

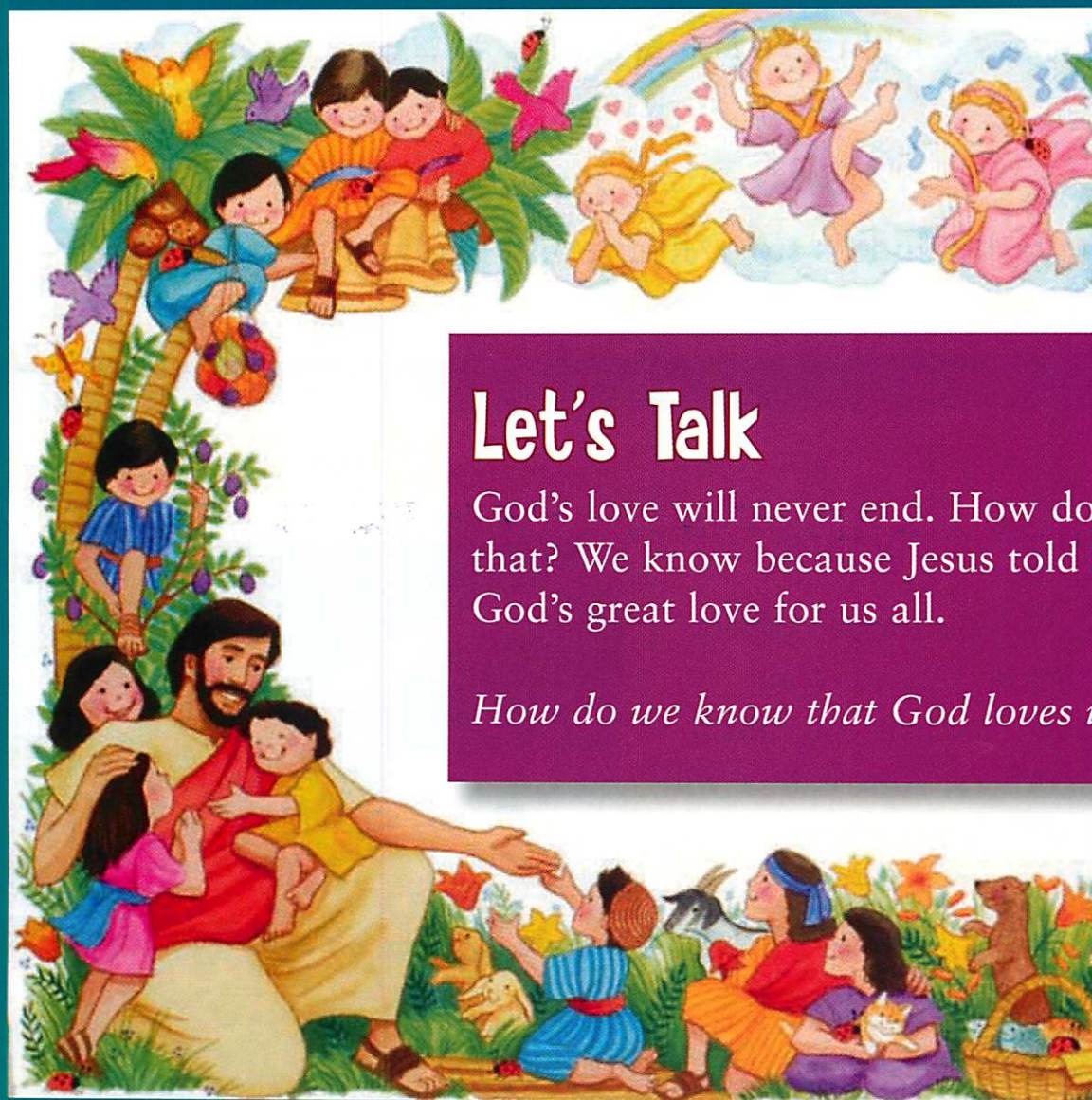
# Unit Four\* The Church Family\* Being Together

## The Church Forgives Us in God's Name



### We Speak to God

Dear Jesus, help us open our hearts so that we may forgive others as you taught us to do. +Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.



### Let's Talk

God's love will never end. How do we know that? We know because Jesus told us of God's great love for us all.

*How do we know that God loves us?*



## Listen to This

Jesus loved to tell stories, and he told this one. A loving father had two sons. The younger son asked his father for money. The father gave him his share. He took it and left home. He spent all his money in foolish ways, and soon he had no place to stay and nothing to eat. He knew this would hurt his father. He wanted to go home to tell him how sorry he was.



