

4. Read **Our Story**. Give children the following synopsis of the story: “Three hungry soldiers come to a town where all the food has been hidden, and they set out to make soup of water and stones, and the entire town enjoys a feast. Let’s see how this magic feat is done!” Distribute the Reader’s Theater scripts to the children and have the class act out the story. (This can be performed as well at an Assembly or for another class.) After they’ve read it through, ask “How is our parish community like the story of Stone Soup? What are examples of some church ingredients that we add to make our parish?” Responses could be: sing in the choir, parish trustee or council member, Sunday School teacher, etc. 15 min.
5. Read Acts 2: 42-47 from the Bible and then the paraphrased version in **God’s Word**. Ask the class if they can pinpoint what four things the early Christians did? Learn, pray, fellowship, and break bread. Introduce the **Faith Word** “breaking bread.” 5 min.
6. Read **We Learn About God**. Brainstorm a list of all of the ways that the parish community is demonstrating teamwork, as did the early Christians. 5 min.
7. Read **Our Armenian Way**. Ideally, this would be best done in teams of two. Distribute copies of the world map for each student (or pair) and ask them to find the countries listed below; they may then highlight and/or draw a cross to show that there is an Armenian Church. Please note that Armenia is too small to have been identified. It is the small yellow country south of Georgia. If some of the following countries listed are not identified, mention them at the very end. Country list (as many as are identified on your world map will be fine): *Armenia, Israel, Turkey, United States, Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Austria, Sweden, Belgium, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Holland, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela, Egypt, Ethiopia, Singapore, Sudan, Iraq, Jordan, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, New Zealand, India, Burma.* (38 total) 10 min.
8. **Handmade With Love: Classroom Quilt**. Pass out white 8” squares to class. Have students illustrate what they like most about coming to church or what they look forward to the most. After they complete the square have them select a piece of colorful construction paper and glue their square to it. Punch 4 holes (one on each corner) of the construction paper. Quilt all of the squares together by tying them with yarn or string. Teacher can add a title to the top part of the quilt and hang it in the class, or church hall, wherever appropriate.
9. Clean-up. Close with the prayer. “Heavenly Father, we thank you for our church, our parish community and for all of our Armenian churches all over the world. Amen.” 15 min.

Grade Two

Unit Two: Jesus & Me

Lesson One: Prayer is Talking With God

Key Concepts

1. We pray alone and together.
2. Jesus tells us that we do not live on bread alone but on prayer and God’s Word. (Matt.4:4)
3. St. Paul tells the Christians not to worry but to pray and thank God. (Phil.4:6)
4. The *Havadamk* is a prayer that proclaims our faith as one family in Christ.
5. *Der Voghormya* is a hymn-prayer that asks God to have mercy on all.
6. St. Gregory of Narek wrote prayers that expressed is love and humility before God.
7. St. Nersess Shnorhali wrote prayers that praised God.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Reflect on various tools of communication.

2. Read and discuss story about two distant friends who want to keep in touch.
3. Consider Scripture passages on prayer.
4. Examine the *Havadamk* and “Der Voghormya” as two examples of prayer and define ‘prayer.’
5. Discuss, compare and apply the work of St. Gregory of Narek and St. Nersess Shnorhali.
6. Create an individual prayer journal.

Materials Needed

Props such as letter with a stamp, cell phone, regular phone, laptop or computer tablet, radio, GPS, walkie/talkie, newspaper

Pencils, crayons, markers

Divine Liturgy book open to the Nicene Creed

Recording of *Der Voghormya*

Book of Lamentations (your priest or church library should have a copy)

St. Nersess’ 24-verse prayer “I Confess with Faith” (priest or church library; also included in Lenten services)

Teacher sample of prayer journal: Composition-style memo notebook (Wal-Mart or Dollar stores) - one for each student; piece of gift heavy gift wrap/wallpaper scraps/photo album paper; Modge Podge-type glue and brushes or glue sticks; decorative ribbon 12-18” strip optional; embellishment for decorations (foam shapes, stickers, buttons, sequins, stamps)

