

# Unit Three **Being the Church** *Jesus With Us*



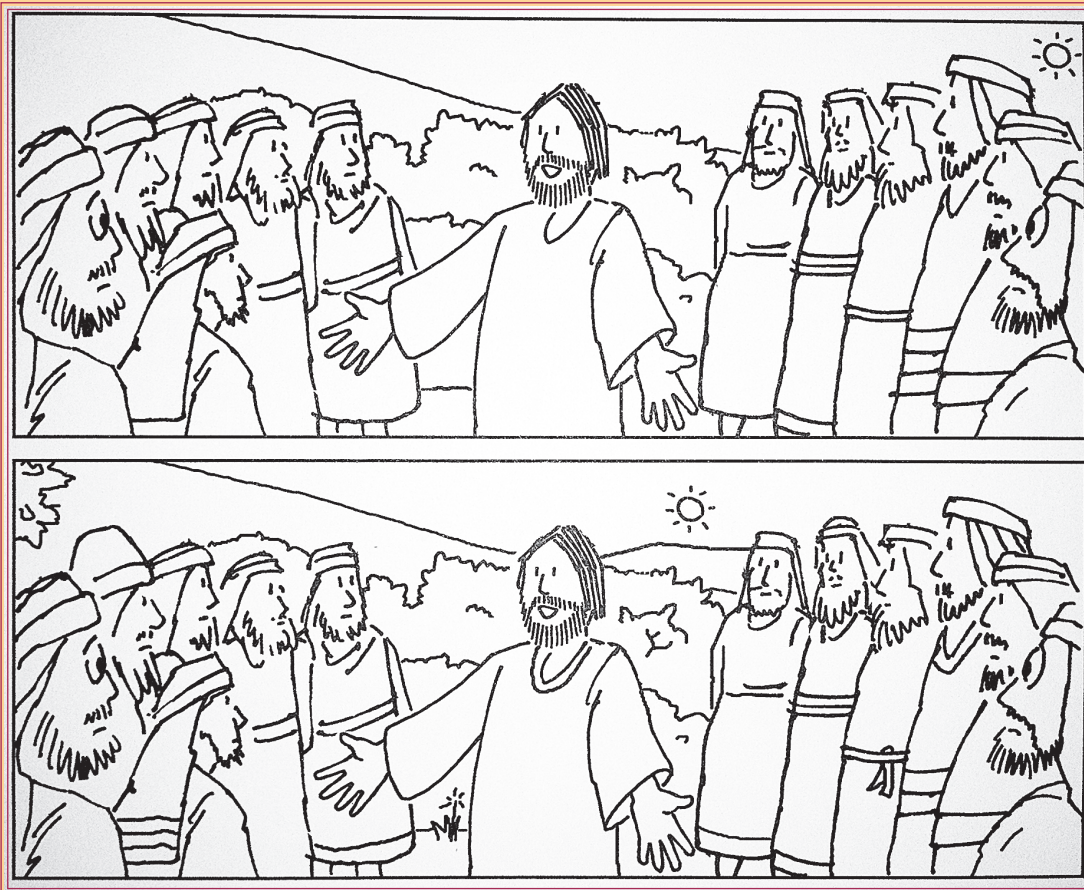
## We Pray Together

Dear Jesus, we adore you. We love you. We thank you. We ask you to watch over us and help us grow closer to you. We will strive to obey your commandments and always bring glory to your name.

*Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyh Srpo. Amen.*  
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## Let's Discover

Jesus is telling his disciples: "I am making everything new!" (Rev. 21:5)  
*Find 15 differences in the pictures below.*



# Our Story

Each month, Aram and Emma's Sunday School class would go into church for Holy Communion. Their teacher, Mrs. Mesrobian, would always invite the parents. After several months, Aram and Emma noticed that some of the parents chose to stay in their seats and not receive Holy Communion.

One Sunday, Aram raised his hand and asked, "Why doesn't everyone in church go up for Holy Communion?" "Won't God get upset?" asked Emma. Mrs. Mesrobian liked the questions and gave the following example as an answer.

"Have you ever been invited to somebody's house for dinner? People go to a lot of trouble to welcome their guests. They clean their house, they set the table and they prepare delicious foods. Let's say it's you who's been invited. What if the host says, 'Please, let's sit down to eat'? And they start passing the plates, and you don't take anything. The host will say, 'Well, aren't you eating?' And you say, 'Oh, no, I'm not hungry. I will just sit and watch everyone.' Does that seem right?"

