

# The Church in America: Looking Ahead

## Pray Together

For the peace of the whole world and the stability of the Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mercy.

Litany from the Armenian Divine Liturgy

## Chapter Checkup

Write "true" or "false" in the space provided.

1. The earliest Armenian immigrants fought in the French and Indian Wars. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The early Armenian-Americans had to wait to hear the Badarak because they lacked an ordained priest. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The first Armenian Church in America was in Fresno, California. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The book of Romans in the Old Testament teaches many ways to find faith. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Khrimian Hayrig eventually became Catholicos of All Armenians. \_\_\_\_\_

## "A Peculiar People"

When you tell someone you are Armenian or part Armenian do they sometimes look puzzled and say "What's that?" How do you feel about having to explain yourself? Write about it on the lines below.

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When you explain to others about what it is to be Armenian, what do you say? Answer in the lines below. (If you have not had this experience, write what you would say.)

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Does it make you feel peculiar or different to be Armenian? Hear what God has to say about being different in the King James Version of the Bible:



Deuteronomy 14:2

“For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.”

Does this mean that God loves Armenians more than others? Of course not. In this passage, God is setting the Jews apart as his special people. He invited them to follow his law. When Jesus came, this invitation was extended to all who love God and his teachings.

For Christians, to be one of God’s “peculiar” people means that we should be a little different from those who do not know or care about Jesus. We are peculiar because God means more to us than doing what everybody else is doing. We have to learn what he wants us to do so we can behave in the right way, even though others in the world make it seem okay to sin.

Where do you think we find out about God’s plan for our lives?



### Your Church Needs You

You play an important part in helping the Armenian Church grow and move forward into the future. As a young person, for now your job involves learning the teachings of the Armenian Church about God. As you grow and understand what God wants, you will be able to help your church in other ways. Let’s think about some of the jobs you see people do in and round the church.

### Rules, Rules, Rules

Rules. They seem to be everywhere. At school. From your parents. In the Bible. You can’t escape them!

Nobody likes to be told they can’t do something they want to do. Rules exist for a reason. You know that your parents set rules to keep you safe. Did you know that God’s rules, too, are meant to protect you from danger? God is our loving Father. He cares about the safety of our bodies and our souls.

He doesn’t give all these “do’s” and “don’ts” because he doesn’t want us to have fun. He knows that our lives on Earth and afterward will be much happier if we listen to him.

List some of your parents’ rules below:

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Which rule do you dislike the most? Why?

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Why do you think your parents set this rule?

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God has set specific rules to cover any situation. Below are some things that are forbidden by God. In the space provided, write why you think he doesn't want us to do these things.

Ignoring the holiness of Sunday

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Drunkenness

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Lying

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Read Exodus 20:2-17, which gives us the Ten Commandments.

Think of a very important rule you would like to have people obey, and write it below.

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## Faith Word

### *Commandment*

An instruction to do something given by someone in authority

# Our Armenian Way

## Canon Law

The Greek word “kanon” simply means a straight rod used to measure. So the term canon law in the Armenian Church (and all traditional Christian churches) refers to all the rules governing the life and discipline of the church in such areas as worship, rites, the clergy, administration, etc. These laws were established from the very beginning of church history at local and ecumenical councils over the centuries or sometimes by individual Catholicoi. Most are collected in the *Book of Canons* (*Ganonakirk*) but very few of these are actually called upon today to govern the life of the Armenian Church. They are more of historical interest.



### FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



### Lesson Roundup

Today your child learned that they have a role in moving the Armenian Church forward. They read that right now in their lives they help the church by learning about God, but they listed some of the jobs in the church they may do in the future.

Christians are expected to be a little different from others because God’s guidance for our lives is more important than anything. The class explored the purpose of rules and learned that God gave us his rules to keep us safe and happy.

The class also reviewed the Ten Commandments and learned more about Armenian Church canons.

### Family Faith Activity

We can continue the examination of God’s law and our rules at home. Try to do one of the following activities with your family.

1. Name all Ten Commandments without looking at the Bible. Check your answers in Exodus 20:2-17.
2. Find an article in the newspaper about someone who broke a rule. Discuss the consequences.
3. Make a list of family rules and post it in a conspicuous location.

### A Parent’s Promise

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

Signed\_\_\_\_\_