

# Let Us Bow Down Before God!

## Why Do We Go To Church?

UNIT  
2  
Lesson  
Two



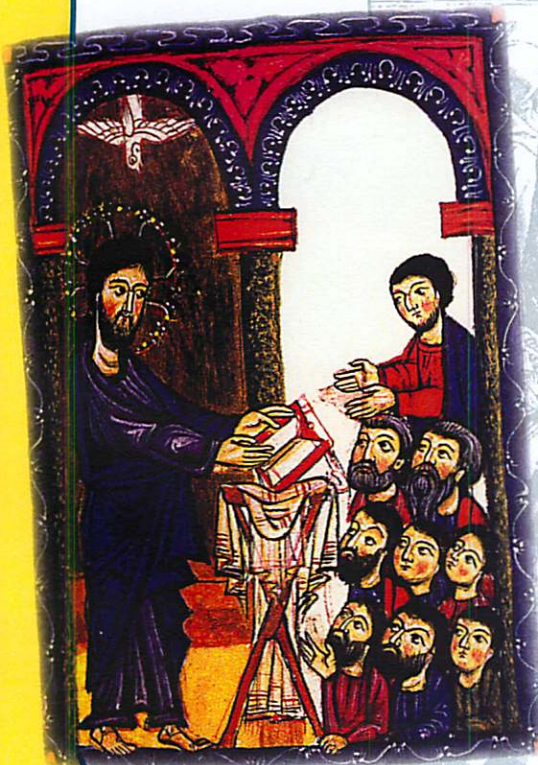
### Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...  
Dear Lord, we come to church to share in your love and be among others who care for you as much as we do. Help us feel your presence in church and in everything we do and say. Amen.

## Daily Bread

Inside an Armenian church, there are many items that are important to the way we worship. Some of the things in the church are used every Sunday. Some of them are only used for certain ceremonies, like baptisms.

Every item that is inside the church, on the altar, or worn by the priest and deacons have a special meaning that always reminds us of Jesus Christ. For example, there are candles all over the church. We don't need candles in order to see indoors anymore. We have electric lights. But the candles are there to symbolize the light and warmth of Christ in our lives.



### SCRIPTURE SOURCE

"If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to that person, and then come and offer your gift."  
*Matthew 5:23-24*

This quote from the Gospel of Matthew is part of a sermon that Jesus gave to his followers. Here, he is saying that we need to share peace and love with each other. Even if we are in church, in front of the altar, before we do anything else, we need to be at peace with our Christian brothers and sisters. That's where the Kiss of Peace comes in.



## In the Armenian Tradition

Every Sunday, there is a moment in the Badarak when we greet each other with a “holy kiss.” Of course, it’s not the same kiss we give friends and family when we greet them.

The earliest Christians greeted each other this way. Look at Romans 16: 16 and 2 Corinthians 13:12. What words do they both repeat?

So, during the service, we, too, turn to each other and share a symbolic greeting to express our unity and love – both for Jesus and each other. You have already shared it many times when you’ve been in church. We don’t actually kiss, but we put our hand on our heart, lean toward each other (right shoulder, then left), while we share the very ancient Armenian greeting.

The interesting part is how the Kiss of Peace “travels” around the church, given from one person to the next. It starts at the altar, from the priest to the deacon to the ushers who come forward to receive it from him.

Then the ushers bring the kiss to the pews, where they exchange the greeting with the person sitting at the end of each pew. Each person who receives the kiss then gives it to the person next to them. Since you are both giving and receiving the greeting, you will always say both parts of the greeting.

Here it is:

Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetzav!

Քրիստոս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ

Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun krisdosee!

Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի

The greeting in English is

Christ is revealed among us!

Blessed is the revelation of Christ!



## BIBLE BYTES

*Jesus talked about placing an “offering” on the altar. In those days, people who attended the Temple would bring all sorts of offerings to present to God, including birds and animals. As Christians, we offer ourselves at the altar when we receive Holy Communion. We should do this with a pure and sincere heart, at peace with everyone.*

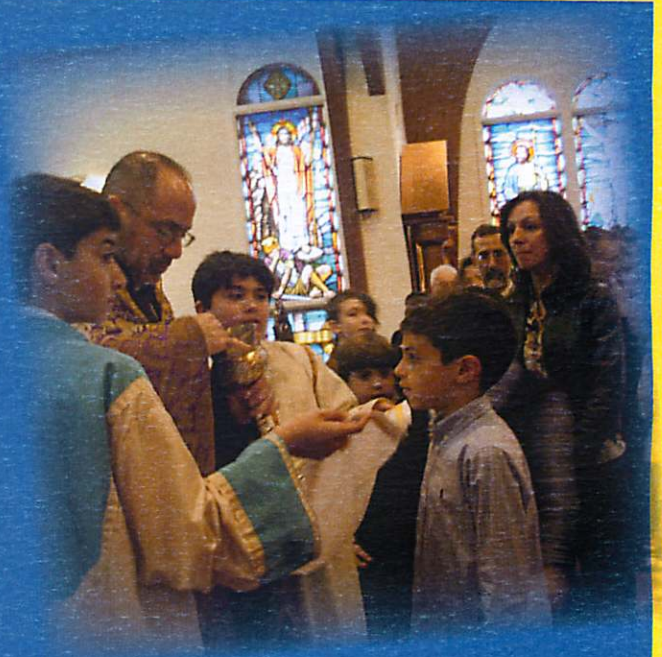






*Last week, we learned about some of the basic gestures of Badarak. List them here.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_



## Well Versed

“Greet one another with a holy kiss.”  
*Romans 16:16*

## Family Focus

The children learned the history and practice of the Kiss of Peace. We attended church specifically to observe and itemize the church vessels as well as participate in the passing of the Kiss as a class. When we returned to class, we reviewed some of the interesting things we saw.

## Living Your Faith

1. Review the Scripture Source section of this lesson with your children. It is a beautiful reminder to all of us to be at peace and harmony with others.
2. Practice the Kiss of Peace with your family.
  - Kreesdos ee mech mer haydnetsav! (Christ is revealed among us.)
  - Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee! (Blessed is the revelation of Christ.)