All the students blurted out "NO!" and laughed. "Well, in many ways," continued Mrs. Mesrobian, "going to church is the same thing. If you don't receive Holy Communion, it's like telling Jesus, 'You know, we are not hungry for you. We don't need you now. We don't need any help making good choices.' Is that ever the case? Don't we need Jesus all the time?" The kids agreed with Mrs. Mesrobian. Then Aram raised his hand and said, "It looks like all of our parents need to be in your Sunday School class, Mrs. Mesrobian!"





# God's Word

Jesus was teaching at the Mount of Olives in front of a large crowd.

The temple leaders brought a woman who had broken a commandment and asked Jesus what punishment she deserved. The temple leaders reminded Jesus that the law says that a person should be stoned to death when they break a commandment. The temple leaders were really trying to test Jesus

and wanted to know his answer. Jesus stood for a moment and then replied by saying, "Anyone who has not sinned can throw the first stone!" One by one, the people left, leaving Jesus and the woman all alone. Jesus then asked, "Where did all the people trying to punish you go? Is there anyone left to punish you?" The woman said, "No." Then Jesus told her that he would not punish her either and to go and not sin anymore.

*Based on John 8:1-11*

Jesus said "If you love me, then you will obey my commandments. I will ask God the Father to send the Holy Spirit to help guide you and be with you." *John 14:15-16*

# We Learn About God

We all need Jesus to make us strong in spirit and faith! After receiving Holy Communion, we continue to have a special feeling. We are renewed in him. Jesus, who loves us and who is so good, has given us himself. He wants us to share this love and renewed holiness with everyone we come across. People can then see that Jesus is in our hearts and minds.

Write or draw one way you will be kind and loving this week with:

Parents	School	Friends	Jesus (in prayer)

# Our Armenian Way

In the Armenian Church, once we have all received Holy Communion, the curtain closes. It is at this time, that the choir and people join together and sing the hymn “Lutzak” which means “to be filled” with Jesus. Lutzak is a hymn of thanksgiving. We are praising the Lord for filling us with good things and sending us the Holy Spirit.

**Լցաք - Lutzak**



Լց-աք                      Է քա-րու-թեանց                      քոց                      Տէր.  
Lu - tsak                      ee pa - roo - tyants                      kots                      Der;

## Faith Word

### *Radiance Jajanch Ճաճանչ*

Located on each altar, a round or oval disc of silver or gold, surrounded by rays of metal, and fixed on a stem and base. It is where we permanently display a blessed nushkhar. It is another reminder of Jesus being with us.



## Handmade With Love

Decorate your own “radiance” as a reminder of Jesus being with you always.

## For My Family

### Sharing Our Faith

Today, your child learned that when we receive Holy Communion, we are renewed in Jesus. Strengthened by the bread and wine of Holy Communion (the Body and Blood of our Lord), we are then able to share his love with everyone we meet. Students reflected on the various ways they can demonstrate that love to others. For our craft today, the children decorated a “radiance.”

### Living Our Faith

1. Post your child’s craft. Ask him or her what a “radiance” is!
2. Attend Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion as one family.
3. Point out the radiance on the altar and sing “Lutzak” together.
4. As a family, develop a list of ways you can share God’s love with others.

- Have students draw or write what they think their classroom would be like without rules. Share results. 10 min.
2. **Our Story.** Discuss each scenario as a class. Conclude with this segue: “You had some great solutions. But, you know, God gives us lots of help so that we can do the right thing. Everywhere in the Bible we learn about how to apply our faith to right actions. That advice begins with the Ten Commandments. Let’s read about them.” 13 min.
  3. Call on students to read **God’s Word**; for the Commandments, have each student read one. Refer back to **Our Story** and see if they can apply the commandment to the scenario [Answers: 1. #10; 2. #8; 3. #5; 4. #4; 5. #9; 6. The greatest commandment: love God and others].
  4. Introduce the **Faith Word**, then read **We Learn About God**. Have students refer to the Ten Commandments and have them write “G” next to the commandments that help us love God (Answers: #1, 2, 3, 4) and have them write an “O” for the commandments that help us love others and ourselves (Answers: #5-10). 12 min.
  5. Read **Our Armenian Way**. Have students think about who they could take *mahs* to. It would be nice to arrange a time when the students can actually distribute the *mahs* one Sunday after church. This could be arranged with the priest and the parish council. 5 min.
  6. **Handmade With Love: My Commandment Handbook**
    - a. Distribute pre-cut heart shaped white paper–5 sheets to each student. Have them either fold in half or draw a line in the middle of the heart. On one side of the heart, have the students write a commandment (let them choose 5 from the 10); on the other side, have them draw a picture showing the commandment.
    - b. Distribute cover for students to write the title **My Commandment Handbook: Love God, Love Others**. Put all the sheets together and staple or hole punch and tie with ribbon.
  7. Clean-up. Close with the prayer: “Dear God, we thank you for your laws which enable us to love and honor you and our neighbors. Amen.”

