

We Worship God

A SUNDAY PEOPLE (OVERVIEW)

UNIT

5

LESSON
ONE

From Our Hearts to God

Praise the Lord!

*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.*

*Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.*

*Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet
praise him with the harp and lyre,
Praise him with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and flute,
praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.*

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!*

1. What sounds are you hearing?
2. How do you think whoever wrote this was feeling?
3. What instruments would you want to play while praying this psalm?



MY WORLD

Karen just didn't feel like going to church one morning. It was a beautiful summer day and she was going to the neighborhood pool after church with friends. The last thing she felt like doing was sitting in church, since she would be thinking of other things anyway.

She told her mom who just smiled and said, "You know Karen, it's fine if once in a while you don't want to go to church. But I just want you to understand one thing. When we go to church, we can forget what's going on in our lives. In fact, we really *should!*"



Because church is about leaving our own private selves at the door as we walk in and *becoming* the church. You can't be the Church by yourself! That takes all of us being together. And that happens on Sundays. When we pray in church, we're praying with one voice, really feeling the words and sharing the feeling.

Jesus asked us to remember him in this special way and when we do we're stronger in our faith and in everything we do. So it might be a good idea to come with us today, forget about your afternoon plans, and be the Church. What do you say?"

How would you have answered?

Getting Closer to God

It is good to be in church with God and our church family. As Jesus himself said, he will be with us when we gather in church. We are people who worship God. We come together in his special place to thank him, praise him, become stronger in our faith in him. We are a Sunday People. Sunday was the day Jesus rose from the dead and it became the first and holiest day of the week for Christians. It is our special day, our special time to be with God and each other.

Unscramble these words which list some reasons why we attend church.

pwosirh _____

apyr _____

gnis _____

momuncino _____

Finish the sentence:

In church I can _____.

Some feelings I have in church are _____.

What I like most about church is _____.

I am a Sunday person because _____.



GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"For wherever two or three have come together in my name I am right there among them!"

Matthew 18:20



Our Armenian Way

Our worship service is called the Divine Liturgy. In Armenian it is **SOORP BADARAK** which means holy sacrifice. The service is the same today as it has been for hundreds of years. It is formal which means it follows a routine. This is important when everyone needs to be praying together. It has four main parts.

1. Everyone Gets Ready (PREPARATION)
2. We Listen to God's Lessons (SYNAXIS)
3. We Share Jesus in Communion (EUCCHARIST)
4. We Are Blessed and Sent Back Into the World (LAST BLESSING AND DISMISSAL)

The important focus of the BADARAK is Holy Communion or Eucharist. It is "the main event." During the BADARAK we are experiencing and hearing Jesus' teachings. Then we share in him through the bread and wine of Holy Communion which has become his body and blood through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Look at Luke 22:14-19. Retell what happened in your own words.

What did Jesus ask his disciples, and all of us, to do?



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, thank you for offering yourself to us in the gift of bread and wine. We remember you every Sunday on the day that is set aside for resting in God and remembering you. Amen.



Taking a Closer Look

Can you tell in which part of the BADARAK each picture belongs?



Time to Celebrate

LOOK UP LIST

1. Page 1 - What do the priests clothe themselves with?
2. Page 5 - What is the priest doing? (Hint: We do it later in the Liturgy.)
3. Page 6 top half - To Whom do we want the priest to remember us? (Hint: It is a title of Jesus.)
4. Page 14 - What is the version of Soorp Asdvadz we sing for Easter?
5. Page 22 - What are the words of the blessing the priest gives? (Hint: There's a cross in front of them.)
6. Page 25 - Twice the priest asks "Who is the king of glory?" and answers himself. Write the answer the priest gives the second time he asks the question.
7. Page 32 - What are we asked to do at the bottom of the page?
8. Page 37 - Three times the choir sings something we are asking the Lord to do. What does the choir sing?
9. Page 44 - At the bottom of the page, what does the priest tell us to do in holiness?
10. Page 55 - What does the priest tell us do as we leave the church?



FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we learned how important it is for us to attend church on Sunday and worship with our fellow Christians. We identified ourselves as "Sunday people." We looked at the BADARAK as a reminder each Sunday of God's desire to be with us; his son Jesus Christ sacrificed himself, died on the cross, and then rose from the dead on a Sunday so that we could regain paradise. Jesus tells us to remember him by receiving Communion. The children made a craft to review the parts of the Badarak and played a relay race to look things up in the Badarak service book.

Living Our Faith

1. Attend Badarak as a family on days when there is no Sunday School.
2. Ask your child to tell you everything they know about the Divine Liturgy; review his or her lesson together, discussing the photos.