

# Being A Disciple... It's Not Just A Fan Club!

## LISTENING AND TALKING IN PRAYER

UNIT  
**2**  
LESSON  
ONE

### From Our Hearts to God

*Jesus, you have the wisdom of your Father. Give me that same wisdom so that I may always think good thoughts, speak good words, and do good works. Teach me how to stay away from unkind thoughts, words and actions. Show your loving kindness to all and especially to me because I always need your help. Amen.*

### MY WORLD

"I'll bet this is the best volcano project anyone has ever done," Armen said to his father.

"Why do you say that, Armen?" his dad asked.

"Ours shows the magma under the earth and the moving plates and the lava flowing up."

"You researched it and I had the know-how to show you how to make it work. We're a good team."

"We've had a really fun time working on it together. I like spending time with you working on stuff and talking, Dad."

"Maybe we should have a project time each week. We could work on all sorts of things," his father said. "There are some pieces of wood in the garage. Would you like to make a bird house next Saturday?"

The next day Armen and his dad set up the volcano at the Science Fair and Armen showed all the other fourth graders why it worked and how it worked.

Tommy shouted, "He didn't do it! It's not fair. His dad did it. Miss Jones, you said we had to do it all by ourselves."

Armen got angry. Tommy was being unkind to him again. Armen clenched his fists and grit his teeth. Just as he was about to shout something mean back to Tommy, Armen felt his father's hand on his shoulder. It was warm and calming. His anger subsided until he could speak without a mean voice.

"My dad showed me how to put it together, but he did not help me put it together. I did it all by myself. It took me lots of tries. Every time I failed, my dad showed me how to fix the problem, but he didn't fix it for me. I did it myself."

Miss Jones said, "Armen is lucky his father is a great mechanic. But all of you have terrific projects

whether you had guidance from your parents or not. They show your teachers you really understand the science lessons.”

Armen’s dad spoke softly to Tommy. “You showed the life cycle of the frog in a very clear and beautiful way. You are quite an artist. Your parents must be very proud of you.”

Tommy was still angry. “I did it all by myself. My dad is always traveling and my mom is too busy with my little sisters.”

“Well, then, your project not only shows the life cycle of the frog but it also shows a lot of determination on your part to do a super project,” Armen’s dad said.

Armen realized how lucky he was he had a dad that could spend time with him and help him. He realized Tommy was not just angry but jealous. “Tommy, why don’t you come over my house on Saturday? My dad and I are going to build a bird house. I think you would like to try it too.”

Again Armen felt his dad’s hand on his shoulder. It was soft and warm. It made him feel peaceful.

## Getting Closer to God

When we want to talk to someone, we say their name so they know we are talking to them.

The person whose name we call will usually turn and listen.

The same is true of God. When we pray, we call his name. He will listen to us.



### GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

*“You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you.”  
Luke 1: 28*





## Taking a Closer Look

When do we say....?

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...

Jesus, wisdom of the Father ...

### Our Armenian Way

Prayer has always been an important part of our Armenian way. We include God in all we do. Our daily life and church services and pious practices are full of prayer!

Check which prayer experiences you and your family have had:

- When we get a new apartment or house, we have a home blessing.
- When a baby is born, we have a baptism.
- Before a trip we pray for a safe journey. And when we arrive home, we thank God for our safe return.
- Before a test, I pray I will do well.
- When I see a beautiful sunset or how wonderfully the snowflakes fall or how amazing the autumn leaves are, I say prayers of thanks to God for this great earth he has created.
- When I go to bed at night I pray.
- When I wake up, I thank God for the peaceful sleep I had and a new day to experience.



WE ARE A PRAYERFUL PEOPLE!

# Time to Celebrate

Prayer Ball Toss



## RESPONDING IN FAITH

Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom that I may always think, speak, and do that which is good in your sight. Save me from evil thoughts, words, and deeds, and have mercy upon me, a great sinner.



### Sharing Our Faith

Today, the children learned about prayer. Since God is the most important person in our lives, communication with him is also essential. Students read about prayer in everyday life and participated in a "Prayer Ball Toss" that made us aware of how much there was to be grateful to God for and how good it felt to tell him about it.

### Living Our Faith

- Do at least one of these prayer activities this week.
  - 1. It's great when families pray together! Say the Lord's Prayer (Hayr Mer) at meals this week.
  - 2. The prayer conversation is not one-sided. Be silent and listen for God. He talks in many different ways including through the church, through the Bible, and through other people. Say a prayer together and then stay quiet for a few minutes.
  - 3. Share with your children the first prayer you learned and who taught it to you or what your favorite prayer is.
  - 4. Your child has a card with a wonderful Armenian prayer created by St. Nersess Shnorali. It is one of his 24 prayers that we say during the services of Great Lent. Say this prayer together this week as often as you can. If you speak Armenian, teach it to your fourth grader in Armenian as well as English. *Jesus, Wisdom of the Father* is a prayer for guidance and help. As you guide your child to adulthood and help him or her become a faithful, prayerful, worshiping member of the Armenian Church, remember that God is counting on you.