



Unit One: Circles of Faith

Lesson Three: Jesus, Son

Key Concepts

1. God the Father gave us the gift of his Son.
2. Isaiah's prophecy of God's promise came true.
3. We remember Jesus and his sacrifice in our church hymn, *Vortee Asdoozoh*.
4. St. Nersess Shnorhali wrote *Jesus, Son*, a poem about Jesus' life and crucifixion.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Share the story of a favorite birthday gift (and draw it).
2. Read and discuss a story about a boy and his first camp experience.
3. Examine the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7 about the birth of Christ and God's promise.
4. Define the faith word 'prophet.'
5. Create a royal coat of arms for Christ.
6. Hear the hymn "Vortee Asdoodzo" and sing the first phrase.
7. Read about St. Nersess Shnorhali and his poem *Jesus, Son*.
8. Create a thank-you card for God.

Materials Needed

Children's Bible preferable such as *The Beginner's Bible*

Optional: Examples of different Coat of Arms from the Internet or books

Optional: A recording of Handel's Messiah as they sing Isaiah 9:6-7.

Crayons, markers

Assorted color construction paper

Recording of or, preferably, a volunteer to help review "Vortee Asdoozoh"

Note to the Teacher

Next week's craft requires a group photo of the parish or Sunday School for each child. Check with the church office or Sunday School to acquire one. Decide on what type of material you want to use for the frame – decorating it with puzzle pieces would be particularly appropriate. Make sure students can write a title on the top of the frame: "We are God's Family."

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Ask them “who did we thank God for in our prayer?” Yes, for Jesus.
2. Read **Let’s Discover**. Begin the discussion, sharing your story of a special birthday gift that you received and explaining why it was so important to you. Call on students to share their story, asking the questions in the lesson as they share. Have them illustrate their favorite gift in the space allotted. 10 min.
3. Read **Our Story**. Ask children a few questions after reading the story. “Why was Daniel scared?” (going to a new, unfamiliar place without his friend) “How did his parents comfort him?” (made promises) “Have you ever felt like Daniel?” Allow students to share similar experiences. Segue with “We just read about how the solid promises of Daniel’s parents came true and everything worked out well. This was important for Daniel’s happiness. Now let’s see how *God’s* promises to us are the basis for our real and true happiness.” 10 min.
4. Pick up the Children’s Bible and open to Isaiah 9: 6-7; then read **God’s Word**. Write the words ‘Isaiah’ and ‘prophet’ on the board. Explain that Isaiah was a prophet from the Old Testament. God chose prophets such as Isaiah to give a special message on God’s behalf. A prophet such as Isaiah would deliver the message of God’s will and help people see right from wrong. The message that a prophet gives is called a “prophecy.” Have the class repeat the words Isaiah, prophet and prophecy. Refer to the **Faith Word**. Ask the class what they think the prophecy of Isaiah is in the reading. (birth of Jesus) 5 min.
5. Teach or read **We Learn About God**. Write the five descriptive titles of Jesus from the passage in Isaiah: Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. As you write each word on the board, ask the class what other words come to mind when they hear this word describing Jesus (you’re looking for synonymns). Here are some examples in case there is a lull:

Wonderful	Counselor	Mighty	Everlasting	Peace
Perfect, Great Brilliant Magnificent Outstanding Best Super	Guide Advisor Listener Friend	Powerful Strong Awesome Enormous Amazing	Forever Eternal Endless Unending Never-ending Permanent	Calm Harmony Goodwill Tranquility

Write their responses on the board. Explain that many families, especially royal families, have what is called a family coat of arms. A coat of arms contains symbols that represent important qualities of that person or family. Point to the example in the text (and show some examples, if you have them). Have students think about the titles given to Jesus in Isaiah’s prophecy and have them create a Jesus coat of arms in the space allotted by drawing pictures in each of the quadrants. Share their work with the class allowing time for explanations. 15 min.

6. Read and review **Our Armenian Way** as directed in the lesson. If you have a volunteer to quickly review the music to the first two words of the hymn, have him/her sing it with the children. (During a Sunday in Church, specifically point out the hymn so they can make the connection.) 5 min.
7. Then immediately begin the craft activity **Handmade With Love**. Ask the students if they send thank-you notes when they receive gifts. Tell them that writing a thank- you note is a nice habit to get into to express appreciation for a thoughtful deed or gift. Point out that God was very generous in sending his Son, Jesus. Ask the kids to compose a thank-you card for God and have them decorate it nicely. Distribute the construction paper and have

students write a line or two of thanks. A simple text example: **Dear God, thank you for sending us your Son, Jesus. Thank you for loving me all the time. You are the best! Love, _____.**

8. Clean-up. Encourage class to thank God daily for his love and gift of Jesus. Close with the prayer. “Heavenly Father, we thank you for all of your gifts, especially for your Son, Jesus whom you sent to us so that we could be with you forever. Amen.” 15 min.

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Lesson Four: Follow Me

Key Concepts

1. Jesus called forth a community of believers beginning with the twelve disciples.
2. All of God’s people are remembered during the Divine Liturgy (the prayer of St. John Chrysostom).
3. Deacons are special parish helpers of the church.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Read the Bible story of how Jesus invited the first disciples.
2. Complete a puzzle related to the Scripture.
3. Read and discuss a story about what the church is and our role in it.
4. Paraphrase Jesus’ calling of the twelve disciples.
5. Recite a memory poem on the 12 Disciples.
6. Reenact the liturgical prayer of St. John Chrysostom.
7. Complete a fill-in activity on how children can serve the church.
8. Define the faith word “deacon.”
9. Decorate a picture frame for a church family photo.

Materials Needed

Pencils, crayons, markers

Follow Me Math Puzzle handout from the back of this manual (see Procedure #2).

Completed puzzle with one piece missing- any type of puzzle (keep covered until Procedure #3)

Divine Liturgy books

Handmade With Love frame: Parish photo; inexpensive wooden frames (available from craft stores); decorating pieces such as shells, small foam shapes, stickers; craft glue; scissors

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Ask them: “Who makes up God’s family? They will probably respond with “all of us.”
2. Read **Let’s Discover**. For the answer to what happened next, distribute the Follow Me Math Puzzle and direct the children to complete it. (Answer: “At once they left their nets and followed him.”) Then continue with the story and ask children: “So what’s the first thing Jesus asks us to do? Yes, to *follow* him. He didn’t give out a textbook, he gathered people around him and he started building a *family of believers* which became the *church*. Now let’s read more about what that means.” 15 min.
3. Read **Our Story**. Ask class “Would any of you have asked the same question as Vartan?” Show the completed puzzle with the missing piece and comment that the puzzle can never be complete without all the pieces. Ask: “what could Vartan do in the church?” Brainstorm some ideas of jobs for Vartan in the church; list them on the board (some ideas: help in Sunday School, serve on the altar, pick up litter on the grounds of the church, help with a food drive, help in the church office). 5 min.