

Sacraments: A Call to Holy Living

THE SEALING OF OIL: CHRISMATION

UNIT

3

LESSON
THREE

From Our Hearts to God

Dear Lord, let all I do show that I love you with all my heart and all my soul and all my mind. Amen.

MY WORLD

I was born with this beauty mark under my right eye. Most people don't even notice it. I never paid much attention to it either until our family reunion last year. Thirty of us Haroutunians gathered at my Aunt Barbara's home for some good food, fun, and sharing of stories and memories. All of us are descendants of Sarkis and Satenig Haroutunian. They had eight children, 22 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren of which I am the youngest.

Aunty Barbara set up a big photograph display on the wall with Sarkis and Satenig at the top. I stood looking at the pictures for a long time and I noticed every one of my grand uncles and grand aunts had a beauty mark under their right eye except Uncle Vahan. His was under his left eye. I looked up at the photos of Sarkis and Satenig and there under Satenig's right eye was a beauty mark also. WOW! Then I started looking at the first cousins and found most of them had a beauty mark either under their right or left eye.

I went over to Grand Uncle Vahan and asked him why his was on the left side. He told me he was a lefty while all his brothers and sisters were righties. WOW! I went back to the cousins' pictures and checked left and right sides and then went to ask if they were lefties or righties.

We're a big, loving, proud Armenian family. We think of our non-Armenian relatives who married into our family as Armenians too! Most of us have the Haroutunian beauty mark. It is our special mark, our special sign of membership. My brother Harry joked with me and said his must be invisible because he really doesn't have one but wishes he did.

Most people don't even notice the beauty mark, but I know it is there. It is always there and I love that it ties me to this family. I am proud of my family and I want my family to be proud of me.



GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

There are some things people cannot do, but
God can do anything. *Luke 18:27*

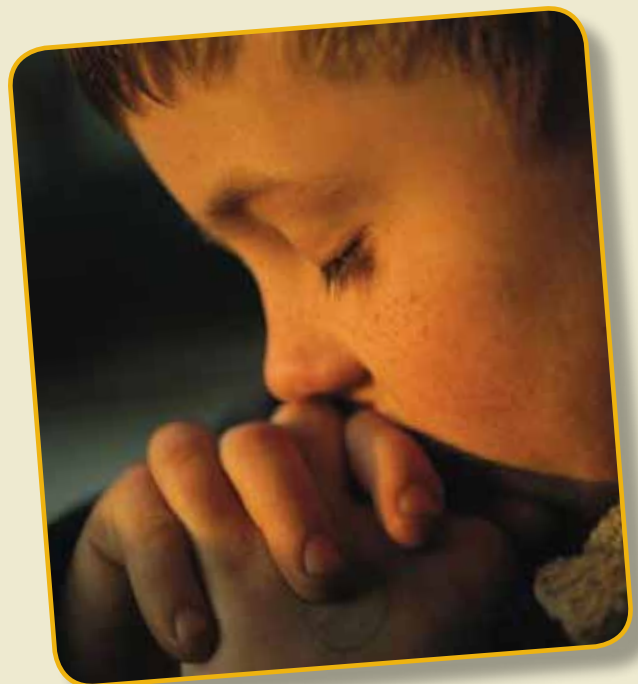


Getting Closer to God

What does it mean to live a holy life? It means

- choosing to go to church.
- remembering to say your prayers.
- thanking God for the blessings he gives you.
- caring about others.
- helping when people need help.
- you know you aren't perfect, but you keep trying to be the best you can be.
- remembering always that you belong to God.

Write one more thing about living a holy life:





Taking a **Closer** Look

Holy *muron* is the special oil the church uses in the sacraments of baptism, chrismation and unction. During the sacrament of chrismation the priest anoints the person with holy *muron* in nine places – eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, feet, heart, back, and forehead.



Put a cross on the picture of the baby on each of the nine places the priest anoints by making a cross with the holy *muron*.



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, we are so happy to be sealed in the Holy Spirit. Help us be worthy of that special mark in everything we do and say this week and always. Amen.

Our Armenian Way

Holy *muron* is made every seven years. The priests at Etchmiadzin make it by mixing olive oil with the essential oils of many flowers and the *muron* left from the last time it was made. When it is ready to be blessed, the Catholicos stirs the pot with the golden arm which holds a relic of St. Gregory the Illuminator.

Priests and representatives from Armenian churches around the world come to witness the making of *muron*. When it is done, each Bishop who is the Primate of a Diocese takes a container of *muron* back to his Diocese and distributes it to all the churches in his Diocese.



