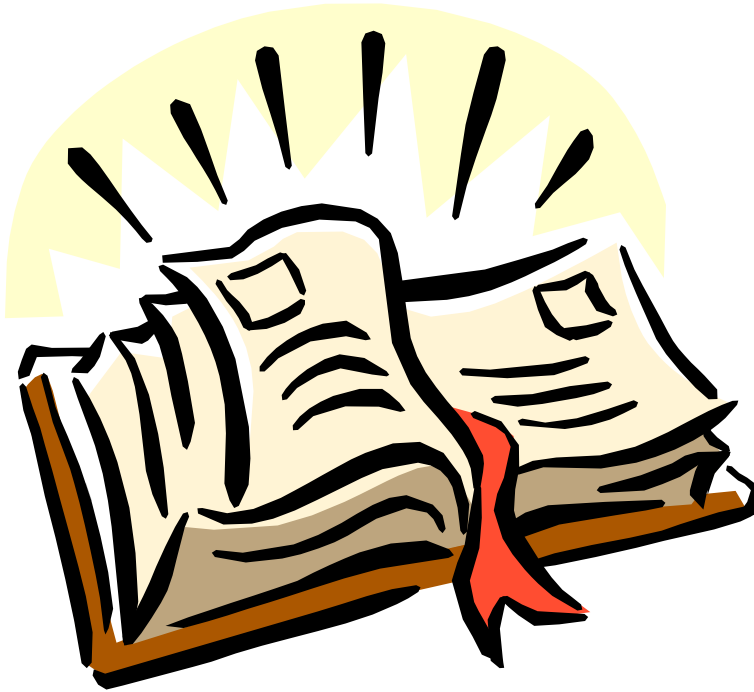


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Riot at Ephesus

THEME: Faithfulness leads to a fruitful life.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 19:11-41



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 Riot at Ephesus**. The theme was "**Faithfulness leads to a fruitful life.**" We can learn a lot from the experiences of Paul and his friends as their preaching of the gospel produces a riot in the city.

A faithful person is stable, dependable, and loyal. God alone is completely faithful. He will meet our daily needs and provide for us no matter what difficulty we face. We have God's indwelling Spirit, so we, too, can be faithful. Staying true to God in my thoughts, words, and actions is a great example of faithfulness for others to see. Faithfulness leads to a fruitful life.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 19:11-41**. 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!

No Matter What!

Text: Luke 16:10 – “He who is **faithful** in what is least is **faithful** also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”

Also read Daniel 6:1-28

“Dad, can I go over to Brenda’s house to see if she can come over and play?” asked Amanda. “Sure, but you can not go inside of Brenda’s house, I want you to wait for her outside,” replied Dad. “OK,” said Amanda. Amanda ran over to Brenda’s to see if she could play. Amanda walked up to the door and knocked. Brenda’s dad answered the door. “Is Amanda home?” “She sure is, come on in,” replied Brenda’s father. Amanda went inside the house and into Brenda’s room. The two girls stayed in the room and played for about 20 minutes.

Amanda’s dad was playing in the yard with Amanda’s younger sister and noticed that 20 minutes had gone by and Amanda had not shown up. “Casey, would you like to walk with me over to Brenda’s house to check on Amanda?” “OK,” replied Casey. Amanda’s father and sister walked over to Brenda’s house to see if Amanda and Brenda were playing out in the front yard. When they got to Brenda’s house there were no signs of Amanda or Brenda. “Casey would you go and knock on the door to see where Amanda and Brenda might be?” asked Amanda’s father. Casey knocked on the door and Brenda’s father answered. “Come on in, the girls are in the bedroom.” Casey looked over to her father for his approval to go inside the house. He nodded and asked her to go and get Amanda. Casey returned with Amanda and Brenda. Amanda wouldn’t look at her father because she knew she had disobeyed his word. Amanda’s father took her home. She was disciplined by losing the privilege to go to Brenda’s house again until she could prove her **faithfulness** to her parents. Her father told her that she was not **faithful** to her word therefore he was unable to trust her with going over to Brenda’s house for a while. She would have to build his trust in her again by being **faithful**.

Have you ever been tempted to stop doing what is right (reading your Bible, being honest, obeying your parents)? It is very important for us to be **faithful** with what we are trusted with. When we are faithful we can be trusted with more privileges. But when we are unfaithful we have to start all over again. God wants us to be **faithful**. Faithfulness leads to a fruitful life.

- Why is it so important to be faithful?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faithfulness: Staying true to God in my thoughts, words, and actions.

Abide in Him

Text: John 15:2 – “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

Also read John 15 & Galatians 5:16-23

The gardener planted the apple tree in his backyard. The fruit that the tree was to produce was a very large sweet red apple. The gardener could not wait for the apple tree to start producing the fruit. He would check the tree every day to see how the growth was going. As he cared for his tree, he would notice sometimes a few diseased and bug-infested branches. The gardener would cut away the bad branches and destroy them. If the gardener did not cut away the bad branch the tree could die. But sometimes the gardener would cut back some good branches, too, because he knows that by cutting back the good branch, he will enable the tree to grow fuller and stronger.

What the gardener wants most from this tree is for it to be filled with fruit. His job is to do everything he can to the tree so that he gets a lot of good fruit from the branches. In John 15 Jesus talks about fruit being produced from branches. Jesus explains to us that our lives in Jesus are a lot like the branches that bear fruit. Jesus describes Himself as the vine and the branches that grow from that vine are us. The vinedresser, or the gardener is God. Just like when a gardener cuts out the bad branch so God cuts out the things in our lives that keep us weak as Christians. And sometimes God may cut away the good parts of a branch, so we can grow. When we **abide** in the vine (Jesus) then we produce fruit. Galatians 5:22 tells us what types of fruit should be seen from our life when we **abide** in Jesus. When we are faithful in **abiding** in Him then we lead a fruitful life.

