

Unit Three* Following Jesus Poon Paregentan



We Speak to God

Thank you, God for the beautiful world and everything in it! Praise God for the sun, the moon and the stars! +Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.



Let's Talk

This is an amazing story! In six days, God created...

Day and night.

The sky.

The land, the ocean, the plants and trees.

The sun, the moon and the stars.

The creatures in the sea and the birds in the sky.

The wild and tame animals and the reptiles.

God finished his work, and on the seventh day, he rested. He looked at what he had done and was pleased.

The story of the Creation appears in the first chapter of the first book of the Bible. This book is called Genesis and means "the beginning of things."

Listen to This

God created the earth. He made it for all of us. It is up to us to take care of it. What are some ways we can take care of God's beautiful creation?

God Speaks to Us



God made a garden in a place called Eden. He took a handful of soil and breathed life into it, making the first person who would take care of the garden. God called this creature "Adam." He told Adam that he could eat fruit from any tree in the garden except the one that would teach him about good and evil.

"It is not good that a person should live alone." So the Lord made animals and birds. He brought them to the man so he could name them. Then God decided to create a companion to the man. He took a bone from Adam's ribs and created a companion. When he brought her to the man, the man said, "Here is someone like me. I will name her woman."

They lived happily in the garden.

We Learn About God



The first graders were chattering like little birds about the Poon Paregentan celebration to take place the next Sunday. They remembered that this was a day of fun and lots of food. Their teacher told them they could wear costumes, and they were going to make masks!

Mrs. Markarian began to explain this special day of Good Living called Poon Paregentan.

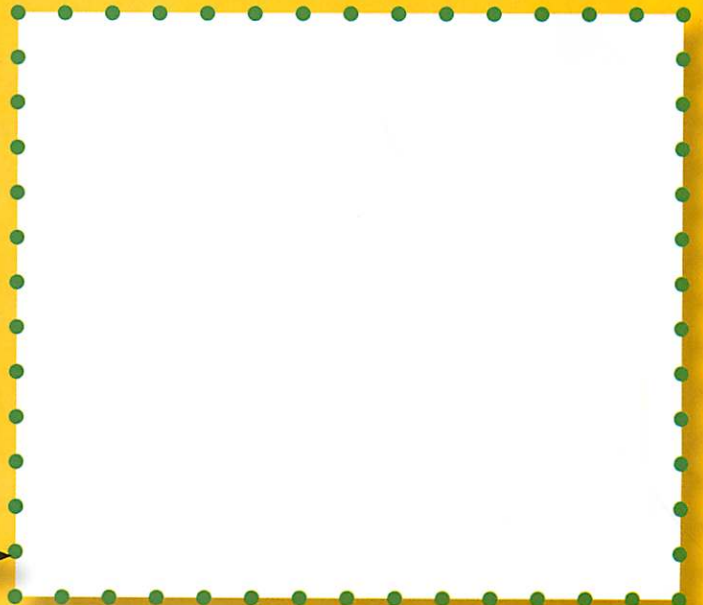
She reminded the boys and girls that this Feast Day recalled the beautiful days when the first people lived in the Garden of Eden. “They were very happy there. They had everything they needed.”

“The man and the woman were as happy as they could be. They obeyed God’s warning and did not take any fruit from the tree of knowledge of right and wrong until one day the Devil, in the form of a snake, slithered over to the woman. ‘Did God warn you about eating fruit from that tree? You should be able to eat fruit from any tree in the garden.’

“So Adam and Eve ate the fruit.

“God had to send them out of the Garden. They could have lived there, comfortably and happily, without fears or worries; but they had disobeyed God.”

Draw your favorite thing in God’s beautiful world →



Our Armenian Way

Why do we celebrate Poon Paregentan with music and masks, parades and lots of food?

On that day, we remember the story of the creation of the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, and the happy times they spent in the Garden of Eden. God made them so they could live together with their children and their children's children without problems or worries. He asked them for only one thing -- to obey him. Adam and Eve committed the first sin. They disobeyed God.

On Poon Paregentan, we remember the happier times in the Garden of Eden and what might have been if only Adam and Eve had listened to God.

God promises that we will be with him again in the same kind of Paradise! In some parts of the Armenian world, people would have parades and special feasts on this day.



For My Family



Sharing Our Faith

Poon Paregentan is a family celebration held on the day before Lent begins. It is a day to celebrate the joy felt by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, a short-lived joy because they yielded to temptation and disobeyed God.

In order to relive the joy promised by God to Adam and Eve, we celebrate on this day with music and dance, costumes, masks and food.

Living Our Faith

1. Encourage your child to share with you...
 - the story of the Creation
 - why we celebrate Poon Pargentan
2. If this lesson is being taught on Poon Paregentan, enjoy the day and celebrate!
3. Display your child's mask in a visible place and recall the traditions of Poon Paregentan as a family.