

Grade Five
We Believe
Student Text

The Person and The Way: Jesus Christ
A People and A Way: The Armenian Church

Diane Bairamian

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The Person and The Way: Jesus Christ



Unit One, Session 1

Jesus of Nazareth: Son of God

Pray Together

Dear Lord, help us to understand who you are, to see that even as you are God and King of all life, you know intimately what it means to be a human being with all the cares of this world. Amen.

Who Is Jesus? *Hisoos Krisdos* **Ἰησοῦς Χριστοῦ**

Jesus is human because

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Jesus is divine because

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Jesus as One of Us

In the New Testament we learn about Jesus' life on earth. We know that he came to the world as a newborn baby. All babies need lots of care, so God provided a loving human family to see that Jesus was kept warm and fed and safe.

Like all of us, he went through all the stages of childhood. Jesus became a teenager and eventually a grown man. The Nicene Creed states that Jesus "became incarnate, and was made man." This means that, like us, Jesus felt hungry, thirsty, sad, tired, and all the ways that we feel.

How do you think you would feel if you had just walked in the hot sun for several hours? Thirsty? Tired? That is exactly how Jesus felt one day when he was walking from Judea to Galilee. He stopped to rest at a well in Samaria. A Samaritan woman came up to the well with her bucket to draw some water. Jesus asked her for a drink (John 4:4-26). This shows he felt exactly the same way we would feel after hours of travel under the summer sun. Jesus even went through a terrible death on the cross. Because of this we know that he truly was one of us in every single way, and we can trust that he can really understand us.



Jesus as God

Jesus lived among us as a complete human being, but he is also the Son of God. How do we know this? ("This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 17:5)

Unlike everyone else who ever lived, Jesus never sinned. He was perfect even though he was just like us. He felt the same temptations to disobey as we do, but he did not follow those temptations even one single time. Jesus was able to instantly cure illnesses and even bring the dead back to life. He changed plain water into wine at a wedding feast and fed a crowd of thousands of people with two small fish and five loaves of bread.

Jesus told a stormy sea wind to stop blowing and it did! Even after his own death, he arose and walked out of the tomb. Because he can do these things, we can be certain he has the power to help us and rescue us from our sins.

Putting It All Together

Jesus is called the "Second Person" of the Holy Trinity. The other two are the Father and the Holy Spirit. The idea of the Holy Trinity can be difficult to understand. One God in three persons? How does that work?



Think about your Sunday School teacher. He or she, as you know, is a *teacher*. Your teacher may be married, which makes him or her a *husband* or *wife*. Does the teacher have children? That makes your teacher a *parent*. If they have a job, they are an *employee* of a business.

Sunday school students might call their teacher "Mrs. Hovsepian." Her husband refers to her as "my wife." Her children call her "Mom," and your teacher's co-workers might call her by her first name. One person, seen in several different ways, all reflecting a specific function and relationship.

God provides the scientific world with a very clear model of the Holy Trinity. Water can be a liquid, a gas (steam) or a solid (ice). These substances look, feel, and behave very differently, yet the chemical formula for water, H₂O, is exactly the same in all cases. Three substances: liquid, ice, and steam – always water. Father, Son, Holy Spirit – always God.

You fulfill many different roles in your life. You are almost like several people rolled up into one person. What are the various "people" that make you the special person you are?

What Does the Bible Say?

Throughout the Bible, God tells us about Jesus and his unique position as fully God and fully human. Not only do we read about Jesus in the New Testament, but even some of the earliest Old Testament writings let us know about him.

We know that he would come in the form of a man that did not look different from any other men. Somewhere around 740 to 701 B.C., the prophet Isaiah tells us that this Son which God will give us will have "no beauty or majesty to attract us." (Isaiah 53:2) We also see from Isaiah that Jesus is worthy to be called "Mighty God, Everlasting Father."

In various places in the Bible, Jesus is referred to as the "Word." This means that Jesus, as God, clearly expresses in his teaching and through his life how we should live to truly follow him.



Our Armenian Way

Prayers of St. Nersess Shnorhali

Soorp Nersess Shnorhali

Սուրբ Ներսէս Շնորհալի

St. Nersess Shnorhali (Nersess the Grace-filled) was a great leader of the Armenian Church. He lived from 1100 to 1173 A.D. St. Nersess wrote hymns, poems, and the beloved Armenian prayer “*Havadov Khosdovanim*” (I Confess with Faith).

Below is one of the 24 prayers traditionally said during the Lenten service and at other times of prayer as well.

Jesus, Wisdom of the Father

Imasdootiun Hor Hisoos

Իմաստութիւն

Հօր Յիսուս



Grant me wisdom

Door intz imasdootiun

Տուր ինձ իմաստութիւն,

That I might always think, speak, and do

That which is good in your sight.

Uzparees khorhel yev khosel yev kordzel

Arachee ko amenayn jham.

Զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջիք քո
յամենայն ժամ.

Save me from evil thoughts, words and deeds

Ee char khorhurtotz, ee paneetz yev ee kordzotz purgya zees.

ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա զիս.

And have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner.

Yev voghormya ko araradzotz yev eentz pazmameghees.

եւ ողորմեա քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս:

At what times do you think this prayer would be especially appropriate?

You are many things – but just one person. Just like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – One God!



Below are some descriptions of Jesus from the Bible. Place a star on the line before each statement that tells us Jesus is God, and a circle before each statement that shows he is truly human.

1. _____ “Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.” (Isaiah 9:7)

2. _____ “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1:14)

3. _____ “Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.” (Isaiah 53:4)

4. _____ “Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made.” (John 1:3)

5. _____ “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” (John 1:1-2)

Faith Word

Bible

From the Greek “biblia” for “books”



In Armenian, the Bible is called "Asdvadzashoonch," or "God's breath (inspiration)." This means that the stories and teachings of the Bible came to us through the various writers and editors of the Old and New Testaments who were each divinely inspired.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today we learned that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. In the Bible we found examples from his life that show his nature. We also explored the concept of the Holy Trinity, so that the students might understand how the three Persons of the Godhead relate to one another. This lesson introduced the children to St. Nersess Shnorhali and his beloved prayers, specifically the prayer known as "Jesus, Wisdom of the Father."

Family Faith Activity

We are so happy about Jesus and his love for us that we want to share it every day, not just in church. During this week, find a time when all the family is present. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Say the "Hayr Mer" together.
2. Have each family member share a way to "think, speak or do" what is good in God's sight.
3. Have each family member look through the newspaper and find an article which shows a person being like Jesus through helping others.
4. Learn the St. Nersess prayer in English and Armenian.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

God Is Born!



Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortva, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. Dear Father, open our hearts to the miracle and mystery of Christmas. Please help us to remember your love and wisdom and kindness. Teach us to treat everyone we meet the way Jesus wants us to so that others will see your love in us. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Answer the questions.

1. Jesus is fully _____ and fully _____.
2. "Bible" comes from the Greek for _____.
3. The "Havadov Khosdovanim" prayers were written by _____.
4. The Holy Trinity is the _____, the _____, and the _____.
5. The Bible is composed of two parts called the Old and New _____.

A Very Special Time



The Christmas season is a very busy and exciting time. Christian families all over the world observe Christmas in many different ways. We set aside our usual routines for weeks to prepare for the holiday.

What does your family do to celebrate this holiday time? Do you go somewhere special every year? Eat special food? Visit certain friends or family? List some of your family's Christmas traditions on the lines below.

January 6 or December 25?

As you know, in the United States most people celebrate Christmas on December 25th. In the Armenian Church, we observe the feast of Christmas on January 6 as it was celebrated by the entire Christian Church in the early centuries. When the Roman Church began to gain strength, it assigned Christ's birth to this late December date to encourage people to turn a hugely popular pagan festival (the Winter Solstice) into one honoring Christ. The Armenians never had this festival, and were not attached to the Roman Church, so they never felt the need to move Christmas to December.

You have surely heard of the "twelve days of Christmas"? Well, this is the exact number of days between December 25 and January 6, when all of the early events of Jesus' life, up to his baptism, are remembered in the Roman Catholic and other churches. The Armenian Church continues to remember all these events on January 6.



Paree Loor!!! Good News!!!



It's always good news when a new baby is born. The parents-to-be joyfully prepare a room and gather all the things the newborn will need, such as a stroller, crib, and a supply of tiny clothes.

As soon as the baby is born, the parents are so excited they begin calling all their friends and relatives, sometimes in the middle of the night! The baby is photographed before he or she even leaves the hospital so that the pictures can be sent out in cards announcing the new birth. People come to the hospital and the home to visit the family and bring gifts to the baby.

When God decided it was time for Jesus to come, he made preparations, too. He chose Mary to carry the Baby Jesus, and Joseph to help Mary raise this special child.

When you were going to be born, your parents knew you were coming less than a year before your arrival. Since God had planned for Jesus since the beginning of the world, he was able to tell us in the Old Testament centuries before our Lord was born in Bethlehem.

Below are some examples of places in the Old Testament where God lets us in on things we can expect to find in the Savior. Draw a line from each Old Testament passage to the matching event in the life of Jesus.

God's Old Testament Hints

Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem Ephrata,
Though you are small among the clans of Judah,
Out of you will come for me
One who will be ruler over Israel,
Whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given,
And the government will be
On his shoulders.

Psalms 34:20

He protects all his bones,
Not one of them will be broken.

Psalms 69:21

They put gall in my food
And gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Events in Jesus' Life

On Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified with the two criminals, the soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals to hurry their death. When the soldiers approached Jesus to do the same, they saw that he was already dead. They did not need to break Jesus' legs.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which was a tiny, unimportant town.

When Jesus hung on the cross, the soldiers did not give him water to relieve his thirst. Instead, they soaked a sponge in vinegar, put it on a stick, and held it up to Jesus' lips.

Jesus came as a baby boy, and he is God and rules the universe.

Our Armenian Way

In the year 441, the Armenian bishop and historian Movses of Khorene wrote a beautiful *sharagan*, or hymn, called "Khorboort Medz." *Khorboort Medz* is used to celebrate Christmas Eve. This *sharagan* may be translated as follows.

A great and marvelous mystery

Khorboort medz yev skancheli

is revealed on this day

Vor haysum avoor haydnetzav.

The shepherds sing with the angels.

Hoveevkun yerken unt bresbdagus

And bring good tidings to the world.

Dahn avedis ashkharee

A new king was born in the city of Bethlehem.

Dzunav nor arkah ee Petgbehem kaghakee.

Look up the word "mystery" in the dictionary.

Write a brief definition below.

How is Jesus' birth a "mystery"?

ԽՈՐԲՈՐՏ ՄԵԾ
(Մննդաւ թաղոյի շարական)

KHORHOORT MEDZ
(procession)

Our Shepherd Returns

In our "Havadamk" (Nicene Creed) we read "He is to come in the same body and with the glory of the Father, to judge the living and dead of whose kingdom there is no end." This means that one day Jesus will return to the earth.

The events of Christmas tell us that the first time Jesus came to us, he arrived as a helpless baby. He was so humble that he was born in a cave-like structure designed for animals. When he returns again, it will not be as a defenseless infant. This time he will come in the whole power and glory of God. He will rescue his people and take us to heaven, where he will care for us forever.

Before that happens, however, others will come along saying they are Christ. Many people will be fooled by these fake christs. They will be led away from the one true God.

How can we protect ourselves from being tricked by these pretenders? God gave us the perfect weapon - our Bibles and his own body on earth: the Church! If we read the Bible and grow closer to God through the worship and fellowship of the church, we will grow ever closer to understanding the nature of the Lord and of his Second Coming.

The statements that follow tell us of the events that will surround Jesus' return. Using the Scripture references provided, fill in the missing words from each sentence.

Isaiah 45:23 "Before me every _____ will bow; by me every _____ will swear."

I Corinthians 15:25 "For he must reign until he has put all his _____ under his _____."

John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many _____; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to _____ a place for you.

Matthew 24:5 "For many will come in my _____, claiming 'I am the _____,' and will deceive many.

Spotlight on the Bible

Open your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke. Read the second chapter of Luke, then put the following events in order by placing the numbers 1 – 10 on the space before each statement.

- _____ Jesus' parents lose Jesus in the crowd as they are leaving Jerusalem.
- _____ The baby is named Jesus.
- _____ Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the synagogue listening to the teachers there and asking them questions.
- _____ Caesar Augustus gives the order for a census (counting of the population).
- _____ The shepherds become frightened because they see the angel of the Lord.
- _____ Simeon holds the Baby Jesus.
- _____ Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
- _____ The shepherds hurry to see the baby.
- _____ The widow Anna in the temple sees the baby Jesus and gives thanks to God.
- _____ Jesus is born in a manger.

Faith Word

Incarnate

To give bodily form to

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your fifth-grader studied the birth of Jesus. The class played a birthday game to better understand the idea of celebrating Jesus' birth. They learned about how God, in the Old Testament, foretold the arrival of the Savior. The children reviewed Jesus' life with his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph. They also learned that through the Bible and the worship and fellowship of the church, they can grow closer to their Lord.

Family Faith Activity

Christmas is a time of giving gifts because we want to celebrate Jesus, God's greatest gift to humanity. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Think of a mother-to-be and pray for her health and the health of the baby.
2. Read the story of Jesus' birth, as related in Luke 2:1-20.
3. At Christmas dinner, light a candle and sing the first line of *Khorhoort Medz*.
4. Make a card with a cheerful drawing and message and send it to an out-of-town relative or friend.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup _____ and tried at least one activity as a family_____.

Signed _____

Jesus, Healer

Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, as we learn about Jesus' healing power and his miracles, please lead us to trust in you every day. Teach us to recognize and be thankful for your help as we go about our lives. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following questions by writing "true" or "false" in the space provided.

1. Before Jesus was born, God gave us hints about his coming in the Old Testament. _____
2. Jesus was born in Egypt. _____
3. Only by reading the Bible, can we make sure that we are following God correctly. _____
4. The shepherds were afraid when the Angel of the Lord came to tell them about Jesus' birth. _____
5. Jesus was never in a synagogue. _____

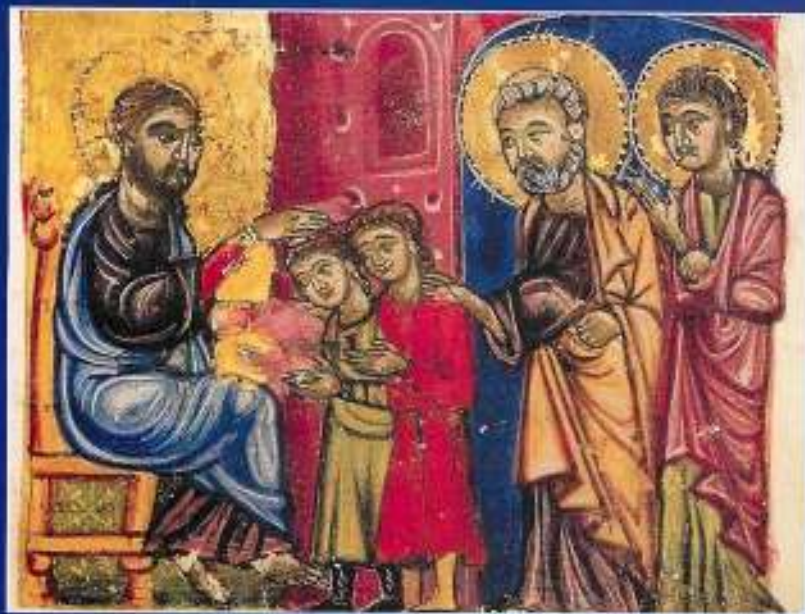
The Great Physician

We have seen that God placed hints throughout the Old Testament so that we would be able to recognize the Savior when he arrived. Another way it was revealed that Jesus was the Savior was through the miracles he performed while on earth. As the Son of God, Jesus was able to show God's love and greatness to all who had faith in him.

Jesus' first miracle was at a wedding. Jesus, his mother Mary, and his disciples were attending a wedding feast in the town of Cana. In the middle of the party, the host ran out of wine. Jesus told the servants to fill six nearby large jars with water. Then he had the servants offer some to the master of the feast, who exclaimed that the "best wine has been saved for last!" (John 2:1-10) When the disciples saw that Jesus was able to perform such actions, they saw the glory of God in Jesus, and they placed their faith in him.



Our Armenian Way Օծում



Just as Jesus heals our souls through his death and resurrection, we also ask him to heal the bodies of those who are sick, injured, or near death. In the Armenian Church, we ask God for healing through the sacrament of “Odzoom,” or “Prayers for the Sick.” In *Odzoom*, the priest prays for the person *zzsas* he lays his hands over him or her. In the case of a clergyman who has passed away, there is a special consecration of his hand and forehead with holy muron. This kind of anointing was probably done for all people in earlier centuries.



This sacrament has its roots in Mark 6:13, which tells of when Jesus sent out the twelve disciples to heal people in need. The story relates that the disciples “drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.”



Faith Word
Resurrection

Coming back to life



But Now I See

Read Mark 8:22-25. As the blind man received his sight in stages, so do we grow in faith step-by-step as we learn about God!

If you were making a movie about this event, what would you title it? Write your title below.

Which movie stars would you cast in the various roles? Note them below.

Jesus:

Blind man:

FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child learned about Jesus' healing power and wrote a newspaper article about how the Lord raised Lazarus from the dead. We might be posting the articles for everyone to see, so watch the bulletin boards! The class also read about the healing of the blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-25) and imagined they were making a movie about this incident. We were also able to reflect upon the Armenian Church sacrament of healing.

Family Faith Activity

Jesus' mercy and kindness makes us want to help others so we can be more like him. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Pray for a sick person.
2. Talk to your pastor about the Armenian prayer for the sick and his experiences visiting those who have requested these prayers.
3. List the seven "milestone" sacraments from memory.
4. Find an article in the newspaper about a problem and pray together.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



Jesus, Teacher

Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord Jesus, please bless our class and guide us as we learn about your teachings. Help us to understand how you want us to live so we may share in your kingdom. Show us how to put your words into action so we may be a blessing to others. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Circle the correct answer.

1. Jesus raised the following person from the dead:
 - a. Isaiah
 - b. John the Baptist
 - c. Lazarus
 - d. Moses
2. Jesus' first miracle took place at
 - a. the Garden of Eden
 - b. the wedding at Cana
 - c. the Garden of Gethsemane
 - d. Mount Ararat
3. When the blind man at Bethsaida began to see, at first he saw people that looked like
 - a. trees
 - b. pumpkins
 - c. crosses
 - d. lambs
4. Whom did Jesus send out to teach and send evil spirits away?
 - a. Mary Magdalene
 - b. King David
 - c. the 12 disciples
 - d. Mary and Martha
5. The word for bringing someone back to life from the dead is
 - a. confirmation
 - b. resurrection
 - c. consecration
 - d. anointing



Gathering His Sheep

During his ministry on earth, Jesus went from town to town to teach people about his kingdom. He did not go to great universities to give his lessons. Instead, Jesus spoke to the crowds wherever they gathered. This might have been in a field, at the local synagogue, or by the edge of a river.

