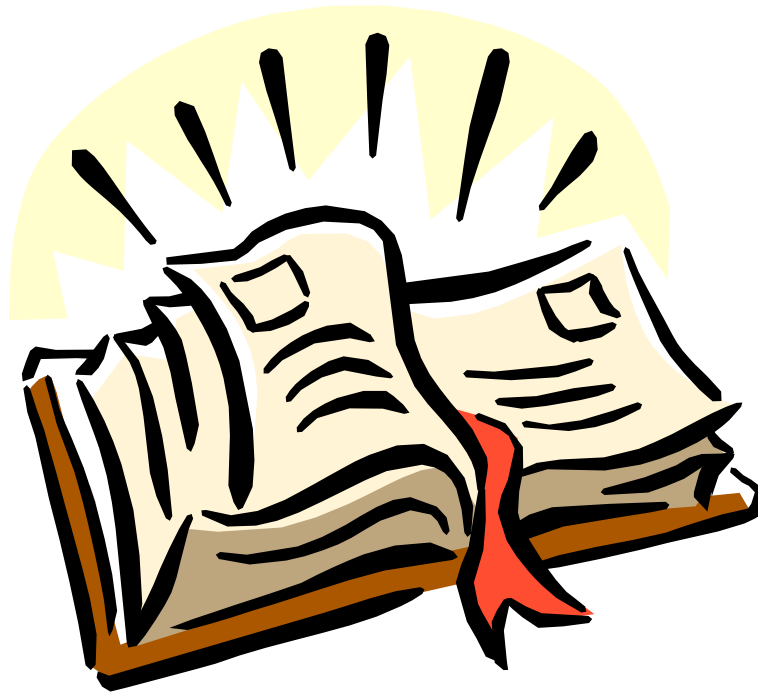


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

**LESSON TITLE: Peter and John Heal a
Lame Man**

THEME: With God all things are possible!

SCRIPTURE: Acts 3:1-26



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 **Peter and John Heal a Lame Man**. The theme was "**With God all things are possible.**" No matter what the Lord may want us to do in our lives He promises to help us. Peter stood up to a lot of powerful men and preached the gospel. God protected Him and blessed His word.

Throughout the Bible we see how God is in control of everything. Just like Peter and John, when we call upon the name of Jesus Christ and we ask to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and we live lives controlled by the Spirit, we will know "with God all things are possible."

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 3:1-26**. 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

Are You In or Out of Season?

Text: 2 Timothy 4:2 - "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

Also read Acts 3:1-6

Are you aware that certain kinds of flowers and vegetables only grow during certain seasons? For example: strawberries are ripe in summer, squash grows during the fall and the beautiful red flower called the Poinsettia grows in the winter. If we tried to plant and grow these plants at any other time they would not produce the fruit or flower which God created it to produce.

It is kind of like that when we plant God's word, except that we can plant God's word anytime. The Bible talks about how the word of God is like a seed. It gets planted into people's hearts. Maybe we share the word with someone, and then someone else waters it a little bit by sharing some more. But it is God who gives the increase in His timing. We just need to be faithful to plant when God tells us to. Sometimes God may want to use us to tell our friends or neighbors about Jesus. We who know Jesus are the ones who know all about how that Jesus can give us eternal life. He wants us to be ready to share that with others at ANY TIME. That's what it means by being ready in season and out of season.

Peter and John had to be ready. They weren't planning to speak to and heal the lame man that day they went to the temple. In fact it was probably very scary for them to speak up and preach in the name of Jesus. Many of the men there were the same men who had put Jesus to death on the cross. But it was more important to preach the gospel than to worry about what might happen to them. When Peter spoke in the name of Jesus to heal the lame man, he may have known that he could get in trouble with the religious men in the temple. Being ready in and out of season as our Bible reading says means we will speak up whenever God opens up a time to share about Jesus. The Holy Spirit will help us to say the things that we need to, just like He helped Peter and John.

- How is planting God's word like planting seeds?
- Can you think of someone you can share Jesus with this week?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Season: A set period of time. We should always be ready to speak God's word.

Day Two

Do We Worship the Creature or the Creator?

Text: Acts 3:11 - "Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's greatly amazed,"

Also read Romans 1:25

Have you ever wanted to go see a brand new movie just out because everyone says it is the best? Or get the latest Happy Meal just because the toy was the coolest? Or maybe you just have to get that new Lego set because it is the newest and all your friends have it. There are a lot of things out there that we can get excited about. They really aren't bad by themselves, but they can be if they become the most important things in our lives. Especially if we don't have Jesus in our heart, many times we try to search for things to make us happy. We turn to the creation rather than the Creator.

Imagine someone wanting a new skateboard. They just know that once they have it that life will be great. So they save up for weeks and get it. A few weeks go by and it's not so new any more, and it's just not as important as it once was. It doesn't bring happiness anymore, and now they want something else to make them happy. We are all like that without Jesus. We feel empty in our hearts because we need Jesus. There is nothing else in this world that can fill that. The only "thing" that will make us happy is having Jesus in our hearts. Imagine that all of us were born with an empty place in our heart in the shape of a cross. Nothing else can fit into that cross-shaped hole until we allow Jesus to fill it.

In our Bible reading today, the people thought that Peter and John had healed the lame man. They were looking to Peter and John rather than having their eyes on Jesus. But Peter and John quickly pointed them to Jesus. He was the only way that they could be saved, and He is the only way that we can be saved (Acts 4:12)! Let's take our eyes off of the creation and place them on the Creator!

