

Let Us Bow Down Before God!

Jesus – This is My Word

UNIT
2
Lesson
Four

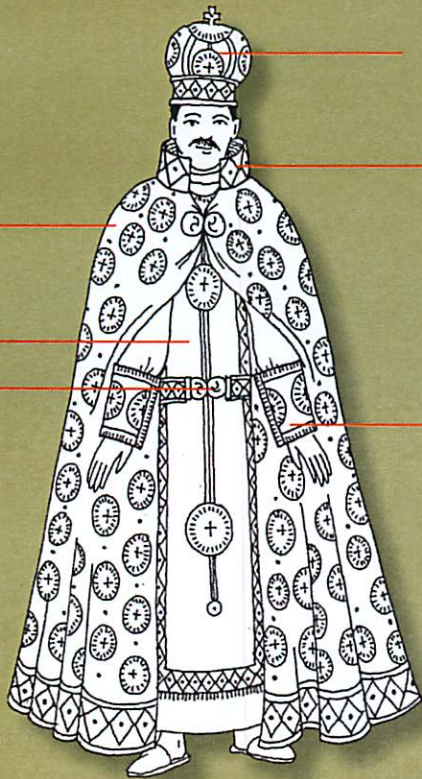


Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...
Dear Lord, help us to find the meaning of your life and teaching in our own lives. Let us learn from your love and use its power to love others. May the words we read in the Bible live in our daily actions. Amen.

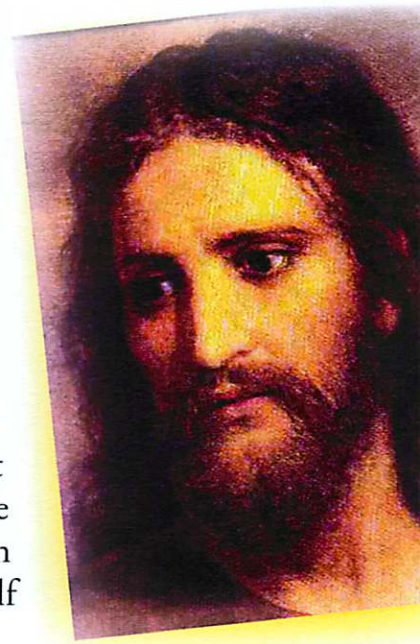
Hye-Q

Write the correct vestment name on each line. Extra credit if you know it in Armenian!



Daily Bread

The Gospels are a very important part of the Bible that tell the story of Jesus' life. There are four Gospels in the Bible and they are the first four books of the New Testament. They are named after the people who wrote them: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Even though each of them tells the same basic story, they all give different details about Jesus, his life, his teachings, and different things that happened to him and to the disciples. The most important thing about these books is that they contain the words that Jesus himself spoke.



We also learn about his death and resurrection and how the disciples saw him again after he rose from the dead. Jesus told them they should go out into the world and make disciples of *all* people.

These books are the foundation of Christian life. During our Soorp Badarak every week, passages from the Gospels are not just read out loud. The deacon chants them, almost like a song.



Before the deacon begins to chant the Gospel, the priest makes the sign of the cross over the people, saying, “Khaghaghootyoon amenetsoon [Peace to all].” and we reply by saying *Yev unt hokvooyt koom*. [And also to you.] Finally, when the Gospel is announced, the deacon asks us to be attentive and then we sing *Aseh Asdvadz* [God is speaking]”

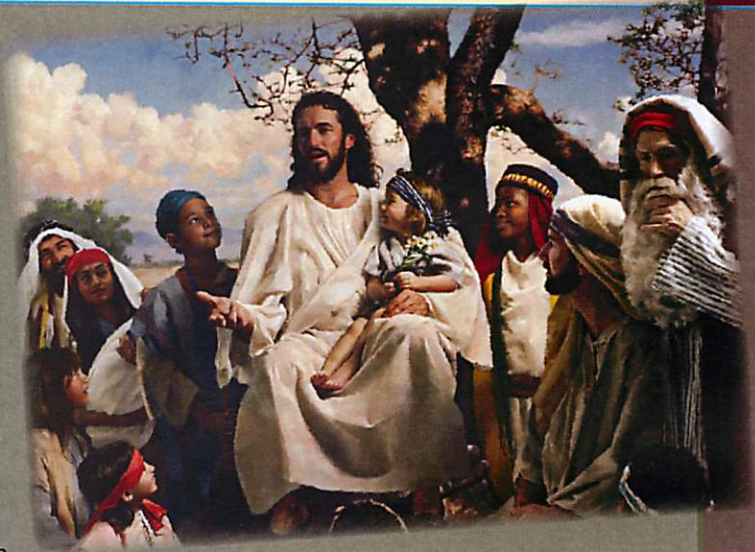
They do all of this preparation and ritual to show that these words are important life lessons for us to learn.

