

GOD'S WORD TO US

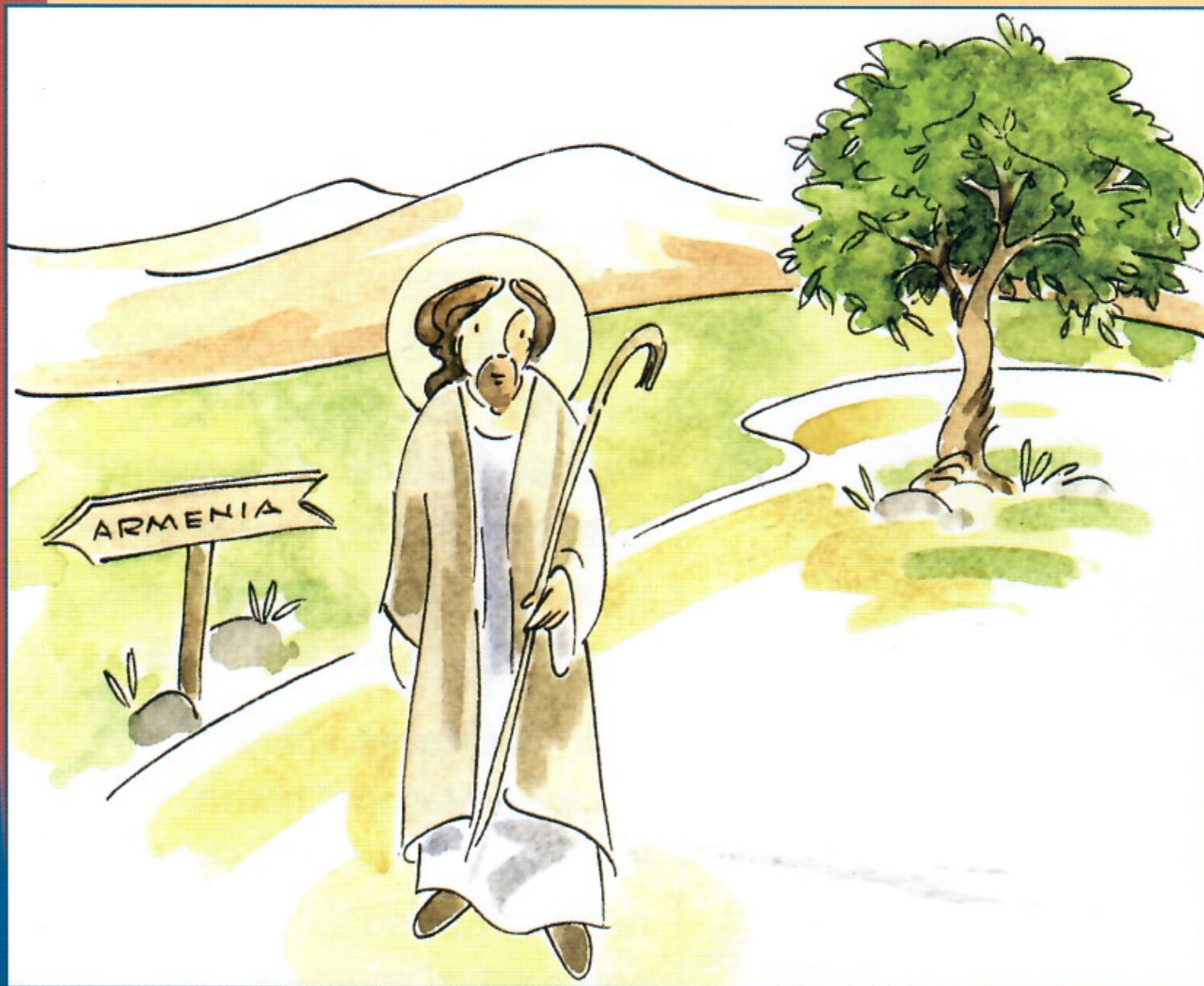
Jesus went to his disciples and said, "Go to the people of all nations. Baptize them and teach them to do everything that I have taught you. I will be with you always."

Matthew 28:19-20



WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

Jesus sent his disciples to spread the word of God everywhere in the world. St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew were sent to Armenia. Years



later, St. Gregory went to Armenia. It is because of Gregory, known as St. Gregory the Illuminator, that Armenia became the first Christian nation.

St. Gregory wrote about being holy, living by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

He said:

Do not make fun of others.

Do not make a promise if you cannot keep it.

Do not think mean thoughts about others.

Do not forget God in your daily life.

