

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: Angels and Shepherds

THEME: God is our salvation.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-20



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 **Angels and Shepherds**. The theme was "**God Is Our Salvation.**" It's exciting to know that we have salvation through Jesus Christ. God's love for us is so great, that He sent His only son to die on a cross for our sins and all we have to do is believe in Him and accept Him as our Savior. By doing this, God promises us an eternal life with Him in His Kingdom. Salvation is Great News!!!

If we try to find salvation on our own path we will lead ourselves into a "dead end." Salvation is not something we can find on our own. The Bible tells us that "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). What is that name? "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 2:8-20**. 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 for your children.

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

Day One

A Gift from God

Text: Ephesians 2:8 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Also read: Titus 3:4-7

When Christmas time comes what do you usually think about? For a lot of children it is a time when we think about gifts. During Christmas most of us will receive some type of gift from a parent, sister, brother, family member, or friend. Christmas morning will come and we will race to open up all of the gifts that have our name on it.

We will learn this week in our devotions that God has a special gift with our names written on it. He has given us the **free** gift of salvation. All the gifts we receive while we are here on earth can not compare to the greatest gift that God has given to us. What is that gift? God sent His only begotten son to this earth for one reason only. Our **salvation** is provided to us through Jesus Christ's death on the cross. All we need to do to receive this gift is to believe in Him and ask Him to forgive our sins. This gift of salvation is the greatest gift we can ever receive. Sure, there are fun gifts we can receive as children, but you know what? We seem to get tired of those gifts in a few months and either give them away or never play with them again.

God has a gift He wants to give to all of the people in this world. Not everyone will receive this gift with open arms. If you haven't received God's eternal gift yet, all you need to do is to pray and ask Jesus into your heart and believe in Him with all your heart and watch how the Holy Spirit changes your life. This is really the true meaning of Christmas. God has a gift for us in Jesus and it is up to us to say, "yes Lord, I receive your wonderful free gift of salvation."

- Have you received God's free gift of salvation by accepting Jesus into your heart?
- Can you think of some friends or family that have not received God's eternal gift? Pray and ask the Lord to change their hearts so they can experience God's love and grace.
- Optional: Read about Zacchaeus meeting the Lord in Luke 19:1-10.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Salvation: God's free gift of eternal life and forgiveness for sin which we receive by believing that Jesus died for us and rose again and asking Him to come into our hearts.

"Shortcuts"

Text: John 3:7 - "Do not marvel that I said to you, ' You must be born again.'"

Also read: Matthew 25:46

Mark and John just graduated from High School and they were getting ready to take a camping trip to the mountains. The trip was a present from their parents for all the hard work they went through to complete High School. Mark's father, Mr. Johnson, has camped many times in the location that Mark and John were heading to. Mr. Johnson had given specific directions to Mark so he could locate the camp. He reminded Mark to stay on the roads that were labeled and not to take any shortcuts.

As Mark approached the city of Dunston he noticed the road his father told him to take. Mark also noticed the road that traveled across the bridge which would get him to the campsite nearly 15 minutes earlier. Which road should he take? The one his father knew was safe for him or the one that was unfamiliar to him? Mark decided to take the shortcut. As their vehicle drove onto the bridge they heard the sound of boards breaking beneath their car. The car broke through the boards and fell about 4 feet and landed in a dry riverbed. Fortunately there was no one hurt. If they would have only listened to Mark's father none of this would have happened.

The path we walk, as Christians, is a straight and narrow path. God gives us the directions to stay on the path. All we need to do is to listen to Him through His word and then speak to Him through prayer. If we try to do things apart from Him we will end up in tragedy. We need to know that there is only one way to get to heaven and that is through Jesus Christ. He is the path we need to stay on. NO SHORTCUTS! We must listen to our Father and stay on the road He gives us directions for.

- Have you ever taken a shortcut and ended up in trouble or getting someone else in trouble?
- What are some ways we can stay on God's path to righteousness?
- When do you find time to listen to God for instructions?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Will: My ability to choose or decide
God's will: God's desire for my life, which I can choose to do.

A Serpent of Bronze

Text: John 3:14,15 - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life".

