

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: John the Baptist

THEME: The goodness of God leads us to repentance.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 3:1-22



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 **John the Baptist**. We learned about how that he had a very special ministry. He was to come to announce the arrival of Messiah, our Lord and Savior - JESUS! John the Baptist is a very interesting man. We can learn a lot from his life and his service to the Lord.

His greatest message as he prepared people for Jesus' coming was that they needed to repent. That just means that they needed to do some turning. They needed to turn from their sin and turn towards God. When we come to Jesus today **we also need to repent**, or turn away from our sin and self-centeredness and turn towards Jesus and receive Him into our lives. We will be learning more about these things this week in our devotions.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 3:1-22**. 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!

Locusts and Wild Honey

Text: Matthew 3:4 - "And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey."

Also read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

John the Baptist lived out in the wilderness all by himself. He didn't hang around big cities or places where he would be noticed a lot. He liked to wear camel's hair outfits with a leather belt. This was actually kind of the common dress for Hebrew prophets (sounds kind of itchy though!). He also ate locusts and wild honey! Could you imagine having locusts and wild honey for dinner? Yuck! (At least the locust part.)

Whenever most people would see John the Baptist they would probably think that he was a pretty strange guy. He didn't quite fit into what everyone may have thought of whenever they thought of a "man of God." They may have thought of the Pharisees with all of their long robes and expensive things. But just as Jesus was born into a lowly manger, a pretty common, if not strange in some ways, man - John the Baptist, announced that His ministry was about to begin.

In our reading in 1 Corinthians we learn that God uses in great ways those things and people that may seem strange to the world. John was used greatly by God to bring in the time and ministry of Jesus. Remember that God is always looking at our hearts, not our outward appearance. He is looking for people and children who are willing to serve Him, no matter how strange the world may think that we are. God wants us to serve Him with all of the gifts that He has blessed us with. So don't worry about what the world thinks, just be faithful to serve the Lord. But you will probably want to think twice about ordering the "Locusts and Wild Honey" Kid's Meal the next time you are at the drive through window at your favorite fast food restaurant.

- Describe what John the Baptist was like.
- Do you think they had chocolate covered locusts back in John the Baptist's time?
- What would you do if someone thought you were strange because you followed Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Locusts: A type of insect, similar to a grasshopper, that is common in the Middle East. In Bible times, they were eaten because they were good source of protein.

Wilderness: Where John the Baptist lived. Away from the city, out in the country or desert regions.

Abraham is My Dad!

Text: Luke 3:8 - "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as *our* father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

Also read John 8:39,40

"Why didn't the Israelites want to believe in Jesus?" asked Joel. "Well," Mom replied, "some of them did believe in Jesus, but most of them didn't because of their pride. Many of them believed that they were already saved and going to heaven because they were in Abraham's family. They could trace their family tree all of the way back to Abraham, and because Abraham had a special relationship with God, they felt that they were OK with God. What they didn't understand is that God wanted to have a relationship with each one of them, individually. And how God provided a way for them to have a relationship with Him was by sending His Son, Jesus to die on the cross for everyone's sins."

"Let me give you an example," Mom continued, "think about Grandpa John. Remember how that he was a missionary for many years and always served the Lord and loved Him greatly?" "Yeah," Joel replied, "he had a pretty exciting life on the mission field!" "That's right!" Mom said, "but what if you said that you didn't need Jesus because Grandpa John did a lot of neat stuff for the Lord and since you are related to Grandpa John, you don't have to ask Jesus to come into your heart? That is really what the Israelites did with Jesus. They thought that being children of Abraham was all that was needed to be right with God."

"I'm glad that I get to have my own relationship with the Lord," Joel said. "That's really the most important thing," replied Mom, "It's a privilege to come to Jesus." Do you have a relationship with Jesus?

- What was so important about being a child of Abraham?
- Are you a Christian just because you are born into a Christian family?
- How can we have a relationship with Jesus? (see John 3:16)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Child of Abraham: Someone who is related to Abraham.

Child of God: Someone who has been born into God's family by believing in Jesus.

Day Three

Making a U-turn

Text: Romans 2:4 - "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"

Also read Ephesians 2:4-7

"OK," dad said, "I think that it may be time to get out the map now and look at the directions." The Johnson family was heading to the coast for a vacation. Dad thought that he had remembered where the motel was, but now he wasn't so sure. As Mom looked at the map she noticed that they had missed their turn off about 5 miles back. "Well, I guess my memory just isn't quite what it used to be," dad said. So they went on to the next exit and made a U-turn to start going the right direction. They finally found the right turn off and found the motel just fine. It turned out to be a very nice vacation.