OUR ARMENIAN WAY

A long time ago, Drtad was king of Armenia. Gregory worked in his court. He was a Christian.

One day, at a feast, King Drtad asked everyone to worship a statue of the goddess Anahid. Gregory did not move. He said, "I believe in Jesus Christ. I cannot worship Anahid."

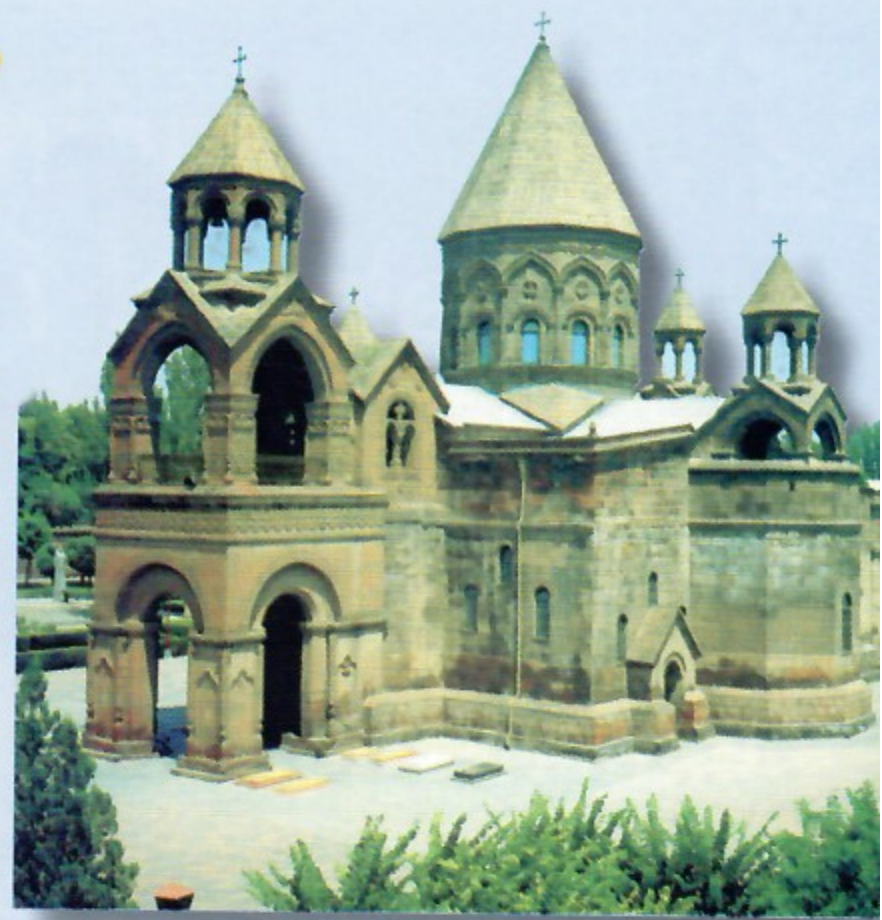
"Take him," the king roared. "Put him in the pit!"

Gregory was thrown into a deep pit called Khor Virab. He remained there for many years. But he did not die. A woman sent by the king's sister, Princess Khosrovitookht, brought food to Gregory.

Years went by.

The king was very sick. No one could help him. The Princess thought about Gregory. She felt certain that he could help her brother. So she sent for him.

Gregory healed the king. The king, the queen, the princess and the entire royal family became Christians. They helped St. Gregory build Holy Etchmiadzin!



WE CELEBRATE

It was dark in the pit and damp. There were snakes and all kinds of insects, too. Through his prayers and through the kindness of the princess, Gregory lived. He came out of the pit and converted the entire Armenian nation to Christianity.



FAMILY PAGE

SHARING OUR FAITH



Today's lesson focused on how Armenians became Christian. The children heard the stories of St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew, the disciples sent by Jesus Christ to Armenia.

St. Gregory went to Armenia a few centuries later only to be thrown into a pit for his courage in declaring himself a Christian. Armenia is the first Christian nation (officially declared so in 301 A.D.) because of Gregory, known as St. Gregory the Illuminator.

LIVING OUR FAITH

Like the saints who went to Armenia, we must take seriously the command of our Lord to tell others about having faith and hope.

Discuss with your child some ways he or she can do so:

1. Share with family the lessons learned in Sunday School.
2. With a member of the family, look over the materials and projects brought home from Sunday School. Ask your child questions about the theme of the day.
3. Encourage your child to invite a friend to attend church with your family.
4. Pray together, as a family, so your child can see your faith in action.