Also read: Numbers 21:1-9

In Numbers 21:1-9 we read about how God granted Israel victory over the Canaanites, whom they totally destroyed. But the people complained against God and Moses because they lacked water and had grown tired of eating manna, which God supplied each day. God judged the sin of the people by sending poisonous serpents, which began to bite and kill the complainers. The people admitted their sin to Moses and asked him to pray to God to remove the serpents. Moses prayed to God for the people, and God heard their prayer. God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. Moses placed the serpent on the pole and lifted it high for the people to see, providing a way for them to live.

That serpent of bronze placed on a pole was a picture of what God would do years later in providing the only way for our sins to be forgiven. The snakes that bit the people are a picture of sin and how it poisons our life and causes death. Jesus explained that just as the Israelites were healed of their sickness by looking at the snake on the pole, we can be saved today from the sickness of sin by looking to Jesus' death on the cross.

It is sad that the serpent, the Devil, has bitten this world. There is so much that is bad in this world because of the serpent and sin. But God made a way of victory over the serpent and over sin. It is through the cross of Jesus Christ. All we need to do is to look upon the cross of Christ and receive His forgiveness. Then the poison of sin in our lives will be removed and we can have eternal life. We need to look to the cross and be thankful for God's wonderful gift of grace.

- How are we saved today by looking to what Jesus did for us on the cross?
- Do you ever complain about things when they aren't the way you like them?
- Have you confessed your sins to Him and trusted in Him for eternal life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faith: Believing what God says about Himself and about what He will

Sin: Less than perfect.

Are You Thirsty?

Text: John 4:4 - "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Also read: John 4:1-26

The Johnson boys were outside playing basketball. The temperature outside was a scorching 105 degrees. After playing about 4 hours of basketball the boys came inside to get a drink of water. Mr. Johnson was standing in the kitchen when the boys came in. The two boys started drinking water. And they drank, and drank, and drank, but they couldn't seem to quench their thirst. "Boy dad, This water is good but I just can't seem to get enough of it", said Tommy Johnson, the littlest of the Johnson boys.

Mr. Johnson remembered the story from the Bible about the Samaritan Woman who Jesus met at the well. Jesus told the woman about "living water." Mr. Johnson read this story to his children and then they talked about having "living water". "Wow dad", exclaimed Tommy Johnson, "All I have to do is take one drink from Jesus and I won't have to drink anymore water". "Well, sort of", said dad. "What Jesus is telling us is that He is the "living water" that provides everlasting life and He is the only one who could provide this. Whoever drinks of this water will be satisfied forever".

When you're thirsty, nothing tastes better than a huge glass of cool water! But we know that the water can satisfy our thirst for only a while. Then we need to have another drink. But Jesus said He could give you a drink of water that would last forever! It would quench the thirst that we have inside of us. He wasn't talking about water that comes out a faucet. Jesus was talking about a special kind of water we can't see...the water of everlasting life.

- Have you received a drink of the "living water"?
- Do you have relatives or friends who are in need of "living water"?
- Take time to pray today for those who need to drink from "living water" that flows from Jesus Christ.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



"Living Water" - Everlasting life

Day Five

The Reason for the Season!

Text: Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Also read: Matthew 1:18-2:23

This week in our devotions we have learned about God's wonderful gift that He provided for us. Jesus Christ was born in a manger and brought into this world to save us from sin. When the holiday season is here, millions of people go to the stores searching for gifts to give to family members and friends. So many people won't take the time to think about the true meaning of Christmas. The world has, for the most part, forgotten what this holiday is supposed to be about. As Christians, we need to show those who have forgotten the love that God has sent.

Why are the details of Jesus' birth so important? The details of Jesus' birth show that God kept His promises about the coming of the Messiah. In recording Jesus' birth, Matthew explained: *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet (Matthew 1:22).* It tells us that the Bible is true!

Look up the following prophecies in the Old Testament; then match each with the detail it foretold about Christ's birth.

The Old Testament.....

Isaiah 7:14

Micah 5:2

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 22:15-18

2 Samuel 7: 12-16

Isaiah 9:6

Foretold these details:

His birthplace

His Name

Member of Abraham's family

Member of David's family

God Himself

Offspring of the woman

- Can you think of another prophecy that hasn't happened yet?
- During the holiday season this year plan a family project that will help you remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Kid's Prayer Time



Pray that the Lord will remain on your heart this season. Show others the true meaning and live your life according to God's word. Salvation through Jesus Christ is the reason for this season.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"For there is born to you
this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord."

Third Grade and Above

"For there is born to you
this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11