

Unit 5: MANY BLESSINGS OF OUR LORD

Lesson 5.3 Red Sunday

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Video Lesson: [Video Lesson: Martyrs vs Victims](#) (duration 7:05)

GOAL OF THE LESSON:

In this lesson, the students will learn about the great sacrifice the followers of Jesus and our ancestors made to teach about Kingdom of heaven and God's word.

Words of the week:

վկայ – vga – witness

մարտիրոս – mardiros – martyr

արիւն – aryoon – blood

Memory Verse:

“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

- Luke 12:11-12

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տու՛ր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց եւ ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos yev paneets yen kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body:

In the Armenian Church Calendar, the third Sunday following the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ is known as Red Sunday. The color “red” has been used throughout history to represent many things.

Q: *What associations do you make when thinking of color red?*

One of the symbolic meanings of this color is the blood of the martyrs who were sacrificed for Christ, His Holy Church, and their Christian faith. During the early years of Christianity, as the Church was being established, followers of Christ were subjected to severe persecutions and torments. Many chose to give up their lives and not deny their faith in the living God, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Tertullian (AD 155-220), one of our Church Fathers, said: “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.” This sad truth explains that the church grows and expands when martyrs die by witnessing the Truth and defending their faith.

In April of 1915 our ancestors faced persecution at the hand of the leaders of the Ottoman Empire. More than 1.5 million Armenians were killed, sent on death marches through deserts, and left to die of starvation, the elements, and disease. For more than 100 years, the children of the survivors of these horrific acts tried to teach the world about this unfortunate time in history, keeping their faith alive and strong. Then April 23, 2015 became a significant day for Armenians around the world. On this day, in a beautiful ceremony, all the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide were declared saints, for through their deaths they had received the crowns of martyrdom and become witnesses of our faith, granting us a legacy to continue, namely our faith.

In the Sunrise Service of the Armenian Church, there are many songs dedicated to the martyrs throughout the centuries, describing what examples of bravery and sacrifice they had been, trusting in the Lord, and defending our faith.

Memory Verse:

“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

- Luke 12:11-12

Words of the Week:

վկայ – vga – witness
մարտիրոս – mardiros – martyr
արիւն – aryoon – blood

Three examples from the Sunrise Service:

O glorious witnesses and the beloved of the Heavenly Father, who were baptized in your blood together with Christ in the death of the Cross; advocate to the Lord for the children of the Church.

O those praised by the world and desired by the heavenly powers, you who did attain blessedness before all the sons of men; advocate to the Lord for the children of the Church.

O willing sacrifices, children in age and perfect in wisdom, who did drink the pleasing wine instead of milk; advocate to the Lord for the children of the Church.

Today, martyrdom still occurs in the lives of Christians. In fact, Christianity is the most persecuted religion in the world today. We may not experience martyrdom and struggle against wicked governments today like other Christians do throughout the world, but we do struggle against sin, which we can see manifested in many ways throughout the world. The battle against wickedness and evil, which will be eradicated in the end, is another message on Red Sunday. The Apostle Paul writes that Christ Himself endured such opposition, that we should not grow weary in our battle against wickedness. In his letter to the Hebrews, St. Paul says: "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood." (Hebrews 12:4).

We, as descendants of the Holy Martyrs, are to use the opportunity of Red Sunday to once again remind ourselves of the great sacrifice our Lord God made for us, as well as those who followed Him and gave up their lives for His Glory, and to continue living our lives in strong faith, goodness, and righteousness, waging war against sin, demons, and death.

