

# 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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## Hospitality and Eating Customs Studied

*Students learn the old ways to welcome visitors to their home*

**State College, PA** After an opening session discussing the differences of living thousands of years and miles from here, today the VBS students got rolling discovering hospitality customs and eating manners during Biblical times. The students even had the chance to experience some of these customs themselves.

To help the students understand who did what in the family, during the opening assembly there was discussion of the roles and responsibilities of family members. Some examples included:

- Fathers taught sons the family trade, provide food, clothing, and shelter, and arrange the marriages of daughters.
- Mothers were expected to provide children for her husband, carry water each day from the village well, grind wheat and barley into flour, spin wool, and teach daughters to do each of these things.
- Sons helped in their father's work and studied sacred writings while daughters stayed with their mother learning to manage the house.
- Servants did the jobs no one else wanted to do such as washing feet, serving meals, guarding the flock, and helping with harvesting the grains and other foods.

### SUPPER TIME!

Just as Abraham provided a lavish meal for his heavenly visitors (Gen 1:1-18) so too did the peoples of the Bible as they believed they were sent by God. Students today learned of the customary foods and the great arrangements which were made for a festive dinner. *(They even had a try of eating in the same manner as the Bible peoples.)*

### TODAY'S WEATHER



### A WELCOMING HOME

When guests are invited into our home we generally welcome them with a handshake or perhaps a gentle hug. We take their coat, if they have one, invite them to sit and offer them something to eat or drink. The customs were quite different in Biblical times.

Instead of a handshake, a kiss on the cheek was the most common welcome. This would be followed by the washing of the guest's feet (due to the dusty and dirty roads) by a servant. Then depending wealth of the host or the affair being conducted oil (usually olive) would be placed on the guest's head and hair to cool their head from the hot sun.

### FPO – FOR PARENTS ONLY

- Tomorrow there will be Vespers at 5:00. Please try to bring your children early so that we can pray together. Dinner and VBS will follow immediately.
- Please be prompt in picking up your child **each day before or at 8:00 PM. Don't be late!**