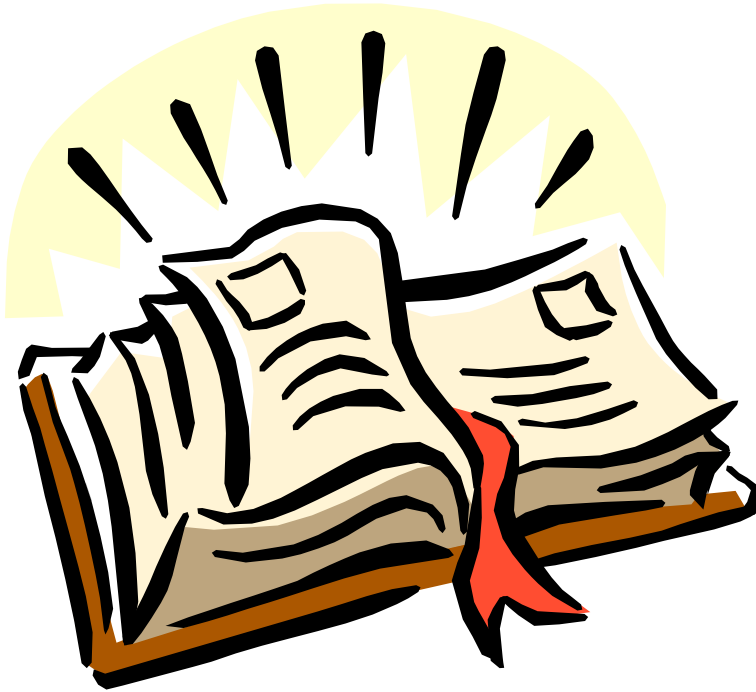


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: A Story about Investing

THEME: We should share the love of Jesus!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:11-27

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 **A Story about Investing**. The theme was "**We should share the love of Jesus.**" No, the children didn't learn about investing in the stock market or anything like that, but we did learn about investing in God's kingdom. How that God has given us opportunities to serve Him and to share the gospel and how we need to use those opportunities for His glory.

One day we will stand before the Lord to give an account of how we used the opportunities that He has given to us. Our desire is to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Our prayer is that our children will learn the joy of serving Jesus and desire to please Him in their service.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 19:11-27**. 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

Just Do Something

Text: Luke 19:23 - "Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?"

Also read 1 Timothy 4:6-8

Do you ever think very much about exercise? I know when I was a child I would get a lot of exercise just because I was a child. I just naturally wanted to run around, play and be active. But the older I get, the less I run around or exercise. Also, the older I get the more I probably need to exercise. There are a lot of people who grow up and don't exercise very much. That's why grown ups buy exercise bikes instead of regular bikes and all kind of other exercise machines. People spend so much money on exercise stuff that you would think that everyone in America would be in shape. But most of us are still out of shape. How could this be? How come people who buy exercise bikes, machines and workout videos are not automatically in good physical shape? Jesus has the answer to this mystery for us in our Bible passage in Luke that we studied this week.

The nobleman gave to each of the ten servants a brand new exercise bike. OK, not really a bike, but something that needed to be used. The nobleman gave each servant an opportunity to use what was given to them so it would grow and become more valuable. When he came back later he took a look at how much work they had done with their opportunity. He did not judge them for how much they had done but only if they had done something! They could not fail, unless they simply did not try. This is the answer to the mystery of the out of shape owners of exercise bikes. The reason that people can own every exercise machine in the world and also have shelves and shelves of exercise videos and still be completely out of shape is that they simply never use them. They can look at their machines forever and never even begin to get into shape. Why? Because you have to use them. Just start somewhere. Just do something!

As Christians we are given the same opportunity to grow strong for Jesus. Jesus has given us everything we need to start growing to become a strong Christian. Yet there are still lazy, out of shape Christians. Why? Because they need to do something. Jesus will never punish us for trying to do something in His name, but He is displeased when we choose to do nothing. You can never go wrong by at least trying to serve Him! Let's do something for Jesus!

- What opportunities has the Lord given you to serve Him? Are you using them?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Exercise: Doing or using something in order to make it or keep it strong.

Journeyman for Jesus

Text: Luke 19:17 - "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'"

Also read 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

My family has worked in the construction industry for many years. When you work in construction that just means that you build homes and other buildings. I got to learn a lot about starting something and working your way up. Starting about the time I was four years old my father used to take me to work with him from time to time on Saturdays. I can remember asking him what I could do to help. He would give me jobs like carrying the scrap materials out to the dumpster, or sweeping up the floors. Eventually I moved on to hammering nails or using the measuring tape. What I learned was that you start with what you can do and keep working hard, until one day you become what's called a journeyman. This means you have learned all the lessons needed to do the job by yourself and be an expert. Before you become a journeyman, you are called an apprentice. An apprentice is someone who is still learning. It is every apprentice's hope to one day become a journeyman. Our Bible lesson teaches us that there is also an apprenticeship in serving God. Let's see what it has to say.

The nobleman had given each servant a mina to invest for him. When the nobleman returned, he asked his servants what they did with his money. The ones that had invested it and made more money; to them he gave an opportunity to be leaders in his kingdom. So what does this have to do with being an apprentice or a journeyman? Well the servants are just like Christians who are given the opportunity to invest their lives for Jesus.

One day, Jesus will hold us accountable for our life of service. It is like being an apprentice. We learn the lessons of serving and being faithful. If we are faithful to serve him we are like the servants in our story that invested the mina's and produced more. When they received the opportunity to be a leader over a city, it is like receiving their journeyman status. For us, when we are faithful in what Jesus gives us to do, He will give us journeyman status in his kingdom. Because we were faithful over the small or little jobs, He will give us authority over the big things. I don't know about you, but I want to one day be a journeyman for Jesus!

