

# The Church Celebrates

## TRANSFIGURATION / ASSUMPTION

UNIT

4

LESSON  
FOUR

### From Our Hearts to God

*Lord, you were glorified by the Father in front of your dearest friends, Peter, James, and John. Great men of the past appeared at your side. And the Father said again how much he loved you. Help us see and understand your glory, too! Amen.*

## MY WORLD

Sometimes it's hard to know what is real and what is not real. Television, computers and movies can make things look as if they really happened even when we know it is not true. We can do almost anything through computers and models and animation.

In Jesus' time, television, computers and movies did not exist. When we read the story of the Transfiguration and the Resurrection and the Assumption and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, we know they are actual events.

The story of the Transfiguration appears in the Bible in the Gospels of Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13 and Luke 9:28-36. Read these and tell your classmates about it in your own words. When you go home today, tell the story of the Transfiguration to your parents.

The feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated in the early summer in the Armenian Church.



## GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

“This is my own dear son and I am pleased with him. Listen to what he says”!

*Matthew 17:5*



# Getting Closer to God

Jesus says of himself, “I am the true vine.” (John 15:5)

A vine grows and grows and grows. A grape vine can grow many feet long. If you put a section of the grape vine in the ground, a new grape plant will grow.

Make a grape vine of what you have learned about Jesus and what Jesus has taught you.



## Our Armenian Way

The story of the Assumption of St. Mary is not found in the Bible. It is found in other very early writings of the Church. Like the Transfiguration, this feast is one of the Five Major Feast Days of the Armenian Church.

Years after the resurrection, St. Mary, Jesus’ mother, died. She was buried in a tomb as was the custom of that time. The disciples and others heard angels singing around her tomb day and night. The disciple Bartholomew had been away when Mary died and when he returned he wanted to see her body and say his good-bye to her. Her body was gone. Jesus had taken it to heaven.

There is a special tradition on this feast day to bless grapes. Most plants grow from seeds, but grapes grow by planting the vine, not the seed. The Church uses the example of new grapes coming from the vine to show that Jesus came from God through Mary. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit, not of man.

On the Feast of the Assumption, celebrated in August, the priest blesses grapes and everyone gets some grapes to eat and enjoy. It is an Armenian Church tradition.

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

Jesus, you are the vine and we are the branches. This coming week, help us to live fruitful lives, pleasing to you. Let us be as faithful as Mary, your mother. Amen.





## Taking a **Closer** Look

Grapes are the fruit of the vine. Jesus is the fruit of God. Grapes are used to make wine. At the Lord's Supper Jesus held up a cup of wine and told his followers to drink it to remember him. We eat the bread which is dipped in the wine. They are the Body and Blood of Jesus when we take Holy Communion.



## Time to Celebrate

Remembering Jesus with Grape Juice and Bread  
Celebrating *Asdvadadzin* with Grapes



## FAMILY CORNER

### Sharing Our Faith

Our lesson today explored two of the Five Major Feasts of the Armenian Church. The students reviewed the beautiful story of the Transfiguration using different Bible translations for enrichment. We created a vine of yarn in the classroom, and attached grapes and leaves listing things we learned about Jesus. The Assumption of St. Mary was reviewed and celebrated with a snack of grapes.

### Living Our Faith

1. Be sure to attend church as a family on the Feasts of Transfiguration and Assumption.
2. Read the Transfiguration story in the Bible; your child will know where to find it (from today's lesson).
3. Buy and enjoy grapes and retell the story of the Assumption of St. Mary.