When the young man was near his home, his father ran out to meet him. He gave his son a big hug. The son told his father he was sorry. The father said, “Let us celebrate with a feast, my son. I am so glad you have come home.”

*(Luke 15:11-31)*

God is like the father in this story, loving and ready to forgive.

## God Speaks to Us

Jesus Christ says, “If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you. But if you don’t forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

*Matthew 6:14-15*





# We Learn About God

Elizabeth was in bed reading a book. She was waiting for her mother to come in to kiss her goodnight. She came in, after tucking in Elizabeth's baby brother. She sat at the edge of the bed and said, "Before saying your prayer, I want you to think about your day. Did you say or do anything that might have hurt your friends or your classmates?"

Elizabeth looked down. She was feeling sad, and she knew why. Between sobs, she told her mother the story. Her friend Lori played with someone else at recess. Elizabeth was upset. She wanted Lori to play with only her. So she pushed Lori and walked away. Lori told their teacher, and Elizabeth had to spend some of her recess at her desk. She felt so badly that she acted in anger.



## Hearts and Hands

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Please join our class for communion next Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_. I will be so happy to receive communion with you!



Love,

Her mother hugged her and asked, "What will you do when you see Lori tomorrow?"

"I will tell her how sorry I am that I got angry and pushed her."

Her mother answered, "Lori will forgive you because she is a kind and caring friend."



# Our Armenian Way

The Sacrament of Penance is the way we can receive and celebrate God's forgiveness.

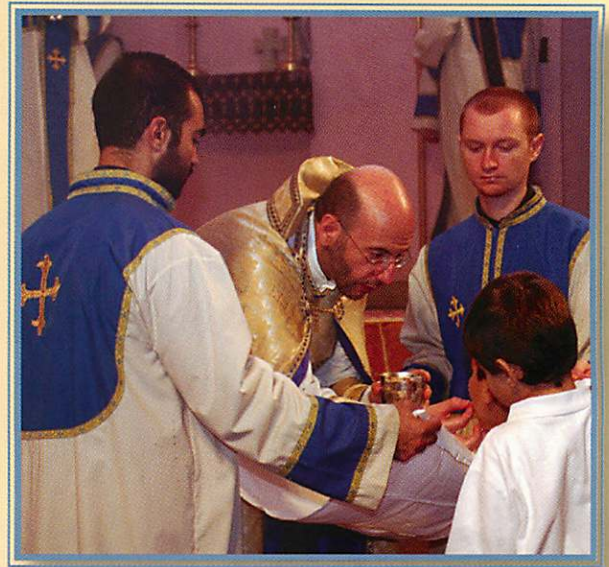
## • How do we prepare for Holy Communion?

We think about what we have said and done.

Is there something we said that we are sorry for?

Is there something we did that we are sorry for because it was hurtful?

We listen to the deacon read the Prayer of Confession, and we say "Megha Asdoodzo" (I have sinned before God) several times during the prayer. The priest replies, "May God forgive you."



## • What do we say before the priest places the Communion on our tongues?

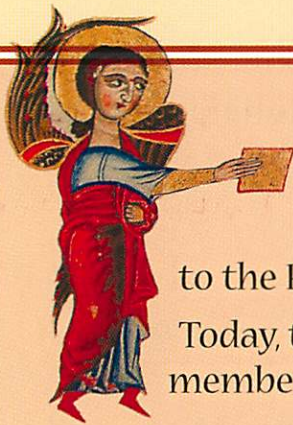
We approach the priest, cross ourselves, and say again, "Megha Asdoodzo."

We put our tongues out just a little bit. The priest places the Communion on the tongue, and we swallow it.

## • What do we do after we receive Holy Communion?

We make the sign of the cross again and move to one side to wait for the priest's blessing.

## For My Family



## Sharing Our Faith

**M**egha Asdoodzo. These are the words spoken by those who wish to receive Holy Communion. It is a moving response to the Prayer of Confession.

Today, the children prepared an invitation inviting you and other family members to take Holy Communion together. We hope you will join us.

## Living Our Faith

1. Join your child and his/her classmates to take Holy Communion together.
2. Encourage your child to tell you the story about the man who had two sons. (The Prodigal Son, Luke 15: 11-31)
3. Review with your child by asking: "What do we say before the priest places the Communion on our tongues?"