

# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: The Wise Men**

**THEME: The just will live by faith.**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12**

# 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 Wise Men** who came to visit Jesus shortly after He was born. They believed in God's word and followed a sign that He gave in the heavens to indicate where they should go to worship the newborn King. They **walked by faith** in God and we too can walk by faith when we trust in the Lord!!!

Sometimes walking by faith means that we have to step out into areas that may not always be comfortable. The wise men went to an entirely different country in order to do what God had called them to do. They didn't look at the situation, but just continued to look towards the Lord.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 2:1-12**. 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!

# Can You See the Sunshine?

**Text: John 1:18** - "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the father, He has declared him."

**Also read Exodus 33:17-23**

Joel was excited to go on his first airplane trip. He was going to get to fly with his mom and dad to visit his grandparents. He had looked forward to this trip for several weeks and now the day had finally come. There was only one problem. It was foggy outside. Joel had looked forward to a nice, bright day with the sun shining. He had a window seat reserved on the airplane and didn't want to miss a thing.

Dad knew that Joel was a little bit disappointed. Joel asked his Dad why the sun went away? His dad explained that the sun did not really go away at all, you just can't see it right now. He told Joel that once they got to a certain height in the airplane that they would be above the fog and then he would see the sun again. Also, they would be flying for a long time so they will probably get to see some areas that don't have any fog at all.

"That's kind of like what my Sunday School teacher told us a couple of weeks ago," Joel said. "He said when we walk by faith (believing in Jesus) that we don't see God with our eyes, but we know He is there. He said that when it is cloudy it doesn't mean that the sun is gone, it only means that we can't see it." "That's right," Dad said, "right now we can't see God with our eyes, but one day we will get to see Him when we are in heaven. By faith we know that God loves us and is always there for us." "Thanks Dad," Joel said, "I know this will be a great airplane trip!"

We don't get to see God with our eyes right now, but we know that He is there. There are so many ways that He shows us that He is with us all of the time. But while we are living here and now we have to put all of our trust in the Lord.

- What does walking by faith mean to you?
- What did Joel learn about faith?
- What ways can you trust in the Lord more?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Walking by faith:** Trusting in the Lord as we live our lives for Him. Not doing things by what we "see," but by what we know to be true about God in His Word.

Day Two

# The Heavens Declare God's Glory

**Text:** Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

**Also read Psalm 19:1-6**

When the Wise Men came to visit Jesus the Bible says that there was a star in heaven that directed them to where Jesus was. These men had to walk by faith and believe God. They were probably familiar with the Bible verses that told about the One who would be sent by God to take away the sins of the world. God used that star to lead them to Jesus, the Savior of the entire world, offering eternal life to all who believe in Him. The wise men were not from Israel. They were from other lands, yet God drew them to His son Jesus through a star in the heavens. They had to first believe in God, then obey Him and then go to find the One that the star was pointing them to; Jesus.

Before we can walk by faith we have to have a relationship with Jesus. Jesus helps us to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to Him. God is still using the heavens today to declare His love to a world that is lost and dying in sin. Whenever any of us in the world looks at the awesome beauty of God's creation we can only be led to believe that there is a Creator. This couldn't have "just happened." Like a beautiful work of art there has to be an artist behind it.

It says in our reading that day and night the heavens speak to the whole world about the glory of God. It also says that there isn't any language barrier. All over the world, every nation and people can hear the voice of God being spoken in the wonder and beauty of His creation. Then as we listen He leads us to His Son, Jesus, just like He did with the Wise Men about 2,000 years ago. Then having come into contact with Jesus we can worship Him and understand who God is by having a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus.

- How did the Wise Men know to go to Bethlehem?
- Have you come to Jesus to worship Him like the Wise Men did? You can have a relationship with Him simply by realizing that you have done things wrong (sinned), ask Him to forgive you for sinning and then believing that He died, was buried and rose again on the third day for the forgiveness of your sins. Then, by trusting in Him with all of your heart, you now can enter into a wonderful relationship with God.

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Magi:** Another name for the Wise Men who came to visit Jesus.  
**Firmament:** Another word for sky.

Day Three

# I Can't Trust My Chariot

**Text:** Psalm 20:7 - "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

**Also read Psalm 20**

Sometimes life can be kind of hard. Bad things might happen in our lives that we really don't understand. It is times like these that it becomes very hard to walk by faith. We want to continue trusting in the Lord, but sometimes we want to try to deal with the problem in our own strength. It is during these times that we sometimes take our eyes off of the Lord, the most important part of walking by faith. One time king David got into trouble doing this. David was a very good king who loved the Lord very much, but he also made a few mistakes. One time he took his eyes off of the Lord and started to look at his own strength.

