

We Are a Family of Faith Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

We Are Part of a Long Story

UNIT
4
Lesson
One



Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ...
Dear Lord, thank you for our families and for our church family.
Bless us as we worship and learn together. Help us know you and
love you more each day. Amen.

Hye-O

Seasons of the Church Game

Find two things about each feast or special church season from the list below. Put the correct numbers in the spaces.

- A. Advent _____
- B. Nativity and Theophany (Christmas) _____
- C. Lent _____
- D. Easter _____
- E. Presentation _____
- F. Transfiguration _____

- 1. This feast is a fifty-day period leading up to Armenian Christmas.
- 2. This feast celebrates how Jesus suddenly shone and appeared with other prophets to some of his disciples.
- 3. During this feast, we celebrate with symbols of new life, like eggs and baby bunnies.
- 4. We celebrate this feast on a different date than other Christians.
- 5. On this feast, we remember when Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple.
- 6. Many people fast during this time.
- 7. This feast recalls the amazing day Jesus rose from the dead.
- 8. People decorate their homes, put lights up, and send out cards during this time.
- 9. This day not only celebrates the birth of Jesus, but also his baptism by John.
- 10. This lasts 40 days.
- 11. Two wise elders in the Temple knew that the baby Jesus was the Savior.
- 12. This feast recalls something that happened on Mt. Tabor.



Daily Bread

Our faith as Christians begins with Jesus and his teaching. He taught his disciples and they went out and taught others about the love of Jesus. He promised them that the Holy Spirit would come after him and help the church grow. When we think about coming to church, first we must think about who brought us here in the first place. Usually, we came to church for the first time with our parents or grandparents.

They probably brought us here because their parents took them to church too. And it goes backwards through the history of our families, all the way back to Armenia, where our church began.



Many people struggled to keep the Christian faith through the centuries. It began with Jesus, who sent out his disciples to spread his word throughout the world. Two of his disciples went to Armenia. They were Thaddeus and Bartholomew.

They converted many people to become Christian when most people still believed in many gods. Several generations passed before the man we know as St. Gregory was born. Gregory became a Christian because there were others who showed him the love of Jesus Christ. He then converted the King and his family and started the Armenian Church.

From that time, each generation of people taught more and more people about Jesus and gave their time, money, and talents to the church. They built churches, wrote prayers and hymns, wrote the Divine Liturgy, studied the Bible and other religious writings, and most importantly, they taught their children to grow up as Christians.



You are the outcome of this great history. And you are the future of the church too. When you grow up and bring your children to Jesus, you will become part of the love that can be spread around the world.



SCRIPTURE SOURCE

God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.” *Hebrews 11: 40*

God sent his Son to us so that we could know him and live with him forever. This quote from the Bible shows how by being part of something bigger than ourselves, we can all become better. We look to Jesus for guidance, but it is also how we grow in faith together and love one another that brings us together with God.

Well Versed

“Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let’s also run the race with courage!”

Hebrews 12:1

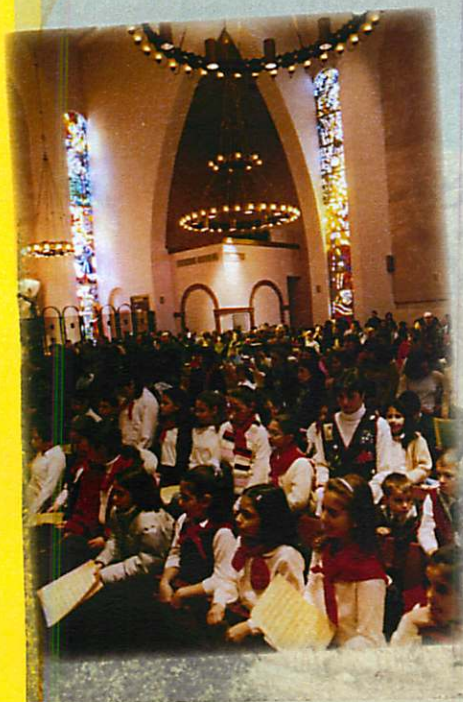
In the Armenian Tradition

The story of the Armenian Church is the story of all the people who were part of it once and those who are today. That’s a lot of people! There is a place in our Holy Badarak where we pray for all of these men and women. These prayers are called “intercessions.” We ask God to bless those saintly people in history who have helped our church to stay strong and faithful.

Look at pages 35, 36, and 37 of the *Badarak* book. Write as many names as you can find among the people we pray to be remembered. The first and most important one is done for you!

1. Mary, the Mother of God

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



CELEBRATE WITH GOD

Our own prayers to honor and remember...

BIBLE BYTES

Elders Today, this word mainly means anybody who is an older adult. But in the Bible, the reference didn't only mean that someone was older than you. It meant that the older person was a wise leader and a person to whom everyone in the community listened.

Bartholomew and Thaddeus were disciples of Jesus who both came to Armenia after they left Jerusalem to spread the word. Thaddeus came first; he converted many people, including Princess Santookht. They shared the teachings of Jesus with people throughout Armenia during a time when most people worshipped other gods. Those people taught others. And it took almost 300 years of more and more people turning to Jesus before St. Gregory went to Armenia. He changed the hearts of the king and queen and Armenia became the first Christian nation!

Did you know...!?

Family Focus

Today, the children learned about how the church is a family of many generations. Since all the faithful of the church, past and present, are honored and remembered at the Divine Liturgy, we looked at the Badarak book together and listed some of the people we pray for by name. There were quite a few! The class completed a Connect-the-dots puzzle that depicted the fullness of the church through time.

We also reviewed the story of how Armenia was converted to Christianity by St. Gregory.

Living Your Faith

1. Talk with your child about the puzzle; mount it where it can be seen by the family.
2. Share stories about *your* faith and involvement in the church as well as your parents' and grandparents'.