jealous, believing your worth is not in what you own)
8. What did St. Paul say about contentment? (“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances” - Philippians 4:11)
9. What happens when we choose contentment? (We become more peaceful, stop comparing ourselves to others, become generous, and remember God is enough)
10. What is one way you can practice generosity this week? (Personal answers: share something you love, say thank you sincerely, compliment someone without jealousy, serve someone secretly)

* *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.