

students write a line or two of thanks. A simple text example: **Dear God, thank you for sending us your Son, Jesus. Thank you for loving me all the time. You are the best! Love, _____.**

8. Clean-up. Encourage class to thank God daily for his love and gift of Jesus. Close with the prayer. “Heavenly Father, we thank you for all of your gifts, especially for your Son, Jesus whom you sent to us so that we could be with you forever. Amen.” 15 min.

Unit One: Circles of Faith

Lesson Four: Follow Me

Key Concepts

1. Jesus called forth a community of believers beginning with the twelve disciples.
2. All of God’s people are remembered during the Divine Liturgy (the prayer of St. John Chrysostom).
3. Deacons are special parish helpers of the church.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Read the Bible story of how Jesus invited the first disciples.
2. Complete a puzzle related to the Scripture.
3. Read and discuss a story about what the church is and our role in it.
4. Paraphrase Jesus’ calling of the twelve disciples.
5. Recite a memory poem on the 12 Disciples.
6. Reenact the liturgical prayer of St. John Chrysostom.
7. Complete a fill-in activity on how children can serve the church.
8. Define the faith word “deacon.”
9. Decorate a picture frame for a church family photo.

Materials Needed

Pencils, crayons, markers

Follow Me Math Puzzle handout from the back of this manual (see Procedure #2).

Completed puzzle with one piece missing- any type of puzzle (keep covered until Procedure #3)

Divine Liturgy books

Handmade With Love frame: Parish photo; inexpensive wooden frames (available from craft stores); decorating pieces such as shells, small foam shapes, stickers; craft glue; scissors

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Ask them: “Who makes up God’s family? They will probably respond with “all of us.”
2. Read **Let’s Discover**. For the answer to what happened next, distribute the Follow Me Math Puzzle and direct the children to complete it. (Answer: “At once they left their nets and followed him.”) Then continue with the story and ask children: “So what’s the first thing Jesus asks us to do? Yes, to *follow* him. He didn’t give out a textbook, he gathered people around him and he started building a *family of believers* which became the *church*. Now let’s read more about what that means.” 15 min.
3. Read **Our Story**. Ask class “Would any of you have asked the same question as Vartan?” Show the completed puzzle with the missing piece and comment that the puzzle can never be complete without all the pieces. Ask: “what could Vartan do in the church?” Brainstorm some ideas of jobs for Vartan in the church; list them on the board (some ideas: help in Sunday School, serve on the altar, pick up litter on the grounds of the church, help with a food drive, help in the church office). 5 min.

4. Read **God's Word** paraphrased from Mark and Matthew. After their retelling, ask the class to imagine that they were one of the men that Jesus called: "How do you think the men felt when Jesus approached them? Do you think they were scared? Confused? How would *you* have responded to Jesus?" Discuss. As a class, read the poem of the 12 Disciples. Practice saying it a few times. 5 min.

5. Read **We Learn About God**. The prayer of St. John Chrysostom comes right after the hymn "Kohanamk". Distribute pew books and have students turn to the correct page. Let class know that St. John was one of our important Church Fathers who lived hundreds of years ago and his gift to the church was his ability to teach, write and speak very well. (Explain the term "Church Father": a great thinker and leader whose life and work helped build up the Church.) Read the prayer together (the teacher may take the role of the priest and the students respond as the choir with "amen.") Ask if they can list all the people that are being prayed for (those who trust in God, everyone present, churches, priests, Christian rulers, military, and all people).

Refer back to Vartan and the various ways he and all of the students can serve the church. Have students look at the pictures and write the describing word from the word bank under each picture. (Answers: studying, praying, visiting, praising, caring) Have them come up with one of their own and draw in the box. Share with the class. 10 min.

6. Direct students' attention to the picture of the deacon and ask if they know what that person is called. Some students might have family or friends who are deacons. Introduce **Faith Word** of deacon. Continue reading **Our Armenian Way**. Have students practice saying sargavak, shabig and oorar. (Optional: invite one of the deacons to visit the class and have the kids interview him and try on a robe with oorar.) 5 min.

7. **Handmade With Love**. Distribute frame-making materials, announcing that the children will be making a frame to remember that we are all called by Jesus to be one big family – the church. Have students write the title on their frame ("We are God's family.")

8. Clean-up. Close with the prayer. "Heavenly Father, help us remember this week what a beautiful family you have created in the Church. Amen." 20 min.

Unit One: Circles of Faith

Lesson Five: A Holy Guide

Key Concepts

1. The Holy Spirit was given to us to guide the church.
2. Jesus tells his disciples that he will send the Holy Spirit.
3. The hymn *Hokee Asdoozoh* prays for the Holy Spirit to accomplish the great mystery of transforming the gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of our Lord.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Discuss situations that have caused them fear and illustrate how they handled one.
2. Read a story about Ani, whose mom goes back to work.
3. Review John 16: 5-15, Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.
4. Compare Jesus' promise with that of Ani's mom.
5. Learn and practice singing *Hokee Asdoozoh* ("Spirit of God")
6. Identify the dove as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
7. Define the faith word "chrismation."
8. Create and decorate a dove.