

Lesson X - BAPTISM

GETTING STARTED

- 1.) Read the following Scripture: "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Matthew 28:20)
Here, it is our Lord who is speaking. He is addressing His Apostles and all those who are His.
Keeping His above comment in mind, discuss HOW Jesus is ALWAYS with us.
He is with us is and through the sacraments.
- 2.) Tell your class that the Armenian term for sacrament is *khorkhoort* = *mystery*. Of course, each sacrament is proclaiming the great mystery that:
 - a.) Jesus is always with us.
 - b.) Jesus is the Lord of all of life.
- 3.) Tell your students that it is through baptism that we enter the Church, the living body of Christ. Through baptism, we become members of the Body of Christ. In this regard be sure to read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.
- 4.) Have the students read Titus 3:4-7. Point out the following regarding this passage:
 - a.) God's goodness and loving kindness toward us is manifested in Jesus Christ.
 - b.) Jesus Christ saved us.
 - c.) He saved us because of His mercy.
 - d.) Baptism - *the washing* - regenerates and renews us in the Holy Spirit. We are *born again* through baptism.
 - e.) As a result, we become justified by His grace and heirs of eternal life.

FINISHING-UP

Completion: Fill-in the answer which best completes each of the following statements.

- 1.) A sacrament is _____ .
 - 2.) The first sacrament we receive is _____ .
 - 3.) It makes us _____ .
 - 4.) The sacrament of baptism is conferred by the action of _____ .
- _____ .

5.) The sacrament of Baptism is _____
for all.

6.) The Church baptizes infants because _____

7.) The Armenian word for godfather is _____

8.) The duty of the godfather is to _____

9.) Some of the requirements for being a godfather are _____

10.) When should children be baptized ? _____

11.) The usual minister of baptism is _____

ADDITIONAL

- 1.) Read John 3:1-6.
Discuss what our Lord Jesus Christ has to say about baptism in this scriptural passage.

Lesson XI - CONFIRMATION

GETTING STARTED

- 1.) Draw the students' attention to the fact that the Armenian word for confirmation (chrismation) is *gunounk* = *sealing*.
- 2.) Read Acts 2:1-14. This selection describes Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Armenian word for this feast is *Hokekaloust* = *Coming of the Spirit*. Note that confirmation (chrismation) is a *personal coming of the Holy Spirit*.
- 3.) Read the following Scriptural passages:
Exodus 28:40-41 - instructions to Moses
1 Kings 19-15-16 - instructions to the prophet Elijah
In both cases the anointing is indicative of a receiving of God's grace and being chosen for special service.

Note that in the Armenian Church, *anything* or *anyone* being set aside for special service to Almighty God is anointed: buildings, pictures, crosses, priests at their ordination, and the newly baptized.
- 4.) Note that in baptism we are *born again*. With the sacrament of confirmation (chrismation) our new life is dedicated/given to Almighty God.
- 5.) Tell the students that *Christ* and *Messiah* mean *the anointed one*.

FINISHING-UP

Matching: Match the terms on the right with the best answer on the left.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ gunounk | 1.) completion of Baptism |
| _____ chief act | 2.) "laying on of hands" |
| _____ used in conferring Confirmation | 3.) sealing |
| _____ Biblical expression | 4.) anointing |
| _____ confirmation | 5.) Miuron |

ADDITIONAL

- 1.) Review the following Prayers for Anointing which are said by the priest during the conferring of Confirmation (Chrismation).

for the forehead

This sweet oil in the name of Jesus Christ is poured upon you as the seal of the heavenly incorruptible gifts.

for the eyes

This seal in the name of Jesus Christ enlighten your eyes, that you may never sleep in death.

for the ears

This holy anointing be for you for the hearing of the divine commandments.

for the nostrils

This seal in the name of Jesus Christ be for you a sweet savor of life unto life.

for the mouth

This seal in the name of Jesus Christ be for you as a guard for your mouth, and a strong door for your lips.

for the palms of the hands

This seal in the name of Jesus Christ be for you a cause for good deeds and all virtuous works and conduct.

for the heart

This divine seal establish a clean heart in you and renew a right spirit in your inward parts.

for the back

This seal in the name of Jesus Christ be for you a strong shield whereby you may be able to quench all the firey darts of the evil one.

for the feet

This divine seal direct your steps into eternal life so that you may not be shaken.

