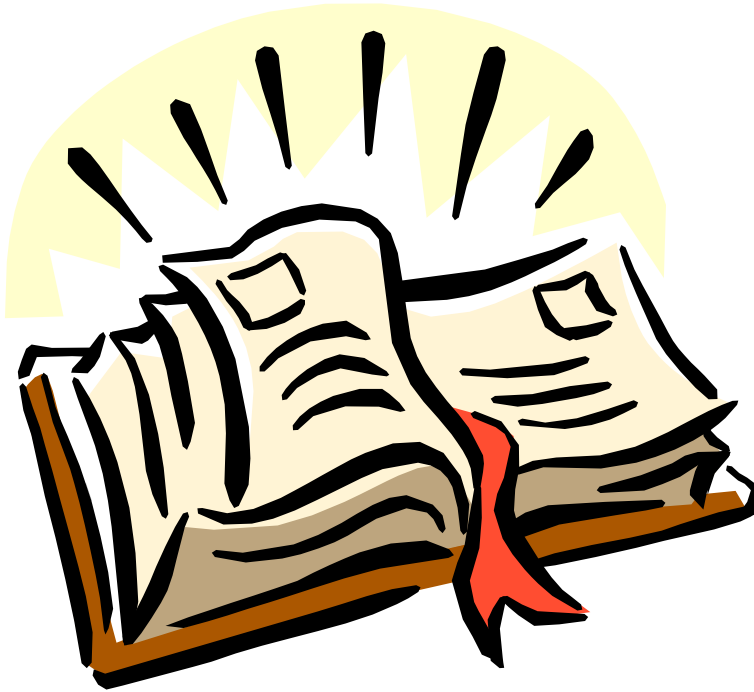


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Road to Emmaus

THEME: We can find encouragement in the promises of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-35



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 Road to Emmaus**. The theme was "**We can find encouragement in the promises of God's word.**" It's so easy to get discouraged when you see what is in this world apart from God. It's refreshing and encouraging knowing that God's promises are fulfilled.

For children life can sometimes be challenging. There are a lot of things in this world that can tempt them to do wrong things. As parents, we can let them see the encouragement in our life that we have received from God's word. Children "catch" more from their parents than they are "taught". Let them "catch" encouragement from you.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 24:13-35**. 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

"Where's Your Focus?"

Text: Luke 24:16 – "But their eyes were restrained, so they did not know Him."

Also read John 20:14 and John 21:4

Cleopas and his friend were leaving Jerusalem on their way to Emmaus. "Hey Cleopas, did you hear that Jesus' tomb is empty and He is still alive?" Cleopas' friend had heard the report from the women that Jesus' tomb was empty and that He was indeed alive. "Yes, I've heard, but I don't believe it's true," claimed Cleopas. "I am just so disappointed that Jesus' had to die. He was the only one who could rescue Israel. We're doomed!" cried Cleopas. As the two men were walking Jesus drew near and went with them. But they were so focused on their disappointment that they did not know that Jesus was with them.

Unfortunately, the two men were so focused on the future of the nation of Israel that they didn't understand about Jesus' suffering. They knew the Bible really well and they tried to remember what Jesus had taught them, but they were unable to put it all together. It just didn't seem to make sense. What more proof did they need? The tomb was empty, witnesses saw Him alive and heard Him speak, and angels said Jesus was alive. They just didn't understand the word of God. Sometimes we can read the promises of God, but not understand what they mean for us. There are many promises God has made to us. He has not broken a single promise. What Cleopas and his friend didn't understand was that God promised us that He would send His son to die on the cross for our sins and that He would rise again from the dead.

We can see from the experience of these two men that they were very discouraged and disappointed. They were bummed out because things didn't go the way THEY thought they should. But things did go exactly as God planned. They didn't find encouragement in God's promises because they focused on their own understanding of things and not God's. His word is full of His promises. He has never failed to fulfill a promise and He never will. Sometimes we can get a little down when things don't go the way we think they should. Let's remember that we can find encouragement in the promises of God's Word.

- Can you name a promise that God has fulfilled?
- Which promise in the Bible encourages you the most?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Encouragement: helping another gain confidence to face a challenge or complete a task. Urging someone to find hope in God's promises during a hard time.

Day Two

The Unbreakable Promise

Text: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Also read John 17:2,3

What does it mean to you when someone says, "I promise?" You probably take that person's word that they will do whatever they are promising. When you make a promise to someone, they trust you with all their heart. If you break that promise to them then you have let them down very badly, they may not be able to trust you any more. Once a promise has been made, it is VERY important to keep. Have you ever made a promise that you didn't keep? Maybe you forgot about the promise or you were sick so you were not able to fulfill the promise.

What's so wonderful about the promises that God gives us is that they will never be broken. Maybe others have broken their promises to us or we have let other people down at some time. But we can trust in God and never have to worry about an excuse for why the promise was broken. In God's word there are so many promises. My favorite promise from God is found in John 3:16. God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sins. When I accepted Jesus into my heart, I have the promise of everlasting life with God. Why do I believe this? If I believe in Jesus, God promises that I will live forever with Him. God has never broken a promise. He can't. He's perfect!

It can be very difficult sometimes to keep a promise. We can be tempted by the devil to break the promise. If you make a promise to someone, try really hard not to break it. Ask the Lord to give you strength to keep your word. He is very strong and we can receive strength from Him. A good verse to remember is "I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). With God's promises we can find encouragement. Over the next few days we will look at different promises God gives us through His word. We can find encouragement in our relationship with Him by learning these promises.