Most of the local people in the towns where Jesus taught could not read. They could not understand difficult ideas. Jesus used his parables to make his teachings clear to these sim-

ple people. The parables put God's spiritual path into everyday terms such as fishing, planting crops, and building houses.

In the Parable of the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10-14), for example, Jesus used the idea of a shepherd looking for one lost sheep to show how God does not wish anyone to miss out on his kingdom. Since many of the local people in those days kept sheep, they would know exactly what Jesus meant.

The Parable of the Yeast (Luke 13:20-21) compares the kingdom of God to the yeast that is used to make bread. In those days everyone baked bread, so they could easily relate Jesus' words to their everyday lives.

Read the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. In the space below, write your own version of this parable. Use today's jobs, cities, and other things that are familiar to you. End with a one-line teaching, as in the Parable of the Yeast, that starts "The Kingdom of heaven is like....."

A Parable For Today:

[illegible]

"The Kingdom of heaven is like..."

Our Armenian Way

As recotded in the Gospel of Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus tells us how he wants us to pray. His words are known as the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer has been translated into many different languages, including Armenian, which follows.

Hayr mer, vor herginus yes,
soorp yeghitzi anoon ko.
Yegestze arkayootiun ko,
yeghitzin gamk ko
vorbes herginus yev hergri.
Uzhatz mer hanabazort door mez aysor.
Togh mez uzbardis mer,
vorbes yev mek toghoomk merotz
bardabanatz
Yev mi danir uzmez ee portzootiun,
ayl purgia ee chareh.
Zi ko eh arkayootiun
yev zoroottiun
yev park havidianus. Amen

Հայր մեր, որ յերկինս ես,
սուրբ եղիցի անուն քո:
Եկեսցէ արքայութիւն քո,
որպէս յերկինս եւ յերկրի:
Ձեաց մեր հանապազորդ տուր մեզ այսօր:
Թող մեզ զպարտիս մեր,
որպէս եւ մեր թողումք մերոց
պարտապանաց:
Եւ մի տանիր զմեզ ի փորձութիւն,
այլ փրկեա ի չարէ.
զի քո է արքայութիւն
եւ զօրութիւն
եւ փառք
յաւիտեանս. Ամէն:



The Pater Noster Church in Jerusalem is reputed to sit atop the place where Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer. It houses 62 large wall tiles featuring the Lord's Prayer in as many languages, including Armenian.



Faith Word *Parable*

A short, simple story that teaches an idea

FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about the teaching ministry of Jesus. The class discovered that Jesus used parables to make his teachings clear to the simple fishermen, farmers, and townspeople of his time. The parables put God's spiritual path into everyday terms such as fishing, planting crops, and building houses. The students also wrote their own parable and saw that the Lord's Prayer came from the Bible.

Family Faith Activity

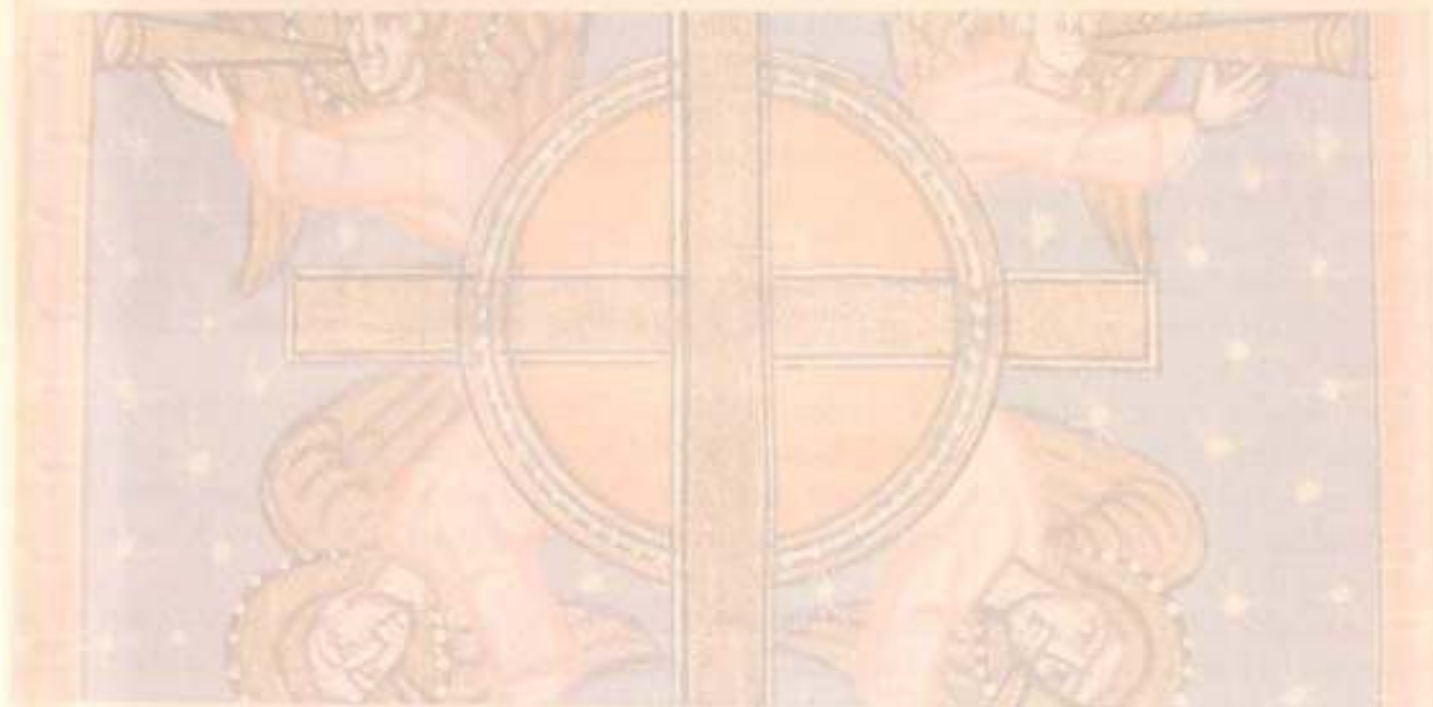
We should always be on the alert for opportunities to put our faith into action. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Have each family member say, "Lord, tomorrow please teach me to _____."
2. As a family, find out something new about the Armenian Church.
3. Choose a parable. Together, write a modern-day version, using people and images from 21st century American life. Send it to your church newspaper as a family creation!

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



Jesus Challenges Authority



Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, we ask that you bless our time together today. Watch over our church and people. Please show us when we need to take a stand for you, and grant us the courage to do so. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Answer "true" or "false" to the statements.

1. ____ During his ministry, Jesus spoke to the people using poetry.
2. ____ Jesus spoke only in the great learning centers of each city he visited.
3. ____ When someone asked him how to pray, Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer.
4. ____ The Armenian Church does not use the Lord's Prayer.
5. ____ Most of the people in Biblical times could not read or write.

King of Kings and Lord of Lords

When we think of God and behavior, we usually think of obedience. God gave the Jewish people his law in the Old Testament so they would know how to behave and be happy. Even though God's people had very specific instructions on how to live and worship, the people refused to follow his laws. Their disobedience brought terrible disaster to them and made God very sad.

When God decided the time was right, he came to us in the person of Jesus Christ so people could follow him. Since Jesus is the same God who gave us the law, by following Jesus we can live the way God wants us to live.

The powerful teachers of the Old Testament law did not like Jesus because they were afraid he was going to change their old way of obeying God. They did not realize that Jesus was God and had full authority to teach people how to worship and obey him. These teachers, called Pharisees, thought they were finding God in their laws. They were too set in their old ways to see that the Truth was standing in front of their very eyes!

As he taught the right way to live, Jesus did and said things that upset these teachers. They chased Jesus from town to town and made plans to harm him. Jesus was not afraid of these men. Over and over again, he had the courage to tell the Pharisees they had an incorrect understanding of God's truth.



In the Bible, read Matthew 23:23-26 to see Jesus correcting the Pharisees. Reflect together:

- What are all these accusations really about?
- How would they have affected the people living around them?

Serenity Prayer

Most Christians have heard of the Serenity Prayer. Nobody is completely sure who wrote it, although a man named Reinhold Niebuhr helped make it popular.

This prayer has been used on battlefields, by people asking for God's help with addiction problems, and all over the world. The simple prayer, which appears below, has given comfort to millions for many years.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things
I cannot change...
Courage to change the things I can...
And wisdom to know the difference.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents

Lesson Roundup

Today your child
discovered how

Jesus upset many in authority with his teachings. The students learned that it takes great courage to do God's will. The class studied the Serenity prayer, which mentions courage, and explored in practical terms how it can be difficult to do what is right, whether during times of political oppression (the Armenian Genocide, Nazi Germany) or when Christian living decisions need to be made (how to honor the Lord's day, Sunday).

Family Faith Activity

As your child learns how to put faith in action, the following activities may help. Try to perform at least one of the activities below.

1. Pray for your local police, ambulance, and fire departments.
2. Find a story in the newspaper and discuss how courageous intervention would help.
3. Together, think of ways to honor God and family on Sunday.
4. Write to your senator, representative, or other official concerning an issue about which you feel strongly.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

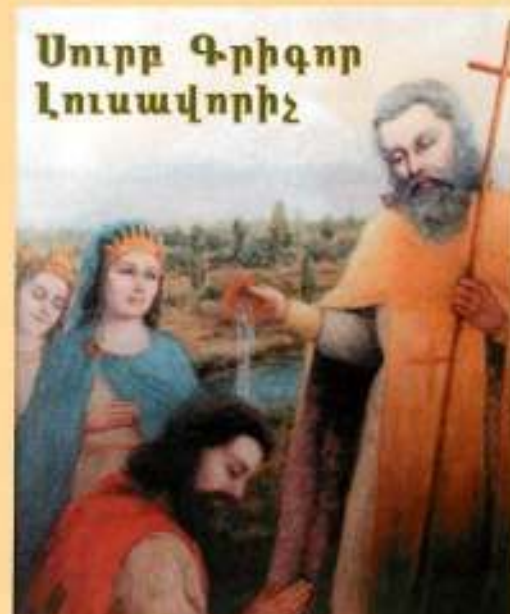
Signed _____

Our Armenian Way

The Armenian Church celebrates the lives of the saints that helped bring Jesus to our people. Many of these saints risked and often lost their lives because of what they believed. One of our beloved saints is St. Gregory the Enlightener, or "Soorp Krikor Loosavorich."

St. Gregory suffered years of imprisonment and horrible tortures because he refused the king's orders to worship a false god. His bravery, and the bravery of so many others, should help us find the courage to do things God's way no matter what.

Look up the word "enlightener" in the dictionary. Write the definition below.



The Passion: The Road to Resurrection

Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. Dearest Lord Jesus, there is no way we can properly thank you for going to the Cross so we can live forever in Heaven. Please help us to live our lives in a way that makes others want to know about you. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Circle the correct answer.

- In the Old Testament, God gave his laws to the _____ people.
 - Roman
 - Palestinian
 - Jewish
 - European
- Most of the powerful teachers of Jesus' time
 - welcomed him because they were hungry for his word.
 - made him comfortable when he traveled from town to town.
 - provided food for the crowds who came to hear him.
 - chased him from town to town and made plans to kill him.
- Many of the powerful Old Testament teachers were called
 - Pharisees
 - Babylonians
 - Athenians
 - professors
- Standing up for your Christian beliefs requires
 - saints.
 - arguing.
 - courage.
 - conformity.
- Saint Gregory the Enlightener was imprisoned because he
 - stole food to feed the poor.
 - killed the evil king.
 - tried to attack Armenia.
 - refused to worship the king's false god.

Faith Word

Sacrifice

The giving up of something highly valued, an offering

The Supreme Sacrifice

Read Romans 5:7-8.

What things might be important enough that a person might be willing to sacrifice his or her life for them?
Write your ideas below.

The Most Holy Time

The time between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday is known in Armenian as "Avak Shapat," or Great or Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, we remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. His followers were so happy to see him they lined the road where he was riding on a donkey. They shouted with joy and lined the street with palm leaves and their cloaks. In the Armenian Church, we celebrate this exciting day by opening the curtain to our beautiful altars, which have been closed since the beginning of Lent.



On Holy Monday, Jesus again entered Jerusalem, after having spent the night in Bethany. On this day he chased people out of the temple because they were buying and selling things in God's house of prayer. On Holy Tuesday, we remember the parable of the Ten Maidens, which appears in Matthew 25:1-13. This parable reminds us that we must always be ready for Jesus to return.

Holy Wednesday is a sad occasion when we remember how Judas made an agreement to point Jesus out to the high priests so they could arrest and kill him.

Holy Thursday commemorates Jesus' Last Supper. He knew that in a few hours he would be arrested, beaten, and crucified. The sacrament of communion originated at the Last Supper, when Jesus passed the bread and wine. As he did this, he told the

disciples to remember that the bread was his body which was about to be sacrificed, and the wine was his blood which would spill out of his wounds. The Armenian Church marks this occasion with the beautiful "Vodunlva" service, or the Washing of the Feet. During the Last Supper, Jesus, God's own Son, tenderly washed the dusty feet of his disciples. He did this in order to show them, and us, that we must follow him by being humble and serving others.

After the supper with his disciples, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He knew the terrors that awaited him, and he asked the Father if he could be spared the ordeal. He prayed this way twice, but each time he said, "yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Even though Jesus did not want to suffer and die, he obeyed the will of the Father so that we could have our sins forgiven. Opening up the way to heaven for us was more important to Jesus than avoiding the horrible tortures that he suffered. Jesus did not run away from his punishment so that we may escape ours! We share in this long night of prayer in the Vigil Service or *Khavaroom*, during which 12 candles are extinguished, two by two.

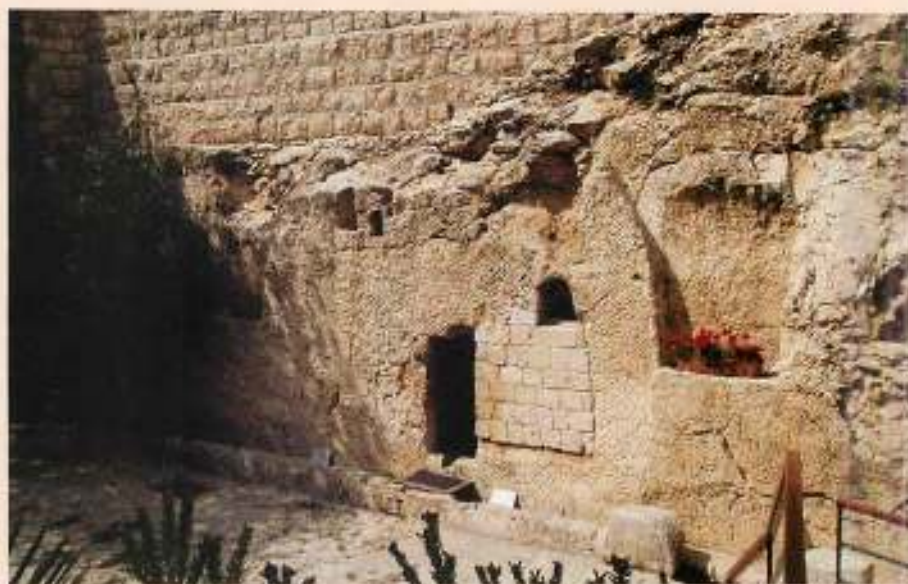
On Holy Friday, of course, we remember the crucifixion and burial of Jesus with a solemn church service which we call *Taghoom* or Burial. Holy Saturday is a day of quiet excitement, when Armenian Christians everywhere wait for the joyous Easter Eve and Easter Sunday service. We are so happy because Jesus overcame death. Through his death and resurrection, we can trust him to forgive our sins and guide us safely to the Father in heaven!

Answer the questions by filling in the blanks.

1. "Avak Shapat" is the time between _____ and _____.
2. The parable of the _____ reminds us that we must always be ready to meet Jesus.
3. At the _____, Jesus shared bread and wine with the disciples and initiated the sacrament of _____.
4. In the Garden of _____, Jesus asked the Father to spare him from his punishment.
5. By suffering, dying, and rising from the dead, Jesus showed us he has the power to forgive us our _____.

A Single Heartbeat

What does it really mean when we talk about Jesus' resurrection? How could someone come alive once they are dead? Jesus was crucified. The soldiers made certain he was dead. Jesus was wrapped for burial and placed in the tomb. The soldiers placed a guard around the tomb so that the disciples could not steal Jesus' body and then say he had walked out of the grave. (Matthew 27:62-66)



Inside the tomb, it was dark, cool, and silent. Jesus lay dead and still. His friends had left. They are sad because they believe all their hope in him is gone. The guards carefully watched the entrance. Friday night and Saturday pass quietly. Sunday morning dawns.

Suddenly, from inside the tomb – a single heartbeat. Then another. And another. Jesus' loving heart begins to beat in a steady rhythm. He breathes and begins to stir. He stands and pulls off the burial cloth. The stone rolls away from the entrance to the tomb and he walks out.

Jesus' friends come to visit the tomb and see the stone rolled away and the grave empty! They remember what he said: "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." (Luke 24:7-8) They realize what this means. Jesus was indeed the Son of God! If he can overcome death itself, he can surely forgive our misdeeds!

Our Armenian Way

Have you ever noticed that some crosses are shown with Jesus on them, and others do not? Our Armenian crosses are shown without the body of Jesus because we want to honor his resurrection and remember him alive, victorious over death. Armenian crosses usually have beautiful carving or decorations of grapes and wheat to celebrate life



FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about the events of Holy Week. In order to understand Jesus' death on the cross, they discussed things that are so important that one might agree to die for them. The students also made a decorated cross to remember the Crucifixion and celebrate the Resurrection.

Family Faith Activity

As we remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and his command to serve, we should be on the

lookout for ways to help others. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. At dinner, take turns thanking each other for something you each did today.
2. Collect some good used clothing and take it to a nearby homeless shelter.
3. Discuss what things you value so much, you would be prepared to give your life for them (freedom, each other's safety, your faith?)

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



Following Him

Pray Together

Haranon Har, yev Vortvo, yev Hovvooyin Surpo, Amen. We thank you so much for the gift of eternal life through Jesus. Thank you for the Armenian Church that helps us grow closer to him. Please help us to be living examples of the Word at school, in church, at home, on the sports field, and wherever else we go. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Answer "true" or "false" in the space provided.

