

Grade Two

Unit One: Circles of Faith

Lesson One: Circles of Faith

Key Concepts

1. Our faith connects us to God and one another.
2. Jesus called forth a community of believers (the disciples and followers).
3. Our special Christian family is the Armenian Church.
4. We belong to a parish, Diocese, and world headquarters, Etchmiadzin, in Armenia.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Analyze the joy and value of doing something *together*.
2. Read and discuss a story about working together.
3. Review Matthew 28: 16-20, The Great Commission.
4. Define the word “disciple.”
5. Examine the concept of the church as a family of people who pray together.
6. Learn a verse of the church hymn *Krisdos Ee Mech Mer – Christ in our Midst*.
7. Recall the role of Thaddeus and Bartholomew in passing on Jesus’ message to Armenians.
8. Explore the connection between Etchmiadzin, their Diocesan Cathedral, and their local parish.
9. Draw a picture of their own church.
10. Create a *Disciple of Jesus ID* card.

Materials Needed

Pencil, crayons, markers

Colored construction paper cut into 4x6 squares enough for the class to use two pieces each (if desired)

Student photo (wallet size)

Yarn, safety pins

Glue (preferably glue stick)

Scissors

Bible, Children’s Bible preferable; reduce to a size that will approximately fit the box on page 4 of student lesson and provide a color copy for each student

Photo of your Diocesan Cathedral (from the Internet)

Samples of ID cards- such as Driver’s License, school ID, work ID, etc.

Note to the Teacher

This is the second class of the year and requires a school photo of each child (see procedure #8). Email or contact parents well before and make sure they send one in with their child. Remind them if need be; it’s important that every child come prepared with their photo.

For procedure # 6: It might be better to have a choir member or music teacher on hand to teach *Krisdos Ee Mech Mer* and, even though it’s only one line they’ll be learning, perhaps the children should move to a room or hall where there is a piano to practice singing there.

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**.
2. Read **Let’s Discover**. Ask students to think about activities such as camp with only one camper or a sports event with only one fan. Have them brainstorm other activities that are more fun to do as a group rather than alone (answers might include taking a walk, swimming, games, watching TV). List responses on the board.

As students respond, ask why they chose that activity and what's better about it when more than one person is involved. 5 min.

3. Read **Our Story** about Mrs. Hovsepian's class. Ask the following questions after each **Pause**. *Mrs. Hovsepian's Second Grade class was preparing for their exciting annual Fall Harvest Festival. Each class was responsible for a game booth including decorations, supplies, games and prizes. Have you ever participated in a school activity like a festival? What did your class do?) Unfortunately, Mrs. Hovsepian fell ill and was absent from school that entire week. She was very concerned as to how all the work was going to get done What do you think is going to happen?) She sent instructions and a diagram to the substitute teacher and asked if the students could help put it together. What do you think the instructions will say?) She assigned each student a special task and explained what needed to be done in detail. They all worked together and prepared a wonderful booth. How do you think the students felt after preparing the booth?) Not only did the booth look nice, the class felt so proud that they were able to help and be part of an event so special. They took pictures of the booth and sent them to Mrs. Hovsepian so that she could imagine being there.* Ask students if they have ever been in a similar situation.) 10 min.

4. Pick up the Bible and show students the page where Matthew 28: 16-20 appears. Tell them they have the same verses in their text; read the passage to the class in **God's Word**. Ask students to look at the picture of the disciples on page 3 and ask "Who are the men surrounding Jesus?"(disciples). Go over the **Faith Word**.

5. Read the Scripture passage again and the first three sentences in **We Learn About God**. Then ask the children: "Can anyone remember what the job was?" Reread verse 19: *'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .'*

Repeat that Jesus gave a huge homework assignment to the disciples, which was to go everywhere and spread the news about Jesus. Ask students if the disciples did their job. How do we know they did their job? Conclude with the answer (if no one has provided it) that a good proof the disciples did their job is that we are here today praying together and sharing Jesus' love. If the disciples had *not* done their job, there would be no followers of Jesus today. It is up to us to continue their work. Continue with the reading. 5 min.

