Being A Disciple... It's Not Just A Fan Club! DOING GOOD WORKS: SERVICE

UNIT LESSON FOUR

From Our Hearts to God

God, you have given me so much. Show me how I can give to you. Amen.

MY WSRLD

Many organizations help others in need. Jesus wants us to be compassionate, to care about others and help them. Seth started a clothing drive for children in a group home in Armenia when he was in second grade in Sunday School. Mary brought cans of food to school for a food pantry drive to feed needy families in her community. Aline visited the nursing home with the youth group at church. David and his father take their dog to visit people in an assisted living home in his town.

Seth, Mary, Aline and David are doing God's will here on earth. They are doing good works. The children know that believing in Jesus means we do what Jesus would do. God is watching and loving them for their Christian service to others.





GOD'S GUIDING WORDS

"Jesus said: Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

Matthew 25:31 – 45



Getting Closer to God

When Jesus ascended to heaven, he went to sit at God's side and judge the living and the dead. Jesus is our judge. He looks into our hearts and minds and knows what we do and why we do it. He will decide if we are called to live with him in his kingdom or not based on what he knows about us and our behavior.

He has told us what to believe: Believe in God; follow me.

He has told us what to do: Treat others the way you want to be treated. Love others as I love you. Think about them as God would.

Fill in what you would do in these situations:

My friend Billy laughed at a kid because he got an F on his spelling test.

I	
My classmate Jackie comes to school in the winter in a very thin jacket.	
My cousins Daria and Beth are complaining about how their moms won't let them have a I	sleep-over
My friends Robert and Greg were sent to the principal's office for fighting. I	
Our class is collecting back packs of clothes for children living in a homeless shelter.	

Lord, let me be your compassionate helper. Amen.

Taking a Closer Look

St. Nersess the Great was head of the Armenian Church in the 4th century. He was Catholicos for twenty years (353-373). He loved his people and he wanted to help them in all the ways that Jesus taught us to help others. He did not want people to be hungry, lonely, in danger, sick without care or without a roof over their heads. He wanted Christ to be in everyone's heart. But they needed to feel God's love from others first. He did so much to care for the people of Armenia that he is now known as "the enlightener of the hearts of the Armenians."

St. Nersess used his own land and asked the rich lords of Armenia to donate their land to build amazing places for the good of the people. Find out what some of these were!

Use the code below to find the answers.

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Our Armenian Way

During Great Lent before Easter, we make a special effort to be charitable. Our Diocese selects service projects for our Sunday School children to support. Students bring in gifts of money for these projects. Sometimes students use their school snack money for these charities. Or they might ask their parents if they can do jobs around the house to earn money for these



charities. The Sunday School will often run a special event like a pancake breakfast or a movie night to raise money. Whatever students decide to do, God is always happy to see Christian love in action!

Time to Celebrate

Grade Four Service Project:
The students in our class will
Our Service Project will be completed by

Now be a good disciple. Plan your project. Do you need posters? Do you need to write an article for your church newsletter? Do you need to write an article for your town newspaper? Do you need to teach others to be charitable?





Sharing Our Faith

All of us, young and old, are called to be disciples. Part of discipleship is following Christ's example of compassion and charity. The Armenian Church has always promoted Christian charity and service. St. Nersess the Great is one of our most important examples of this.

Our lesson today emphasized that our love of God finds natural expression in good works. The Bible reminds us: Faith without works is dead (James 2:17). Encourage your child to live a God-pleasing life.

Living Our Faith

Plan a charitable project for your family. Here are some suggestions:

- 1. Go through your clothing and collect good, usable but no longer wanted or needed clothing to give to charity.
- 2. Check supermarket sales and coupons and go on a food pantry shopping excursion. Donate the food to your local food pantry.
- 3. Check out the United Nations UNICEF program website and see if there are programs there you might want to support. Don't forget you can Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF at Halloween.
- 4. Support a needy child in Armenia through the CASP program. Decide how much the family will contribute and how each will raise his or her portion of the contribution.