

*First Day of Sunday School*  
**COMMUNION/SACRAMENT SUNDAY**  
**Lesson Plan #4: Marriage (Holy Matrimony)**

<p><b>Preparation:</b>          (What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach.)</p>	<p><b>Watch video:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IUE5uC4DDQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IUE5uC4DDQ</a>  <b>Materials needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 clear glasses</li> <li>• Warm water to fill one glass</li> <li>• <b>Red</b> food coloring (or <b>red</b> Jello mix or any <b>red</b> drink mix, like Kool Aid)</li> </ul> <p><b>Preview Armenian Wedding Video:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IHxgbRmo4o">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IHxgbRmo4o</a>  <i>(begin at 1:30 and watch until 5:00; then advance to 10:00 and continue watching 'crowning portion' of the service. This may be played during instruction, or at the end of lesson.</i></p>
<p><b>Lesson Title:</b></p>	<p><b>Marriage (Holy Matrimony)</b></p>
<p><b>Scripture Reference(s):</b></p>	<p>"What God has joined together let no one separate" (Mark 10:9)  <i>"and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" (Matthew 19:5)</i></p>
<p><b>Emphasis or Theme:</b></p>	<p>There are 7 Sacraments of the Armenian Apostolic Church. They are <i>(in order of customary appearance in our lives)</i>: Baptism, Chrismation or Confirmation, Penance, Holy Communion (Eucharist), Marriage (or Holy Matrimony), Ordination (or Holy Orders), Prayers for the sick.</p> <p>Today we focus on the fourth Sacrament: <b>MARRIAGE (HOLY MATRIMONY)</b></p>
<p><b>Introducing the Lesson:</b>          (What you might say or do before the story to help create an interest or curiosity.)</p>	<p><b>(Before beginning, have your 2 glasses ready at the front of room so you are ready to perform the "water into wine" demonstration.)</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IUE5uC4DDQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IUE5uC4DDQ</a></p> <p><b>SAY:</b> Sacraments are signs of God's love. The Armenian word for sacrament, "khorhoort," means mystery. Jesus Christ is mysteriously present in the seven sacraments. Sacraments are not just rites and ceremonies; they are the "actions" of Christ performed by the authorized members of the clergy.</p> <p>No Sacrament can be performed outside the church any- where else since it is holy and is the action of Christ himself. Under circumstances where there is no Armenian Church edifice, a sister church in the neighborhood may be used.</p> <p>So far, we discussed the first 4 Sacraments: <b>BAPTISM, CHRISMATION, PENANCE, and HOLY COMMUNION.</b> Today we will focus on Sacrament #5: <b>MARRIAGE, or HOLY MATRIMONY.</b></p> <p><b>ASK:</b> Has anyone attended a wedding inside the Armenian Church? <i>(pause for responses and allow students to share their experiences.)</i></p> <p><b>SAY:</b> Weddings are not only beautiful occasions, but they are also very important and significant spiritually in the life of a Christian.</p>
<p><b>Sharing the Lesson:</b>          (Outline the lesson here. Then describe the method you will use to tell the story. Examples might include showing pictures, props, visuals, drawing as you tell, using puppets, costumed characters, dramatic storytelling or any</p>	<p><b>MARRIAGE (HOLY MATRIMONY)</b>  <b>SAY:</b> The Sacrament of Marriage is the union between a man and a woman forever. God's command, addressed to man and woman is "to go and be fruitful and replenish the earth," as told in the first chapter of Genesis. This means that God's purpose for marriage is for the couple to have children to replenish the Kingdom of God on earth.</p>

number of other methods.)

It is only the church that unites the couple by the hands of an ordained priest and on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ. When a man and a woman marry within the Church, it is God who unites their bodies and souls. Marriage is a life commitment and the Sacrament emphasizes the inseparable unity between the husband and wife. Jesus said, *“Therefore what God has joined together let no man separate.”* The Church offers lengthy prayers to safeguard the lasting unity between the husband and his wife. Separation and divorce are the denials of God’s intentions for marriage, and instead of ending the marriage, a couple should concentrate on patience, understanding, and responsibility to prevent such danger.

