



VBS Daily News

Real IMPORTANT Information about Today's VBS

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Holy Trinity Orthodox Church – State College, PA

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EXTRA! For Parents EXTRA!

Continue Teaching VBS Lessons at Home

State College, PA Since the close of the Holy Trinity VBS just two weeks ago the daily gospel lessons have included passages about sowing seeds, being cast into the outer darkness, gnashing of teeth, plucking the heads of grain, and the taking up of the yoke by Jesus. These are among some of the manners and customs which were studied by the VBS children this year. **So, what is the next step for you?**

Reading the scriptures daily is a discipline which should be practiced by each of us and your children can follow your example. You are encouraged to build upon the lessons of the VBS by engaging with your children to help them to understand the significance of Biblical manners and customs in their context.

In this special edition of the *VBS Daily News* are a few examples to help you get started.

In the Fields (continued)

- The farmer had to focus on moving forward while plowing his fields or the oxen would go astray. When speaking to the man who said he would follow Him, Jesus said, *“No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62).*
- After the grains have grown and have been sowed (see Galatians 6:7), bound into sheaves (see *Gen. 37:7*), the crops were threshed (separating the grain from the stalk), and the grain was then winnowed to separate the good from the bad, *“His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:12).* Ask a VBS kid about the fun of winnowing in the church parking lot!

IN THE FIELDS

- Hard working farmers waited for the early rains to soften the ground before beginning to plow. How about the lazy man? *“The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing. (Proverbs 20:4)*
- Unlike today's modern machinery, the plows used by people of the Bible were very simple – a wooden rod with a pointed end to dig the furrows. The plow was pulled by two oxen joined together by a yoke (a heavy wooden crosspiece). If the yoke was too heavy, it would upset the oxen. As such the oxen had to work together as a team and the Lord spoke to His obedient followers saying, *“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matt. 11:30).*
- In Acts 9:5, Jesus says to Saul, *“It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”* A goad is a long pointed stick which the farmer used to prod and poke his oxen to move faster.

HOSPITALITY CUSTOMS

- Providing water and washing a guest's feet upon entering a home was a simple common courtesy in Biblical times. To not offer would be breach of etiquette and an act of unkindness to a guest. See Jesus' rebuke of Simon when the prostitute came forward and washed and kissed His feet (Luke 7:44-46). Guests were often greeted with a holy kiss (instead of shaking hands as is the custom today).
- Usually a guest's feet were washed by a slave or servant but in John 13 Jesus washes His disciples' feet and tells them to do as He has done. *VBS kid followed this example by washing each other's feet.*
- At mealtime, there would often only be one dish for food from which everyone partook. Jesus spoke of this dish in Matthew 26:23 *“He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me.”*