

Walking With God

Witnesses: St. Paul



Prayer Starter

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

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of faith you gave to the great men and women of the Bible. Help our faith grow, too, and show us the way to share it with all the people around us. May our hearts always be open to you. Amen.

Hye-Q

Fill in the correct answer:

1. The angel who announced to Mary that she would be Jesus' mother was _____.
2. Mary visited her cousin, _____, who would be the mother of _____ the _____.
3. *Asdvadzadzin* is the Armenian word for Mary. It means _____.
4. The day we remember Mary's being taken into heaven is one of the Five Major Feast Days of the Armenian Church. It is called the Feast of _____.
5. The other four major feasts are : _____, _____, _____, _____.
6. An Armenian tradition on Assumption Day is to bless _____.

Daily Bread

Soorp Boghos Մարտի Պողոս

St. Paul is a very important person in the story of how the faith grew after Jesus was crucified. He was first called "Saul." He started out as a person who was trying to *stop* people from following Jesus' teachings. He traveled from town to town, finding and arresting Christians. There were a lot of places where being a follower of Jesus was against the law at that time.

Then one day, he was on his way to a city called Damascus and suddenly, he saw a bright light on the road and heard a voice speaking to him. The voice asked, "Why do you persecute me?"

He asked, "Who are you?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting!"



Jesus then told him to go to the city and that Jesus would send someone to tell him what to do.

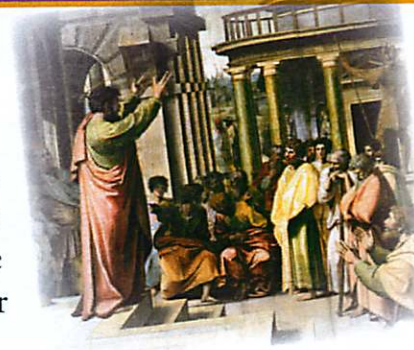
The men traveling with Paul were very surprised. They heard sounds and saw Paul fall on the ground, but they did not see anyone else or understand. They helped Paul get up, but when he opened his eyes, he could not see anything. His companions took him into the city and for three days, he was blind and did not eat.

In Damascus, Jesus appeared to a Christian named Ananias in a vision. He told Ananias that Paul was going to be the person to spread the good news of this new faith to the rest of the world, even outside of Israel and to others who were not born as Jews. Jesus told Ananias to go to Paul and teach him all he knew about Christ.

He told Paul that he was sent to make him see again and that Paul would soon be filled with the Holy Spirit. Suddenly, Paul *could* see again!

Paul's experience filled him with so much love for Jesus that he started to preach about him and help others to see how he was the son of God.

A Witness is _____



SCRIPTURE SOURCE

"Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard.'" *Acts 22:14-15*

These are the words that Ananias said to Paul when he was in Damascus.

What is he telling Paul to do?

Why should he do this?

How can you share your faith?



BIBLE BYTES

The Book of Acts is the very next book in the New Testament after the Gospels. The word "Acts" refers to all the acts and adventures of Jesus' followers after he died and rose to heaven. St. Paul's journeys take up much of the book - these are exciting and feature daring escapes, powerful miracles, and rousing speeches.

Well Versed

St. Paul wrote, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28

In the Armenian Tradition

Two Other Witnesses for Christ



Saint Nooneh Մուրք Նունէ

Nooneh entered Armenia with a group of Christian nuns. They came to Armenia because they were fleeing from the persecution of the Roman Emperor. Nooneh then went to Georgia where she helped the Georgian royal family become Christians. She started churches all over Georgia and taught people about Jesus.

Years later, after Armenia had become a Christian country, she asked St. Gregory to send priests to Georgia so that the Georgian Church could grow even more.

What kinds of problems would St. Nooneh have had traveling to a new country?

Saint Maneh Մուրք Մանէ

Maneh, like Nooneh, came with the same group of nuns to Armenia. She had a vision and decided she wanted to live a life of prayer, meditation, and solitude in the Armenian mountains. Many years later, when St. Gregory passed the nun's place of retreat, he called to her. She asked him to wait three days. After the three days had passed, St. Gregory found that Maneh had died. He buried her with prayers and blessings and stayed in that place until his death.

Why do you think Maneh chose a quiet life of prayer?

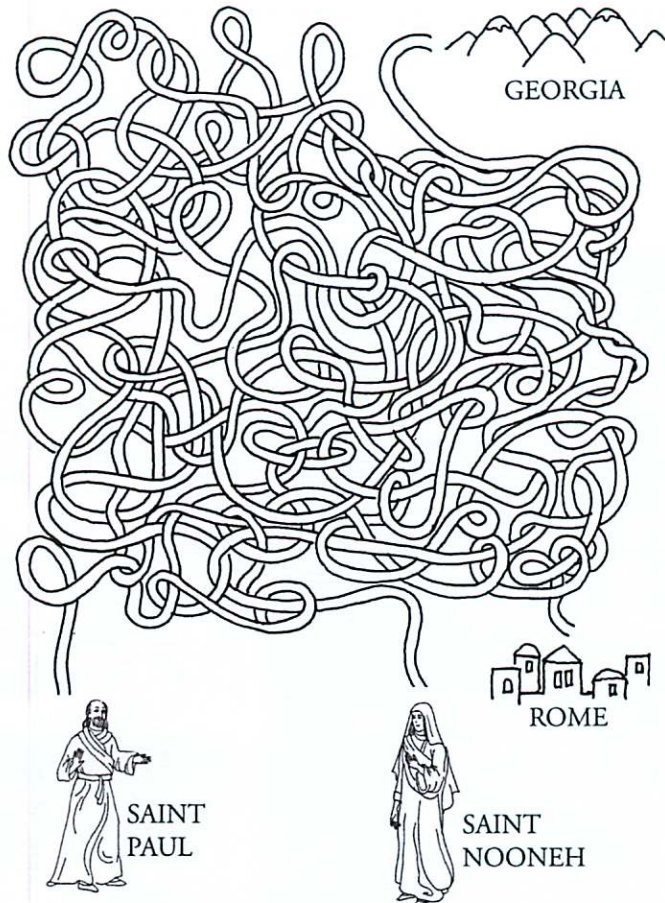


Georgia lies north of Armenia. Its capital, Tbilisi, was known as Tiflis to Armenians, and was an important center of Armenian cultural life for centuries. There are still many Armenians living in Georgia, particularly in the southern region.

Did you know...!?

CELEBRATE WITH GOD

Help St. Paul and St. Nooneh Find Their Way



Family Focus

Today we learned about St. Paul and how his own change of heart when he became a Christian went on to change the entire world. Talk about the difference one person can make! The children also briefly looked at the lives of Sts. Nooneh and Maneh, two holy women who chose two very distinct paths to God. One converted the country of Georgia to Christianity. (Ask your child who it was...)

Living Your Faith

1. Talk about your faith. This beautifully imitates the model of the saints we learned about today.
2. If there is a Georgian church in your neighborhood, visit. Or, look it up together on the Internet.