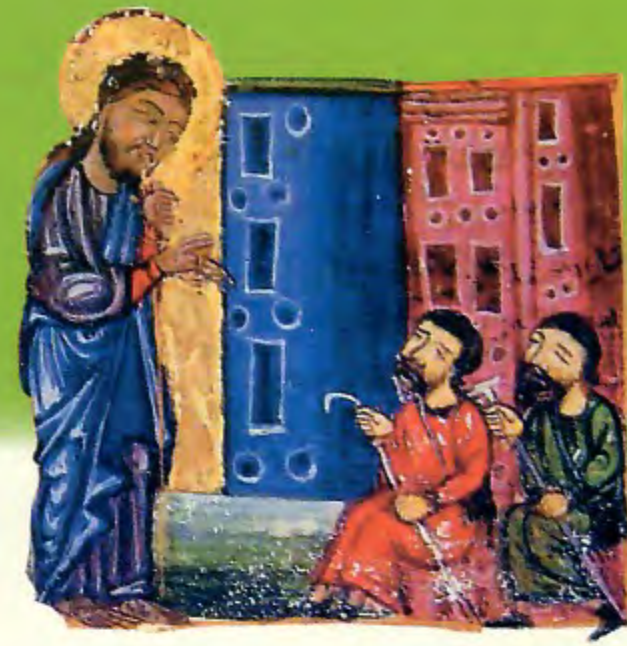


Jesus Loves Us



WE PRAY TOGETHER

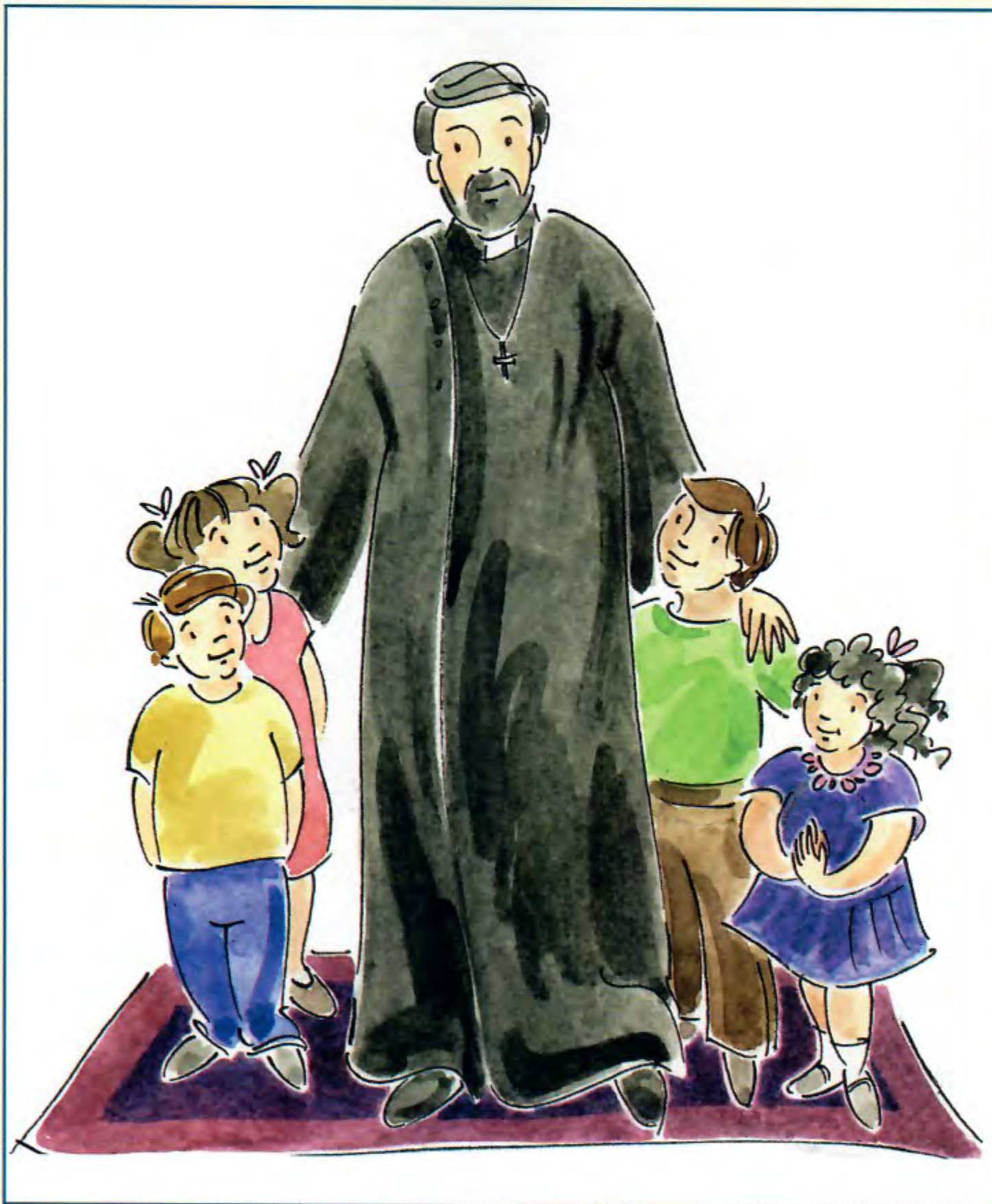


Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyin Srpo.
Jesus, we love you, and we know that you love us. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

“Today Der Hayr is coming to visit the Sunday School,” Mrs. Krikorian, the kindergarten teacher, told the children. They were excited. “When is he coming? Will he visit us?”

Mrs. Krikorian answered, “He will be coming in a few minutes, and he will visit our classroom.” A few minutes went by, and the children began to ask again. “When is he coming, Mrs. Krikorian?” Mrs. Krikorian decided to call them over to the story corner to read a story. It was a story about how much Jesus loved children.



The children were having a snack when Der Hayr walked into the classroom. The children ran over to him and hugged him. “Der Hayr, Der Hayr,” they shouted. “We love you.”

Der Hayr said, “And I love you. God bless you. I am so happy to be here.”

GOD'S WORD TO US

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Many mothers and fathers brought their children to Jesus so he could bless them. One day, the disciples told the families who were waiting that Jesus was tired and that they should let him rest. When Jesus heard this, he said, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them."

Matthew 19:13-14



WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

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Jesus loved to tell stories. Each story would be about something different, like forgiveness, kindness and love. He wanted the people, especially the children, to come to him. Why? He wanted to tell them something very important about God

the Father. He wanted them to know that God loved them all very much and that he would always welcome them.

When you go for a visit, you run into the arms of your dear grandpa. Your mom or dad is waiting to give you a big hug when you get home from school. You feel welcomed and loved. That is how God wants you to feel about him. He loves you. He welcomes you and listens to you through your prayers.



OUR ARMENIAN WAY

This is a prayer called "Jesus, Wisdom of the Father." In this prayer, we ask Jesus to help us behave in ways that would make him proud of us.

Jesus Wisdom of the Father

Oh, Jesus,
Grant me wisdom.
Help me to be the kind of person you want me to be.
Save me from evil thoughts, words, and deeds.
And have mercy upon me. Amen. *St. Nersess Shnorhali*

WE CELEBRATE

Jesus told this story.

A shepherd took his sheep to the hills every morning so they could find grass to eat. One day he noticed that the littlest lamb was not with the rest. "Can I leave the rest of the sheep alone while I go to look for the lost one?"

