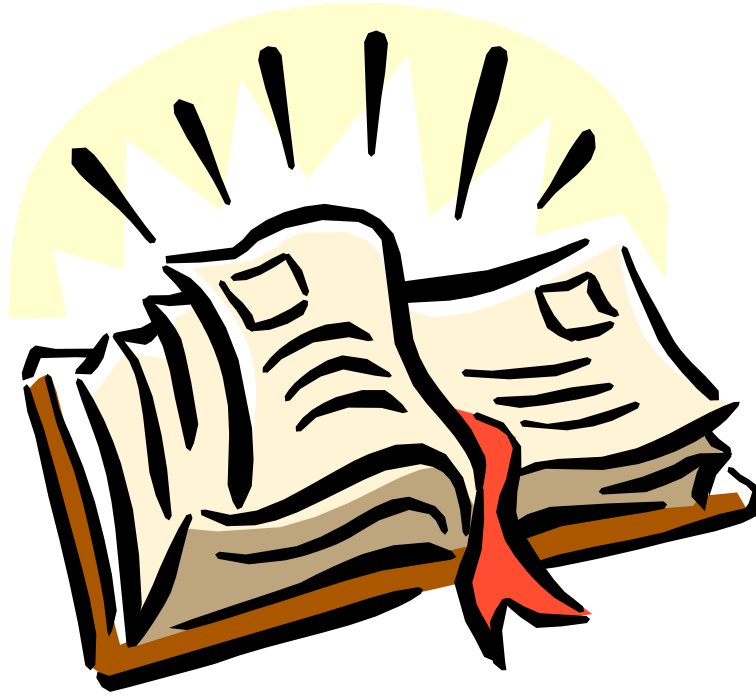


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Pool at Bethesda

THEME: Jesus brings healing and hope to a dying world.

SCRIPTURE: John 5:1-15

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 Pool at Bethesda**. The theme was "**Jesus brings healing & hope to a dying world.**" It's exciting to know that God has a lot of grace and mercy on us. Not only can he heal our diseases but he provides us eternal life through his son Jesus Christ. Great News!!!

In our devotions this week we will learn of a man who needs healing and hope in his life. In many ways we are like him because of our desperate need for healing within our heart from sin.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 5:1-15**. 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!

Day One

Our Spiritual Need

Text: Galatians 5:25 - "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Also read Ephesians 2:4-6

It is 6:00 in the morning and, "BEEP!" the alarm goes off. John wakes up so he can start out his day with a run around his neighborhood. Before he starts running he does 50 push-ups and 100 sit-ups. John also drinks his Vita-pro, Muscle-max, and Carbo-boost drinks. They don't taste that great, but they sure do help build the body! During John's lunch break at school he goes to the weight room and lifts weights. John also goes to the tanning salon after school each day and then once a week off to the hair salon for a fresh cut. John is very concerned about how he looks and what others think about him.

John tells everyone that he is a Christian. But he has not been to church in a long time. You see, on Sundays he likes to ride his mountain bike with his friend Jake. It's also been a long time since John has spent any time in God's word or prayer. John's spiritual need has been neglected because of his desire to "look" good. John needs God to do a work in his heart to help him get his priorities straight. He needs the sin of "self" to be removed from his heart.

This week we will learn about a lame man who needed healing and hope in his life. He had a physical need and knew that he needed Jesus. Sometimes we have physical needs, but like John in our story we also can have spiritual needs. We don't always see those in our lives. Just like Jesus helped the man with his physical need, Jesus wants to help us with our spiritual needs. We need to go to Him with all of our needs and see what He will do. This week as you learn more about this story remember that you can always go to Jesus and bring any problems you have to Him for help.

- What ways can we change from the inside out?
- Does everyone need Jesus?
- What are some spiritual needs that you have?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



J esus
O verflowing in
Y ou!

Hoping For a Cure

Text: Acts 22:16 - "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Also read John 5:2-4

Can you imagine being sick all of your life and the only hope you have to be healed is to wait by a pool for a moment when an angel will stir the water. John 5:4 tells us that there were sick people waiting by a pool for an angel to descend and stir up the water. We don't know for sure if this really happened, or was just a superstition the people had. They believed that when the water was stirred up, the first person to step into the pool would be healed of their sickness. These sick people would wait day after day hoping for the angel to descend so they could be healed.

When a person is sick without a cure, they will do almost anything to find hope and healing. There are many people who travel thousands of miles and spend thousands of dollars to find that healing. Unfortunately, the only hope that the lame man in our Bible reading had was that "maybe" someday that angel would come and stir the water, and he would be the first one in the pool. He went from being almost hopeless to being healed.

Without Jesus we are just as hopeless. Our sinful condition is like a sickness because sin separates us from God. Therefore if you are living a sinful life you are separated from God. First, Jesus must remove the sin from our heart. God loves us so much he sent His son to die on a cross to take the place for our sins (John 3:16). We must acknowledge Jesus as our savior and ask for forgiveness of our sins. Believe in Him and you can have a new start and a new life. He is the answer for curing our hearts; there is no other way.

- Have you ever asked Jesus to come into your life?
- What do you think it was like for the man waiting by the pool?
- What happened when the man in the story met Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Superstition:	trusting in chance or something thought to be magic.
Separate:	to keep apart.
Cure:	to make better.

