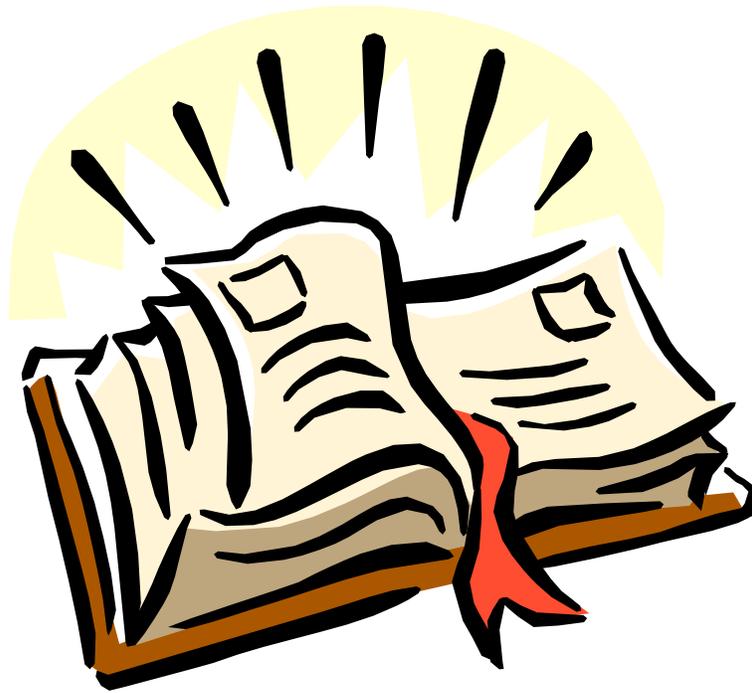


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____



LESSON TITLE: The Birth of John the Baptist

THEME: God is worthy of our praise.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-80

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about the birth of John the Baptist. This was a very special time for Zacharias and Elizabeth, John's parents. We also see Mary, the mother of Jesus coming to spend time with Elizabeth. All of them rejoice together in the Lord for the fulfillment of His promises in their lives.

We can learn through their lives that **God is worthy of our praise**. There is so much that we can praise Him for. But especially we can praise Him for the precious gift of His son, Jesus Christ. How our hearts can cry out in song like Mary as we consider the great miracle of Jesus' birth and what that means to our lives.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 1:39-80**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

One in Ten

Text: Luke 17:15 - "Now one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,"

Also read Luke 17:11-19

Joel and Katie love it when Grandma and Grandpa come to visit. They can't wait to get to spend some time with them. Grandma and Grandpa always love to give good gifts. It never fails that they have something wonderful every time they visit. This time was no exception. Grandma pulled out a couple of gifts shortly after they arrived. They were excited and ripped open the packages.

Joel ran off to his room to play with his new toy, but Katie stayed in the living room. Katie went up to Grandma and Grandpa and gave them a big hug and told them thank you. After a while mom went into Joel's room and found Joel playing with his new toy, just as happy as can be. She asked Joel, "Did you forget to do something?" Joel thought for a moment and said, "I don't think so. Did I forget to feed the dog again?"

Mom just smiled and said, "You know, there is a story in the Bible about ten men who were healed from their disease and only one of them went to Jesus to thank Him for healing them. This man was so grateful that he fell on his face and glorified the Lord. But the other nine were too excited about what was done for them that they forgot to thank the One who provided the healing." "I forgot to tell Grandma and Grandpa thank you didn't I?" Joel said. "It's never too late to say thank you!" said mom.

Joel learned a valuable lesson about being thankful. We need to praise the Lord for every good thing He does in our lives. We should concentrate on the giver, not the gift. Just think for a few minutes about all of the wonderful things He has done in your life, and then praise Him!

- What has Jesus done great in your life?
- What are some ways that you can praise Him?
- What did Joel learn about being thankful?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Leprosy: A very serious type of skin disease that had no cure. People who had it had to stay away from everyone else.

Glorify: To praise, honor or extol.

Hannah's Song

Text: 1 Samuel 1:27 - "For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him."

Also read 1 Samuel 2:1-11

Hannah always wanted to have a child, but she couldn't. This made her very sad. One day she was praying and she asked the Lord to grant her a very special request. She would very much like to have a child. She also made a very special promise to the Lord. If He gave her a child she would dedicate him to the Lord for his entire life. The Lord heard her prayer and gave her a wonderful baby boy who she named Samuel. Hannah kept her promise and gave Samuel to the Lord. He grew up to be a great man of God and led the nation of Israel. He served as a judge, prophet and priest. He was also used by God to anoint King David who would eventually rule over all of Israel.

Hannah was so filled with joy over what God had done in her life that she prayed a beautiful prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. In this prayer we see a wonderful expression of her heart in worship to God. She said that she "rejoices" in the Lord. That just means to be filled with joy. In our relationship with the Lord we should continually be rejoicing because of who He is (1 Thessalonians 5:16). God loves us and He has given us every blessing imaginable. And he has especially blessed us with a relationship with Him through Jesus. We have so much to rejoice in!

