

Plugged In

Lesson 2

Unit Four

Liturgy: The Work of the People

Here I Am, Lord

Christ is revealed among us! He who is God is seated here. The voice of peace has resounded. A holy greeting is commanded. This church has now become one soul, the kiss is given to bind us completely together. Love is spread over us all; now, priests, lift up your voices, and give blessings together to the one God while the angels sing “holy, holy, holy!”



One Step Back...W O R S H I P!

1. The word Eucharist means

- a. sacrifice b. worship c. thanksgiving d. liturgy

2. In Armenian, the word *yergurbakootyoon* means

- a. thanksgiving b. sacrifice c. Holy Communion d. kissing the ground

3. The Divine Liturgy is divided into two parts. What is the first part called?

- a. Liturgy of the Eucharist b. kiss of peace c. Liturgy of the Word d. procession

4. In what part of the liturgy do we sing the Hayr Mer?

- a. Liturgy of the Word b. Liturgy of the Eucharist

5. In what part of the liturgy do we pray the Havadamk?

- a. Liturgy of the Eucharist b. Liturgy of the Word

Worship in Action



Wow, tickets to a famous Broadway show in one of the city's most impressive theatres! You've been marking the days on your calendar for the past three months and now the big night is here. You've spent the entire day getting ready. You're ready to go an hour before it's time to leave; after all, you want to get there early so you can get a great seat. You walk down the center aisle and select a perfect center stage seat. You are in awe of the beauty of the theater...lush red velvet curtain, the orchestra ...this evening's performance would be one that you will remember for years to come. You settle comfortably in your seat and wait for the entertainment to begin.

You know, our churches sometimes resemble a theater: rows of pews, the curtain and the stage... It seems as though that is what some people expect when they attend Sunday Liturgy. They simply sit comfortably in their seat and wait to be entertained. But as we've already seen, liturgy is not at all a show -- it involves the effort and energy of the faithful. It involves our entire body and all of our senses. How are our senses engaged? What movements do we make in this "total spiritual workout"? Jot some answers down here:

Five times in the New Testament you will find reference to a 'holy kiss': Romans 16:16, I Corinthians 16:20, II Corinthians 13:12, I Thessalonians 5:26, I Peter 5:14 — "Greet one another with a kiss of love."

Christian Love... It's More Than Just A Kiss!

Last week we discovered that the Armenian word used for worship is *yergurbakootyoon* which literally means "kissing the ground." In an earlier session we talked about the "Kiss of Peace" which we share with one another during liturgy. Five times in the New Testament you will find reference to a 'holy kiss' and 'kiss of love' which was much more than a greeting. When we share this holy greeting with one another, we are literally saying that we forgive each other and also reconcile ourselves with God who is the truest example of forgiveness.

At the conclusion of Badarak we just don't leave. Before we depart, we line up before the altar and one at a time, we kiss the Bible. This kiss is an affirmation of our relationship with God and his Word. Through this act each one of us is commissioned to '**go in peace to love and serve the world.**' Let us think about some attitudes and habits we can develop that will prepare us to reflect Christ to the world.



The Action Continues...

1. Matthew 5:13
 2. Matthew 5:14
 3. 1 Peter 2:5
 4. 2 Corinthians 5:20
 5. 1 Peter 2:9
- a. ambassadors
 - b. chosen people
 - c. light
 - d. living stones
 - e. salt
1. What does it mean to be the salt of the earth?
 2. How can you be a light for the world?
 3. Name two things you can do to become living stones for God.
 4. What is the job of an ambassador?
 5. How can we be ambassadors for Christ?
 6. What responsibilities do you have as a member of God's holy family?

SPECIAL • EYE WITNESS • REPORT



Seventh-Grader Serves at the Ararat Senior Home

Sevan Krikorian is a seventh-grader at Hovsepian Middle School. Like most boys his age, Sevan enjoys sports, video games and days off from school. But Sevan has found a way of spending his free time that is perhaps uncommon for a boy his age. Sevan spends his Saturday mornings at the Ararat Senior Home in West Hills, California.

