

Being A Disciple... It's Not Just A Fan Club!

DOING GOOD WORKS: SERVICE

UNIT

2

LESSON
FOUR

From Our Hearts to God

*God, you have given me so much. Show me how I can give to you.
Amen.*

MY WORLD

Many organizations help others in need. Jesus wants us to be compassionate, to care about others and help them. Seth started a clothing drive for children in a group home in Armenia when he was in second grade in Sunday School. Mary brought cans of food to school for a food pantry drive to feed needy families in her community. Aline visited the nursing home with the youth group at church. David and his father take their dog to visit people in an assisted living home in his town.

Seth, Mary, Aline and David are doing God's will here on earth. They are doing good works. The children know that believing in Jesus means we do what Jesus would do. God is watching and loving them for their Christian service to others.



GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

Jesus said: "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

Matthew 25:31 – 45



Getting Closer to God



When Jesus ascended to heaven, he went to sit at God's side and judge the living and the dead. Jesus is our judge. He looks into our hearts and minds and knows what we do and why we do it. He will decide if we are called to live with him in his kingdom or not based on what he knows about us and our behavior.

He has told us what to believe: Believe in God; follow me.

He has told us what to do: Treat others the way you want to be treated. Love others as I love you. Think about them as God would.

Fill in what you would do in these situations:

My friend Billy laughed at a kid because he got an F on his spelling test.

I _____

My classmate Jackie comes to school in the winter in a very thin jacket.

I _____



My cousins Daria and Beth are complaining about how their moms won't let them have a sleep-over.

I _____

My friends Robert and Greg were sent to the principal's office for fighting.

I _____

Our class is collecting backpacks of clothes for children living in a homeless shelter.

I _____



Taking a Closer Look

St. Nersess the Great was head of the Armenian Church in the 4th century. He was Catholicos for twenty years (353-373). He loved his people and he wanted to help them in all the ways that Jesus taught us to help others. He did not want people to be hungry, lonely, in danger, sick without care or without a roof over their heads. He wanted Christ to be in everyone's heart. But they needed to feel God's love from others first. He did so much to care for the people of Armenia that he is now known as "the enlightener of the hearts of the Armenians."

St. Nersess used his own land and asked the rich lords of Armenia to donate their land to build amazing places for the good of the people. Find out what some of these were!

Use the code below to find the answers.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
✂	✍	□	@	!	*	+	=	()	1	2	3	✋	x	✓	☒	☑	4	5	6	⊗	7	⊙	8	&

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Our Armenian Way

During Great Lent before Easter, we make a special effort to be charitable. Our Diocese selects service projects for our Sunday School children to support. Students bring in gifts of money for these projects. Sometimes students use their school snack money for these charities. Or they might ask their parents if they can do jobs around the house to earn money for these charities. The Sunday School will often run a special event like a pancake breakfast or a movie night to raise money. Whatever students decide to do, God is always happy to see Christian love in action!



Time to Celebrate

Grade Four Service Project: _____

The students in our class will _____

Our Service Project will be completed by _____

Now be a good disciple. Plan your project. Do you need posters? Do you need to write an article for your church newsletter? Do you need to write an article for your town newspaper? Do you need to teach others to be charitable?



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, let me be your compassionate helper. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

All of us, young and old, are called to be disciples. Part of discipleship is following Christ's example of compassion and charity. The Armenian Church has always promoted Christian charity and service. St. Nersess the Great is one of our most important examples of this.

Our lesson today emphasized that our love of God finds natural expression in good works. The Bible reminds us: Faith without works is dead (James 2:17). Encourage your child to live a God-pleasing life.

Living Our Faith

Plan a charitable project for your family. Here are some suggestions:

1. Go through your clothing and collect good, usable but no longer wanted or needed clothing to give to charity.
2. Check supermarket sales and coupons and go on a food pantry shopping excursion. Donate the food to your local food pantry.
3. Check out the United Nations UNICEF program website and see if there are programs there you might want to support.
4. Support a needy child in Armenia through the CASP program. Decide how much the family will contribute and how each will raise his or her portion of the contribution.

questions they are to stand somewhere on the line. Start with an example. “Do you pick up your Bible daily or only on Sunday? Stand on either end or, if you look at it a few times a week, in the middle, or anywhere on the line that fits your answer.” Have students assume their place on the line for this first question and then discuss. Most 4th graders will probably answer that they only read the Bible on Sundays, so ask how they can read more often. For 1 minute every night before they go to bed? Etc. Question 2: “I know a lot about the Bible/I know almost nothing about the Bible.” Discuss: How can we change this? (Reading more often, discuss with Sunday School class, teacher, pastor, Internet) Question 3: “I rarely use what Jesus taught us in my daily life/I always use what Jesus taught us in my daily life.” Discuss. Refer to the passages they just looked up. Have students go back to their seats. 20 min.

5. Read **Our Armenian Way** (the answer to the question is, of course, St. Gregory the Enlightener or Illuminator), then have them read over the choices and give each a few minutes to show how they would teach the lesson. 10 min

6. Teach **Taking a Closer Look**. Conclude: “We think of the first person of the Holy Trinity as God the Father, a parental figure. The second person of the Holy Trinity is God the Son, Jesus, a friend and brother whose sacrifice saved us. He is like a friend and brother because he shares our humanity completely *even as* he is God’s Son, totally divine, and our Lord. The third person of the Holy Trinity is God the Holy Spirit, our inner voice of God, our advisor and guide as we grow in faith.”

