

Jesus, Lord of My Life

WE ARE JESUS' DISCIPLES TOO!

UNIT

1

LESSON
SEVEN

From Our Hearts to God

Jesus, you are my teacher. Help me to teach others about you. Amen.

MY WORLD

“At Armenian School last week, we learned a dance,” James announced to his family around the dinner table. “When Mr. Balian told us we were going to dance the girls got excited and the boys all groaned, but it turned out to be a lot of fun.”

“What dance did you learn?” Dad asked.

“It was called the “hal-lah”, I think,” James said.

“I know that dance,” Mom said with a smile. “It is lots of fun. I think I have the music for it. After dinner let’s all try it.”

Everyone helped clean up after dinner and then James and Robert pushed the furniture out of the way in the living room while Mom put on the music. Dad grabbed the baby and started swaying.

“I’ll show you what to do, Robert. Watch me.” James put his arm over his brother’s shoulder and they began to hop forward. Dad put the baby on the floor and joined in. Mom grabbed Suzanne and they both followed the steps; she was only three years old and needed lots of help learning.

The family danced around playing the music over and over until everyone was laughing. “Time to do homework, boys,” Dad said as he turned off the music. “That was a good work out!”

“Mom, keep that music out. I want to teach my cousins that dance when they come over Sunday after church,” James said.

- Can you think of a skill or some information you learned that was really exciting and wonderful?
- Do you like sharing what you learn with others?
- Are you happy when you see what you have taught makes others excited and happy?



GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

He has shown me the path to life, and he makes me glad by being near me.

Acts 2:28



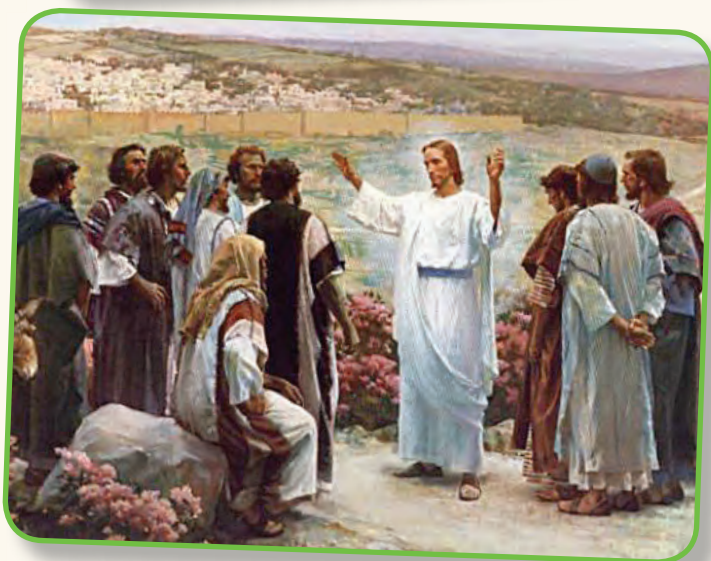
Getting Closer to God

Jesus picked twelve men to teach what was wonderful and exciting about God. The twelve followed Jesus everywhere and learned from him. They were amazed at his miracles, thrilled when he answered tough questions people asked him, and touched when they saw him help others. Jesus brought people closer to God. The people were so much happier. The twelve original disciples and the other men and women who also followed Jesus wanted to be just like their Lord. They wanted to be his *disciples*.

A disciple is someone who learns from a special teacher.

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, his disciples knew they must continue what Jesus was doing. They were now the teachers and others followed them. They told the people the **GOOD NEWS** that Jesus made it possible for us to live a truly complete and happy and good life and to be with God in heaven after we die. The disciples had a mission to teach people everywhere.

The Good News is that Jesus rose from the dead and gave us the promise of a truly good life on earth and eternal life with God after our life on earth is finished.



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Jesus, you are the Lord of my life. Amen.

Our Armenian Way

St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew are the two disciples of Jesus who came to Armenia. St. Thaddeus was the first disciple to go to Armenia. He preached in Syria and places in present-day Iraq before he entered Armenia in 44 AD and made many converts.



A convert is one who changes from one belief to another.

Among those he converted was Princess Santookht. Her father did not want her to be Christian. He wanted his daughter to worship his pagan gods. When she refused, he had her put in prison. The king had St. Thaddeus killed in 66 AD. Finally the king had his guards bring his daughter to him and put a crown and a sword on a table for her to choose. If she chose the crown, she would become a pagan queen. If she chose the sword, she would die with her new faith. She chose the truth of Jesus Christ over the false gods of her father. The king had his guards take her out and she was put to death.

Santookht was a martyr. A martyr is someone who dies for his or her faith.

St. Bartholomew (who is also called Nathanael) went to Armenia after St. Thaddeus. He preached in Arabia and Persia (present day Iran) before going to Armenia. There he was martyred in 68 AD.

Christianity spread in Armenia but in secret as the pagan kings would have Christians killed. Later, in 301 AD, King Drtad, Queen Ashkhen and the king's sister Princess Khosrovitookht were converted to Christianity by St. Gregory the Enlightener. Armenia became the first Christian nation.

An “Enlightener” brings the light of God to the people.

Churches were built. Seminaries were started to teach men how to be priests. About 100 years later, in 406 A.D., St. Mesrob created the Armenian alphabet so the Bible could be written in the language of the people. Writings from the early church leaders were translated into and written in Armenian so we could be the new disciples of Christ.

Time to Celebrate

The Followers of Christ

(Sung to the tune of America, the Beautiful)

How beautiful are our Lord's words.

He taught us how to pray.

His sacrifice upon the cross

gave us new life today.

(chorus)

To be with God, to love our God

to have God's love always.

We are disciples now you see,

the followers of Christ.

From Pentecost Saint Thaddeus

went to our Hayasdan

to spread the Good News of God's love.

Armenian hearts were won.

(chorus)

Saint Santookht's choice
was to believe

and follow Jesus Christ.

Bartholomew came to
Armenia too.

Armenians soon rejoiced.

(chorus)

Saint Gregory, he healed
the king

and Drtad was baptized.

Armenia was the first of lands

to become Christianized.

(chorus)

Today we sing with joy and pride
and love of our dear church.

Armenians everywhere rejoice,

because we have our church.

(chorus)



FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Our lesson today explored the line of people of the Church - from its founder, Jesus Christ, right up to our own discipleship as we learn about Christ and then teach others. There are many ways we can teach. The best way is to be a good example of Christianity to our family and to others.

Living Our Faith

1. Read **Saints for Children from the Tradition of the Armenian Church** – let each family member pick a story to read to the rest of the family and assign a night to each to read the story aloud to all. (Your Sunday School has copies of this book to borrow or you can purchase one.)
2. At the dinner table have each family member tell “What I learned about Jesus” (a story or fact that is of particular interest and importance to the member). The next night tell “What I will tell someone about Jesus.” A disciple shares his knowledge of God with others.