



Living the Church Year Lesson Plan: All Saints and the Family of Christ

'All Saints and the Family of Christ'

Materials: Be ready to watch Fr. Vazken's Sunday Expressions video

<https://youtu.be/Q3y0yd8uVAw>

Armenian Orthodox Teen Lesson Plan (30 Minutes)

Biblical Text: Luke 8:16-21 (especially Luke 8:21)

Theme: Christians are members of Christ's family when they hear God's word and live it.

Objective: By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Understand the Armenian Church's teaching about saints.
- Recognize that Christians belong to the family of Christ.
- Reflect on what it means to live as a Christian in everyday life.
- Identify practical ways to serve others during the upcoming holiday season.

Opening Prayer (3 Minutes)

Begin with the sign of the cross.

Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, thank You for gathering us as members of Your family. Help us learn from the saints, listen to Your Word, and live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Guide us to love and serve others as true Christians. Through the prayers of the Holy Mother of God and all the saints, hear us and have mercy on us. Amen."

Icebreaker: Family Identity (5 Minutes)

Ask:

1. What is your last name?
2. Do you know what it means?
3. What traditions make your family unique?
4. What does it mean to be part of a family?

Transition:

"In the video, Fr. Vazken explains that many Armenian names ending in '-ian' or '-yan' mean 'family of.' He then says that a Christian is someone who belongs to the family of Christ."

Video Discussion and Teaching (8 Minutes)

Part 1: Who Are the Saints?

Ask:

What is a saint?

Key Teaching:

- Saints were ordinary people.
- They had weaknesses and struggles.
- Through faith and God's grace they overcame challenges.
- Saints show us that holiness is possible.

Discuss: "Why might it be easier to relate to saints than to compare ourselves directly with Jesus?"

Expected responses:

- Saints faced struggles like ours.
- They made mistakes.
- They show practical examples of faithful living.

Armenian Orthodox Connection

Mention:

- St. Gregory the Illuminator
- St. Hripsime and St. Gayane
- St. Vartan and the Holy Martyrs
- The Holy Translators

Ask: "Which Armenian saint inspires you and why?"

Part 2: Who Is Christ's Family?

Read Luke 8:21 aloud:

"My mother and My brothers are these who hear the Word of God and do it."

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think Jesus gave this answer?
- Was He disrespecting His mother?
- What do His words teach us?

Key Point:

Jesus expands the meaning of family. The Church becomes a spiritual family united by:

- Faith
 - Baptism
 - Worship
 - Love for God
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Small Group Activity: Living Like the Family of Christ (7 Minutes)

Divide students into pairs or small groups.

Give them this challenge:

Imagine Jesus walked into your school tomorrow. How would students recognize that you are part of His family?

Have groups create a list of Christian actions.

Possible examples:

- Including someone sitting alone.
- Standing up against bullying.
- Being honest.
- Helping a struggling friend.
- Praying for others.
- Volunteering in church.

Share responses with the class.

Emphasize: "People know we belong to Christ not simply because we wear a cross but because we live differently."

Reflection: Preparing for the Holidays (4 Minutes)

The speaker in the video challenges families to think about helping others before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Ask:

Reflection Questions

1. Who needs help in our community?
2. How can our parish serve others?

3. What act of kindness can you do this week?

4. How can you make Christ's love visible?

Write one commitment on a note card:

"This week I will show that I belong to Christ's family by..."

Allow students a minute to complete it.

Closing Takeaway (1 Minute)

Summarize:

- Saints are ordinary people who followed Christ faithfully.
- We honor them because they point us to Jesus.
- Through faith and action we become members of Christ's family.
- Christians are called to bring Christ's love into the world.

Optional Memory Verse

"My mother and My brothers are these who hear the Word of God and do it." (Luke 8:21)