Procedure

1. Have the communication props displayed on a table. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**.
2. Distribute lessons. Invite students to quietly look at display items for a moment and then have them return to their seats. (If props are not used for some reason, they can still do the activity looking at the photos in **Let’s Discover**.) Call on the class to describe the purpose of each picture or prop. Then ask the text question: “What do all the objects have in common?” Have students write their answer on the line. They all are used to *communicate* with each other or to a group of people. 5 min.
3. Ask the class what they think the phrase “keep in touch” means. Segue into **Our Story** and have students take turns reading. Ask children if any of them have been to Armenia or another country where they made friends. If not, perhaps they made friends with children at a summer camp. How have they kept in touch? Ask class if it’s possible to be friends even though they don’t live nearby or see each other. Ask if they thought Sosi’s solution would work. Are there other possible solutions? 8 min.
4. Read **God’s Word**. After the two verses about Jesus and prayer, ask the children: “So what do these verses tell us about Jesus and prayer? (that he often prayed, that he needed quiet time to pray). After the Philippians reading, ask: “Have you ever been worried? What did you worry about? How did that feel? Did you ever think of praying to feel better? Review the **Faith Word**. 5 min.
5. Read **We Learn About God**. Show the class a copy of the Nicene Creed (*Havadamk*). Have everyone stand in a circle with hands held together palm to palm and thumbs crossed and announce that you will be reading the creed that we recite at every Sunday liturgy and they should listen carefully. When you’re done, ask students if they can remember some of the things that we believe in. Some answers would be *God created everything, Jesus was born as a human being and died for us, Jesus was crucified and rose again, we believe in one baptism, etc.*
6. Play a recording of *Der Voghormya*. Ask the class if they have heard this before. When is it sung? (before Holy Communion) What type of feeling does it give? What are people generally doing during this hymn? (praying). 10 min.

7. Read **Our Armenian Way**. If possible, show the class a copy of the *Book of Lamentations* and *I Confess with Faith*. Read verse 15, "Christ, Guardian of all."
8. Direct students to solving the message based on their short reading: (*A Christian prays for others and praises God always.*) 7 min.
9. **Handmade With Love:** Show sample prayer journal. Have supplies all ready. Pass out individual journals and encourage them to decorate the book. Directions for the journal are at the back of this manual.
10. Clean-up. Close with the prayer. "Heavenly Father, we thank you for your guidance, for listening to our prayers and for always being with us. We will always praise you and bring glory to your name. Amen." 25 min.

Unit Two: Jesus & Me

Lesson Two: A Way of Life

Key Concepts

1. Jesus prayed all the time.
2. Jesus prayed in the wilderness, mountains and alone in the mornings (Luke 5:16, 6:12, Mark 1:35).
3. During the Synaxis part of the Divine Liturgy, the deacons lead the worshippers in prayer chanting "Again in peace let us pray to the Lord."
4. The Armenian Church has seven canonical hours of prayer services mainly observed in the monasteries.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in an interactive exercise which emphasizes the importance of prayer as a way of getting to know God.
2. Read and discuss a story about a mother who is in need of rest and recharging.
3. Read Luke 5:15, 6:12 and Mark 1:35 about Jesus praying to his Father.
4. Discuss the deacon's bid to prayer: "Again in peace let us pray to the Lord."
5. Introduce the faith words of 'monk' and 'monastery' and the seven services of daily prayer.
6. Create and design an acrostic prayer stained glass window.

Materials Needed

Cell phone charger and cell phone (optional)

You Tube clip of Badarak (see Procedure #5)

Construction paper (color of your choice) pre-cut into an outer frame (use template provided at the end of this manual as a guide) so inside is hollow for light to shine through the wax and tissue paper

Wax paper cut smaller than the construction paper, ready for children to paste onto template.

Tissue paper squares (may purchase precut box from local craft or teacher supply store) Black construction paper to trace praying hand (one for each student)

White computer/copy paper cut into 4" x 4" squares for acrostic poem prayer (for class)

Glue sticks

Scissors

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**.
2. For an opening interactive exercise, ask a volunteer to *tell us about your mom*; 2nd volunteer-*tell us about your dad*; 3rd volunteer- *tell us about your brother or sister*; 4th volunteer – *tell us about your best friend*. The 5th request: *tell us*