

The Ottoman Empire



Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hlokvooyn Surpo, Amen. Hayr mer, vor herginus yes, soorp yeghitzi anoon ko. Yegestze arkayootiun ko, yeghitzin gamk ko vorbes herginus yev hergri. Uzhatz mer hanabazort door mez aysor. Togh mez uzbardis mer, vorbes yev mek toghoomk merotz bardabanatz. Yev mi danir uzmez ee portzootiun, ayl purgia ee chareh. Zi ko eh arkayootiun yev zorootiun yev park havidianus. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Circle the correct answer.

- St. Gregory of Narek believed that _____ caused most of the world's problems.
 - money
 - sin
 - non-religious books and music
 - bad government
- _____ was St. Gregory of Narek's best friend.
 - His father
 - His parish priest
 - God
 - St. Gregory the Illuminator
- God wants us to pray _____.
 - in church
 - in school
 - while playing sports
 - all of these places
- God is a friend who _____.
 - is always loyal
 - doesn't want you to have any fun
 - expects you to attend church every day
 - disapproves of games
- St. Nersess Lampronatzi was a _____ who wrote prayers.
 - soldier
 - policeman
 - bishop
 - king

"The Sick Man of Europe"

For over 600 years, the Turkish Ottoman Empire ruled many countries. It had a large economy and strong armies.

During the 1800's, the Ottoman Empire began to decline. Wars weakened its economy, and it also was forced to give up some of its territory as new nations began to form. The great Turkish empire was given the nickname "The Sick Man of Europe" as it began to break apart.

In these years of decline, the Turks tried very hard to rid their empire of any populations that they felt were a threat to their power. Greeks, Armenians, and others were randomly killed in ever-greater numbers.

During World War One (1914-1918), the Turks were afraid that the Armenians and other minorities might fight against the dying empire. As the world spun into the chaos of the World War, Turkey decided once and for all to get rid of the Armenians. The first genocide of the new century was born. On April 24, 1915, the Turkish authorities rounded up the leaders of the Armenian community in Constantinople - clergy, government officials, writers, etc. - and murdered them.



Victims or Heros

We feel sorry for the Armenians caught in the Genocide. We feel sad for all the lost families, and shocked and sickened at the cruelty of the Turks' behavior. We see our ancestors as helpless victims with no hope at all.



suffering was the peace and joy of being with Jesus forever. Through their tears, our brave people remained unmovable in their faith. They never gave up.

There is another way to see the Armenians killed in the Genocide. They were anything but hopeless. Though they suffered unspeakable horrors, they were winners. As they faced torture, starvation, and death, they never lost sight of the prize - their Christian faith. They understood that if God did not save even his own precious Son from suffering and death, they might have to endure the same for their faith.

Most of the time, the Turks would not kill any Armenian who converted to Islam. Amazingly, almost no Armenians converted. They felt it was more important to die a Christian than to save their families and themselves. The Armenians knew that at the end of their

Our Armenian Way

Gomidas Vartabed was born into a musical family in 1869. He was orphaned by the age of eleven and survived by singing in the streets for money. His beautiful singing voice was noticed by church officials, and Gomidas was sent to study in Etchmiadzin.

Through the years, Gomidas composed church music and carefully notated the folk music of the Armenian countryside. He also wrote many songs of his own. One of these is "Der Voghormia."

Gomidas survived the Genocide, but his experiences were so terrible that he lost his sanity. He died in 1935 in a hospital for the mentally ill.

ՏԵՐ ՈՂՈՐՄԵԱ DER VOGHORMYA

ԿՈՄԻՏԱՍ ՎԱՐՏԱԲԵԴՑ GOMEEDAS VARTABED

Stp, _____ ն - - - զոր - - - մեա,
Der, _____ Վո - - - ցոր - - - մյա,

Stp _____ ն - - - զոր - - - մեա,
Der, _____ Վո - - - ցոր - - - մյա,

Stp, _____ ն - - - զոր - - - մեա,
Der, _____ Վո - - - ցոր - - - մյա,

Stp _____ ն - - - զոր - - - մեա:
Der, _____ Վո - - - ցոր - - - մյա.



What does God want us to understand from our Genocide? Should we hate the Turks? Should we plot revenge? If they have an earthquake or some disaster, should we not help them?

Read the following Scripture passages. On the lines provided, describe how God says we should react to the Armenian Genocide, as well as other times when Christians are unfairly harmed.

Matthew 5:11-12

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you.”

2 Timothy 3:12

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”

Romans 12:19

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.

Amos 5:21, 23-24

“I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies...Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”

Faith Word

Persecute

To oppress or harass especially because of race, religion or beliefs

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today the class learned about the Armenian Genocide. The children took a brief look at the declining Ottoman Empire, and how, facing persecution, the Armenians prized their Christian faith more than life itself. They read selections from Scripture concerning persecution for Christians. The class also read about Gomidas Vartabed, who lived and worked in the time of the massacres.

Family Faith Activity

The Genocide leaves us an opportunity to think of others who may be suffering in the world. Try to perform at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Light a candle and sing “Der Voghormia” in honor of those who perished in the Genocide.
2. Have your children find an article in the newspaper or online about a group that is suffering unjust persecution. Read and discuss the news item.
3. Make a donation to a charitable organization in memory of our Genocide victims.

A Parent’s Promise

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

Signed _____