



Living the Church Year Lesson Plan:

1st Sunday After Theophany

Ages 9-17

Jesus Walks on Water

Age Group: 9-15 years old

Length: 45-60 minutes

Theme: Trusting Christ in the storms of life, **John 6:15-21**

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Understand the events of John 6:15-21.
2. Learn why Jesus rejected earthly kingship.
3. Recognize that Christ is present with us during our fears and challenges.
4. Connect the story to their personal lives and Armenian Christian faith.
5. Develop confidence in Christ's words: "It is I; do not be afraid."

Icebreaker Activity (5 minutes)

Ask: "If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?"

Allow several answers.

Then say: "Today's Gospel contains something more amazing than any superhero story. Jesus does something that no ordinary person can do, and He teaches His disciples an important lesson about trust."

Reading the Scripture (5 minutes)

Read John 6:15-21 aloud.

Ask students to listen for:

- Why Jesus went away by Himself.
- What frightened the disciples.
- What Jesus said to them.

After reading, ask:

1. What happened after the feeding of the 5,000?
2. Why did Jesus leave the crowd?
3. What problem did the disciples face?
4. What was their reaction?
5. What did Jesus say?

Expected answer: "It is I; do not be afraid."

Teaching the Passage (15 minutes)

Part 1: The Crowd Wanted the Wrong Kind of King

The people had just witnessed the miracle of the loaves and fishes. They were amazed. They wanted Jesus to become a king.

Ask:

"What kind of king did they want?"

Explain:

They wanted someone who would solve political problems, defeat enemies, and provide food and prosperity. They were thinking about earthly power.

But Jesus came for something greater.

He came:

- To save humanity from sin.
- To conquer death.
- To bring the Kingdom of God.

As Armenian Orthodox Christians, we believe Christ is King not because He sits on an earthly throne, but because He reigns over heaven and earth.

Part 2: The Storm

That evening the disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee.

The lake became rough because strong winds began to blow.

Imagine:

- Darkness all around.

- Big waves.
- No sight of Jesus.
- Tired disciples struggling to row.

Ask:

"Have you ever felt like the disciples? Afraid, worried, or facing a problem by yourself?"

Allow discussion.

Explain that storms are not only weather events.

We face storms such as:

- Difficult homework, Friendship troubles, Bullying, Family problems, Illness, anxiety about the future.

Part 3: Jesus Comes

Suddenly Jesus appears walking on the water. The disciples are terrified.

Then Jesus speaks: "It is I; do not be afraid."

These words are powerful.

The greatest miracle is not that Jesus walked on water. The greatest miracle is that Christ comes to His disciples in the middle of their fear. The Armenian Church teaches that God never abandons His people. When we pray, attend Badarak, receive Holy Communion, and read Scripture, Christ is present with us just as He was with the disciples.

Armenian Orthodox Connection (5 minutes)

Explain: Every time we celebrate the Divine Liturgy (Soorp Badarak), Christ comes among His people. Just as the disciples welcomed Jesus into the boat, we welcome Him into our hearts.

Ask: "What happened after they received Jesus into the boat?"

Answer: They reached their destination.

Discuss:

Life's difficulties do not always disappear instantly, but Christ guides us safely to where He wants us to be.

Discussion Questions

1. Why didn't Jesus accept being made an earthly king?

2. Why were the disciples afraid?
 3. What fears do young people experience today?
 4. What does Jesus teach us about trust?
 5. How can prayer help during difficult times?
 6. How does attending church strengthen our faith during life's storms?
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Key Takeaway

When the disciples faced a storm, Jesus did not stay far away. He came directly to them and said, "Do not be afraid." As Armenian Orthodox Christians, we believe that Christ still comes to us through prayer, Scripture, the sacraments, and the life of the Church. No storm is greater than His love, power, and presence.

Memory Verse

"It is I; do not be afraid." (John 6:20)

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Yes em, mee vakhetsek

Challenge students to memorize it during the week and repeat whenever anxious
