

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: Parable of Wheat & Tares

THEME: Not everyone who says he is a Christian is really a Christian.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



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 Parable of the Wheat and Tares**. Jesus taught us when He was here that **not everyone who says that they are a Christian may really be a Christian**. There are false prophets and others who may try to make us think that they are real, but instead they really don't believe in Jesus.

Wheat is good and can be used for food. The tares are weeds or thorns that come along side of the wheat and rob it of water and minerals in the soil. We should be careful of those who would try to make us think they are Christians, but really are trying to lead us away from Him. This week we will learn that we don't have to be afraid and that the Lord has given us ways to tell what is true and what is false. Have fun studying God's word...

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**. 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!

Be Careful!

Text: 2 Corinthians 11:13 - "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ."

Also read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Jackie and Sarah were friends at school but they didn't know each other very well. Both girls went to churches in town but they didn't go the same church. One day Sarah invited Jackie to her church. Jackie asked her mom and dad if she could go with Sarah. They asked if she knew what the church taught and she said that she wasn't sure. "I always thought that every church was the same, as long as they believe in Jesus," Jackie said. "Well," dad replied, "Not every church is the same. Some may say that they believe in Jesus, but they believe different things. Some churches teach that Jesus really isn't God. They teach that He was just a man. We know that the Bible doesn't teach that. Other groups teach that we can become gods."

"Wow", Jackie said amazed, "I never realized that some churches believed those things. How can we know which group is right?" "The Lord gave us some ways to know what is true and what is false," dad said. "He gave us the Holy Spirit to lead us and show us what is true. He also gave us the Bible to know what is true. If anyone ever tells us anything and it doesn't sound right, we can just see if it true in the Bible. Sarah's church may be just fine, but it is probably a good idea to be careful and ask her about it." "I'll do that dad", Jackie replied.

The Apostle Paul wrote much of the Bible's New Testament. He often warned the young churches he helped start of the danger of false brethren and teachings. There are false apostles and people that don't believe what the Bible teaches. We should be careful and always test everything with the Bible.

- Have you ever heard someone say something that wasn't quite true about Jesus?
- What can you do that might help keep you from being taught false things?
- Do you read the Bible daily, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



False: Something that is not right, it is wrong or fake.

Apostle: Someone sent out for a special purpose.

False Apostle: Someone who is not really who they say they are. They twist the truth of God's word for their own gain.

Simply Saved!

Text: Galatians 1:6,7 - "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ."

Also read Galatians 1:1-9

Could you imagine going to church and hearing someone begin to teach that if you want to go to heaven you have to believe in Jesus, get baptized, keep all of the Ten Commandments for the rest of your life, and sing the Hokey Pokey at least ten times. If you have been coming to children's church for a while then you know that this is not the truth. You might even think that it was pretty strange. You know that we are saved only by believing in Jesus. We do not need anything else.

Galatia was a region—an area including several cities. There were some people who were Jews who began to come into the church and teach that if they really wanted to be saved, they had to believe in Jesus and keep all of the laws and traditions of the Jews. They began to add onto what was needed to be saved. This made the Apostle Paul very sad; so he wrote them this letter to help them to understand that they were wrong.

The true gospel message is simple, but it is hard for some people to accept it. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." That's it, nothing more. Sometimes people try to "work" their way to God. They might feel that if they do certain good things they will get to heaven. But Paul reminds them and us in Galatians that salvation is completely a gift from God. There is nothing we can do to get it except to believe in Jesus.

- How do you know if you are saved?
- Does God teach us that we have to work hard for salvation?
- Do you have to other things besides believe in Jesus to be saved?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Different gospel: Anything other than the "true" gospel (good news) presented in the Bible.

Am I a Tare?

Text: Matthew 13:30 - "Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn'"

Also read Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43

Jesse and Jerry were best friends who did everything together. They had been in the same class in school since first grade. They rode the same kind of bike. They had the same favorite color, and they both hated studying math in school. They also went to the same church. The older the two friends became the more they knew about each other. They were just like brothers. When Jerry and Jesse were ten, Jerry invited Jesse to his grandpa's house for a camp out. Jerry's grandpa lived in the woods and the boys went for a walk. Jesse was very surprised when Jerry started cursing when he slipped on a rock. Jerry laughed at Jesse and told him to quit being a baby. Jesse told Jerry that kind of language did not make God happy. It was the first time Jesse ever heard his friend talk like that.

