

# Looking At Life

## Lesson 4

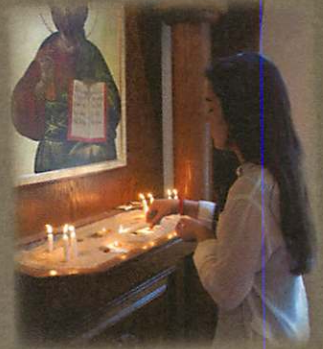
# Unit One

### It's All About Relationship

#### Here I Am, Lord

Remember, Father, your servants, our parents, our teachers, our brothers and sisters, our friends, those who provide for us, the pilgrims, the travelers, those who give us rest, those who work hard, those who profess your name, those who are in penance, those who are enslaved, those who are sick, those who are afflicted, those who rule over us, those who do evil, those who do good, our enemies, those who hate us, and those who ask us in faith to pray for them.

*from the Armenian Matins service*



*So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. Gen 1:27*

1. What do you think it means to be made in God's image?

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2. What do you think is the best way to know God as he wants us to know him?

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#### Photo Play

Write three interesting things you learned about classmates today.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

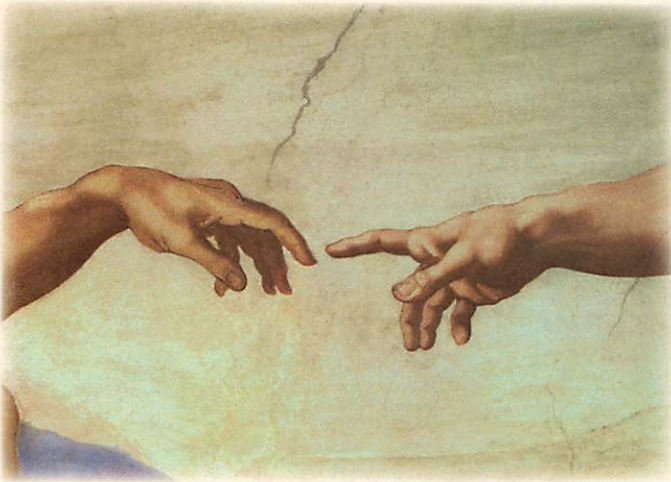
3. \_\_\_\_\_



## Tracing Our Ancestry

Our family history is a wonderful way for us to better understand who we are, where we came from and where we are going...we are especially blessed if we have a 'story-teller' in the family!

The Book of Genesis is also a book of wonderful memories for the family of God. It's a story that begins with how God created the world, how evil crept into Paradise, and how God handled the problem. The story continues to record the history of God's people—who were sometimes obedient and faithful and sometimes just downright sinful. Genesis is a wonderful love story between God and each one of us. God creates each person with special and unique qualities. He takes the time to know us, and to appreciate our differences. The truth is that God created us to be happy and live in perfect harmony with him, each other and all creation—so we know that God desires a relationship with us. But how can we fully develop a relationship with God—we can't see him, we can't touch him, we can't have a one-on-one conversation with him, we can't actually hear his voice. Or can we?



*God knows each of us by name—and that name is all about relationship!*

There is great significance in a name. When an Armenian priest is ordained, he is given a new name. The Bishop takes into account the talents and characteristics that the priest possesses and offers a name of a saint who has similar characteristics with the hope that the newly-ordained priest will follow in the footsteps and perhaps

be guided by the saint whose name he bears. This is biblical—Saul came to be called *Paul*, *Simon* became Peter, Sarai was renamed Sarah.

The Hebrew word for 'man' is *Adam*, a name that represents both maleness and femaleness—in other words 'humankind.' *Eve* in Hebrew means 'living,' *Cain* in Hebrew means 'I have produced,' *Able* in Hebrew means 'breath.'

## Family Issues...

### We are the family of God!

We've already explored the Creation story and how peaceful and harmonious the first human relationships were. It was, sadly, not going to last. God created us as social beings, designed to be most fully human when we



interacted. In a real way we need other human beings to be able to grow and experience love and sacrifice. We didn't have to wait long to get into trouble. Shortly after Adam and Eve had to leave Paradise, their son Cain introduced the sin of "envy" (considered one of the 7 deadly sins) to the world - envy in the form of sibling rivalry. Let's see how Cain and his brother Abel dealt with this problem and how God settled the score. Read Genesis 4:1-16.

*An Either/Or Activity*

1. Do you think Cain was guilty of wrongdoing?
2. Do you think God was unfair in any way or did Cain get away too easy?

*Hmmm...*

What verses might help you understand God's judgment better? \_\_\_\_\_



## **Our Armenian Way**

### *Kiss of Peace*

### *Kresdos ee mech mer haydnetsav*

### **Քրիստոսս ի մէջ մեր յայտնեցաւ**

The relationship that God has with his creation is fully expressed in the relationship that Christ has with the Church. The Church is called to embody the living Spirit of love that unites all so together we can leave Christ's mark on the world. This example of love is expressed in every action that takes place during Divine Liturgy as well as the living mission of the Church.

Our church is a family, made up of all of our families—together we are the 'Body of Christ.' Our relationship with God has everything to do with how we interact with compassion and love with our fellow human beings.

We are called to live in harmony with one another and we are reminded of that fact each and every Sunday just prior to the preparation of the bread and wine that we are about to receive in Holy Communion.

*Krisdos ee mech mer Haydnetsav...* The Kiss of Peace leads us to the reality that Christ is here revealed to his people—the people that he loved and died for. We must understand that before we can be worthy of God we must reconcile ourselves with one another. We cannot in good conscience ask God to forgive us, if we cannot forgive one another. "How can we say we love God whom we cannot see, if we do not love our brother, whom we can see?"

We know from the letters of St. Paul that greeting each other "with a holy kiss" is a sign of unity and love in Christ. In the Eucharist, Christ comes to unite his people to each other and to himself in the gift of his Body and Blood.

This kiss is the sign that our souls are united and that we banish all remembrance of injury. In other words...forgive and forget!



*Use your Divine Liturgy Books to find where the Kiss of Peace is in the Divine Liturgy.*

1. *Krisdos ee mech mer haydnetsav* means: \_\_\_\_\_

2. "Blessed is the revelation of Christ" in Armenian is: \_\_\_\_\_

As we bid one another farewell today...let's take a moment to thank God for the time that we have shared—for the Body which we are a part of—for the family and friends that make us understand how great our God is...He gave us each other to love and care for. Amen.