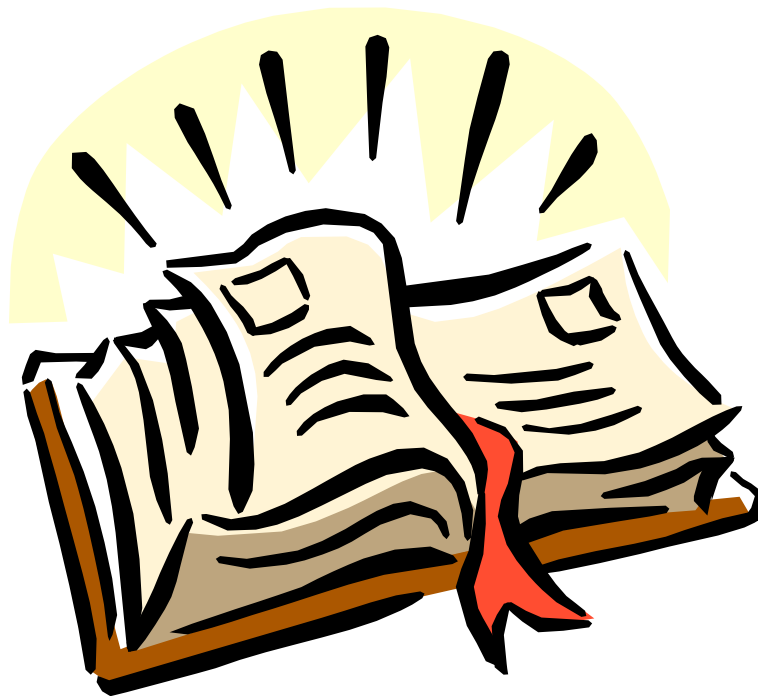


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Rich Man and Lazarus

THEME: Christians will spend eternity in heaven!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31



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 Rich Man and Lazarus**. The theme was "Christians will spend eternity in heaven." We will learn this week that we must believe in Jesus while we are living now in order to spend eternity in heaven. There are no second chances of going to heaven if we die without knowing Jesus Christ.

The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is a great way to teach children the urgency and importance of repentance and faith in order to be saved. There is a real heaven and real hell and Jesus wants all of us to spend eternity with Him. How He desires for our children to come to Him.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 16:19-31**. 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

Know Need/Know Jesus

Text: Psalm 63:5 - "My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips."

Also read Luke 16:19-21

Do you know the difference between wanting something and needing something? For example, you may **want** a new bike to be able to get around, but you **need** your legs and feet to ride the bike. Or all you may **want** to eat is ice cream but you **need** good food like fruits and vegetables to have a healthy body. Just like we need certain parts of our bodies to do certain things and we need good food to grow and be healthy; our souls also have needs. We need to feed our heart with God's word to be strong and healthy spiritually. Sometimes we may not want to go to church or feel like reading God's word but it is what we need to grow and to know Jesus.

Jesus tells us in our story that the rich man wore expensive clothes and lived in luxury every day. The rich man in this story had material wealth, great food and probably lived in a mansion with servants and maidservants. He had all of the things that this world could possibly offer. He had all of this by God's grace, mercy and blessing but he was still blind because of his selfishness and greed. He had everything he could possibly want, but was still in desperate need of Jesus Christ in his life. The rich man believed he didn't need anything. Perhaps he even thought "I have it so good and easy here on earth, surely when I die I will take all of my riches with me and it will be great". How sad it is that people today still don't think they need Jesus. And because they have all they want it is hard for them to understand that unless they believe in Jesus Christ as their personal savior while they are alive, they will not go to heaven.

God gives us the things we need and He blesses us with many of the things we want, but many of the things we want we don't need and can live without. The point is that we will not live eternally in heaven unless we believe that Jesus is the Son of God and He died on the cross for our sins. As we spend more time in God's word and in prayer with Jesus, our wants become less selfish and we see how much we need Jesus. Is there a need in your life? If so, then trust in the One who will satisfy your every need - Jesus!

- Are you wanting something that you don't need?
- Write 5 things you can live without and 5 things you can't live without.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Gluttony: Eating or drinking too much.

Thinking we're Right or Doing Right?

Text: Revelation 21:4 - "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Also read Luke 16:22-23

What is the difference between thinking we are right and doing right? Have you ever wanted your own way? Maybe you stomped your feet, cried, or yelled just to get what you wanted? Or maybe you argued with your brother, sister, or a friend when things weren't happening the way you wanted them to? Well, when we are not obedient to God's word we want to have our own way. We may even think we are right when really we aren't. But when we live our lives to please God we desire to do what is right according to God's word and want to please Him.

Did you know that everything we speak, think, or do has a consequence? There are good consequences, and there are bad consequences. Doing right is doing what pleases God. The rich man probably thought he did not need God and did not follow Him. When he died, he went to Hades; but, the beggar, who trusted in God, went to Abraham's bosom.

Jesus told this story as a warning to the Pharisees that if they did not turn from their sin and repent they would end up like the rich man when they died. But the Pharisees were stubborn and wanted their own way. They refused to do what was right: to turn from their sin and believe in Jesus. They thought they were good enough to get into heaven without Jesus. This truth Jesus was speaking about is the same for us today. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." The only way we can share in God's promises that are written in Revelation 21:4 is to believe in His son Jesus Christ as our personal savior.

- What was the consequence of the rich man's choices?
- What are some ways that God wants you to do right?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your personal savior?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Consequence: The results of our actions and thoughts towards God, others and ourselves.

