

10. Story Time: “Jesus is Born”

After discussing the story question, conclude: “At the end of our story an angel guided the holy family to Egypt. May an angel guide us all back to our homes today.”

11. Dismiss the class. Give each child a leaf of basil to take home, reminding them of the significance of the basil. 10 min.

Lesson 3: Bless This Table

Key Concepts

1. Jesus is generous, loving and kind.
2. We should be thankful to God for his gifts.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Participate in a discussion of God’s special gifts.
3. Recall the story of the miracle of the loaves and the fish.
4. Hear about the “Blessing of the Grapes” service.
5. Design a place mat with illustrations of grapes, bread and fish.

Materials Needed

1. On the display table, place cut-outs (or toy replicas) of two loaves of bread and five fish; bunch of grapes.
2. Colored construction paper (yellow, white), 11"x18"; scissors; crayons; *Prayer Before Meals* (see Appendix) to glue in the center of the mat; optional: stickers of fish, grapes and bread (fish can readily be found; the other two perhaps online or through catalogues).
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.
2. Stand to say the opening prayer together. 5 min.
3. Move to the story corner. Say: “Look at the pictures of birthday presents and a cake.” Read *Our Life Together*. With the children, discuss the gifts that God has given to them (family, friends, food, pets). Also talk about birthdays, how they are celebrated and who attends. (You may want to have a list of the children’s birthdays posted somewhere in the classroom.) 10 min.
4. Remain in the story corner for the story of the miracle of the loaves and fish. Say: “Look at the picture of Jesus with a lot of people.” Use the paper cutouts or replicas of the bread and fish as you read the story (*God’s Word To Us*). 5 min.
5. Say: “Now look at the picture of a child lighting a candle.” Read *We Learn About God*. Gifts which may be named are: new baby, pets, food, beautiful weather, rain, visits from grandparents or other family members, a family birthday celebration or gathering. Accept what the child offers. In response to the question about saying thank you, remind the children, they can say a prayer of thanks or light a candle in church. 5 min.

6. Now have them look at the picture of the priests blessing grapes. Read *Our Armenian Way*. Tell the children that the priest, like Jesus who blessed the fish and the bread, blesses the grapes before they are given out to the people. 5 min.
7. Snack. This week teach the last line of the *Prayer Before Meals* in English – “Blessed is the Lord in his gifts. Amen.” Remember to say the prayer in Armenian every Sunday to allow the children to hear it and become familiar with it. 5 min.
8. Remain at the table. Read *We Celebrate* together. Then say: “To help us remember the miracle of the bread and the fish and the blessing of the grapes, you are going to make a place mat.” Give out yellow or white paper, 11"x18". Explain to the children that they will fringe the two short ends of their place mats. Demonstrate how to fringe. (They may need your help with this.)
9. “In the center of the mat, glue the *Prayer Before Meals*. Draw a bunch of grapes in each corner and draw two fish and five loaves of bread around the *Jashagestzook* prayer.” Help with the drawing and distribute stickers, if you’re using them (a combination of stickers and children’s drawings are better than stickers alone). They might also want to add some of the ideas they gave when answering *We Celebrate* questions. When they are finished, remind the children that the place mats will help them retell the stories to their parents. 15 min.
10. Story Time: “The Baby is Blessed”
After discussing story questions, conclude: “So here were Simeon and Anna finally seeing the baby they had waited so long for, the baby who would change the world. They were so happy they shared the good news. You, too, can share the good news of Jesus.”
11. Dismissal. 10 min.

Lesson 4: God’s Amazing Zoo

Key Concepts

1. God created the animals.
2. God wants us to care for them.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Participate in a discussion of animal habitats.
3. Listen to the Bible reading about the creation of the animals.
4. Review God’s message about caring for animals.
5. Learn about “bird letters.”
6. Color a bird letter representing the first initial of their name.

Materials Needed

1. On the display table, a book of bird letters (or just the one from today’s lesson), a globe, library book(s) with pictures of animals.
2. Other materials needed: crayons, optional: stick glue, sequins, shapes, etc. for children to decorate their letters with; bird letters (one for every child’s first name initial, available from the book *Aravod Looso*; if you do not have the book *Aravod Looso* (a copy was sent to every Sunday School), contact the