7. Review **Time to Celebrate**. After the first sentence, ask: “What does the foundation of a house do? (It holds up the entire structure; its strength makes the entire house strong.) Ask students to look at the photo of the deacon holding the Bible high in procession during Badarak. (Explain that during the Divine Liturgy or Badarak, it is not the entire Bible but a Gospel Book containing just the Gospels that is used.) Have everyone stand and lift up their own Bible high. Ask: “When you hold the Bible high like this, what does it mean?” (Answers could be: I’m looking up to it; it’s before me, guiding me; it’s for everyone to see.)

8. Ask one child to read the prayer in **Responding in Faith**. 15 min.

Being a Disciple... It’s Not Just a Fan Club! Doing Good Works: Service



Key Concepts

1. A living faith will mean we serve one another and the world with goodness and compassion. (James 2:14-19)
2. We will be judged by the way we have shared Christ’s love with others. (Matthew 25:31-45)
3. St. Nersess the Great (4th century Catholicos) was an exemplary disciple who created many programs and institutions of charity in historic Armenia.

Objectives

During this session the students will

1. Examine Christian service, charity and charitable programs.
2. Read a Bible passage describing Jesus’ unequivocal call to service.
3. Review Christ’s commandments and write how they might act on them.
4. Learn about St. Nersess the Great and the Armenian Church tradition of good works.
5. Create a service project for the class.

Materials Needed

Reference materials about St. Nersess (only if you need to extend the lesson)

Pencils, poster paper, markers (see procedure #6)

Procedure

1. Have the students read the prayer in **From Our Hearts to God** silently, then read aloud together. Ask if any students want to offer a prayer of their own.
2. Examine the pictures in **My World** together; discuss what they depict and then ask students if any of them have been involved in service projects at school or scouts or at church. Let them tell about their experiences. Read the text together and then discuss: What does it mean to be compassionate? What are good works? Why does Jesus want us to help others? (Remind students of the two most important commandments Jesus gave us – they looked it up in the last session – to love God and to love our neighbor.)

3. Continue: “Remember God has made all people and we are all God’s children. We think of Jesus as Savior but *also* as friend and brother. You are important to our Lord and he wants us to see others as just as important to us as to him. Read the single verse from Matthew in **God’s Guiding Words** and then ask a student to find the passage in Matthew and read all the verses. 15 min.

4. Teach **Getting Closer to God** and then have students fill in their reaction to each situation. As the students are writing, circulate among them and read their responses. When all are done, go through each situation and share answers, or ask each student to read *one* of their responses. 15 min.

5. As a segue to **Taking a Closer Look**, tell students: “Doing good works, helping the poor and hungry – good people of faith have devoted themselves to this from the very time Jesus was teaching. Our own Armenian Church story is filled with such people. One great example was a saint of our church, St. Nersess the Great. You probably remember his name from your Third Grade textbook. (*Write his name on the board and continue to jot down key words as you teach this section*).

Direct students to complete the puzzle.

(Answers: hospitals, shelters, orphanages, schools, soup kitchens, monasteries.) 10 min.

6. Read **Our Armenian Way** and fill out **Time to Celebrate** as you plan a short term project with your class. You might want to come up with some ideas to present to them if they can’t think of anything on their own. Have the class vote on which project they would like to undertake. Decide on a time limit, which should not go beyond a few weeks. Have the students enter the information in their text. *Note: you will need to return to this periodically over the next few weeks; plan accordingly.* Design a poster together announcing their project and mount it in the hallway. Perhaps at an Assembly, the class can make a presentation on their completed project.

7. Conclude with the prayer in **Responding in Faith**. 20 min.

Evaluating Your Lesson

What went well today?

What would you change about this lesson?

Extending the Lesson

If you have more time, read to the class about St.

Nersess the Great from one of the reference books you have available.

Sacraments: A Call to Holy Living

Seven and More: An Overview



Key Concepts

1. The seven sacraments of the Armenian Church bond individuals to God and to the believing community.
2. The sacraments bring God into seven critical life milestones.
3. The community of believers witnesses and supports the sacramental experience.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Recall and review what they have learned previously about the sacraments.
2. Explore the concept of Christian community as witness and their own sacrament experience.
3. Define and discuss “initiation” and the sacraments of initiation.
4. Test their “sacrament” savvy with a matching game and group quiz.

Materials Needed

The Sacraments, The Symbols of Our Faith by Fr.

Garabed Kochakian is a good source of background information for you

7 sheets of oak tag each with the name of one of the sacraments on it

Tape (to adhere the above to the walls of your classroom)

A variety of colors of water based markers (that won’t bleed through to the wall); try to have a different color for each student

Stickers and small prizes you can award for correct answers

Note to the Teacher

Important: Remember to schedule time each week to continue and complete your service project. This will be the only reminder!

Procedure

1. Pray **From Our Hearts to God**. Ask if anyone has a prayer to offer. Offer your own prayer if you wish.