

When the Advent Chain is completed, add the gold or white link and teach the Advent verse.

The children can move in a circle, each holding a part of the chain, while they recite the verse. Gather the children around you as they help you remove seven links from the chain. Hang these on a wall in the classroom. Each week, seven links will be removed from the chain and the verse recited, naming the number of days left for Christmas. 15 min.

9. Story Time: “Who Is My Neighbor?”

Conclude story time by saying: “Jesus taught us this beautiful lesson about what a truly good neighbor is. Let’s try to be good neighbors this week.”

10. Dismissal.

10 min.

Lesson 14: Jesus Is Born!

Key Concepts

1. God is with us always.
2. God sent us Jesus, his son, as a sign of his love.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the contents of the display table.
2. Explore the concept of “gifts of love.”
3. Listen to the story of God’s gift of love, the birth of Jesus.
4. Share birthday celebrations.
5. Describe how the Armenian Church family celebrates Jesus’ birthday.
6. Hear St. Gregory of Nareg’s prayer about angels.
7. Make a guardian angel.
8. Recite a line from the prayer by St. Gregory of Nareg.
9. Recite the Avedis Chant.

Materials Needed

1. On the display table, place a sample of the angel (see Appendix) to be made by the children; a manger scene; books or pictures depicting the Holy Family and the shepherds receiving the good news; Christmas paraphernalia.
2. Crayons; colored pencils; glitter; scissors. Precut guardian angels out of heavy-stock paper. Make copies of the line from the St. Gregory of Nareg prayer (see Appendix) to be glued on to the angel’s robe.
3. A Children’s Bible.

Procedure

1. Welcome children warmly and direct them to the display table. Encourage them to look carefully at the objects. Pointing to each figure in the manger ask, “Who is this?” Identify the figures if the children do not know.
2. Stand to say the opening prayer together. 10 min.
3. Move to the story corner. Read *Our Life Together* and talk about the photos of parents and infants and a birthday celebration.

4. Then direct children's attention to the picture of *another* family. Discuss the picture – Mary, the baby, the Wise Men, the animals (Joseph may be out gathering firewood!). Read *God's Word To Us*.
5. Now read *We Learn About God*. Share answers to the questions. 10 min.
6. Move to the table. Ask children to find the picture of the angel. Read from *Our Armenian Way* and then break for snack.
7. Snack. 10 min.
8. Distribute the guardian angels and the prayer strip to be glued to the angel's robe. Show the children the angel that was on the display table. Say: "Color your angel. When you have finished, glue St. Gregory's prayer on the front of the angel's robe. Next sprinkle some glitter on the angel's wings." Go over the line from the prayer – *Guardian Angel, help me to do good things*. Ask the children to repeat it with you. Remind them to place their angels somewhere at home where they can see it every day.
Say: "Stand in a circle. Hold your guardian angels in front of you and recite the prayer one more time." 15 min.
9. Look at *We Celebrate* together and then ask: "Do you remember what *Avedis* means? Yes, it means Good News." Teach the words of the chant.
10. Ask the children to stand. They can recite it in unison.
They can recite it in groups, one group saying the words, the other group saying *Avedis*. Each time they say the word *Avedis*, they can clap three times. 5 min.
11. Story Time: "Lord, We Have Faith!"
Conclude story time by repeating the last paragraph of the story and say "This week let us look at the birds and the trees around us and remember God takes care of us all."
12. Dismissal. 10 min.

Lesson 15: Jesus Called the Disciples

Key Concepts

1. Jesus chose twelve men to be his disciples.
2. Thaddeus and Bartholomew went to Armenia to teach the good news of Christ.
3. Armenia became the first Christian nation in 301 A.D.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Listen to a story about a boy's first day at a new school.
3. Explore the characteristics of a disciple of God.
4. Recall how Thaddeus and Bartholomew went to Armenia.
5. Recite a Friendship Chant.
6. Make a Friendship Tree displaying Jesus and the disciples.