

# Unit Three

# I Believe! Help Me to Believe More

## Lesson 5

### The Living Word/The Bread of Life

#### heart to Heart

“How sweet are your words ...”

Psalm 119: 103-106

*Here I Am, Lord, p. 1*



#### Verse Master

“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

*Psalm 119: 103*



#### A Backward Glance

Name 5 feasts that commemorate events in the life of Christ.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



B. Name 5 church feasts that remember significant events in the life of the Armenian Church and people.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

3. In three or four sentences, describe how remembering important people and events in the story of our faith can strengthen our faith.

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#### Scenic Overlook

In Revelation 10:9-10, St. John writes about encountering an angel who handed him a scroll, saying to him: “Take this and eat it. It will be bitter to your stomach but sweet as honey to your mouth.” Which turned out to be true! Before John, the prophets Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:16) and Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:8-3:3) received similar advice. Look up their stories.





## Remember

The Word of God refers to both the written words of Scripture as well as Jesus himself, the living Word; we are spiritually nourished by both.

## The Word as words....

We know how important the Bible is to our faith. In an earlier unit, you took a closer look at this special book, its contents, and what it has to do with *our* lives. The word of God is so important to our well-being, that Jesus uses this as a weapon against the devil during his 40 days in the wilderness. When the devil tempted Jesus to turn stones to bread because he was hungry, Jesus quoted the Hebrew Bible (Deuteronomy 8:3), telling him: "We do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)



Scripture is truly *soul* food.

God's word as experienced in the pages of Scripture was crucial for the evolving Christian community. After only a few centuries of the gospels and letters circulating through the early church, they were prayerfully organized into the collection of 27 books as we know them today. Reading these words, hearing them at church every Sunday, studying them together at church, in Sunday School: these are just a few ways we can "take in" the word of God. Turn back to **Scenic Overlook** and read about how three men of the Bible experienced the word of God.

## The Word as Body and Blood

The Gospel of John opens with world-renowned words: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning....the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*" (John 1: 1-2, 14)

So the "Word" then also refers to the person of Jesus Christ. In the opening verses of the Gospel of John, the Word:

- Is One with God
- Created all things
- Is a light for all people, shining in the darkness
- Became human and lived among us
- Blesses us with grace and truth

It is this Word of God that we share in when we receive Holy Communion, accepting the wine-soaked bread that has become the very Body and life-giving Blood of our Lord. How concrete is this *spiritual* food!

So there you have it. At every liturgy, every Badarak, we receive Jesus in two ways: through the written words of the Gospel and the Body and Blood of our Lord's Holy Communion. Let's see how that takes place right in the liturgy book. Turn to page 13 of the Divine Liturgy pew book and follow your teacher's instructions.