1. The time between Palm Sunday and Easter is called Vodunluva. _____
2. On Holy Tuesday, we remember the Parable of the Ten Maidens. _____
3. Holy Wednesday is the day we remember when Judas made the agreement to betray Jesus. _____
4. After the Last Supper, Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Eden. _____
5. Armenian crosses are usually designed without Jesus on them because we focus on the fact that Jesus won the battle over death. _____

Lambs to Lions

Read Luke 22:54-62 to see how scared Peter was after seeing Jesus arrested. Answer the following question on the lines below.

Why did Peter cry in verse 62?

At the time of Jesus crucifixion, the disciples were terrified. They were hiding indoors with the doors locked (John 20:19) because they were afraid they would be arrested and brutally killed the way Jesus was.

Within a very short time, these frightened men were traveling far and wide telling everyone about Jesus. Most of them did indeed end up being crucified or otherwise killed. Their worst fears came true!

So what changed the disciples from cowardly to courageous? Why did they suddenly forget all about their fears? Something very unusual must have happened!

That something was the resurrection of their friend Jesus. They saw him nailed to the Cross. They were right there when the soldiers pronounced him dead. They saw him placed in the tomb.

Sunday evening, the disciples were discussing reports of Jesus' return to life, when suddenly he walked into the room (Luke 24:36-43). They were so surprised and happy! Their Lord had come back from the dead! All he had told them was true! The disciples couldn't keep this knowledge to themselves. They had to tell the world!

Where Did They Go from Here?

Jesus' followers quickly began their work of spreading his message of forgiveness around the world. The book of Acts in the New Testament traces their journeys, which took them throughout the ancient world.

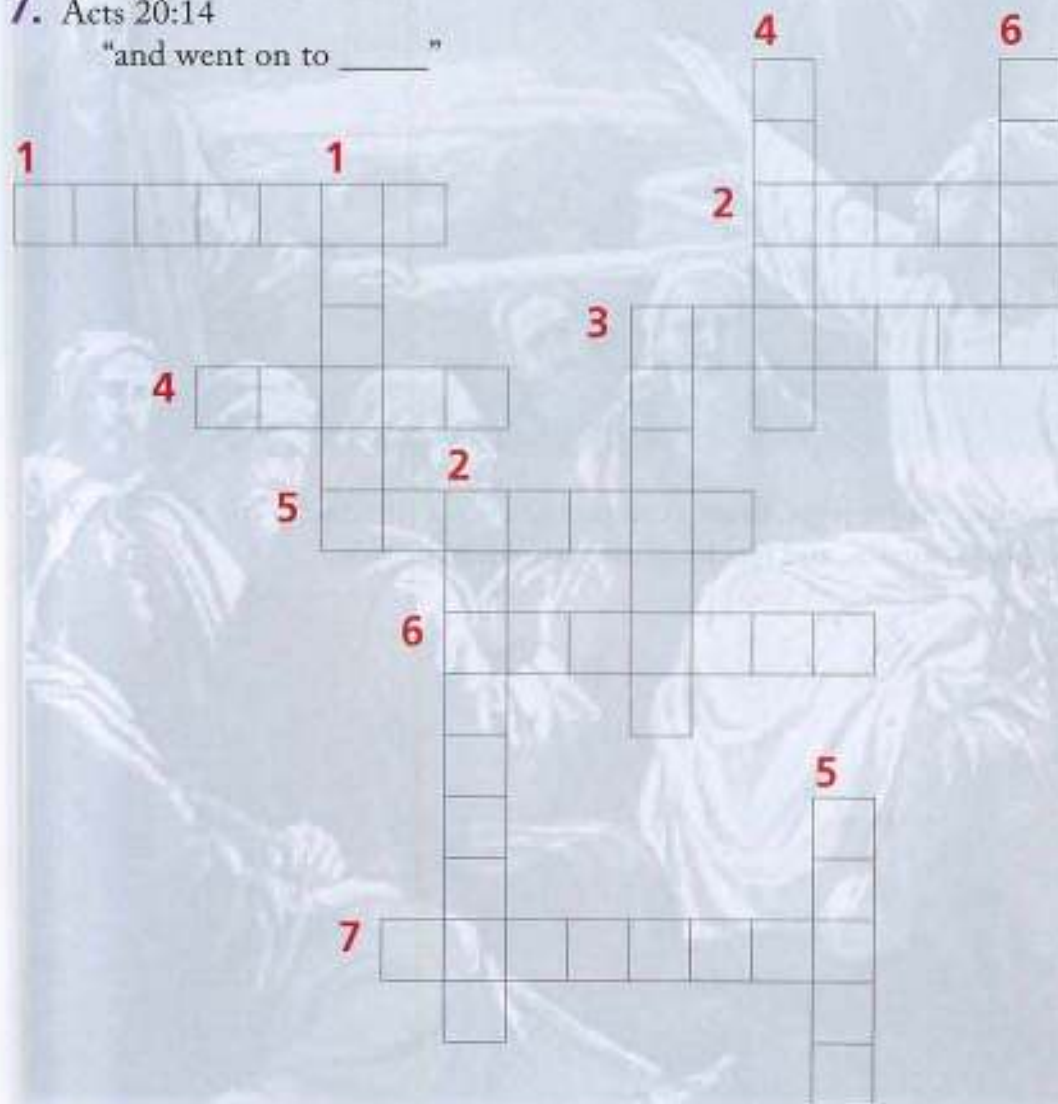
Solve the crossword. The clues are found in the book of Acts.

Across

- Acts 13:1
"In the church at _____"
- Acts 16:8
"and went down to _____"
- Acts 16:6
"throughout the region of _____"
- Acts 14:6
"cities of Lystra and _____"
- Acts 15:3
"through Phoenicia and _____"
- Acts 18:1
"and went to _____"
- Acts 20:14
"and went on to _____"

Down

- Acts 13:4
"sailed from there to _____"
- Acts 16:9
"a vision of a man from _____"
- Acts 14:24
"After going through _____"
- Acts 21:1
"from there to _____"
- Acts 27:7
"sailed to the lee of _____"
- Acts 16:7
"came to the border of _____"



Our Armenian Way

Armenia Hayastan Հայաստան

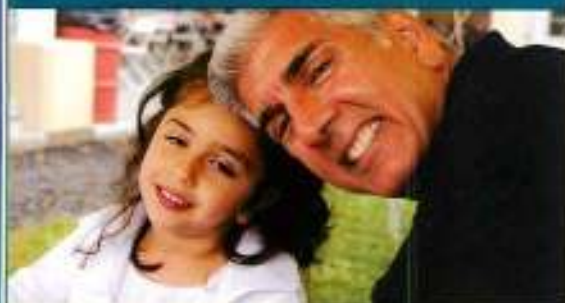
After the Resurrection, Jesus told his disciples, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19-20) The disciples then began their travels.

Two of Jesus' original twelve disciples, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, came to ancient Armenia. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Thaddeus and Bartholomew established Christianity in Armenia. They were later martyred in Armenia, in about the year 66AD.



In the boxes below and on the opposite page, draw a cartoon showing Thaddeus and Bartholomew learning from Jesus, traveling to Armenia, and teaching the Armenian people.

FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your fifth grader learned about the travels of Jesus' followers as they spread his message around the world. The students read about how the disciples were frightened after the Crucifixion until they saw Jesus alive again.

The children completed a crossword puzzle that names some of the places visited by the early missionaries, and they learned that Thaddeus and Bartholomew brought the Word of Life to Armenia.

Family Faith Activity

As Christians, it is our responsibility to spread the Good News about Jesus in the way we speak and live. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Light a candle together and pray, thanking God for the light of his Word.
2. Read Acts 2:1-12 aloud to see how the Holy Spirit prepared the apostles to go out into the world to spread God's Word.
3. Jesus referred to Himself as "living water." Deliver a case of bottled water to a homeless shelter or similar organization.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

Remembering Him



Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hovkvoyn Surpo, Amen. Heavenly Father, as we study the Armenian Church, please open our eyes so we see how it is a privilege to worship you. Help us to be thankful we live in a country where we are free to go to our church, and remember all those who are not allowed to worship your Son. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. After Jesus' arrest, people nearby accused Peter of
 - a. betraying Jesus to the soldiers.
 - b. stealing gold from the synagogue.
 - c. being one of Jesus' followers.
 - d. starting a riot.

2. Jesus told Peter he would deny he knew him three times before
 - a. there was a thunderstorm.
 - b. the rooster crowed.
 - c. the Last Supper.
 - d. Peter went to Damascus.

3. The disciples lost their fear of death because
 - a. God sent an angel to tell them not to worry.
 - b. they saw a special star.
 - c. they decided to leave Israel.
 - d. they saw Jesus alive after his Crucifixion.

4. _____ and _____ brought Christianity to Armenia.
 - a. Moses and Elijah
 - b. David and Jonathan
 - c. Thaddeus and Bartholomew
 - d. Herod and Pilate

5. A martyr is someone who

- a. voluntarily gives up his or her life for a belief.
- b. gives a lot of money to the church.
- c. burns incense on the altar in church.
- d. collected taxes for the government in ancient times.

A Little Bit of Heaven

If you are like most people your age, you may have mixed feelings about coming to Sunday School and church. Yes, it's fun to see your friends, but maybe you'd rather be sleeping or watching TV.

List three things that you *do* like about coming to Sunday School and church.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Why are you really there? When you go into church with your Sunday School class, do you know what it all means? Does your mind wander? Do you fight the urge to yawn or kick the seats in front of you? Are you constantly looking at your watch?

Our church service, known as the *Soorp Badarak* in Armenian and the "Divine Liturgy" in English, deserves the best attention you can give. It is the most important time of your week. Centuries ago, the Armenian Church Father Khosrov Antsevatsi compared it to a "great medicine." Long before cell phones, IMs, the Internet, 24/7 news, and other things came along to make our lives frenzied and complicated, Khosrov Antsevatsi knew we needed time to worship God with our church family, to find spiritual food in communion, and be healthy in body, spirit, and mind.

Food for the Soul

The books of I and II Corinthians in the Bible are letters that St. Paul wrote to the Christians who were living in the city of Corinth, Greece.

Read I Corinthians 11:23-26. Pretend that you are writing an e-mail to friends in a faraway country to tell them about the Lord's Supper. Tell them what Jesus did to begin the tradition, and why it is important, as well as any other things you wish to say about Holy Communion.

New Message

Send Chat Attach Address Fonts Photo Browser

To:

Cc:

Subject:

From:

List five things you do that make you relaxed and at peace.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



We are always in God's care, but our *Badarak* is a special time to gather with other believers to enjoy being especially close to him. In church, we accomplish this by reading the Holy Gospel, and participating in the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion). We rejoice about God's wonderful plan for our salvation, and we feel peace and relief as we take communion and know that our sins are forgiven. We can face another week in the busy world!

Faith Word

Sacrifice

The giving up of something highly valued, an offering

Our Armenian Way



Have you ever admired the beautiful clothing and crown worn by your pastor during the Badarak? Did you know that before the pastor appears before the congregation he has prayed special prayers while putting on these items?

Before the Badarak begins, the priest says a short prayer as the deacon hands him each item. The priest also prays, "Clothe me with a radiant garment and fortify me against the influence of the evil one, that I may be worthy to glorify your glorious name."

FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about the Badarak. The students looked at things they enjoy about church and Sunday School. They read that our service brings peace and spiritual nourishment to people.

The children read about the Lord's Supper in I Corinthians 11:23-26 and wrote an imaginary e-mail telling someone about it. The class also studied the priest's vestments.

Family Faith Activity

1. Recite the "Havadamk" as a family.
2. Read Exodus 28 and see the inspiration for the priestly vestments of the Armenian Church.
3. Take Holy Communion as a family.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

A People and A Way: The Armenian Church



Unit Two, Lesson 1

The First Enlighteners

Pray Together

Խանօր իօր, յեւ Վորժա, յեւ Իօկաօյն, Տւրօ, Ամեն. O Christ, make my soul worthy to behold with joy the light of your glory, in that day when you call me, and to rest in the hope of good things in the mansions of the just until the day of your glorious coming. Have mercy on me, a great sinner.

(a prayer of St. Nersess Shnorhali)

Chapter Checkup

Fill in the blanks.

1. The great Armenian church father Khosrov Antsevatsi compared our Divine Liturgy to a “_____.”
2. In church, reading the _____ and receiving _____ help us draw especially close to God.
3. The Divine Liturgy is called Soorp _____ in Armenian.
4. Holy Communion came out of events at the _____.
5. _____ refers to a set of ceremonial actions established for worship.

For All Who Are Far Off

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were in Jerusalem. They were thinking about their next move. They were filled with happiness over Jesus’ visits with them after his death and resurrection. During this time, they chose a man named Matthias to replace Judas, the person who betrayed Jesus and then died shortly afterward.

Through the Holy Spirit, God gave the twelve disciples the ability to speak all the languages they would need to travel far and wide and teach the world about Jesus. The disciples were not men who had gone to college to study different languages. Until the Holy Spirit came on them, they spoke only their local language.

Imagine if God had wanted the twelve to sail for America – the disciples would suddenly have begun speaking the languages of the Cherokee, Aztec, Inuit (Eskimo), and all the other peoples of this continent!

The Holy Spirit allowed the disciples to visit many nations to tell people the happy news about God’s love for mankind everywhere. Peter told the group of visitors that day that the promise of Jesus was “for all who are far off.”

We are people who are far off, too! We are far off in time from the thrilling events surrounding Jesus, but through the years God gave us dedicated teachers who love to tell us about him.



Acts 2:1-15, A Reader's Theater

Narrator: The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the presence of the Spirit in our lives. The Holy Spirit came to the apostles as they gathered 50 days after Jesus' Resurrection. They had already seen their risen Lord a number of times but were still not sure what to do. Here's what happened on that amazing day:

Scripture Reader: *Read Acts 2: 1-4*

Scripture Reader 2: *Read Acts 2: 5-13*

Scripture Reader 3: *Acts 2: 14-15 and continue with:* Then Peter told the crowd about the signs and miracles the prophets had dreamed and spoken of and how these were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, Son of God. Many people accepted his message of hope and faith – more than 3,000 were baptized that very day!

Narrator 2: Today let us celebrate the gift of the Spirit, the gift Jesus had promised to send us, sent on the Feast of Pentecost. The Spirit is present in all we do - renewing, encouraging, freeing, directing, and enlightening us. We read about these gifts in 1 Corinthians 12: 7-11.

Scripture Reader 4: *1 Corinthians 12: 7-9*

Scripture Reader 5: *1 Corinthians 12:10-11*

Reader 1: Let us celebrate these gifts together and pray that we use them to make the world a better place. With the gift of wisdom, which helps us to see clearly...

All: Let us renew the face of the earth.

Reader 2: With the gift of understanding which helps us to know God and his people...

All: Let us renew the face of the earth.

Reader 3: With the gift of right judgment, which helps us to make decisions...

All: Let us renew the face of the earth.

Reader 4: With the gift of courage, which gives us strength and helps us not be afraid...

All: Let us renew the face of the earth.

Reader 5: With the gift of knowledge, which helps us to see our Armenian Christian part in God's creation...

All: Let us renew the face of the earth.

Reader 6: With the gift of faith, which helps us hear your voice in the noise of life...

All: Let us renew the face of the earth.

Narrator: In the spirit of love made real through Christ's sacrifice and the coming of the Holy Spirit, let's greet each other with a holy kiss. *Everyone turns to a partner and gives the Kiss of Peace. Krisdos ee mech mer haydnetzav. Christ is revealed among us. Orbynal eh haydnootiumun Krisdosee. Blessed is the revelation of Christ.*

Now that you have "performed" the Pentecost, put the following events in order. Use the blanks in front of each statement to show the order.

- _____ Peter stood up with the other eleven disciples to speak to the crowd.
- _____ The Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in languages they had never known before.
- _____ A crowd of foreign visitors gathered to hear the disciples speak the different languages, some of which the foreigners recognized as their own.
- _____ A sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the house where the disciples were.
- _____ Peter reminded the crowd that the disciples could not have been drunk because it was only 9 o'clock in the morning.
- _____ Tongues of fire rested on the disciples.
- _____ Some in the crowd made fun of the disciples and said they were drunk.
- _____ People in the crowd asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Our Armenian Way



How many languages can you speak? You speak English, and probably Armenian. You may know some Spanish or French from school.

Do you know anyone who can speak five languages well? Maybe. Ten languages? Doubtful. Dozens of languages? Impossible.

As you know, two of the original twelve disciples, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, at different times, traveled all the way to Armenia to teach people about Jesus. Ancient Armenia was hundreds of miles away from Thaddeus' and Bartholomew's native land. Thaddeus and Bartholomew did not have cars or trains or planes to help them. They walked the entire distance. At most, they may have been blessed with a donkey to carry their supplies.

As the two men hiked through mountains and fields, they encountered many isolated groups of people. Most of these people had their own languages. There were no huge superpowers with common languages, such as English is today.

When Thaddeus or Bartholomew found these groups, they told them about God's plan for salvation through his Son. Each time,

the Holy Spirit instantly gave the disciples a complete knowledge of the local tongues even if the language was spoken by only a few dozen people. Human history will never know how many languages the disciples had to use – certainly more than we will ever know.

First Thaddeus and, later, Bartholomew finally arrived in Armenia. Many of the Armenian people were overjoyed to hear the message about Jesus. They happily believed what they heard, and Christianity took root in Armenia.

Thaddeus and Bartholomew were eventually killed by those who did not want anyone to follow Jesus, but it was impossible to stop him. Churches sprang up, and Armenia went on to become the first nation to make Christianity the official state religion. Through wars, massacres, starvation, earthquakes, and other difficulties, the Armenian people always held tightly to their faith in Jesus.

Imagine that you are one of the early apostles. God has given you the job of teaching strangers about his Son. On the lines below, write down what you would say to teach someone who had never heard of Jesus.

Faith Word *Pentecost* Hokekaloost Հոգեգալմստ

A feast 50 days (or the 7th Sunday) after Easter that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples



Prayer and Worship

The Armenian Church celebrates Hokekaloost, or Pentecost, with the hymn "Arakelo Aghavno." It is unclear who the actual author of the hymn is, although some people think it was written by the great historian Movses Khorenatzi and others the 5th century Catholicos

"With a mighty sound from above, the Dove came down..."

Hovnan Mantagooni. It is sung at baptisms and during the Blessing of the Water at Christmas as well.

What Biblical story does this hymn recall?

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today, 5th graders studied the events of Pentecost. They learned how the Holy Spirit made it possible for the Good News to go out all over the ancient world. The children also went into more detail about the mission of Thaddeus and Bartholomew, and they pretended they were missionaries telling people about Jesus. In addition, the class learned about the Pentecost hymn, "Arakelo Aghavno."

