

When children and parents have faith discussions regularly, faith multiplies.



Faith at Home

Parent Handout

Theme of the Sunday: **Courage**

Verse of the Sunday: *"After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."*

Message/Moral of the day: *Faith requires courage and strength because, only when we exercise courage and strength, do we maintain our belief in any real way. If we give up and cave in at the sign of the first problem, we don't have faith. We have unbelief. We all struggle with this . . . even Joshua struggled! Joshua is filled with God's Spirit, has worked alongside Moses, and has been on the mountain with God. But Joshua still needs this kind of encouragement and exhortation to keep his faith in God. Never let fear stop you from becoming closer to God or keeping your faith.*

Faith at Home :

- *Talk with your children about fear & courage*
- *Discuss consequences of fear & courage*
- *Make an effort to live with courage and faith this week, and observe how that changes your reality for good*

Prayer & Worship: *Heavenly Father, you've promised Joshua in the Old Testament and You promise to all of us here today: "I will never leave you or forsake you. Therefore, be strong and very courageous!" I confess that you are God who keeps His promises and I promise to live my life fearlessly, with faith and with Your presence in it, now and always. Amen*

Liturgical Calendar: **FEAST OF NAMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Each year, on January 13, the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates the Feast of Naming of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As Evangelist St. Luke writes in his Gospel, according to the Jewish tradition "On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived," (Luke 2:21). "Jesus" is a Hebrew word meaning "Savior". According to the Gospel according to Luke when the angel Gabriel came to Mary to give her the good tidings of the birth of the Son of the Most High, he said that Mary would name the baby "Jesus". "You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus," (Luke 1:31). Parallel to the name "Jesus" the name "Christ" is given to the Savior, which is a Greek word meaning "Consecrated" and corresponding to the Hebrew word "Messiah". On the Feast of Naming of Our Lord Jesus Christ a Divine Liturgy is celebrated in all Armenian Churches.