

Celebrating Our Lord

Easter

UNIT

3

Lesson
Four



Prayer Starter

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

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of hope that you gave us on Easter morning. Because of this day, we know that Jesus still lives. This helps us believe that there will always be love in our lives and a chance to always start again through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Daily Bread

Easter is a time of great joy. After Jesus died on the cross, on what we now call “Good Friday,” a man named Joseph, who was one of his followers, took Jesus’ body for burial. Jesus’ body was wrapped in a clean white cloth, as was the custom in those days. Joseph placed the body in a special tomb carved from solid rock and a large stone was placed in front of the opening to the tomb.

Pilate had guards at the tomb to make sure that no one could steal Jesus’ body. Three days later, Mary Magdalene, another follower of Jesus, along with some other women, went to the tomb early in the morning to anoint the body with oils and spices. When they got to the tomb, she found that the stone was rolled away! They were very upset. She thought that someone had taken the body, but did not know how that could be, since there were guards there.

Angels appeared to the women and told them that Jesus was not in the tomb because he was no longer dead. He had risen and was alive.

The women were very happy to hear this and went out of the tomb. Then they saw Jesus, himself. He told them to go tell the other disciples that he was alive and would come to them all to explain everything.



by one as the Bible is read.

On **Holy Friday**, the Armenian Church also has two special services. These remember the Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus.

On **Holy Saturday** evening, we have a special Easter Eve Badarak.

Then, on Easter Sunday, we celebrate in joy that Jesus is really still alive. This fact that Jesus rose from the dead is the very basis of our faith. We celebrate this holiday with symbols of new life (such as Easter eggs, bunnies, and lambs and butterflies).



Did you know...!?

A traditional Armenian custom is to dye Easter eggs using onion skins. For the month before Easter, you can collect onion skins from red or yellow onions that your parents use

to cook. You can simply put a large number of onion skins into the boiling water while you boil the eggs and after boiling for about 10 minutes, the eggs will turn a deep orange or red color.

Another method which will produce a pattern on the egg is to wrap the eggs with one layer of onion skin, then tightly wrap that in a cotton cloth around it and tie the cotton off with a rubber band or piece of string so the onion skin and cotton are flat against the egg. Then place it in boiling water for ten minutes. After you have taken it out and unwrapped it, it will look like a very beautiful tie dye or wood grain pattern.



Well Versed

“ . . . but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he is risen!”

Luke 24: 5-6

BIBLE BYTES

Robes In Biblical times, men and women wore similar types of clothing, usually a tunic type long shirt with a tie around the waist. Nobody wore pants as we know them today. Often, they would wear a robe over the tunic. Rich people would have robes made of silk. Poor people might have robes made of wool or cotton. Today, that type of garment would be called a coat or a cape. When we use the word "robe" today, we usually mean a bathrobe that you don't wear outside of the house.



CELEBRATE WITH GOD

Easter eggs



Family Focus

Today we learned about the greatest feast of the Church, Easter. Students took a close look in the Bible at the last days of Jesus' life. We also reviewed how these are marked in the Armenian Church with special services during Holy Week. To celebrate appropriately, we dyed eggs and had a good old-fashioned Armenian egg-cracking contest!

Living Your Faith

1. Dye some eggs with your children in the traditional Armenian method using onion skins. Instructions are in **Did You Know?** of this lesson.
2. Read the story of Easter in the Gospels with your family and compare them. They are all the same general story, but are presented from different points of view with emphasis on different details. The passages are Matthew 28: 1-10, Luke 24: 1-12, John 20:1-18, Mark 16: 1-8.