

We Prepare for Christmas



WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyin Srpo.

God, Father of all, we remember the story of the first Christmas and welcome your Son into our lives every day. Amen.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Christmas was coming! Lorig and her brother George were very excited. They remembered that grandma and grandpa were coming for their annual Christmas visit. Grandma, Lorig and George always made Christmas cookies together. Grandpa and the children always went to the local farm to choose a Christmas tree. Then everybody would help to decorate it. The children looked forward to doing this every year. It was part of their family preparations for Christmas.

One evening, their mother took out an advent calendar. She said, "Every night after dinner, you can take turns opening one of the windows of the advent calendar. The advent calendar helps us to prepare for Christmas. Each window we open will remind us of the story of Christmas."

The children wanted Christmas to come soon. Their father explained, "Be patient. We have a lot of things to do to prepare for Christmas. I want you to be thinking about gifts for your grandparents, and don't forget to save some of your allowance to send to the children's center in Armenia."

So the children began making a list of things they had to do to prepare for Christmas.

GOD'S WORD TO US

When Mary knew she was going to be the mother of Jesus, she hurried to share the news with her cousin Elizabeth who lived in the next village.

Mary was filled with happiness and she hugged her cousin the minute she stepped into her home.

Elizabeth said, "God has blessed you more than any other woman, and he has blessed your child."

Mary answered, "You are blessed because you believe in the Lord."

Elizabeth was happy, too. She knew that she was also going to have a baby. After her visit, Mary returned to her home to prepare for the coming of the baby.

Luke 1:39-45



WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

When the people heard that a baby was to be born who would be named Jesus, they prepared themselves by praying!

How do you and your family prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth?

Do you

- ☐ decorate your house with lights?
- ☐ have a wreath on the door?
- ☐ help to make Christmas cookies?
- ☐ put up a Christmas tree?
- ☐ open the windows of an advent calendar?
- ☐ have a manger where figures of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus are placed?
- ☐ go to church to share in the joy of the birth of Jesus?



OUR ARMENIAN WAY

The Armenian Church gets ready for Christmas for fifty days. Fifty! This is a special period of time that everyone calls Advent. Advent means “something’s coming.” In Armenian, we call this time of waiting for Christmas, “Heesnag.” It’s a word that comes from “fifty” or “Hee-soon.” During that time, we try to pray more, read the Bible and be as good as we can be!

Some Armenians eat nothing that comes from an animal for the first, middle, and last weeks of Heesnag. Name some foods and drink that come from an animal.

The Armenian Church gets ready for Christmas just like you do.



WE CELEBRATE

Fifty days we wait to say
Welcome, Lord, on Christmas Day!





FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

The theme of this week's lesson was how to get ready for the birth of Jesus. As they begin to hear ways to prepare for Christmas, the children will begin to make a connection between the lessons learned in Sunday School and their application at home, where their faith was born.

In the Armenian Church, there is a fifty day preparation period before Christmas. It is called *Heesnag*. The children made a heesnag chain and will participate in a count-down to Christmas.

LIVING OUR FAITH

As part of the preparation for Christmas, choose one of the following:

1. Set aside a special time, when the family is together, to open each window of an advent calendar.
2. Create a good-deeds calendar where you and your children do a kind act for a neighbor, friend or relative at least once a week.
3. Encourage your family to save money to send to a children's center in Armenia.
4. With your children, share traditions that you celebrated as a child.
5. Involve your children as much as possible as you prepare for the feast of Christ's coming.

