

Unit Three* Following Jesus

The Disciples



We Speak to God

Heavenly Father, we pray for our leaders - the Catholicos, the bishops and priests of the Armenian Church and all the men and women who are not priests but also serve as leaders. We pray for their good health. Grant them a long life. +Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo. Amen.

Let's Talk

Jesus went to a town called Capernaum, beside Lake Galilee. This is where he started to preach. "Turn back to God," he reminded the people. Jesus knew that he would need faithful helpers to continue his work. These helpers would be his special disciples. Jesus would choose twelve of them.



Listen to This

One day when he was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers who were fishermen. One was called Simon Peter, and the other one was Andrew.

"Come with me. I will teach you to be fishers of people." Fishing was a profitable business, but Peter (Jesus preferred to call him that) and Andrew knew that they had to answer Jesus' call for help.

Jesus walked further until he saw two more fishermen, James and John.

They were in a boat with their father mending fishing nets. Jesus called to them and asked them to come with him. They did not ask why. They did not say, “I don’t want to leave the family business.” They left their father and their fishing boat and went with Jesus.

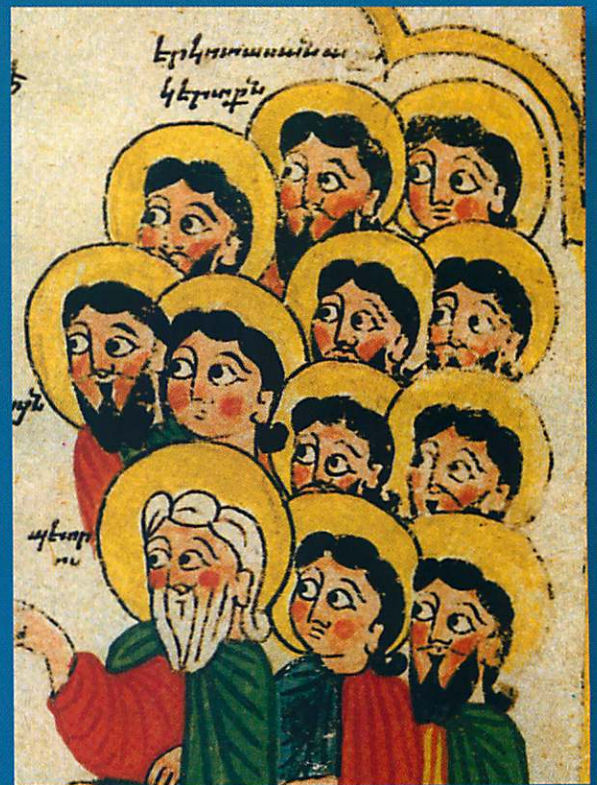


Jesus needs you. What can you do to help Jesus?

1. You can attend church and Sunday School.
2. You can pray for those in the world who may have forgotten about Jesus and his teachings.
3. By the way you live your life, you can become an example of hope, faith and forgiveness to those around you.

God Speaks to Us

From his many followers, Jesus chose the twelve who would be called disciples. The first job he gave them was to cure the sick and to preach his message – “Feel sorry for any sins you have committed and you will be forgiven.” Jesus gave these men special instructions and eventually sent them as true apostles to preach in far away places in the world. Later, many more men and women followed him and helped him teach others.



The twelve were:

Peter... the leader of the twelve apostles

Andrew... Peter’s brother

James... first apostle to be martyred

John... James’ brother and Jesus’ “beloved disciple”

Philip ... Close friend to Peter and Andrew

Bartholomew... went to Armenia

Thaddeus... went to Armenia

Matthew... a tax collector

Thomas... wanted to be sure Jesus was alive again

James the Less... first bishop of Jerusalem

Simon... a zealot for the Jewish law

Judas Iscariot... who betrayed Jesus, and was replaced by Matthias

Mark 3:13-19

We Learn About God

The Holy Spirit helped Peter and all the apostles share the love they had for Jesus with others. They helped the church grow. Jesus chose the apostles to lead the church. In later years, the apostles chose others to take their place as leaders of the church. These leaders were called bishops. Bishops and priests lead and take care of the church today.



Hearts and Hands

St. Thaddeus went to Armenia first. Thaddeus brought with him the spear that pierced Jesus' side at the time of the crucifixion. This spear rests in the museum of Holy Etchmiadzin.

There, Thaddeus converted many people to Christianity, including the King's daughter, Santoukht.

On his way back from India, **St. Bartholomew** visited Armenia, bringing with him a picture of the Holy Mother of God. He had a church built there called the Church of the Holy Mother of God.

St. Bartholomew performed many miracles in Armenia.



Our Armenian Way

The Primate is the leader of the diocese.

A diocese is made up of many churches.

The Mother Cathedral of our diocese is St. Vartan Cathedral.

The Catholicos is the leader of the Armenian Church around the world. The Mother Cathedral of the entire Armenian Church is Holy Etchmiadzin (which means “the place where Jesus came down”).

A priest is the spiritual leader of a church – *yegeghetsi*.

A priest can be a married priest – *kahana* - or an unmarried priest – *goosagron*.

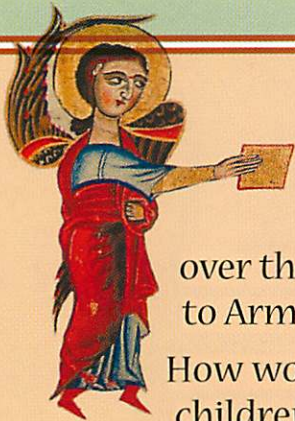
The name of our Priest is _____.

The name of our Primate is _____.

The name of the Catholicos of All Armenians is _____.



For My Family



Sharing Our Faith

Today we talked about Jesus' twelve disciples. It was with the help of this group of diverse men that the church grew all over the world. Thaddeus and Bartholomew, the apostles who were sent to Armenia to preach Christianity, were part of this original number.

How would you answer Jesus if he asked you to follow him? In class, the children discussed how we can be Jesus' messengers today.

Living Our Faith

1. Encourage your child to tell you about some of the apostles.
2. Have a family discussion about how we can all be helpers/apostles of Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus sent his apostles all over the world. Two, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, were sent to Armenia. Encourage your child to share some facts about these two apostles.
4. Display the banner your child made of the two saints who traveled to Armenia.