

Doing God's Work in the World



Pray Together

Hanoon Hor, yev Vortvo, yev Hokvooyv Surpo, Amen. Dear Lord, Help me to be an extension of your love in this world. Teach me to recognize where there is a need. Make my steps quick to come to the aid of the suffering, and my hands ready to work in your service. Let me serve you all the days of my life, so that I may please you and be a good example of Christ's love to all those I meet. Amen.

Chapter Checkup

Fill in the missing word in the space provided.

1. Romans 3:23 states that "all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God.
2. Christian churches are united in the idea that Jesus Christ is the _____.
3. _____ may be defined as blessings and goodness from God
4. Christians believe in one God in three _____.
5. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the _____.

Ambassadors of Christ

Have you ever heard the term "ambassador?" An ambassador is a person who is an official representative of a country or government. Each Christian is an ambassador of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are God's special representatives on this earth. People will look at the behavior of a Christian to get an idea of what Jesus is all about.

If we are kind and helpful, then people will see that being a Christian is something good. As a good ambassador of your faith, you may unconsciously attract people to it. Good actions are very effective ways of helping people understand the Gospel. If a person says they are a Christian but speaks and behaves in bad ways, witnesses will not think there is anything worthwhile in being a follower of Christ. A bad ambassador of Christ will chase people away from him.

Consider the following situations:

You and a bunch of your friends are hanging out at a computer. One of them says "I know a really



cool site,” and goes to a site that portrays violence, racist content, or something else inappropriate. As a good ambassador of Christ you should

Several weeks ago you signed up at Sunday School to clean out a local stream. Unfortunately, a soccer game that was rained out earlier is rescheduled for cleanup day, and you really want to be with your team. A good ambassador of Christ would

Living in Holiness

We look to Jesus’ love and concern for people and his sacrifice on the Cross as the perfection of holy living. Many places in the Bible remind us that we are to live a life of devotion and service to others.

Read Proverbs 29:7. Write about a time when you or another person did or said something to change something that was unfair.

Read John 21:15-17. Write about a situation at home where you believe you could be helpful.

Read James 2:14-17. Imagine your town has given you money and a staff of volunteers to start a project to help your community. What problem would you try to solve and what steps would you take to solve it?

Help From Unexpected Places

Read the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37. In that story, a priest and a Levite, which was a person with special duties in God's temple, passed right by the injured man and ignored him. The only person who stopped to help was a Samaritan. In those days, Samaritans were social outcasts because they had different religious beliefs and practices from most everyone else, yet this Samaritan gave of his time, energy, and money to see that the robbery victim received proper care. Even though he was not a high-status person, he was able to pitch right in and make a great difference in someone's life. Young or old, rich or poor, we all have the ability and the responsibility to make life better for someone else.

- How might you retell this parable today, using people and situations you can relate to?
- Where would the story take place?
- Who would be the injured man?
- Who would pass him by?

Our Armenian Way

Vodunluva

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On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. This would have been a very dirty job, since the men were wearing sandals with no socks, if they had any shoes at all. Their feet would have been full of ground-in dirt from the road. It was customary for the servants of a household to do this for guests.

Why did the Son of God lower himself to perform such a dirty task? Jesus did this to show us that we should not be too proud to do even unpleasant jobs in the service of his flock. Each Holy Thursday, the Armenian Church conducts the "Vodunluva" service, or the Washing of the Feet. The priest, in remembrance of that long-ago night when Jesus humbled himself for his disciples, washes the feet of some of the congregation. We are reminded that Jesus laid aside his heavenly crown to do everything for us – even suffer death on the Cross.



Faith Word

Holiness

The state of being sacred, set apart for religious purpose, living in the Spirit

FAMILY FOCUS: For Parents



Lesson Roundup

In today's session, your child learned about Christian service. The class learned that they are ambassadors of Christ's kingdom here on earth. They evaluated Christian responses to different situations, and discussed how the parable of the Good Samaritan might be retold today. Reading about the Vodunluva (Washing of the Feet) Service in the Armenian Church once again focused on serving others.

Family Faith Activity

We grow closer to our Lord as we follow his command, "Care for my sheep." Try to perform one of the following activities with your family.

1. Read the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) as a family.
2. Make a donation to an organization that assists people in America, Armenia or anywhere in the world.
3. In the local shopper newspapers that most towns receive, there are articles about families who have suffered a flood, illness, or similar calamity. Find one of these families, call your town, and help with one of the family's needs. Remember about the ceremony itself?

A Parent's Promise

Yes, I read the Lesson Roundup ___ and tried at least one activity as a family___.

Signed_____

