

Unit 5: MANY BLESSINGS OF OUR LORD

Lesson 5.2 Green Sunday: Church and Home

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Video Lesson: [Home Blessing](#) (duration 3:23)

MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Make your home into a church. Worship and pray together.

Words of the week:

խոնկ – khoong – incense

սրբապատկեր – srpabadger – icon

Աստուածաշունչ – Asdvadzashoonch – Bible

Memory Verse:

“... But as for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord.”

- Joshua 24:15

Lesson

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՛ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Lesson Body:

A new season, a new life begins with Easter. The first three Sundays after Easter are very significant and have special names. The first one is called New Sunday, the second Sunday is Green Sunday, and the third is called Red Sunday (which we will learn about next week). It is celebrated as a new beginning for a better, God-pleasing life. Great Lent and Holy Week were times to prepare us for the new life and to apply what we have had about being better.

The purpose of Great Lent is to prepare for the coming resurrection and change who we are to become better children of God and a better Church. This is what we remember today, on Green Sunday, the establishment of the Universal Church. The Church is not just four walls and a dome but is the unity of faithful when they come together to worship Christ. However, this does not have to happen only at the church on Sundays. We can do this at our homes too.

Q: *Can you think of ways of how to make your home a church?*

This does not mean we do not need to go to Church. In fact, communal worship (coming together and praying together) is central to our Christian faith and commanded by Christ Himself. As He said: *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”* (Matthew 18:20)

We can worship God in our homes, throughout the week with our families and friends, creating the right atmosphere and making good choices. We can establish certain traditions and sacred spaces. For example, we can dedicate a small corner for icons in our home, say our morning prayers, and pray before meals and before going to bed, we can say prayers for our loved ones, those who are alive and those who had passed on. During some of these prayers we can burn incense or light candles (of course with the assistance of adults). At home we can pray by ourselves or with our family members.

Finally, we need to read the Bible daily. This does not mean we need to read it for hours every day but can be as little as five minutes. Five minutes of reading and learning the Word of God is enough to help strengthen our faith and create a home which is connected to the Universal Church that we remember today.

During this season families invite priests to their homes for home blessings. This is a beautiful tradition where the priest visits your home and those of the faithful, bringing the good news of Christ’s resurrection and blessing the house, salt, water and bread and everyone who lives there.



Image from armenianchurch.us

Video Lesson: [Home Blessing](#) (duration 3:23)

Class activity: Re-enacting of the home blessing service

Roles: Priest, many family members

Note: Consider starting from a phone call request from the family and the priest’s directions on what to have ready

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Memory Verse:

“... But as for me and my household,
we will serve the Lord.”

- Joshua 24:15

Review

Memory Verse Review:

But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15)

Words of the Week Review:

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Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. What are the three Sundays following Easter called? (New Sunday, Green Sunday, and Red Sunday)
2. What do we remember on Green Sunday? (We remember the establishment of the Universal Church)
3. If we make our homes like little churches, does this mean we do not need to go to Church on Sundays? (No. Communal or corporate worship is very important to our Christian faith)
4. What are some ways we can worship at home, making our homes like the Church? (We can have a prayer corner with icons, light candles, burn incense, pray as a family, ready the Bible, and invite our Der Hayr or Hayr Soorp to bless our homes)
5. What is blessed at a Home Blessing? (Bread, salt, water and the family)

Life Application

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Refer to the lesson.

* *Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ծանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev vog-hormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

At Home

Please memorize by next week:

Memory Verse:

“... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)

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