Family Faith Activity

1. Together, look at the map in today's lesson. Discuss the arduous journeys that Thaddeus and Bartholomew had to make to reach Armenia.
2. If someone in your home is musical, play and sing "Arakel Aghavno" together. The music appears in your child's lesson.
3. Call a friend or relative you have not seen in church for awhile, and invite them to join you in church on Sunday. This is part of telling others the Good News of Jesus!

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

The Second Enlightener: St. Gregory the Illuminator

Pray Together

Dear Lord Jesus, teach me to be holy and perfect, so that, receiving the portion of your blessed gifts of Bread and Wine, and now with a clean conscience, I may be united with you, and so have you fill me with spiritual food, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Circle the correct answers.

1. _____ was chosen to replace the former disciple Judas.
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Philip
 - c. Matthias
 - d. Acquilla
2. When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they heard a sound like _____.
 - a. an earthquake
 - b. a choir of angels
 - c. trumpets
 - d. a violent wind
3. At Pentecost, God gave the disciples the ability to _____.
 - a. speak in many different languages
 - b. walk on water
 - c. kill the Romans
 - d. put Pontius Pilate in prison
4. When a nearby crowd heard the disciples speaking different languages, some in the crowd _____.
 - a. tried to arrest Peter
 - b. laughed at the disciples and accused them of being drunk
 - c. lined up to become Christians
 - d. ran away because they were frightened

Heaven is Near

Read Matthew 3:1-12. John the Baptist is warning people to live the kind of life that would honor Jesus since he would soon be among them. "The kingdom of heaven is near!" he kept telling others.

Today, who could do John the Baptist's job of setting people on the right road to God?

In the Footsteps of Thaddeus and Bartholomew

Like John the Baptist, Thaddeus and Bartholomew wanted to prepare the way for God's Word. After Thaddeus and Bartholomew were killed in Armenia, pockets of new Christians remained to continue spreading the Good News. One of these little groups was responsible for the Christian education of a boy, Gregory, whom God would use to start the Armenian Church.

St. Gregory the Illuminator, or Krikor Loosavorich, was orphaned as a baby. His father, a prince named Anak, was a wicked man who murdered Khosrov, the king of Armenia. When Anak was caught, he and his entire family were killed as punishment. Only Gregory escaped, because a kind nurse ran away with him.

Years later, after Gregory had been well-educated by Christian monks, he went to work for King Drtad, son of the murdered King Khosrov. Drtad did not know that Gregory was Anak's son. Gregory was so intelligent and loyal that he and King Drtad became great friends.

One day, Drtad asked Gregory to worship his pagan god instead of Jesus. Gregory's Christian faith meant more to him than his friendship with the king, so he refused. Drtad became angry and had Gregory tortured for many days. From time to time Drtad would ask the suffering Gregory if he was ready to give up his Christian faith and stop the torture by worshipping Drtad's god. Gregory's answer was always the same – "NO!"

Finally, Drtad had Gregory thrown into a deep pit, which in Armenian we call "Khor Virab." Gregory remained there for many years, but he was never lonely because God kept him company the entire time.

One day, Drtad felt so guilty about the way he had treated Gregory and other Christians that he suffered a mental breakdown. Drtad began to believe he was a wild pig and began to act like one!

Princess Khosrovitookht, the king's sister, was secretly a Christian. Some think it was she who kept Gregory alive by bringing him food each day. She believed that only Gregory could help the king. Gregory was brought from the Khor Virab. He asked God to cure King Drtad. The king very soon recovered, and he at once converted to Christianity. From that day on, Drtad helped Gregory drive away pagan ideas and build churches, and Christianity was made the official state religion of Armenia.



Our Armenian Way

Throughout the history of our faith, the bones of saints have sometimes been preserved as holy relics. These relics inspire us to remember the holy lives of the saints.

Bone fragments of St. Gregory are kept in important churches. A large ornately decorated silver arm containing bones from St. Gregory's arm is brought out every seven years for the blessing of the Holy Muron (oil). This oil is used at baptisms and certain other occasions.



FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your fifth-grader learned about St. Gregory the Enlightener, founder of the Armenian Church. The children studied Gregory's early life and his role in the promulgation of Christianity in Armenia.

Family Faith Activity

1. Say a prayer for all those who have been imprisoned for their Christian faith.
2. Plant a sunflower, pumpkin, or other easy-to-grow seed in a clear container. As it grows, note that like the plant that comes from the tiny seed, the Armenian Church grew to its present size through the seed of the Word, planted a long time ago by a few people.
3. Collect money from each family member and send it to your Diocese for the express purpose of sending Armenian Christian material (Bibles, prayer books and readers) to Armenians around the world, in the teaching spirit of St. Gregory.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

Faith Word

Repent

To be sorry for sin and pledge to change

The Church in the Middle Ages: St. Gregory of Narek

Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. "You are perpetual goodness, inexhaustible grace, unchangeable forgiveness, omnipotent hand. Help me, O Lord, that I may be saved; treat me with compassion that I may be cleansed of my sins."

St. Gregory of Narek

Chapter Checkup

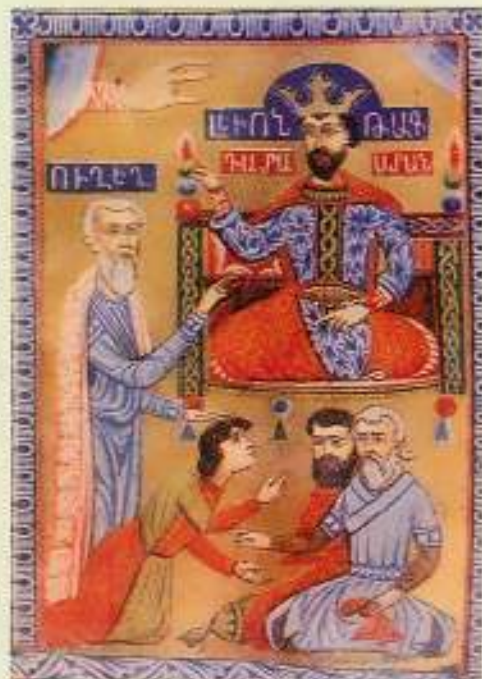
Write "T" or "F" for "true" or "false" on the line provided.

- _____ 1. John the Baptist told people God knows we are busy and it is okay to ignore him.
- _____ 2. St. Gregory was Armenian.
- _____ 3. St. Gregory's father was a very holy man.
- _____ 4. When the king's sister asked St. Gregory to cure the king of his illness, Gregory refused.
- _____ 5. The relics of St. Gregory are brought out every Sunday during Badarak.

A Lighthouse in a Hurricane

Much of the history of Armenia and the rest of the world is filled with war, starvation, earthquakes, and other disasters. The years before the birth of St. Gregory of Narek were no exception. For 200 years the Arabs had ruled (640-884) over Armenian lands. Then, after years of changing borders and conquerors, the Armenian noble houses themselves were at odds. Such famous clans as the Bagratunis, the Arzrunis, and the Siuniks vied for power. Although the period in which he lived (951-1003 A.D.) was relatively peaceful – he grew up under the long reign of the Bagratid King Ashot III (953-977) Gregory was troubled by all the fighting, crime, and suffering in the world.

St. Gregory of Narek saw that sin was at the root of much human misery. Although history records that Gregory was a kind, sensitive, and godly man, he was horrified with the sin he saw in himself. He only wanted to please God and be close to him.



He was born in the village of Narek on the southern shore of Lake Van and studied at the monastery of Narek. He became a monk and lived simply and without any luxuries. He spent his life praying, studying the Bible, and writing poems, prayers, and meditations. St. Gregory felt about God as he would about a best friend- he enjoyed "hanging out" with God more than any other activity. His many prayerful moments thinking about God's greatness and his own unworthiness moved Gregory to write "Conversations with God from the Depths of the Heart." Here's an example:

Prayer 51 from Narekatsi's
"Speaking with God from the Depths of the Heart"

If we run away, it is you who come after us.
If we are weak, you give us strength.
If we falter, you set us on the right and easy path.
If we faint, you encourage us.
If we are sick in body and soul, you heal us.
If we lie, you justify us with your truth.
If we stumble into the darkness, you direct us to heaven.
If we do not turn from our willfulness, you guide us.
If we sin, you cry.
If we are just, you smile.
If we turn from you, you are full of grief.
If we come to you, you celebrate.
If we give, you receive.
If we become stubborn, you are patient.
If we are ungrateful, you still give abundantly.
If we quit, you are sad.
If we are brave, you rejoice. Prayer 51



Read St. Gregory's prayer together. Think of what God does for you; add your own two lines.

If I _____, you _____.

If I _____, you _____.

What Kind of Friend?

Do you have a best friend? A close friend? A teammate? Someone you admire at school, church, or activities that you wish were your friend?

Think about that person. What is it that you like about him or her?

On the lines below, write four qualities you would like to have in a friend.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

God knows that friends are important to us. He offers us a friendship that has no conditions. He

doesn't care if you are good at sports, or what brand of clothing your family can afford. He wants to be your best friend. He already knows you – all he is waiting for is for you to get to know him, through prayer, life in the church, reading the Bible, and following his Word.

Our Best Friend

Below are some Bible statements about God that show he is a good friend. Draw a line from the Bible passage to the quality it reveals about God.



"He will never leave you nor forsake you."
(Deuteronomy 31:6)

you can go to him with problems

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
(Hebrews 13:8)

wants to be close

"He remembers his covenant forever."
(1 Chronicles 16:15)

keeps promises

"Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me."
(Psalm 27:10)

will never abandon you

"A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is
a friend who sticks closer than a brother."
(Proverbs 18:24)

*makes you feel better when
something bad happens*

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his
life for his friends."
(John 15:13)

*won't change
his mind about you*

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."
(Psalm 147:3)

there when nobody else is

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer; my God is
my rock, in whom I take refuge."
(Psalm 18:2)

willing to die for friends

Our Armenian Way



St. Nersess Lampronatzi was a bishop who served the Armenian Church during the Middle Ages. Like St. Gregory of Narek, he led a simple life of prayer and meditation. He left behind many writings and prayers. Here's one:

"For our sake, you became the bearer of sin so we may become righteous for you.

For our sake, you became earthly that we may become heavenly.

For our sake, you became bread that we, partaking of you, may be sanctified."

Faith Word *Covenant*

A formal agreement or contract

FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about St. Gregory of Narek as an important figure in the Middle Ages. They learned of his life of simplicity and contemplation. The study of his life and work led to a discussion of God's desire to be a friend to his beloved creation. The children related their own friendship experiences to the kind of friendship offered by God.

Family Faith Activity

God wants us to enjoy a close relationship with him. He is willing to be our friend, and we should reflect that love in the way we treat others. As a family, try to do at least one of the activities listed below.

1. Read James 2:1-13 to see how we should treat others.
2. Read one of the prayers of St. Gregory of Narek each night this week. The prayers are readily available on the internet and in books.
3. Introduce yourself to someone who has recently moved into your neighborhood.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

The Ottoman Empire



Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokyooyn Surpo, Amen. Hayr mer, vor herginus yes, soorp yeghitzi anoon ko. Yegestze arkayootiun ko, yeghitzin gamk ko vorbes herginus yev hergri. Uzhatz mer hanabazort door mez aysor. Togh mez uzbardis mer, vorbes yev mek toghoomk merotz bardabanatz. Yev mi danir uzmez ee portzootiun, ayl purgia ee chareh. Zi ko eh arkayootiun yev zoroootiun yev park havidianus. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Circle the correct answer.

1. St. Gregory of Narek believed that _____ caused most of the world's problems.
a. money b. sin c. non-religious books and music d. bad government
2. _____ was St. Gregory of Narek's best friend.
a. His father b. His parish priest c. God d. St. Gregory the Illuminator
3. God wants us to pray _____.
a. in church b. in school c. while playing sports d. all of these places
4. God is a friend who _____.
a. is always loyal b. doesn't want you to have any fun
c. expects you to attend church every day d. disapproves of games
5. St. Nersess Lampronatz'i was a _____ who wrote prayers.
a. soldier b. policeman c. bishop d. king

"The Sick Man of Europe"

For over 600 years, the Turkish Ottoman Empire ruled many countries. It had a large economy and strong armies.

During the 1800's, the Ottoman Empire began to decline. Wars weakened its economy, and it also was forced to give up some of its territory as new nations began to form. The great Turkish empire was given the nickname "The Sick Man of Europe" as it began to break apart.

In these years of decline, the Turks tried very hard to rid their empire of any populations that they felt were a threat to their power. Greeks, Armenians, and others were randomly killed in ever-greater numbers.

During World War One (1914-1918), the Turks were afraid that the Armenians and other minorities might fight against the dying empire. As the world spun into the chaos of the World War, Turkey decided once and for all to get rid of the Armenians. The first genocide of the new century was born. On April 24, 1915, the Turkish authorities rounded up the leaders of the Armenian community in Constantinople - clergy, government officials, writers, etc. - and murdered them.



Victims or Heroes

We feel sorry for the Armenians caught in the Genocide. We feel sad for all the lost families, and shocked and sickened at the cruelty of the 'Turks' behavior. We see our ancestors as helpless victims with no hope at all.



There is another way to see the Armenians killed in the Genocide. They were anything but hopeless. Though they suffered unspeakable horrors, they were winners. As they faced torture, starvation, and death, they never lost sight of the prize - their Christian faith. They understood that if God did not save even his own precious Son from suffering and death, they might have to endure the same for their faith.

Most of the time, the Turks would not kill any Armenian who converted to Islam. Amazingly, almost no Armenians converted. They felt it was more important to die a Christian than to save their families and themselves. The Armenians knew that at the end of their

suffering was the peace and joy of being with Jesus forever. Through their tears, our brave people remained unmovable in their faith. They never gave up.

Our Armenian Way

Gomidas Vartabed was born into a musical family in 1869. He was orphaned by the age of eleven and survived by singing in the streets for money. His beautiful singing voice was noticed by church officials, and Gomidas was sent to study in Etchmiadzin.

Through the years, Gomidas composed church music and carefully notated the folk music of the Armenian countryside. He also wrote many songs of his own. One of these is "Der Voghormia."

Gomidas survived the Genocide, but his experiences were so terrible that he lost his sanity. He died in 1935 in a hospital for the mentally ill.

ՏԵՐ ՈՂՈՐՄԵԱ DER VOGHORMYA

ԿՈՄԻԴԱՍ ՎԱՐՏԱԲԵԴՍ GOMEEDAS VARTABED

Stp, n - - - ղոր - - - մեա,
Der, vo - - - ghor - - - mya,

Stp, n - - - ղոր - - - մեա,
Der, vo - - - ghor - - - mya,

Stp, n - - - ղոր - - - մեա,
Der, vo - - - ghor - - - mya,

Stp, n - - - ղոր - - - մեա:
Der, vo - - - ghor - - - mya.



What does God want us to understand from our Genocide? Should we hate the Turks? Should we plot revenge? If they have an earthquake or some disaster, should we not help them?

Read the following Scripture passages. On the lines provided, describe how God says we should react to the Armenian Genocide, as well as other times when Christians are unfairly harmed.

Matthew 5:11-12

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you."

2 Timothy 3:12

"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"

Romans 12:19

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord.

Amos 5:21, 23-24

"I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies...Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

Faith Word

Persecute

To oppress or harass especially because of race, religion or beliefs

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today the class learned about the Armenian Genocide. The children took a brief look at the declining Ottoman Empire, and how, facing persecution, the Armenians prized their Christian faith more than life itself. They read selections from Scripture concerning persecution for Christians. The class also read about Gomidas Vartabed, who lived and worked in the time of the massacres.

Family Faith Activity

The Genocide leaves us an opportunity to think of others who may be suffering in the world. Try to

perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Light a candle and sing "Der Voghormia" in honor of those who perished in the Genocide.
2. Have your children find an article in the newspaper or online about a group that is suffering unjust persecution. Read and discuss the news item.
3. Make a donation to a charitable organization in memory of our Genocide victims.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



A Church in America: The First Fifty Years

Pray Together

Handon flor, yev Vorivo, yev Hokyooyn Surpa, Amen. O Christ, Protector of all creatures, let your right hand be a shadow over me day and night, staying at home and traveling, sleeping and rising, that I may never fail. Have mercy upon your creatures, and upon me, a great sinner.

From "I Confess With Faith" by St. Nersess Shnorhali

Chapter Checkup

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The Turkish state which ruled for around 600 years was called the
 - a. Commonwealth of Turkey
 - b. Ottoman Empire
 - c. Soviet Union
 - d. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
2. Most of the Armenian Genocide occurred during
 - a. the Thirty Years' War
 - b. the War between the States
 - c. World War One
 - d. World War Two
3. The Bible gives good advice about how to feel about the Genocide:
 - a. fight back
 - b. know that those who suffer and die for their faith will be blessed but that promoting justice is also important
 - c. say bad things about those who insult us
 - d. work for justice in the world
4. The great Armenian musician Gomidas Vartabed was sent to study in Etchmiadzin because of
 - a. his great intelligence
 - b. his knowledge of the Bible
 - c. his beautiful singing voice
 - d. his talent as a painter

A Church of Our Own



The earliest known Armenians came to America in the first half of the 1800's.

WE INTERRUPT THIS LESSON FOR A SPECIAL BULLETIN:

Did you know that a few Armenians served as doctors and soldiers in the American Civil War?

The first Armenian-Americans often lived and worked together, since they spoke the same language. Another thing shared by these early immigrants was a love of their church. On Sundays, they would gather together to pray and sing our hymns. Without an ordained priest, however, they could not celebrate the Badarak they loved.

By 1888, there were about 1,200 Armenians in the United States. Some of them asked the patriarch in Constantinople (today, Istanbul) to send a priest who could celebrate our Divine Liturgy. The Patriarch sent Father Hovsep Sarajian, and the first Badarak in America was celebrated on July 28, 1889. After much hard work, the first Armenian Church in America was consecrated in Worcester, Massachusetts on January 18, 1891. Now the Armenians were really home!

Have you ever moved to a new place or gone to camp, or on a long trip?

Did you miss some things while away from home? Once you make them out of clay, list them here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4

Faith Word

Consecrate

To dedicate someone or something to a sacred purpose

Strangers in a Strange World

We began this lesson with the Prayer for Travelers in remembrance of the first Armenian immigrants to America. These men and women left behind everything they knew to move to a new land. They understood very little about the culture they were entering. The faith they brought with them from their church helped them make a better life here in America.

Today's Christians are a lot like people who leave familiar things to live in a place they have never seen. We were not present to see Jesus die on the Cross and then walk out of the tomb. We did not go to see him heal the blind or raise Lazarus from the dead. Our belief in these events comes from faith.

What is faith? How can we see it? Where does it come from? One place we can see faith is in God's Creation. We do not have to doubt that the sun will rise in the morning, or that snow is cold. God set up his world so we may depend on many things in nature. Even events such as earthquakes and hurricanes, which seem random, are the result of natural forces that come together in a consistent way.

