

3. Read the story of Jesus' Presentation to the Temple from a children's Bible (Luke 2: 22-40). This is important, since you want to keep it simple. Stop at each mention of a person and have children write the name in their books: Joseph, Mary, Jesus, Simeon, and Anna. Point out to children at the end that Mary and Joseph were honoring God by going to the temple (as we would go to church) receiving a blessing for their new son at the proper time after his birth. 10 min.
4. Read **We Learn About God**. Ask if the students can name any feast days of the church. (Easter, Christmas, Advadzadzin, etc.) Introduce the faith word. Have them pronounce it in Armenian as well.
5. Read or teach **Our Armenian Way**. Have students complete the missing letters for each of the feast days. (**Answers: Holy Translators, Vartanantz, Saint Gregory, Dyarnuntarach, Holy Etchmiadzin, Saints Hripsime & Gayane, 40 Martyrs of Sepastia**). For further information on these feasts, see www.armenianchurch-ed.net. (St. Gregory - June, Etchmiadzin – June; Vartanantz, Dyarnuntarach – February; Holy Translators - October; 40 Martyrs of Sepastia- March; Hripsime & Gayane – May.) 12 min.
6. **Handmade with Love: Presentation of the Lord candle**. Have students cover their roll of toilet paper with construction paper, aluminum foil or even wrapping paper. Distribute copies of flame shape and the Presentation. Have them trace flame shape on construction paper, cut out, and glue to the top of the roll. After coloring the picture of the Presentation, they may glue it (if this doesn't hold, use tape) to the center of the candle, and then add heart stickers. Suggestion: have students write **"We remember Jesus, He is our light"** on a separate piece of paper and glue to the roll. They can also write directly on the roll if they have wrapped it with paper.
7. Clean-up. Close with the prayer: "Dear Jesus, thank you for being the light of the world. Help us be your light to everyone this week! Amen." 20 min.

Unit Four: Celebrating Jesus: The Church Year

Lesson Two: The Church Year

Key Concepts

1. The church organizes time in a cycle of feasts.
2. Exodus 10:9 and Psalm 145 demonstrate that feasts and praise to the Lord began in Old Testament times.
3. The Armenian Church calendar is made up of five major feast days.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a school year timeline activity classifying holidays.
2. Read and discuss a story.
3. Fill in a time line of Jesus' life.
4. Examine Exodus 10:9.
5. Reflect on Psalm 145 and solve a related crossword puzzle.
6. Briefly explore the five major feast days of the Armenian Church.
7. Complete a multiple choice exercise on feasts.
8. Create a major feast (daghavar) wheel craft.

Materials Needed

Copy of adapted Psalm 145; one for each student (from back of this manual)
Crayons, markers and or coloring pencils