6. Go to a room where the children can comfortably sing. Have your volunteer sing the entire hymn and then review the words. You might all try to sing the entire hymn together. But just teach them to perfection *the first verse* of the hymn (in their textbooks). Ask how the hymn makes them feel - does it have a happy tone, sad? Get their reaction. Practice singing a couple of times. (It would be nice to have the class sing with the choir in church.) 10 min.

7. Read or teach **Our Armenian Way**. Ask students: "How many disciples did Jesus have?" Emphasize that two of them, Thaddeus and Bartholomew, were assigned the job of going to Armenia. Refer them to the picture in the lesson. "They completed the assignment they were given and shared the message of Jesus with the Armenians. It was a lot of work, but it was a success. How do we know it was a success?" After some responses, refer to the picture of Etchmiadzin. Help them understand that Etchmiadzin is in Armenia and it is the center of all of the Armenian churches in the world. Then write the name of your Diocesan Cathedral and your parish church on the board and have children copy these to fill in the lines under the boxes. Distribute the photo of your Cathedral for the children to paste into the box. Then ask students to draw a picture of their parish church in the box provided, using crayons or pencil. As they draw, ask: "What's happening in all of these places?" Wait for their responses and then say that in all three churches, we celebrate Badarak, we worship together – we pray, sing, receive communion together – How far the message of Jesus has traveled! In all three churches, the same hymns are sung like the one we learned today- *Krisdos Ee Mech Mer*. It is our job as Jesus' disciples to continue to share his message. 15 min.

8. **Handmade With Love:** Jesus has given us a job and we need to continue the work of the disciples. Today we are going to make our own *Disciple of Jesus ID card*. What does ID mean? Identification- it's a fancy word that means *proof that it is you.*" Show some samples. Pass out the art supplies, students can be as creative as possible. All cards

will have the photo of the student, their name and *Disciple* written on it. They can decorate however they wish. * *It would be nice to have the cards laminated and the kids can wear them to Sunday School for the next few weeks. Just punch a hole on the lamination and attach a safety pin or use yarn type to tie around neck.* Conclude with a closing prayer: “Dear Jesus, we have identified ourselves this morning as your disciples. Help us follow you in everything we think, say and do so we can be truly worthy of the names ‘disciple.’ Amen.”

15 min.



Unit One: Circles of Faith

Lesson Two: Everything Comes From God!

Key Concepts

1. God is the source of all life.
2. The Holy Trinity was present at creation.
3. Making the sign of the cross when praying is a reminder of the Holy Trinity.

Objectives

During this lesson students will

1. Discuss and draw a picture of a special blessing of each season.
2. Read a story about a boy who creates a living space for his pet goldfish.
3. Examine the creation story in Genesis 1 and illustrate the days of creation.
4. Review the concept of “trinity” and “Holy Trinity.”
5. Practice making the sign of the cross in English and Armenian.
6. Create a stand-up cross.

Materials Needed

Children’s Bible preferable such as *The Beginner’s Bible*

Pencil, crayons, markers, decorative materials such as foam shapes, sequins, etc.

Copies of cross template from the back of this manual, copied or glued onto card stock, one for each child.

Pre-cut 3" x 10" rectangle cardstock/file folder for cross craft

Optional: Glass of water (See Procedure #5)

Procedure

1. Greet students warmly and open class with the prayer in **We Pray Together**. Ask them: “Who did we pray to this morning? Yes, God! And in particular we mentioned God the Father (write key words on the board), God the Son – Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit who is with us. God is with us in all these ways – in the beauty of the world around us and its creation at the beginning of time, in Jesus who taught us how to live a truly ‘good’ life, and the Holy Spirit which is the way God continues to give us strength every day. The fancy church word for this is the Holy Trinity – say that after me. (Repeat it.) The word trinity comes from the word three. We’ll talk about that in a few moments.”