



Living the Church Year Lesson Plan: The Mission of the Church

"The Mission of Jesus Is the Mission of the Church"

Materials: Be ready to watch Fr. Vazken's Sunday Expressions video (first half of video is about the Feast of the Evangelists, the second half is about this Sunday's Gospel-Luke 4:16-21). Lesson below based on second half https://youtu.be/o7Qv-w-_WXs

Age Group: 13-18 years old

Length: 45-60 minutes

Theme: Jesus' mission becomes our mission. As followers of Christ, we are called to bring hope to the brokenhearted, help people see God's beauty, encourage those who are struggling, and share God's love with the world.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Explain Jesus' mission in Luke 4.
 - Understand why the Church continues Christ's mission today.
 - Identify modern examples of being "blind," "captive," or "brokenhearted."
 - Apply Jesus' mission statement to their own lives.
 - Find practical ways to serve others during the coming week.
-

Opening Prayer (2 Minutes)

"Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds to hear Your Word. Help us understand the mission of Jesus and how we can share His love with others. Teach us to see the world through Your eyes and to bring hope, healing, and encouragement wherever we go. Amen."

Icebreaker Activity (5 Minutes)

Ask students:

If you could solve one problem in the world, what would it be?

Possible responses:

- Hunger
- Bullying
- Loneliness
- War
- Homelessness
- Mental health struggles

After several responses ask:

Why do you think Jesus came into the world?

Allow discussion before moving into the Gospel reading.

Scripture Reading (5 Minutes)

Read Luke 4:16-21 aloud.

Explain the setting:

- Jesus has just completed His forty days in the wilderness.
- He returns to His hometown synagogue.
- He is handed the scroll of Isaiah.
- He reads a prophecy and then says:

"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Ask: **What is Jesus saying about Himself?**

Guide students toward: Jesus is announcing His mission.

Video Discussion (10 Minutes)

The speaker calls this passage Jesus' **Mission Statement**.

Ask: **What is a mission statement?**

Possible answers:

- A purpose/goal
- A reason for existing
- A vision for what you want to accomplish

Explain: In the video, Jesus' mission becomes the mission of the Church. The Church exists to continue the work of Christ in the world.

Understanding Jesus' Mission (15 Minutes)

Divide students into groups. Assign each group one phrase from the Gospel.

Group 1: "To preach good news"

Discussion:

- What is the "good news"?
- Why do people need hope today?

Application: How can Christians share hope at school or online?

Group 2: "To heal the brokenhearted"

Ask:

- What breaks people's hearts today?
- What kinds of hurts do teens experience?

Examples:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| • Divorce | • Grief |
| • Rejection | • Fear |
| • Loneliness | • Anxiety |
| • | |

Discussion:

How can a simple text, conversation, or prayer help someone who is hurting?

Group 3

"Recovery of sight to the blind"

The speaker points out that blindness is not only physical.

Ask:

What are people blind to today?

Possible answers:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • God's blessings | • The needs of others |
| • Beauty in creation | • God's presence |

Activity:

Have students name five beautiful things they noticed this week.

Many will realize they struggled to think of any.

Discuss why we often rush through life without noticing God's gifts.

Group 4

"Freedom for the captives"

The video says people can be captive even without prison bars.

Ask:

What can capture people today?

Examples:

- Social media
- Popularity
- Materialism
- Fear
- Anger
- Success
- Comparison with others

Discussion:

How can faith help free people from these things?

Reflection Activity

"What Mission Has God Given Me?" (10 Minutes)

Give each student a worksheet or paper.

Write:

Jesus' Mission

- Heal the brokenhearted
- Help the blind see
- Free the captives
- Share good news

Then have students answer:

1. Which of these speaks to me most?
2. Who in my life needs encouragement?
3. How can I help someone this week?

4. What gift has God given me to serve others?

Allow volunteers to share.

Connecting to Armenian Christian Life

Explain:

The speaker reminds us that the Armenian Church has preserved Christ's message for generations. But Christianity is not just history.

The Church continues Jesus' mission today whenever we:

- Pray for others
- Visit the sick
- Help someone in need
- Serve our community
- Encourage a struggling friend
- Share God's love

The mission did not end when Jesus ascended into heaven. The mission continues through us.

Challenge for the Week

This week, choose ONE mission action:

- Encourage someone who is feeling down.
- Spend time with someone who feels lonely.
- Notice and thank God for something beautiful each day.
- Pray for a person who is struggling.
- Perform one act of kindness anonymously.

At next week's class, be prepared to share what happened.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus announced His mission in Luke 4.
2. The mission of Jesus became the mission of the Church.
3. Many people today are brokenhearted, blind to God's blessings, or captive to worries and desires.
4. Christians are called to bring hope, healing, and encouragement.
5. Faith is not only about believing; it is about living Christ's mission every day.
6. Every teen can participate in Christ's mission right now.