

Jesus Taught Us Who He Was



WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for always being with us -- when we are happy, when we are sad, when we are frightened and even when we have done something to make you unhappy. Amen.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

The weather forecaster said there would be heavy rains some time in the afternoon.

It was almost 3:00 o'clock and time for school dismissal. "Walkers are dismissed." Jack put on his jacket

and his backpack and left school to walk home. Dark clouds appeared in the sky. The winds began to blow. The rain fell heavily from the sky. Jack got wetter and wetter. How he wished he was already home!

At the end of the path, he saw someone walking towards him. As the person approached, he recognized his mother! He ran towards her. She held him close as they walked home together under the umbrella.

GOD'S WORD TO US

.....

One evening, Jesus and his friends were sailing across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was so tired that he went to the back of the boat and fell asleep.

Suddenly, the wind began to blow fiercely. The waves began to rise, and water filled the boat. The disciples were so frightened that they woke Jesus. "Master, wake up! We are frightened!" Jesus said to the stormy sea: "Quiet! Be calm!" And the wind and sea grew still.



Jesus turned to his disciples. "Don't you know I am with you? You do not have to be afraid!" The disciples wondered, "Who is this that even the wind and the waves obey him?" *Mark 4:35-41*

WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

.....

Think about the story of the storm. Why were the disciples frightened? What did Jesus tell them?

The disciples were afraid in the storm. They were afraid that their boat would sink. What would happen to them? They forgot, for a moment, that Jesus was with them. They were not alone.

Have you heard the sound of the wind as it blows around your house in a storm?

Have you heard the trees rustling outside your family room window?

Have you heard the loud claps of thunder during a rainstorm?

Perhaps you, like the disciples, looked for someone to comfort you.

From the story of the storm, Jesus helps you to understand that he is always with you. He is saying, "Do not be afraid. I am with you."



OUR ARMENIAN WAY



People gathered to watch John the Baptist baptize Jesus in the River Jordan. They heard a voice saying, "This is my Son. I am very pleased with him." It was God's voice. At that very moment, a white dove appeared above Jesus. The people heard the words of God, saw the beautiful dove and knew that Jesus was the Son of God.

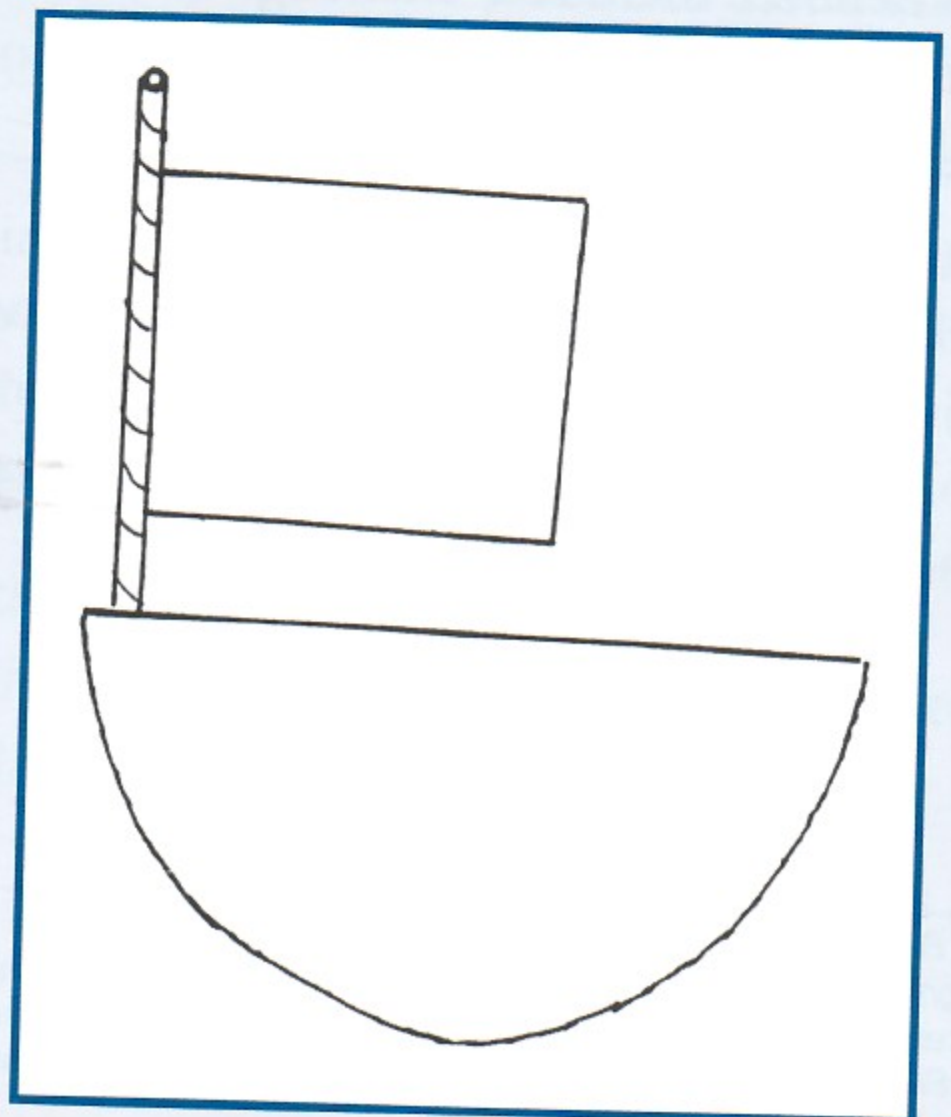


There is a feast day in the Armenian Church called the Feast of Theophany. It is celebrated on January 6. It is the day on which both the birth and baptism of Jesus are remembered. The priest uses a bowl filled with water to remind us of the river in which Jesus was baptized, a cross to remind us of Jesus and a dove to remind us of God and the Holy Spirit.

After the priest blesses the water, the people in church take some holy water home in small containers to keep or to give to someone who is sick. The blessing of the water is called Churorhnek.

WE CELEBRATE

"Do not be afraid. I am with you."





FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH

Having faith in God was the theme of today's lesson. Jesus' disciples fear for their lives when a storm suddenly arises. They awaken Jesus who calms them and the sea. "Don't you know I am with you? You do not have to be afraid."

LIVING OUR FAITH

By your words and deeds, you are also saying to your child – "Don't worry. I am here with you." Think of how many times you have calmed anxious moments, stopped tears, answered questions and volunteered to help. In all things, you have supported and strengthened your child.

Choose an activity to do together.

1. Together, with your child, tell the story of the storm. One of you can be the storyteller and the other can manipulate the boat.
2. Whenever there is a 'challenge' in the life of your child, remember, together, the story of the storm and the words of Jesus.
3. A rainstorm can be frightening. But think together with your child of all the beautiful gifts water gives us: life (we need it to live), the beauty of oceans and lakes, transportation on rivers, pleasure in swimming, the pleasure of a cool glass of water on a hot day, etc.

