

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Paul's First Missionary Journey



THEME: God has a calling on the lives of every one of His children!

SCRIPTURE: Acts 12:25 – 13:52

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 **Paul's First Missionary Journey**. The theme was "**God has a calling on the lives of every one of His children.**" Did you know that God has a plan for each and every one of us? When we are saved it is only the beginning of a wonderful life of living out God's plan for us. He desires to use us to reach this world with the same good news of Jesus that saved us.

Sometimes children may think they are too young or too insignificant to be used by God. But that is not true. We see many examples in the Bible how that God used children to do a lot of great things. What we need to do is just be open to whatever the Lord may want to do in our lives no matter what our age is. When we are willing to be used by God, He will use us.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 12:25 - 13:52**. 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

Hear His Calling

Text: Acts 13:2 – “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”

Also read Acts 12:25-13:13

George was very young when his parents noticed how much he loved to read his Bible. As he grew, George continued to read the Bible and began to learn a lot of things about the Lord. In Sunday school he would often answer many of the teacher’s questions. He loved all of the Bible stories and learning about how they help us to live our lives for Jesus.

One day his teacher asked him to prepare a 10-minute study on the Bible story for next week to share with the whole class. George was excited, but kind of scared at the same time. He went home and shared the good news with his parents. They were also excited with George for the opportunity he was going to have to teach God’s Word to others. Later that week as George was studying a Bible verse almost jumped off the page into George’s heart. The verse was Acts 13:2. His heart pounding, George went to his parents and read to them the verse. The family began to pray together and ask the Lord to begin to show George what the Lord may desire to do in his life. George’s father shared with George that perhaps God was calling George into His ministry at an early age. He encouraged George to keep seeking the Lord in prayer, reading his Bible and looking for opportunities to serve Him.

Every one of us are called to serve the Lord in one way or another. One of the most important prayers we should pray is “How can I serve You, Lord?” In today’s Bible verses, we see men of God praying and serving the Lord. While they fasted and prayed, the Holy Spirit spoke to their hearts. Saul, once a feared enemy of Christians, becomes a man who is used greatly by the Lord. He began to spread the gospel to people who didn’t know Jesus as Savior. Ask God to show you what your gifts are and then ask God what He wants you to do with those gifts—what is your calling?

- How did George begin to recognize his calling by the Lord?
- What were the apostles doing when God spoke to them?
- Is there an area where you are especially drawn to serve God?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Calling: God speaking to a heart about where to serve in ministry.

Day Two

John the Baptist's Calling

Text: John 1:23 - "He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the LORD,'" as the prophet Isaiah said."

Read John 1:6-36

God loves to use people who desire to do his will. There was a husband and wife in the Bible who loved and served God with all of their hearts, but did not have any children. God let the man know one day that they would have a child and that he would be the one to tell everyone about the coming Savior. But there was only one problem, they were very old and could not have children. But that didn't matter to God, even though they were old, God had called them to be the parents of this very special man. His name was John the Baptist.

John would have the special job of telling everyone that Jesus was about to come to take away the sins of the people. There had not been a prophet in Jerusalem for hundreds of years. In the Old Testament days there were many prophets who would speak God's Word to His people. A lot of people listened to John and believed his message. Many turned away from their sins and were baptized by John. John the Baptist was also the one who baptized Jesus and told everyone that He was the Lamb of God and that they should follow Him. John spent his life telling others about Jesus.

We all need to stop and listen for God's call in our lives. He has a special purpose for each one of us. He calls all of His children to serve Him. It is up to us to pray and ask God to show us what His plans are for our lives. He knows and can make very clear what we can do to serve Him. Some are teachers, some are evangelists, some are prophets, the Bible says. God has a purpose for you. It is a privilege to be able to go before God and ask Him in prayer what He wants us to do with our lives. Is it not great to know God has a perfect plan for our lives and all we need to do is ask, and He will give us the desires of our hearts?

- When did God call John the Baptist?
- Do you think John asked God what his calling in life was?
- Have you asked Jesus what His plans are for your life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Privilege: A special right God gives us because we are His people.

God Calls a Youth

Text: 1 Sam 3:3-4 - "...and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am! "

Also read 1 Sam 2:1-11; and 1 Sam 3:1-18

Samuel was a special prophet of God. His mother had wanted a child very bad, but was not able to have children. So she pleaded with the Lord for a child and promised that the child would serve God alone. The Lord honored her prayer and gave her Samuel. As a very young boy, Samuel went to live with and serve the priest Eli. He had never heard the voice of the LORD before. In fact, the Bible says Samuel did not know the LORD yet. But God was about to reveal Himself to Samuel in a big way. It was Eli who tells Samuel how to respond to God the night the voice of the LORD came to him. God was calling Samuel to become a prophet, a person who would speak forth God's word. He wanted to bless Samuel with a special gift. But what would Samuel now do as God's voice came to him? Would he answer and be obedient? Or would he ignore God's voice?