We also see faith in God's Word. In the Bible, we see God's promises to us. We learn about the inspiring faith of others. We even see Jesus' perfect faith in the Father, which he followed all the way to the Cross.

Our Armenian Way

Mgrtitch Khrimian was born in Van in 1820. From childhood, he loved the Bible and the Armenian language. Later in life he became a priest. After becoming the Prelate of Moush, then a bishop, Mgrditch Khrimian was elected Patriarch of Constantinople but resigned to pursue his literary activities. In 1878, upon his return from the Congress of Berlin he preached his famous "iron ladle" sermon. He described the meeting of representatives of different countries as all having an "iron ladle" and their best interests as all being in a big "pot." The Armenians only had a "paper ladle" – they were powerless – and so they were unable to gain what was rightfully theirs.



Elected Catholicos of all the Armenians in 1892, he spent the rest of his life in Etchmiadzin. Lovingly called *Hayrig* (Father), he suffered for the miseries of his people and strived for their well-being, education, and intellectual awakening. He encouraged his flock to behave as one Armenian Christian family. He worked hard to help the Armenians build bridges of faith and love.

Because he established the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America in 1898, Khrimian Hayrig reminds us of the first Armenian immigrants to the United States who were able to unite their Armenian culture and church heritage with their new home, America.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child learned about the early history of the Armenian Church in America. The students also explored the meaning and root of faith. In addition, the children read a selection about Catholicos Khrimian, who wished all Armenians to unite as one family in faith.

Family Faith Activity

Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Say the Traveler's Prayer together before leaving on a family outing.
2. Put a map on the wall. Using the Diocesan website, www.armenianchurch.net, locate each Armenian church in the Eastern Diocese.
3. Depending on the season, rake leaves, plant flowers, or assist with some small task at church.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

The Church in America: Looking Ahead

Pray Together

For the peace of the whole world and the stability of the Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

Litany from the Armenian Divine Liturgy

Chapter Checkup

Write "true" or "false" in the space provided.

1. The earliest Armenian immigrants fought in the French and Indian Wars. _____
2. The early Armenian-Americans had to wait to hear the Badarak because they lacked an ordained priest. _____
3. The first Armenian Church in America was in Fresno, California. _____
4. The book of Romans in the Old Testament teaches many ways to find faith. _____
5. Khrimian Hayrig eventually became Catholicos of All Armenians. _____

"A Peculiar People"

When you tell someone you are Armenian or part Armenian do they sometimes look puzzled and say "What's that?" How do you feel about having to explain yourself? Write about it on the lines below.

When you explain to others about what it is to be Armenian, what do you say? Answer in the lines below. (If you have not had this experience, write what you would say.)

Does it make you feel peculiar or different to be Armenian? Hear what God has to say about being different in the King James Version of the Bible:



Deuteronomy 14:2

"For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth."

Does this mean that God loves Armenians more than others? Of course not. In this passage, God is setting the Jews apart as his special people. He invited them to follow his law. When Jesus came, this invitation was extended to all who love God and his teachings.

For Christians, to be one of God's "peculiar" people means that we should be a little different from those who do not know or care about Jesus. We are peculiar because God means more to us than doing what everybody else is doing. We have to learn what he wants us to do so we can behave in the right way, even though others in the world make it seem okay to sin.

Where do you think we find out about God's plan for our lives?



Your Church Needs You

You play an important part in helping the Armenian Church grow and move forward into the future. As a young person, for now your job involves learning the teachings of the Armenian Church about God. As you grow and understand what God wants, you will be able to help your church in other ways. Let's think about some of the jobs you see people do in and around the church.

Rules, Rules, Rules

Rules. They seem to be everywhere. At school. From your parents. In the Bible. You can't escape them!

Nobody likes to be told they can't do something they want to do. Rules exist for a reason. You know that your parents set rules to keep you safe. Did you know that God's rules, too, are meant to protect you from danger? God is our loving Father. He cares about the safety of our bodies and our souls.

He doesn't give all these "do's" and "don'ts" because he doesn't want us to have fun. He knows that our lives on Earth and afterward will be much happier if we listen to him.

List some of your parents' rules below:

Which rule do you dislike the most? Why?



Why do you think your parents set this rule?



God has set specific rules to cover any situation. Below are some things that are forbidden by God. In the space provided, write why you think he doesn't want us to do these things.

Ignoring the holiness of Sunday

Drunkenness

Lying

Read Exodus 20:2-17, which gives us the Ten Commandments.

Think of a very important rule you would like to have people obey, and write it below.



Faith Word

Commandment

An instruction to do something given by someone in authority

Our Armenian Way

Canon Law

The Greek word “kanon” simply means a straight rod used to measure. So the term canon law in the Armenian Church (and all traditional Christian churches) refers to all the rules governing the life and discipline of the church in such areas as worship, rites, the clergy, administration, etc. These laws were established from the very beginning of church history at local and ecumenical councils over the centuries or sometimes by individual Catholicos. Most are collected in the *Book of Canons* (*Ganonakirk*) but very few of these are actually called upon today to govern the life of the Armenian Church. They are more of historical interest.



FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned that they have a role in moving the Armenian Church forward. They read that right now in their lives they help the church by learning about God, but they listed some of the jobs in the church they may do in the future.

Christians are expected to be a little different from others because God's guidance for our lives is more important than anything. The class explored the purpose of rules and learned that God gave us his rules to keep us safe and happy.

The class also reviewed the Ten Commandments and learned more about Armenian Church canons.

Family Faith Activity

We can continue the examination of God's law and our rules at home. Try to do one of the following activities with your family.

1. Name all Ten Commandments without looking at the Bible. Check your answers in Exodus 20:2-17.
2. Find an article in the newspaper about someone who broke a rule. Discuss the consequences.
3. Make a list of family rules and post it in a conspicuous location.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

Sacraments: Special Times with God



Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. Lord, as we begin our study of the sacraments, help us to always remember how these special times with you reflect the union with you through Jesus Christ.

Chapter Checkup

Write "true" or "false" in the space provided.

1. The Ten Commandments appear in the book of _____.
2. In the Old Testament, God set the _____ apart as his special people.
3. God established _____ to keep our bodies and souls safe from sin.
4. A law concerning the life and discipline of the Armenian Church is called a _____ law.
5. A commandment is _____.

God's Road

The word "sacrament" comes from the word for "holy" and is all about how God touches our lives. God is with us all the time. But over the centuries, the Armenian Church has adopted seven official sacraments, those seven special "milestone" sacraments that the church acknowledges through formal rites. On the lines below, list as many of the sacraments as you can from memory:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____



When we reach an important time in our lives, we like to celebrate that time with a special ceremony. Do you remember your graduation from kindergarten or preschool? What was that like? What did you do to mark that event? Have you moved up to a new group in the Boy or Girl Scouts or a sports team? In an activity at school or Armenian School?

Write about a time when you celebrated a special event in your life.



In the Armenian Church we mark special events in our relationship with God. These events, which we call sacraments, are often called "visible signs of invisible grace," signs of God's kingdom. The celebration of the sacraments, with their beautiful prayers and songs, are our way of showing God that we want him to be the center of our lives and that we love being part of his family. They are signs along a spiritual road to God's heavenly Kingdom.

Read the following Bible passages. Draw a line from the passage on the left to the sacrament it describes.

John 3:5

"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.'"

Ordination/Holy Orders

answering a call to serve God

John 20:23

"If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them; they are not forgiven."

Healing of the Sick

praying for courage and wholeness

Mark 6:13

"They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them."

Baptism

coming out of the water as a child of God and a member of his church

John 1:32 (hint: in the Armenian Church, this sacrament always occurs at the same time as at least another sacrament)

"Then John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him.'"

Marriage

a man and a woman become one out of love and the promise to live in Christ

Matthew 19:6

"So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Chrismation

sealed with the Holy Spirit

Mark 14:22

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body.'"

Acts 6:3, 6

"Therefore, Friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom...they had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them."

Penance

*saying "I'm truly sorry" and
vowing to sin no more*

Communion

sharing in Christ's very Body and Blood



Your Special Walk with God

Which are the sacraments you have already received?

Which sacraments have you watched others receive?

Which sacraments would you like to receive in the future? Why?

Faith Word

Sacrament

An visible sign of an invisible grace

Our Armenian Way

Մաշտոց

The rituals of the seven sacraments and other rituals are collected in a very famous book called the *Mashdotz*. There are actually three such books! The “little” or in Armenian “pokr” *Mashdotz* contains the sacraments that may be performed by a priest. This is probably the most often used. The “mother” (mayr) *Mashdotz* contains those performed by a bishop (such as ordaining a priest or consecrating a church) and the “father” (hayr) *Mashdotz* for those sacraments and blessing services that only a Catholicos can perform (such as consecrating a bishop, or blessing Holy Muron).



FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned that the sacraments are special times with God that show we want him to be the center of our lives and that we are part of his family. The children recalled special events in their own lives, and completed a matching exercise that explored the Scriptural basis for the sacraments. They created a beautiful poster on the sacraments of the Armenian Church which is on display. Please make sure you look at it.

And ask them about the three books that contain

all the blessing services of the Armenian Church!

Family Faith Activity

Try one or all of these:

1. Have each family member recall a time when they felt especially close to God.
2. Discuss a time when you participated in or attended a sacrament together. Who was there? What was special about it? What do you remember about the ceremony itself?
3. Call your godparents and see how they are!

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



Welcome to the Holy Church!

Baptism and Chrismation

Pray Together

Hanoon Har, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyu Surpo, Amen. We renounce Satan and all his devices, his wiles, all his counsels, all his ways, all his intentions, all his evil angels, all his wicked ministers, all his wicked influences, all these do we heartily renounce.

Hraiharoom (Baptismal Renunciation of Satan)

Chapter Checkup

Choose two sacraments and explain their meaning below.

1. _____

2. _____

Where Do We Sign Up?

John's older bother was applying to the Police Department and brought home the application and brochure. John read the requirements to join:

1. You must be at least 20 years of age and no more than 35.
2. You must have a two-year Associate's Degree.
3. You must pass a physical fitness test.
4. You must complete the 6-month certification program at the Police Academy.

"Wow! said John. "This is a lot of musts!"

Can you think of other organizations that have requirements to "join"?



Happily, God's club doesn't have any artificial restrictions. When our Lord made his sacrifice on the cross, he opened membership into his family to all people. We mark his invitation with sacraments of initiation. An initiation is a ceremony through which someone is made a member of a group. There are three sacraments of initiation: baptism, chrismation (called confirmation in the Catholic Church), and communion.



When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, all people were separated from God by sin. All people are born with this sin, which is called "original sin." The sacrament of baptism symbolically washes away this original sin. It prepares the child to be accepted into the Christian faith.

Chrismation is the next step in the initiation of the baby into the family of Christ. At this point, the priest anoints the child to give him or her the gifts and spiritual strength of the Holy Spirit. This touching of the baby with the chrism, or holy muron, recalls events in the Bible where divine grace was given through the hands of the Jesus' disciples or other holy individuals. One example of this occurs in Acts 8:17: "Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

The baby is then dressed in white clothing to symbolize purity and is taken to the altar to receive his or her very first Communion.

Of Water and the Spirit *Baptism Mgrdootioon Մկրտություն*

In the Bible, we learn that John the Baptist traveled around telling people that the Savior was about to appear. John went from place to place baptizing people in the Jordan River. According to Luke 3:21-22, we read "When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'" This is similar to our chrismation, when the priest anoints the baby so the power of the Holy Spirit will accompany the child through life.



When the Holy Spirit is present in your life, you enjoy many gifts. These gifts, or fruit of the spirit, are described in Galatians 5:22-23. Go to this passage in your Bible, find these nine gifts of the Spirit.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

Choose any three fruits of the spirit that you think are especially important and explain why.

A Baptism

(Edited for a Re-enactment)

Needed: a doll (choose a name and adjust pronouns accordingly; it has been assumed below that it is a boy), a towel, a narod braid (red and white yarn twisted together), a basin, a dove-shaped container, or a container with a dove drawn on it

Priest

Parents

Godparents

Family and friends

(Everyone is standing at the back of the classroom. Parents give baby wrapped in towel to the godfather.)

All: (The Lord's Prayer) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing the Narod

Priest: Bless, O Christ, our God this braid and keep its bearer under the shadow of your holy and precious cross in peace. Deliver him from enemies visible and invisible. Make him worthy and give thanks to you and to glorify you with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, now and always and to the ages of ages, amen.

Renouncing Evil

All turn and face the rear of the classroom – this would be the western direction in church – and repeat three times: We renounce Satan and his every deceit, his wiles, his counsels, his goings, his evil will, his evil angels and his every evil power, renouncing we renounce.

All face front – this would be facing east in church.

Confession of Faith

Godparents: We believe in the all-holy Trinity, in the Father, the Son, in the Holy Spirit, in the Annunciation of Gabriel, in the nativity of Christ, in his baptism, in his passion, in his crucifixion, in his three-day burial, his resurrection, his ascension as God, his sitting at the right hand of the Father, and his awful and glorious Second Coming, we confess and believe.

All follow priest into the church.

Priest: Psalm 118:19-24 Alleluia, alleluia. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Priest: takes the dove-shaped container and pours oil into the water in the basin. Psalm 29:3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. Offer to the Lord the glory of his name, worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

Blessing of the Water

Blessed and sanctified be this water by the sign of the Holy Cross and by the holy Gospel and by the holy oil and by the grace of this day, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer of Baptism

Priest: You who has called this your servant, O Lord, to the holiness and enlightenment of baptism, we pray you, make him worthy of your most precious grace. Put off him the old garment

of sins and renew him into a new life. Fill him with the power of the Holy Spirit that he may have the renewal of the glory of Christ. And to you, the Mighty One and to your only-begotten Son and to the liberating Holy Spirit is fitting dominion and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: What does this child request?

Godparents: Faith, hope, love, and baptism, to be baptized and justified, to be cleansed of sins, to be freed from demons and to serve God.

(This dialogue is repeated twice more.)

The Baptism

Priest: Be it unto your faith. He immerses the baby three times as follows. (Name), this servant of God, coming from the state of catechumen to baptism, is now baptized in the name of the Father (immerse), and of the Son (immerse) and of the Holy Spirit (immerse). Redeemed by the blood of Christ from servitude to sin, he receives adoption as a child of the heavenly Father, to be a joint-heir with Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit. (He takes the child out of the water) You have been baptized in Christ and have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Deacon: (Romans 6:3-4) "Do you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father we too might walk into newness of life."

Priest gives child to godfather to wrap in a towel. He holds him while priest anoints the baby with muron.

The Chrismation

The priest pours some oil in his palm and then signs the cross on the doll's forehead:

Sweet ointment in the name of Jesus Christ is poured upon you as a seal of incorruptible heavenly gifts.

He signs over the eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, hands, heart, back, and feet and at the end: Peace unto you, anointed of God.

Now the doll is dressed in white; the priest ties the narod around its neck.

Priest: And now, 5th graders, the baby will be taken to the altar and receive his first communion and so has received all three sacraments of initiation. We can say now with great joy, welcome to God's family in the Armenian Church!



Faith Word

Chrism

Consecrated oil used for special purposes

Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, the chrism, or holy muron, is prepared using the fragrances of forty-three different flowers. We do this so that, as the sweetness of the flowers perfumes the air, the person being anointed with the muron will sweeten their world with the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ. The preparation of muron is such a special event that it is done every seven years and only the Catholicos may perform this duty.



FAMILY FOCUS: *For Parents*



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about the sacraments of baptism and chrismation. The class read about how baptism is the initiation into God's family, and how it cleanses original sin. Your son or daughter also studied chrismation, and learned about how this ritual confers the Holy Spirit on the baby.

The children completed an exercise exploring the fruits of the Holy Spirit and they performed a short reenactment of a baptism. They also learned more about how holy muron is made.

Family Faith Activity

Our initiation into the Armenian Church is a joyful invitation to live our faith. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read the account of Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:1-17.
2. Put up a chart with the nine Fruits of the Spirit. During the week, have each family member jot down occurrences when they have been influenced by one of these spiritual gifts.
3. Observe an actual baptism at your church, or watch a videotape of a family christening, if available.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



Getting Back on Track

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist

Pray Together

Draw near to the Lord and take the light. Alleluia!
Taste and see that the Lord is sweet. Alleluia!
Praise the Lord in the heavens. Alleluia!
Praise him in the heights. Alleluia!
Praise him all his angels. Alleluia!

From the Divine Liturgy hymn *Orhnyal eh Asdvadz*

Chapter Checkup

Fill in the missing word or words.

1. Baptism, chrismation, and communion are the sacraments of _____.
2. Chrismation is also called _____.
3. _____ sin began with Adam and Eve.
4. Chrismation is a sign that the baby has received the gifts of the _____.
5. Jesus was baptized in the _____ River.

Restorer of Souls

Imagine you see a wooden chair in a trash heap. It is old, dirty, missing parts, and maybe painted a horrible color. There is no hope for that chair. It will go off to decay in a landfill or be burned.

Suddenly an artist comes along and rescues the chair out of the trash. This person is patient and has the skills necessary to make the chair like new. He or she carefully sands off the old paint or varnish until the original wood reappears in all its beauty. They replace a missing leg or whatever else is broken and give the chair a glowing finish or paint it an attractive hue. After some very hard work, the chair sits in a place of honor in a hallway or a living room, when once it was headed for destruction.

Jesus is like the person who pulled the chair out of the garbage and restored it to beauty. As the only Son of God, he alone has the power and knowledge to clean sin from our souls. Through his death and resurrection, he offers us reconciliation. We are restored to a place of honor in heaven.





Did I Do That?

Think of the last time you did something wrong, even though you knew it was wrong. Write three words here that describe how you felt:

When we sin, we usually feel very unhappy. God is unhappy, too. For us to feel better, we need to repent, or to realize what we have done wrong and be sorry for it. If possible, we should try to do something to fix our misdeed. We must try very hard not to do that particular bad thing ever again.

God wants to restore us to happiness and peace even after we have sinned. He wants us to tell him what we have done, no matter how bad it is. He wants to hear if we have sinned by not doing the good things God has told us to do. This is called confession. When we are honest with God about our sins and turn away from them, God is happy to forgive us.

The Lord's Supper

On Holy Thursday, the night before Jesus' Crucifixion, Jesus and his disciples ate together to celebrate the Jewish Passover. This is known as the Last Supper. During the meal, Jesus did a strange thing, which is recorded in Luke 22:19-20:

"And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'"

This was the first Eucharist, which is also called the sacrament of Holy Communion. It is also known as the Lord's Supper. Jesus tells his followers to share his body and blood, by which our sins are forgiven. The Armenian Church follows this command each week during Holy Communion.

