

Unit Three: Being the Church

Lesson Six: God Forgives Us

Key Concepts

1. God loves us even when we sin. He rejoices when we return to him.
2. We become reconciled with God through confession.
3. In the Armenian Church, we reconcile with God through confession, absolution and Holy Communion.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a group exercise searching for a coin.
2. Reflect on personal experiences about losing something special.
3. Read the Parable of the Lost Coin.
4. Discuss and resolve a story about two friends who are in an argument.
5. Read Matthew 5: 23-24, I John 1:9, James 5:16, John 1: 29, and Romans 3: 21-26 and complete a word activity.
6. Practice forgiveness scenarios.
7. Examine the Armenian Confession for deeper meanings.
8. Review understanding of basic concepts through a matching game.
9. Make an “I’m Sorry” card for someone they have wronged.

Materials Needed

A coin (either a quarter, half-dollar or dollar coin)
Crayons, markers and or coloring pencils
Divine Liturgy Book (for confession text)
Construction paper or card stock
Stickers, stamps, any type of decorating tools
Ruler or object to draw straight lines for writing

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. In advance, hide the coin somewhere in the class. Say: (looking through a coin purse or bag) “I seem to have lost a very special coin. It means so much to me. Can you all take a moment and help me find it?” Give a couple of minutes until the coin is found. Show lots of emotion and happiness when it is found. “Oh, thank you so much for finding this coin. I know it’s only a (quarter, ½ dollar, or dollar coin) but it is very valuable to me. Thank you.” Ask class if they have ever lost something. What did they do? Have them write or illustrate in the space provided. Then have a student read the Parable of the Lost Coin. Ask the class how the coin that was found is like all of us. Help them make the connection that just as we were happy to find the coin and the woman was happy to find her coin, God is *very* happy when a “lost” soul comes to him and is found! 10 min.
2. Encourage students to take turns reading **Our Story**. Ask the class what they think Sevag and Levon should do. Should they apologize? Should they go to church without an apology? What would *students* do in that situation? Discuss. 10 min.
3. Call on a volunteer to read the Scripture passages in **God’s Word**. Ask students which verse best describes **Our Story**. (Matthew 5: 23-24) Have students complete the word activity. [Answer: P E A C E] 5 min.
4. Introduce **Faith Words** and then read **We Learn About God**. Practice saying “I am sorry please forgive me” – it’s okay, I forgive you” with a student volunteer. Then call two students to act out the following scenarios, having one be the apologizer and the other one the forgiver. (These are just provided to help you; you can come up with your own as well)

1. You accidentally bump someone and they drop everything they were carrying.
2. You tell someone at school that they are stupid.
3. Your sister needs help with homework and you refuse to help her.
4. Someone falls down and gets hurt and you laugh.
5. You borrowed a toy or video game from a friend and accidentally break it.
6. Your friend says something mean to you and you say something mean back.
7. You are disrespectful to your parents and talk back to them.

10 min.

5. Read **Our Armenian Way**. Have the students practice saying *Megha Asdoozob*. Ask them if they remember the process of taking Holy Communion in church. Read the actual confession out of the Divine Liturgy book. The language is of course a bit difficult for 2nd graders so you'll just focus on one phrase in each by pausing after each stanza to ask and discuss these questions (numbers correlate with the stanza): 1. What does it mean to sin in thought, word, and deed? (you might write these words on the board) 2. Let's look at envy, anger, and laziness. How are these things sinful? 3. "I was called to the profession of Christianity but was found unworthy of it by my deeds." So, that means simply "I am a Christian but have not acted like one." Can you think of when this might have been true for you this week (be prepared with an example from your life). Conclude by having them complete the matching game in their texts. [Answers: Holy Communion - You have received Jesus and are cleansed; Absolution - I forgive you; Confession - I'm sorry]

10 min.

6. **Handmade With Love: I'm Sorry card**. Have students think about someone they could and should apologize to. If there is no one they wish to give the card to now, they might save it for when it would be helpful (in which case, make message generic).
- a. On the board, write an example of the text they can use for their card such as: Dear _____. I am sorry for _____. Please forgive me. I will _____. Love, _____
 - b. Distribute construction or card stock paper. They can make a book style card or cut out a heart shape, encourage their creativity. Have them do the writing first and then decorate with whatever supplies. Encourage their creativity.

7. Clean-up. Close with the prayer: "Dear God, forgive us for our sins. Help us to always have a loving and forgiving heart. Amen."

15 min.

Unit Three: Being the Church

Lesson Seven: Jesus With Us

Key Concepts

1. We are renewed in Christ each time we receive Holy Communion.
2. When we receive Jesus we are called to share his love with others.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Participate in a group discussion about renewal, using display items.
2. Complete a puzzle.
3. Read and discuss a story about Holy Communion.
4. Examine related topics in John 8: 1-11 and John 14: 15-16
5. Define ways they can demonstrate God's love to parents, school, friends and Jesus.
6. Review the sharagan "Lutzak."
7. Decorate a paper radiance.

Materials Needed

Radiance and *nushkhar* handouts from the back of this manual