

2. Stand to say the opening prayer. 5 min.
3. Move to the story corner. Say: “Let’s look at the pictures of merry-go-rounds.” Begin to read *Our Life Together*. Read the entire story, taking time to ask and discuss the questions. 10 min.
4. Say: “In the Bible passage today God tells us about love.” Read *God’s Word to Us* and *We Learn About God* and discuss the questions at the bottom of the page. 5 min.
5. Say: “Look at the picture of an altar.” Read *Our Armenian Way*. “In this lesson, we remember that God loves all of us, and we should always remember his words, ‘Love one another as I love you.’” Explain briefly the meaning of the words *loving, caring and forgiving*. Then introduce and teach the words *Asdvadz ser eh*/God is love in Armenian and English. 5 min.
6. Snack. 10 min.
7. Say: “We are going to make love bracelets.” Read from *We Celebrate*. Hold up the word LOVE from the display table. Ask: “What does God want us to do?” (Love one another.) Say: “I am giving each of you the letters that will spell the word *Love* along with some ribbon. How do we spell love? Look at the card. L – O – V – E spells LOVE.” (Some of your students may need additional help.)
Say: “Begin to put your letters on the ribbon. Bring your bracelet to me when you are finished so I can tie it around your wrist.” Say: “Come and stand in a circle. Now I am going to teach you a chant, a kind of poem. It is called “*Love One Another*.” Refer to *We Celebrate*. “I will say a line, and you echo the words that I say.” Recite both verses. If there is time, repeat the chant one more time. The children can try to snap their fingers or clap their hands. Whisper the line, *love one another*. 15 min.
8. Story Time: “Follow Me”
Conclude story time: “Jesus began his wonderful work with a special group of followers, people who would listen, and learn and then teach others. We are his followers today!”
9. Dismiss the class. 10 min.

Lesson 7: Noah and A New World

Key Concepts

1. God created life again with Noah and his family.
2. God pledged his love with the sign of a rainbow.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Listen to a story about a girl named Ani.
3. Listen to a Bible passage about Noah and the ark.
4. Discuss the wonders of God.
5. Review the story of Noah.

6. Name one thing they learned about Mt. Ararat.
7. Make an olive branch to use in a retelling of the story of Noah.

Materials Needed

1. On the display table there should be a picture of the ark or, even better, an age-appropriate toy Noah's ark; a sample of the olive branch to be made by the students; a jar of olives; olive oil; pictures of rainy days; a small umbrella; a rain hat.
2. For each child: copy of the ark to be glued in student text and leaves traced onto green construction paper for the olive branch (see appendix); twigs (check at a garden store or florist if you can't collect them yourself); crayons; scissors; glue.
3. A Children's Bible.

Background for Teacher

Numerous expeditions have been made to the summit of Mt. Ararat in search of the ark. There are many legends concerning a great ship on Mt. Ararat. The two peaks of Ararat are known as Greater Massis (Ararat) or Lesser Massis (little Ararat).

Genesis 8:5 tells us that after the ark landed, it took several months until the tops of the other mountains could be seen. Mt. Ararat is the highest mountain in the area. It is covered with snow and glaciated year round. These conditions would help to preserve the ark. The search for Noah's ark continues!

Olive trees were very important to the people of Jesus' time. Olives were a basic food. They were eaten pickled and spiced. But even more importantly, the olive fruit would be crushed to produce oil. Olive oil was used extensively for cooking and as fuel for lamps. In the dry climate, it was also a soothing ointment. Finally, it was used to anoint people, setting them apart for a special job. Priests and kings were anointed. We are anointed with oil when we are chrismated.

Procedure

1. Welcome children warmly and direct them to the display table. Talk about the olive branch and olives-using *Background for Teacher* information-as well as rain and rainy days.
2. Gather to say the opening prayer. 10 min.
3. Direct the children to the story corner. Read *Our Life Together*. Ask: "Have you ever had to stay inside your house because of a severe rainstorm just like Ani in the story? What did you do?"
4. Say: "I am going to tell you a story about a rainstorm which lasted not one day, not two days, not three days but forty days and forty nights. It is the story of a man named Noah who always did what God told him to do. Turn the page to where you will find a large boat, called an ark." Read *God's Word to Us*.
5. Go to the table. Read *We Learn About God*. Encourage the children to comment on the observations. 5 min.
6. Snack. 10 min.
7. Say: "Now look at the picture of the two mountains." Read about Mt. Ararat (*Our Armenian Way*). Distribute the arks which will be pasted in the student's lesson. "Name one thing we can add to our picture? (dove) Yes, and let's draw one now. (Distribute crayons.) What is another thing we can add? (rainbow) Let's draw one now over Mt. Ararat. And now, tell me one thing you remember about Mt. Ararat." Remind the children how much God loves us. The rainbow is God's promise that he will always love us. 10 min.

8. Read from *We Celebrate*. Say: “Today we are going to make a little branch of olive leaves like the one the dove brought back from dry land to Noah.” Ask one of the children to distribute the twigs and 4 leaves, 3 large and one small. Have the children cut out the leaves. Then go around, taping each child’s leaves on their branch. Have the children sit, stand or walk in procession as you re-read *God’s Word To Us*. They may raise their branches of leaves when you reach the line “The dove flew back with an olive branch....” 15 min.
9. Story Time: “His Loving Touch”
Conclude story time: “Jesus told the sick boy’s father ‘Everything is possible when you believe.’ This week let’s ask Jesus to help us believe even more.”
10. Dismissal. 10 min.

Lesson 8: Mary the Mother of Jesus

Key Concepts

1. Jesus is God’s Son.
2. Mary is Jesus’ loving mother.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Listen to the stories of two pious women who did something beautiful for God.
3. Name ways *they* can do something beautiful for God.
4. Listen to the story of the Annunciation.
5. Make a triptych showing the Annunciation.
6. Retell the story of the Annunciation.
7. Learn to sing or to say “*Mary’s Song*.”

Materials Needed

1. On the display table place a few pictures from magazines or actual photographs of mothers, grandmothers, etc. with children. Also display a picture of Mary with baby Jesus, Mother Theresa and Tsuveeg (use the student lesson pages).
2. Other materials needed for the day’s lesson: precut triptych, precut oak tag (in triptych shape), crayons; colored pencils; scissors, glue; glitter; optional: musical instruments (see procedure #8)
3. A Children’s Bible.

Background for the Teacher

Tsuveeg lived in the 5th century, the daughter of the Arzruni prince Vasag (also known as Vram) and wife of St. Vartan’s martyred brother Hmayag. She was a highly educated and pious Christian woman. She was widowed at a young age and devoted her life to her sons and to good works.

Procedure

1. Welcome children warmly and direct them to the display table. Call their attention to the pictures and photographs on the table, identifying Mary, Mother Theresa and Tsuveeg.
2. Stand for the opening prayer. 10 min.