Although we can confess our sins anytime and in any location, Holy Communion offers us a chance to unite with other believers and share the joy of forgiveness. When we have confessed our sins together and the priest places the blessed bread and wine on our tongues, it is as if we are all at a table sharing a glorious meal. We face the new week with a feeling of peace and satisfaction.



The Path to Peace

There are steps that we follow during Holy Communion. First, we prepare for the special time with God by fasting. Later, we confess our sins with the congregation. You may think, "How am I supposed to remember all the stuff I did wrong?" Here are some questions which you can ask yourself to help you remember:

- Where have I gone recently?
- What people did I see?
- What activities did I do each day?
- What conversations have I had?

*God doesn't ask us to resist temptation on our own.
His Holy Spirit is always there to
strengthen us – all we have to do is ask!*

Pass It On

In Ephesians 4:32 we are told, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." This means God wants us to show the same forgiveness to others that he has shown us. When someone does something bad to us, we must remember this command.

Faith Word Reconciliation

The reestablishing of a close relationship

Our Armenian Way

Megha Asdoodzo Մեղայ Աստուծոյ

When we share in the sacrament of Holy Communion, we recount the sins we have done and confess them together as one body.

The following is from the group confession of the Armenian Church. See if you can replace all underlined words with your own word or phrase.

"I confess before God, and before the holy mother of God, and before all the saints, and before thee, holy Father, all the sins which I have committed. For I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, willingly and unwillingly, knowingly and unknowingly, I have sinned against God."

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today's session was about the sacrament of Holy Communion. Your child evaluated how they feel when they do something wrong, and learned how Jesus is the one who forgives our misdeeds and restores us to a good relationship with the Father.

The class read in Luke 22:19-20 that Jesus commands us to partake of the Eucharist. Your son or daughter learned tips for making confession more productive, and

that God tells us to forgive others, as he forgives us. After acting out some creative scenarios on confession and forgiveness, the students also read from the confession in the Armenian Church.

Family Faith Activity

Our joy at God's mercy and forgiveness should carry over into all we do. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read Matthew 26:26-28 for another account of the Last Supper.
2. Read James 5:16 together. Have each member of the family recall something they have done that they think might be wrong. Pray together for forgiveness, and ask the Holy Spirit to help each of you to resist that sin in the future.
3. Participate in Holy Communion as a family.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

One Plus One Equals One: The Sacrament of Marriage



Pray Together

Hanaon Har, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, as we learn about the sacrament of marriage, please show us what godly love is. Bless the marriages of our families and loved ones and keep us strong in our faith and in our love for you. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Circle the correct answer.

- On Holy Thursday, Jesus and his disciples gathered together to celebrate
a. the death of King Herod b. the First Christmas c. Passover d. Pentecost
- Another word for Holy Communion is
a. Eucharist b. the Ascension c. ordination d. anointing
- Which of the following things is not part of the Communion activity:
a. fasting b. giving to charity c. repenting for sins d. confession
- God offers us _____ to help resist temptations.
a. Moses b. the Holy Spirit c. St. Gregory d. David
- Which is not one of the seven deadly sins?
a. envy b. anger c. humility d. gluttony

A Garden Wedding

Read Genesis 2:19-25. Answer the following questions.

- Why did God bring all the animals to show Adam?



2. What did God decide Adam still needed?

3. What was Adam doing when God removed one of the ribs from his side?

4. What did God do with Adam's rib?

5. When a man is united to his wife, he and the woman become what?

One Plus One Equals One!

As you saw in Genesis, God states that a man and woman are to become "one flesh" when they are united in marriage. Does this mean they should tie their feet together and act as one being all the time? Of course not.

When a man and woman decide to get married, they are two different people. They grew up in different families, and maybe spent their childhoods in towns that are very far apart. They each bring different experiences, opinions, and skills to the marriage. God created them as individuals with special gifts which should be valued.

By declaring the married couple "one flesh," God means that the man and woman now have a new life *together* which is a whole different thing than the way they were each living before. One plus one really *does* equal one in this case! A husband and wife must work to protect their oneness from harmful outside influences. Their marriage relationship is something God wants the couple to treasure. It is so important that God compares it to the relationship between Christ and his church (Ephesians 5:25).



What Is Love?

You see images of love everywhere. It's on TV, in books, and in the movies. So many songs are about love. These images usually show attractive people kissing and holding hands and doing other things associated with romance. But what is it really about?

On the lines provided, write about your opinion of what love really is:

When you think of a loving person, who comes into your mind? Tell what makes that person a good example of someone who shows love.

God's Recipe for Love

In I Corinthians 13:4-8, God says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Below are the qualities of love that God says are important. Rank them in order of importance from 1-15, with 1 being the most important.

- _____ patient
- _____ kind
- _____ not envious
- _____ not boastful
- _____ not proud
- _____ not rude
- _____ not selfish
- _____ not easily angered
- _____ forgetting about wrongs
- _____ not being happy about evil
- _____ being happy about the truth
- _____ protective
- _____ trusting
- _____ always hopeful
- _____ always keeps trying



What did you rank as most important?
Why did you choose this quality?

But What About Divorce?

Everyone knows a family where there has been a divorce. Your own parents may be divorced. Why does this happen? How should you handle it? Didn't God say love never fails?

Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, all of God's wonderful creations, including marriage, are subject to problems. When a couple decides to separate or divorce, it makes a lot of people sad. The parents themselves are very sad that their union is being dissolved, because their hopes and dreams for family life did not work out. Grandparents and children are sad and confused because their family as they knew it has changed. Even the church community shares this pain.

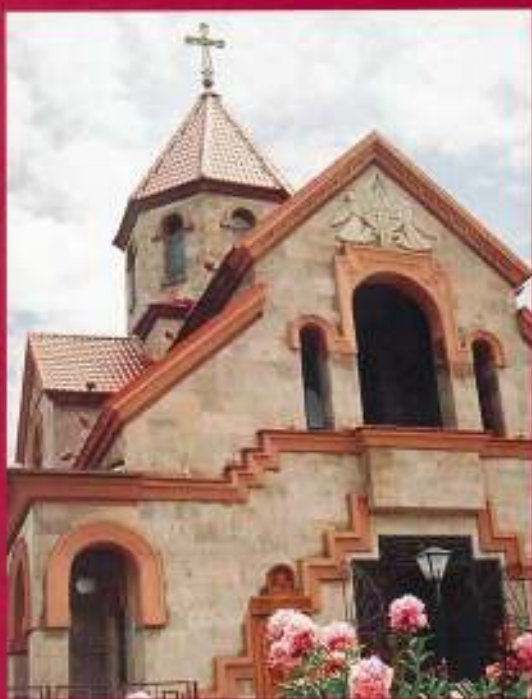
Even though a pair decides not to live together anymore, their love for their children will never change. In these ways, love continues, even if the marriage does not. And God's love for everyone involved is always there.

Our Armenian Way *Harsanik* Հարսանիք

The wedding ceremony in the Armenian Church is particularly beautiful. During the service, the priest joins the right hand of the bride to the right hand of the man. In remembrance of the first marriage in the Garden of Eden, the priest says, "Taking the hand of Eve and giving it to the hand of Adam. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh."

The deacon reads from Ephesians 5:21-33. This passage explains the relations between husband and wife, and between Christ and his church. In this case, the word "church" does not mean a particular building or group of churches, but all believers. The deacon also reads Matthew 19:4-9, which discusses family life and divorce.

The bride and groom are seated in the chancel before the altar, and crowns are placed on their heads. This tells everybody that the man and woman are king and queen of their household, and work together to make a home. The crowning also reminds us of the day when we are in heaven with Christ, and we all share in his glory and majesty.



FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child learned about the sacrament of matrimony. Students first explored their associations with the word and then read about how God created marriage and partnership in the Garden of Eden. The children performed an exercise helping them to define their understanding of love, and they read about ideal love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. The class also read about the Armenian wedding ceremony.

Family Faith Activity

God's plan is for us to live in families that are grounded in his Word. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Tell your children about how you and your spouse met.
2. Read Genesis 1 and 2 together.
3. Find a story online or in the news about a marriage of a celebrity couple. Have a family discussion about how the list of love's attributes in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 might or might not be operating in the celebrities' situation.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

Faith Word

Matrimony

The act or state of being married.

Growing in Christ: Reaching In

Unit Three, Lesson One

What Is Prayer?

Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hakvooyh Surpo, Amen. Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

Psalms 86:11-12

Chapter Checkup

Write the correct answer.

1. The first marriage took place in what book of the Bible? _____
2. In whose image did God make humankind? _____
3. In I Corinthians 13:4-8, God talks about fifteen qualities of _____.

4. List three of the things God tells us about love in I Corinthians 13:4-8
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
5. Name one of the books of the Bible from which the deacon reads at an Armenian wedding ceremony. _____

God's Line Is Never Busy

What makes a close friend? Most people report that a close friend is one who will listen to them. Prayer is our way of becoming closer friends with God. Through prayer, we grow closer to him as we share our lives with him. As we speak with God in prayer and study his Word, he becomes closer to us as we learn his plan for our lives. He loves to hear from us anytime, anywhere.

Answer the following questions about your prayer life:

How often do you pray? _____

Where do you pray? _____

What do you pray for most often? _____

How do you hold your hands when you pray? _____

Do you make up your own prayers? _____

What is your favorite prayer? _____



The Four Kinds of Prayer

Prayer may be seen as falling into the following four basic categories: supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, and confession. Prayers of supplication ask God for something for yourself or another person. An example of a prayer of supplication is "Lord Jesus, please help Grandma and Grandpa arrive home safely after their visit."

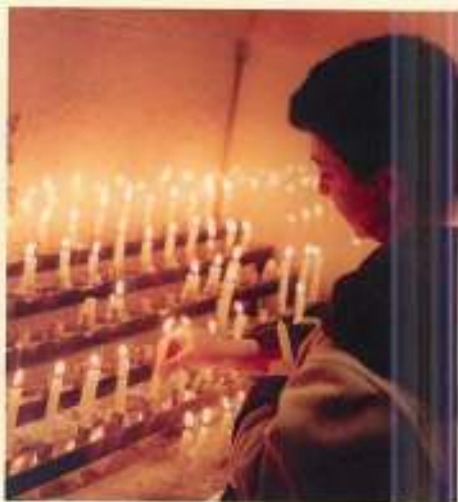
We offer prayers of thanksgiving when we are thanking God for something. A prayer of thanksgiving would be, "Father, thank you for helping me remember everything I studied so I could do well on the math test."

Prayers of adoration offer praise to God. They tell him how much we love him, and how wonderful and amazing he is. "Lord, everything looks so beautiful after the snowstorm. You make so many wonderful things," is an example of a prayer of adoration.

We say prayers of confession when we have done something wrong and we want to tell Jesus we are sorry. "Lord, I'm sorry I took so long getting out of bed this morning that I made everyone late," is a prayer of confession.

Place the following prayers into their categories by writing the letters S (supplication), T (thanksgiving), A (adoration), or C (confession) in the space provided.

1. _____ "I'm sorry I didn't study for that test, Lord. If I had listened to the teacher and studied, I would have done better."
2. _____ "Thank you that nobody got hurt during our game today, Jesus."
3. _____ "Jesus, please forgive me for fighting with my sister."
4. _____ "Lord, please steer that storm away from land so nobody is harmed."
5. _____ "The ocean is such a great creation, Father! It's so big and powerful."
6. _____ "Jesus, I really appreciate that you gave us such a nice time at the picnic."
7. _____ "You are so wonderful and I love you so much."
8. _____ "Please, Father, help my friend Sarkis get out of the hospital soon."
9. _____ "Lord, I'm sorry I was lazy and didn't clean my room."
10. _____ "Thank you for helping me with my basketball tryouts."



Faith Word *Supplication*

A humble petition or request

Bothering the Lord

Did you ever not pray because you just didn't feel like you could put the words together? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

How often does the Bible tell us to pray?

Philippians 4:6-7 tells us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Long after even your best friend is sick of talking to you, God will still be there!



God's Will vs Our Will

Did you ever pray very hard for something important, and God seemed to not answer you, at least not in the way you wanted? Sometimes this can be terribly painful, but we need to understand that what we were asking for is not always within the boundaries of prayer! Asking for an A on a test or for a bike for Christmas or even for a loved one to get well may not be what prayer is about. There's a beautiful verse in 1 Corinthians that tells us that now we understand God's ways as if looking in a cloudy mirror; someday we will see clearly and understand. One thing we can be sure of, though: like talking with a best friend, prayer keeps us in touch with God, helps us grow closer and understand his ways more and more. In Romans 8:28 God tells us, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

God also wants us to never give up on him. Read the Parable of the Persistent Widow in Luke 18:1-8. The difference between the powerful judge and the humble widow paints a picture of where we stand in relation to God. God is all-powerful, and we are weak before him, but, unlike the judge, God wants us to come to him.

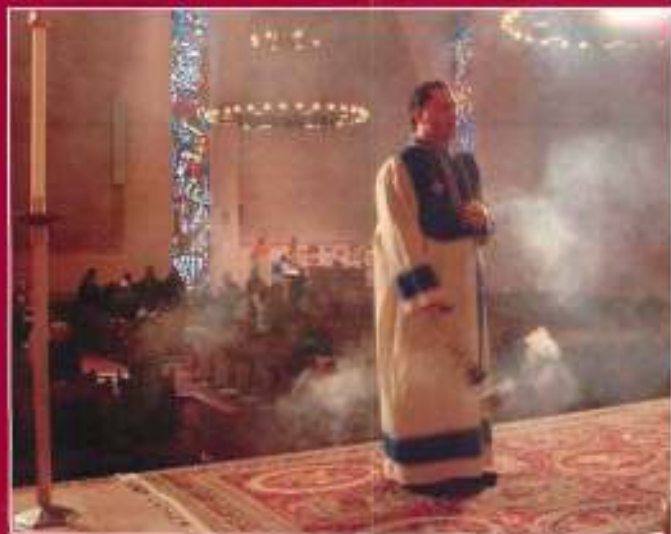
God wants us to be like that widow, to never give up hope. He tells us to come before him as many times as it takes, so that we will learn patience and grow in our closeness with him. He may not remove the problems we take to him in prayer, but he will support us through our trials.



Our Armenian Way

*Shnorya, Der
Der Voghormya*

**Շնորհեա Տէր
Տէր ողորմեա**



During the Badarak, there are prayers said in the form of litanies – the deacon says the prayer line and we respond with a “Lord have mercy” or “Grant it, Lord” – during which we pray for many things: for peace in the world, for the stability of the Armenian Church, for our Catholicos, for our bishops and priests, for the people that govern us, for travelers, for prisoners, for captives, for the sick and suffering, for normal weather and enough food, for those who help the poor, for all the living and for all the dead.

We can enjoy praying this and other prayers, both official and personal, during the Badarak. It is a special time with other believers, when we know we are among those who also love Jesus. The lovely fragrance of the incense rises throughout the church and reminds us that our prayers rise to the ear of God.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child studied prayer. The class made observations about their own prayer lives, then learned about the four types of prayer: supplication, thanksgiving, adoration, and confession. Your son or daughter learned about balancing our will with God's, and read about praying together during the Badarak. The students made a paper chain with prayers from every class member – encourage your child to pray these every night!

Family Faith Activity

Time spent in prayer leads to a richer relationship with our Lord. Try to complete at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Say "Jashagestzook" before meals this week:

Let us in peace eat this meal which has been provided for us by the Lord.

Blessed is the Lord in his gifts. Amen.

*Jashagestzook khaghaghootyamp uzgeragoorus, vor barkevyal eh mez ee Dyarneh
Orhnyal eh Der ee barkevus yoor, Amen.*

2. As a family, memorize this prayer of St. Nersess Shnorhali:

O Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom

That I may always think, speak and do that which is good in your sight.

Save me from evil thoughts, words and deeds.

And have mercy upon me, a sinner.

3. Put up a chart with the four types of prayer. Have each family member write their name in the appropriate category each time they pray.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

Praying With Our Church Family: Liturgy

Pray Together

Hanon Hlor, yev Vortva, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen.

Lord, bless those who bless you and sanctify those who put their trust in you.

Save your people and bless your inheritance.

Guard the fullness of your church and sanctify those who have greeted in love the beauty of your house. Amen.

Prayer of St. John Chrysostom, from the Divine Liturgy

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following questions by writing "true" or "false" in the space provided.

1. We should only pray in church. _____
2. "Adoration" is one of the four types of prayer. _____
3. A prayer of supplication is when we are thanking God for something. _____
4. "Lord, I'm sorry I broke that window," is a prayer of confession. _____
5. In I Thessalonians 5:17, God tells us to pray continually. _____

Many Hearts and Minds....One Voice

Imagine that your school principal has made a decision that, in order for teachers to get home earlier, there will be no further after-school tutoring. You'd like to write a letter asking her to reconsider since you have felt the homework tutoring in math has been a big help. Your whole math class feels the same way and so instead of writing individual letters, you all write and sign one letter together.

How is this different from writing a letter from just yourself? You've said the same thing, expressed the same viewpoint, communicated with the same person. Or is it important that all of you – different people, different feelings – have been able to become one voice and present yourselves together?

Our life of prayer and worship is a bit like this example. When we pray alone, our prayers are certainly as important to Jesus as when we pray together in church. But God asks us to pray and worship



together for a specific reason. In Matthew 18:20 Jesus says, "for where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." In the Armenian Church we call our group worship the *Soorp Badarak* (Holy Sacrifice), or Divine Liturgy. We come together to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, to share in him through Holy Communion as consecrated by the priest and to express our love for God and our fellow worshippers. Each time we participate in the *Badarak*, we raise our voices in hymn and prayer as one unified body of believers. In a way, we can only be the Church when we are together!

Our Armenian Way

Soorp Badarak

The two main parts of the badark are "The Liturgy of the Word" and "The Liturgy of the Eucharist." The entire Liturgy is preceded by a "Preparation" and then followed by a "Last Blessing and Dismissal."

Preparation

- Deacon helps priest into his vestments
- Priest enters chancel
- Priest washes hands, prays, and confesses sins
- Priest and altar servers go up to the bema (raised platform on which the altar rests)
- Priest and altar servers close curtain and prepare the nushkhar and wine for Holy Communion



1. Synaxis (the "teaching" part)

- Priest and altar servers leave the bema, make a procession around the church to bless the people, and return to the bema



- Deacon brings Gospel and presents it to the congregation
- Bible passages from prophecy and an epistle are read from the chancel to the congregation
- The deacon, on the bema, reads to the congregation from the Gospel
- Everyone in the church recites the Havadamk (Nicene Creed)



2. Holy Eucharist

- Deacon presents chalice to the priest
- Priest makes sign of the cross over congregation and places chalice on the altar
- Deacon brings *Vokhchooyn* (Kiss of Peace) to the people, who then give the *Vokhchooyn* to each other
- Priest blesses nushkhar and wine and says, "Take, eat; this is my body," then holds up the chalice and says, "Drink ye all of this, this is my blood of the new covenant."



