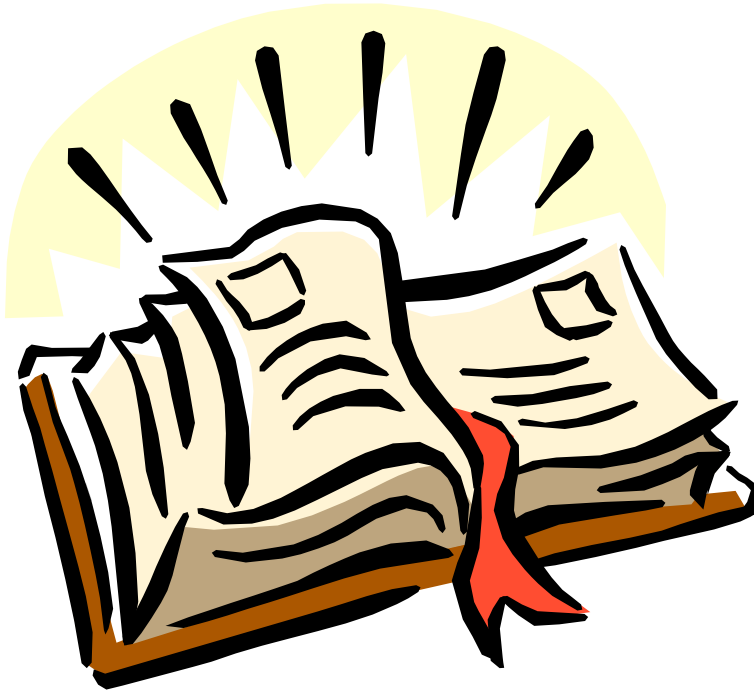


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Paul is Sent to Felix



THEME: Sometimes God works to protect us in ways we do not understand; we just have to trust in Him.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 23:23 – 24:27

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 time when Paul is **Sent to Felix**. The theme was "**Sometimes God works to protect us in ways we don't understand; we just have to trust Him.**" Paul was arrested and would now be taken before the rulers of the land. They had the power to put him in jail, let him go, or even to kill him. He had to put his complete trust in Jesus to help him through this time.

Sometimes scary things can happen in our lives. We need to remember that Jesus has everything under control. He loves us very much. Sometimes we may not understand everything that He is doing, but He will always do what is best for us and for His plan in our lives. We just need to trust Him.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 23:23 - 24:27**. 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

Out of the City by Moonlight

Text: Acts 23:31 - "Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought him by night to Antipatris."

Also read Acts 23:23-35

Saleema and her mother had been hiding for several days. They lived in a country where it was a crime to speak the name of Jesus Christ. The police had come to arrest her father and brothers for telling people about Jesus. The mom and daughter did not want to be caught because they wanted to find someone who could help the rest of their family. Saleema prayed that God would have mercy and help them to help their family.

The following morning, a man recognized Saleema and her mom and called the police. When they were arrested, they were taken to the police captain's office in chains. The captain closed the door behind him and explained that they were going to be taken out of the jail, put into a prison van and driven to a very large city. The women were afraid. Was this what had happened to their family? That evening they were placed in the van. Everyone was yelling and pulling at them as they got into the van. Several miles down the road, the van stopped. Then Saleema and her mom were ordered out of the van. In the dark, they could hear the voice of the captain. Then someone turned on a flashlight. It was Saleema's father and brothers with the captain and they were free. It was a time for praising Jesus for His miracle. The captain was a secret believer and he brought the family back together and set them free.

Sometimes things are not always what they seem to be. Something that appears to be very bad could happen for the purposes of God. God is always in control. Look at the apostle Paul in today's scripture reading. The Roman soldiers arrested Paul, but they kept the Jewish religious men from killing the apostle. Yes, Paul was still imprisoned, but God had a greater plan in mind. Paul was to go before more people and be a faithful witness for Jesus. God often works in our lives in mysterious ways, but He is always faithful.

- Has something bad happened to you that turned out to be a blessing?
- How did God turn it around to be a blessing?
- Do you think that Paul was frightened? Why or why not?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Mysterious: Something unexpected that happens that would not naturally occur. God often works in mysterious ways.

Day Two

A Sympathetic Judge

Text: Acts 24:23 - "So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him."

Also read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

As we learned in our verse today, we see our friend Paul on his way to be tried before a very important man, Felix. Felix is in charge of the state of Israel for the Roman Empire. The Romans did not think highly of the Jewish people, but they liked to have good order. They had laws set up in order to keep things peaceful. Paul has caused quite a stir in Jerusalem and the religious leaders wanted to kill him.

A Roman commander, put in Jerusalem by the hand of God, has now sent Paul under the protection of a Roman guard, to the governor of Israel. His name is Felix and he has the power to control what will happen next to Paul. Felix is like our judges today. He can order Paul free or order him to prison. Felix also has the power to order Paul to die. But really God is in control of this situation and will work things to accomplish His will in Paul's life. It is God who allows rulers to be in charge and He even places them where He wants for His purposes (see Romans 13).

We see that Felix had mercy on Paul. While Paul cannot leave, he is given freedoms that others do not have. Felix has a greater understanding of Christianity than the high priest Ananias. Ananias wants to have Paul killed and brings a false witness to the trial. Notice that Felix has a wife who is Jewish. Felix is a reasonable man. He listens to Paul and he wants to learn more. He brings his wife to hear about Paul's faith in Christ. Unfortunately he does not do anything more. He could have believed in Jesus, but allowed fear and other things to get in the way. In the end, God allows another ruler to take control who gets Paul to the next place in God's plan.

- Do you think God is in control over everything?
- How did God use Felix to do His plan in Paul's life?
- Did Felix become a Christian? What do you think was more important to Him?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ruler: Someone who has authority and control over people. God is the Ruler over all things in heaven and on earth.