Sevan does not understand why 'hanging out' is such big news. He says, "Boys my age like to hang out. I've just found that I like to hang out here at the Ararat home. The residents are always so happy to see me, and appreciate the time that I spend with

them. They really like it when I get a bingo game going. Sometimes I bring my friend Ani, who plays the piano and gets a sing-along going. Really, I would recommend this for other kids...it's a great way to spend a Saturday morning."

Sevan says that he began coming to the nursing home when visiting his grandmother. But when his grandmother died last year, he just kept coming. Sevan insists that it is no big deal, but the staff and residents from the Ararat home who look forward to his weekly visits will tell a completely different story!

1. How are the residents of the Ararat Home benefiting from Sevan's volunteering?
2. What are the benefits *Sevan* experiences?
3. How do Sevan's visits take God's message to the world?
4. Name a way that you've lived God's message of love in your community.





Life Issue

What Does It Mean To Love The “Other?”

It is obvious by the amazing growth of the early Church that Christ’s followers demonstrated a lifestyle that caught people’s attention. People who observed this lifestyle were inspired by how Christ’s followers loved and cared for one another and for all those they came in contact with. These actions made them living witnesses of Christ and his mission; in other words they were living examples of Christ’s love.

Read Matthew 5:23-24 and 43-48. What kind of love does Jesus ask of us in these verses?

Our Armenian Way

Kridsos ee mech mer haydnetsav—At every Armenian liturgy we declare that “Christ is revealed among us” but even more significantly *through* us! God wants to use each and every one of us to make a difference in the world. In the Gospel of Matthew 14:13-21 we hear the story of Jesus feeding a great multitude of people. Jesus was able to use one boy’s small lunch and feed thousands with it. In the same way, God can take whatever we have to offer him and bless it. Even though it does not look like anything, “little is much” when we offer it back to God for his blessing and glory!



The early Church built upon this concept of public worship as an expression of love. The word liturgy means: “the work of the people.” This work does not end when liturgy concludes. One of the goals of our worship is to actually become a life-giving source of love for the world which is what we pledge to do when we kiss the Gospel book at the end of Liturgy.

Closing Prayer

*Remind me, Lord
That I am the light of the world.
That a city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
A lamp is not lit and then put under a basket.
No, it's set on a stand*

*Where it gives light to all the house.
In the same way, let my light
Shine before all people
So that they may see goodness in what I do
And give praise to you, my heavenly Father.*

Inspired by Matthew 5:14-16

6. Lead into **Life Issues** by asking: “Do you still wonder why you need to worship”? Read the five consideration points and then read and discuss **Stepping Up**. 20 min.
7. **Thanksgiving Mural.** Distribute construction paper squares and markers and ask students to draw an image or images of worship – either from one of the Bible accounts they read today or people, vessels, gestures, etc. that happen in church. Write or post your prepared title **Come, Let Us Worship!** in the center on the wall or board and as students complete their drawing affix them around the sign (this could be a bulletin board display as well. While they are drawing, play music from the Armenian Church liturgy.
8. Pray or sing *Kohanamk* together. 15 min.

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Key Concepts

1. Two important tasks of the worshipper are sharing the Kiss of Peace (affirming divinely-inspired unity) and then kissing the Gospel at worship’s end (taking the Word into the world).
2. Our Christian responsibilities do not end with Badarak; our communion with God and with one another is the fuel needed to make the world a better place.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Complete a “Kiss of Peace” floor puzzle.
2. Do a quick review.
3. Examine how the Armenian Liturgy incorporates all of our senses...a total spiritual workout.
4. Identify the Kiss of Peace and the kissing the Gospel at the end of liturgy as gestures of commitment to one another and to the world.
5. Participate in a Bible study on Christian attributes.
6. Discuss a story about a 7th grader who brings God’s love to his community through service.
7. Create a banner on how we can make the world a better place.