Video Lesson:

[Video Lesson: Martyrs vs Victims](#)

(duration 7:05)

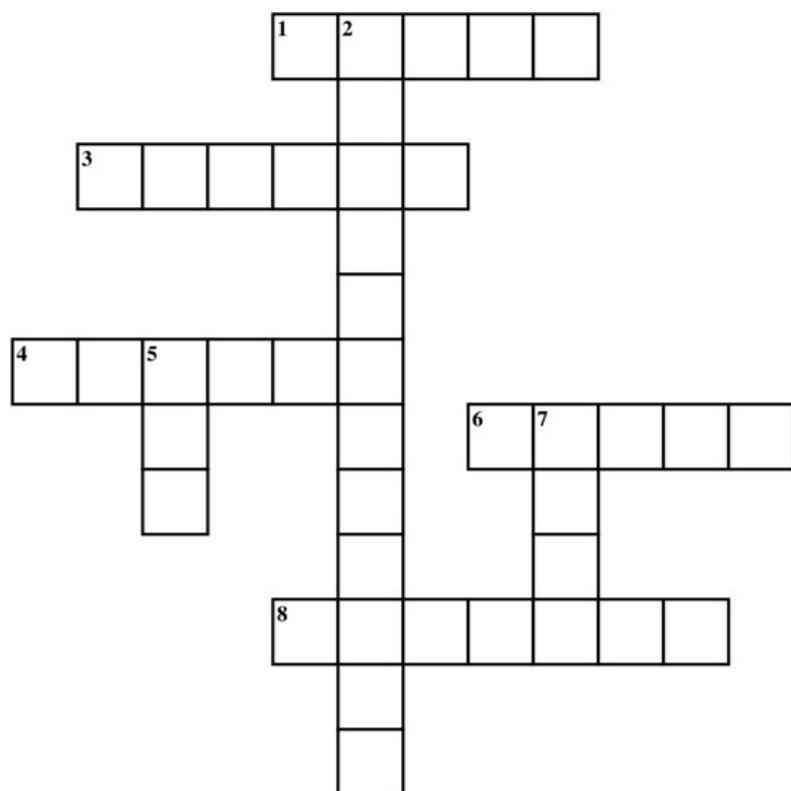


Holy Martyrs of the Genocide

H	C	Y	O	A	A	P	H	A	D	N	I	R	D
C	E	R	Y	T	R	A	M	C	R	O	W	N	A
A	R	S	I	E	E	C	H	U	R	C	H	L	X
M	E	H	A	E	T	C	C	U	E	P	Y	R	H
H	I	C	A	L	A	E	I	A	D	O	O	L	B
R	H	D	E	A	T	H	R	F	H	O	L	Y	N
A	P	R	I	L	S	S	H	N	I	H	I	A	H
E	C	E	S	A	S	U	I	R	A	R	R	P	D
S	Y	V	X	D	E	N	R	N	C	L	C	C	A
M	L	H	O	E	N	D	L	R	A	A	R	A	A
A	L	I	H	C	T	A	R	E	C	A	H	N	S
R	E	O	C	A	I	Y	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
E	A	H	V	H	W	R	Y	N	H	N	S	A	S
D	O	M	I	E	I	L	I	F	E	V	D	S	H

- BLOOD
- LOVE
- SUNDAY
- DEATH
- CHURCH
- LIFE
- MARTYR
- CROWN
- SACRIFICE
- PREACH
- RED
- WITNESS
- APRIL
- EXAMPLE
- HOLY
- ETERNAL

Holy Martyrs



Horizontal

1. Martyrs receive this on their head
3. The Son of God
4. Someone who dies for their faith
6. The Holy Martyrs spilled this
8. What 'martyr' means in Greek

Vertical

2. What will happen when Christ returns
5. The Sunday that follows Green Sunday
7. What we are granted at the resurrection

Review

Memory Verse Review:

“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” (Luke 12:11-12)

Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. What Sunday follows Green Sunday? (Red Sunday)
2. What does the word ‘martyr’ mean? (Witness)
3. What did the martyrs do? (They testified of God’s goodness and were killed because of that)
4. Where are there still Christian martyrs being killed today? (Some examples are Egypt, Ukraine, Israel, Pakistan, China, Syria, and Armenia)
5. Are you a descendant of the Holy Martyrs? (Yes. You have their blood in you)

Words of the Week:

կայ – vga – witness

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արիւն – aryoon – blood

** Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesher-ee, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sa-sanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

At Home

Please memorize by next week:

Memory Verse:

“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.” (Luke 12:11-12)

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