In our Bible passage today, in verse three, we see Samuel passing a very important test. He listens to what Eli the priest tells him to do and he listens to the Lord speak to him. It pleases God for His children to walk in obedience to His call upon their lives. It must have been hard for Samuel because what God told him was not good news for Eli. But Samuel passes the test and is faithful to deliver what God says. He tells Eli the truth of the prophecy of God. Here is where Samuel begins a long, close walk with God and is used greatly by God.

Later, God would choose through Samuel the greatest king Israel would know—King David. We can see now that God always had a plan and part of the plan was His calling Samuel as a young boy to serve him in a special way. He has also called many, many other people in the Bible, including kings, poor widows, and children. God has a special plan for you and me and will bless us when we are obedient.

- Why did Samuel have to ask who was calling him?
- Have you asked God if He is calling you to do something special?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Dedication: To set apart for special use. Hannah gave her only son Samuel in dedication to the service of the LORD.

God Calls an Open Heart

(Part One)

2 Thessalonians 2:13 - "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Also read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

It was not very quiet at night where Robert and his family slept. They kept waking up several times and ended up tossing and turning in their beds. But they were thankful that they had a roof and warm blankets. He and his mom and sisters stayed at a shelter. His life had changed a lot since his dad had left. His mom had a hard time finding a job because she had to take care of his little sisters, too. Robert tried to help her as much as he could, but he had to go to school.

One day Robert's heart was very heavy and sad. He heard music coming from somewhere. He listened—it was guitar music. Robert loved the guitar. He felt drawn to the music. It was a song about Jesus. Robert came forward when the man stopped playing. He asked Robert if he knew who Jesus was. Danny was an **evangelist**, called by the Lord to share Jesus with others. Robert had been told about Jesus before, but he never really understood very much. This time was different though. He seemed to know in his heart that the things that Danny shared about Jesus were true. He desired to know more about Jesus. Danny asked Robert if he would like to ask Jesus into his heart and he practically shouted out an excited, "YES!!!" In front of everyone in the room Robert knelt down and accepted the Lord into his heart. Robert told his mom about accepting the Lord. She was very happy. She had been praying for her son all of his life.

Sometimes we have difficult situations to overcome, but He still loves us very much. Our God can draw us near to His heart in any situation, but especially in tough times. God calls our hearts to Him when we are in trouble. It is not easy to take our mind off our troubles, but God wants us to hear His voice and accept Him into our hearts. **Continued on Day Five...**

- Did God know where to find Robert?
- Who was true to God's call in the story?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Evangelist: One who preaches the gospel of Jesus to the lost.

Day Five

God Calls an Open Heart

(Part Two)

1 Peter 2:9-10 - "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Read 1 Corinthians 1:23-29

Continued from Day Four... After Robert accepted Jesus as his savior he began to share about Jesus with others wherever he went. He prayed with his family about what God would have him do for His kingdom. Danny became a very close friend, and shared his gift of music with Robert. Once Robert picked up the guitar, he knew what it was God was calling him to do. Deep in his heart, he knew God had called him to write music and share his deep love for Jesus with people who didn't know about the good news of Jesus.

As Robert shared his gift and calling with others, he was blessed by the Lord more and more. His mother was able to get a job at a daycare center, and his sisters were with her all day. Robert could not believe how much Jesus loved him and his family. Everyone could see that they loved God. Friends who knew them from the shelter understood that it was the great and marvelous God who did all of the great things in their lives.

God has a purpose and a plan for everyone who is called to be His children. God gives us gifts to share with others for His Glory. We can accomplish His work by looking to Him and doing what He asks us to do. He is the one who has given us the talents we have. Without His calling on our lives, our gifts are nothing. Those who are called by the Lord should thank the Lord. You do not have to be a mighty king, or a rich person. You do not need to impress anyone with what you know. The talents and gifts Jesus gives to us are important. He trusts us to hear His voice and answer His call faithfully. God has a calling on the life of every one of His children.

- Who has a plan for our life and gives us gifts to do it?
- What has the Lord shared with you this week about His call on your life?
- Name some gifts the Lord gives to His children (Romans 12 & 1 Corinthians 12-14).

Kid's Prayer Time



Go before the Lord today and ask Him to show you what His call is on your life. Think about how life would be without God in control of it. Praise God for the gifts that He has given to you to do His will.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"The Lord has commanded us:
'I have made you a light for
the Gentiles, to bring salvation
to the ends of the earth.'"

Third Grade and Above

"For so the Lord has
commanded us: 'I have set you
to be a light to the Gentiles,
that you should be for
salvation to the ends of the
earth.'"

Acts 13:47