- Have you ever broken a promise?
- Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How did it feel?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Promise: A written or spoken agreement to do or not to do something

Day Three

Discouraged and No Place To Go

Text: Psalm 55:22 - "Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you."

Also read Psalm 62:8

John was so excited today. It was the first day of school. He couldn't wait to meet up with some of his friends. "I wonder if I will have some of my friends from last year in my class?" thought John. John hurried up and ate some breakfast and raced to the bus stop. He got on the bus and anxiously looked around for some familiar faces. He did not recognize a single person. "Could I be on the wrong bus?" he thought to himself. The bus took off and arrived at school. John jumped off the bus and raced to his classroom. He walked in and grabbed a seat over by the door. There were a few kids in the classroom he recognized, but none of them were his buddies from last school year.

As John was gazing outside he noticed Tommy, Jacob, and Russell. "There they are!" He joyfully thought to himself. "I can't wait until recess so I can go and hang out with them. John was a little bummed out that his friends were not in the same class as he was. Mr. Johnson, John's 5th grade teacher, asked the class for their attention. Mr. Johnson was a wonderful teacher. John was really comfortable with Mr. Johnson because he was also John's Sunday school teacher. John was thankful that he had Mr. Johnson for his teacher.

The recess bell rang and John raced out to meet up with his friends. Tommy, Jacob and Russell were standing over by the basketball court. John ran up to them, "Hey guys, how's it going?" "It's going," said Jacob. John could tell something wasn't right. His friends didn't act excited about seeing him. "Do you guys want to play basketball?" asked John. "Naa," said Tommy. "Did any of you go camping this last summer? I did and had a great time!" Said John. "Nope," said Russell. "Come on Russell and Jacob, let's go over by the gym," said Tommy. "They didn't even invite me to come," John thought to himself. John turned and walked back over to the play area. He was deeply saddened. John was so discouraged.

(Continued on Day Four)

- Why do you think that John was discouraged?
- Can you think of a time when you were discouraged about something, what happened?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Discourage: to make sad or to lose hope.

Access to Encouragement

Text: Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Also read Romans 5:2

Continued from Day Three... After school John raced to the bus stop. He couldn't wait to get home. He was so disappointed in what had happened with his friends. "How could they do this to me?" he thought to himself. "I didn't do anything to them." John felt like crying. He felt betrayed. The bus came to a stop in front of John's house. John raced off of the bus and ran into his house. He gazed at his mother in the kitchen and he sped by her. He ran straight into his room and shut the door.

"John," called his mother, "What's wrong?" John did not feel like talking. His mother was standing outside of his door. She could hear John crying and she knew something was really heavy on his heart. "John?" "Can I come in?" asked his mother. "I don't feel like talking," cried John. "Please John, let me talk to you." "John got up and opened the door for his mother. "Can we talk about this?" asked John's mother. John began to pour his heart out to his mother. "Can you believe they treated me like that?"

John's mom explained to him how difficult it can be to try to get through discouraging times alone. She told him about a time when she was about 11 when she went through something very much like what John was going through. "What did you do, Mom?" he asked. "I prayed and asked the Lord to take away this burden and to help me," said John's mom. "He says in the Bible that we can cast our troubles on him. We do not need to be discouraged over things that happen in our lives. When you come to God's throne of grace, you will find comfort. Have you brought this problem of yours to the Lord yet?" asked John's mom. "No," said John. "I was too busy thinking about how I felt and forgot about praying. I know I need to go to the Lord and ask Him to help me to figure this all out. I know the Lord will work it out." "You are absolutely right!" said John's mom, "Just trust in the Lord and He will help you and encourage you."

- Did you know that God promises that we can go to His throne of Grace at any time?
- What will you do the next time you are upset about something?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Throne of Grace: A name for God's throne, the place we can find help when we need it.

Day Five

Power to Overcome

Text: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Also read 1 Peter 1:6-8

This week in our devotions we have learned a lot about God's promises. We have learned about discouragement and how to find encouragement. We have seen that when we are sad we can always bring our problems to the Lord. We can find encouragement for ourselves and we can encourage others through our example, by pointing others to Jesus, and by telling others about God's promises. We have read about the two men who were very discouraged because they didn't believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. They were hoping that Jesus was going to save Israel and since He was crucified they believed that everything was done, all hope was gone. When Jesus met up with them on the road to Emmaus He opened their eyes by opening their hearts to God's word. Then they understood.

Jesus is alive and He still opens hearts through His word. That's encouraging! God promised that His son Jesus would give us salvation. God fulfilled His promise by sending His only Son (John 3:16). The next time that you find yourself sad or discouraged just look in God's word to find comfort and help. If you need help, just ask your parents or your teacher at Children's Church.

In the story we looked at this week about John and his discouragement with his friends we see that John gave his burden to Jesus. When we face difficult times we have the power to overcome through God's word. You can find many promises that God gives us through His word. I have listed a few promises here. You can add to the list.

The promise of eternal life - John 17:2,3

The promise of the Holy Spirit - Luke 24:29, John 14:16,17,26; Acts 1:4; 2:38,39

The promise of access to God - Romans 5:2

The promise of growth in Christ - 2 Corinthians 3:18

- Make a list of your 5 favorite promises from the Bible.

Kid's Prayer Time



There are a lot of promises God gives us in His word. By reading and hearing His word, you too can find peace and encouragement. Pray that the Lord will give you a sensitive spirit to His promises. Let others be encouraged by your life.

Memory Verse...

Kindergarten and Below

**"The Bible teaches us
about Jesus."**

First Grade and Above

**"And beginning at Moses
and all the Prophets, He
expounded to them in all
the Scriptures the
things concerning
Himself."**

Luke 24:27