

Unit One: Circles of Faith

Lesson Seven: A World of Faith

Key Concepts

1. Our parish is made up of a community of believers.
2. The early Church traditions of prayer, learning, fellowship, and communion continue today in all of our church communities.
3. Our parish is part of a Diocese and a world family of Armenian Christians.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a community-building exercise of giving compliments to their classmates.
2. Read, discuss and offer solutions to a story about a family dilemma regarding community.
3. Participate in Reader's Theater reading of *Stone Soup*.
4. Discuss the Scripture message of Acts 2:42-47.
5. Discuss and compare the early Church with that of their own parish.
6. Define the faith word "breaking bread."
7. Identify all of the countries that are home to the Armenian Church.
8. Create a classroom quilt.

Materials Needed

Blank Sheets of paper (any kind) –one for each student

Copy of world map (enough copies for each student or for pairs; see Procedure #7)

*optional Highlighter pen

8" x 8" white paper squares for quilt

8 ½ x 11 colorful construction paper

Reader's Theater handout from the back of this manual.

Glue or glue stick

Hole-punch

String/yarn/ribbon- enough to tie each quilt square

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**.
2. Read **Let's Discover** and ask class if they know what a compliment is. Go over the definition of *saying something nice about someone else*. Say: "The Bible tells us a lot about being good to one another. Let's look at just a few of the many instructions we learn from the Bible." (Call on volunteers to read each one – without the Bible references.) Then pass out blank sheets of paper to each student. Have them write their name in large print at the top of the sheet. The students then will rotate seats until they have the chance to visit every other student's desk and paper. While they are at each desk, they are to write a compliment to that person. Before they begin, provide examples to students because they are typically not familiar with giving compliments to one another and may have some difficulty. Often you hear, "You're a good friend," or "You're nice." Teach the students how to elaborate and be specific (avoid words that focus on appearance). It would be fun for the teacher to participate as well, making it a true community-building exercise with all involved. Discuss activity by answering questions in the lesson.
3. Continue by reading the story of the *Kasparian Family Thanksgiving Dilemma*. Brainstorm as a class a list of how the entire family could pitch in so that the job does not fall on one person. Explain that to prepare a meal, it's easiest when the whole community – in this case the family – shares all of the details that are involved. It is the same at church, when lots of people come together to prepare a dinner, or put together a program. 10 min.

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.