According to the prayers, why is each part of the body anointed ?

Lesson XII - PENANCE

GETTING STARTED

- 1.) Read Psalm 51:1-12. Draw attention to the penitential tone of this Psalm. Also, note the various requests:
 - a.) Have mercy on me.
 - b.) Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity.
 - c.) Cleanse me from my sin.

Go through this Scripture passage with your students, picking out all similar expressions.

- 2.) Read the Prayer of Manasseh (pages 219-220 in the Diocesan Bible). Point out some of the expressions of sorrow and repentance.
- 3.) Read Psalm 32:1-5. Be sure to draw attention to what happens when we do and when we don't repent and confess our sins:

No Repentance and Confession

- a.) My body wasted away through groaning all day long.
- b.) Thy hand was heave upon me.
- c.) My strength dried up.

With Repentance and Confession

- a.) You didst forgive me the guilt of my sin
- b.) Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven.

- 4.) Read 1 John 1:8-10: *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

Be sure to stress the point that we all have sins; we all have something which must be corrected. If we deny our own imperfections, we are liars and make a liar out of our Lord.

Have the students list some of their own faults/sins for which they should ask forgiveness. This activity should be carefully done. If students are reluctant to do this as an open class activity, they can silently call to mind those faults/sins.

FINISHING-UP

Brief Answers - Briefly answer each of the following questions.

- 1.) What happens to us when we receive the Sacrament of Penance ?

2.) What is necessary to properly receive the Sacrament of Penance ?

3.) Read John 20:22-23: *He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."*

What does this have to do with the Sacrament of Penance ?
Whom did our Lord authorize to grant forgiveness of sins ?

ADDITIONAL

1.) The Confession Prayer makes mention of

I have sinned by the sevenfold transgression of the deadly sins, namely by pride, envy, anger, laziness, covetousness, gluttony, and lust and all their forms.

Discuss with your students some of the sins which fall into each of the above categories.

2.) The Confession Prayer also says

I have neither performed the positive commands, nor abstained from those things that are forbidden.

This tells us that we can sin by both the things we DON'T do as well as by the things that we DO.

Discuss with your students some of the sins which might fall into each of these categories.

Since it is usually easier to think of things which we have done that we should not have, and since it is a little more difficult to think of ourselves sinning by NOT HAVING DONE something, first have the students read Matthew 25:41-46. This should help the discussion along.

Questions for Study for Holy Communion

- 1.) What was the "hard saying" of Jesus?
- 2.) What did Jesus do that made the Apostles begin to understand His "hard saying"?
 - a. When did this happen?
- 3.) What was the important lesson that the disciples learned at Emmaus?
- 4.) How/why is this lesson important to us?
- 5.) How do we prepare to receive Holy Communion?
 - a. What does the Holy Bible have to say about this?
- 6.) Why is it important to receive Holy Communion?
- 7.) Review the proper method for receiving Holy Communion?
 - a. fasting
 - b. confession
 - c. approach the altar
 - d. make the Sign of the Cross
 - e. say, "Megha Asdoodzoh. . . I have sinned against God."
 - f. open mouth; slightly extend the tongue
 - g. swallow Holy Communion and close mouth
 - h. step to the left
 - i. wait for the final Communion Blessing
 - j. quietly and reverently return to your seat

SPECIAL NOTE TO TEACHERS:

As preparation to a consideration of BREAD OF LIFE, it is highly recommended to read the following Scriptural passages:

- 1.) John 6:22-71
- 2.) Matthew 26:17-29
- 3.) Luke 24:13-50
- 4.) I Corinthians 11:23-32

Lesson XIII - HOLY COMMUNION

GETTING STARTED

- 1.) Have the students read John 6:51-60 and:
 - a.) Together outline/list the various points that Jesus makes in this section.
 - b.) Describe the reaction of some of Jesus's followers when He made those comments.
- 2.) Read John 6:66. Then discuss what some of Jesus's followers did.
- 3.) Review the YACE pamphlet *A HARD SAYING* with your students.
- 4.) Draw your students' attention to the fact that in the Armenian Church the Commemoration of the establishment of the Sacrament of Holy Communion is remembered in a special way each year during the Divine Liturgy on Holy Thursday morning.

