

Lesson 10: A Holy Family

Key Concepts

1. Mary, Joseph and Jesus were a holy family.
2. My family is a holy family too.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the articles on the display table.
2. Discuss the photographs of different families.
3. Review the early life of the Holy Family in Nazareth.
4. Brainstorm ways to be thoughtful, kind and helpful like the Holy Family.
5. Memorize the Litany for Families.
6. Participate in a modified Home Blessing service.

Materials Needed

1. On the display table, place several pictures of families cut from magazines and/or use personal photographs; pictures of the Holy Family and/or stand-up or plush figures of Mary, Joseph and a young Jesus; ingredients for a home blessing (incense, salt, bread, water), table cloth.
2. A Children's Bible.

Procedure

1. Welcome children warmly and direct them to the display table. Encourage them to look carefully at the display. Point out the photographs, using the word *family* whenever possible and describing actions, e.g. hugging, laughing, playing, etc. Answer any questions the children may ask about the four ingredients.
2. Stand to say the opening prayer together. 10 min.
3. Go to the story corner. Read from *Our Life Together*. Referring to the photographs, use words such as *sharing, smiling, hugging, giving, playing* to communicate the idea that happiness is created within families. With your help, the children will conclude that being together makes families happy. 5 min.
4. Tell children to look at the picture of Mary on a donkey. Read *God's Word to Us* and then *We Learn About God*. As part of your dialogue with the children, discuss the way(s) in which our families can be thoughtful, loving and kind like Jesus and his family.
5. Recite the Litany for Families and then ask the children to repeat the words line by line after you. 10 min.
6. Snack. 10 min.
7. Say: "Turn in your lesson to where you see a picture of the four things the priest needs for a home blessing." Read *Our Armenian Way* and *We Celebrate*. 5 min.
8. Review with the children how to make the sign of the cross while saying "Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyrn Srpo. Amen." (In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.) Say: "We are going to pretend our home is being blessed. Of course, this is always performed by our pastor, Father _____. When he visits your house, he will stand with you around a table just as we

are doing. On the table will be incense (he brings that with him), bread, water and salt.” (Ask the children to help you.)

“When we begin, I want you to say, ‘Amen. Alleluya. Alleluya. Alleluya.’” Read the Prayer of Blessing. With the children say, “Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyin Srpo. Amen. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” Repeat three times. 10 min.

9. Story Time: “A Farmer Planting Seeds”

Conclude story time: “We can be like the good soil whenever we hear Jesus’ words. Then our love for him and everyone can grow strong.”

10. Dismissal.

10 min.

Lesson 11: This is My Son

Key Concepts

1. John the Baptist baptized Jesus.
2. God manifested himself by sending the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove to seal the baptism of Jesus.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Listen to a story about the baptism of a baby.
3. Listen to a story of Jesus’ baptism.
4. Retell, using pictures, the story of Jesus’ baptism.
5. With your help, name the members of the Holy Trinity present at Jesus’ baptism.
6. Explain the roles of the godmother and godfather at the baptism.
7. Make a paper dove to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit at Jesus’ baptism.
8. Chant the hymn “Amen Alleluia.”

Materials Needed

1. On the display table, place a completed paper dove to be made by the children; picture of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus (try to find a picture which also shows the dove); a picture of a child being baptized in an Armenian Church (if possible, try to obtain an actual photograph of a student); a bottle of water; an article of white clothing; a small clear bottle of baby oil; (use these to discuss the water in the font, the white clothing babies are dressed in after being baptized, and the muron),
2. For each child, pre-cut doves (see Appendix for instructions); light weight white paper for wings; clear tape; string; scissors. You will probably need an assistant for this activity.
3. A Children’s Bible.

Background for Teacher

In Armenian, the word for baptism is *mugrdootiun*. The baby is “dipped” in the baptismal font three times. After the baby is dried, the priest blesses and anoints with holy oil nine parts of the body. The children will be interested to know which parts: the forehead, eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, hands, heart, back and feet. This is called chrismation or *troshm*.

The godmother dresses the baby in white, and then the priest presents the baby to the Holy Altar to receive Holy Communion for the very first time. The Armenian word for communion is *haghorthootiun*.