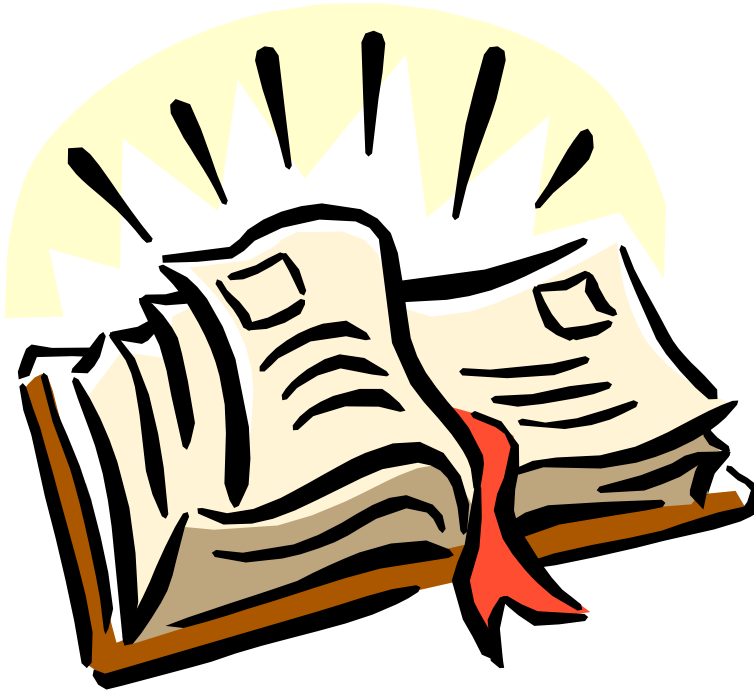


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Peter's Vision

THEME: The ways of God are more important than the tradition of men.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:9-16



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's Vision** and the theme was "**The ways of God is more important than the tradition of men**". In this week's devotions we will learn more about God's love for all people and how each of us play a part in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In telling others about Jesus we need to be more concerned with what the Bible tells us than what the world says. God may sometimes call us to do something that we may not understand and the world may call us "goofy" or "silly" for doing, but if we trust in the Lord, He will be faithful in leading us in His plan.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 10:9-16**. 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

Prayer Doesn't End With "Amen"

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - "...pray without ceasing."

Also read: Acts 10:9

Hey! Wait a minute! What do you mean, "prayer doesn't end with Amen?" Everyone knows that you say, "Amen" when you finish praying! But the Bible says that we are to never stop praying. How do we do that? Well, prayer never really has to end because we are always to be praising the Lord. Throughout the day we can thank Him for everything and ask Him to help us with our needs and to help others. O.K., but what does any of this have to do with Peter on a housetop seeing a vision and God's ways being more important than the traditions of men? Let us find out...

Our Bible verse today talks about prayer and then we also read in Acts 10:9 that Peter went up to the rooftop to pray to the Lord. The Bible tells us that the way we can talk to God every day is to pray. That means that we can talk to Him just like we do a friend. What do we do when we get together with one of our friends? Do we go to separate ends of the house and stay there all by ourselves? No, we play outside TOGETHER or go and play with our toys TOGETHER in our house. When we are with our friends all we want to do is be together with them, right?

That's what Peter was doing. He wanted to be alone with His friend Jesus and he did that by going up on the roof and praying. The houses in the area where Jesus and the disciples lived did not have regular rooftops like we are used to. The top of the roof was flat which made it easy to sit and it was a place that you could go to be alone. Peter prayed by himself so He could be alone with Jesus—that is the kind of praying that we should do. Jesus does not want us to try to impress Him by thinking up some fancy prayer. Sometimes people will do that. He just wants us to be ourselves and spend some time with Him. And we can do that no matter where we are or what time it is. We can always pray to Jesus. Have you talked to Jesus today?

- What are some times and places that you can spend time with God?
- Why did Peter pray on a rooftop?
- What can you learn from Peter's prayer life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary:



Pray without ceasing: DO NOT STOP PRAYING!

Soul Food

Text: Deuteronomy 8:3 - "...that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord."

