

# Jesus Challenges Authority



## Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, we ask that you bless our time together today. Watch over our church and people. Please show us when we need to take a stand for you, and grant us the courage to do so. Amen.

## Chapter Checkup

Answer “true” or “false” to the statements.

1. \_\_\_\_ During his ministry, Jesus spoke to the people using poetry.
2. \_\_\_\_ Jesus spoke only in the great learning centers of each city he visited.
3. \_\_\_\_ When someone asked him how to pray, Jesus gave us the Lord’s Prayer.
4. \_\_\_\_ The Armenian Church does not use the Lord’s Prayer.
5. \_\_\_\_ Most of the people in Biblical times could not read or write.

## King of Kings and Lord of Lords

When we think of God and behavior, we usually think of obedience. God gave the Jewish people his law in the Old Testament so they would know how to behave and be happy. Even though God’s people had very specific instructions on how to live and worship, the people refused to follow his laws. Their disobedience brought terrible disaster to them and made God very sad.

When God decided the time was right, he came to us in the person of Jesus Christ so people could follow him. Since Jesus is the same God who gave us the law, by following Jesus we can live the way God wants us to live.

The powerful teachers of the Old Testament law did not like Jesus because they were afraid he was going to change their old way of obeying God. They did not realize that Jesus was God and had full authority to teach people how to worship and obey him. These teachers, called Pharisees, thought they were finding God in their laws. They were too set in their old ways to see that the Truth was standing in front of their very eyes!

As he taught the right way to live, Jesus did and said things that upset these teachers. They chased Jesus from town to town and made plans to harm him. Jesus was not afraid of these men. Over and over again, he had the courage to tell the Pharisees they had an incorrect understanding of God’s truth.



In the Bible, read Matthew 23:23-26 to see Jesus correcting the Pharisees. Reflect together:

- What are all these accusations really about?
- How would they have affected the people living around them?

### Serenity Prayer

Most Christians have heard of the Serenity Prayer. Nobody is completely sure who wrote it, although a man named Reinhold Niebuhr helped make it popular.

This prayer has been used on battlefields, by people asking for God’s help with addiction problems, and all over the world. The simple prayer, which appears below, has given comfort to millions for many years.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things  
I cannot change...  
Courage to change the things I can...  
And wisdom to know the difference.

## FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents

### Lesson Roundup

Today your child discovered how

Jesus upset many in authority with his teachings. The students learned that it takes great courage to do God’s will. The class studied the Serenity prayer, which mentions courage, and explored in practical terms how it can be difficult to do what is right, whether during times of political oppression (the Armenian Genocide, Nazi Germany) or when Christian living decisions need to be made (how to honor the Lord’s day, Sunday).

### Family Faith Activity

As your child learns how to put faith in action, the following activities may help. Try to perform at least one of the activities below.

1. Pray for your local police, ambulance, and fire departments.
2. Find a story in the newspaper and discuss how courageous intervention would help.
3. Together, think of ways to honor God and family on Sunday.
4. Write to your senator, representative, or other official concerning an issue about which you feel strongly.

### A Parent’s Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup \_\_\_ and tried at least one activity as a family\_\_\_.

Signed\_\_\_\_\_

## Our Armenian Way

The Armenian Church celebrates the lives of the saints that helped bring Jesus to our people. Many of these saints risked and often lost their lives because of what they believed. One of our beloved saints is St. Gregory the Enlightener, or “Soorp Krikor Loosavorich.”

St. Gregory suffered years of imprisonment and horrible tortures because he refused the king’s orders to worship a false god. His bravery, and the bravery of so many others, should help us find the courage to do things God’s way no matter what.

Look up the word “enlightener” in the dictionary. Write the definition below.

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