### **SACRAMENT OF CROWNING**

**SAY:** Holy Matrimony in the Armenian Church is known as the **Sacrament of CROWNING**. During the wedding ceremony, the bride and groom join their foreheads together and the Armenian Church crowns the couple as king and queen by actually placing **crowns** or a **tricolor (white, green, red) braid with a little cross in front** onto their heads. Unlike other churches, the central prayer of the Armenian Church’s Holy Matrimony service specifies royalty and symbolizes the establishment of a new kingdom within the Kingdom of God as the crowns are put on the bride and groom. *(At this time, a special hymn is sung dedicated to the first king and queen of Armenia, Trdat and Ashkhen.)*

**SAY:** The Best Man has a very important duty during this portion of the service. He holds a cross in his right hand over the couple’s heads to bless them as they take their marriage vows. In Armenian weddings, the best man is known as the ‘kavor’ or ‘knkahayr,’ which translate to “godfather” in English. The wedding godfather differs from a christening (baptismal) godfather, but his role is essentially the same, to support and watch over the marriage.

Then, as the crowns are removed, another special prayer that reflects humility in terms of service and dedication, as well as dignity and power under the banner of the Church or Cross. The model of marriage that men and women have to follow is that of the Holy Family: Jesus, the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph.

**SAY:** There is a story told in the Bible in the **Book of John 2:1-11** about a very important wedding that Jesus and His mother attended.

**ASK:** Does anyone know the name of that wedding? *(ANS: Wedding at Cana in Galilee)*

**SAY:** Jesus attended this wedding with His blessed mother Mary and the 12 disciples. Something miraculous happened at the Wedding at Cana.

**ASK:** Can anyone tell me what happened? ***If no one knows the answer, continue with below to give them a hint!*** *(ANS: Jesus turned water into wine)*  
(As you continue your discussion, use your 2 glasses and pour the warm water into the empty glass with red food coloring.)

*Watch video for teacher instructions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IUE5uC4DDQ>*

**SAY:** Yes! The guests at the party had run out of wine, so Jesus performed His very 1<sup>st</sup> miracle and changed water into wine. At the conclusion of the wedding ceremony in the Armenian Church, a cup of wine is blessed and presented to the bride and the

	<p>groom to taste. This is a direct reference to the miracle Jesus performed at Cana. His presence at this wedding is recognized during every wedding ceremony in the Armenian Church. <i>(Optional to <b>read: John 2:1-11</b> together as a group.)</i></p> <p><b>WEDDING GIFTS</b></p> <p><b>SAY:</b> Traditionally, guests bring gifts to present to the newly married couple. While these gifts are generous and appreciated, the most important gifts given to the happy couple on their wedding day are bestowed by the Holy Spirit.</p> <p><b>ASK:</b> Can anyone guess what gifts the Holy Spirit might be giving the bride and groom at their wedding? Do you think it is something from their registry, like a new set of towels or pots and pans? <i>(Pause for responses)</i></p> <p><b>SAY:</b> The Holy Spirit bestows gifts of <b>love, righteousness, patience and endurance</b> <i>(write on board)</i> – all important gifts for a successful marriage. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are symbolically expressed in the exchange of the vows and the wedding rings, which the priest blesses and presents individually to wear on their left hand finger.</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> Selecting a wedding date is one of the first “orders of business” when planning a wedding. Just remember that when it is your turn to plan a wedding, you avoid the 40 days of Lent. No marriage can be blessed by the Armenian Church during the 40 days of Lent.</p>
<p><b>Learning Activities:</b> (Games, crafts artwork, songs, memory verses, or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the scripture or make application to the lives of the students.)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Crowning Crown craft</b></li> <li>2. <b>Water into Wine Pots</b></li> <li>3. <b>Wedding Gifts of the Holy Spirit</b></li> <li>4. <b>Wedding at Cana Water into Wine craft</b></li> <li>5. <b>'Here Comes the Bride' games</b></li> </ol>
<p><b>Review:</b> (Solidify learning by repeating facts or themes or even the story itself through games, crafts, activities, or visual aids.)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The first Sacrament: BAPTISM</li> <li>2. The second Sacrament: CHRISMATION or CONFIRMATION</li> <li>3. The third Sacrament: PENANCE</li> <li>4. The fourth Sacrament: HOLY COMMUNION (EUCCHARIST)</li> <li>5. The fifth Sacrament: MARRIAGE (HOLY MATRIMONY)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Closing:</b> (Prayer, last song, . . .)</p>	<p><b>SHARE a video of an Armenian wedding:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lHxgbRmo4o">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lHxgbRmo4o</a> <i>(begin at 1:30 and watch until 5:00; then advance to 10:00 and continue watching the actual crowning portion of the service.)</i></p> <p><b>RECITE: Hayr Mer</b></p>