Day Three

Do You Want To Be Made Well?

Text: John 5:6 - "When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?'"

Also read Numbers 21:4-9

Tony was a man who had lived with pain for over 20 years. He was thrown off a horse while riding it when he was only 16 years old. At the time he had the accident he didn't want to go to the doctor or seek any help. He thought going to the doctor might make him look weak to his friends. He was always a "tough guy". Now Tony is 37 years old and is suffering from the kinds of aches and pains that someone much older than him might have. Tony is now paying the price for not seeking any help earlier.

If Tony had only sought medical attention when the accident occurred, he probably would not have to live with the pain that he has now. Just think, a little therapy and help from the doctor and the pain would have been much less. But, Tony was afraid of his friend's opinion. Because he made a bad choice by not going to the doctor, he now suffers from pain.

Jesus never forces us to come to Him. He simply asks us in gentleness and love if we want to be made well. All of us are sinners and Jesus paid the price so that we can be made well. We can be born again and walk with the Lord for the rest of our lives. But He never forces Himself upon us. He will not make us get saved. We might be afraid of what others may think of us if we get saved, like Tony who was afraid his friends would laugh at Him if he went to the doctor; but if we will only accept Jesus and receive His forgiveness, we will keep ourselves from having a lot of pain later in our lives. What a blessing it is to find Jesus at a young age and commit your entire life to Him! When Jesus asks you if you would like to be made well, say YES! YES! YES!

- Why did Tony suffer?
- Did he have to suffer?
- Has Jesus asked you "Do you want to be made well?" How did you answer?

Kid's Bible Activity



Make a list of family and/or friends who don't know Jesus. Set aside time today to pray for them, that they would say "yes" to Jesus.

He Picked Up His Mat and Walked!

Text: 1 John 5:3 - "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And His commands are not burdensome."

Also read John 5:8-9a

"Don't Move! And don't say anything! I will be right back." Jarrod froze as his father ran back to the campsite to retrieve his gun. All he could hear was a strange rattling noise. Jarrod listened and obeyed. When Jarrod's father returned he took aim and shot the diamondback rattlesnake that was coiled and ready to strike. The poisonous snake was about to bite Jarrod on his leg. He didn't see the snake that was within inches from striking his body. Jarrod was so shaken that he started to cry. Jarrod's father wrapped his arms around him and said, "I am so thankful you obeyed me Jarrod!" Instant obedience had saved Jarrod's life!

Maybe you have or you know someone who has been in a life-threatening situation. How important it is to obey those who know how to help! From the time you have been born you have been learning the importance of obeying those in authority over you, like your mom, dad and Jesus. The paralyzed man that Jesus commanded to get up and walk listened and obeyed. Just think what would have happened to him if he thought, "Who is this man?" "Can I really walk by His words only?" Instead, out of obedience, the man picked up his mat and walked.

Jesus' word accomplished His will. When people obey His command to believe, God works in and through His Word. The Lord helped and healed this man when he obeyed. He commanded the man to do the one thing he was completely unable to do. So the man obeyed and was able to walk. How that must have given Jesus joy to see the man respond to him. Jesus wants to help us in our situations, but we will need to obey Him when He speaks to us.

- Think about the way you usually obey. Do you obey quickly or slowly?
- If you were standing next to the snake instead of Jarrod, what do you think that you would you have done? Would you have been bitten?
- Who should you obey?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Obedience: gladly doing what pleases Jesus.

Day Five

No Comparison

Text: John 5:14 - "Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, 'See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.'"

Also read Romans 6:23

Jesus sought after the man he had healed to speak to him. He found him in the temple area. He had been healed miraculously by Jesus and yet didn't know who Jesus was or anything about Him. The Jewish leaders had asked him who had healed him. He told them that he didn't know. This shows us that just because he had met Jesus and was healed by him, it doesn't mean that he was changed on the inside. Sometimes we may see people who have wonderful things happen in their lives, even miracles. They may recognize and thank Jesus for what He has done, but they continue to live apart from Him.

The warning to this crippled man and to us is that we need to take care of what is going on inside of our hearts. Being healed from a terrible disease is a wonderful miracle but the real crippling disease that Jesus is interested in is inside of our hearts. He wants to remove the sin that separates us from Him. Jesus sought after this man because he wanted to heal his soul from sin. He knew this man was living in darkness. The crippled man needed to seek forgiveness and healing for his sins.

We see that this man did come to know Jesus and then went out and began to tell others who it was that healed Him. What a wonderful thing it is to have a relationship with Jesus. God wants us to have that same relationship with Him. Miracles are important and wonderful, but they are not the most important thing. Sometimes we are only looking for Jesus to do something for us instead of looking for Jesus. Really the most important thing is whether or not we know who is the source of those miracles. Do we know Jesus and walk with Him? We can if we just ask Him into our heart. Jesus brings healing and hope to a dying world.

- Is it possible to experience an exciting miracle and still not be saved?
- Who brings healing and hope to a dying world?
- How can you help those who are not saved?

Kid's Prayer Time



As we pray this week, let's remember to thank the Lord for the compassion that He has had on us. Remember to pray for friends and family who may not know Jesus.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well...”

Third Grade and Above

“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.”

John 5:8-9a