

# Unit Two God & Me Together

## Home Blessing



### We Speak to God

Heavenly Father, thank you for making our homes holy places where families honor and love you and one another. Help us keep our homes always holy. +Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooy'n Srpo. Amen.

### Let's Talk

Did you know that all Armenian churches are blessed? A bishop or archbishop comes to perform the blessing. Holy Muron is used in the church blessing. Foundation stones are blessed. Walls of the church are blessed. A small, blessed stone cross from Holy Etchmiadzin is placed near the Holy Altar.

We are God's family, and we gather in his blessed home to worship him.

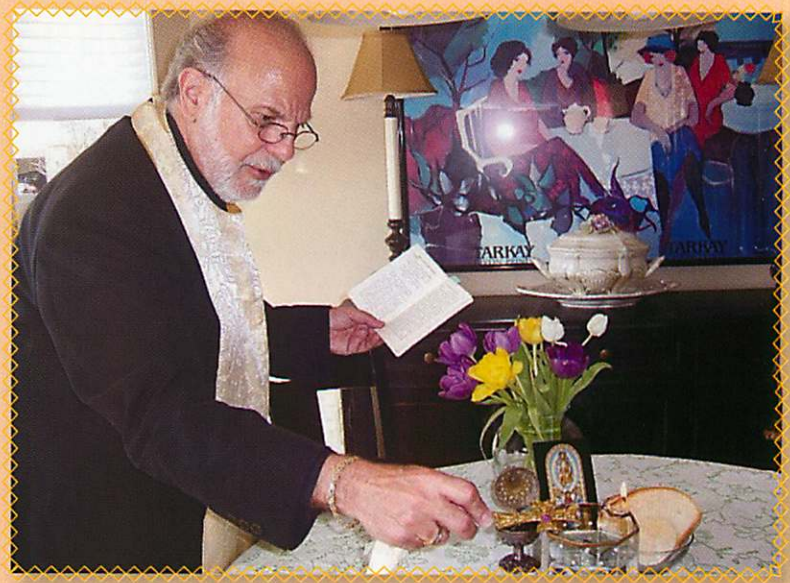




## Listen to This

Beside the church, there is another place where God is honored by loving and caring people: our own home! As Christians, we know our homes are holy places, too, and invite the priest to bless them every year, often at Christmas or Easter. With this home blessing, we welcome God into our home to be a part of our family.

My home is a special place because \_\_\_\_\_



## God Speaks to Us

I pray to you, Lord!  
Think of my prayer  
as sweet-smelling incense,  
and think of my lifted hands  
as an evening sacrifice.

*Psalm 141:2*



## We Learn About God

After the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christians met secretly to worship in caves and other hidden places. They also gathered in temples and homes to preach and teach about Jesus and to pray with the help of the Holy Spirit. So, from early times, the home was important as a place to honor the Son of God.



*Every day they spent time in the temple and in one home after another. They never stopped teaching and telling the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.*

*Acts 5:42*



# Our Armenian Way

Throughout the year, Armenian homes are blessed. They are blessed most often at Christmas and Easter. A family, moving into a new home, contacts the priest to come for a home blessing.

The family provides a slice of bread, a glass of water and a small dish of salt on a tray. These three things are known as life-giving gifts from God.

Der Hayr and a deacon come to the home with incense, an incense burner and a wafer or nushkhar.



## **The priest blesses the incense (khoong).**

The burning incense and the smoke rising are our prayers on their way to God. In church, the priest and deacon use the censer (poorvar) to cense the congregation and holy objects.

## **The priest blesses the bread (hatz).**

We need bread to provide our bodies with nourishment. During the Badarak, we remember the Last Supper. We believe that the bread becomes the body of Jesus Christ.



## **The priest blesses the water (choor).**

Like bread, water is necessary for life. Water also reminds us of our own baptism in holy water.

## **The priest blesses the salt (agh).**

Salt provides flavor to our food. Jesus called his followers “the salt of the earth.” Because each one of us is different, we can make the world a better place. Like adding salt, we can add our own special flavor to the world – our faith, our hope, our acts of

kindness, our love for other people and animals, our own ideas.

The priest asks God to continue to provide the family with the gifts of bread, water and salt. He also asks God to bless and keep the family and grant them good health.

When the service is finished, the priest leaves the wafer (nushkhar) for the family. The family usually places the wafer in a jar of rice, flour, or lentils (or other grain). This is done as a way of asking God to keep these grains always in supply for the family to use.



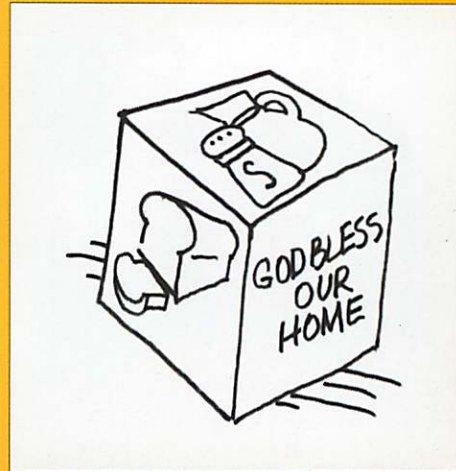
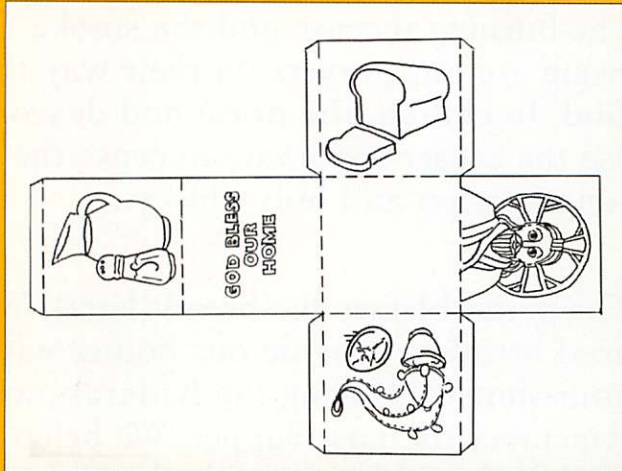
## Amen Alleluia

Amen Alleluia

al - - le - lu - - - - ia, al - le - - - - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'Amen Alleluia'. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef. The lyrics 'A - - - - men. Al - le - lu - - - - ia,' are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'al - - le - lu - - - - ia, al - le - - - - lu - ia.' The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

## Hearts and Hands



## For My Family



### Sharing Our Faith

Today the children learned about the Armenian tradition of church blessing and house blessing. After this lesson, your child may want to have your home blessed. Traditionally, this is done at Christmas and Easter. Other times can be arranged.

### Living Our Faith

1. Your child will bring home a "Home Blessing Cube" made in class today. Ask your child about it; place it on your kitchen or dining room table.
2. Call your pastor to arrange an appointment for a home blessing.
3. Encourage your child to take an active role in the house blessing. Ask your pastor to assign a task to him/her.
4. Some other blessings in the Armenian tradition include Blessing of the Grapes, the Blessing of the Water and Blessing of the Field. These can be witnessed by your family on Assumption Day, Armenian Christmas, and Exaltation respectively.