

## SPECIAL LESSON

### Armenia's Brave Hero: St. Vartan Mamigonian

#### Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

**Song:** [Brave St. Vartan March \(Armenian\)](#)

**Craft Activity:** Shield of Faith Craft

**Materials Needed:** Paper plates, markers or crayons, construction paper, glue, and stickers (use the image printouts in the lesson as an optional decore if desired).

#### Words of the Week:

քաջ - kach - brave

պատերազմ - ba-de-raz-um - war

յաղթանակ - hagh-ta-nag - victory

#### Objective and Moral Character Focus:

To help children understand the historical significance of St. Vartan, his role in defending Christianity, and how they can apply his example of bravery and faith in their own lives.

#### Memory Verse:

**“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid,  
for the Lord your God will be with you.”**

**-Joshua 1:9**

# 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:

Sometimes when we think of a hero, someone with a superpower comes to mind.

Q: What is a hero?

Q: Have you ever met any heroes?

Q: Have you ever heard of any Armenian heroes?

Armenia has many heroes, but today we are going to learn about one who has inspired and continues to inspire people to be brave and strong in their faith. This hero was a brave general named St. Vartan Mamigonian. He lived during a time when many people in Armenia loved and followed Jesus, just like we do today. Life in Armenia was peaceful, and the people thanked God for their blessings every day.

But one day, a powerful king from another kingdom close to Armenia interrupted this peaceful life. The king wanted to take control of Armenia and force the people to forget about Jesus and worship his gods instead. The Armenian people were very sad and afraid because they didn't want to give up their faith in Jesus.

Vartan, however, was different. He loved Jesus with all his heart and knew that the people of Armenia did too. As a leader, a soldier, and a man who wanted to do what was right for his country and for God, Vartan couldn't let the king take away their faith.

When the king sent a message to Vartan and the Armenian people, demanding that they give up their faith in Jesus, Vartan stood strong and said, "No, we will not give up our faith! We love God, and we will stay faithful to Him."

The king became very angry. No one had ever said "NO" to him. He sent a large army to force the Armenians to obey him. Vartan knew that this would be a tough battle, but he wasn't afraid. He gathered the Armenian soldiers and their families, and they celebrated the Holy Badarak and prayed to God, asking for courage and strength to protect their faith and their land. Vartan's army was much smaller compared to the king's, but their faith was great. Understanding that they might not win this battle, Vartan and his soldiers still prepared, prayed and believed.

This battle, known as the Battle of Avarayr, was one of the most important battles in Armenian history. Vartan and his soldiers fought bravely until the end to protect their people and their beliefs. Though they lost the battle, he never gave up his faith. His courage and sacrifice inspired the Armenian people to remain strong in their faith and love for Jesus. The Armenian people continued to fight the war for another 30 years until they finally won the war.

Thanks to Vartan's and his soldier's bravery and the prayers of the Armenian people, Christianity was saved in Armenia. The people continued to praise God, and their faith remained strong.

St. Vartan was a true hero who showed us that even when things are difficult, we can be brave and trust in God. His story reminds us that standing up for what is right is always worth it.

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**Song:** [Brave St. Vartan March \(Armenian\)](#)

**\*Listen to the song and celebrate the spiritual victory of St. Vartan and his soldiers in a Victory March.**





**“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God will be with you.”**

**-Joshua 1:9**

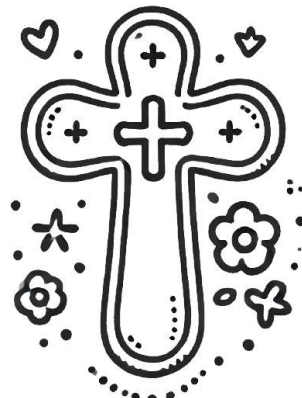
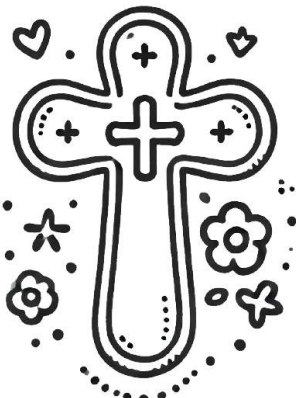
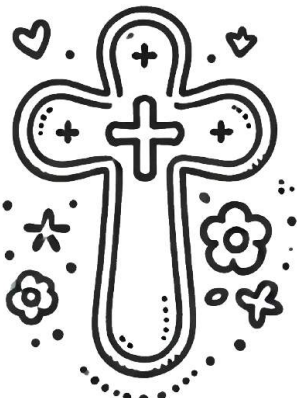


**Craft Activity:** Shield of Faith Craft

**Materials Needed:** Paper plates, markers or crayons, construction paper, glue, and stickers (use the image printouts below as an optional decore if desired).

**Directions:**

1. Give each child a paper plate to be the base of their shield.
2. Have them color and decorate their shields with crosses, hearts, or any symbols of their faith.
3. On the back of the shield, help them write or glue a simple message, such as "Be Brave with God" or "Faith is My Strength."
4. Once finished, let them hold up their shields and pretend to be brave soldiers like St. Vartan.



# Review

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## Memory Verse Review:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, for the Lord your God will be with you.” (Joshua 1:9)

## Lesson Review:

### Questions:

1. Who was St. Vartan? (St. Vartan was a brave Armenian warrior who defended his faith)
2. What did the king want Vartan and the Armenians to do? (The king wanted them to stop being Christians and follow his religion)
3. Why did Vartan say no to the king? (Because he loved God and wanted to defend Christianity)
4. How did Vartan show his bravery? (He led his army and fought to protect his people's faith)
5. What can we do when we need to be brave like St. Vartan? (We can pray, trust God, and stand up for what's right)

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## Life Application:

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

Just like St. Vartan, we are called to stand firm in our faith, even when life is difficult or when others may not understand our beliefs. This means being brave enough to do what is right, trusting that God is always with us. Whether it's standing up for a friend, telling the truth, or staying committed to our faith, we can pray and rely on God's strength to guide us. Vartan's story reminds us that when we trust in God, we can face any challenge with courage and confidence.

### 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.