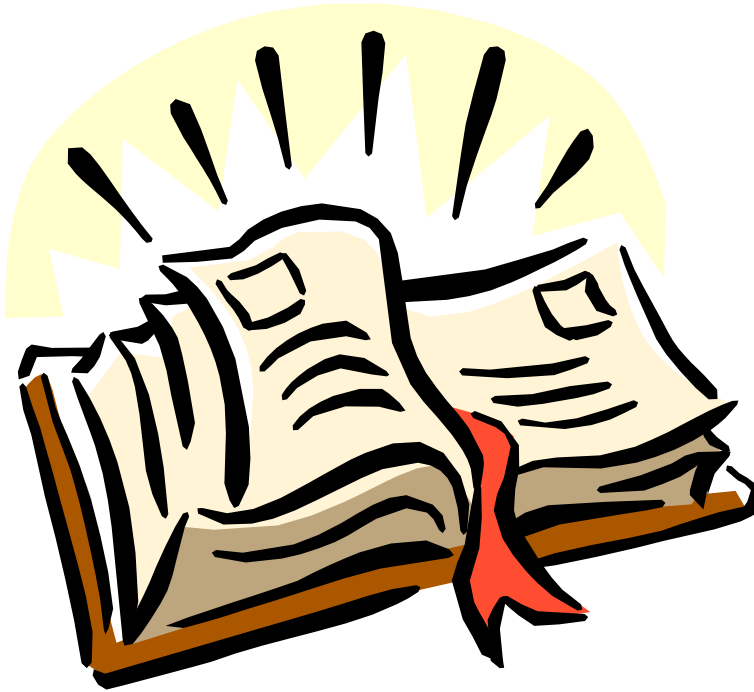


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Call to Macedonia

**THEME: We must be obedient to the voice
of the Lord!**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 16:6-10



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 Call to Macedonia**. The theme was "**We must be obedient to the voice of the Lord.**" Paul saw a vision of a man from Macedonia. He thought that he was going to go to Asia or Bythunia to share the gospel, but God had other plans. When God showed Paul what He wanted him to do, he immediately obeyed.

God still speaks to us today through His Word and through His Holy Spirit. Whenever we hear the voice of the Lord we also need to be obedient. We will look at how we can listen to God and what our response should be this week in our devotion time.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 16:6-10**. 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!

Yield to His Voice

Text: Acts 16:10 – “Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

Also read Acts 16:6-39

Obedying the call of the Lord is not always easy. Sometimes we may think we are going in the right direction only to find out that God wants us to go in another. In today's Bible reading we learn about a couple of Jesus' faithful disciples, Paul and Silas. They had intended to go to a place called Asia to preach the gospel. They had their bags packed and were ready to go, but we see that the Lord stopped them. Why would He do that? Jesus wants us to spread the gospel to the entire world, doesn't He? So why would He stop these men from going to Asia? God has His perfect plan and timing for our lives as well as for the world. It looks like God had prepared some people to receive Jesus in another area of the world and that is where He wanted to send Paul and Silas.

Paul has a special dream. In it there is a messenger asking him to come to the place he is at. God had a very special place that He wanted Paul and Silas to go to. He was going to send them to Macedonia. His desire was to have them start a church from a few people who were meeting at a river near a town called Philippi. They did not have a church building there or even know about Jesus. But this is where God had prepared some people's hearts to receive the good news of Jesus. So the city of Philippi was the beginning of Paul's ministry into a brand new area that had never heard of Jesus before.

God has a perfect plan for our lives and we must be willing to listen and **yield** to Him in everything. Notice that Paul was willing to listen to the Spirit of the Lord. As soon as He knew God had given Him instruction he “immediately” set out to obey. Paul knew God well enough to trust in Him and His plan. Sometimes we may not fully understand what God is doing, but after we obey it all makes sense. God wanted Paul to start the church of Philippi. The church did begin because Paul listened to God and obeyed.

- How did God get Paul's attention?
- Did Paul know what God was going to do when he obeyed the Lord?
- What happened when Paul was obedient to God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Yield: Slowing down, listening to the Lord and submitting to what He wants.

Blessings of Obedience

Text: Deuteronomy 28:1 – “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.”

Read Deuteronomy 27:9-10; and Deuteronomy 28:1-14

When you think about it, isn't it AMAZING how much God loves us? He wants to walk with us every day and bless us over and over again. That is the kind of heavenly Father we have! When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, we are only just beginning a wonderful life filled with God's **blessing**.

God helps us to understand how we can live a very **blessed** life through His Word, the Bible. He gives us the Bible to teach us His ways. That is how He speaks to us today. And the same promise that God gave to Moses and the people of Israel can be ours today. If we will obey the voice of the LORD (what we read in God's Word), we will be **blessed**. The opposite is also true. If we refuse to listen to God's voice and live our lives in disobedience and how we want to, then we will have miserable lives. Not because God is mad at us, but because we are just reaping what we are sowing. If we plant bad seeds we will get bad plants. God tells us what to do in the Bible because He does love us. He knows what will happen if we disobey. So we need to listen for God's voice and obey Him.

We learn to hear God's voice by spending time with Him. Imagine if you never spent any time with your mom or dad. If they called you to come to them, would you know what they sounded like? You would not even know who they are? We spend time with God by spending time in prayer. We then listen very quietly for Him to speak to our hearts. We also learn about God when we spend time reading the Bible. There are great **blessings** promised to those who are obedient to God's voice. God promises to bless all that we do and all of the people we love. God always keeps His promises. He only asks that we listen to His voice and obey Him. We should always be obedient to the voice of the LORD.