\*At this time, if *mahs* is available for distribution, give to each student. Dismiss. 20 min.

## Grade Two

### Unit Three: Being the Church

#### Lesson Five: We Make Choices

#### Key Concepts

1. Sin is turning from God’s love.
2. Making the right choices is critical in our Christian walk.
3. The Lord’s Prayer reminds us that we need to be attentive to God’s will for us (“Your will be done”).

#### Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a small group exercise about choices.
2. Read and discuss the Parable of the Lost Son.
3. Illustrate the final scene of forgiveness from the Parable of the Lost Son.
4. Discuss the meaning of Romans 6:11-12.
5. Examine the line in the Lord’s Prayer: “Your will be done.”
6. Analyze actions that reflect doing God’s will.
7. Design a bookmark with WWJD, What Would Jesus Do?

## Materials Needed

Crayons, markers and/or coloring pencils

Pre-cut bookmarks (preferably copied onto card stock); see template in Appendix

Stickers, stamps

Optional (but highly recommended): Laminating material

Hole punch

Thin ribbon - 6 inches per student

## Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Divide the class into small groups\* of two or three, whatever configuration works best for your class. Have each small group huddle together, read the case in **Let's Discover** and decide if the right choice was made. After a few minutes, have each group present their case and decision. If a poor choice was made, have them explain to the rest of the class what could have been done. Direct the class to reflect on choices they have made. Have them each write a line or two about a poor choice and the consequences. Ask for volunteers to share their answers. \*You might want to do this exercise as a class, rather than in small groups.
2. Encourage students to take turns reading the paraphrase of the Parable of the Lost Son (also known as the Prodigal Son) in **Our Story**. Ask students if they know what a parable is (an earthly story with a heavenly meaning; stories that Jesus told to teach a lesson). After reading the story have students draw, in the space provided, the last scene of the story where the son returns home. Share their drawings. Ask who they think the "father" represents in the story. (God) How about the son? (all of us). Ask the class, does God forgive us when we make the wrong choices? 20 min.
3. Ask a volunteer to read the Scripture passage in **God's Word**. Discuss what students think it means to not have "sin rule over you." (Prompts for discussion: What does it mean to rule? A ruler dictates to those he or she rules. A ruler is *in charge*. Do we want sin, bad choices, to be in charge of us?)
4. Introduce **Faith Words** and then read **We Learn About God**. Ask the class if they think a mistake is the same as a sin. What's the difference between the two words? Sometimes we make mistakes or cause an accident. We do something wrong, but we do not mean to do it. Mistakes are not sins. Ask them to give an example of an accident or a mistake (spilling a cup of milk, dropping a plate).
5. Recite the Lord's prayer. Refer to the line, "yegheetzeen gamk ko," "Your will be done." Read **Our Armenian Way**. Have students complete the exercise by drawing a cross next to all the lines that demonstrate God's will. Go over each one. 20 min.
6. **Handmade with Love: WWJD? Bookmark**
  - a. Distribute pre-cut bookmarks. Students can decorate however they wish with crayons or markers, stickers, stamps, etc. Encourage them to draw their own symbols, etc. Include the date at the bottom. Leave a space to punch a hole.
  - b. A nice touch would be to laminate the bookmarks. Punch a hole at the top and tie a ribbon through it.
7. Clean-up. Close with the prayer: "Dear God, help us to do your will on earth as it is in heaven. Amen." 20 min.

## Unit Three: Being the Church

### Lesson Six: God Forgives Us

## Key Concepts

1. God loves us even when we sin. He rejoices when we return to him.

