

volunteer or if it's a group guess, the first actor can select the next student and so on and so forth. After all the slips are acted out, complete the activity in **Let's Discover**. Have the students complete the sentences writing an example for each feeling. Have them share responses and then discuss the final question. 10 min.

3. Select four volunteers who would be willing to read the parts in **Our Story**. Have them stand in front of the class to act it out. After the reading, ask the class if they agreed with the idea that Sevana gave her older sister. Tell the class that we will see what verses Karen's parents shared with her from the Book of Psalms. 7 min.

4. Call on students to read the various psalms in **God's Word**. Have them underline a key word or two in each one. This will help them later as they do the activity. (Example: 1. 'O God, Your greatness is seen in all the world'). After reading the psalms, either have the students work independently or with a partner to match the feelings with the psalms. Review their responses. Answers: D, G, A, K, B, H, E, J, C, I, F 15 min.

5. Read **We Learn About God**. Show the Bible opened to the Book of Psalms. Introduce the **Faith Word**. Practice writing a psalm as a class (on the board). Write one praising God for his love, keeping it to a few lines. Something like: *O God, we thank you for all of your kindness, your love never stops. We sing your praise.* Brainstorm some key words that would be useful in writing a psalm such as *bless, guide, comfort, great, protect, help, goodness, rejoice, sing, etc.* 8 min.

6. Read **Our Armenian Way**. If possible and time permits, read the English translation of the Psalm (24: 7-10) from the Divine Liturgy service (page 25 in the pew book). Explain that during the service, the deacon is raising the chalice and is slowly walking it from the side altar to the main altar and will give it to the priest. The deacon is telling the priest that the King of Glory is coming. 5 min.

#### 7. **Handmade With Love:**

- a. Distribute the card stock cube templates. Have children select six feelings and write one on each side. They can illustrate and either write their own psalm for each one or select some from the Scripture reading. Cut out cube and fold on the specified lines. Help them assemble the cube with tape.
- b. Clean-up. Close with the prayer in text. 15 min.

## **Unit Two: Jesus & Me**

### **Lesson Six: Thank You!**

#### **Key Concepts**

1. In all our prayers, no matter the feeling, we conclude with trust.
2. According to Colossians 3:15-17, we are called to peace and to thankfulness.
3. "Kohanamk" is the hymn of thanksgiving sung after receiving Holy Communion.
4. The *Jshagestzook* is the prayer of thanksgiving that we say before meals.

#### **Objectives**

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a team game about gratitude.
2. Perform and discuss *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein.
3. Read Colossians 3:15-17.
4. Solve a related crossword puzzle.
5. Learn the faith word 'Eucharist.'
6. Review the sharagan "Kohanamk."
7. Practice the mealtime prayer, *Jshagestzook* in Armenian and English.
8. Make a *Jshagestzook* keepsake placemat.

## Materials Needed

Copies of the Reader's Theater version of *The Giving Tree* (Shel Silverstein), from the back of this manual.

*The Giving Tree* (if possible)

Pencils, crayons, markers

Musical recording of "Kohanamk"

Copies of the *Jshagestzook* prayer in Armenian, English and transliteration (from the back of this manual)

Light colored paper placemats 13 ¾ x 9 ¾ OR construction paper 12" x 18"

Optional: stickers, foam decorations, magazines

Scissors

Glue

Laminating sheets (see Procedure # 7; a volunteer – or two – to cover placemats with laminate sheets would be very helpful).

## Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Say: "Today we are going to play a game called "The best thing about ... " Divide the class into two teams; they can come up with a team name too! Toss a coin to see which team goes first. The teams have three seconds to complete the phrase, "The best thing about \_\_\_\_\_ is." Use the suggested list of items or people below. Have each of the team members from the starting team say one good quality or thing they appreciate about that person or thing within three seconds. They are not allowed to repeat something already said or say anything negative or complain. Each person who answers gains a point for the team. For example: *The best thing about trees are . . .* (possible answers: they provide shade, they clean the air, they give a home to the birds, they are beautiful; unacceptable: the leaves make a mess) Move on to the next word and the other team when the team runs out of answers. The team with the most points wins. The object is to stay positive and appreciate everything we have instead of complaining about it.

Suggested list: computers, dogs, brother/sisters, markers, Mondays, rainy days, homework, beach, music, our church, our president, paperclips, our state, etc. (feel free to add or delete to the list). 10 min.

2. Read **Let's Discover**. Ask student to list things that they normally complain about. Have them come up with something positive instead. Share if time allows.

3. Read *The Giving Tree* (if you were able to obtain a copy) and then have students perform the Reader's Theater version. If you have been unable to acquire the book, the Readers' Theater version will do! Discuss story. Ask class: Why do you think the story is called *The Giving Tree*? What does the tree give? Does the boy seem to be grateful and thankful to the tree? How would you describe the boy? Who does the tree remind you of? Who does the boy remind you of? Why? What does God give us? Are we always grateful and thankful to him or do we just take and take? 15 min.

4. Call on three students to read each verse of the Scripture reading in **God's Word**. Have students work independently to solve the crossword puzzle. After completion, review the puzzle choices having students take turns reading the clues and giving the answers. (Across: 3. thanks, 5. deeds 7. dwell. Down: 1. Christ, 2. psalm, 4. Peace, 6. body). Bonus: expressing "thanks."

5. Read **We Learn About God**. Then review the **Faith Word**. Help them pronounce the word (Yéw-kuh-rist). Read **Our Armenian Way**. Practice saying the words of "Kohanamk" and try to sing it. Try the echo method- you say a phrase then the class repeats. If you have the CD, play it. Distribute the *Jshagestzook* prayer and see how many already know it. Practice saying it as a class in both Armenian and English. 10 min.

6. **Handmade With Love: Keepsake Placemat**. Distribute the construction paper or placemats and the *Jshagestzook* prayers. Have students glue down the prayer. They can decorate with their own drawings, stickers, foam pieces, magazine cut outs. Have their illustrations reflect things they are thankful for. Have volunteers laminate as students finish.

7. Clean-up. Close with the prayer "Dear Heavenly Father, in everything that we do, in word or deed, we do in your name and give thanks to you. Amen. "(based on Colossians 3: 17) 25 min.