Day Three

Trust God for the Miracles

Text: 2 Chronicles 20:22 - "Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were delivered."

Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

John's mom tried and tried to start the car. They needed to get to John's football game. The car acted like it was out of gas. His mom knew there was gas in the car and she pumped and pumped the pedal to get the car started. John knew the pedal gave the engine gas to start, but it did not seem to work. They were both tired and frustrated by the time they called John's dad. When his dad came outside, he tried to start the car and then opened the hood at looked at the engine. Then he told John's mom not to push on the gas pedal, but to wait a few minutes and try again. It did not make sense to John. He just knew that pumping the gas was what made the car start. But he knew also that his father knew about cars and that they just needed to trust him. When the car started, John was surprised, but very relieved that he could get to his football game. He and his mom knew that they just needed to trust that dad would know what to do to get the car started.

Being a child of God means that our lives can be full of pleasant surprises. Sometimes we get ourselves in trouble by relying only upon our own ideas. When we have a problem we sometimes try to fix it ourselves without even talking to the Lord. When we trust the Lord and we listen to His instruction, no matter how strange His instruction may seem to us, the Lord will work to protect us. The main thing is that we need to be obedient. It is always better to choose the way of the Lord, whether we understand it or not.

God took good care of His people in Judah as we read in our Bible reading today. He told them to sing praises to Him and He would deliver them from their enemies. It was a very strange request for the people. They thought they needed to fight their enemies. But they trusted God and obeyed His command to praise Him. The miracle happened, just as the Lord had promised. The enemies fought among themselves and they all died. Judah was free. Sometimes God protects us in ways we do not understand. But we need to always remember that God has our best in mind and we just need to trust Him.

- Would it make sense to you to sing and praise God instead of fighting?
- If God told you to do something you did not understand, would you still do it?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Instruction: An order or information given by a teacher, a parent or the Lord.

God is With Us

Text: Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Also read Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-40

The Children of Israel had been waiting for their Messiah for many hundreds of years. But the Pharisees, the religious leaders of the day, had also built their own worldly empire of power and money. They did not want Jesus coming in and messing everything up for them. If the people began to follow Jesus that meant that they would begin to lose their power, so they became very worried. They tried to keep people away from Jesus, but they were really keeping people away from the Savior of the world.

While Jesus was on earth, He fulfilled all of the prophecies given to the Jewish people about the Messiah. This is one of the ways that we know that Jesus is really who He says He is. Angels of God announced the coming of Jesus, just as was foretold by the prophets. Mary knew who Jesus was. Joseph was told who Jesus was. Simeon knew who Jesus was. Anna the prophetess knew Jesus was the Promised One. The shepherds knew Jesus was the Messiah, just as the scriptures said.

But the Pharisees and the rulers of Jerusalem refused to accept Him. They did not want things to change. To welcome Him meant letting go of their power and their money. God sent a Child, His very own Son, to be the Savior of the world. He wanted people to understand and accept His grace and mercy live and in person. But He was not welcome. Jesus was cast out of the cities, betrayed by a friend with a kiss, and crucified on a cross. Jesus rose again from the dead and now gives people the opportunity to be forgiven for all their sins. God sent us eternity in the person of Jesus Christ long before we were ever born. We may never completely understand it, but we only need to believe and trust in Jesus to receive eternal life.

- Do we have to understand everything about Jesus to accept Him as Savior?
- Did Mary understand what God wanted or did she just trust Him?
- Have you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Messiah: The promised one of God foretold by the prophets who would come to deliver Israel and the world from their sins.

Day Five

Our Redeemer, Jesus

Text: Psalm 34:22 - "The LORD redeems the soul of His servants and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned."

Also read Psalm 34; Luke 2:1-20

Truly God wants us to trust in Him. Throughout the Bible we learn of God's faithfulness to those who trust in Him and put their faith in His promises. The LORD God who made the earth and all the heavens loves us. He desires that we come to Him for all of our needs. We see how faithful God has been to man when we read the Bible. We can receive the promises He has for us by just putting our trust and faith in Jesus Christ.

God created all things and He created us and our family. He wants to spend eternity with us. But there is one problem, we have done wrong things, or sinned. We have disobeyed God. And because God is perfect in every way, sin cannot be where God is. So God has made a way for us to still be with Him, even though we have turned away from Him. He has given us a free gift. It is the gift of His Son Jesus. Jesus lived the perfect life of obedience that we could not. Then He died in our place on the cross. He died so we would not have to die because of our sin. So when we believe in Jesus we can have a relationship with God.

Sometimes it is hard to understand why God would want to have a relationship with every person in the world. Maybe you know someone who is especially hard to get along with. But God wants that person to be in His family forever, just as He wants us to be with Him forever. Did you know that Jesus could take someone who is hard to get along with, someone that is hard to like and turn them into our very best friend? Jesus changes people's lives. We may not know how He does it, nor do we understand everything about it. But we know He changes people because we have seen Him work in our lives. God has many ways we don't understand. As we grow in our walk with Jesus, we know we will never understand everything. But we do know that God has provided everything we need to have a relationship with Him. Let us put our trust in Jesus, He will never leave us or forsake us.

- What should we do when we do not understand something?
- Talk about something you do not understand and then ask God in prayer to help you.

Kid's Prayer Time



God is worthy to be worshipped all of the time, even when we do not understand what is happening around us. Spend time this week asking God to give you a trusting, obedient heart. Praise God for what He has provided us in Jesus.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“...they will deliver you up, and you will be beaten. And you will be brought before rulers for My sake, for a testimony to them.”

Third Grade and Above

“But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. And you will be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony to them.”

Mark 13:9