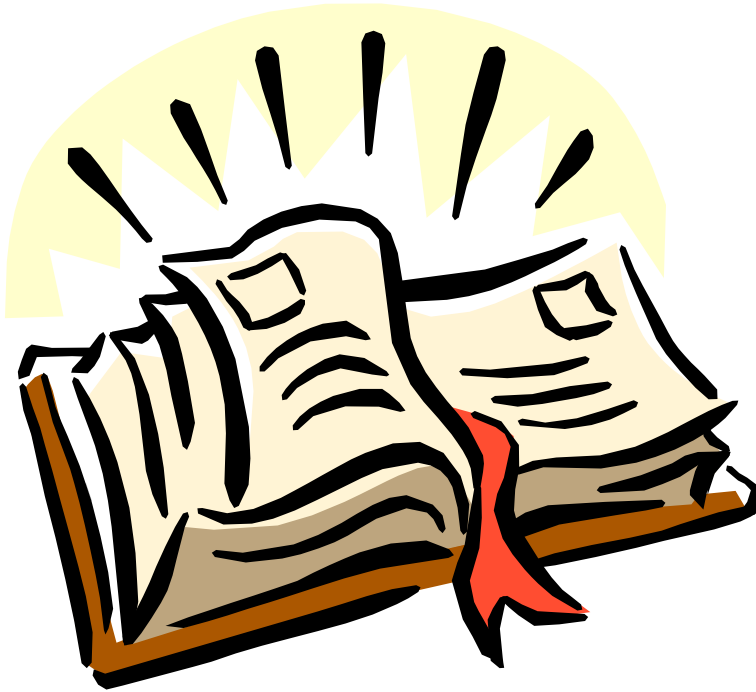


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Widow's Mite

THEME: Nothing is hidden from God.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 21:1-4

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 Widow's Mite**. The theme was "**Nothing is hidden from God.**" One day Jesus stopped His disciples and told them to observe a poor widow at the temple. She was putting two small coins into the offering. At the same time there were others putting in great amounts of money and making a big deal out of it. But Jesus wanted His followers to see this widow because her giving teaches a valuable lesson.

God wants us to be giving, but it is important that our hearts are right. Jesus praised the widow in the story because, although she didn't give a lot of money, it was everything she had and it came from her heart. God doesn't want our money; He wants our hearts and our lives. When we give our money, our time or our talents, we are worshipping Him with those things that are most valuable to us. We need to give our all to Jesus!

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 21:1-4**. 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

Giving Our All!

Text: Luke 21:2 - "and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites."

Also read Luke 21:1-4; Mark 12:41-44

Sandy went to church with her parents every week, rain or shine. Sandy's parents did not have very much money, but they always had plenty of food and clothes for everyone in the family. Sandy's mom didn't work outside of the home so she could take care of Sandy and her brothers and sisters. They were blessed because they could spend a lot of time together, but it also meant they had to go without a few things. To help out, Sandy wore her older sister's clothes to school, and once a year they were all given one new set of clothing, including shoes. If her skirt tore or a button fell off, Sandy's mom would sew it back on.

One Sunday, Sandy asked her parents if she could sit in the sanctuary with her parents. She really enjoyed it. She noticed that her father was putting some of his money in an envelope. Sandy was not sure why he was doing that and she asked him about it. Her father said all of the family's money came from the Lord and he was giving back to Him. Her dad said his worship of the Lord included giving an **offering**, even if it was not very much. He said God could see his heart. Even when he did not have money to give to the Lord, Sandy's dad said he would give his time to the church to further the Lord's work. Sandy asked why her dad gave his money to the Lord when they didn't have very much.

Sandy's dad told her the story of the widow that Jesus spoke of in the Bible. Jesus watched people put their offering into the temple treasury. Some people who were rich would even blow a trumpet to get the attention of the people, so everyone could see how much money they gave. The widow did not give much, but she gave all she had. Jesus saw her heart when she gave her all. The amount that we give is not important to the Lord; it is the attitude in our heart and our willingness to give.