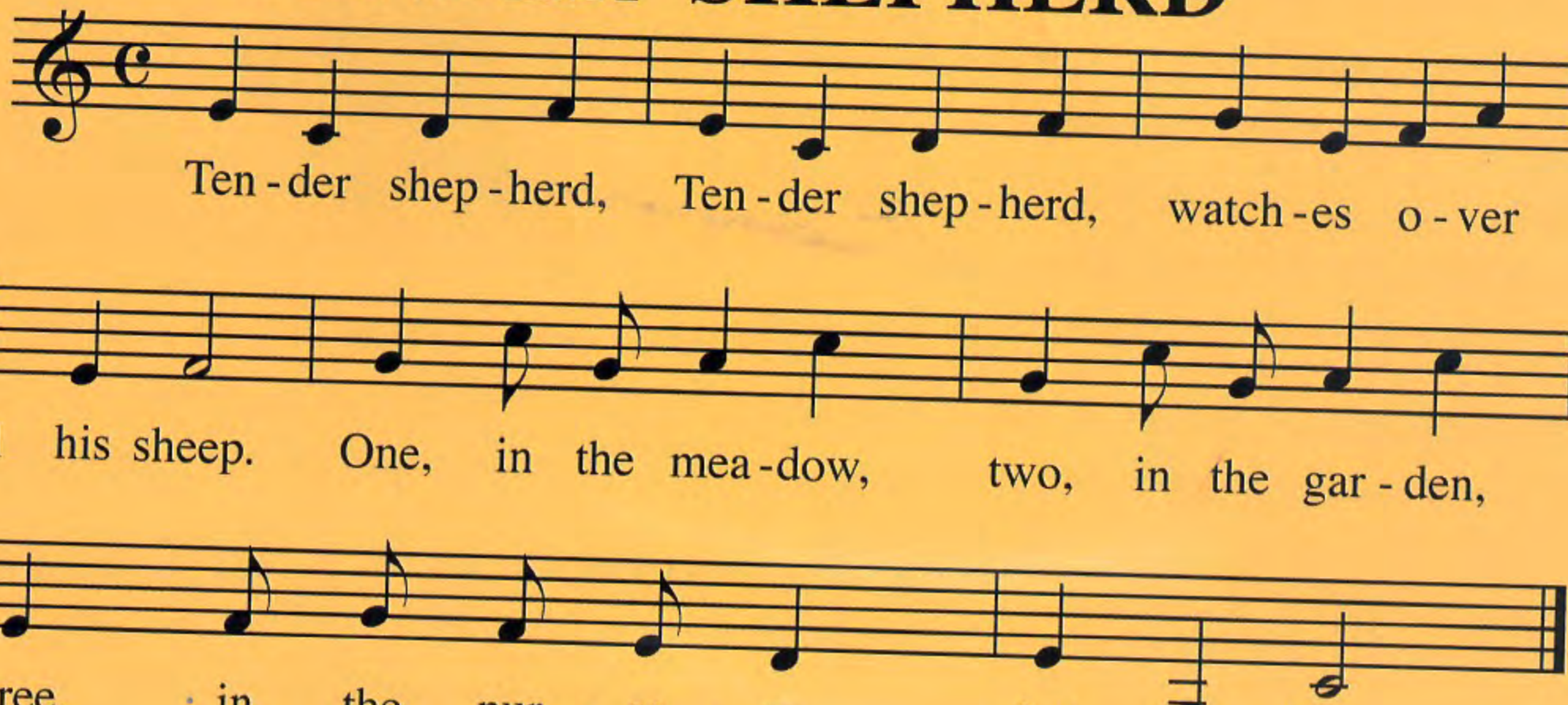
He thought very carefully and decided to leave the sheep grazing on the hillside while he went to look for his lamb. He looked everywhere and finally found it stuck between two huge rocks. He climbed up very carefully, picked up the lamb and carried it back to the flock. He put it down gently and watched it find his way to his mother.

When the shepherd returned to his home, he told his neighbors to come for a celebration. He was so happy that he had found his lost sheep!

This is a parable. Jesus is teaching us that he will always take care of us just like the shepherd cared for his sheep and the lost lamb.

TENDER SHEPHERD

Voice



The musical notation is written on three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'Ten - der shep - herd, Ten - der shep - herd, watch - es o - ver all his sheep. One, in the mea - dow, two, in the gar - den, three, in the nur - se - ry fast a - sleep.'

Ten - der shep - herd, Ten - der shep - herd, watch - es o - ver

all his sheep. One, in the mea - dow, two, in the gar - den,

three, in the nur - se - ry fast a - sleep.



FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

We welcome our children into the world. We open our hearts to them, and they change our lives forever. This week your child discovered how much Jesus loved children. He welcomed them despite the interference of his own disciples. He made it a point to say that the Kingdom of God belonged to the children and those like them.

Another of Jesus' missions was to carry God's message to the people. By welcoming and listening to those who came to him, he taught that God also welcomes them and hears them through their prayers.

LIVING OUR FAITH

Jesus often told stories (parables) to share an important message with the people. The Parable of the Lost Sheep is a favorite of children. Today we heard the story and discussed the great joy the shepherd felt when the baby lamb was found. God, like the shepherd, loves us and welcomes us back to his fold.

Choose one of the activities to do with your child:

1. Help your child retell the story of the Lost Sheep, using the props that he or she has brought home.
2. Sing the song "*Tender Shepherd*" together and often.
3. Recite with your child the prayer, "Jesus Wisdom of the Father," by St. Nersess Shnorhali. The prayer is a reminder to be the person God wants us to be.