Also read: Acts 10:10-13

What do you do when you are hungry? Do you raid the refrigerator looking for anything to eat, or do you wait until your mom fixes a meal? What do you do when you are given something that you do not want to eat, do you complain? God wants to feed us with more than just food for our stomach; He wants to give us food for our souls.

When Peter was hungry as we read in Acts 10:10-13, the Lord gave him a vision of what kind of food He wanted to give and what was really important. In Matthew 6:25, Jesus made it very clear that we are not to be worried about what we are to eat or wear. Jesus was showing us that we are to be more concerned with the things of His Kingdom than what we are going to eat (Matthew 6:33).

Peter, like all of us, just wanted to eat and was concerned with his growling, empty stomach. And in those days Peter could only eat certain foods because he was a Jew. For Peter to eat any food other than what was considered "clean" would be to break God's law. In the vision God was showing and telling Peter to go ahead and eat food that was considered "unclean". What Peter did not understand was that he did not need to only eat certain foods any more to keep from sinning. Jesus changed all that when He died on the cross. Jesus freed us from the law and made us clean when he shed His blood. All we need to do is to ask Jesus into our heart. That makes us as clean as we could ever be. Peter was still trying to be good in God's eyes by keeping the law.

A lot of people still believe that if they obey certain rules or do certain religious things that they can please God and go to heaven. The Lord was trying to show Peter that he did not need to do that any more. There is no one who will ever be "good" enough to get into heaven on their own. Believing in Jesus is the only way we can have eternal life. God wanted Peter to see what it meant to be cleansed by God and to be accepted into His family. Will Peter try to please people or will he do God's will? We will find out tomorrow.

- Are you trying to be "good enough" for God or have you asked Jesus into your heart?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Cleansed: To remove the dirt or blemish. When we come to Jesus we are cleansed from all of our sin by Jesus' blood.

Day Three

Father Knows Best

Text: Matthew 26:33 – “Peter answered and said to Him,” Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”

Also read: Acts 10:14

Tommy was a rebellious ten-year-old boy. He thought that he knew everything, especially what was best for him. That all changed one day when he learned a very valuable lesson...

There were a group of boys that lived down the street from Tommy. These boys were his age and would always get into trouble in the neighborhood. They were considered the “bullies” of the block. Tommy’s dad warned him of staying away from these boys because they were trouble, but Tommy thought he knew better than his dad and was curious what these boys did. So, one day while he was riding his bike down the street, two of the boys were throwing a football to each other. Tommy knew he was not supposed to be near their home, but did not see what the big deal was riding by their house. As he approached the two boys in the street, one of them yelled to Tommy, “Hey, what’s up with you, did your mommy and daddy let the baby out of his crib today?!” Tommy did not like to be called a baby so he said back “I’m not a baby and I do not sleep in a crib!” The two boys ran and stopped right in front of Tommy. Tommy slammed on his breaks so he would not hit them and came to a screeching halt. Tommy’s heart was pounding in his chest and his hands were sweating on the handlebars. One of the boys who was much taller and bigger than Tommy pushed his hands against Tommy’s chest and said, “Yeah, well if you’re not a baby prove it!” Tommy said, “I don’t have to prove that I’m not a baby!” By this time Tommy was wishing very much that he had not gone down the street as his father told him. All he could think about was being safe at home. Do you ever think you know better than your parents, or maybe even God?

In our Bible reading, Peter is questioning what Jesus is doing. He was thinking that maybe Jesus was mistaken on what He asked him to do. He was also questioning God when He was showing Peter all of the creatures and animals in the vision on the rooftop. Oftentimes we question the Lord because we do not understand His plans or ways (Isaiah 55:8), and other times we question Him because we do not trust His ways. God is our heavenly Father and knows best in every situation. Do you trust Him to be faithful to His promises for your life. **Continued on Day Four...**

- What do we need to do when God tells us to do something?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Obedient: Doing what the Lord or our parents tell us to do.