- Congregation sings Hayr Mer
- People come forward for confession and Holy Communion



Last Blessing and Dismissal

- Priest comes down from the chancel and there is a final gospel reading.
- Congregation sings, "I



will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall at all times be on my lips."

- Congregation comes forward to kiss the Gospel and cross themselves, and they say to the priest, "May the Lord remember all your sacrifices and may your offerings be acceptable to the Lord."
- The congregation receives mas and exits the church.



Explore the Badarak

Fill in the missing words from each clue, copy them on the next page, and find them in the word search.

1. The holy picture of Mary and Jesus, the chalice, the Gospel, and the priest's Liturgy book are some of the things found on the _____.

2. The raised platform in the church on which the altar rests is called the _____.

3. The deacon presents the priest with a _____ which contains the Communion bread and wine.

4. The _____ is the part of the church where the altar, priest, and choir are located.

5. Before we receive Holy Communion, we kneel and say the _____.

6. Another word for Holy Communion is _____.

7. During the part of the Badarak known as the synaxis, the deacon brings out the _____ and presents it to the congregation.

8. The deacon brings the Vokhchooyn, or _____ to the congregation so they may give it to one another.

9. The Badarak is also called the Divine _____.

10. At the end of the synaxis part of the Badarak, everyone in the church recites the Havadamk, which is also called the _____ Creed.

11. The teaching part of the Liturgy is known as the _____.

Faith Word

Gospels

The first 4 books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) which tell about Jesus' life and teachings

R A T L A G H G I C U N K E X
 Z R F N O Q L S O U R I I C V
 N Q R S Q E E N Z B I C S I N
 T L P J C C F B T W L E S L R
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Explore the Badarak

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child learned about our Divine Liturgy. Your son or daughter read that we come together on Sundays to share in the salvation Jesus offers us through his sacrifice, to enjoy the fellowship of other believers, and to be the Church. An outline of the *Badarak* followed, after which the children completed a word search using terms from the *Badarak*. Finally each student illustrated a page of the key elements of the Liturgy.

Family Faith Activity

Worshipping together is an important part of our

Christian walk. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

- a. Have each member of the family tell what their favorite part of the church service is.
- b. Read aloud a passage from one of the Gospels each day.
- c. If available, listen to a recording of the *Badarak* or our hymns.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

The Bible's Special Prayer Book: The Psalms

Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Chapter Checkup

Fill in the missing word or words.

1. "Soorp Badarak" means _____ in English.
2. In Matthew 18:20 _____ says, "for where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."
3. During the part of the Badarak known as the Preparation, the _____ helps the priest put on his vestments.
4. The Havadamk is recited during the _____.
5. During the Last Blessing and Dismissal, the congregation comes forward to kiss the _____.

A Place to Run and Tell God

The Book of Psalms, which is located in the Old Testament, is the foundation of prayer and worship for the Jewish faith as well as for Christians. Many of the Psalms were written down by David, the great Jewish king. David was a fine musician, and he set many of the Psalms to music so they could be sung to God. Over the centuries, King David's actual melodies have been lost to history, but we can imagine how beautiful those God-inspired songs must have sounded.



The Psalms are a great place to find prayers. They can help you find ways to talk to God. In the Book of Psalms, God has given us prayers to comfort and guide us in every situation.

Did you ever feel hurt by something a friend did? Record the incident on the lines provided.

Read Psalm 55. The words of that Psalm express how tired and upset we can feel when someone we trusted betrays us. Psalm 55 gives us great comfort because we know that God understands exactly how we feel, since they are his words.

Has something in the news ever made you feel afraid? Tell about it on the lines below:

Read Psalm 91. In those beautiful words we see how God helps and protects those that love him. Even though bad things may happen, we have God's assurance that he is looking after us.

Recall a time when you were really excited and happy and write it about it on the lines below:

Read Psalm 65. Whenever you are feeling happy, you can use the words in this psalm to share your joy with our Lord and to praise him for all his blessings.

If you read the Psalms often enough to become familiar with them, they become like faithful friends. You'll start to remember them when you need them, and you will feel closer to God.

Faith Word

Psalm

A sacred song prayer from the Bible

Our Armenian Way

Saghmos Asatzek!

Սաղմոսն աւագէք

The Psalms are an important part of our Badarak. They appear in several places in the Divine Liturgy. At the beginning of the service, the priest silently recites from Psalm 26: "I will wash my hands in innocence and will go around your altar, O Lord." Shortly after this, those in attendance offer praise from Psalm 100: "Make a shout to the Lord, all lands; serve the Lord with gladness." Next, the priest and deacon alternate the verses of Psalm 43 as they ascend the altar.

During the part of the *Badarak* known as the

Eucharist, the priest and deacon take turns chanting from Psalm 24 when the deacon presents the communion chalice to the priest. When the congregation prepares to come forward for communion, we sing the beautiful hymn "Orhnyal eh Asdvadz," which is based on Psalms 150 and 34. The priest and deacon ask the congregation to "Sing psalms to the Lord our God."

After the people have received communion the priest uses the chalice to make the sign of the cross over the congregation, and he recites Psalm 28:9, which says, "Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance; shepherd them and lift them up from henceforth until eternity." As you see, the Psalms are woven throughout our Armenian Church Divine Liturgy.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Try to do one of the following activities with your family. *Saghmos asatszek!*

1. Read Psalm 23 together.
2. Read a different Psalm every day.
3. As a family, memorize Psalm 100.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

Lesson Roundup

Today your child studied the Psalms. The students learned that the Psalms form the backbone of prayer and worship for both Jews and Christians. They examined situations in their own lives and read Psalms that relate to them. Your child also made an illustrated children's book about Psalm 23 (we're getting it color-copied and you'll be seeing it very soon!), and the class also read about where Psalms appear in the Badarak.

Family Faith Activity

We can enrich our prayer lives and our everyday happiness by becoming familiar with the Psalms.



Holy Days and Holidays: The Church Year

Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hovkavayn Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, please help us to understand the beautiful cycle of holy feasts and fasts that make up the church year. Help us to learn about the life and work of Jesus, and the lives of our spiritual ancestors so we may gain wisdom and strength and through them, grow closer to you. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following questions by writing "true" or "false" in the space provided.

1. The Book of Psalms is located in the New Testament. _____
2. The Psalms are the foundation of prayer and worship only for the Christian faith. _____
3. Originally, the Psalms were usually set to music. _____
4. The Psalms were all written by the same person. _____
5. The Psalms are included in the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church. _____

Faith Word
Donatzouytz

Church calendar
of feasts

Seasons of Worship

What is your favorite season?

What special things do you do in each of the seasons? Describe them in the space provided.



Winter _____



Summer _____



Spring _____



Fall _____

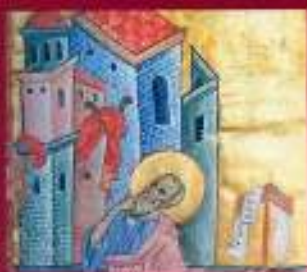
Our Armenian Way

Like you, the Armenian Church has special things that are done at certain times of the year. Until fairly recently, everyday life was closely linked to the feast of the church. Long ago, people frequently spent their entire lives in the same town. They seldom traveled more than a few miles from the home in which they were born. Their activities centered on the church, and together with their neighbors, they fasted and celebrated together according to the church calendar.

Today, we do not live our whole lives in the same town where we are born. We travel and move much more often than in earlier times, and modern transportation allows us to travel far distances to school, work, and even church. This mobile lifestyle makes it much harder to stay in touch with the ancient rhythms of our church year.

- Most of us have some non-church calendar hanging up in our homes. What kinds of days does the calendar note?

What meaning does the Armenian Church calendar have for you? If you know the special days of the church calendar and when they occur, you will



better understand what's going on in church. Special days of the church also help us remember events in the life of Jesus and the saintly people who followed him. Our Armenian Church feasts and commemorations remind us of the saving actions of our Lord. We think about the miracles Jesus performed, and His death and resurrection. We are reminded of the sacrifices made by so many of our people for their Christian faith. We also strengthen each other's faith and our Christian fellowship when we pray about, celebrate and meditate upon shared events.

- Using the Armenian Church calendar, locate your birthday.
- What are the Bible readings listed for that day?
- Read the verses posted. What is each about?

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents

Lesson Roundup

In today's session your son or daughter learned about the Armenian Church calendar. The students read that in earlier times the rhythms of people's everyday lives were closely linked to the seasons of the church. Everyone had a chance to look through and use an Armenian Church calendar, finding their birthdays, looking up the Bible readings, and locating and discussing other church feasts.

Family Faith Activity

1. Put up a copy of the church calendar in your home. 2. Compare the holidays marked on a secular calendar with those of the Armenian Church calendar. As a family, discover which ones overlap. 3. Look up family birthdays and anniversaries on the church calendar. Read the Bible readings. 4. Select one feast day a month to learn more about.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



The Big Five: The Major Feasts

Pray Together

Hanoon Hov, yev Vortvo, yev Hakevoyn Surpa, Amen. O Christ, let the power of your cross, that you lifted up to save the world, keep us from all temptation. Amen.

From "Zorootyoan Soorp Khachi," a hymn for Exaltation Sunday

Presenting....in Order

Put the following Armenian Church observances in the order they occur during the year. Write the numbers 1 – 5 in the space provided, with 1 being the event that comes first in the year.

- _____ Easter
- _____ Exaltation of the Cross
- _____ Nativity/Theophany of the Lord Jesus
- _____ Assumption
- _____ Transfiguration of Jesus

Faith Word

Theophany

The appearance of God in a visible form

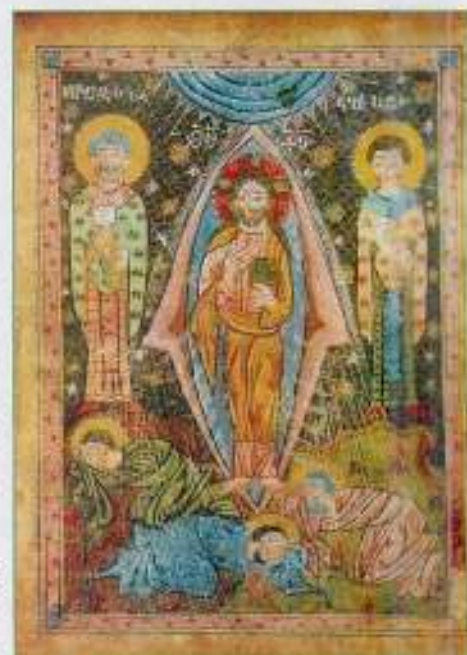
Five Very Special Days

Daghavar doner Տաղավար Ծոփեր

The five greatest feasts of the Armenian Church are Christmas, Easter, Transfiguration, Assumption, and Exaltation of the Cross. We call these special days "tabernacle feasts" because long ago people set up large tents, or "tabernacles" where they could gather to celebrate the feast together.

The Holy Nativity and Theophany of Jesus is commonly called Christmas. It is a fixed feast, which means it is always celebrated on the same calendar date, in this case January 6. Christmas is a time of great joy, when we remember that God loves us so much he came down from his heavenly home to walk among us and teach us about how we should live. Read Luke 2:4-14 to see the special things that happened the night Jesus was born.

Easter Sunday is also a very happy time. We rejoice, because after the sad events of Jesus' betrayal, death, and burial, he came out of the tomb alive. By his resurrection on Easter morning, he showed



us he was indeed God, and we see that he can deliver on his promise of forgiveness and eternal life. Read Matthew 28:1-10 to hear an account of that all-important event.

Fourteen weeks after Easter Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. In Armenian this observance is popularly known as "Vartavar" (also *Baydzaragerbootiun* and *Aylagerbootiun*; these refer more directly to his changed appearance). This feast recalls the day when Jesus went up to a mountain-top with Peter, James, and John. On the mountain, Jesus' clothing became blazing white, and God told the disciples to listen to Jesus. Read Mark 9:2-13 to see what else happened.

Each August, the Armenian Church shows special respect to Mary, who gave birth to the Baby Jesus. Her special day is the Assumption, which reminds us of her eventual ascension to heaven.

The fifth major feast of the Armenian Church is the Exaltation of the Cross, or "Khachveratz." On this day, the faithful joyfully celebrate the salvation we enjoy because of Jesus' death on the cross, and remember how the cross was carried through Armenia upon its rescue from Jerusalem. Jesus' victory over death on Easter changed the cross from a tool of death into a symbol of life for his people.

Our Armenian Way

Our Church has many unique and special ways of celebrating our faith heritage. One example is the Christmas hymn "Aysor Don E Soorp Dzununtian, Avedis." The translation of this joyful song is as follows:

ԱՅՍՈՐ ՏՕՆ Է ԱՅՏՐ ԸՆՈՆ ԵՒ



"Today is the Feast of the Holy Birth. Glad tidings!
Of our Lord, and of His Revelation. Glad tidings!
Today the Son of Righteousness, glad tidings,
Has appeared among men. Glad tidings!
Today the angels of heaven descended. Glad tidings!
And with us praised the Immortal King. Glad tidings!"

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today the class learned about the five major feast days of the Armenian Church. They read an explanation of each feast, as well as several Bible passages that show the origin of the observance. The class prepared to teach (next week) a younger grade the meaning of the five major feasts.

Family Faith Activity

We have so many reasons to be joyful in our Christian faith. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read the following passages aloud at a family meal: Luke 2:4-14, Matthew 28:1-10, and Mark 9:2-13.
2. As a family, review the meaning and history of each major feast day.
3. Mark your calendars for each upcoming major feast and plan to attend as a family.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



A Way of Life: Me, My Faith, and the World



Unit Four, Lesson One

Faith Can Change Us

Pray Together

Hanoan Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvoayn Surpo, Amen. "May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us. May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep the commands, decrees and regulations he gave our fathers."

Words of Solomon, 1 Kings 8:57-58

Chapter Checkup

Draw a line matching the feast day to its explanation.

The birth of Jesus

Transfiguration

Celebration of the Cross as a symbol of our salvation

Nativity/Theophany of our Lord

Jesus' Resurrection

Assumption

Mary's passage to heaven

Easter

Jesus' clothing became brilliant white

Exaltation of the Cross

Doers of the Word

What if you see the most beautifully wrapped package you have ever seen, with a tag attached that has your name written on it. The outside of the gift looks great. You can't wait to open it. But what if you unwrapped the box and opened it to find nothing inside? You would be disappointed, confused, and maybe a little angry.

Our Christian faith may become like that beautiful, useless box if we are not careful. We can read the words in the Bible and nod in agreement. We can tell ourselves and others we want to belong to Jesus. But what good is all this if our actions do not demonstrate our faith? Our faith can become like that empty package – great to look at, but full of nothing but air.

God wants us to do what his word tells us to do. That way, we show everyone we meet that we are living examples of the Christian way. We make life better for ourselves and others. By doing what God wants, we receive his peace. We show him we are thankful for our salvation.

Read James 1:22-26 to see what God has to say about the difference between hearing his Word and doing it.



How Does It Work?

Imagine one day you are on the playground at school and one of your classmates comes up to you. He or she loudly accuses you of doing something they did not like. Whether or not what the friend says is true, you have two ways to respond.

Response #1: You yell back at the person and perhaps pepper your reaction with some well-placed insults.

Response #2: You were reading the Bible last night and Proverbs 15:1 pops into your head. You remember the words "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." You say something calm and non-threatening to your classmate.

Which response is less likely to make the problem worse? 1 or 2?

Of course a kinder answer is more likely to avoid more unpleasant consequences. That's how God wants us to think and behave. Learn his laws so they are there when you need them, and put them into practice.

Here's another scenario: You're on a team. One of the players is not a good athlete and may be losing the playoff game for your team. Your entire team starts yelling mean things to the player. Or maybe a parent on the sidelines begins verbally abusing the player. You feel really uncomfortable, because you are a Christian and know it would be wrong of you to participate in the yelling, but you don't want to stick out in front of your teammates. You may even be genuinely angry that the coach left this player in to wreck your team's chances of making the playoffs.

What should you do?



The more you know the Bible, the more tools you will have to calm you and help you handle the situation correctly. God has plenty to say about these noisy sports fanatics:

Proverbs 12:18 "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

Proverbs 11:12 "He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent."

Proverbs 12: 23 "A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly."

As you grow in faith and knowledge, things change. God has promised to give us his peace, and you will make better day-to-day decisions if you are armed with the wisdom of his Word.

Faith Word

Faith

A trust or belief in God

Our Armenian Way

In Armenian history, King Drtad gives us a powerful example of how faith can change a person. All his life Drtad fought against Christianity. He persecuted Jesus' followers wherever he found them. King Drtad is the one who had St. Gregory tortured and thrown in the pit for years because Gregory would not give up his Christian faith. Drtad murdered Hripsime and the other holy women.



The Holy Spirit pointed out Drtad's sin to him in a very dramatic way. God caused Drtad to lose his sanity, so that the king of Armenia was running around and snarling like a beast of the forest. When Drtad was healed by the Holy Spirit through Gregory, he was a new person. Drtad saw the power of the true God for the first time. He worked with Gregory to clear Armenia of false gods, and to build churches. Drtad was baptized a Christian and encouraged thousands to do the same. Today Drtad is remembered as the ruler who helped make Armenia the first nation to make Christianity the official state religion.

What are some concrete ways faith can make a difference in our behavior....

At home?

At school?

With friends?

Here at church?

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents

Lesson Roundup

Today your child's class taught some younger Sunday Schoolers about the 5 major feast days. Back in class, they explored what it means to put faith into action and

related Bible teachings to everyday situations. After recalling how faith changed the Armenian King Drtad's life, the class discussed how faith-filled living can make a difference in their own lives.

Family Faith Activity

Our faith should influence the way we think, speak, and behave. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read Psalm 112 together. 2. Sit down as a family and think of someone you see as a good Christian. Discuss what it is about that person that makes you feel that way. 3. Put up a chart on which each family member lists one way they would like to put faith into action. Record progress during the week.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



Stewards of the Earth

Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, who by your visible light has given joy to all your creatures, and by the divine light of your commandments has enlightened all who believe in you. Strengthen us also, O Lord, to keep your commandments this day and at all times, that having been enlightened in mind, we may do your will and receive your heavenly gifts with all your saints, through the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be glory, dominion, and honor, now and forever, world without end. Amen.

Collect from the Armenian Matins Service

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following true/false questions by writing "T" or "F" in the space provided.

1. _____ It is sufficient for a Christian to know God's law.
2. _____ In James 1:22-26 God says when we learn the Law and then forget all about it we are like a man who looks into a mirror, then immediately afterward forgets what he looks like.
3. _____ Proverbs 15:1 says it is fine to yell at someone who has made us angry.
4. _____ Proverbs 12:23 tells us that a wise person says everything that comes into his or her head.
5. _____ King Drtad did a lot of harm to Christians before he made Armenia the first Christian nation.

