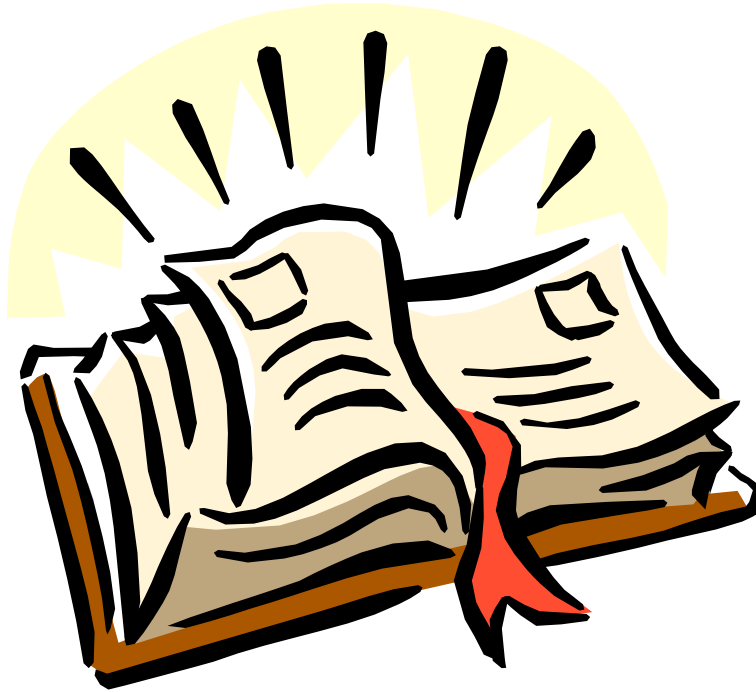


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Paul's Writes About Faith

THEME: We are saved by faith!

SCRIPTURE: Romans 3:21 – 5:5



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 writing about faith.** The theme was "**We are saved by faith.**" In this lesson we learned that the only way to salvation is faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. As it is written in Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

In this devotion, we will read about real people who put their faith in the one and only true God and how through their faith they were saved. This week we will learn more about salvation through faith and our relationship with Jesus as we read about these great people of faith.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Romans 3:21-5:5.** 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

"Just As If" We Never Sinned

Text: Romans 3:28 - "Therefore we conclude that a man is **justified** by faith apart from the deeds of the law."

Also read Galatians 2:16

There was a hush of silence that fell over the courtroom. The defendant was found guilty! Everyone knew he was guilty and the charges against him were written on stacks of paper several feet high. The list seemed to go on and on with all of the crimes this man had committed. Now the judgment had been made. He was found guilty and was condemned to die for what he had done. The man knew what he had done and knew that he deserved the punishment.

It was at this time that the judge would usually tell the officers to take away the prisoner and place them in jail. But this time it was different. Instead, the judge looked over at the condemned man, remembering everything he had done. He looked at the big stack of paper that had all of the wrong things he had ever done written on it. He then reached down and opened a drawer at the bottom of his desk and pulled out a stamp. The crowd was amazed and curious about what the judge was going to do. With a loud "thud" the judge slammed the stamp onto the stack of papers. The stamp read, "Paid in Full." The judge then turned to the man and said that the guilt of his crimes had been paid in full and that he was free to go. Everyone in the courtroom sat amazed at what had happened.

This is just a story, but what it describes is very true. This is what it means to be **justified**. Because of all of our sins we stand condemned before God. We have done wrong and deserve to be separated from God forever, but God looks at our sin and then He looks at what Jesus did for us on the cross and then He pulls out a stamp that says, "Paid in Full" and stamps that onto our stack of sin. Jesus paid the price for our sin. Because He died for us we don't have to die. We can stand before God "just as if" we have never sinned. What a blessing! That is what being **justified** is all about.

- What should have happened to the man who was on trial?
- What did the judge do?
- What does this story teach us?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Justified: To be forgiven and accepted into a right standing with God, "just as if" we have never sinned.

Day Two

A Righteous Dude

Text: Romans 4:3 – “For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ ”

Also read Genesis 15:6

Do you remember the story about Abraham and Sarah? God promised Abraham that his wife Sarah would have a child, even though Sarah was almost 80 years old and they had no children at all. Abraham could have thought God’s promise sounded crazy and not believed. But instead he chose to believe God. When Abraham trusted in what God said to him, it made him **righteous** (or “right”) in God’s sight. We need to do the same thing when we hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. We either trust that what God is telling us is true by receiving Jesus or we refuse to believe. When we put our trust in Jesus we are made **righteous**, just like Abraham. And he was a **righteous** dude!

We see that Abraham was made **righteous** by God because he believed God. We can’t make ourselves right because we are sinners and will always do wrong things. But Jesus is perfect and when we trust in Him God looks at His **righteousness** and not ours. That is GREAT NEWS! Jesus is a gift from God to us. We don’t deserve His salvation. John 3:16 says, “for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” God’s salvation is a free gift. Have you ever received a gift and then someone came to you later and said, “OK, now you have to pay me for that gift.” That sounds silly doesn’t it? It is the same thing with God’s salvation. He gives us the gift of eternal life and we never have to pay for it.

