

A Call To Holy Living

MARRIAGE / HOLY ORDERS

UNIT

3

LESSON
SIX

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, help me know the life you want for me. Open my heart to loving you and others and wanting to serve. If you call me as you did so many, let me say, as so many did, "Here I am!" Amen.

MY WORLD

A Family Wedding

Ara was attending a cousin's wedding at Holy Martyrs Armenian Church. They had arrived early and were able to sit in the third pew. He had a great view of the bride coming down the aisle and going right up to stand in the chancel next to his cousin Ben. Ara's mom was a Sunday School teacher and every few minutes he would ask her about what was going on.

"Mom, why are they sitting in those tall chairs that look like thrones?"

"Well, they are now going to be like a king and queen of their own home. In a way, they left their families and are starting their own little kingdom, right?"

A bit later, Ara asked: "And why is Der Hayr tying that braid around each of their heads?"

"Those are crowns, just like a king and queen are crowned. But these are red, white and green braids. Remember your baptismal narod? Well this is the same with the red and white strands that stand for purity and sacrifice. The green stands for new life since the new couple might someday grow to be a family.

"And now why are they sipping from the same cup of wine?"

"Why do you think they are, Ara? What might it stand for?"

"I guess they're going to share life, you know, they will be sort of drinking life from the same cup."

"Beautifully said, Ara."

As the wedding came to a close, Ara began to think about what it might be like to get married. Why would you get married? What made you sure about the person? Then he noticed the priest and the deacon. He wondered about them, too. What would make you choose to be ordained? To be a priest?



Getting Closer to God

Let's learn more about the sacraments of marriage and ordination from the Bible!

On Marriage

Read Genesis 1: 26-28

Who did God create us to be like?

What happens when a man and woman marry?

Then read Acts 18: 1-3

Priscilla and Aquila were husband and wife. What work did they do together?

On Ordination

Read Acts 6: 1-6

What did the first deacons do?



Our Armenian Way

Sometimes a person feels “called” not only to live a godly life but to serve God in a very specific way. Maybe it’s to hold a candle at the altar. Maybe it’s to assist the priest at the altar as a deacon. They will serve and learn and when they are ready, the bishop will ordain them in the sacrament of ordination or Holy Orders.

Sometimes, a person feels so strongly about serving God and bringing others to know him that he will want to give his entire life to this job and become a priest.

Where would he go to study? To a Seminary. A Seminary is a special school for preparing to work in the church. Men and women can study to work as teachers, educators, and youth workers, for example. But above all, men can study to be priests. St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New York State is very well known – the only Armenian Seminary in all of North America. Those who attend learn the details about what the Armenian Church believes, and study the Bible, the church services, prayers, and the sacraments. Often they will go to Armenia or Jerusalem to study more. In the end, they earn a Master’s Degree. And when he is ready, with all the necessary knowledge, he is ordained by the bishop in a beautiful ceremony.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

A man will leave his father and mother to get married, and he becomes like one person with his wife.

Ephesians 5:31



Taking a Closer Look

The sacrament of ordination has elements of the sacraments of baptism and marriage. The person being ordained....

- gets a new name. *A baby is named at birth and then baptized; in marriage women often assume their husband's last name.*
- has a sponsor or godparent. *Godparents sponsor the child in baptism. In marriage the best man is called the godfather of the cross.*
- wears special clothes; he is vested. *At baptism, the baby is dressed in white; the bride and groom wear special clothing.*
- declares his faith in a creed
- takes holy communion



Time to Celebrate

Make a wedding narod and a deacon's stole bookmark!



RESPONDING IN FAITH
Here I am, Lord, I will listen for your call. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

The sacraments of marriage and Holy Orders were the focus of our lesson today. We read a story together, looked at verses in Genesis and Acts that gave us good insights into both of these sacraments, and then made 1) wedding narods out of red, green and white yarn and 2) deacon's stole bookmarks. Ask your child to see them and post them somewhere for everyone to see.

Living Our Faith

1. Share photographs and/or video of your wedding with your fourth grader. Talk about how you are united as one, how you serve each other to live a holy, blessed life together.