- Name some ways that God speaks to us.
- What are some **blessings** God gives for obeying His voice?
- Can you tell of a time that God **blessed** you for being obedient?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Blessing: God giving a special happiness or joy in someone's life.

Day Three

Hear Him Calling

Text: John 10:4 – “And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.”

Read John 10:1-18; Psalm 23

The Lord Jesus loves us and cares for us as though we are His own little sheep. Think about how much a shepherd has to care for his sheep. They need to have shelter. They need protection from fierce animals like lions or bears. They must be fed and depend on the person taking care of them. They also need to be led from one place to another, because a lamb does not know where it is going without someone to lead them.

A shepherd is a person whose job it is to lead the sheep, protect them and make sure they have enough food and water. It is important that the sheep know the shepherd's voice. He can **call** them to a new pasture where they can feed or call them away from danger. Sometimes the shepherd must take his flock through rough and rocky territory before a safe place can be found. But the sheep that follows the voice of the shepherd will always be safe, because the shepherd always goes before the flock and makes sure the sheep are doing OK.

Jesus spoke to us about how that He is our Shepherd in the Bible. He loves us and cares for us. He laid down His life for us. He **calls** us by name. It is important for us to know the voice of our Lord Jesus. We must be able to tell His voice so He can **call** us from danger or **call** us to serve Him. Jesus desires that we are obedient to His voice, because He wants to bless us. It pleases God when we are listening to Him. We also need to listen for His voice so we can serve Him and help others know who He is. Jesus will guide us wherever we need to go safely. He will bless our obedience. We only need to listen for the voice of the Lord and follow where He **calls**.

- Is Jesus your Savior and Shepherd?
- Would you know the Shepherd's voice if He **called** you to do something today?
- Have you asked God if He is **calling** you to do something special?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Call: The Lord speaking to our hearts, softly and gently, through His Word and through His Spirit. It can also be a strong urge to do something for the Lord that He has placed on our heart.

Called for a Purpose

Luke 5:5 - "But Simon answered and said to Him, 'Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.'"

Luke 5:1-11

Peter, James and John were followers of Jesus. They were used greatly to spread the good news about Jesus dying for our sins. They were not well known before they met Jesus. They were not rich or powerful. They were not famous like the world would think of being famous. They were just humble fishermen when they first met the Lord, but Jesus called them into His service, and they were used mightily by Him. They did miracles of healing, started churches, and through their faithfulness many people were saved and came to know Jesus. Today, we might never have known their names or the name of the Lord Jesus if they had not been obedient to the call of Jesus to follow Him.

Jesus came to each of the 12 disciples individually and called them to follow Him. Each one of them had to make a decision in their own heart and lives if they were going to be willing to follow Jesus. But God can do amazing things with a willing heart! Jesus comes to each one of us and asks us if we are **willing** to follow Him. We do not have to. We can even say no to Jesus, but He has a great life planned for us if we do say yes to Him. It is the best life we can possibly have.

God has a purpose and a plan for each one of our lives. He will begin to work in us and through us as we grow in Him and learn to obey Him. Sometimes those plans can take a long time to complete, but Jesus is always faithful to finish what He starts. Peter, James and John had no idea what the Lord had in mind for them. But they chose to be obedient to Jesus and they were blessed for the rest of their lives. It is very important that we learn to listen and obey the calling of the Lord. God had great plans for these three men. We all need to stop, listen and be **willing** to obey the Lord.

- What did Peter, James and John do for a living?
- What happened to them when they were obedient to Jesus and threw out their nets?
- What have you learned today about answering God's call?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Willing: to have a heart that is ready to obey.

Day Five

Called to Go Forth

John 21:6 - "And He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish."

Read John 21:1-13

We meet the disciples again today along with some of their friends. They have been through a lot in the last three years since Jesus called them to come away from their nets and follow Him. They were obedient to His call and they have watched their Savior heal, and raise people from the dead. They watched Jesus suffer and die on the cross for their sins. They prayed as He was in the tomb. Jesus then amazed them when He rose from the dead and appeared before them with nail pierced hands, feet and side.

They have grown a lot in their walk with the Lord and now Jesus waits for them on the shore of the sea again. He is serving them and making breakfast for them. Isn't the Lord wonderful to us? When Peter sees Jesus he is so happy that he jumps out of his boat and into the water to swim to Jesus. And it was early in the morning; it must have been very cold. But Peter did not care. He knew that Jesus was waiting on the shore. He was excited to find out what the next thing was that Jesus wanted to share with them. Not long after this, Jesus had something very important to share with the disciples. It would be the calling of their lives. They would go forth and spread the good news to all the nations.

Jesus wants all of His children to hear His voice and to obey Him. He will bless us if we follow His plans. He loves us and only wants the very best for our lives. If we do whatever we want to with our lives, and we do not listen to the Lord, we will have a lot of problems in life. If we love the Lord and we give our hearts to Him to do with as He pleases, we will be blessed by Him. We may still have problems, but He will help us through every one. We serve a mighty God whose voice can break mountains in two. But God also speaks to our hearts in a gentle voice that asks the question, "Will you obey Me?"

- Who do we serve when we do what we want to do?
- Name some people you know who have answered the call of the Lord.

Kid's Prayer Time



This week give thanks to the Lord because He is so good to us. Ask the Lord what He would have you do for Him in your life. Spend some quiet time reading your Bible and praying. Listen for the Lord's voice as you pray.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey my commands and I will be with you always.”

Third Grade and Above

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20