Like a gardener, God wants His children to bear fruit, too. There are three different kinds of “fruit” God is looking for:

1. **Good Works** (Ephesians 2:10)
 2. **Good Attitudes** (Galatians 5: 22,23)
 3. **Good Witness for Jesus** (Acts 1:8)
- What do you think it means to abide in Jesus? (Acts 16:31, John 15:10, 1John 1:9, Proverbs 3:5,6)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Abide: staying, remaining, and living in the same place day after day.

Good Works

Text: Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Also read Isaiah 19:25

Jim ran into the house, “Dad, can I borrow the rake?” “Sure,” replied Jim’s father. “Where you going with it?” “Across the street,” Jim said smiling. Jim’s father peeked through the window to see what his son was up to. “What a blessing!” Jim’s father thought to himself. Jim was across the street at Mr. and Mrs. Meyer’s home. The Meyers were an elderly couple who lived across the street. Mr. Meyer was disabled, so it was difficult for him to get around at times. The blessing to Jim’s father was to see his son raking the leaves up for Mr. and Mrs. Meyer.

Jim came back home and told his father he was finished with the rake. “What were you doing over at the Meyer’s house?” “I was cleaning up their yard for them,” replied Jim. “Are you trying to make a little money for the weekend?” asked Jim’s father. “No, I wanted to help out Mr. Meyer. It must be hard to keep up yard work when you have a disability.” “What a wonderful work you have done. It’s great to see you do good things for others because of your love for the Lord,” replied Jim’s father. The Lord blessed Jim because he was willing to be a servant.

Doing things for the Lord to bless others is not something we do because we have to or else we will get in trouble with God. It is something that we desire to do when we are really walking with Jesus. It is just something that happens when we follow Jesus with our whole heart. We want to do what Jesus would do. Like Jim, we begin to do good things for other people. Even without being told to do so! When others see our actions in Jesus’ name, God receives the glory. Others will see His light shining bright in our lives and be drawn to the Lord. Our faithfulness to Jesus produces a fruitful life.

- Can you think of things you could do for others in Jesus’ name?
- Why do we serve Jesus?
- What are you doing for the Lord today?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Fruitfulness: having good things come from my life (Galatians 5:22,23).

Good Qualities

Text: Galatians 5:22,23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. "

Also read John 15:2

Before we come to Jesus our lives can produce a lot of "bad" fruit. Things like selfishness, anger, arguing, or unforgiveness. But the Bible tells us that when we come to Jesus and the Holy Spirit lives inside of us that we begin to produce "good" fruit in our lives. But even after we have asked Jesus into our lives, we can occasionally still produce "bad" fruit. We do not always do everything perfect. And we will not until we go to be with the Lord in heaven. So how can we produce more "good" fruit instead of "bad" fruit?

The answer is that we need to always be filled with God's Holy Spirit. He wants to make good fruit come out of our lives every day. When we let the Holy Spirit control our lives the fruit will naturally come out. The fruit is not something that we have to struggle to produce any more than an apple tree must struggle to bear apple. If the fruit of God is lacking in your life, just pray and ask the Lord to fill you again with His Holy Spirit; then watch the fruit begin to grow. Here's a list of spiritual fruit:

1. **LOVE** - To love others is to value them very highly and to desire God's very best for them (1 Corinthians 13 tells us how love responds in all situations).
 2. **JOY** - Joy is a deep inner gladness and delight that is present even when things may be going bad.
 3. **PEACE** - Peace is a quietness of heart, mind, and soul that comes as we learn to trust God and keep our thoughts on Him.
 4. **LONGSUFFERING** - Patience with others and Jesus has patience with us.
 5. **KINDNESS** - Treating others with love and respect.
 6. **GOODNESS** - To do what is right.
 7. **FAITHFULNESS** - A stable, dependable, and loyal person.
 8. **GENTLENESS** - Not being rough with others, but nice.
 9. **SELF-CONTROL** - Keeping control of our thoughts, feelings and actions under the power of the Holy Spirit, rather than allowing those things to control us.
- Is the fruit of the Holy Spirit coming out of your life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Show and Tell

Text: Acts 1:8 – “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:20

Have you ever played the game “show and tell” in school? Show and tell is usually a special school time when the teacher asks you to bring something to class that you would like others to see. When it’s your turn, you are to show the class what you brought and tell them all about it. Most kids want to bring something valuable to them and point out all of the neat things to others that make it so important.

God has something valuable for you. If you receive it, you will have something to show and tell to everyone you meet. The special gift is eternal life. How do we receive eternal life? We receive eternal life by believing that God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. When we realize we are sinners and ask Jesus to come into our hearts, God gives us eternal life. That is something God wants us to show and tell.

In Matthew 5:16 Jesus told His followers to let the light of Him shine through their lives so others would be drawn to God. How do you live your life? You can SHOW others just by the way you live and act. Maybe you obey your mom the first time she asks for something instead of ignoring her. Maybe you treat your brother or sister with respect instead of arguing with them. Your attitude and actions show that you are new inside. When you are faithful to God the desires of your heart reflect His love. We all need to live our lives in such a way that others can see God working in our lives.

- Tell about a time when you played “Show and Tell”.
- What should we let shine before others all of the time?
- How can we “show and tell” others that we follow Jesus?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is so much to be thankful for as a child of God. What a blessing it is to see others drawn into God's light because of the way you live your life. Be faithful to God and your actions will be fruitful. Pray and ask the Lord to help you to be faithful and that He would produce His fruit in your life.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"So the word of the
Lord grew mightily
and prevailed."**

Third Grade and Above

**"So the word of the
Lord grew mightily
and prevailed."**

Acts 19:20