

# A Way of Life: Me, My Faith, and the World

## Unit Four, Lesson One

# Faith Can Change Us



### Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Surpo, Amen. "May the Lord our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us. May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep the commands, decrees and regulations he gave our fathers."

Words of Solomon, 1 Kings 8:57-58

### Chapter Checkup

Draw a line matching the feast day to its explanation.

The birth of Jesus

Transfiguration

Celebration of the Cross as a symbol of our salvation

Nativity/Theophany of our Lord

Jesus' Resurrection

Assumption

Mary's passage to heaven

Easter

Jesus' clothing became brilliant white

Exaltation of the Cross

### Doers of the Word

What if you see the most beautifully wrapped package you have ever seen, with a tag attached that has your name written on it. The outside of the gift looks great. You can't wait to open it. But what if you unwrapped the box and opened it to find nothing inside? You would be disappointed, confused, and maybe a little angry.

Our Christian faith may become like that beautiful, useless box if we are not careful. We can read the words in the Bible and nod in agreement. We can tell ourselves and others we want to belong to Jesus. But what good is all this if our actions do not demonstrate our faith? Our faith can become like that empty package – great to look at, but full of nothing but air.

God wants us to do what his word tells us to do. That way, we show everyone we meet that we are living examples of the Christian way. We make life better for ourselves and others. By doing what God wants, we receive his peace. We show him we are thankful for our salvation.

Read James 1:22-26 to see what God has to say about the difference between hearing his Word and doing it.



## How Does It Work?

Imagine one day you are on the playground at school and one of your classmates comes up to you. He or she loudly accuses you of doing something they did not like. Whether or not what the friend says is true, you have two ways to respond.

**Response #1:** You yell back at the person and perhaps pepper your reaction with some well-placed insults.

**Response #2:** You were reading the Bible last night and Proverbs 15:1 pops into your head. You remember the words “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” You say something calm and non-threatening to your classmate.



### Which response is less likely to make the problem worse? 1 or 2?

Of course a kinder answer is more likely to avoid more unpleasant consequences. That’s how God wants us to think and behave. Learn his laws so they are there when you need them, and put them into practice.

Here’s another scenario: You’re on a team. One of the players is not a good athlete and may be losing the playoff game for your team. Your entire team starts yelling mean things to the player. Or maybe a parent on the sidelines begins verbally abusing the player. You feel really uncomfortable, because you are a Christian and know it would be wrong of you to participate in the yelling, but you don’t want to stick out in front of your teammates. You may even be genuinely angry that the coach left this player in to wreck your team’s chances of making the playoffs.

What should you do?

---

---

---

The more you know the Bible, the more tools you will have to calm you and help you handle the situation correctly. God has plenty to say about these noisy sports fanatics:

Proverbs 12:18 “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

Proverbs 11:12 “He who belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.”

Proverbs 12: 23 “A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly.”

As you grow in faith and knowledge, things change. God has promised to give us his peace, and you will make better day-to-day decisions if you are armed with the wisdom of his Word.

## Faith Word

### *Faith*

A trust or belief in God

# Our Armenian Way

In Armenian history, King Drtad gives us a powerful example of how faith can change a person. All his life Drtad fought against Christianity. He persecuted Jesus' followers wherever he found them. King Drtad is the one who had St. Gregory tortured and thrown in the pit for years because Gregory would not give up his Christian faith. Drtad murdered Hripsime and the other holy women.



The Holy Spirit pointed out Drtad's sin to him in a very dramatic way. God caused Drtad to lose his sanity, so that the king of Armenia was running around and snarling like a beast of the forest. When Drtad was healed by the Holy Spirit through Gregory, he was a new person. Drtad saw the power of the true God for the first time. He worked with Gregory to clear Armenia of false gods, and to build churches. Drtad was baptized a Christian and encouraged thousands to do the same. Today Drtad is remembered as the ruler who helped make Armenia the first nation to make Christianity the official state religion.

What are some concrete ways faith can make a difference in our behavior....

At home?

At school?

With friends?

Here at church?

## FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents

### Lesson Roundup

Today your child's class taught some younger Sunday Schoolers about the 5 major feast days. Back in class, they explored what it means to put faith into action and

related Bible teachings to everyday situations. After recalling how faith changed the Armenian King Drtad's life, the class discussed how faith-filled living can make a difference in their own lives.

### Family Faith Activity

Our faith should influence the way we think, speak, and behave. Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read Psalm 112 together. 2. Sit down as a family and think of someone you see as a good Christian. Discuss what it is about that person that makes you feel that way. 3. Put up a chart on which each family member lists one way they would like to put faith into action. Record progress during the week.

### A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup \_\_\_ and tried at least one activity as a family\_\_\_.

Signed\_\_\_\_\_