

- Glue on a ribbon or a strip of paper for a handle.
- Distribute blank small eggs copied onto cardstock (2 sheets per student).
- Students cut out the eggs- as many as you want to use.
- Brainstorm ideas of sacrifices\* to write on the eggs (look at suggestions below and write them on the board).
- Have students choose their sacrifices, write them and color the eggs.
- Place the eggs in the envelope.

At home, each morning after prayer, take an egg from the envelope and read it.

Place it in front of your basket.

Make the sacrifice during the day.

After night prayers, put the egg in the basket.

8. Clean-up. Close with the prayer: “Dear Jesus, blessed is your resurrection! Thank you for your sacrifice and love. Amen.” 22 min.

*\*List of Sacrifices*

Help someone today	Help with the housework
Make someone happy	Pray for someone who is sick
Clean your room	Do the dishes
Tell your parents you love them	Don't eat candy today
Play with someone who is lonely	Don't watch television today
Smile at someone	No video games or technology
Obey in school	Thank your parents for all that they do
Set the table	Say something kind to someone

## Unit Four: Celebrating Jesus: The Church Year

### Lesson Five: Ascension

#### Key Concepts

1. We remember and celebrate on the Feast of Ascension (*Hampartzoom*) that Jesus rose to heaven 40 days after his resurrection.
2. In addition, Hampartzoom is marked by popular songs, dance, and a game called *vijagakhagh*.

#### Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a group activity placing the Bible verse words about the Ascension in order.
2. Determine the theme of the lesson using context clues.
3. Discuss a story about a young boy and his uncle.
4. Read Luke 24: 50-53 and Acts 1: 1-11.
5. Examine the story of Ascension and related traditions.
6. Listen to a popular Hampartzoom song, *Hampartzoom Yayla*
7. Color and decorate an Armenian miniature of the Ascension.

#### Materials Needed

Helium balloons blown up with a ribbon attached (at least 16 of them) make sure you have one for every student (see option\* in procedure #1)

Index cards – each containing the following underlined words: **Jesus lifted up his hands, blessed his disciples and rose up to heaven. Luke 24: 50-51.**

Hole-punch

Access to a CD of Hampartzoom Yayla song

Full color picture of Ascension (from back of this manual)

Pencils, crayons, markers or coloring pencils  
Gold colored glitter or gold glitter glue  
8.5" x 11" size construction paper to serve as a frame for their coloring page

## Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**.
2. Students will already notice the helium balloons floating in the class. Say: "I am going to give each of you a card with a word written on it. You are all going to work together and try to put the words in order to reveal a message." Distribute the index cards to the students (make sure they have been mixed up). Have them stand in a circle reading each index card and try to put the words in order to spell out the verse. (If your class is smaller, then double-up on the cards. If the class is larger than 16 then they can work in teams of 2.) \*If helium balloons are not available for some reason, then you can improvise by drawing balloon outlines with a string attached on the board and have them place the cards in the balloon with a piece of masking tape. Once the verse is in order help the students attach the card to a balloon. "At the end of the class, just as Jesus ascended to heaven, we will release our balloons." Have students complete the fill-in activity and see if they can discover the lesson topic for the day. (Answers: Ascension, Easter, hands, disciples, heaven.) 15 min.
3. Read and discuss **Our Story**. Ask if the students could identify with the situation. Have they ever looked forward to something and then things didn't work out? How would they have reacted to the same situation? Did Raffi have the right attitude? 5 min.
4. Read **God's Word**. Ask: "What do you think Jesus' disciples thought when he said he was going to return to God the Father? How do you think they felt when he left?"
5. Introduce **Faith Word**. Point out to students that the root word in "Ascension" is "ascend" which means to "go up." Have them practice saying Ham-par-tzoom in Armenian. 8 min.
6. Read **We Learn About God**. Ask children if the number 40 seems familiar in the Bible. (Noah's ark, Jesus in the desert, 40 days of Lent, 40-day hokehankist – requiem performed after the 40-day period of mourning, etc.)
7. Read or teach **Our Armenian Way**. Ask class if they have ever heard or participated in any of these cultural events for *Hampartzoom*. Play *Hampartzoom Yayla*. Mention that in the famous Armenian Opera called *Anoush*, there is an entire scene dedicated to the vijag and this song is sung. 10 min.
8. **Handmade With Love**. Distribute coloring page, have them color and decorate the halos with gold glitter. Glue coloring sheet to construction paper as a frame. Cut and glue Armenian/English text description as well.
9. Clean-up. Release balloons outside (or, better for the environment, in the classroom), saying "Thank you Jesus!" Close with the prayer: "Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for sending us your beloved Son, Jesus and for all he taught us. Amen." 22 min.

## Unit Four: Celebrating Jesus: The Church Year

### Lesson Six: Pentecost

#### Key Concepts

1. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised.
2. Acts 2: 1-12 contains the story of Pentecost and the birth of the Christian Church.
3. Pentecost, *Hokekaloost*, is an important feast day in the Armenian Church and has a special hymn (Arakelo Aghavno) dedicated to it.