

Saints Show the Way



Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. O Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of laziness, of despair, of ambition, or of vain talking. But rather a spirit of diligence, of patience, of humility, and of love, bestow upon me your servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant to me to see my own errors and not judge my brother or sister, for you are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian (4th century)

Chapter Checkup

Answer the following questions by circling the correct letter.

1. On day four of Creation, God made
 - a. Adam and Eve.
 - b. light and darkness.
 - c. the sun, moon, and stars.
 - d. birds.
2. God talks about the Creation mostly in the Book of
 - a. Isaiah.
 - b. Genesis.
 - c. Exodus.
 - d. Revelation.
3. At each step of the Creation, God makes the statement
 - a. “must fill up the whole earth.”
 - b. “and God saw that it was good.”
 - c. “today a Savior is born.”
 - d. “and the Holy spirit came upon them.”
3. We must treat God’s earth carefully because
 - a. he tells us to do so.
 - b. animals are more important than people.
 - c. we should keep it clean for when Jesus returns.
 - d. St. Nersess Shnorhali was an environmentalist.

4. The rich man called his steward to a meeting because
- the steward had been doing such a good job.
 - God had warned the rich man that there would be a drought.
 - the steward had been wasting the rich man's possessions.
 - someone had stolen all the rich man's cattle.

Saints Great and Small *Saint Soorp* **Սուրբ**

What do you think of when you hear the word “saint?”

Write your impressions of what a saint is.

When most of us think of saints, we think of well-known people such as Gregory, Hripsime, and Peter. These men and women made great sacrifices for their faith and devoted their lives to understanding and teaching others about Jesus.

God casts a much larger net when he talks about his saints. Read Romans 1:7. Does this statement mean that every Christian in Rome was a famous saint? Obviously not. There were thousands of believers in Rome then, but there wouldn't be that many famous saints if we added together all the well-known saints from every church on earth! In this passage the word “saints” means all of God's people. The saints to which Romans 1:7 refers were forgotten shepherds watching sheep on a Roman hillside, and poor housewives trying to feed their children. They might be a Roman senator who may lose his job because he cannot give up his belief in Christ, or a child who loves hearing the stories of Jesus' life.

Read Acts 26:10. Here Paul is confessing his terrible deeds before Jesus changed Paul's heart on the road to Damascus. Paul recalls how he put many “saints” in prison, and voted for their executions. These saints are the anonymous believers who placed their trust in Jesus Christ above everything else.

We don't have to be mentioned in the Bible or in a history book to be one of God's saints. All we have to do is love and follow his precious Son and live for his glory in all we do – it's every Christian's goal!



Faith Word **Saint**

A person recognized by the Church as virtuous and holy



Our Armenian Way

Soorp Vartan

Սուրբ Վարդան

Vartan Mamigonian is one of our greatest Armenian heroes and saints. Below are some highlights from his life:

- Grandson of Catholicos Sahag
- King Yazdigerd of Persia punishes the Armenians with extra taxes and other hardships because they will not give up Christianity
- Vartan and other Armenian leaders send a letter to Yazdigerd telling him they will recognize him as their leader, but they will not convert to the Persian religion
- Yazdigerd orders Vartan and the other leaders to come to Persia
- Vartan and his companions meet with Yazdigerd, refuse to give up Jesus, and are put in prison
- One of Yazdigerd's advisors who is secretly a Christian recommends to the prisoners that they pretend to renounce Christianity to avoid further danger
- Vartan does not even pretend to convert, but he reluctantly agrees to the plan and the men are freed
- King Yazdigerd sends his pagan priests to Armenia to convert the rest of the population
- Vartan and his companions secretly plan to drive out the Persians
- On May 26, 451 at Avarayr, Vartan leads his troops against a much larger Persian force
- Vartan is killed in the battle, but his troops give the Persians enough of a fight to cause Persia to eventually let the Armenians practice Christianity in peace through the Treaty of Navasart (accomplished by his nephew Vahan).

Imagine you were creating a cartoon history of St. Vartan for teenagers. Choose one bullet point and illustrate it in the box provided. You don't have to be a Picasso – stick figures are fine!

S M G F E R C K P S L T P L V
 F W B Z W S M F Z U C H Z H T
 N Y I R R D G L M E T M U O B
 T E O Y I W A A F D T G D D V
 L H R E T E P H H D X L L A N
 U U K S D S G E B A B G R E F
 A D P O E O P A Z H S T H P G
 P J M G O S A K U T A P T J A
 F A F O D T S C V N E U P M Y
 L S S U A V N Z C T T M B W A
 G R E G O R Y A S X T A Y D N
 Y B C G H E N O S T Z Z B E E
 L R Z N G W T J G I A R D K Y
 W I A S W D P A Z I T K I U U
 F P K D T E C B F H Q E Q Z B

Search for the Saints

Find the following saints in the word search: Gayane, Gregory, Nersess, Paul, Peter, Sahag, Santookht, Stephen, Thaddeus, and Vartan.

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

Today your child discovered what it truly means to be a saint. He/she learned that all God's people were once called saints, and that the goal of all Christians is to live as the saints actually managed to – with Jesus at the center. The class also completed a word search puzzle using saints' names and reviewed the events of the life of Vartan Mamigonian.

Family Faith Activity

Great and small, we are all called to sainthood through the example of our Lord Jesus. Try to complete at least one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read Acts 18:18-28 to see how ordinary people serve Christ.
2. Find a news or internet encyclopedia article about a very noteworthy person. Hold a discussion with your family as to whether this person should be considered a saint.
3. Research the lives of any saints that share the same name as family members, then share the stories with each other.

A Parent's Promise

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

Signed _____