Whenever you think of the word "repentance" what do you think of? One way of helping you to think of "repentance" is to think about making a U-turn. Like in the story above, dad was going in the wrong direction. That is like sin in all of our lives. Before we come to know Jesus our lives are going in the wrong direction. We will just keep on going in that direction and never get to the place we need to be as long as we continue on that same road. We have to get out a road map, which will tell us what direction that we need to take. The road map is like the Bible, God's word, which shows us the direction for our lives.

Next, in our story, dad had to make a U-turn. He had to turn his car around and begin to go in the right direction. When we understand through God's word that we are going in the wrong direction and that we need to turn around our lives and serve the Lord, we can pray and ask Jesus to help us. He will then forgive us of our sin and turn our lives around and help us to begin to go in the right direction. This is what repentance is all about.

- Have you or your family ever been lost somewhere? What did you do?
- What does the Bible say about the direction we are going WITHOUT Jesus?
- How can we make a U-turn and start going in the right direction?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Repentance: The act of turning away from sin and turning to God.

The Forerunner

Text: Luke 3:16 - "John answered, saying to *them* all, 'I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'"

Also read John 1:6-11

Sometimes you may hear that John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus. What does this mean? John the Baptist was chosen by the Lord to go before Jesus and preach about repentance (people changing their direction - see Day Three). He was preparing the way for people to receive Jesus as their savior. In John 1:6-11 the Bible talks about what John did as the forerunner of Jesus. It says that he came as a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all through Him might believe. John was to tell the world about the Light of the world who was about to be made known to everyone.

We learn some very interesting things about Jesus in verses 9 - 13 of John 1. First of all it says that Jesus is the TRUE Light. Many others may say they are the light, but Jesus is the only one who is really the Light of the world. The Bible also says that Jesus GIVES light to every person. Anyone can know God and have a relationship with Him through Jesus. No one is left out. Now, that is good news!

Then we see that even though He came to give us light, the world didn't want to KNOW Him. Unfortunately, most of the world rejects Jesus and the light that he wants to give to us. Then, what is even worse, His own people, Israel, didn't receive Him when He came. But what a great promise we have in verses 12 and 13. As many as would RECEIVE Him, they got to become children of God. That includes us when we receive Him! Have you received the Light of the World?

- What is a forerunner?
- In John 1:9 we learn that Jesus is the true _____.
- According to John 1:12, who gets to be children of God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Forerunner: Someone who goes before another, usually to announce their coming.

Light of the World: Another name for Jesus.

Bearing Worthy Fruit

Text: Luke 3:8 - "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,"

Also read Luke 3:10-14

This week we have talked a lot about repentance. Do you remember what repentance is? If you need help you can look back to Day Three. For today we are going to give you two situations and you will get to decide which situation best describes what true repentance is. Are you ready? Let's go!

SITUATION ONE: Jared is playing with a toy and his little brother comes up and takes the toy out of his hands. Jared gets very upset and goes over and takes the toy back out of his brother's hand. He then pushes his brother down, which makes him cry. He then realizes that what he has done is wrong and asks his brother to forgive him for getting mad and pushing him down. An hour later his brother comes and takes another toy right out of his hands. This time Jared asks nicely for the toy back and his brother gives it back.

SITUATION TWO: Molly was in her class in school. She began to write funny notes to her friend Megan. Megan began to giggle at the notes and the teacher noticed that something was going on. She asked Megan and Molly what was going on and Molly admitted to writing a note. She told the teacher that she was sorry for doing that. Later in the day, Molly wrote another note and gave it to Megan to try to get her to laugh.

Which situation demonstrates "true" repentance? Did Jared really repent or did Molly? The Bible says that when we say we are sorry for something and really repent then we will begin to act differently. There will be "fruit" or proof of our repentance. So whenever we need to ask for forgiveness, or repent next time, let's remember that it also means that we will change how we are acting.

- What is repentance? (See Day Three if you need to)
- Have you ever had someone tell you sorry when they really didn't mean it?
- Which is more important to God, what we say that we will do or what we really do?

Kid's Prayer Time



As you pray this week, thank the Lord for His word and getting to learn about John the Baptist. Ask Him to help you to put into practice everything that you have learned. Have a great week!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

Third Grade and Above

“And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.”

Luke 3:3