

# Unit Four\* The Church Family\* Being Together

## We Say What We Believe



### We Speak to God

Dear God, we believe that you created the world for us to take care of and enjoy. We believe that the world is a good place, and that you are always there to help us know you and love one another. We believe that Jesus is our Savior and that the Holy Spirit is our loving guide. We believe. Help us to believe more! +Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

### Let's Talk

What do you believe about Jesus, the Son of God?



Jesus was born.  
His mother was Mary.



Jesus was baptized  
in the River Jordan.



Jesus was crucified  
and buried and rose  
on the third day.



Jesus will come  
again to be with us.

# God Speaks to Us

Jesus' disciples tried to heal a sick boy, but they could not. They asked Jesus, "Why couldn't we heal him?" Jesus answered, "This sickness can only be healed by prayer."

Mark 9:28-29

## We Learn About God

Jesus returned to his disciples after being away. He noticed that there was a large crowd gathered around them. He asked, "What is happening here?"

A man answered, "Master, I brought my son to you because he is sick with seizures. I asked your disciples to help him. They tried, but they could not. Have pity on us and help us."

"Bring your son to me," said Jesus. "Everything is possible for anyone who has faith."

The boy's father cried out, "I do have faith. I do believe. Help us believe more."

Jesus took the boy's hand and helped him up. He was healed!



*Why do you think a crowd had gathered?*

*What did the man tell Jesus?*

*Why do you think the apostles could not help the man and his son?*

*What will you remember from this story?*

# Hearts and Hands

The Havadamk (We Believe) was written a long time ago (325 A.D.). It is called the Nicene Creed because it was agreed upon at the Council of Nicaea. The church fathers met and created a statement of beliefs about God, the Father; his son Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. Ever since that time, the Armenian people have had faith in the beliefs stated in the Creed.



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Can you imagine? For hundreds and hundreds of years, the Armenian people have been reciting the Creed. Now, it is your turn.

We believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of things visible and invisible.

Havadamk ee mee Asdvadz,  
ee Hayrn amenagal  
harareechun yergnee yev yergree  
yerevelyats yev anerevooteets.

Հաւատամք ի մի Աստուած՝  
ի Հայրն ամենակալ,  
յարարիչն երկնի եւ երկրի,  
երեւելեաց եւ աներեւութից:



## Our Armenian Way

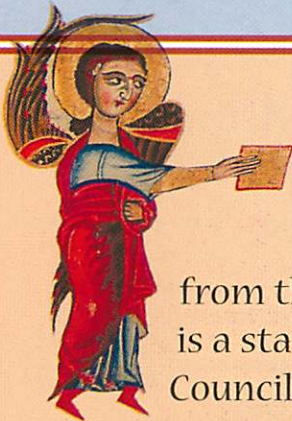
When we pray, we express our faith in God. We mean, “Father, we believe in you. We know you will help us in whatever way you can.”

During the Badarak, we make a very special statement of faith. It is called the Nicene Creed, the Havadamk (*We Believe*). Everyone in church puts their palms together, right thumb over left thumb. Then they join in reciting the Havadamk. It states what the Armenian Church believes about God.

The Creed begins in this way, “We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” (Havadamk ee mee Asdvadz ee Hayrun amenagal, harareechun yergnee yev yergree.)

It continues, “We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the son of God, born of the Virgin Mary.”

## For My Family



### Sharing Our Faith

The message of the day was about belief and prayer. In keeping with this theme, the children learned a few lines from the Havadamk (*We Believe*), also known as the Nicene Creed. This is a statement of our beliefs about the Holy Trinity. It was created at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D.

### Living Our Faith

Review with your child:

1. Why we recite the Creed.
2. How we hold our hands when we recite the Creed.
3. The first three lines of the Creed.
4. The story of the father who brought his sick child to the disciples to be healed and the importance of prayer in helping our faith grow.