

Unit 2: The Seven Virtues

Lesson 2.5: Diligence: Finishing What Faith Begins

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

For the Lesson: Orthodox Study Bible or Holy Bible: Armenian Church Edition

Recommended Orthodox Study Bible [HERE](#).

Recommended Holy Bible: Armenian Church Edition [HERE](#).

Scripture Reference:

Colossians 3:23

Activities:

Implement based on available time. Detailed instructions and materials lists are provided in the lesson.

Activity 1: Word-search Puzzle

Activity 2: Diligence Tracker Challenge

Words of the week:

աշխատասիրութիւն - ash-khad-a-seer-oo-tyoon - diligence

ծուրութիւն - dzoo-loo-tyoon - laziness

յարատեւութիւն - har-a-dev-oo-tyoon - persistence

Objective:

Students will understand that diligence is not just about working hard, but about being faithful, focused, and committed to what is good and holy. They will learn that diligence helps them grow in faith, overcome laziness, and become trustworthy people in God's eyes.

Moral Character Focus:

Knowledge: Students will learn that diligence means steady, careful effort to do what is right and finish what we start, especially in our relationship with God and our responsibilities.

Understanding: Students will understand that diligence isn't about being perfect, but about not giving up, even when things are hard, boring, or slow.

Application: Students will identify areas where they tend to give up or procrastinate and make a plan to approach those areas with focus and perseverance this week.

Values: Students will grow in valuing faithfulness, responsibility, and spiritual discipline as part of what it means to follow Christ.

Memory Verse:

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as if working for the Lord, not for men.”*

- Colossians 3:23

Lesson

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քն՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց եւ ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քն արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos yev paneets yen kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body: Diligence: Finishing What Faith Begins

Q: *Have you ever started something excitedly and then gave up halfway through? (Homework, a hobby, a chore?)*

Q: *Why do you think it's so hard to stay committed?*

We live in a world of distractions. If something isn't easy or exciting, we want to quit. But the Christian life calls us to something greater. It calls us to diligence, to finish what faith begins.

Diligence doesn't mean being busy all the time. It means being faithful. It means doing what is right, even when it is boring, slow, or difficult.

What Is Diligence?

Diligence is choosing to give your best effort to something important.

In Armenian, the word for diligence is “աշխատասիրութիւն” (ashkhadaseerootyoon), which means a love for working or staying focused.

Diligence means:

- Doing your work even when no one is watching
- Finishing your responsibilities even when you're tired
- Showing up to pray even when you don't feel like it
- Practicing your faith even when it's not exciting
- It is the opposite of laziness or giving up halfway. Diligence keeps going because the goal matters.

Why Diligence Matters

It builds your soul: When you push through difficulty, your heart grows stronger. You become more patient, responsible, and reliable.

It earns trust: People know they can count on someone who is diligent. Teachers, parents, and even God notice those who are faithful in small things.

It makes your faith real: Faith is not just what you believe. It's what you do every day. Diligence shows that you are serious about following Jesus, not just when it's fun, but when it's tough.

Let's Discuss

Q: *What's something you've started but didn't finish? Why was it hard to keep going?*

Q: *Can you think of someone in your life who is a good example of diligence?*

Where Diligence Shows Up

In prayer: Praying regularly takes effort. You might not always feel something. Diligence means you show up anyway.

In schoolwork: Doing your best, even when it's not graded or exciting, builds habits that honor God.

At home: Helping without being asked, following through on chores, and doing what you said you would do shows maturity and faithfulness.

In relationships: Being loyal, showing up for your friends, forgiving when it's hard—all require steady effort.

In your talents: Whether you play an instrument, dance, or have a gift for helping, diligence means using that gift to serve God and others, even when you don't feel motivated.

Q: *Where do you find it hardest to stay diligent? What helps you keep going?*

The Truth About Diligence

It feels small, but grows big. It doesn't always feel exciting to do your work quietly and faithfully. But diligence builds your character. It's like planting seeds: you don't see fruit right away. It takes time, water, and patience to grow. But one day, those small actions grow into something strong and lasting.

Galatians 6:9 says: *"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."*

Words of the Week:

աշխատասիրութիւն
ash-khad-a-seer-oo-tyoon - diligence
ծուլութիւն - dzoo-loo-tyoon - laziness
յարատեւութիւն
har-a-dev-oo-tyoon - persistence

Memory Verse:

