

Department of Christian Education at the Diocese for the letters) crayons or colored pencils.
3. A Children's Bible.

Background for Teacher

Armenian artists have always been fascinated with nature, especially birds. In the 12th – 14th centuries, artists began to form letters of the alphabet into the shapes of fish and men as well as birds.

Some information you can share with the children: Wild animals - like bears, mountain cats, deer and boar - can be found in the mountains of Armenia. There are 346 different kinds of birds in Armenia. Some birds are year-round residents; others come for seasonal stays.

Procedure

1. Welcome the children and direct them to the display table, calling their attention to the bird letters.
2. Stand to say the opening prayer together. 10 min.
3. Invite the children to join you in the story corner. Direct children's attention to the pictures of animals on the opening page. Read *Our Life Together*. Have available reference books on animals from a local library and a globe. Show just a few pictures. Discuss questions. 10 min.
4. Read *God's Word To Us*. Say: "This story is found in the Bible where we read all about how God created the animals, the birds and the creatures living in the ocean. (You can hold up a Bible and point to Genesis.)"
5. Ask: "Where is the picture of a monkey?" Review *We Learn About God* together. Spend a few moments to ask the children about their favorite animals. 5 min.
6. Go to the table. Show some bird letters as you read from *Our Armenian Way*. Ask the children to repeat the Armenian word for bird letter – *turch-na-keer*. Say: "This word comes from the word, *tur-choon*, bird, and *keer*, letter." 5 min.
7. Snack. 10 min.
8. Read *We Celebrate*. Give out the bird letters and say: "This is a bird letter. It is the first letter of your name. Color (decorate) it." When the children have finished, tape the letters to a wall so they can spend time looking at them. 10 min.
9. Story Time: "In My Father's House"
Conclude story time: "Mary kept thinking about how special Jesus was. Let's remember all week about how special Jesus is to us."
10. Dismiss the class. 10 min.

Lesson 5: God Made You and Me

Key Concepts

1. God made us with love.
2. God wants us to love one another.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Listen to a story about two children.
3. Participate in a discussion to resolve their conflict.
4. Listen to a passage from the Bible.
5. Compare their names in Armenian and English with those of the other children in class.
6. Recite a prayer for the children of the world.
7. Play a matching game with international children's faces.
8. Make a prayer card.

Materials Needed

1. On the display table, place several pictures of children from diverse ethnic backgrounds; one or two books showing children from different countries; a globe; faces from the game "I Never Forget a Face."
2. Names of children in Armenian and in English (suggested size for each: 1½" x 5½"); for each child: oak tag approximately 5½" x 8"; *A Prayer for the Children of the World*; (see appendix), color reproduction of children's photos from *We Celebrate* (you can also go online for pictures of children of different cultures); crayons or markers; glue; hole punch; yarn or ribbon.
3. Matching Game: "I Never Forget a Face" (your Sunday School received a set from the Diocese). Have it set up for children to play with as they arrive.
4. A Children's Bible.

Procedure

1. Welcome children warmly and direct them to the display table.
Encourage them to look at the book(s) and the pictures. Help them play the matching game.
2. Stand to say the opening prayer together. 10 min.
3. Move with the children to the story corner. Before beginning the story, engage the children in a conversation about what they see in the picture. Read *Our Life Together*. At the end of the story, elicit from the children their responses to the questions. 10 min.
4. Remain in the story corner. Holding the Bible say, "God made each one of us, and the story is here in the Bible." Read *God's Word to Us*.
5. Go to the table. As a review, talk about Ara and Lucy, their problem, and its resolution. Read from *We Learn About God*. 5 min.
6. Stay at the table for the name activity. As you distribute the papers with the names of the children in Armenian and English, say: "These words spell your names in Armenian and English letters." Hold up the names; say the child's name as you give them to him/her. Say: "Our names are different, and the letters of our names are different. Look at a friend's paper. Does his or her name look like yours?" After a few minutes to allow the children to compare names, say: "Now you are going to glue your names on your lesson page. When you finish, copy or trace the first letter of your name in Armenian right next to where you pasted your names. I will help you" 10 min.
7. Snack. 5 min.
8. Say: "Now look at the faces of children from different parts of the world." Read *We Celebrate*.

Say: "Today we are going to make a prayer card. On this card, we will glue a prayer like the one we just recited." Distribute the prayers, oak tag, and photos. Help children glue the prayers in the middle of the oak tag and the photos on one side. Leave space for their own drawing.

Hold up face cards from the matching game; pointing to these and the pictures in the text, say: "These children are from different places all over the world. Now somewhere on the card, draw a picture of yourself."

When children have finished, make a hole at the top of the prayer card, and loop a strip of ribbon through the hole. As you hand the finished cards back, say: "When you take the prayer card home, share it with your family and decide where to hang it in your home to remind you of God's words: 'Love one another!'" 10 min.

9. Story Time: "This is My Son"

Conclude story time: "In the wilderness, Jesus had to think hard about who he was and what he was going to do. He spent his time praying. Let's try to follow Jesus and pray more this week."

10. Dismissal.

10 min.

Lesson 6: God is Love

Key Concepts

1. God is a loving, caring and forgiving God.
2. God loves us.
3. Our families love us.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Respond to questions about an imaginary merry-go-round ride.
3. Recite John 13:34.
4. Discuss how we can share God's love.
5. Memorize the words *Asdvadz Ser Eh*/God is love.
6. Perform the chant – Love One Another.
7. Make a love bracelet.

Materials Needed

1. On the display table, the following items are suggested: a LOVE bracelet*; the word LOVE printed on a piece of paper (8"x10"); any pictures cut from magazines showing parents and children (grandparents, too) and friends.
2. Ribbon or yarn; scissors; beads for each child to spell LOVE.
3. A Children's Bible.

* This is made with individual beads or small squares with letters printed on them that can be strung on a ribbon or chain; these are widely available in craft stores or arts and crafts catalogues.

Procedure

1. Welcome children warmly and direct them to the display table. Encourage them to look at the objects. Say: "Who can find the word love on the table?"