Look at the pictures of the making of *muron*. Here are some of the traditional ingredients.

Balsam oil

Cinnamon

Violet

Myrtle

Olive oil

Incense

Water Lily

Narcissus

Carnation

Crocus

Orange flower

Laurel seed

Nutmeg

Sweet Marjoram

Allspice

Gooseberry

Chamomile

Laurel



Do you know what each of these are? Look them up in a dictionary.

Oil was used in Jesus' time for many purposes such as creating light in oil lamps, treating hair and skin, in cooking of course, for treating wounds, caring for animals, and in religious services.

In Jesus' time not everyone was educated to read and write. Marks were important ways to know what belonged to whom. Back then and today, sheep and cattle are marked or branded to show who owned them. Kings had special rings or seals that would be used to mark their written orders. Soldiers may not have been able to read the signature of the king, but everyone knew the king's sealing mark.

Chrismation marks a person as belonging to God. The holy *muron* does not remain visible, but all who have been chrismated know they are now part of the special group of God's people.

Time to Celebrate

Many Christian symbols show others that a building, a house, a car belong to people who are Christian. Some people put crosses on walls in their homes. Some people wear cross jewelry. Some homes have religious statues on their lawns. Buildings with crosses usually are churches or church property. People put the Christian fish symbol magnets on their cars which show they are Christian.

All these are outer and visible signs of Christianity. Our anointing with oil at our chrismation doesn't show. It is a very personal and intimate mark of our belonging to Christ.

What would you choose as a symbol of your Christian faith?



FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today's lesson highlighted the sacrament of chrismation as a mark of membership in God's family and the sealing with holy *muron* of our commitment to live a holy life. Students discussed the symbolism of the nine parts of the body blessed at their chrismation and created their own pretend *muron*. They also imagined and drew their own symbols of faith.

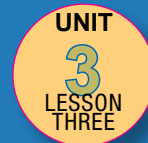
Living Our Faith

Try one of these family activities at home this week:

1. Create a family crest or seal. You might want to do this on your computer and print out labels that your family can place on items in your house that are representative of your family such as family pictures, or a family Bible.
2. Gather different kinds of oil that you have in your house – cooking oil, machine oil, baby oil, lubricant oil. Talk about the use and purpose of each. Oil a pair of scissors with your lubricating oil. Rub baby oil on the back of your hands. Squirt a bit of machine oil in an appliance that needs oiling. Finally, have the whole family make a salad and have your fourth grader add the salad oil to it.

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of it. Read **Taking a Closer Look** and comment: “Well, water is one of the few things we *must* have to live. Without water we would die. But you know what? Without Jesus Christ we are also not truly alive and would not have the chance to live forever with God in heaven. So, just as water is absolutely essential to our bodies, so Jesus is absolutely essential to our souls.”

6. Read **Our Armenian Way. Time to Celebrate** is a narod-making activity. Distribute materials. Show students how to braid it, then take a cross and put it on the narod, tying ends together.

7. Read prayer in **Responding in Faith**. Conclude by getting children’s attention and asking: “What does the godparent ask for the child in the baptismal service?” (Faith, hope, love, baptism). “So when we are baptized we are promised the gift of faith, hope and, love. Say just those words for me again.” After they repeat ‘faith, hope, and love,’ say “Beautiful. And I wish you a week *filled* with faith, hope and love. Everybody together: Amen!” 20 min.

Evaluating Your Lesson

1. Note what worked well and what did not. Make notes for how the lesson could be improved or changed.
2. Do the students enjoy movement games? Does it help them improve their memory of terms? Next week, as the students walk in, ask them to tell you what the godfather asks for the baby.

Extending the Lesson

If you have included reading about St. Gregory and King Drtad in your session, have the students make a drawing of the event.

After church, try to take the students into church to see the baptismal font. Ask a deacon ahead of time to be on hand to show it to the students.

If your church has a window or picture of the baptism of King Drtad, take your students to see it after services.

Key Concepts

1. Anointing the newly baptized with oil marks and seals that person to a holy life.
2. Muron is the special holy oil, prepared by the Catholicos in Etchmiadzin, to use for chrismation.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Brainstorm ways they can demonstrate their love for God.
2. Read and discuss a story on the special mark of one extended family.
3. Reconsider the idea of living a “holy life.”
4. Learn about holy muron.
5. Participate in a muron-making activity.
6. Review the meaning of anointing in chrismation with a sticker activity.
7. Create their own Christian symbols.