Day Four

Deliver Us from Evil

Text: 1 Timothy 4:4,5 - "For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

Also read: Acts 10:15

Continued from Day Three... By this time two more boys came out of their homes and ran to where the group of boys stood. The bigger boy moved closer to Tommy's face and said, "You're not only a baby, but you are a chicken". All four boys laughed and made their arms flop up and down while they marched around him and screeched out clucking noises. Tommy wanted to run and hide but he did not want to let them know that he was scared, proving only that he really was a chicken. Tommy said, "O.K. I'll prove it to you that I'm not a chicken, what do you want me to do?" He knew he was in for it now, why didn't he just get on his bike and ride home? Why hadn't he listened to his father? Tommy remembered what the Bible said about praying to God in times of trouble and how that He will deliver us when we ask Him to. Silently he prayed "Lord, please save me from these guys, I'm sorry for not listening to my dad and I promise I'll listen to my dad from now on. Please help me." Have you ever prayed a prayer like that?

God is willing to help us out of trouble but His Word also tells us "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten (correct)" (Revelation 3:19). In Acts 10:15 the Lord is correcting Peter for disagreeing with Him. The Lord has ways that He does things that are completely different than our traditions or what we think is right. Tommy was just like Peter in thinking that he knew what was best and the Lord had to correct him for that thought. For Peter, God is making it clear that all people that believe in His Son Jesus are saved from sin and Peter is not to think it is for the Jews only. In Galatians 3:28 we are told that it makes no difference who we are, Jesus wants everyone to come to Him.

The boys looked at one another when Tommy asked them what they wanted him to do. You could see they were working on something really scary for him to do. Just then a car pulled up behind the boys and they all turned to see who it was. It was Tommy's dad. He was opening up the car door when the boys all started to run away. Was Tommy ever glad to see his dad! He jumped off his bike and started walking towards the car. His dad asked what was going on and Tommy told him about riding his bike and being approached by the gang of boys. "I thought I told you never to come this far on your bike, why did you disobey me?" said dad. Tommy replied, "Dad, I'm sorry I disobeyed you. I think after today I learned my lesson that I need to listen to you no matter what." We can all learn a valuable lesson in being obedient to God. **Continued on Day Five...**

Kid's Bible Dictionary



God's Ways: What is right in the eyes of the Lord.

Day Five

The One Footed Disciple

Text: John 21:17 - "Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, 'Do you love Me?'"

Also read: Acts 10:16

Continued from Day Four... Why do you think that God had to show Peter the sheet with the creatures three times, or ask him three times, "Do you love Me?" God knew that Peter could be stubborn at times and would sometimes put his foot in his mouth. This is why he might be referred to as the "one footed disciple". Sometimes Peter would speak more often than he listened and by doing that he often found himself in trouble by things he had said. Perhaps God did things with Peter 3 times because He wanted to make sure that he understood. Sometimes the Lord has to work the same way with us; we are no different than Peter.

Tommy was the same way. Instead of listening to his father he went off to do his own thing and got into trouble. There is a good reason that the Lord gave us two ears and one mouth, we are to listen twice as much than we are to speak. Whenever we speak without thinking it always ends in trouble. But God is so patient with us; thankfully he shows and tells us things over and over again because of His mercy. However, His mercy does not mean that we can continue to disobey Him without any problems happening in our lives. The day is coming when the Lord will judge each and everyone of us, and either we have submitted to His will or we chose to do our own thing. Peter did love the Lord, but he also had to learn some things about God's ways. So, the Lord worked with Peter and the Lord will work in our lives as well. There seems to be a little of Peter in each of us and God must work in those areas of our lives that need to change.

In Peter's housetop vision, the Lord was telling him to go and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people, no matter how different they may be. What an awesome God that we serve, and He is so patient and faithful to change our hearts but we must be willing for Him to work in our lives. Peter had a lot of things that the Lord worked out, but He also knew Peter's heart and it was a heart that wanted to serve the Lord. Have you shared the love of Jesus Christ with anyone recently? God wants us to feed on the things of Him and He also wants us to tell others about Jesus. Make a decision today to listen to the Lord and do not walk around with one foot!

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray that the Lord will speak to your heart about witnessing to someone and ask Him to help you listen and learn to hear His still small voice.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"What God has
cleansed you must
not call common."**

Third Grade and Above

**"What God has
cleansed you must
not call common."**

Acts 10:43