FINISHING-UP

Brief Answers - Briefly answer/complete each of the following statements.

- 1.) What are some of the names given to Holy Communion ?
- 2.) What are some of the examples - *archetypes* of Holy Communion ?
- 3.) Where do we find the story of the establishment of the Sacrament of Holy Communion ?
- 4.) What is the meaning of Holy Communion ?
- 5.) What makes Holy Communion so special ?
- 6.) What are the major parts of the Divine Liturgy ?

ADDITIONAL

- 1.) Review the section entitled *RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION*. Carefully practice the steps which are presented for receiving Holy Communion.
- 2.) Have the students enumerate what is necessary to properly receive Holy Communion ?
- 3.) Learn and sing the hymn *ASDVADZ MER = OUR GOD* from the Divine Liturgy .

Lesson XIV - MARRIAGE

GETTING STARTED

1.) Read the following scriptural passages with your students:

- a.) Genesis 2:18-24
- b.) John 2:1-11

Be sure to draw their attention to the following points:

- a.) Marriage was established by God in the Garden of Eden, refer to Genesis.
- b.) Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, as Lord and Savior, also blessed marriage, refer to John.

2.) Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Draw attention to the fact that St. Paul compares the union of husband and wife to the union of Jesus Christ and the Church.

3.) Discuss with the students their reaction to the above reading. Note that this is one of the readings which is done at weddings.

4.) Direct your students' attention to St. Paul's final comment to both husbands and wives - *Ephesians 5:33*.

- a.) What should husbands do ?
- b.) What should wives do ?

5.) Tell your students that marriage in the Armenian Church is referred to as *busag* = *crown* because both the bride and groom are crowned during the conferring of the Sacrament of Marriage.

FINISHING-UP

Brief Answers - Briefly answer/complete each of the following.

1.) What is marriage ?

2.) What is the purpose of marriage ?

3.) In the Sacrament of Matrimony, what does the Church do ?

4.) What is necessary to worthily receive the Sacrament of Matrimony ?

Lesson XV - HOLY ORDERS

GETTING STARTED

1.) Read John 15:16.

- a.) Who is speaking ?
- b.) To whom is He speaking ?
- c.) What does He mean by this statement ?

2.) Read Luke 10:16. Put these words of Jesus into your own words.

3.) Read John 21:15-17. Discuss what this has to do with the vocation of the priesthood.

What does *feed* mean here ?

4.) Read John 20:22-23. What has this to do with the priesthood ?

5.) Read the following scriptural passages:

- a.) Acts 6:1-6
- b.) Acts 14:21-23
- c.) 1 Timothy 4:14
- d.) 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Point out that the reference to *laying on of hands* is ordination. The Armenian term for ordination is *tzernatrootyoocn*.

The first passage (#a) refers to the ordination of deacons. The last three passages (#'s b,c, & d) refer to the ordination of priests, *elder = priest*.

FINISHING-UP

Matching - Match the items on the right with the best choices on the left.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| _____ deacon | 1.) highest rank |
| _____ priest | 2.) rules a Diocese |
| _____ bishop | 3.) a celibate priest |
| _____ patriarch | 4.) helps the priest |
| _____ Catholicos | 5.) doctor of divinity |
| _____ vartabed | 6.) honorary title |
| _____ dzayrakooyv vartabed | 7.) administers all sacraments except Holy Orders |
| _____ apegha | 8.) Jerusalem and Constantinople |
| _____ archpriest | 9.) academic title |

Completion - Briefly complete the following statements.

- 1.) The *major* or main orders are:

- 2.) The *minor* orders are:

- 3.) Why are these ranks and offices necessary ?

ADDITIONAL

- 1.) Discuss some of the requirements in order to receive Holy Orders = ordination.

- 2.) Including the priesthood, what are some of the ways we can serve the Church, the living body of Christ ?

- 3.) Have your students discuss ways that they can help their priest in his most important work,

- 4.) Have your students name the following:
 - a.) the Catholicos of All Armenians
 - b.) the Primate of our Diocese
 - c.) their own parish priest
 - d.) the deacon(s) in their parish