SCRIPTURE SOURCE

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16

In the verses above from Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus is teaching people who have gathered around him to hear his inspiring words. We refer to the whole speech as “The Sermon on the Mount,” and there are many famous parts of this sermon. Here Jesus is reminding everyone that they (and we) should not hide our good words and deeds. The good things that we do bring glory to God.



Well Versed

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

Matthew 5:8

In the Armenian Tradition

The Gospel Procession

Since the Gospel contains the words of Jesus, in the Armenian Church, we have a special book of those Gospels on the altar. It has a cover made of gold or silver. The deacon calls everyone to attention by chanting *Broskhoomeh*, "Be attentive." He holds the Gospel book in front of his face as he reads to show the people in church how important the words are.

Then, the altar servers follow the deacon as he walks around the holy altar. This is called a "procession." Just as we honor a hero by organizing a parade, in church we honor Jesus by processing around the altar with the Gospel book that contains his Word. At the end of the procession, the deacon lowers the Gospel book so that the person who is reading the Bible that day kisses it as a sign of their faith.



**CELEBRATE
WITH GOD**



The gospel writers Matthew and John were two of the twelve disciples of Jesus. Matthew was a tax collector. He wrote his view of the story in Hebrew soon after leaving Jesus. John spent his life preaching in Greece and western Turkey. He wrote his version of Jesus' story toward the end of his life, in Greek.

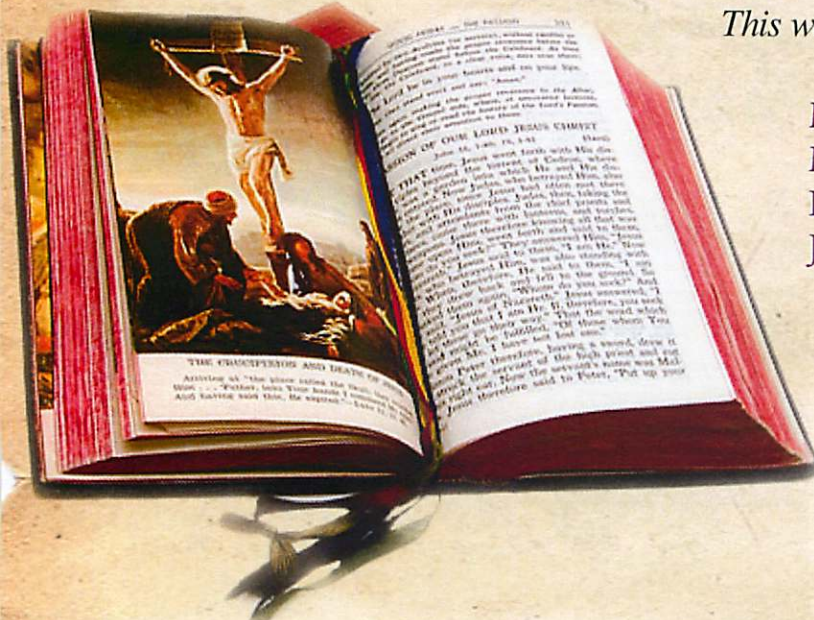
Did you know...!?

BIBLE BYTES

Gospel Avedaran Աւետարան

The word "Gospel" comes from two Old English words: "God" meaning "good," and "spel" meaning "news." This was indeed the good news of Jesus Christ!

Matthew	Մատթեոս	Mateos
Mark	Մարկոս	Margos
Luke	Լուկաս	Ghoogas
John	Յովհաննէս	Hovhaness



Family Focus

The children learned that the Gospels are the most important part of the Bible for us because they contain the words and actions of Jesus. We attended church to prayerfully observe the Gospel procession; the children noticed with what reverence the deacon held up the Gospel book as he proceeded around the altar and then offered the book to the reader to kiss. Students made their own little Gospel book using an Armenian miniature of the Gospel writer Matthew.

Living Your Faith

1. Look at the little Gospel book your child made in class today. Read the verse together. Then post it in a place where everyone can see it.
2. Examine a Bible together, looking at the four Gospels; review their names in English and Armenian. Read a story together.
3. Before meals this week, read from the Gospels.