Living the Church Year Lesson Plan:
7th Sunday of Advent

Ages 9-17

Seventh Sunday of Advent (Hisnag)

Length: 30-40 Minutes

Theme: *True greatness comes through serving God and others.*

Materials: Be ready to watch Fr. Hovnan video message https://youtu.be/wcteU6Aw90I

Scripture: Luke 22:24-30

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Understand why the disciples argued about who was greatest.
2. Explain Jesus' teaching that greatness comes through service.
3. Reflect on their own attitudes toward competition, success, and humility.
4. Identify one way they can serve others during the New Year.

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1. Opening Prayer & Introduction

Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, as we prepare for Your Holy Nativity, help us learn what true greatness is. Teach us to serve You and serve others with love and humility. Amen."

Icebreaker Question: "If you could be famous for one thing, what would it be?"

Allow several students to answer.

Transition: "Most people want to be great at something. Today's Gospel shows that even the disciples wanted to be the greatest."

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2. Video Review & Key Message

Ask students:

- What does Father Hovnan say people usually think makes someone great?
- What were the disciples arguing about?

- How did Jesus respond?
- Why did Jesus come as a servant instead of a powerful king?

Main Teaching Point

Write on a board:

World's Idea of Greatness

- Power
- Popularity
- Winning
- Being first

Jesus' Idea of Greatness

- Humility
- Service
- Sacrifice
- Obedience to God

Explain: Jesus could have come as a mighty earthly king, but He chose to be born humbly and serve others. This is why Christmas teaches us humility as well as joy.

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3. Scripture Discussion (Luke 22:24-30)

Read verse 26 aloud:

"Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves."

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people compare themselves to others?
2. What kinds of competition do teens experience today?
    - Sports?
    - School?
    - Social media?
3. Is competition always bad? Why or why not?
4. Why is serving others sometimes difficult?
5. Can you think of someone you know who serves quietly without recognition?

Teacher Insight: The disciples loved Jesus but still struggled with pride. We struggle with the same temptation. Jesus teaches that holiness is not about being above others but about loving others.

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4. Activity: Looking Back, Looking Forward

Give each student a sheet of paper folded into two sections.

Section 1: Looking Back

Ask students to quietly write:

- One way I grew closer to God this past year.
- One thing I need God's help improving.

Section 2: Looking Forward

Ask students to write:

- One way I can serve my family.
- One way I can serve my church.
- One way I can help a friend or classmate.

Afterward invite volunteers to share.

Connection to Advent: As one year ends and Armenian Christmas approaches, Christians examine their hearts and prepare to follow Christ more faithfully in the coming year.

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5. Armenian Orthodox Connection

Explain:

In the Armenian Church, though we of course celebrate the birth of Christ, we place much less accent on images of baby Jesus and the manger scene. Jesus did not come as a cute and comforting family portrait, he came like a tiny seed that would grow to break through the earth and rise to the very heavens!

Armenian Christmas, Theophany retains this mystery:

- God himself enters into creation as human.
- The King of life comes in the form of a slave.
- ‘God becomes man, so that we might become as god.’ St. Athanasius

Ask:

"How does Armenian Christmas demonstrate how Jesus serves?"

Possible answers:

- God himself, diminishes himself to share humanity with us.
- God shared in all aspects of human life, its triumphs and its pains.
- He lived out love better than any, suffering and dying so that we might be saved.

- He taught us the way to God and to true joy.

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6. Closing Challenge & Prayer

Weekly Challenge

Before Armenian Christmas, perform one act of service that no one asks you to do:

- Help around the house.
- Encourage someone who is lonely.
- Pray for someone in need.
- Help at church.

Do it without seeking praise.

Take-Home Message

"The world says greatness is being above others. Jesus teaches that greatness is serving others. When we give ourselves to God and to those around us, we become more like Christ." (Luke 22:24-30)