

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.

3. Move to the story corner. Read *Our Life Together*. Say: “Mother Theresa and Tsuveeg did beautiful things for God. What are some beautiful things you can do for God?” (Some answers you might hear: say a prayer, go to church, attend Sunday School, help parents, be kind to others, draw a picture for someone, play fairly with a friend, plant a seed or a flower.)
5 min.
4. Direct the children’s attention to the picture of an angel and St. Mary. Read the text, *God’s Word To Us*. Ask the children, “Do you remember the words of the angel Gabriel to Mary? What was Mary’s answer?” Read from *We Learn About God*.
5 min.
5. Say: “Now let’s look at the picture which has three parts. This picture with three parts is called a triptych. Boys and girls, point to the center panel. This is Mary (Maryam) and the angel Gabriel. The Armenian word for angel is *hreshdag*. What is the angel saying to Mary? What is Mary saying to the angel? What the angel told Mary is called the Annunciation. The word “annunciation” means “something that is announced.” (Next, point to the picture of the candle.) In Armenian, it is called *mohm*. (Now point to the picture of the rose.) In Armenian, it is called *vart*.” The beautiful rose is a flower we associate with St. Mary.
5 min.
6. Snack.
10 min.
7. Distribute the triptych. Have the children color it and when they are finished they can cut it out. Distribute glue for children to glue the triptychs onto oak tag. Fold into thirds. Help them glue and sprinkle glitter on the haloes. The children can place the triptychs on the display table for everyone to see.
15 min.
8. Move to another area of the room where the children can stand to learn “*Mary’s Song*.” With the children, review the story and explain that this song was written just for Mary to show her how much we love her. Proceed to teach the words in Armenian and English. You can sing or say the verses. If you have access to musical instruments for young children, for example tambourine, triangle, sticks, use them as accompaniment to the song.
5 min.
9. Story Time: “A Way to Live”
Conclude story time: “We call the beautiful prayer Jesus taught us ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ – in Armenian, the ‘Hayr Mer.’ It is one of the many beautiful prayers you will learn in Sunday School.”
10. Dismiss the class.
5 min.

Lesson 9: Jesus is the Light of the World

Key Concepts

1. Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Jesus came to bring the message of hope and forgiveness.

Objectives

During this session, students will

1. Examine the display table.
2. Talk about cousins and friends.