- Why did Sandy's dad give to the Lord?
- Who did Jesus say gave more to the temple, the poor widow or the rich people?
- What ways can you give an offering to the Lord?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Offering: Something given to the Lord as an act of worship (for example: money, time or talents).

Day Two

More Valuable than Many Sparrows

Text: Luke 12:7 - "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

Also read Matthew 10:28-33; Luke 12:6-12; John 3:16-18

Joey was tired of telling his mom about his older cousin, Jimmy being mean to him. It seemed like mom was never there when it happened, and she just told Joey he needed to love Jimmy and pray for him. Joey's parents had always taught him to be like Jesus. Jesus loved people and died for them. Joey kept praying, but it seemed like God didn't hear him. It was always the same thing - Jimmy continued to be mean.

Every week Joey went to Jimmy's house with his mom. Sometimes Joey would be reading and Jimmy would come along and pull the book out of Joey's hands and hide it. Sometimes he would push Joey and try to get Joey to hit him. Joey hated that because he didn't like fighting. He knew that Jimmy's dad liked to play rough like that, but Joey's dad didn't.

Joey's dad always read the Bible to the family at night. Joey liked to read the Bible because his dad said God could speak to Joey through His **Scriptures**. Joey wanted God to speak to him about Jimmy. As he was reading the Bible one morning, Joey read about how God even knew how many hairs were on Joey's head. Joey felt as though God had whispered something in his ear. He jumped up, excited. It was just like his dad said. He couldn't wait to get to Jimmy's house! God heard him and answered him in His Word. Joey knew he had to tell Jimmy about how much Jesus loved him and wanted to take care of him. Joey wasn't afraid of Jimmy anymore.

When Joey went to Jimmy's house that week, he took his Bible with him. Joey told Jimmy he wanted to read the Bible with him and turned the Bible to Matthew 10:28. When Joey read the **scripture**, Jimmy got very mad and threw the Bible down. Jimmy started to cry and Joey asked why. Jimmy told Joey he didn't know how to read very well and he didn't think God cared at all. Joey was so surprised. He never knew. Joey told Jimmy that God loved him so much that he sent his Son to die for Jim. Joey promised to show Jimmy how to read the Bible for a little while each time he came over.

- Who did God use to speak to Jimmy?
- Is there something you want God to speak to you about?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Scriptures: Written passages from God's Word, the Holy Bible.

God Sees Our Hearts

Text: Jeremiah 23:24 - "Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD."

Also read Jeremiah 23:21-32

God can see everyone's hearts, good and bad. The Bible tells many true stories of what has happened to people who have tried to hide things and trick God and others. In one part of the Bible, the LORD speaks to one of His prophets, Jeremiah, and tells him that there are other false prophets that are telling lies to God's people, the children of Israel. The prophets were tricking God's people by telling them everything was going to be all right. God had already told His faithful prophet Jeremiah that He was sending an enemy to take His children into captivity, but no one believed him. God's chosen people were not being obedient. They were worshipping false gods, or idols. God loves His people, but He needed to show the children of Israel there was a punishment for not obeying

The false prophets deceived the people into believing that it was okay to have other gods. God was trying to warn them they were wrong, but the false prophets were lying to the people. God does not want lies to be told about what He says. There are serious consequences (or problems) that will happen for not telling the truth about God.

The Bible teaches that the LORD is **omnipresent**. This means He is everywhere at the same time. The prophets in Jeremiah's time did not know, or did not care, that God could see their lies. God knew it and He told Jeremiah the false prophets were lying and stealing His Word from the hearts of His people. Jeremiah was a faithful man and told the children of Israel God was not pleased and they would suffer the results of being unfaithful to Him. Jeremiah told the truth about what God's words were, but the people would not listen and later suffered by being taken captive slaves for their disbelief.

- Why did the false prophets tell the children of Israel everything was okay?
- What did God say the false prophets would do if they were real prophets?
- If the LORD is everywhere all of the time, can we hide our hearts from Him?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Omnipresent: Being every place at the same time. God is omnipresent.

