

Unit Three: Being the Church

Lesson One: Many Become One

Key Concepts

1. When Christians are together, we become what we cannot be alone, the Church.
2. We all contribute in our way to the one Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12: 5: 27).
3. The Divine Liturgy is a perfect example of many becoming one as the Body of Christ.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a group puzzle activity illustrating that each piece makes up the church.
2. Reenact a Reader's Theater story.
3. Explore the idea of many types of service and participation in building up the church.
4. Examine the concept of oneness as expressed during the Kiss of Peace.
5. Assemble a "Being the Church" craft.

Materials Needed

One color copy of the Etchmiadzin picture (from the back of this manual) cut into puzzle pieces (in the exact amount of the number of students). Ideally, have it copied onto card stock/thick paper.

Legos and or Building Blocks (preassemble a simple house for the story)

From the back of this manual: a copy of front and back church templates (both of these on card stock preferably, one for each student)

Crayons, markers, colored pencils

Scissors

Glue

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Gather in a circle either on the floor or around a table. Hand each student a piece of the Etchmiadzin puzzle, without saying what it is. It might be best for you to start the puzzle and call on a student that has an easy piece to make the connection. Continue making the puzzle as a class. Ask them to identify the picture. Remind them that Etchmiadzin is the Mother Church of all Armenian churches in the world. Return to seats and ask students to answer the questions listed in **Let's Discover**. The last question asks about other people, jobs, groups that require many parts. Answers could include: a soccer team, an orchestra, a factory assembly line, a medical team. 15 min.
2. Have the Legos and/or Building Blocks and preassembled house available for **Our Story**. Call on two students to read the parts of the teacher, Mrs. Ohanian, and of Aren. Or to engage the entire class, you can assign each student a line as an option. After reading the story, ask if anyone in the class has ever felt like Aren. Ask the class what they experience when they go into church – are they more of an audience member watching or do they feel that they are participating? In which ways are they participating? 10 min.
3. Read the Scripture verses in **God's Word** together. Discuss the meaning. (5: there are many different ways we serve our one Lord, many different gifts we each have to put together and be one church family. 27: Jesus called the church his "Body" – how are all of us together like a body? – there are arms, legs, ears, eyes, etc. all of which make one important whole).
4. Read **We Learn About God**. Ask the class the following questions:
 - a. What are some ways you can help the church? (pray, offering, friendship)
 - b. Who are some of the people who help in the church? (Der Hayr or Hayr Soorp, teachers, custodian, choir, deacon, parish council, etc.)

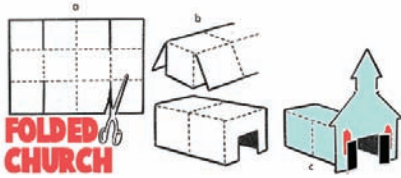
- c. Is there a job in the church more important than another? (when all are done in the spirit of Christ, no)
- d. What are some things we do at church? (sing, pray, play study, read, fellowship, eat)
- e. What are ways we can praise God? (sing sharagans, pray, tell others about God)
- f. Is everyone important to the Church? (yes!)

8 min.

5. Review **Faith Word** and read **Our Armenian Way**. Ask the class if they ever thought of the nave, the place where the congregation sits, as a boat. What are some moments during Soorp Badarak that the class feels that they are one body in Christ? (during the recitation of the Creed, Confession, Holy Communion, saying the Hayr Mer together, Kiss of Peace).

7 min.

6. Handmade With Love: Being the Church craft



- Distribute the copied templates of the church, front and back.
- Cut out the front of the church....cut on the solid lines and fold on the dotted lines (the doors).
- Then cut out the back of the church (the box shape). Cut on solid lines and fold on dotted lines, as shown in picture a. On the outer boxes, draw and or write ways in which you can be part of the church.
- Then glue corners as indicated in picture b. Then cut out the black rectangle. Glue the front of the church to the box on the small side that has the rectangle door cut from its side. You now have a paper church.

7. Clean-up. Close with the prayer: “Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the blessing of our church, may we always work together for you! Amen.”

20 min.

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Lesson Two: A Gift for Everyone

Key Concepts

1. God gives every member of the believing community a gift to use in love and service (1 Corinthians 12: 27-30).
2. The Armenian Church has a tradition of Home Blessing asking God’s blessing and protection on the family and home.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a teamwork group activity of putting together words from individual letters.
2. Read and discuss a story about the teamwork involved in a summer camp.
3. Examine 1 Corinthians 12: 27-30.
4. Complete a poster on the gifts of a church community.
5. Review the Armenian Church Home Blessing.
6. Create a clay pot to put salt in for a home blessing.

Materials Needed

Display items: a cup of water, a chunk of bread (slice/pita/roll), a dish of salt

Individual letters to spell the words **grace, community, fellowship, prayer and worship** (see Procedure #1). Easiest would be to purchase prepared letters