

A Call To Holy Living

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

UNIT
3
LESSON
SEVEN

From Our Hearts to God

Lord, we call on your special healing in the seventh sacrament. We know it is always possible to ask for courage and strength for our loved ones who are sick. Please hear our prayer, as we ask for your grace for....

What family members or friends who are sick or injured are in need of prayer?

Sacraments Savvy

List the sacraments you have learned about so far. Then describe what happens to you in each one.



1. _____ . In this sacrament _____

2. _____ . In this sacrament _____

3. _____ . In this sacrament _____

4. _____ . In this sacrament _____

5. _____ . In this sacrament _____

6. _____ . In this sacrament _____

MY WORLD

Harry was in the hospital. He was very sick. Der Hayr came to visit him. After chatting a while, Der Hayr said a prayer for Harry. When the priest left, the boy in the next bed asked Harry if the priest was a relative of his.

Harry explained that he belonged to the Armenian Church and the priest visits members who are sick to say prayers for their healing.

“I learned in my Sunday School that Jesus cares for us. He healed many sick people. God wants our lives to be good with all of us caring for each other. One of the ways we care for each other is to pray for each other.”

“Do the prayers help?” Harry’s neighbor asked.

“Yes. They remind me that God loves and cares for me and so do the people in my church no matter how healthy or sick I am. The prayers help me deal with this sickness.”

“But what if you don’t get better?” the boy asked Harry.

“Then God will help me handle whatever happens to me and I will thank him for the good life he has given me. This is how I can live a holy life the way Jesus teaches us to do.”

“What if you do get better?” the boy asked next.

“Then I will thank God, my doctors and nurses, my parents and my priest and my church. I will try to care for others as others have cared for me.”

“Are you afraid to die?” the boy asked.

“Yes and no. We all die one day. Death is really not important. Life is important. How we live is important. Living is sometimes scary, but God is always with me to help me. When I am dead I will go to God’s kingdom and have a new life with him.”

“Can I pray for you to get better?” the boy wanted to know.

“Yes. You can pray for me and I can pray for you.”



GOD’S GUIDING WORDS

Jesus spoke to them about God’s kingdom and healed everyone who was sick.

Luke 9:11

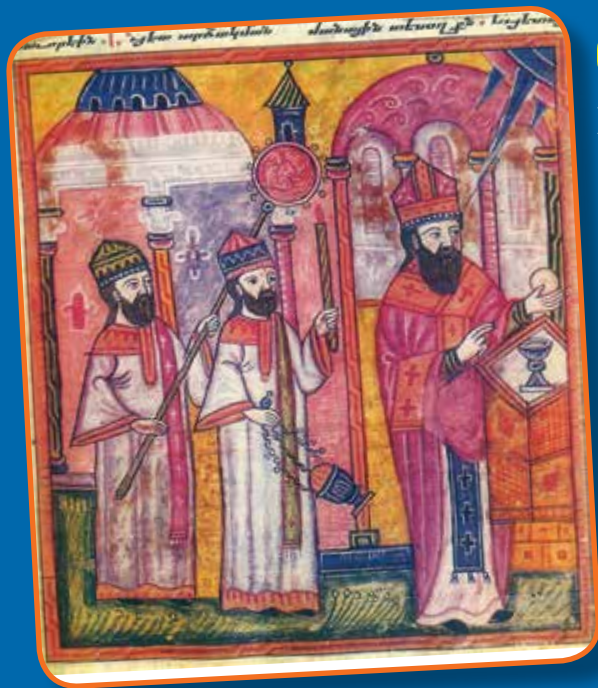


Getting Closer to God

The priest in the Armenian Church has two roles. He represents God to the people and he represents the people to God. When the priest prays, he prays for his entire congregation. He prays as their representative.

When the priest visits people who are sick, he represents the entire parish and he represents God. He prays with and for the person who is sick. He places his hands prayerfully on the person and blesses him.

The priest helps us get closer to God.



Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, this seventh sacrament is really two. One, is for all people: “prayers for the sick.” The other is reserved just for priests who have died and is called “extreme unction.”

When an Armenian priest dies he is buried in his priestly vestments. All his brother clergy attend the funeral.

A bishop officiates at his funeral service and anoints the priest’s body with holy oil. A priest is anointed when he was chrismated, just as we all were. But then he was anointed again as a priest, on his right hand, the one that he would use to bless with the sign of the cross and to consecrate the bread and wine. When he dies, he receives the “final or “extreme” anointing or “unction.”

Time to Celebrate

A time to share heart-felt wishes for God's healing!



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Lord, help us to care for and love one another. When we pray for healing, we know you will grant everything needed for strength, peace, and courage. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

Today we reviewed our "sacraments savvy" so far and learned about the seventh sacrament, the prayers for the sick and extreme unction. Students learned the important lesson that prayer is not a wish list but a true conversation with their God and that he will give all the courage, strength and peace needed for us to endure sickness and injury. They also read about a priest's final anointing or extreme unction. Finally, we all made cards using prayers, Bible verses, and Armenian miniature art.

Living Our Faith

1. At mealtime, remember those who are sick in your family or among friends. Mention them by name and ask for God's grace and courage for everyone.
2. The next time you make a visit to a loved one in the hospital, take your child. (Use your judgment so that this not a traumatic visit – perhaps to someone who is there for a routine operation or a broken limb.) Ask if you can both say a prayer for them and use one of the prayers or Bible verses from your child's card. You might want to leave them with the card itself.

you can demonstrate or help those who can't. Then have them braid the strands, string the cross through, and tie another knot. Secondly, have them design the deacon's stole (sketch the sample on the previous page on the board so students can draw a border and crosses), and cut a fringe on both ends approximately a ¼" up each end. If you've bought laminate sheets, press bookmarks between and cut to size; this will make the bookmark more durable. Clean up and conclude with prayer in **Responding in Faith**. 25 min.