Materials Needed

Pencils, color pencils, markers (fine line)
A small plastic bowl; small dishes of nutmeg, cinnamon, allspice and crushed dried flowers
Small cruet of olive oil
Dictionary
Gold cross stickers

Procedure

1. Read the prayer in **From Our Hearts to God**. Ask students what it might mean to “show” that we love God in all we do. As children share answers, write them on the board or have each child come up and write it on the board. Discuss answers. 10 min.
2. Read **My World** (remember to use the creative reading ideas listed in the introduction). Ask the students to share stories of their own family reunions or things they have in common with other family members. Ask and discuss the following: “The child in this story wants his family to be proud of him. How do you want your family to be proud of you? Why do you think your family brings you to Sunday School? Why did they want you to be baptized and chrismated? Do they want you to live a life based on God’s hopes for

you and the world?” Refer to some of their answers on the board as you discuss this last question. 10 min.

3. Segue with: “Let’s remember that at Jesus’ baptism, after the water came the Holy Spirit.” Turn to **God’s Guiding Words** and then continue to **Getting Closer to God**. Have students fill in the blank. Discuss answers. 5 min.

4. Turn ahead to **Our Armenian Way** and read. Explain to children that the herbs, flowers and oils listed are only a few of the 47 that are used to make *muron*. Then place the bowl, oil and miscellaneous ingredients on your desk and have students come around. Pour some oil in and crush a bit of the flowers in the oil. Say: “Let’s pretend that this is the *muron* left from the ceremonies of 7 years ago. Now we’ll make more together.” Have every student participate by spooning up a tiny amount of each item and adding it to the bowl. Then mix with a silver spoon (they can take turns doing that as well). Say: “Remember that every Bishop will take a supply back to their Diocese for use in the sacraments. At your baptism and chrismation, the priest blessed you in nine places by signing the cross with this oil like this.” Dip your thumb in the mixture and sign a cross on the inside of their palms. 10 min.

5. When students have returned to their seats, read **Taking a Closer Look**. Talk about how these different parts of the body stand for something and are symbols of holy living. List the 9 parts of the body across the board and ask students to discuss how they can reflect holiness. Give children time – they will come up with some great answers (although some may be silly)! Examples are given below.

Eyes	see good in people, look at good things, see the world as God might
Ears	listen to beautiful things, hear the good people say
Nose	smell the sweetness of life in all God’s blessings
Mouth	say only good things, don’t curse, praise God and others
Hands	do good works, lift them up in prayer
Feet	walk with God, walk with people who need your help, don’t go to bad places
Back	bear other’s burdens, work hard,
Heart	love God and one another
Forehead	think good thoughts, think of how you can do God’s work, think of others

Distribute cross stickers and direct them to do the activity. 10 min.

7. Read **Time to Celebrate**. Distribute blank paper to each student and have them create their religious symbols. They may use colored pencils, markers, color pens. Discuss the results and post them on the wall or bulletin board, under the sign “Symbols of Our Faith.”

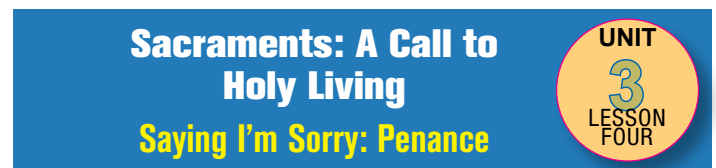
8. Do a lightning round review: “Okay, let’s take a moment to remember: what is that special oil used to mark us as babies during chrismation with a sign of the cross? (Holy *muron*) How many parts of the body are signed? (9) Name them. (Eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, feet, heart, back and forehead). Then conclude class with the prayer in **Responding in Faith**. 15 min.

Evaluating Your Lesson

1. What needs more pre-class preparation?
2. How can you make the lesson flow more smoothly?

Extending the Lesson

1. Have students complete the **Baptism, Chrismation, Communion** puzzle (from the back of this manual). Answer: *The Sacraments of Initiation*



Key Concepts

1. God loves us and knows that we will not always stay on track as we try to live a good and Spirit-filled life.
2. Recognizing that we sin, that all humans sin, and saying “I’m sorry” is the first step in re-establishing our relationship with God.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Read a story about the effect of sin.
2. Analyze a simplified statement of confession.
3. Create a “penance” stone as a desk paperweight.
4. Review previous sacrament lessons.