

God Is Born!



Pray Together

Hanoon Hlor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. Dear Father, open our hearts to the miracle and mystery of Christmas. Please help us to remember your love and wisdom and kindness. Teach us to treat everyone we meet the way Jesus wants us to so that others will see your love in us. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Answer the questions.

1. Jesus is fully _____ and fully _____.
2. “Bible” comes from the Greek for _____.
3. The “*Havadov Khosdovanim*” prayers were written by _____.
4. The Holy Trinity is the _____, the _____, and the _____.
5. The Bible is composed of two parts called the Old and New _____.

A Very Special Time



The Christmas season is a very busy and exciting time. Christian families all over the world observe Christmas in many different ways. We set aside our usual routines for weeks to prepare for the holiday.

What does your family do to celebrate this holiday time? Do you go somewhere special every year? Eat special food? Visit certain friends or family? List some of your family’s Christmas traditions on the lines below.

January 6 or December 25?

As you know, in the United States most people celebrate Christmas on December 25th. In the Armenian Church, we observe the feast of Christmas on January 6 as it was celebrated by the entire Christian Church in the early centuries. When the Roman Church began to gain strength, it assigned Christ’s birth to this late December date to encourage people to turn a hugely popular pagan festival (the Winter Solstice) into one honoring Christ. The Armenians never had this festival, and were not attached to the Roman Church, so they never felt the need to move Christmas to December.

You have surely heard of the “twelve days of Christmas”? Well, this is the exact number of days between December 25 and January 6, when all of the early events of Jesus’ life, up to his baptism, are remembered in the Roman Catholic and other churches. The Armenian Church continues to remember all these events on January 6.



Paree Loor!!! Good News!!!



It’s always good news when a new baby is born. The parents-to-be joyfully prepare a room and gather all the things the newborn will need, such as a stroller, crib, and a supply of tiny clothes.

As soon as the baby is born, the parents are so excited they begin calling all their friends and relatives, sometimes in the middle of the night! The baby is photographed before he or she even leaves the hospital so that the pictures can be sent out in cards announcing the new birth. People come to the hospital and the home to visit the family and bring gifts to the baby.

When God decided it was time for Jesus to come, he made preparations, too. He chose Mary to carry the Baby Jesus, and Joseph to help Mary raise this special child.

When you were going to be born, your parents knew you were coming less than a year before your arrival. Since God had planned for Jesus since the beginning of the world, he was able to tell us in the Old Testament centuries before our Lord was born in Bethlehem.

Below are some examples of places in the Old Testament where God lets us in on things we can expect to find in the Savior. Draw a line from each Old Testament passage to the matching event in the life of Jesus.

God’s Old Testament Hints

Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem Ephrata,
Though you are small among the clans of Judah,
Out of you will come for me
One who will be ruler over Israel,
Whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given,
And the government will be
On his shoulders.

Psalms 34:20

He protects all his bones,
Not one of them will be broken.

Psalms 69:21

They put gall in my food
And gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Events in Jesus’ Life

On Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified with the two criminals, the soldiers broke the legs of the two criminals to hurry their death. When the soldiers approached Jesus to do the same, they saw that he was already dead. They did not need to break Jesus’ legs.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which was a tiny, unimportant town.

When Jesus hung on the cross, the soldiers did not give him water to relieve his thirst. Instead, they soaked a sponge in vinegar, put it on a stick, and held it up to Jesus’ lips.

Jesus came as a baby boy, and he is God and rules the universe.

Our Armenian Way

In the year 441, the Armenian bishop and historian Movses of Khorene wrote a beautiful *sharagan*, or hymn, called “*Khorhoort Medz*.” *Khorhoort Medz* is used to celebrate Christmas Eve. This *sharagan* may be translated as follows.

A great and marvelous mystery
Khorhoort medz yev skancheli

is revealed on this day
Vor haysum avoor haydnetzav.

