

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*.

Procedure

1. Welcome children warmly and direct them to the display table. Encourage them to look carefully at the objects.
2. Stand to say the opening prayer together. 5 min.
3. Move the children to the story corner. Say: “Look at the picture of the priest baptizing a baby.” Read *Our Life Together*. Go over the story, asking questions to help with the retelling such as, “What was the first thing Der Hayr did with the baby? (said prayers, put her in the water) When did he bless the baby with holy oil?” (After the baby was put in the font and dried.) You can use the information in the Background for Teacher to supplement the material in *Our Life Together*. 10 min.
4. Holding the Bible say, “Today’s Bible reading is about the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by his cousin John.” Read *God’s Word To Us*. Use the page to review the baptism of Jesus Christ. Read *We Learn About God*. This may be a time to review the Holy Trinity without going into too much detail. You can say, “While John the Baptist was baptizing Jesus, God the Father was watching from heaven. God sent the Holy Spirit down to the River Jordan as a dove (use the paper dove from the display table).” As you move the dove downward, say: “The dove flew down above Jesus, and God’s voice said, ‘This is my Son, and I am so pleased with him.’” Repeat: “God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit were all there at the baptism.” Ask: “What did God’s voice say as the dove came down?” (This is my Son. I am so pleased with him.) 5 min.
5. Snack. 10 min.
6. Say: “Let’s look at this picture of Der Hayr, baby Araxie, and her godfather and godmother.” Read from *Our Armenian Way*. The people in the drawing are baby Araxie’s godmother and godfather. You also had two very special people at your baptism – your godfather and your godmother. Say: “Ask your mom or dad who your godparents were. They can write their names in your lesson.” (Show the children where.) 5 min.
7. Distribute the precut doves and the white sheets of paper to make the accordion-pleated wings. Help the children as they pleat the wings. Make a slit in the side of the dove where the folded paper will be inserted. Insert the folded paper through the slit, spread open the folded paper, tape ends together at the top. Put string for hanging where the wings are joined. Go to an area of the room where the children can stand to learn the hymn, “Amen Alleluya.” Once it is learned, they can sing the hymn while flying their doves. 15 min.
8. Story time: “The Happy Wedding”
Conclude story time by repeating the last line and then say: “Yes, there are so many miracles that Jesus performed out of love and to show the glory of God, and we will be reading about them all together.”
9. Dismissal. 10 min.