

# We Are A Family of Faith

## *We Belong to a Faith Family Now*

UNIT  
4  
Lesson  
Two



### Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit ...  
Dear Lord, thank you for all the people in our parish that help our church family. Bless our priest, our parish council, our deacons and choir members, and everyone. Help us be strong and happy in our faith. Amen.

### Hye-Q

*The history of the church began with Jesus. Put the following names in order of how the story of Jesus came to you: my grandparents, St. Gregory, me, Bartholomew, King Drtad, my parents, the first Armenian Church, Thaddeus.*

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. Jesus | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ |          |



### IN THE ARMENIAN TRADITION

In the Armenian Church of America, there are many parishes all over the country that are connected to each other by their faith in Jesus and their roots in the history and traditions of the Armenian Church. Each parish is similar to yours. They all began with a group of Armenians living in a certain place. Eventually, they grew in number and asked the bishop of the Diocese to

send them a priest so they could become a true church family.

In the same way, there are Armenian churches all over the world. And the Mother Church for all of them is in Armenia: Holy Etchmiadzin.

# Daily Bread

The first followers of Jesus were very excited about their faith! They knew that Jesus would come again and that he had promised them the Holy Spirit to guide them. The Holy Spirit did come to all the disciples. He came in the form of flames over each disciples' head. (We remember that day on the feast of Pentecost.) The Holy Spirit gave them a great energy to go out into the world and help the new church grow.

We read about the first church family in the Bible: Acts 2: 42-47. What were they doing?

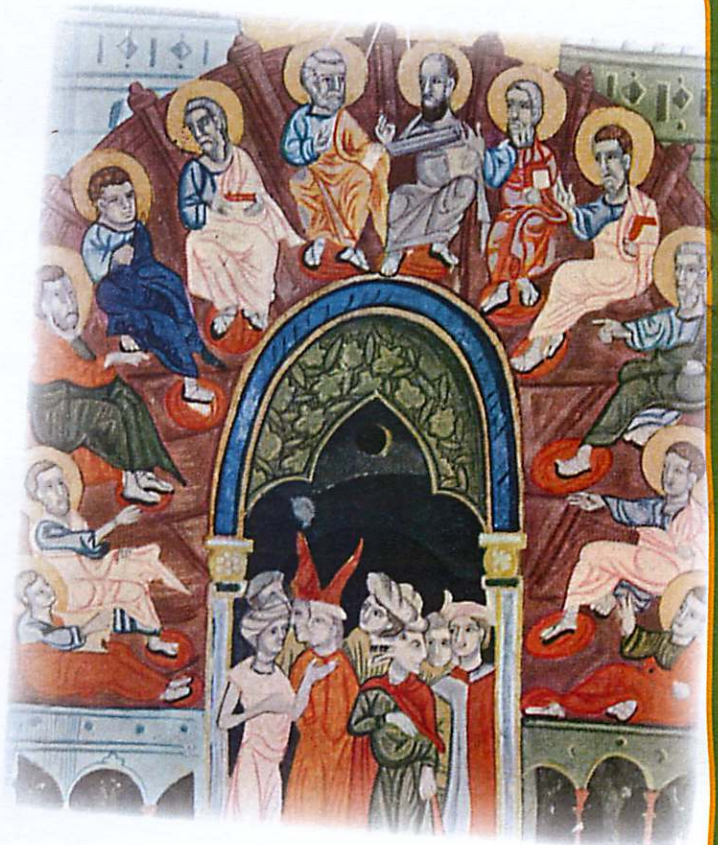
Read and underline the *action* words. Then copy the words you underlined on the lines below.

## Acts 2:42-47

42 The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together. They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed. 43 Everyone felt that God was near. The apostles did many wonders and miraculous signs. 44 All the believers were together. They shared everything they had. 45 They sold what they owned. They gave each other everything they needed. 46 Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. In their homes they broke bread and ate together. Their hearts were glad and honest and true. 47 They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

The first Christian family we read about:

- |                   |          |           |           |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. <u>Studied</u> | 5. _____ | 9. _____  | 13. _____ |
| 2. _____          | 6. _____ | 10. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 3. _____          | 7. _____ | 11. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 4. _____          | 8. _____ | 12. _____ | 16. _____ |



## Well Versed

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”  
Galatians 6:2

## SCRIPTURE SOURCE

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

*John 13:34*

## CELEBRATE WITH GOD

The church is a place where God's love rules! In a parish, people are called to love and support one another. We hear this in so many places in the Bible. Here are just a few:

Love one another. *John 13:34*

Honor one another. *Romans 12:10*

Accept one another. *Romans 15:7*

Be patient, bearing with one another in love. *Ephesians 4:2*

Encourage one another. *Thessalonians 5:11*

Spur one another on toward love and good deeds. *Hebrews 10:24*

Forgive one another. *Colossians 3:13*



The first Armenian church in America was built in 1891 in Worcester, Massachusetts and the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America was formed in 1898. There are about one million Armenians in the United States and Canada today.

Did you know...!?

## BIBLE BYTES

*Love We use this word in so many ways that have nothing to do with love. We can say "I love chocolate." Or "I love to go to the beach." It's really more about liking something a lot. But when we read in the Bible that the most important thing we can do is love God (as he loves us) and love one another — wow! That love is about giving, caring, and being close.*

## Family Focus

Today's lesson introduced children to the very first church family as described in Acts 2: 42-47. Students read the Bible passage, summarized it with words and drawings and then compared it with their church family today. We also made a paper fan, using the beautiful "one anothers" of the Bible which captured all the different ways God asks us to care for and encourage one another.

## Living Your Faith

1. Review the "one anothers" that are on your child's paper fan. Hang the fan in a prominent place.
2. Share your faith with others. Invite some of your friends or child's friends to visit your parish for Holy Badarak or a church event.