

Materials Needed

Crayons, markers

*Optional: dove-shaped holy muron container, borrowed from church

Handmade with Love: Dove template (from the back of this manual); white construction paper or cardstock; glitter glue—gold, silver, appropriate colors for a dove; white feathers—optional but highly recommended; scissors; hole-punch; string/yarn/ribbon

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Ask them: “Think of the prayer we just prayed together. How do we know God is with us?” (the Holy Spirit was sent to be with us).
2. Read **Let’s Discover**, asking students to respond by raising their hands after each example. Have them share and discuss their fears and how they handled them. Students will illustrate a situation and write how they were able to work through their fear. Encourage their participation in sharing their responses. 15 min.
3. Read **Our Story**. Ask class “How would you feel if you were Ani? What would be some other solutions to Ani’s fear?”
4. Read **God’s Word**, a paraphrased version of John 16: 5-15. Ask the class to imagine that they were one of the disciples hearing the news that Jesus would leave them some day. How would they respond to Jesus? What were they afraid of? How would knowing that the Holy Spirit would be with them have helped?
5. Read **We Learn About God**. Emphasize how the two stories are similar, using the final sentences from the text. 5 min.
6. Teach the explanatory text about *Hokee Asdoodzoh* and review the meaning of the words. Then teach or have a volunteer teach the first line of the hymn. 10 min.
7. Point to the picture of the dove-shaped muron-holder in the text (or hold up the actual vessel if you were able to borrow one) and ask the children if they have ever seen it before. Have them repeat the work *aghavnee*. Read **Our Armenian Way**. Introduce the **Faith Word**. 5 min.
8. **Handmade With Love**. Distribute the templates, paper and supplies. Have students cut the dove out and glue onto cardstock sheet or construction paper. They can embellish with the glitter glue and feathers. Have them write something along the lines of **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WITH ME ALWAYS!**
9. Clean-up. Close with the prayer: “Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit to always take care of us. Amen.” 20 min.

Unit One: Circles of Faith Lesson Six: My Church Family

Key Concepts

1. We belong to a church family called our “parish.”
2. The church is consecrated or “set aside for God.”
3. We are called to worship and pray together and know that Christ is especially present with us in church.
4. All Armenian parishes have a structure and fellowship in common.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Complete a family tree.
2. Read and discuss a story about a boy who considers his church family a part of his own.
3. Examine Hebrews 10:25 and Matthew 18:20
4. Identify items that are consecrated in the church.
5. Define the faith word consecration.
6. Explore the characteristics of a typical Armenian parish and what makes their own distinct.
7. Create and decorate a mosaic tissue paper chalice.

Materials Needed

Pencils

Crayons or colored pencils

Sample premade craft chalice

For **Handmade With Love***: Small plastic wine glasses; a variety of 1" colored tissue paper (precut assorted packages available at craft stores); white glue mixed with water;

stick sponges; newspaper or any type of protective covering for the desk/tables.

*it would be ideal to have a separate table set up in advance for the craft.

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Ask them: "So who is the Father of our Church family?" (God, our Heavenly Father).
2. Read **Let's Discover** and have students create their family tree. Share responses. 10 min.
3. Read **Our Story**. Ask class, "Why do you think Aram invited so many people? Why do you think Aram's parents were so surprised? Have any of you ever had a birthday party and invited people from church? Do you agree with Aram's Sunday School teacher that the church is a family? Would you consider doing what Aram did?"
4. Read **God's Word**. Ask the class: "According to what we just heard, what's a good way for us to worship and pray? (together) What did Jesus tell us would happen when two or three people gathered and prayed together? Is Jesus in our class today?" 10 min.
5. Read the section **We Learn About God**. Explain the **Faith Word** "consecration" as something that is set apart and made holy. Go through the items in the box and make sure students understand what each item is. Then ask them to circle the items they think are consecrated. (Answers: chalice, baptismal font, crosses, icons/pictures, vestments, picture of Mary and Jesus, dove vessel, altar.) The children themselves were "consecrated" at their baptism/chrismation, when they were sealed with the Holy Spirit. 10 min.
6. Read **Our Armenian Way**. Help students fill in the information, guiding them with the correct information and spelling. Discuss what they might love about their parish (I love my parish because of my friends in Sunday School. I love my parish because we learn about God. etc. Have students draw something special about their parish. Share responses if time permits. 10 min.
7. Read or teach **Handmade With Love**. Show completed chalice (made in advance by teacher). Provide each child with a plastic wine glass, tissue paper squares, white glue or wallpaper paste, and brushes. Demonstrate how to cover the glass with glue and overlap the tissue paper to make a mosaic effect. Allow each child to choose colors and decorate their wine glass. Let glue dry and have children take them home by holding the stem.
8. Clean-up. Close with the prayer. "Dear Jesus, we thank you for the blessing of our parish and pray that we continue to worship, learn and serve you together as a family. Amen." 20 min.