In the Beginning

The very first thing God tells us about in the Bible is the Creation. Below is an outline of that first week.

Day 1

Created light (day) and darkness (night)

Day 2

Separated water vapor in the sky from water on the ground

Day 3

Separated seas from dry land, created plants, trees, seeds, fruit

Day 4

Created sun, moon, stars

Day 5

Created creatures that live in the water and birds

Day 6

Created other land animals and human beings

Day 7

Created the Sabbath for rest

Read Genesis 1:27-30. Who was put in charge of all that God had created?



In that brief Bible passage, God informs us that we are responsible for caring for the earth and all that is in it. God's original Creation was perfect. As each step of Creation unfolds in Genesis 1, we see the phrase "and God saw that it was good." Everywhere we look we see the truth of this in the beautiful world he made.

What is the most beautiful place you have ever seen? _____

What do you like about it? _____

What care does this place require? _____

What is your favorite animal? _____

Why? _____

God and the Environment

Since God put humans in charge of the earth, does that mean we can take what we want from it and leave it a mess? Read Genesis 2:15 and find out. In this passage, the words "take care of it" let us know that God intends for us to nurture and protect the things he has given us.

God has placed this wonderful world in our care. Due to the entrance of sin into the world through humanity, however, the entire creation



suffers. One result of sin is that we have abused the environment in many ways. Sinful humans like to do what they want without thinking about how it impacts anyone or anything besides (and sometimes including) themselves. We use more food, air, water, and energy than we really need.

What problem in the environment concerns you? _____

Why? _____

What would you do to correct the problem? _____

God has some pretty tough talk about his world and how we treat it. In Revelation 11:18, he speaks of “destroying those who destroy the earth.” As Christians, we avoid God’s punishment because his Son Jesus already made payment for our sins on the Cross. It is our job to honor him and love him, and one way we do this is through careful stewardship of his world.

Looking Out for Number One

Read the parable of the Dishonest Steward in Luke 16:1-13. Answer the following questions by circling the correct answer.

1. Jesus says that those who are faithful in little things are

- a. also faithful in big things
- b. like Pontius Pilate
- c. never going to make any mistakes
- d. likely to become rich

2. The steward was afraid of losing his job because

- a. he would be killed by his master
- b. he was afraid God would be angry
- c. he had no other skills and was afraid to beg
- d. it was against his religion

3. In verse 9, Jesus is telling us

- a. it doesn't matter who our friends are
- b. we should be as careful and dedicated in spiritual matters as we are in our work
- c. go out and preach the Gospel among unrighteous people
- d. making friends with unrighteous people is like making friends with animals



We are all stewards – of the environment, of the talents and resources God has given us, and of our own bodies. Human beings are the creation that is dearest to God's heart. Otherwise why would he have sent his only Son to save us from our sins? It is our responsibility to be good stewards of the body God has given us, because that is where his Spirit lives within us. We must treat our own bodies with the same care and dignity that he gave us at Creation. God doesn't want us to do things to ourselves that will make us sick and keep us from being all he wants us to be.



List three ways we can be good stewards of our bodies.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Our Armenian Way Soorp Nersess Shnorhali

Սուրբ Ներսէս Շնորհալի

St. Nersess Shnorhali (1102-1173) was one of the most outstanding catholicos of the Armenian Church. He was a great church leader for the Armenian Church. And he was also a pioneer in trying to grow closer to other Christian churches, notably the Greek Church. He wrote many prayers and hymns, including the 24 prayers he wrote to be said at every hour of the day (you know one very well: "Oh Jesus wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom...."). Of the many amazing hymns he composed, there is a beautiful one about creation, called *Norasdegbdzyal* (Newly created). Here is the first verse.



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NORASDEGHDZYL



Նո-րա-սսեղ-ծեալ Բանն Յա-նէ - ից — ի սկըզ-բա - նէ:
No - ra - sdeg - h - dzyal Pann Ha - ne - eets ee sguz - pa - neh.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned about stewardship. He/she read in the Bible how God expects us to treat his Creation. The students considered this information as it relates to the environment, and they also evaluated how they should care for their own bodies. At the end of class they learned about St. Nersess Shnorhali and his song about Creation, *Norasdeghdzyal*.

Family Faith Activity

God has given humankind responsibility for his beautiful world. Try to do one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read Genesis 1 and 2.
2. If you have a pet, chances are the animal's care usually falls to one person. This week, let each family member participate in caring for their pets.
3. Plant a tree in your backyard or at your church.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and plan a few family walks together.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

Faith Word *Stewardship*

The care and management of something with which someone has been entrusted



Saints Show the Way



Pray Together

Hanpon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokyooyn Surpo, Amen. O Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of laziness, of despair, of ambition, or of vain talking. But rather a spirit of diligence, of patience, of humility, and of love, bestow upon me your servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant to me to see my own errors and not judge my brother or sister, for you are blessed to the ages of ages, Amen.

A Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian (4th century)

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following questions by circling the correct letter.

1. On day four of Creation, God made
 - a. Adam and Eve.
 - b. light and darkness.
 - c. the sun, moon, and stars.
 - d. birds.

2. God talks about the Creation mostly in the Book of
 - a. Isaiah.
 - b. Genesis.
 - c. Exodus.
 - d. Revelation.

3. At each step of the Creation, God makes the statement
 - a. "must fill up the whole earth."
 - b. "and God saw that it was good."
 - c. "today a Savior is born."
 - d. "and the Holy spirit came upon them."

3. We must treat God's earth carefully because
 - a. he tells us to do so.
 - b. animals are more important than people.
 - c. we should keep it clean for when Jesus returns.
 - d. St. Nersess Shnorhali was an environmentalist.

4. The rich man called his steward to a meeting because
- the steward had been doing such a good job.
 - God had warned the rich man that there would be a drought.
 - the steward had been wasting the rich man's possessions.
 - someone had stolen all the rich man's cattle.

Saints Great and Small *Saint Soorp Unipp*

What do you think of when you hear the word "saint?"

Write your impressions of what a saint is.

When most of us think of saints, we think of well-known people such as Gregory, Hripsime, and Peter. These men and women made great sacrifices for their faith and devoted their lives to understanding and teaching others about Jesus.

God casts a much larger net when he talks about his saints. Read Romans 1:7. Does this statement mean that every Christian in Rome was a famous saint? Obviously not. There were thousands of believers in Rome then, but there wouldn't be that many famous saints if we added together all the well-known saints from every church on earth! In this passage the word "saints" means all of God's people. The saints to which Romans 1:7 refers were forgotten shepherds watching sheep on a Roman hillside, and poor housewives trying to feed their children. They might be a Roman senator who may lose his job because he cannot give up his belief in Christ, or a child who loves hearing the stories of Jesus' life.

Read Acts 26:10. Here Paul is confessing his terrible deeds before Jesus changed Paul's heart on the road to Damascus. Paul recalls how he put many "saints" in prison, and voted for their executions. These saints are the anonymous believers who placed their trust in Jesus Christ above everything else.

We don't have to be mentioned in the Bible or in a history book to be one of God's saints. All we have to do is love and follow his precious Son and live for his glory in all we do – it's every Christian's goal!



Faith Word *Saint*

A person recognized by the Church as virtuous and holy



Our Armenian Way

Soorp Vartan

Սուրբ Վարդան

Vartan Mamigonian is one of our greatest Armenian heroes and saints. Below are some highlights from his life:

- Grandson of Catholicos Sahag
- King Yazdigerd of Persia punishes the Armenians with extra taxes and other hardships because they will not give up Christianity
- Vartan and other Armenian leaders send a letter to Yazdigerd telling him they will recognize him as their leader, but they will not convert to the Persian religion
- Yazdigerd orders Vartan and the other leaders to come to Persia
- Vartan and his companions meet with Yazdigerd, refuse to give up Jesus, and are put in prison
- One of Yazdigerd's advisors who is secretly a Christian recommends to the prisoners that they pretend to renounce Christianity to avoid further danger
- Vartan does not even pretend to convert, but he reluctantly agrees to the plan and the men are freed
- King Yazdigerd sends his pagan priests to Armenia to convert the rest of the population
- Vartan and his companions secretly plan to drive out the Persians
- On May 26, 451 at Avarayr, Vartan leads his troops against a much larger Persian force
- Vartan is killed in the battle, but his troops give the Persians enough of a fight to cause Persia to eventually let the Armenians practice Christianity in peace through the Treaty of Navasart (accomplished by his nephew Vahan).

Imagine you were creating a cartoon history of St. Vartan for teenagers. Choose one bullet point and illustrate it in the box provided. You don't have to be a Picasso – stick figures are fine!

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

Search for the Saints

Find the following saints in the word search: Gayane, Gregory, Nersess, Paul, Peter, Sahag, Santookht, Stephen, Thaddeus, and Vartan.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your child discovered what it truly means to be a saint. He/she learned that all God's people were once called saints, and that the goal of all Christians is to live as the saints actually managed to – with Jesus at the center. The class also completed a word search puzzle using saints' names and reviewed the events of the life of Vartan Mamigonian.

Family Faith Activity

Great and small, we are all called to sainthood through the example of our Lord Jesus. Try to complete at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read Acts 18:18-28 to see how ordinary people serve Christ.
2. Find a news or internet encyclopedia article about a very noteworthy person. Hold a discussion with your family as to whether this person should be considered a saint.
3. Research the lives of any saints that share the same name as family members, then share the stories with each other.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____



The Face of Christ

Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hovkooyn Surpo, Amen. Lord Jesus, we know that you came to make the world a better place. Before you gave yourself for the sin of all, you healed the sick and cared for those in need. Please help me to see everyone I meet the way you see them. Help me to understand the needs of others and to be of assistance to those in need. Remind me that I should not judge others, because I am not perfect – merely forgiven.

Litany from the Armenian Divine Liturgy

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following questions by writing “true” or “false” in the space provided.

- _____ Three famous Armenian saints are Gregory, Nersess, and Caesar.
- _____ You do not have to be famous to be a saint.
- _____ Paul was very good to Christians all his life.
- _____ Vartan Mamigonian fought the Persians because the Armenians wanted more territory.
- _____ Vartan was killed at the Battle of Avarayr.

Seeing Jesus Everywhere

What do you believe most people think when they see a homeless person on the street?

Read Matthew 25:34-46. What do you think Jesus means by this?

When you think about the people helped by Jesus during his ministry on earth, you will notice that most of them were poor, sick, or even dead. By his example, we know that he wants us to care for those who are suffering in some way. In Romans 3:23 Paul writes, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” This means we are not to judge other people, because we ourselves are far from perfect.

Someone may not have a nice house or car, or even any house or car at all, but they are still precious to God. A person may be very physically unattractive, or be unpopular, or have to take remedial classes in school, but they are no less valuable to our Lord than someone who has many advantages. In fact, Jesus warned the rich and powerful not to be too concerned with their money or position. We can grow in grace (the gift of blessings and goodness from God) and holiness only by seeing all people with love, as Jesus did, and by imitating his mercy and kindness.

As Jesus showed his compassion to Jews, God's chosen people, and non-Jews alike, so should we show equal respect to all, no matter what their race, religion, or any other factor.

One Family in Christ

When you hear people discuss religion, they often focus on the differences in the ways we believe. As you know, there are many different churches even within Christianity. We are all familiar with the Catholic, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox, Baptist, Episcopal, and many other Christian churches. Although there are differences in some of the specific practices or ideas of the various churches, we are all united in the belief that Jesus Christ is the Savior. We recognize that he paid the full penalty for our sins when he died on the Cross and came back to life on Easter Sunday.

Below are some basic ideas shared by most Christians:

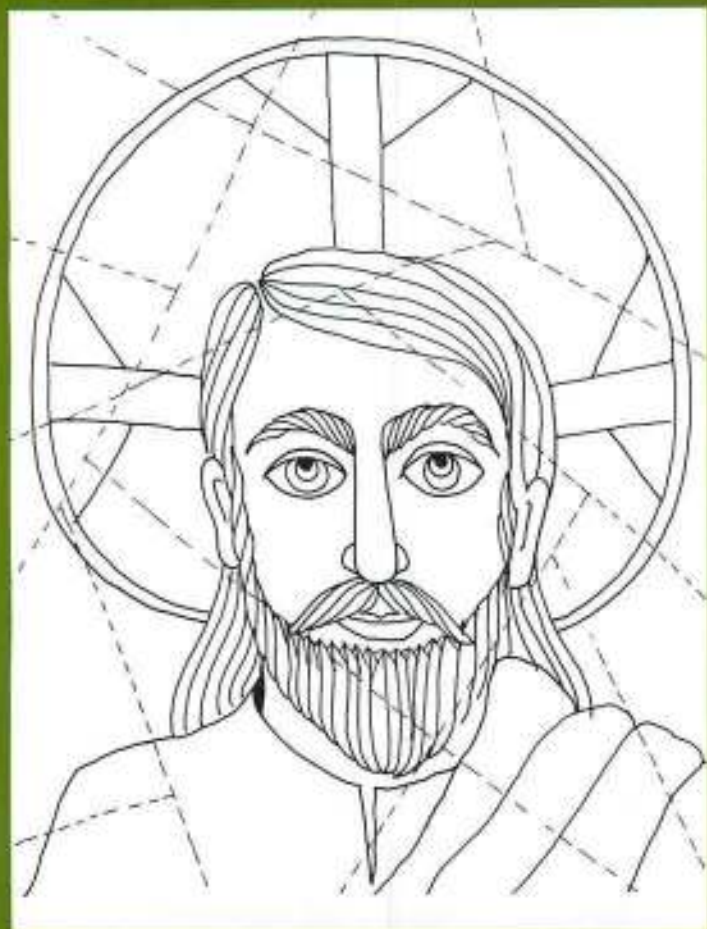


- We believe in One God.
- God shows himself to us in the three persons of the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus the Son paid the punishment for our sins by his Death and Resurrection.
- Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit to the Virgin Mary.
- Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- The Bible is God's word to us.
- Jesus lived a life of service to others, so we should do the same.

Our Armenian Way

Heesoos Krisdos

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Faith Word

Grace

God's love and blessings upon us, freely given

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your child's class explored how Jesus wants us to follow his example of love, service, and compassion. The children read that we are all equally precious to God, and they designed an ecumenical service as a group.

Family Faith Activity

Our Lord has given us a mandate to love and help others, and to see everyone as beloved by him. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read James 5:13-16 with your family.
2. Conduct a family discussion on what God might have to say about religious conflict.
3. Look in your local newspaper for a volunteer day in your area. Help out as a family.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

Doing God's Work in the World



Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hekvooyv Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, Help me to be an extension of your love in this world. Teach me to recognize where there is a need. Make my steps quick to come to the aid of the suffering, and my hands ready to work in your service. Let me serve you all the days of my life, so that I may please you and be a good example of Christ's love to all those I meet. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Fill in the missing word in the space provided.

1. Romans 3:23 states that "all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God.
2. Christian churches are united in the idea that Jesus Christ is the _____.
3. _____ may be defined as blessings and goodness from God
4. Christians believe in one God in three _____.
5. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the _____.

Ambassadors of Christ

Have you ever heard the term "ambassador?" An ambassador is a person who is an official representative of a country or government. Each Christian is an ambassador of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are God's special representatives on this earth. People will look at the behavior of a Christian to get an idea of what Jesus is all about.

If we are kind and helpful, then people will see that being a Christian is something good. As a good ambassador of your faith, you may unconsciously attract people to it. Good actions are very effective ways of helping people understand the Gospel. If a person says they are a Christian but speaks and behaves in bad ways, witnesses will not think there is anything worthwhile in being a follower of Christ. A bad ambassador of Christ will chase people away from him.

Consider the following situations:

You and a bunch of your friends are hanging out at a computer. One of them says "I know a really



cool site,” and goes to a site that portrays violence, racist content, or something else inappropriate. As a good ambassador of Christ you should

Several weeks ago you signed up at Sunday School to clean out a local stream. Unfortunately, a soccer game that was rained out earlier is rescheduled for cleanup day, and you really want to be with your team. A good ambassador of Christ would

Living in Holiness

We look to Jesus' love and concern for people and his sacrifice on the Cross as the perfection of holy living. Many places in the Bible remind us that we are to live a life of devotion and service to others.

Read Proverbs 29:7. Write about a time when you or another person did or said something to change something that was unfair.

Read John 21:15-17. Write about a situation at home where you believe you could be helpful.

Read James 2:14-17. Imagine your town has given you money and a staff of volunteers to start a project to help your community. What problem would you try to solve and what steps would you take to solve it?

Help From Unexpected Places

Read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37. In that story, a priest and a Levite, which was a person with special duties in God's temple, passed right by the injured man and ignored him. The only person who stopped to help was a Samaritan. In those days, Samaritans were social outcasts because they had different religious beliefs and practices from most everyone else, yet this Samaritan gave of his time, energy, and money to see that the robbery victim received proper care. Even though he was not a high-status person, he was able to pitch right in and make a great difference in someone's life. Young or old, rich or poor, we all have the ability and the responsibility to make life better for someone else.

- How might you retell this parable today, using people and situations you can relate to?
- Where would the story take place?
- Who would be the injured man?
- Who would pass him by?

Our Armenian Way

Vodunluva

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On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. This would have been a very dirty job, since the men were wearing sandals with no socks, if they had any shoes at all. Their feet would have been full of ground-in dirt from the road. It was customary for the servants of a household to do this for guests.

Why did the Son of God lower himself to perform such a dirty task? Jesus did this to show us that we should not be too proud to do even unpleasant jobs in the service of his flock. Each Holy Thursday, the Armenian Church conducts the "Vodunluva" service, or the Washing of the Feet. The priest, in remembrance of that long-ago night when Jesus humbled himself for his disciples, washes the feet of some of the congregation. We are reminded that Jesus laid aside his heavenly crown to do everything for us – even suffer death on the Cross.



Faith Word

Holiness

The state of being sacred, set apart for religious purpose, living in the Spirit

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child learned about Christian service. The class learned that they are ambassadors of Christ's kingdom here on earth. They evaluated Christian responses to different situations, and discussed how the parable of the Good Samaritan might be retold today. Reading about the Vodunluva (Washing of the Feet) Service in the Armenian Church once again focused on serving others.

Family Faith Activity

We grow closer to our Lord as we follow his command, "Care for my sheep." Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) as a family.
2. Make a donation to an organization that assists people in America, Armenia or anywhere in the world.
3. In the local shopper newspapers that most towns receive, there are articles about families who have suffered a flood, illness, or similar calamity. Find one of these families, call your town, and help with one of the family's needs. Remember about the ceremony itself?

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ____ and tried at least one activity as a family ____.

Signed _____

