

Jesus, Lord of My Life

MARKED FOR LIFE

UNIT

1

LESSON
TWO

From Our Hearts to God

Here I am again, Lord. How great you are that you know me by my name! You know what's inside my brain and heart. Help me to know you, Lord. Amen.

MY WORLD

- the new boy
- the kid with the scar
- that sweet little girl
- Haig
- the fastest runner in fourth grade
- she's caring
- a fantastic artist
- comes up with great ideas
- you can count on her
- the tallest boy in our class
- a great singer
- the class clown



Who are you? Most everyone would answer that question by giving their name. Your name is important to you. It is a **marker** you will have all your life most probably. But who you are is not just your name. Who you are is shown by your behavior, your way of doing things, your attitude and personality. And who you are develops as you grow older.

Write three things about yourself that would identify you to others:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Markers are like labels. They help us categorize, group, define and separate things. “Put all the blue pencils in this box and all the red ones in that box.” “All the left handed children line up here and the right handed ones line up there.” Some markers are obvious and very noticeable and some are not. Everyone would know you are Christian if you wear a cross necklace, wouldn't they? The cross is a marker.

Sometimes people are marked for something special. A good athlete might get special training to make the most of those skills. People sometimes show a talent for music from early childhood.

At your chrismation (one of the three sacraments of initiation) you were **marked** with holy oil as a Christian. **Marked for life.** What sort of life? A life that should show your relationship with Jesus Christ. A life that reflects the good things that Jesus wants you to do.

A **righteous** life. A **consecrated** life. CONSECATED means set apart for God's use. RIGHTEOUS means doing what is right for God.

GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Before I was born, the Lord chose me.

Isaiah 49:1



Getting Closer to God

Jesus' Presentation at the Temple (Luke 2:22-38)

Even Mary and Joseph wanted to mark baby Jesus as God's child. Eight days after his birth they made a special trip to the Temple. In those days the Jews had a ceremony for the firstborn baby boy to be presented to God. It was not like our sacraments of initiation, but similar in its meaning.

At the temple, the holy family met two people who recognized Jesus as the Messiah (the one chosen by God). Simeon and Anna knew Jesus was God. They were overjoyed to be able to meet the Lord.

What would you say if you met Jesus?



Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, we joyfully remember Jesus' presentation to the Temple on the Feast of the Presentation or *Dyarnuntarach*. In some of our churches today, a special blessing is given connected with *Dyarnuntarach* called "The Blessing of Babies." It is usually done on the Sunday in February closest to the Feast of the Presentation (February 14) just before the Badarak ends. Babies who have been baptized in the year before are presented to God and rededicated to him. The service recalls the Presentation of Jesus. As he blesses the baby, the priest prays: "O Christ our God ... protect and keep your people and especially this child..."



Taking a Closer Look

In past centuries and even in Armenia today, *Dyarnuntarach* has quite a fun side. The people attend church and light candles which represent the light of Jesus. After church they use the candles to light a bonfire. People jump over the fire for good luck. The fire celebrates the end of winter and coming of spring.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, I love you. Guide me in ways to show that love. Amen.

Time to Celebrate

A Pre-sen-**CAKE**-tion Celebration

Happy Birthday to us! Today we are celebrating that we were born. Decorate your birthday cupcake.



FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today, students learned about how special they are as God's children. In their baptism and chrismation, they were marked for a righteous life in God. In the prayer over the oil of the baptismal service, we hear that we are "anointed for holiness, for strength to keep the commandments that leads to virtue and service.... and for salvation." How wonderful! We also learned about the presentation of Jesus to the Temple by his parents (very much like the children's own anointing) and how we celebrate it in the Armenian Church. The children enjoyed a cupcake to celebrate their own birthdays.

Living Our Faith

1. Sit together and talk about what your child would like to inherit from his or her parents or siblings. Don't just think of things. Think of talents (mom's piano playing) and abilities (dad's joke telling), personality traits (the way my brother makes new friends so easily), objects that you value that they also value such as a favorite family photo.
2. Have your own "Family Awards" night. Decide what object will be awarded. For example, chocolate bars, computer-generated award sheets, fresh fruits, etc. Everyone's name should be written on a slip of paper and each person pulls a slip to present an award to the person whose name they got. (If someone pulls their own name they have to put it back and pull another.) Think of what you would give that person an award for. Now start the "Awards Ceremony." Each person should stand and say something like "The award for the person who (tell the category) goes to (name the person)" and present that person with the award object. For example "The award for the person who is the best family chauffeur goes to MOM!" and give mom an apple, "The award for best homework coach goes to DAD!" and give dad a plum. "In the category of best bed maker, the award goes to TOMMY!" and give him an orange.