The shepherds sing with the angels,
Hoveevkun yerken unt breshdagus

And bring good tidings to the world.
Dahn avedis ashkharee

A new king was born in the city of Bethlehem.
Dzunav nor arkah ee Petghehem kaghakee.

Look up the word “mystery” in the dictionary.
Write a brief definition below.

How is Jesus’ birth a “mystery”?

ԽՈՐՀՈՐԴ ՄԵԾ
(Ծմնդեան Թափօրի Շարական)

KHORHOORT MEDZ
(procession)

Խոր - ևորդ մեծ եւ սքան - - -
Khor - hoort medz yev skan - - -
A wonderful and great mystery is revealed on this day! The shepherds sing with the angels.

չե - - լի որ
che - lee vor
they announce the good news to the world.

յայ - - - սըմ ա - - - սոր
hay - - - sum a - - - voor

յայտ - - - նե - - - գու:
hayd - - - ne - - - tsav.

Our Shepherd Returns

In our “*Havadamk*” (Nicene Creed) we read “He is to come in the same body and with the glory of the Father, to judge the living and dead of whose kingdom there is no end.” This means that one day Jesus will return to the earth.

The events of Christmas tell us that the first time Jesus came to us, he arrived as a helpless baby. He was so humble that he was born in a cave-like structure designed for animals. When he returns again, it will not be as a defenseless infant. This time he will come in the whole power and glory of God. He will rescue his people and take us to heaven, where he will care for us forever.

Before that happens, however, others will come along saying they are Christ. Many people will be fooled by these fake christs. They will be led away from the one true God.

How can we protect ourselves from being tricked by these pretenders? God gave us the perfect weapon – our Bibles and his own body on earth: the Church! If we read the Bible and grow closer to God through the worship and fellowship of the church, we will grow ever closer to understanding the nature of the Lord and of his Second Coming.

The statements that follow tell us of the events that will surround Jesus’ return. Using the Scripture references provided, fill in the missing words from each sentence.

Isaiah 45:23 “Before me every _____ will bow; by me every _____ will swear.”

I Corinthians 15:25 “For he must reign until he has put all his _____ under his _____.”

John 14:2 “In my Father’s house are many _____; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to _____ a place for you.

Matthew 24:5 “For many will come in my _____, claiming ‘I am the _____,’ and will deceive many.

Spotlight on the Bible

Open your Bibles to the Gospel of Luke. Read the second chapter of Luke, then put the following events in order by placing the numbers 1 – 10 on the space before each statement.

- _____ Jesus' parents lose Jesus in the crowd as they are leaving Jerusalem.
- _____ The baby is named Jesus.
- _____ Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the synagogue listening to the teachers there and asking them questions.
- _____ Caesar Augustus gives the order for a census (counting of the population).
- _____ The shepherds become frightened because they see the angel of the Lord.
- _____ Simeon holds the Baby Jesus.
- _____ Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
- _____ The shepherds hurry to see the baby.
- _____ The widow Anna in the temple sees the baby Jesus and gives thanks to God.
- _____ Jesus is born in a manger.

Faith Word

Incarnate

To give bodily form to

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your fifth-grader studied the birth of Jesus. The class played a birthday game to better understand the idea of celebrating *Jesus'* birth. They learned about how God, in the Old Testament, foretold the arrival of the Savior. The children reviewed Jesus' life with his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph. They also learned that through the Bible and the worship and fellowship of the church, they can grow closer to their Lord.

Family Faith Activity

Christmas is a time of giving gifts because we want to celebrate Jesus, God's greatest gift to humanity. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Think of a mother-to-be and pray for her health and the health of the baby.
2. Read the story of Jesus' birth, as related in Luke 2:1-20.
3. At Christmas dinner, light a candle and sing the first line of *Khorhoort Medz*.
4. Make a card with a cheerful drawing and message and send it to an out-of-town relative or friend.

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ___ and tried at least one activity as a family___.

Signed _____