Materials

Kreesdos Ee Mech puzzle pieces (from the back of this manual); you might want to laminate these for permanent use. Banner (see Procedure #8): 1 ½’ dowel; large piece of felt cut out in the shape of a banner; fold over 1” over the dowel and staple.

Enlarged color copies of any photos in the Student Text pertinent to the “Christ’s love in the world” theme (certainly pages 96 and 97).

Ribbons

Magazines & newspapers

Glue

Optional: recording of *Kreesdos Ee Mech*

Procedure

1. Opening Prayer Activity: Have the Kreesdos Ee Mech puzzle pieces on the desk in a jumble. Ask students to work together to put the puzzle in correct order in either Armenian or English. (if possible have the *Kreesdos ee mech* playing in the background) When they’ve completed the activity, pray the prayer together in English in **Here I Am, Lord**.

2. Work through **One Step Back**. Answers: a, d, a, b, b. 15 min.
3. Read **Worship in Action**. Allow some time for students to jot down answers and then discuss. Answer guidelines: Senses: Smelling the sweet incense and candles, hearing the chants and hymns, the jangle of the *pourvar* (censer) and the bells of the *kushotz* (fan); seeing the chalice and Bible elevated, the candles, etc.; tasting the Communion; touch/movement: crossing oneself, standing, kneeling, sitting, bowing, raising arms, kissing the cross and the Bible, singing.
4. Ask the students if they remember what the Kiss of Peace is (from an earlier lesson) and what *yergurbakootyoon* means (kissing the ground). Ask them if they can identify other times, during the Liturgy, when we kiss something? (The priest's hand cross as he proceeds through the church and, at the end of Liturgy, the Gospel book). Read **Christian Love, It's More Than Just A Kiss!**
5. Move right into **The Action Continues** by writing the following words on the board in large letters, leaving enough room under each for students to write a Bible verse: Salt, light, living stones, ambassador, chosen people. Now have students read the Bible verses and match them with the correct answers in their textbooks. Allow five minutes for them to work and then call on volunteers to write the correct Bible verse under each word.
(Answers: Matthew 5:13—you are the salt of the earth, Matthew 5:14—light of the world, 1 Peter 2:5—living stones, 2 Corinthians 5:20—ambassador & I Peter 2:9—chosen people. Explore the questions that follow as a class. Desired responses might include:
- Christians are a preservative and give flavor to the world.
 - Light provides a direction and path for others to follow.
 - Be a physical temple of God's love and compassion; be an active part of your parish community.
 - An ambassador is one who is authorized to represent their own country while residing in a foreign nation.
 - We can be ambassadors by reflecting the values and love of God to others, by being an exemplary person and Christian in the world.
 - To grow in our own faith, closer to Christ; to love and share life with a believing community, our parish; to serve others.
6. Have students read **Special Eyewitness Report** aloud. Discuss questions. 25 min.
7. Read **Life Issue: What Does It Mean To Love The "Other?"** Give students a few minutes to read the Scripture verses and respond. (Discussion guidelines: In Matthew 5:23-24, he asks us to be reconciled with those close to us; in fact, even before we come to church or approach the altar, we need to forgive and be forgiven; in Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus asks us to love those outside our circle, even our enemies; after all, how hard is it to love the people who love us?)
8. Read or teach **Our Armenian Way**. Then mount the blank banner in front of students. Place the title **We Are Christ's Love in the World** and photos at top center and announce that students have ten minutes to find magazine pictures, newspaper articles or draw an original illustration of how we can make the world a better place. Invite them to bring up their pieces as they finish and glue them in place on the banner. Distribute magazines, newspapers and construction paper.
9. Conclude the session with the prayer in the Student Text. 20 min.

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Lesson 3: Liturgy: Starting Over Each Week

Key Concepts

1. Through the bread and wine of Holy Communion, we partake of Christ himself and are spiritually renewed.
2. The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is another gift from our Church that allows us a fresh new start and to be worthy to receive the real presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion.