

# Unit Two

# What Do We Believe? What Do I Believe?

## Lesson 5

### God Knows How I Feel

#### heart to Heart

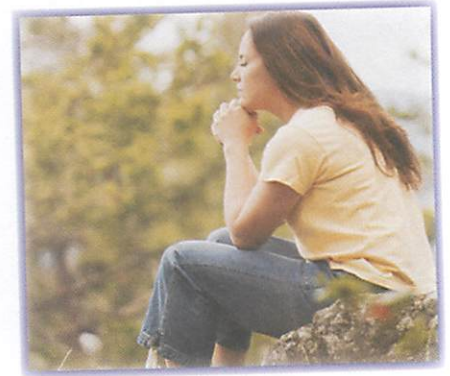
Prayer for a Safe Journey

*Here I Am, Lord, p. 19*

St. Hovhannes of Garni wrote this prayer. Find out more about him on page 84 of your prayer book.

In what century did he live? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is Garni? \_\_\_\_\_



Name 4 things St. Hovhannes did:

By whom he took body, soul, and mind and everything that is in man, truly and not in semblance.

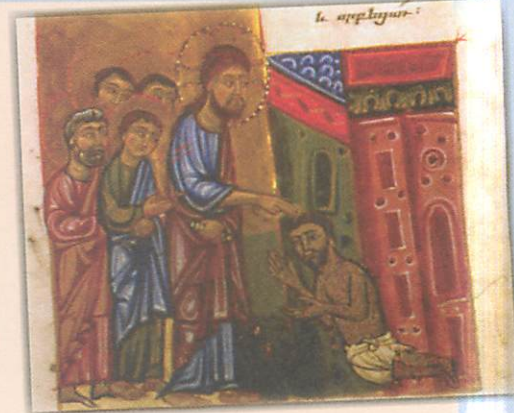
*Vorov eyar marmeen, hokee yev meed, yev zamenayn vor eench eh ee mart, jushmardabes yev voch gardzyok.*

*Bible places that show his humanity*

Որով էառ մարմին, հոգի, եւ միտ, եւ զամենայն որ ինչ է ի մարդ՝ ճշմարտապէս եւ ոչ կարծեօք:

#### Jesus Was Fully Human: He Felt What I Feel!

Jesus was fully human and fully divine – a difficult concept for us to understand. The early believers knew what they saw and heard – Jesus healing the sick, curing the blind, raising the dead, calming the storm, appearing dazzlingly white in the presence of Moses and Elijah (at the Transfiguration), hearing the voice of the Father above, declaring Jesus to be his beloved son in whom he was pleased (at the Transfiguration and his baptism). But they also saw him tired, hungry, sad, lonely, and sorrowful. What did this mean? Was he human when he was angry? Divine when he changed water into wine?



After Jesus was crucified, died, and rose from the dead on the third day, his disciples slowly began to share what this meant with others. In their busy missionary lives, they won people immediately to the faith through the power of their personal testimony. But after the first generation of believers passed on, younger faithful began to wrestle with matters on a “head” level, attempting to understand the life of Jesus and define exactly how he was God and human being at the same time. After much debate and three ecumenical councils, Jesus’ nature was summed up in the statements of the creed, presenting the deepest of truths simply.

The Armenian Church and the other Oriental or lesser Orthodox (remember: lesser only because they were smaller in number) parted company with the larger Orthodox family over just this issue. They maintained (and still do)

#### Verse Master

“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God.”

1 John 4: 16



## Remember

*Jesus was human in body, soul, and mind. He knows how we feel!*

that Jesus was human and divine in one indissoluble nature, whereas the larger Orthodox defined it as two natures. These theological debates were hugely important at the time, and still remain obstacles to unity.

But the fact that Jesus was born of a human mother, Mary, means that he shares fully in our nature, “truly and not in semblance.” So *everything* we feel and go through he has shared with us. Which means that all our experiences are opportunities for holiness, as well. But we’ll think about that in a minute.

For now, look up just these few stories in Scripture that tell us just how human Jesus was.

Read the story and be prepared to tell it in your own words. Then draw a line matching the story with the correct emotion on the right.

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Mark 3:1-5          | a. felt affection                        |
| 2. Mark 5:25-34        | b. was ridiculed                         |
| 3. Mark 5:21-24; 35-43 | c. celebrated with the community         |
| 4. Mark 6:30-32        | d. felt compassion for others            |
| 5. Mark 6:33-34        | e. determination                         |
| 6. John 2:12-17        | f. felt tired and hungry                 |
| 7. John 11:17-44       | g. felt forsaken by God                  |
| 8. Matthew 26:35-38    | h. anger and distress                    |
| 9. Matthew 26:39-45    | i. sad and troubled                      |
| 10. Matthew 27:45-46   | j. was moved to the point of tears       |
| 11. Luke 18:15-17      | k. was disappointed by his friends       |
| 12. John 2:11-11       | l. enraged to the point of taking action |



Think of a time you experienced one of the feelings above. Circle the one you’ve chosen and think in detail of the time you felt this. How does it make you feel to know that God had this very same experience?

## Scenic Overlook

St. Antony, about whom St. Athanasius wrote a famous biography (see last week’s lesson), once received a letter from the emperor. His young assistant was very impressed with the fact that such an important man had sent a lowly monk a letter. St. Antony reminded him: “Do not wonder that the emperor writes to us, even to a man such as I am; rather be astounded that God has communicated with us, and has spoken to us by his son.”

