**Badarak: Meaningful Moments**

*45 minutes to a richer worship experience (5th grade and above)*

**5. Litanies**

**Materials Needed**

* For Teacher: This sheet, Pew Book, Bible
* For Students: Pew Book, Bible

*Have on the board when students come in: 1) James 5:16, 2) I Thessalonians 5:25,*

*3) Romans 15:30, 4) Ephesians 6:18, 5)1 Timothy 2:1-3, 6) John 17:9-11*

1. *Begin:* Whether it’s through words, or songs, or even gestures, what are we doing throughout Badarak? (*praying)* Yes. We are praying *together* as a community of believers, as the Body of Christ. And as that Body we pray *to* our Lord with praise and requests and confessions, right? But we also pray for *one another*, for those not present, and for those who are no longer with us. *And* we pray to the saints, the people who got it right while they were alive, people who honored God with their entire lives and sometimes even their deaths. Open your Bibles to just a few of the places we read about this. Let’s see what it says. *Turn to passages together (or to save time, you might divide the passages among students) and ask students to share what they understand from each (1. Pray for one another; righteous prayers will help others! 2. Paul is asking others to pray for him 3. Paul urges others to pray for him 4. Jesus prays for his disciples, 5. Pray on all occasions and especially for all the saints; 6. This is a specific instruction for worship: Make requests, ask for help, give thanks to and for all people, including leaders.) Ask:* Why do you think praying for others is so important? *Discuss. Answers might include: It takes you out of yourself and your own concerns; connects you with the rest of the human family; God asks us to love one another which mean wanting the best for them; caring for and wanting the best for others is a task of empathy and compassion that takes work and practice; we are urged to do so in the Bible – both in private prayer and together.*
2. So during the Badarak, there are many moments when we are asked by the priest or the deacons to pray together for specific things or people like peace or the strength of the church, or for leaders or those who have died. These take the shape of what we call a “litany.” *Write the word on the board.* And litany simply means a series of requests.But there is a very special moment of the Badarak where we are praying at length and very specifically for a number of holy people whose lives were exemplary. We ask that they be especially remembered and we ask for God’s mercy. *Have students turn to p.34 and note the bottom word “Intercessions” (meaning prayers on behalf of others). Ask who the first people are to appear as petitions begin: Mary, St. John the Baptist, the first martyr Stephen. Then at the top of p. 36 (just mention a few in each petition): apostles, prophets, martyrs, patriarchs; bottom of p. 36 (only those in bold are prayed aloud although we are praying for everyone listed): Thaddeus and Bartholomew, St. Gregory the Enlightener; p. 37: monks, those who devoted their lives to prayer and good works; kings and leaders, those who have died (fallen asleep in Christ), and finally the Primate and Catholicos as important leaders of the church.*

To each of these prayer requests we respond to the deacon with “Remember Lord and have mercy.” In Armenian it’s “Heeshya Der yev voghormya.” *Review that and remind students to sing the phrase along with the choir.* (20 min)

1. Church. *Enter church when the choir is singing “Arachee Ko Der” and you may leave immediately following the Intercessions (top of p. 39) or stay through the Lord’ Prayer (bottom of p. 41).* (20 min)
2. *Back in class:* Any questions about your experience today praying for others? Well, let’s make it a little more personal as we end this session: *Distribute pieces of paper, ask students to write the name or names of people they want remembered in prayer (not relationships - “my mom” - but actual names). Collect papers. Get students’ attention, bow heads and ask them to say at the end of the petition “Remember Lord and have mercy.” Begin:* Lord, we pray together with one heartfor*… Read all names and end with response in unison.* (5 min)