

will have the photo of the student, their name and *Disciple* written on it. They can decorate however they wish. * *It would be nice to have the cards laminated and the kids can wear them to Sunday School for the next few weeks. Just punch a hole on the lamination and attach a safety pin or use yarn type to tie around neck.* Conclude with a closing prayer: “Dear Jesus, we have identified ourselves this morning as your disciples. Help us follow you in everything we think, say and do so we can be truly worthy of the names ‘disciple.’ Amen.”

15 min.



Unit One: Circles of Faith

Lesson Two: Everything Comes From God!

Key Concepts

1. God is the source of all life.
2. The Holy Trinity was present at creation.
3. Making the sign of the cross when praying is a reminder of the Holy Trinity.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Discuss and draw a picture of a special blessing of each season.
2. Read a story about a boy who creates a living space for his pet goldfish.
3. Examine the creation story in Genesis 1 and illustrate the days of creation.
4. Review the concept of “trinity” and “Holy Trinity.”
5. Practice making the sign of the cross in English and Armenian.
6. Create a stand-up cross.

Materials Needed

Children’s Bible preferable such as *The Beginner’s Bible*

Pencil, crayons, markers, decorative materials such as foam shapes, sequins, etc.

Copies of cross template from the back of this manual, copied or glued onto card stock, one for each child.

Pre-cut 3" x 10" rectangle cardstock/file folder for cross craft

Optional: Glass of water (See Procedure #5)

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Ask them: “Who did we pray to this morning? Yes, God! And in particular we mentioned God the Father (write key words on the board), God the Son – Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit who is with us. God is with us in all these ways – in the beauty of the world around us and its creation at the beginning of time, in Jesus who taught us how to live a truly ‘good’ life, and the Holy Spirit which is the way God continues to give us strength every day. The fancy church word for this is the Holy Trinity – say that after me. (Repeat it.) The word trinity comes from the word three. We’ll talk about that in a few moments.”

2. Read **Let's Discover**. Discuss together what the children would see in each season. After the discussion, ask children to draw the one thing they think of for each season. 10 min.
3. Read **Our Story**. Ask children a few questions after reading the story. "Why did Ara buy these things for the fish tank? (to make his fish happy, to make the place beautiful, because he loved his pets). What else might he have placed in the tank?" (sunken ship, treasure chest, plants, etc.) Ask children if any of them have pets. What do they provide for their pets? (beds, safe cage for a bird, toys, dog house, terrariums, etc.) Conclude that we provide our beloved pets with all we think they would need to be healthy and happy. Segue with "And, you know, that's exactly what God did for us, when he made this beautiful world and everything in it."
4. Pick up the Children's Bible and open to Genesis 1. Explain that in the very first chapter of the whole Bible, we read about how God created the world. Then read **God's Word**. Ask students to complete the drawings in their books as you go through each day. Write 6 headings on the board starting with Day 1 to Day 6. Then call for volunteers to come up to the board and write or draw what was done on each day as a means of reviewing comprehension. Conclude with asking about the sixth day: "Does being made in God's image mean we look like God? No, it really means that we are able to be *like* him – we can be good, kind, generous, loving, we can care about others. This is something we couldn't say about Ara's goldfish, right? People *are* different; we are made in *God's image*." Ask the students how God felt about his work at the end of the sixth day. 15 min.
5. Teach or read the first paragraph of **We Learn About God**. Write some 3-addition equations on the board—especially using the commutative property of addition where addends can be arranged in any order and the sum is the same such as $3 + 7 + 12 = 22$; $12 + 7 + 3 = 22$; $7 + 12 + 3 = 22$. Select students to come and solve and ask what they notice. Make mention that in any order they all add up to 22. Mention that it is also an equation – something equals something. Give the example of water in its different forms. (If you can hold a glass of water in your hand as you speak, all the better!) "Look at this glass of water. What would happen if we put it in the freezer? (yes it would freeze and become a solid). What would happen if we put it in a pot and boiled it? What would start appearing over the pot? (steam, a gas). But whether a liquid, a solid or a gas, it's always still water. In kind of the same way, God is part of our lives in these three ways. Remember when we said our prayer this morning I mentioned that the word 'trinity' comes from the word for 'three.' What other words start with those three letters?" Brainstorm with students and write other words that have a "tri" prefix (tricycle, triangles, tripod, triathlon, trilogy, etc.). Work on the blackboard while the children write in their books, i.e. "triangle (write the word and the shape on the board) which has how many angles or points? Right, three! Or the word tricycle (if you can manage a picture to add next to the word go for it!). How many wheels does a tricycle have? Yes, three!" 10 min.
6. Read together the second paragraph in **We Learn About God (after "Tri" Words)** while stopping to ask about how they make the sign of the cross. Ask them to show you which hand, which fingers and what direction they go. Afterward, model with the class to confirm the correct order and process (helpful to have your back to them). Have class practice making the sign of the cross in English and Armenian. 5 min.
7. Review **Our Armenian Way**. Then immediately begin the craft activity **Handmade with Love**. "As a reminder of the Holy Trinity and cross we are going to make a Stand-Up Cross." Distribute cross templates and rectangular piece. In the center of the cross write "God," at the top write "Father," at the bottom write "Son," on the left horizontal arm of the cross write "Holy," and on the right horizontal arm write "Spirit." Decorate cross with markers, crayon, and decorative materials. Attach rectangular piece so it can stand up.
8. Clean-up. Encourage class to practice making the sign of the cross in both languages at home. Close with the prayer: "Thank you, Jesus, for the love and faith of your cross. Help us bring that love and faith to everyone we meet this week." 20 min.



Unit One: Circles of Faith

Lesson Three: Jesus, Son

Key Concepts

1. God the Father gave us the gift of his Son.
2. Isaiah's prophecy of God's promise came true.
3. We remember Jesus and his sacrifice in our church hymn, *Vortee Asdoozoh*.
4. St. Nersess Shnorhali wrote *Jesus, Son*, a poem about Jesus' life and crucifixion.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Share the story of a favorite birthday gift (and draw it).
2. Read and discuss a story about a boy and his first camp experience.
3. Examine the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7 about the birth of Christ and God's promise.
4. Define the faith word 'prophet.'
5. Create a royal coat of arms for Christ.
6. Hear the hymn "Vortee Asdoodzo" and sing the first phrase.
7. Read about St. Nersess Shnorhali and his poem *Jesus, Son*.
8. Create a thank-you card for God.

Materials Needed

Children's Bible preferable such as *The Beginner's Bible*

Optional: Examples of different Coat of Arms from the Internet or books

Optional: A recording of Handel's Messiah as they sing Isaiah 9:6-7.

Crayons, markers

Assorted color construction paper

Recording of or, preferably, a volunteer to help review "Vortee Asdoozoh"

Note to the Teacher

Next week's craft requires a group photo of the parish or Sunday School for each child. Check with the church office or Sunday School to acquire one. Decide on what type of material you want to use for the frame – decorating it with puzzle pieces would be particularly appropriate. Make sure students can write a title on the top of the frame: "We are God's Family."