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**.
2. Draw a timeline on the board of your life. Place major events- birth, graduation, etc. Ask class if they know what this is? Ask how a timeline like this can be helpful. (It can help you remember the important times of your life – it can help *others* remember as well.) Direct students to **Let's Discover**. Have them complete the timeline of the school year. Go over as a class (Answers: 10, 5, 3, 8, 7, 2, 1, 6, 9, 4). 10 min.
3. Have students take turns reading **Our Story**. Direct them to the timeline on page 3 of their lesson. On the board write the following feasts: Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Palm Sunday, Ascension, Presentation of the Lord, Baptism, Transfiguration. Say: "In our story, we read that Mrs. Nersessian's class knew that there was more to Jesus' life than his birth and his resurrection. Let's see if we can fill in some of the gaps as we look at the timeline in our lesson. Look at the feast days on the board and see if you can guess what the feast is called and where it goes. Raise your hand if you know the answer. 1. Jesus' birth is called? (Christmas) Let's put that under the first marker. 2. This is when Jesus was taken to the Temple for the first time 40 days after he was born. (Presentation of the Lord). 3. We remember Jesus being baptized at the Jordan River by his cousin John the Baptist. (Baptism) 4. This is when Jesus appeared radiant, bright in front of three of his disciples. And just as happened at his baptism, God the Father said that this is his beloved Son (Transfiguration) 5. This is the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people greeted him joyfully (Palm Sunday). 6. This is the day that Jesus rose from the dead. (Easter). 7. This is the day that Jesus returned to his Heavenly Father (Ascension). 8. This is the birthday of the church, when the Holy Spirit came down to the disciples (Pentecost).
4. **God's Word**. Have a student read the Exodus Scripture verse. Emphasize the involvement of *everyone* in the festivals and feasts.
5. Read the introductory paragraph of **We Learn About God** and then distribute copies of Psalm 145. You can have the class read it together or take turns, whatever works best in your class. After reading, ask them what they think the entire psalm is about. Refer to the crossword puzzle, read the word bank choices and the clues. Show them the * in the psalm and do 6 Across together- LOVE. Answers: (Across: 4 anger; 6 love; 7 right; 8. praise; Down: 1 miracles; 2 parents; 3 promises; 5 food) 15 min.
6. Introduce **Faith Word** and then read **Our Armenian Way**. If there is a enough time, you might want to share some more simple detail about each of the feasts such as: Christmas is the only feast with a set date; the church distributes blessed basil at the Exaltation of the Cross; grapes are blessed at the Assumption of Mary; there is a custom of throwing water on each other at Transfiguration. Lent is the 40-day period preceding Easter. Advent is the 50-day period leading up to Armenian Christmas. Have students work in groups of two, individually or as a class. (Answers: C, A, C, B, B). 10 min.
7. **Handmade With Love**. Daghavar Wheel
Directions:
 - a. Cut out the two wheels.
 - b. On one, write a daghavar in each section: Christmas, Easter, Transfiguration, Assumption of Mary, Exaltation of the Holy Cross.
 - c. Have students draw and write descriptions for each feast including the time of year. Set aside - this will be the bottom of the wheel.
 - d. Take the other 5 section wheel and have students cut one section out and use the side without the lines.
 - e. Have them write Feast Day/Daghavar Wheel on the section that is opposite the cut section. They can decorate as well.
 - f. Match the two wheels together and help students poke a hole in the middle of the two wheels and add a brad fastener. (Easiest to poke a hole with a sharp pencil or edge of scissor.)

8. Clean-up. Close with the prayer: "Dear Jesus, we follow and praise you through the Church Year. Amen."

25 min.



Unit Four: Celebrating Jesus: The Church Year

Lesson Three: Christmas

Key Concepts

1. The Armenian Church celebrates the birth of Jesus, Christmas, on January 6th.
2. The hymn *Khorhoort Medz* tells of the great Mystery of Jesus being revealed.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a classifying activity of religious and non-religious Christmas cards.
2. Discuss, illustrate or write about Christmas scenes and symbols, ornaments and carols.
3. Read and discuss story about the true meaning of Christmas.
4. Explore the Christmas story in Luke 2: 1-20 and Matthew 2: 8-11.
5. Complete a CLOZE activity based on comprehension from Scripture reading.
6. Listen to and sing part of the *Khorhoort Medz* sharagan.
7. Read about and discuss Armenian Christmas.
8. Practice giving and receiving the Christmas greeting.
9. Design Nativity cards.

Materials Needed

Assorted Christmas cards, used or new, should reflect both religious and non-religious scenes (nativity, star, candy cane, Santa, snowman, gingerbread, etc.)

Crayons, markers and or coloring pencils

Your favorite Christmas ornament (ideal to bring to class)

Either a picture or an actual small nativity scene

Children's Bible

Note to the Teacher

This lesson requires assorted Christmas cards. Since this will be taught a week or two before Armenian Christmas, ask students to bring in a handful of Christmas cards each from among those they have been receiving (you will need to email parents to send them in). Or, if using cards proves too difficult, just have color copies of the Armenian miniature and have children do the decorating!

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**.
2. Decide on two stations on your desk and label/identify them as *Jesus Christmas cards* and *Non-Jesus Christmas cards*. Place all the cards in an accessible area and have the students sort the cards and place them in the correct category. Give