God had been very clear to the kings in Israel that they needed to trust in the Lord. They were never to try to build up their army (multiply horses). One time, David wanted to know how strong his army was so he gave orders to the commander of his army, Joab, to go out and count every man in the army. Joab went out and did what David asked him to do and this greatly displeased the Lord. In fact the Lord ended up judging David and the nation of Israel (2 Samuel 24). The problem was that this showed that David was trusting in his great army instead of trusting in the Lord.

Sometimes we try to trust in our own power and strength. But God wants to get all of the glory in our lives. In fact, the Bible teaches that when we are weak, He is made strong. God can be glorified in our lives whenever we are going through a tough situation and we trust in Him. When we walk by faith we don't get any of the glory, it is completely what He is doing in us and through us. So we shouldn't count how many chariots we have in order to fight the enemy. We should just look at how strong our God is and trust in Him to fight all of our battles for us.

- Think about a time that was difficult for you. Did you find it hard to trust in the Lord?
- How did the Lord help you in that situation?
- Why was counting his army a problem for king David?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Chariot:** A two-wheeled carriage pulled by one or more horses.

Day Four

# Walking On Water

**Text: Matthew 14:30** - "But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!'"

**Also read Matthew 14:22-33**

Have you ever daydreamed or thought about what life would be like if you never had to go to school. You might think that would be wonderful. If only you could be born with all of the knowledge of math, English and science so that you wouldn't have to go through the process of learning it all in school. Whenever we believe in Jesus we sometimes wish the same thing. We wish that we could know everything that we need to know RIGHT NOW in order to live for Jesus the way that He wants us to. But, like school, we have to go through a process of learning how to live by faith. Sometimes we may make mistakes along the way. But God is always there to pick us back up as we learn.

There were a lot of wonderful things about the Apostle Peter. He was always willing to take a risk and step out when he felt that the Lord wanted him to. Whenever Jesus told him to come out onto the stormy sea he jumped out of the boat and began to walk on water. It would take a lot of faith just to do that. Sometimes the Lord may want us to do something for Him that requires us to have faith (believe) in Him. If we never get out of the boat we may never see what He has for us.

As Peter walked on the water he learned a valuable lesson in walking by faith. He learned that he should never take his eyes off of Jesus and look at all of the problems around him. Whenever he began to look at the wind and the waves he became afraid and began to sink. He cried out to Jesus and immediately Jesus rescued him. Peter probably wished he never had to go through this scary experience, but it would forever teach him about walking by faith. The Lord wants to teach us how to live and walk by faith. Just remember, like Peter learned, to never take your eyes off of Jesus. As for school, sorry the daydream is over, you'll have finish learning those lessons as well!

- What does the story of Peter walking on the water to Jesus teach you about faith?
- Can you think of any ways that the Lord has taught you or your family how to walk by faith?

## Kid's Bible Activity



On a piece of paper draw a line down the middle. On one side draw a picture of Peter walking on the water towards Jesus and on the other side draw a picture of how the Lord has taught you to walk by faith.

Day Five

# Time For the Big Test!

**Text: James 1:3** - "...knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

**Also read James 1:2-4**

Katie was getting a little nervous about the big test coming up at school. She had studied all week long and felt like she was ready, but still didn't want to take the test. This was a test in a subject that she really didn't like so that even made it harder. The night before she prayed with her mom that the Lord would help her with her test the next day. Mom encouraged Katie to just relax and do the best that she can do. She reminded Katie that all that a test does is to help us to know how well we are doing in a particular subject and where we might need improvement.

"Even God will allow us to be tested sometimes," Mom continued. "Really?" Katie responded. "In James we read that we will fall into all kinds of trials in life. These are things that God allows to happen in order to teach us things. He also says that our faith will sometimes be tested. The reason why God gives us a 'faith test' is so that we can learn how to be patient."

"Like when the boys pick on me at school?" Katie said. "Is that a trial?" "That's a good example," Mom said. "That helps you to learn how to be more patient and as you get more patient you will become more like Jesus. You will start to grow up in the Lord. When our faith is tested we can find out how well we are doing in becoming more like Jesus and how we might be able to improve. Just like your test tomorrow." "Thanks Mom," Katie said, "I feel a lot better now."

- Tell about a time when you had a "big test." Were you nervous?
- What does James say that God's "faith test" will produce in our lives?
- How will you respond the next time that a trial (tough time) comes into your life?

## Kid's Prayer Time



We learned a lot about living by faith this week. Pray and ask the Lord to help you to learn how to walk by faith. To continue to grow in Him and become more and more like Jesus every day. God bless you as you continue to "grow up" in Him.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“And when they saw  
the star, they rejoiced  
exceedingly with great  
joy.”

Matthew 2:10

Third Grade and Above

“And when they saw  
the star, they rejoiced  
exceedingly with great  
joy.”