**"Whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for men."
- Colossians 3:23**

Biblical Examples

Noah

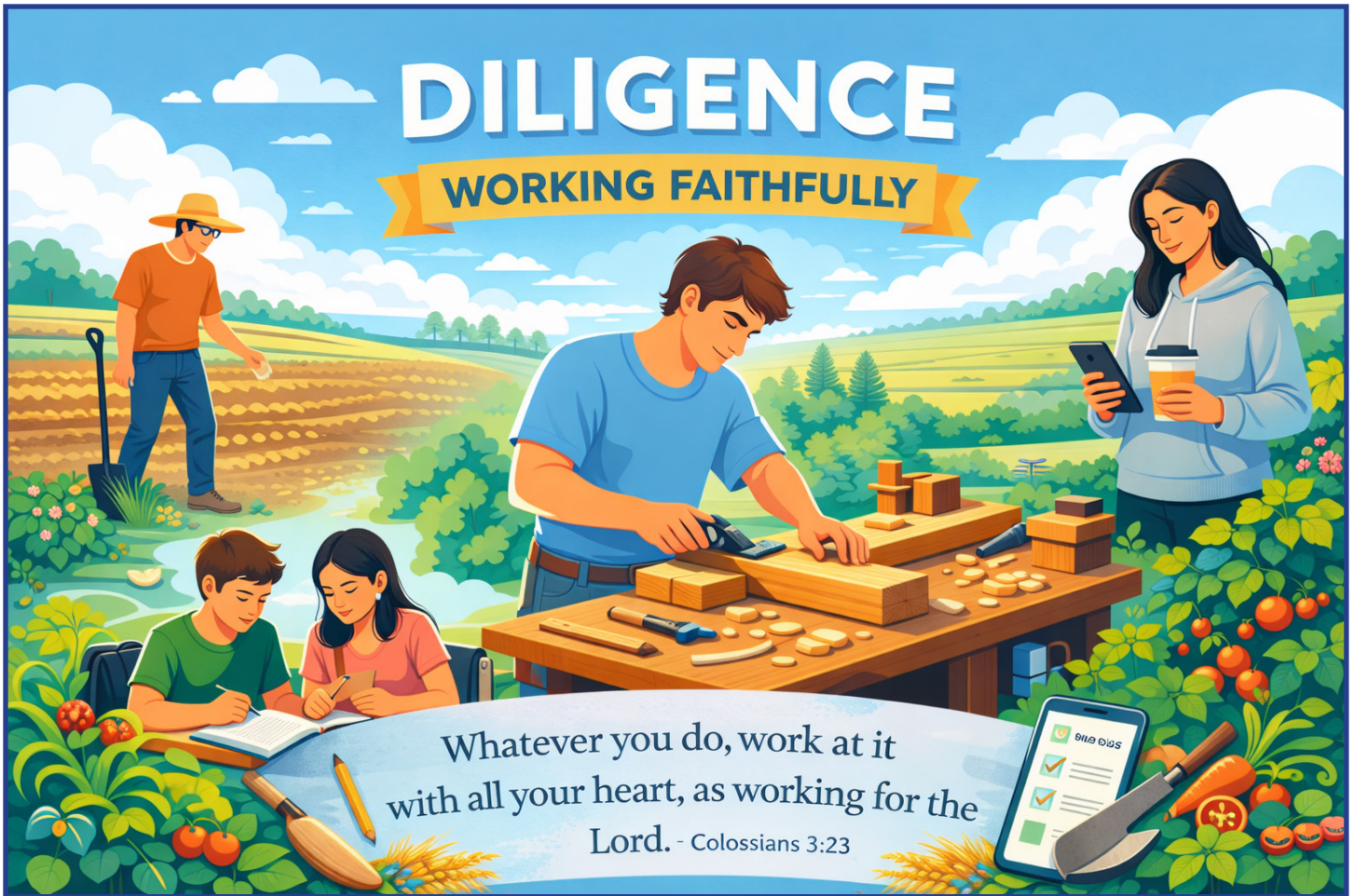
God asked Noah to build an ark. It took years. People mocked him. He kept going.

Ruth

Ruth stayed by her mother-in-law Naomi's side, worked in the fields, and trusted God. Her steady faithfulness changed her life.

Jesus

Jesus walked faithfully to the Cross. He didn't quit. He was steady in prayer, love, and obedience.



Commonly Asked Questions about Diligence

“What if I don’t feel like doing it?”

Do it anyway. Feelings change. Diligence chooses what is right over what is easy.

“Is it wrong to rest?”

Not at all. Rest is holy. But giving up when something is hard is different than resting so you can keep going.

“What if I fail?”

Try again. Diligence isn’t about never falling or failing. It’s about getting back up.