"Don't you want God to be pleased with you?" Jesse asked his friend. Jerry told Jesse he always talked that way when he was up in the woods. He said his dad did too. This really bothered Jesse. He never acted like this in church or at home. Jesse didn't understand. But he loved his friend and wanted to help him to understand that when Jesus lives inside of us we will want to act differently.

"Did you know that the Holy Spirit lives inside of you?" Jesse asked Jerry. "He can hear everything that we say, and even knows what we are thinking. When we believe in Jesus we become a brand new person; we will be different from the world." "I guess I had better think about my relationship with Jesus," Jerry said. "I want to make sure that it is real. I'm sorry if I upset you." "That's OK", Jesse said. "Let's pray together. There are wheat and tares, but it is never too late for a tare to become wheat through the love and help of Jesus.

- Do you think everyone who goes to church is saved?
- If you had a friend like Jerry what would you do?
- Do you glorify God in all that you do?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Tare: A weed, grows along side wheat but is not good for anything.

Real or Fake?

Text: 1 John 4:1 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Also read 1 John 4:1-6

Have you ever looked at a real diamond and a fake diamond side by side? They make and sell fake diamonds that don't cost nearly as much as regular diamonds. Sometimes people who want a diamond but can't afford it will buy a fake one and wear it. It is very hard to tell it apart from the real thing. One is real and one is glass. They are both clear. They both shine. They both sparkle in the light. How can you know the difference?

There is a test. Only real diamonds can cut glass. Fake diamonds cannot cut glass. Fake diamonds may look real, but if someone was to be buying a real diamond they would want to make sure that it was real.

The Bible says that many false prophets have gone out into the world. How can we know what is true? How can we tell the real from the fake? The Lord has given us a way to "test the spirits." In our reading today we see that one way we can tell what is true from what is fake is by listening to what they say. If anyone does not believe or say that Jesus is God who has come in the flesh, then they are not of God. We will know that they are false and we should stay away from them.

If we believe in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit inside us to help us know the truth from lies. We can also read the Bible to see if it says something different. The Bible helps us to know what is true and what is fake. We should read and study the Bible as much as we can, so we will be protected from false prophets.

- Have you ever seen a real diamond next to a fake one? Could you tell which was real?
- How can you tell the difference between real and fake diamonds?
- How do we test the spirits to know if they are real or not?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



False Prophet: Someone who teaches the wrong thing but wants you to think they are teaching the truth.

Day Five

Greater is He in Me!

Text: 1 John 4:4 - "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Also read 1 John 4:1-6

Who are false prophets and where do they come from? Well they are people who teach the wrong things about God. They may write books, teach people or even start new churches that don't believe or teach the Bible. Sometimes they say that their books are just as important as or even more important than the Bible. The Bible tells us that we need to be very careful of these false prophets.

Satan is the one who wants to cause everyone to be confused. He sends out these false prophets so that people will get confused and not know what the truth is. If he can keep as many people away as possible from the truth then he is happy. It sounds kind of scary to think that Satan wants to keep us away from the truth. Well, you don't have to be scared at all. Read 1 John 4:4 again.

What a wonderful promise we have. Greater is He who is in us! That means Jesus. Jesus is in us and He has already won the battle against Satan. Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. Satan is powerless over us. He may try to use people to lead others away from Jesus and the truth; but if Jesus lives inside of us, He will protect us and keep us. So, do not let any of these things scare you. When you read your Bible, pray, and ask Jesus to help you to understand His truth, He promises that He will lead us into what is true!

- Who are false prophets?
- Where do they come from?
- What is the Bible's promise to us that we learn in today's reading?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray, you can ask the Lord to help you to be able to tell the difference between what is real and what is fake. Remember, you don't have to be afraid because, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun..."

Third Grade and Above

"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matthew 13:43