A Gift of His Heart

Text: Acts 9:4 - "then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Also read: Acts 9:1-22

Sam was always talking about Jesus. Wherever he went, he would talk about what Jesus said and what Jesus did. At school, many children would ask him questions about who Jesus was and Sam answered and told them what the Bible said about Jesus and what the Lord had done in his life. Not everyone liked Sam though. One of the people that Sam always had to face was Vince. Vince didn't like Sam and he said he didn't like Jesus. There were many times when Vince would interrupt Sam and throw dirt at him when he told stories about Jesus. Sam didn't like getting dirty, and he asked Jesus to stop Vince from being so mean. He knew Jesus could see what was happening. Sam knew Jesus would take care of him.

Sam liked to read the Bible everyday, and one morning he read about how Saul persecuted the Christians. Sam thought Vince was a lot like Saul. He began to pray and ask Jesus what to do. Each morning he would pray for the words to speak to Vince. As Sam prayed, Jesus gave him courage to speak to Vince every day, no matter what Vince did or said.

Sam began to look for Vince everyday and share what God had done in his life. Vince kept being mean on most days, but after a while began to listen to Sam and ask questions. Vince asked why Jesus had to die and Sam explained it was so Vince could be forgiven of his sins and spend eternity in heaven. Suddenly Vince understood. He asked Sam to show him how to ask Jesus into his heart. Vince's heart had changed! Jesus knew how much Vince needed Him in his heart. The Lord used Sam's patient, persistent heart to reach Vince. If you have friends that don't know Jesus, or are maybe even mean to you, don't give up. Continue to share with them about Jesus and pray for them.

- Jesus knew what Saul was doing. Do you believe Jesus knew what Vince did?
- How did Jesus use Sam's trial to make him stronger?
- Why do you think Sam didn't fight back when Vince was mean?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Persecution: Harassing someone for being a Christian.

Persist: To continue firmly and steadfastly despite obstacles

Day Five

A Heart Offering to God

Text: Mark 7:6-7 - "He answered and said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"

Also read Psalm 51

Jamie and his family went to church every Sunday. He liked to go sometimes, but he thought it was tiring to go to church all of the time. He would have to wake up early and get dressed on Sundays and his little sister always took too much time in the bathroom fixing her hair. Each week, his parents gave him money for the offering in Sunday School. His dad always told him that the Lord loves a cheerful giver.

Jamie decided he wasn't a very cheerful giver, so he began to keep some of his offering money. "After all, why give if I'm not cheerful about it?" thought Jamie. He felt bad about it for a while, and then he would try to forget it. He watched his little sister give her offering and she held nothing back. In fact his sister gave part of her allowance too. Jamie knew he was supposed to tell people who Jesus was. But now every time he talked about Jesus, he remembered holding back his offering. He stopped talking to people because he felt bad, and then he didn't want to go to church at all anymore.

One Sunday when his family went to church, the Sunday school teacher told a story about the Pharisees, who were religious leaders during Jesus' time. The Pharisees were hypocrites. This means they said one thing and did another. Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees about how their hearts were not right before God. Jesus knew their hearts. He knew that these men would say they loved God, but in their actions they showed they didn't. Jamie knew that what he had done was wrong and that God wanted him to ask for forgiveness. He prayed and asked Jesus to forgive him for not giving Him his heart and for holding back his offering. He felt so good after he talked to Jesus. The next Sunday, he gave to the Lord everything he held back and even some extra from his allowance. He was very CHEERFUL that day!

- Did Jesus see the hearts of the Pharisees?
- How did Jamie feel before he confessed his sin? How did he feel after?

Kid's Prayer Time



Jesus knows our hearts. He does not want gold or silver. He wants our hearts to be turned toward Him. Ask the Lord to help you to draw closer to Him. Ask him how you can give Him more of your heart.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"God loves a cheerful
giver."**

Third Grade and Above

**"So let each one give
as he purposes in his
heart, not grudgingly or
of necessity; for God
loves a cheerful giver."**

2 Corinthians 9:7