Jesus paid the price when He died on the cross. He freely gives the gift of salvation to anyone who wants to receive it. There is nothing at all that we have to do to earn it. All we have to do is just believe. When we believe in Him like Abraham did, we can be **righteous**. Have you become a **righteous**?

- What did Abraham do to become righteous?
- How can we be made righteous?
- What is God’s free gift?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Righteousness: Being “right on”, doing right things. Through faith in Jesus we are made right in God’s eyes.

Day Three

Does God Give Tests?

Text: Genesis 22:2 - "Then He said, 'Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' "

Also read Romans 4:20

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you read today's Bible verse? Was this some kind of mean joke that the Lord was playing on Abraham? First, God told Abraham that he would be a father of many people. Abraham believed God and waited years for his son to be born. And now God was telling him to take his only son Isaac, the fulfillment of God's promise to him and offer him as a burnt offering! What was God trying to do, drive Abraham crazy? Actually just the opposite, the Lord had a great plan and part of this plan required that He **test** Abraham. Now God did not have to give Abraham this **test** so He could know if he passed or not, but so Abraham would be able to see if his own faith in the Lord was strong, so he could grow in the Lord.

Let's go back to our Bible verse. The Lord asked Abraham to sacrifice the most important thing in his life and heart. But what was Abraham's response? Let's look, "So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him." Wow, you mean Abraham was actually going to do what the Lord was asking him to do? Yes! Abraham didn't argue or even question the Lord; he just got up early the next morning and began to obey.

God wanted Abraham to learn that God alone was going to fulfill the promise that He made to him. Abraham obeyed God and God stopped him before he carried out the sacrifice. Abraham had passed the **test**! God provided a sacrifice for him. But what it teaches us today is that we need to trust God with all of our hearts. We shouldn't lean on our own understanding or thinking. God had everything under control. This is a picture of the sacrifice that God would make for us one day by giving His own Son Jesus for the whole world. Sometimes the Lord may **test** us, but we need to trust in Him and be obedient.

- What did God ask Abraham to do?
- Has God ever tested you? What happened?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



God's Testing: His way of bringing you closer to Him.

Day Four

No Jesus, No Peace

Know Jesus, Know Peace

Text: Romans 5:1 - "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Also read Ephesians 2:14-16

When you think of the word "peace" what do you think of? Maybe you think of your mom or dad saying, "I want some peace and quiet right now"? Maybe "peace" is when you are not arguing with your brother or sister. These are examples of a type of peace but it isn't really what Paul was saying to the Christians in Rome. He was telling them that before we come to Jesus we are really enemies of God. It is kind of like we are at war with God. But once we believe in Jesus we are no longer at war with Him. There is peace between us.

How does that happen? Well, our sins are forgiven and God looks at us through His perfect son Jesus. We no longer have to worry about being separated forever from God. Our names are written in the Book of Life and we will now live in heaven with God for all eternity. We are now God's friends. How can we become God's friends? The Bible says, in Romans 3:23, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Because of our sin everyone is an enemy of God. But God didn't leave it that way. He provided a way for us to become His friend. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "So you see, Jesus is the One who makes this peace possible between God and us." Once we have asked Jesus into our heart we have peace with God.

Does our peace with God make us better than non-believers? No. We are just as guilty of sin as they are until we believe in Jesus. It is Jesus who has saved us and not anything that we have done on our own. We need to let others know that they can have peace with God if they would only ask Jesus to come into their lives. Maybe you have never asked Jesus to come into your life. You can do that now and have peace forever and ever.

- Before we are Christians are we enemies or friends of God?
- How do we have peace with God?
- Are you God's friend?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Enmity: To be an enemy of God.

Day Five

A Life Free of Problems?

Text: Romans 5:3-4 - "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Also read Romans 5:1-5

Some people believe that once you become a Christian that you will never have any problems ever again. The Bible says that just isn't true. Even Jesus told His disciples in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." As long as we live in this world we will have trouble, but Jesus is telling us that we have nothing to fear and if we trust in Him, He will give us peace through those hard times.

Life in this world today is filled with all kinds of problems. There is divorce, murders, poverty and a lot of other things. Being a Christian is not going to stop those things from happening. Christians do experience pain in this life, but the good news is that we have the love of God poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. When bad things happen to us, we are given comfort, power, joy and peace to overcome anything that the Lord may allow to come into our lives. And we have something the world doesn't have and that is HOPE!

God wants us to grow up to be like Jesus. Think of all the hard things that Jesus had to go through before He returned to heaven! Our enemy, the devil, wants us to believe if something painful happens to us, it must mean that we have really messed up and God doesn't really love us. That is a lie. The devil knows that there is nothing that will separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:39). Also in Romans 8:28 it is written; And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. God didn't say that only some things would work together for good; God said all things work together for good. This includes tribulations. So if anything bad happens in your life, remember that Jesus is with you and will help you.

- When we believe in Jesus will we ever have problems again?
- Can you think of a difficult thing in your life that Jesus has helped you with?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray for God to give you more faith in your walk with Him. Also ask Him to search your heart for any person or thing that may be more important than your love for Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“We have all sinned and miss the mark but we are made right with God by His grace through Jesus Christ.”

Third Grade and Above

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 3:23-24