

We Are A Family of Faith

We Live in Jesus

UNIT

4

Lesson
Three



Prayer Starter

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

Dear Lord, Thank you for bringing your words to our ancestors and to us. We come to church to learn more about you and remind ourselves of the love you brought to the world. Allow us to open our hearts and to understand your message so that we can bring that love to our lives everyday. Amen.

Hye-Q

1. Who were the two disciples of Jesus who went to Armenia to spread the Good News?
_____ and _____.
2. What famous saint helped Armenia become the “first Christian nation?”
_____.
3. Where in the Bible do we read about the first church community? The Book of _____.
4. What were some of the things they did? _____
_____.

Daily Bread

In church and through the Bible, we learn about Jesus. Even though he lived 2000 years ago, his teachings and life story are more than history. People ever since then have realized that his love was really forever. It's not something that is stuck in the past, in a dusty book that sits on the shelf. Or in the lives of people in the past. The love of God lives in us today and every day. Jesus' message was meant for the ages, not just for the time in which he lived.



His message to the world is a personal one, like something you share with your best friend. Jesus is a friend who gives us his advice and love right now.



Think about what you do with your best friend.

You might

- share your thoughts
- talk about how you feel
- want to spend time with them
- give them gifts

This is how we can feel about Jesus. And one of the best ways to be with him every day is through prayer.

Many people think that praying is not that important. But prayer is the most personal way to get to know Jesus. Prayer is not just about asking for something, like a certain toy for Christmas. It's not just for church.

Through prayer, we can keep a conversation going with God. When we are sad, prayer can help us to feel better. When we are happy, prayer is a way to express our gratitude. If we are trying to do our best, but become selfish or are tempted to be unkind, prayer can help bring us back on track.



SCRIPTURE SOURCE

"This, then, is how you should pray:

'Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'"

Matthew 6:9-13

CELEBRATE WITH GOD

My Prayer

In the Armenian Tradition

Our faith began 2000 years ago with Jesus. Many people have lived and followed the faith since then! No matter how long ago Jesus was here on earth in person, ever since then, people have found him and looked to his love in their daily lives. Many have written prayers or set prayers to music. They all lived in different times, yet their love for Jesus was just as strong from one century to another. Here are two of those people:



St. Sahagtookhd

Sahagtookhd was a woman who lived in Armenia in the 700's A.D. – over 1300 years ago! Her brother was a bishop and she, too, devoted herself to the church. She lived in a convent where she praised her Lord through poetry and music. Later in her life, convents were closed, but she continued to compose, write, and teach the church songs to others. One of the best known of her hymns is "Saintly Mariam." Each verse of the hymn begins with a letter of Sahagtookhd's name in the popular style of writing at the time. The hymn begins:

Saintly Mariam, golden urn,
ark of the covenant
Who gave to our hungry hearts
the gift of the bread of life from above;
Remember us to Him always
So that He might forgive us."

Because of her devotion and gifts to the church, she is a saint of the Armenian Church.

St. Hovhannes of Garni

St. Hovhannes was a well-known healer and preacher who lived in the 13th century. He came from Garni, an ancient town not far from Yerevan, the modern capital of Armenia. He traveled throughout the country and the Holy Land where he converted many people to the Christian faith. He spent many years alone, in prayer, at the famous Monastery of Geghard, carved out of a rocky mountainside. He wrote many well-loved prayers.





Just outside Jerusalem, there is a Catholic church called the Pater Noster (which is Latin for “Our Father”). It is believed to be built over the very place where Jesus taught his disciples the “Lord’s Prayer.” On its walls are 62 large ceramic tiles of the Lord’s Prayer in different languages. One of them is in Armenian!



BIBLE BYTES

Hallowed This means “holy.” So “hallowed be thy name” means “your name is holy.” The popular version of the Lord’s Prayer we all say together is said in older English. We don’t speak this way anymore. But this famous translation continues to touch people’s hearts just the way it is.

Well Versed

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” *Romans 12:21*

Family Focus

Today, we discussed the special friendship we have with Jesus. The children compared it to how they relate to their own best friends. We reviewed the Hayr Mer and discussed the basic components of prayer. The children wrote their own original prayer. And finally, we learned about two renowned people of prayer in the Armenian Church. (Ask your child who they are! Hint: St. Hovhannes of Garni and St. Sahagtookhd).

Living Your Faith

1. Ask your child to share the prayer they wrote in class with you and the rest of your family.
2. Go to the Diocesan website (www.armenianchurch-ed.net) and look up the two saints your child learned about today.