- What are some ways that Jesus is teaching you about being faithful in little things?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Apprentice: Someone who is learning about a profession or career.
Journeyman: Someone who has learned everything they need to about a profession or career; and expert in a certain field.

Day Three

Well Done

Text: Luke 19:17a- "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant...'"

Also read Matthew 25:14-30

How do you feel when someone tells you, "good job"? It makes us feel very good, doesn't it? How about when your mom or dad asks you to do something around the house and you work extra hard to do a good job, then your mom or dad reward you and tell you what a great job you did. We enjoy pleasing those who we love. Did you know that one day we will stand before the Lord? For those who have been careful to do everything He asks us to do, He will say, "Well done my good and faithful servant." What an amazing thing! If we enjoy hearing our moms and dads tell us we did a good job, how much more would we want to hear it from the Lord!

The Bible tells us that we can hear God say "well done." What do we need to do? It is actually pretty simple. We just obey Him and be faithful to do everything He asks us to do. Why is this simple? When we become Christians, we want to obey and serve Jesus because we love Him. We don't serve the Lord because we have to, we serve Him because we love Him and get to serve Him. So after a wonderful life of getting to serve Him, and Him helping us to serve Him, He will then say, "well done good and faithful servant."

In the parable of the minas, Jesus is the nobleman who says "well done" to all the faithful servants who invested into His kingdom. This can be a picture of us standing before Jesus and having Him ask us what we have done with what He has given us. Another time we see the words "well done" is in Matthew 25 where Jesus is rewarding those that had served "the least of His people." He said to them, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

If we give our lives to the Lord and are faithful with what He has given us, we can have Him say to us well done! Is it your desire to have the God of the universe say to you "well done"? I sure hope it is.

- Tell about a time when someone told you "good job". How did it make you feel?
- Do we serve Jesus because we have to or because we love Him?
- Do you want to hear "well done" some day?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faithfulness: Being careful to do what you are supposed to do.

Great Expectations

Text: Luke 19:13 - "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'"

Also read Genesis 6:5-22

One of the most popular stories in the Bible is the story of Noah's Ark. There are a lot of lessons to learn from the story of the flood. But one of the best lessons we learn about in the story of Noah is similar to the lesson that Jesus is teaching us in the parable of the minas. What we see in both stories is "expecting". Expecting is when someone looks ahead to something in the future and believes that it will eventually happen or arrive. Let's look at both stories and see what happens to those who are expecting.

God tells Noah to build an ark (big boat). The reason for the boat was that God was going to send a flood that would cover the earth with water. From the time God told Noah to build the ark, to the time God sent the flood was more than 100 years. Noah spent over 100 years expecting God to flood the earth. Sometimes we give up hope after a couple of days, but Noah waited 100 years, expecting each day for God to fulfill His promise. That is incredible. In the story of the minas we see the same example of expecting. Each of the ten servants expected the nobleman to return. But not all of them were faithful to do their job or service to the nobleman while they were waiting. Noah kept building the ark day after day because that was what God had given him to do. But the unfaithful servant did nothing with what the nobleman had given him.

Not all Christians are being faithful to do what God has given them to do, even though they know that one day they will have to answer to Him for what they have been given. Because we expect Jesus to return one day to take us to heaven it means that we should desire to do what pleases Him. If you are expecting Jesus to return one day, are you living a life that is faithful to Him? Are you sharing the truth of Jesus as Savior to your friends? We need to be like Noah who was faithful to serve every day, expecting God to be faithful to His promise.

- Was Noah faithful while he waited for the Lord?
- Were all of the servants who received minas faithful to their master?
- What should we be doing while we are waiting for the Lord to return?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Expectation: When we look ahead to something in the future and believe it will arrive.

Day Five

The Mina Opportunity

Text: Luke 19:13a - "So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas,..."

Also read Matthew 25:14-30

One of the most wonderful things about going to church is getting to know the people who attend the church. The church is full of many different kinds of people. In the parable of the minas we see that there are truly many different kinds of people. Jesus tells our story to the people of Israel who were in the temple. It is a story of a nobleman who was leaving his country to travel to another country in order to receive his kingship. He would return as the king over the country he had left. He was leaving a nobleman and returning a king. Jesus is the nobleman in the story. He is leaving Israel to go to heaven and one day He will return as the king over Israel and also over the entire earth. But the lesson of the story is about what He entrusts to His servants that are left behind. What will those servants do with what He has given to them? Just as the nobleman had given each servant a mina to do business with, so has Jesus given each of His followers an opportunity to serve Him in His kingdom.

In Matthew 25 there is another parable about talents. In the parable told in Luke 19 each person is given the same amount. In the parable told in Matthew 25, each person is given a different amount. What is the difference? The difference is that both have different lessons to teach us. In Luke the lesson is that all of Jesus' servants are given the same opportunity to serve Him. All of us are given His love and His forgiveness, and also the chance to tell others about His free gift of salvation. In the parable found in Matthew, the lesson is that Jesus gives us different abilities and talents to serve Him with. We each have the same message to tell but different abilities and giftings in which to communicate to others God's love for them.

It is important to remember that we will be accountable to God for what we did with our opportunities to live for God and share God's love. We are not accountable for how many talents we have, but for what we do with what we have been given. Let's invest whatever God has given us, however we can.

- What are some of the talents and gifts the Lord has given you to serve Him?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray you can thank the Lord for His wonderful gift of salvation. You can also commit to serve Him faithfully and to do whatever He may ask you to do. Ask Him to help you to obey Him in everything. God bless you this week!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"God rewards faithful stewards."

Third Grade and Above

"For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Luke 19:26