

### Lesson 2

# Advent and Lent: Preparing for Christmas and Easter



### Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooy'n Surpo, Amen.

O Christ, you who are the Living Fire, inflame my soul with the fire of your love, which you sent forth upon the earth, that it may make holy my conscience and kindle in my heart the light of your knowledge. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a sinner.

*Prayer of St. Nersess Shnorhali, No. 10*

## Quick Quiz

### Mark the correct answer.

1. All of the following are tabernacle (major) feasts except

- a  Pentecost      b  Christmas      c  Easter      d  Transfiguration

2. The Assumption is a feast of

- a  Sarah      b  Mary, Mother of God  
c  St. Hripsime      d  Priscilla and Aquilla

3. Long ago, tabernacle feasts were often celebrated in

- a  tents      b  caves      c  the ocean      d  mangers

4. The Scripture readings at the back of the Diocesan calendar are

- a  to be read daily      b  to be read only on Sundays  
c  to be chanted during church      d  fillers for decoration

5. Our Book of Hours has a prayerful service for each of the following daily events except

- a  sunrise      b  morning      c  evening      d  before bathing





## Did You Know?

As Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, he wept as he came near the city. He was very sad about how poorly the people understood God and about what he knew would be the fate of the city.

*Luke 19: 41-44*

### Let's Get Ready!

No important event occurs without preparation. Can you imagine taking a driver's road test without ever having been behind the wheel of a car? How many people would like to have an operation by a surgeon who has never been in an operating room before?

What are things you might do to prepare for the following events?

*an exam*

*a big game*

*going to church*

*skiing*

*getting married*

*performing in a concert*

*receiving Holy Communion*

*babysitting a younger child*



### It's Not Just About the Party

We need to prepare in our spiritual life, too. In last chapter's discussion of church feasts, we learned that they are a way we can keep in touch with the Lord and his teachings. The fasting, prayer, and other preparations for these feasts bring us even closer to him. Jot down some of your thoughts on the feasts below and how we prepare:

Words/pictures that come to mind when I think of these two celebrations in the Armenian Church:

*Christmas*

*Easter*

Words that come to mind when I think of the period of preparation for these two feasts:

*The fifty days of Advent (Heesnag)*

*The forty days of Great Lent (Medz Bahk)*



## What's the Story?

Fasting and prayer are described many times throughout the Bible. These Scripture verses each have something to say about this: Your teacher will assign you one or two. Sum up the story in a few sentences (write on the lines below), ending with its basic message:

1. Matthew 4:1-4
2. Matthew 6: 5-6
3. Matthew 6:16-18
4. Mark 2:18-20
5. Mark 9:14-29
6. Luke 2:36-37
7. Luke 11:5-10
8. Luke 18:9-14