Hannah knew that her strength came from the Lord. He is all-powerful and can do anything. Isn't it great to worship a God who can do anything. He is awesome! As we consider how great the Lord is, just thinking about who He is and what He is like, we can worship Him and sing praises to Him just like Hannah. What a great God that we serve! Let's take every opportunity we can to bless the Lord with our praise.

- What did Hannah praise the Lord for?
- What are some things that you can think of that cause you to praise the Lord?
- Think of one of your favorite praise songs and sing together with your family.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Rejoice: To be filled with joy and thanksgiving towards the Lord.

Joyful Shouting!

Text: Psalm 100:4 - "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."

Also read Psalm 100:1-5

The only shouts coming from Timmy this Sunday morning were definitely not shouts of praise unto the Lord. Timmy woke up very tired and grouchy today. He always looked forward to Sundays when he could go to church to learn about Jesus and see his friends. But he got to bed a little later than usual last night and he was just having a bad morning. Then when he went to get his tithe money out of his piggy bank, he found that his little brother had already gotten into it. There were only a few coins left. As he went outside of his room he found coins in different places all over the house. This was when the shouting began. "RYAN!" Timmy shouted, "where's the rest of my money?!"

Ryan was only four years old and had that wonderful ability and timing to be at the wrong place, doing the wrong thing at the wrong time. To him, Timmy's piggy bank only meant a wonderful opportunity to find treasure and then hide it all in different places around the house. Boy, was Timmy angry! Mom heard Timmy shout at Ryan. She came and quickly investigated what had happened. She had both the boys apologize to one another and make up. Then mom began to share with the boys what the attitude of our heart should be as we get ready to go to church and worship the Lord.

Mom read Psalm 100 and shared that the only shouting we should do is not at one another, but rather we should make a "joyful shout" unto the Lord. We get to worship the Lord in song and praise Him for who He is. We should remember to be thankful to Him and praise His name. Timmy asked, "Mom, can we sing a song to the Lord right now?" Mom said, "sure, and we can even shout 'Praise the Lord' instead of shouting at one another." Timmy was having a much better day now, and both the boys picked up the money together.

- When was the last time you had a bad day? What was it like?
- How do you think praising the Lord would help you when you are having a bad day?
- Why is it important for us to praise the Lord?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Shout to the Lord: Joyfully proclaim or praise the Lord.

Praising Jesus

Text: Luke 24:52,53 - "And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen."

Also read Luke 24:49-53

Could you imagine being one of the disciples, standing there on the mountain with Jesus just before He was about to go to heaven? His disciples had spent the last 3 1/2 years with Him. They had learned so much from Him. They saw him do wonderful miracles and proclaim the wonderful news of the kingdom of heaven. Then they had not too long ago seen Him nailed to a cross and die. But then, the greatest miracle of all, He rose again from the dead. He came back to His disciples and encouraged them before he ascended up to heaven.

If you were one of the disciples what do you think you would have done after Jesus left to go to the Father? Would you be sad or happy? We see four things that the disciples did after Jesus left them.

1. They worshiped Him.
2. They had great joy.
3. They were continually in the temple praising Him.
4. They were continually blessing God.

We can learn about worship and praise from the disciples. As they remembered everything that Jesus had done and what He meant in their lives, there was only one thing that they could do; praise Him. Whenever we consider who Jesus is and what He means to us it just makes us want to worship and glorify Him. We get to read in the Bible all about the wonderful things that Jesus has done for us. So the next time you think about how Jesus died on the cross for us and rose again on the third day, just begin to worship and praise Him. He is truly great and worthy to be praised!

- As you learn more and more about Jesus how does that make you want to worship Him more?
- Think of some of the wonderful things about Jesus today and praise Him.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ascension: The return of Jesus to heaven 40 days after He rose from the dead.

Day Five

Rejoicing Again and Again

Text: **Philippians 4:4** - "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"
Also read Philippians 4:4-7

Have you ever thought much about the sun and the stars? Maybe you have studied space in school. One of the interesting things about the sun is that it rises every morning and sets every night. The stars come out every night and leave in the morning. We know that this is happening because the earth is continually spinning and rotating around the sun. Every day the earth will spin around once. This happens every day, month after month and year after year. It is continual. This is how the Bible says that we are to rejoice. We should rejoice always, every day, month after month and year after year.

Sometimes we can't see the sun or the stars because of clouds or storms. But that doesn't mean that they are not still there providing warmth and light. Rejoicing means to be filled with joy and praise for the Lord. As Christians we should always be filled with joy. It is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. But some days it may be easier to see that joy than others may. Maybe some clouds have come to cover up or hide that joy in our hearts.

It might be that something happened to make us sad or we are just having a bad day. Just remember that God gives us His joy through the Holy Spirit. Even when things around us are hard we can still be filled with joy. Paul is a great example. A lot of terrible things happened to Paul (see 2 Corinthians 11:23-28), but he still wrote that we can rejoice in the Lord always. The next time you are having a tough time, just remember to "rejoice in the Lord always!"

- What does it mean to you to rejoice in the Lord always?
- What are some things that you have to be thankful for?
- How can your rejoicing in the Lord encourage someone else?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is a lot that we can praise the Lord for. This week when you pray just take a few moments to praise Him and worship Him. Maybe as a family you would like to sing some praise songs together as you worship Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.”

Third Grade and Above

“And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.”

Luke 1:50