

Unit 5: MANY BLESSINGS OF OUR LORD

Lesson 5.3 Red Sunday

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Craft Activity: [Crown of Flowers](#)

Song: [Our Church Martyrs](#) (duration 3:07)

Words of the week:

վկայ – vga – witness

մարտիրոս – mardiros – martyr

սաակ – bsag – crown

Moral Character Focus:

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

Memory Verse:

“...be my witnesses...”

- Acts 1:8

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

Open with prayer:

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:

Last Sunday we talked about Green Sunday and how it represents the establishment and unity of the Holy Universal Church. This wasn't an easy task, and many sacrifices were made for the Christian faith and Church to be one. Through the centuries after the Universal Church was established, many people had to travel long miles, through dangerous roads and times when Christians weren't loved and wanted. During these times and sometimes today Christians sacrifice their lives for the glory of God.

This Sunday, the third Sunday following the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is known as Red Sunday.

Q: *Why do you think it is called Red Sunday? What does color red represent?*

The color "red" has been used throughout history to represent many things. One of the symbolic meanings is the blood of the martyrs who sacrificed themselves for Christ, His Holy Church, and their Christian faith. During the early years of Christianity, faithful followers of Jesus Christ were subjected to severe persecutions and torments. Many preferred to die rather than betray their Heavenly Father. We call these people martyrs which means witness in Greek. These witnesses made the right choice to speak the truth about God and stay loyal to Him.

On Red Sunday we remember all the sacrifices our Christian brothers and sisters made for Christ, and who have given us an example to follow. A sacrifice such as this was made by many of our ancestors, during the Armenian Genocide of 1915, when the Ottoman Empire decided to erase all the Christians from their lands and Armenian Christians from the face of this earth. People who lost their lives during these events, were welcomed into the Kingdom of God where they received special crowns and became saints. These crowns are called "the crowns of martyrdom" and show that our ancestors were witnesses of Jesus' love and Christian faith.

Every year, on April 24th, we remember them, pray with them, and try to be inspired by their strong faith. Today all those who died by the hand of the Ottoman Empire are blessed with the crowns of martyrdom and are celebrated as saints or Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Orthodox Church.

Each of you are descendants and relatives of the Holy Martyrs. That means you have the blood of the Holy Martyrs with in you too and you should continue their mission and bear their faith.

Song: [Our Church Martyrs](#) (duration 3:07)

Craft: [Crown of Flowers](#)



Image from www.ilooys.com

Memory Verse:

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Review

Memory Verse Review:

“...be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)

Lesson Review:

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. When do we celebrate the Holy Martyrs of the Genocide? (April 24)
5. Are you a descendant of the Holy Martyrs? (Yes. You have their blood in you)

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Life Application:

Stand together with friends and family in your faith and service.

Close with prayer:

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:

“...be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8)

Words of the week:

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