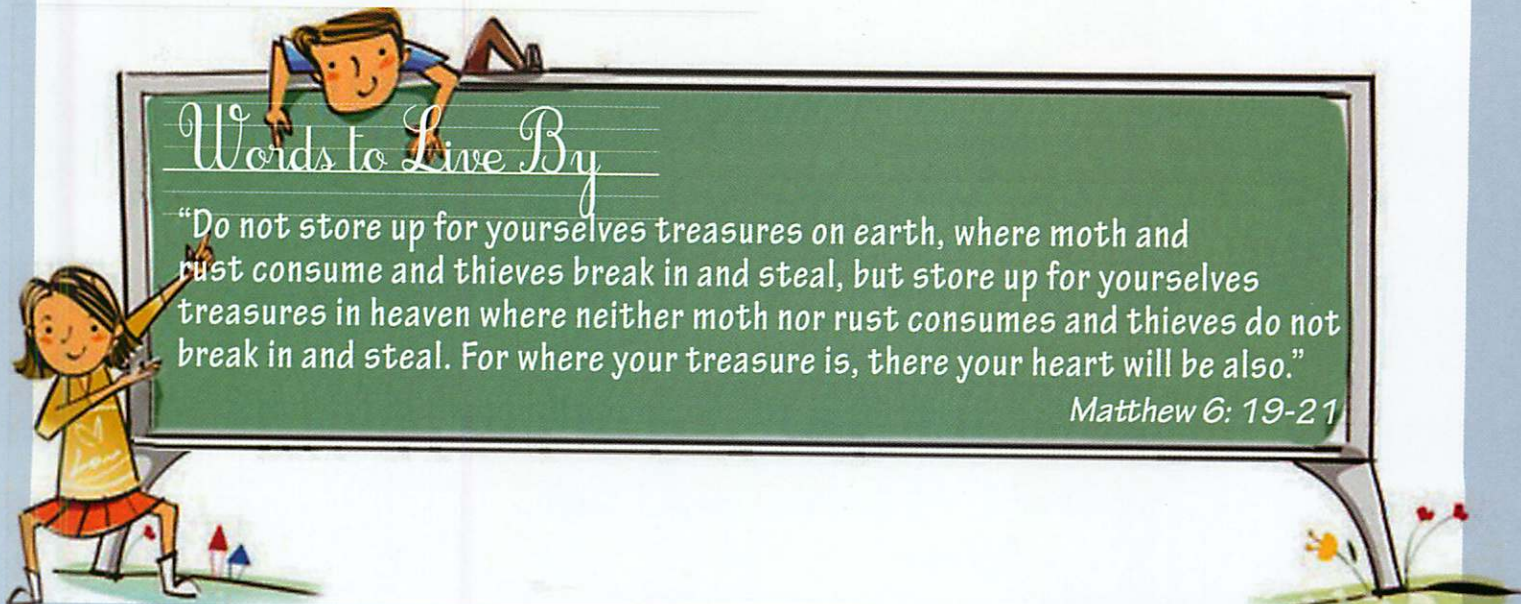
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The message is: \_\_\_\_\_



### Words to Live By

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust consumes and thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6: 19-21



# Special Times Word Search Puzzle

abstinence holiness

Advent Nativity

apostle Pentecost

Easter prayer

faith Resurrection

fast sacrifice

Great Lent Theophany

Heesnag

J	P	I	G	O	Q	R	E	T	S	A	E	M	Y	K	V
Q	P	E	N	T	E	C	O	S	T	C	O	J	I	F	B
T	F	A	I	T	H	P	F	R	T	V	G	D	D	A	K
E	B	H	B	Y	L	H	O	L	I	N	E	S	S	E	C
R	S	D	R	R	Y	T	I	V	I	T	A	N	C	S	G
K	E	U	P	G	A	N	S	E	E	H	I	N	U	A	R
I	S	S	C	C	C	A	O	U	T	G	E	K	P	C	E
D	R	Q	U	O	H	H	P	H	U	N	W	F	R	R	A
Z	O	V	H	R	G	T	E	O	I	U	D	Q	A	I	T
D	E	P	E	J	R	O	E	T	S	B	O	S	Y	F	L
Q	P	W	H	X	P	E	S	W	N	T	L	Y	E	I	E
H	P	F	W	H	R	B	C	U	Y	T	L	M	R	C	N
Z	S	Y	A	H	A	S	B	T	M	L	H	E	Q	E	T
N	T	N	H	I	F	Y	W	K	I	I	R	H	X	S	V
P	Y	T	S	A	F	I	F	F	A	O	H	Y	V	N	T
E	Z	Z	B	F	N	V	A	D	V	E	N	T	M	Z	Q



## Our Armenian Way

Armenians have always had a rich palette of Lenten customs. At Michink, which is the Armenian word for “mid-Lent,” special bread called “Bagharj” was baked. A coin was typically hidden inside this loaf, which was distributed to all around the table. The person who found the coin was considered the “lucky one,” unless, of course, they bit down on it and broke a tooth!