- What is the most important thing in your life?
- What is the only thing that can fill our empty hearts?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Creator: One who creates or makes something, God created the heavens and the earth.

Creation: The thing or things that is created or made by the creator.

Day Three

Proof in the Prophecy

Text: Acts 3:18 - "but those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."

Also read Isaiah 53:5

Remember learning about being ready to preach the gospel in and out of season from Day One? Well Peter was doing this in our Bible reading today and he knew that he might get into trouble for doing it. But He also had learned that the Holy Spirit would help Him. He was willing to take the risk and speak the truth of Jesus anyway. Peter was not speaking to a crowd of people that didn't know the Bible. He was speaking to really religious people. To put it in today's language he was saying, "Look you guys, remember the man named Jesus? Yes, the man you arrested and nailed to the cross. He is the promised One that the great prophets of the Old Testament have been speaking about the last several hundred years. Repent; open your eyes, ears, and hearts to the truth." Peter was not afraid of the crowd. Even if just one person was to turn from their sin and believe in the name of Jesus, it was worth the suffering Peter might go through.

Peter knew that with God all things are possible. He knew that by God healing the lame man it was an opportunity to glorify Jesus' name and speak the truth of the gospel. Peter and John wanted to let these men know that Jesus Christ had fulfilled the prophecy concerning the Messiah from nearly 750 years earlier. What more proof did they need? It is the same today. This is one of the ways that we know the word of God is true, because of all of the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible. People want proof that Jesus is real; it is great that God gave us the Bible to show them the proof.

Are you waiting for proof to believe in Jesus, or do you know someone who wants proof? Go to the source, the Bible. Just like Peter and John we need to be bold and speak the truth in the name of Jesus. There are a lot of people today that don't know about Jesus and their religion will not save them. Only a relationship with Jesus Christ will get us to heaven.

- Why was Peter not afraid?
- Can you think of a way that we know that God's word is true?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Prophecy: Telling about an event before it happens. There are many prophecies in the Bible speaking about Jesus before He came.

Stepping Out in Love

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18 - "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Also read Acts 3:25

The religious people that Peter was speaking to in the 3rd chapter of Acts were wise in their own eyes. They thought they knew a lot. They went to school for many years and they knew the Old Testament and all the history. But they were filled with pride and their eyes were blind to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 1:18 we read, "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing". These are people who continue to turn away from the simple truth of Jesus dying on the cross to save us from death because of our sins. But what Peter is doing is stepping out in love and taking a risk for these men. If Peter had been more concerned about saving his own life he would have kept quiet for fear of being put to death. Each time we step out and speak about Jesus to others we are showing love.

Peter had to speak the truth about their sin but he did not just speak of their sin and walk away. He continued to tell them they could be forgiven and enter into heaven but only through Jesus. That is love! When I was a new Christian it was easy to see other people sinning and I wanted to tell them that they were sinning against God. But I had to ask the Lord to give me the love of Jesus in my heart for those in the world, so the love of Jesus would shine forth. We are no better than people in the world are, our hearts are just as evil as theirs are. The only difference is we believe that Jesus died for us and He has come into our hearts to change us. What an awesome God!

No one is too bad or too good for God. We are all the same in that God created each of us for His good pleasure. Peter could have hated these men; after all they killed his best friend, Jesus. But Peter also remembered his own sin of denying the Lord three times and yet he had been forgiven. That is love! Is there someone you have not wanted to share the gospel with? Ask the Lord to help you to be bold.

- Does God want us to keep quiet about Jesus?
- Why should we tell others about Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Love: 1 Corinthians 13.

Perishing: Dying. Apart from Jesus we are all perishing.

The Blessing

Text: Acts 3:26 - "To you first, God, having raised up His servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

Also read Matthew 15:24-28

God loves people so very much. He loves you and me! He also loves His people from the Old Testament, Israel. The Lord chose the nation of Israel to be His special people, not because of anything special about them, but because that is what pleased Him. He wanted them to be His special people and a light to all of the other nations. But His own special people, Israel, turned away from Him and didn't want anything to do with Him.

When Jesus came, He came to save the whole world. But Jesus shared His message first to the Jews so that they would be saved. In His love and mercy He wanted the people of Israel to have the first chance to accept Him. But most of the people still rejected Him. But God had another plan. Everyone else in the world that is not part of Israel (these people are called *Gentiles*) would be able to be saved. That means that anyone can become Christians because the good news of Jesus is for everyone.

Jesus has come to bless us. He wants to bless us with a wonderful relationship with Him and with eternal life in heaven. When Peter spoke the words in our reading today, he knew that with God all things are possible. He knew that God desired these people to be saved, and that God would save them if they would only believe. Like the lame man in our story this week Jesus wants to help you. The biggest need we have is to have a relationship with Jesus. If you are reading this and have not asked Jesus Christ into your heart, you can do that right now! Just ask Him to come into your heart. You will be so very blessed by the Lord when you do!

- Who did Jesus share the good news with first?
- How does Jesus want to bless us?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week when you pray thank the Lord for your salvation. You can also ask Him to give you the boldness you need to be His witness; to open up times when you can share Jesus' love with others; to be ready to share with others just like Peter in our story this week.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Third Grade and Above

"Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'"

Acts 3:6