Evaluating Your Lesson

See how much the students have understood by having them finish these sentences orally. Accept all reasonable answers.

1. A sacrament is ...
2. When two people marry they become
3. One of the ways a person can serve the church is by ...
4. When I grow up I would like to serve the church by ...

Extending the Lesson

1. Watch a DVD of a wedding if you have one available.
2. Watch a DVD of an ordination if you have one available.



Key Concepts

1. The practice of praying for those who are sick is part of our Christian tradition.
2. Those who serve the church as priests receive a special anointing upon their death.
3. God's healing comes through strength, courage, and peace.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Pray for sick family members and friends.
2. Participate in a review of the six sacraments they have learned so far.
3. Read a story about praying for a sick man in the hospital and discuss the nature of prayers for healing.
4. Review the meaning of "extreme unction," the part of this sacrament reserved for deceased clergy.
5. Make cards using Armenian prayers and designs.

Materials Needed

Copies of card idea sheet in the back of this manual
 Construction paper to be folded into a card
 Envelopes
 Markers
 Glue

Procedure

1. Tell students that today they will be talking about the sacrament known as "Prayers for the Sick" or "Extreme Unction." It would be a perfect time to pray for those who are ill. Ask if there are any family members or friends who are in need of our prayers (write their names on the board and their connection to the student, i.e. "Mark, a friend of (student's name); Mark broke his leg." Once everyone is listed, pray **From Our Hearts to God**. 10 min.
2. Ask if students learned more about their parents' wedding. Call on volunteers or, if no one has information, say "Oh, that's too bad – it would have been fun to hear some of your stories." Have students answer **Sacraments Savvy**. Review answers as they appear in the first lesson of this unit. (To get students on their feet, have them stand or come forward to answer. Use the opportunity to ask related questions as a review: When are Armenian Christians traditionally baptized? (as babies) Can they be baptized as adults? (Of course, if they have never been baptized and want to become Christians later in life). What three sacraments are always received at baptism? (Baptism, chrismation, and first Holy Communion) How many parts of the body are anointed at chrismation? (9) Name a few. (Eyes, ears, nose, mouth, forehead, heart, back, hands, feet) Why anoint these parts? (As a symbol that they should always be used in godly ways and for godly purposes) What sacrament must always come before Holy Communion? (Penance) Who started the practice of Holy Communion? (Jesus – at the Last Supper) What is a vocation? (A call by God to live life consecrated to him in a certain way) 20 min.
3. Read **My World**; you might want to ask three students to come to the front of the room and take the part of Harry, the boy, and the narrator. Afterwards, ask, "So what does it mean to pray for

God's healing?" Discuss, but make sure to include the idea that it is not a shopping list of requests that God should fulfill, but a *conversation* with God. The person praying can tell God anything, can ask God anything, can be happy or sad, content or angry. We should always keep in touch with God through prayer to share our lives and thoughts and desires with him and to be open to God speaking to us through our parents, our Sunday School teachers, our priest, the Bible and life itself. Our prayers for the sick are for healing of all kinds. Just as Harry in the story says, if physical healing is not possible, then the soul and spirit are healed and strengthened. (If children ask why God can't heal anyone he wants, tell them that God is not a magician who enters our world and fixes things for us. Rather he gives us the inspiration to help others, fight diseases, love one another, and can give us the *spiritual* gifts that are his to give and that we can get from nowhere else.) Conclude with **God's Guiding Words**.

4. Direct students' attention to and "teach" **Getting Closer to God and Our Armenian Way**. 10 min.

5. **Time to Celebrate** Instruct students that they will be making a card to send to someone they know or may know in the future who is in need of prayers for healing. Distribute the page of prayers and Bible verses along with envelopes. Encourage students to design them as they please; they might also add their own drawings. They should write a personal message inside if they have someone specific in mind; or they can write the message at a later date. If they want to mail it to someone, addresses and stamps can be provided at home by parents. Conclude with **Responding in Faith**. 20 min.

Extending the Lesson

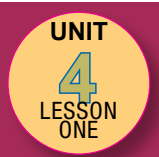
Use the **Sacraments Maze**, and/or **Sacraments Test/Word Search*** as enrichment and review exercises.

Sacraments Test answers; 1. Initiation 2. Penance 3. Marriage 4. Unction 5. Holy Orders 6. God 7. Chrismation 8. Baptism 9. Communion 10. Unction

Word Search answers:

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

The Church Celebrates The Five Major Feasts



Key Concepts

1. The church calendar celebrates the life of our Lord and the special people and events in salvation history.
2. There are spiritual seasons of the church just as there are seasons in the physical year.
3. These seasons and feasts unfold in a cycle of preparation and celebration.
4. There is a special Armenian Church calendar called the *Donatzooytz* that guides us through the year, beginning with the most important feast, Easter.

Objectives

During this session students will

1. Mark a calendar of events in their lives that repeat each year and compare it with the church's annual commemorations.
2. Find the Five Major Feast Days on the church calendar.
3. Discuss ways we prepare for family events and church commemorations.
4. Create information cards on the Five Major Feasts and then play a review game.

Materials Needed

1. Diocesan calendars (or copies), one for each student; see procedure #2
2. 5X7 blank index cards (see procedure # 5)