What is the Cost of Living Water?

Text: John 4:14 - "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 Luke 16:24-26

Can you think of a summer day when you were hot and thirsty and how good it was to drink a glass of ice cold water? Have you ever heard someone say, "I'd give anything for a glass of water?" We all know what it feels like to be thirsty. Our mouth is dry and all we can think about is how good that water is going to taste. Maybe you have rushed to a drinking fountain on the playground at school or at the park after a lot of playing. It was like you couldn't get enough to drink. But you knew you would finally get enough to drink didn't you?

When the rich man from our story this week died he was in Hades, where the hot flames were tormenting him. He wasn't asking for a full drink; he just wanted Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool his tongue. Maybe you have stood too close to a fireplace or campfire. After a while your body starts to get too warm so you either move away or change positions to warm the other parts of your body. What if you could not move and your skin became hotter and hotter? This is probably what the rich man was going through and it was never going to stop. He wanted mercy, he wanted to cool his tongue, and he wanted the tormenting flames to die out. But no matter what he said or how he pleaded things would never change. This was because he did not believe in Jesus Christ when he was alive. There was a great gulf that separated him from where Abraham was. Our sin separates us from the Lord. Unless we believe and put our faith in Jesus our sins will separate us from God forever.

The rich man, no longer being rich in Hades, would have given all of his earthly possessions for just a taste of something even more important than regular drinking water, living water. But we cannot buy this type of water. So what is the cost of the living water? For God, it was giving up His one and only begotten Son and for us we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God and trust Him to be our savior. When we come to Him, we will never thirst again. The gulf between us and God now has a bridge over it and we can spend eternity in heaven. Aren't you glad Jesus is the living water?

- How does "living water" quench our spiritual thirst?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Sacrifice: To give up something precious and dear to us.

Who Me? A Witness?

Text: Zechariah 7:11-12 - "But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts."

Also read Luke 16:27-29

Once we ask Jesus into our heart, then what? Do we just keep doing the same things because we know we are going to heaven? Absolutely not! When we ask Jesus for forgiveness for our sins, are truly sorry and we repent (change our direction, like a U-turn), our life will start to change (2 Corinthians 5:17).

We read in our Bible reading that the rich man was feeling sorry for his five brothers that were still alive, for he did not want them to go to the same place he was in. Abraham tells him that his brothers will have to come to believe with what they have been told and seen. They had Moses and the prophets. In other words, they had the Bible, God's word to lead them to the truth so that they could trust in the Lord and spend eternity with Him. There was no way for the rich man to warn them. It was too late for him to do that. It is sad but true-- there are so many people today who will not believe even though they have heard the Good News, read the Bible, or witnessed a miracle of God in their own lives or others.

that regardless of the truth of Jesus that they have heard, or read in the Bible or seen in a miracle in their own life that God performed, they still will not believe.

There are all kinds of excuses people make for not believing in Jesus. Some people say things like, "I've got plenty of time before I die to think about heaven or hell." Or "I won't have any fun if I become a Christian." These are lies and excuses that Satan uses to keep people from coming to Jesus. A big reason why many don't come to Jesus is because we want to have things our own way. But some will believe in Jesus, like Lazarus did. That is why it is so important that we as believers in Christ are also witnesses for Him because we live in a dying world of unbelievers. Therefore, more than just "hearing" God's word we must be "doers" of His word (James 1:22). The Lord spoke to the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 43:10, "You are My witnesses..." We are God's witnesses today.

- Is your life a witness for Jesus Christ?
- Have you shared Jesus with someone who does not know Him?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Witness: One who has personal knowledge or experience of.

Does God Give Second Chances?

Text: Luke 15:32 - "It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found."

Also read Luke 16:30,31

Once the rich man died he didn't have any more opportunities to go to heaven. But how many opportunities does God give us to come to Him while we are alive? The Bible says that God is not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance. In the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) we see how the prodigal son turned away from his loving father and paid the price of his sin. He had to live through famine, desperation and sorrow. But the good news is that when the lost son realized that he was lost he returned to his father. When he did, he found that his father welcomed him back. Our loving Father shows His mercy and grace and runs to us when we ask for forgiveness and repent. He welcomes us home with open arms and rejoices. When someone refuses to come to the Father, this is his or her choice, not anything that God did.

The rich man's five brothers had God's word and had observed the miracles the Lord had performed but did they believe that Jesus was the Son of God? Abraham said that if they won't listen to the word of God, neither will they listen to one who rose from the dead. The interesting thing is that someone did rise from the dead - Jesus. And even though He rose from the dead, there are many today that still refuse to believe. The story does not tell us if the brothers came to believe in Jesus Christ or not but they had been witnessed to and had to make a choice while they were still living.

Can you see how important it is that we turn from our ways and trust in Jesus to be the Lord of our lives while we are living? God does give us many, many opportunities to believe in Him before we go into eternity. We have the Bible, God's creation, Christians who witness about Jesus, and the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. These are all telling this lost world about the love of God towards us, and how He wants no one to spend eternity apart from Him. But He also won't force anyone to accept Him. God does give second chances by His grace and mercy but only while we are alive. Once we die it is too late!

- Who can you pray for regularly that doesn't know Jesus?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week when you pray, thank God every day that He gave Jesus to die on the cross for your sins so you may live eternally in heaven. Also, pray that the Holy Spirit will teach you what it means to live a life that pleases God.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"If they will not listen to Moses, then they will not believe someone who has risen from the dead."

Third Grade and Above

"But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded through one rise from the dead.'"

Luke 16:31