Activity 1: Word-search Puzzle

Name: _____

Diligence



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

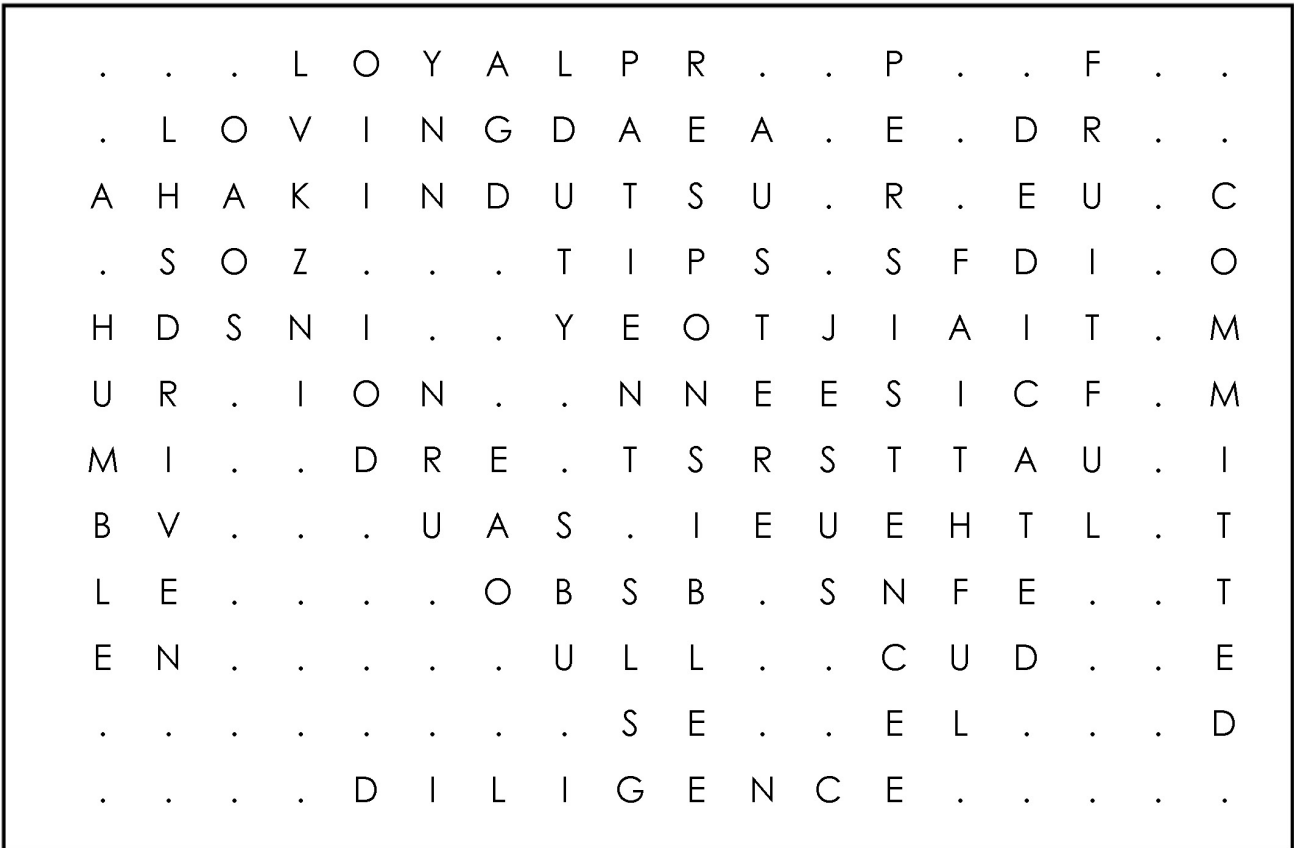
PERSISTENCE
RESPONSIBLE
DILIGENCE
COMMITTED
ASSIDUOUS
DEDICATED
HONORABLE

LAZINESS
FAITHFUL
FRUITFUL
AUSTERE
PATIENT
HUMBLE
DRIVEN

LOVING
LOYAL
JESUS
DUTY
KIND

SOLUTION

Diligence



Word directions and start points are formatted: (Direction, X, Y)

PERSISTENCE (S,13,1)
 RESPONSIBLE (S,10,1)
 DILIGENCE (E,5,12)
 COMMITTED (S,18,3)
 ASSIDUOUS (SE,1,3)
 DEDICATED (S,15,2)
 HONORABLE (SE,2,3)

LAZINESS (SE,2,2)
 FAITHFUL (S,14,4)
 FRUITFUL (S,16,1)
 AUSTERE (S,11,2)
 PATIENT (S,9,1)
 HUMBLE (S,1,5)
 DRIVEN (S,2,5)

LOVING (E,2,2)
 LOYAL (E,4,1)
 JESUS (S,12,5)
 DUTY (S,8,2)
 KIND (E,4,3)

Take Home Diligence Tracker Challenge

Materials: Small worksheet or notebook page with 7 boxes (one for each day of the week)

Choose one small daily action (e.g., 5-minute prayer, completing homework, helping someone without being asked). Track it for 7 days with a checkmark or brief note. Talk next week about how it went. What was hard? What helped them stay focused?

Review

Memory Verse Review:

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” (Colossians 3:23)

Words of the Week:

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Life Application

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

This week, don't just start strong, but finish strong. Whether it's prayer, a chore, or a promise you made, ask God for the strength to keep going. Diligence isn't loud. But over time, it makes you solid, dependable, and full of grace.

Lesson Review Questions:

1. What is diligence? (*Diligence means steady effort to do what is right and to finish what you start*)
2. Why is diligence important in your faith? (*Because it keeps your relationship with God strong, even when you don't feel like praying or doing good*)
3. Where do you most struggle to be diligent? (*Personal answer*)
4. What can help you stay focused when you want to quit? (*Remembering your goal, praying for strength, taking a short break, asking for support*)
5. How does God respond when we try, even if we fail sometimes? (*He is patient and pleased with our effort. God helps us grow through practice*)

* *Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesher-ee, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sa-sanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.