

Jesus, Lord of My Life

SAVIOR

UNIT

1

LESSON
FIVE

From Our Hearts to God

Jesus, you gave your life to save me from death. You give me new life beyond this life. Thank you, Lord, for this great gift. Amen.

MY WORLD

You're watching a movie. The hero is about to be shot. His friend steps in front of him to protect him and gets killed. The hero lives because his friend sacrificed his life. But it is only a movie.

Jesus did it for real. He saved you by giving up his own life so that you can live. That is why we call Jesus our SAVIOR. (John 15:13)

Jesus wants all of us to be with him in heaven, our new life together with God.

About This Story

Did the hero need saving?

Did the hero ask the friend to die for him?

Why do you think the friend saved the hero's life?

What would have happened to the hero if his friend had not stepped in?

How do you think the hero felt about his friend's death?

How do you think the hero felt about being alive?

How do you think this will change the hero's life?

Tell in your own words what a savior is.



Taking a **Closer** Look

God created the world and gave it to Adam and Eve to enjoy and care for. He put Adam and Eve in a paradise we call the Garden of Eden and told them they could eat all but the fruit of one tree, the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil."

There was another tree in the garden called the "Tree of Life." Adam and Eve could eat from that tree, but before they did, they were tempted by the devil in the form of a snake to eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, to disobey God.

That is what sin is, willfully disobeying God. Adam's and Eve's disobeying is called **ORIGINAL SIN**. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were driven out of the Garden of Eden before they could eat from the Tree of Life. So now they would never be as naturally close to God as they were in the Garden. (There, they walked and talked with him!) And their lives would not go on forever, but would end.

You know that when you do something wrong, it is important to "make it right." You must recognize that you did something wrong, apologize, and make amends or pay what is owed - the debt. If you are playing baseball and hit a ball through your neighbor's window, you should go to the neighbor and say you did it, apologize, and pay to have the window fixed.

Even though Adam and Eve sinned, even though we sin, God still loves us. Jesus came to save us from the consequences of our sins, to pay our debt. The sin of Adam and Eve kept humankind from everlasting life. But Jesus fixed that. He died for all of us so that we could all live again with God in his Heavenly Paradise. Jesus saved us from death. Jesus sacrificed his life so that our life with God could continue.

Jesus is our **SAVIOR**.

We try to live obedient to Jesus' teachings. We pray that we will follow God's will and not choose to turn away from how he wants us to live.



Getting Closer to God

I wanted to look at my friend's answers to a test at school because I wasn't sure I knew the correct answer. God does not want me to be a cheater. So I _____

I may not get a good grade, but I feel good about myself for not cheating. Jesus is smiling at me for being honest.

Mom made me chocolate chip cookies for my after-school snack. My friends came over after school to work on a class project. If I shared the cookies with them there would be much less for me. I wanted to tell them I didn't have any snacks. I remembered what Jesus said about loving your neighbor as you love yourself so I _____



Jesus is smiling at me when I share what I have. When I am selfish I don't feel good about my greediness, but when I share I feel good about myself.

I wanted to go to my friend's party but my parents didn't know the family of my friend and said I couldn't go. I was angry at my parents, but I remembered God wants me to honor my mother and father so I _____

Jesus is smiling at me. I feel good about things now.



I broke a dish. My little brother was standing next to me. He saw how afraid I was. When dad looked at the broken dish and us I wanted to blame it on my brother. My brother said, "Sorry, dad." He was willing to get punished for me, but I said _____

Jesus is smiling at me for telling the truth. I feel badly that I broke the dish and have to give up a week's allowance. But the punishment is fair and I feel better. I love my brother more because he _____

Our Armenian Way

Have you ever noticed that the Armenian Church doesn't have many pictures or statues of Jesus crucified on the cross? That is because we in the Armenian Church focus on his resurrection! In the Armenian Church we use "empty" crosses, many with a radiance like sunlight coming from them. Our crosses show that Jesus has risen and gone ahead to heaven to prepare a place for us. He paid for our entrance into heaven with his life. He has NEW LIFE now and we will have that new life also.

Our holy pictures have radiances or halos around the heads of saints and around the head of Jesus the halo has actual arms of the cross. You can always tell which person is Jesus by this special halo.



GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten son, that all who believed in him would never die.

John 3:16



Time to Celebrate

We can celebrate God's love for us in many ways. One way we celebrate the great love Jesus has for us is by attending church. When we love someone we want to be with them. Jesus loves all of us and wants us to be with him. We show Jesus we remember and appreciate his sacrifice by telling his story each Sunday in the Divine Liturgy. *Badarak* means sacrifice. Each Sunday we recall Jesus' saving sacrifice for us, thank him, receive his strength in Holy Communion, and tell him we love him.

We show our love for God and our love for each other in many ways. Some people show their love through song, some through dance, some through painting or sculpture, some through writing poems or stories, some through helping others, some through working to protect and better our environment, some by becoming a priest or deacon.

To show your love for God, what might you do?



RESPONDING IN FAITH

Thank you, Jesus, for saving me. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Sharing Our Faith

This week we learned how very much God loves us. We learned that Jesus is our Savior, that by Jesus' sacrifice for us, we can have new life after death with God in heaven. He died so that we could live again with God. He saved us from being separated from God. He gave us new life.

Living Our Faith

1. Do a good deed each day and before bed get the family together and each tell what he or she did. Keep a notebook of Our Family's Good Deeds.
2. Read John 15:1-17 and discuss it together during the week. Monday talk about staying connected to Jesus like the vine (1-3). Tuesday talk about the fruits we will produce (4-6). Wednesday talk about what Jesus has taught us (7-10). Thursday talk about what friendship is (11-15). Friday talk about how lucky we are to be chosen by God (16-17).