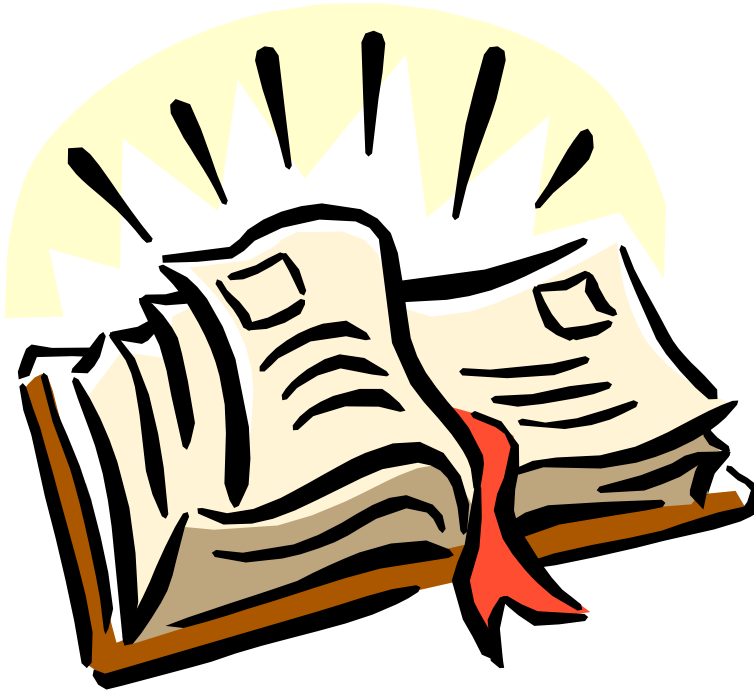


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Freedom from Sin

THEME: Jesus has set us free from sin.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:1-23



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 **Freedom from Sin**. The theme was "**Jesus has set us free from sin.**" Romans 6 is an exciting study for every Christian, but what a blessing to learn its' truth as children! Before coming to know Jesus we are under the control of sin and our sin nature. But in Jesus we are freed from the power of sin.

So now, in Jesus, we can do what He wants us to do. Our motivation is to live for Him because of His love for us and because He has made us a brand new person. We don't live for Him to try to make Him like us; we live for Him because of what He has already done for us.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Romans 6:1-23**. 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!

I Can't Help It!

Text: John 8:34 – "Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.'"

Also read John 8:31-36

Joel always likes to have fun. No matter where he is or what he does, life is an adventure. While that may sound like a really cool thing, it sometimes gets Joel into trouble. The problem is that he doesn't always know when to settle down and stop being silly. That is what our story is about this week. And hopefully through Joel we will learn a very important lesson about how Jesus wants to help us to do what is right.

Joel and his friend Jimmy have been friends for a very long time. They see each other at church every week and often will hang out at each other's house during the week. They both asked Jesus into their hearts a few years back at a Vacation Bible School. They always look forward to Sundays. But unfortunately it isn't always to come to study God's Word, but rather to goof around and be silly during class and see how many other children they could make laugh during class time.

Today in children's church it wasn't any different. The first thing that Joel does in class is take his worksheet paper and transform it into an incredible, high tech flying machine that will no doubt sail through the sky with great speed. Joel turns to scan the class when his eyes fix upon little Sally Johnson. Sally was just sitting, minding her own business and working on her worksheet. "Perfect!" Joel thought. He takes aim at Sally head and pulls his arm back into launch position. Then all of a sudden he hears a shout, "Joel, stop!"

It was the voice of Mr. Martin, his teacher on Sundays. Mr. Martin has been working with Joel for a while concerning his behavior in class and was keeping an eye on him. Thankfully he caught Joel before the launch sequence commenced. Mr. Martin asked Joel, "Joel, why are you going to do that?" Joel just replied, "I can't help it, it just looks like fun so I want to do it." Mr. Martin knew that it was going to be a long Sunday and he said a short prayer for Joel. **Continued on Day Two...**

- What do you think is going to happen to Joel?
- Do you think Joel can obey or is it true that he really "can't help it"?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Sin: Missing the mark; anything I think, do or say that displeases God.

Slave of sin: Being under the control of sin.

Day Two

A Slave to Sin or A Slave to Jesus?

Text: Romans 6:1, 2 - "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

Also read Galatians 5:16-21

Continued from Day One... Joel settled back into his seat and Mr. Martin continued with the day's lesson. After a few minutes Joel got the idea that it would be very funny to break off the eraser from his pencil and then take a rubber band and shoot the eraser at Timmy Walker in the front row. He had visions of the entire classroom breaking out in laughter as Timmy looks around to see who launched the unidentified flying object towards his head.

Joel pulls back the rubber band with the eraser and then let go. The eraser hurls through the air and pops Timmy in the back of the head. Timmy turns around looking for the person who committed this act against him. Some of the kids in the class start to giggle and Joel just sits with a big grin on his face. The rubber band which proves that Joel committed the wrong against Timmy sat on the table next to the pencil. Mr. Martin noticed immediately and knew that Joel was behind the flying eraser tip.

Mr. Martin asked his helper to take the class while he took Joel outside of the classroom. "Joel, why did you do that?" asked Mr. Martin. "I don't know, I just feel like doing things that sound like fun, so I do them," Joel said honestly. "So are you saying, again, that you can't help it?" Mr. Martin asked. "Yeah, I want to do it so I do it." "So Joel what you are saying is that your feelings are controlling what you do?" Mr. Martin continued. "I guess," Joel responded.

"Joel, what you are telling me is that you are a slave to what you feel like doing. The Bible says that is being a slave to sin, but when we come to Jesus he frees us from sin so we don't have to be controlled by it any more. You can allow Jesus to help you to do what is right." Mr. Martin explained these truths to Joel. Joel had never heard these things before. He began to think about what Mr. Martin was saying. **Continued on Day Three...**

- Why did Joel say he shot a rubber band at Timmy Walker?
- What does it mean to be a slave to sin?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Slave of Jesus: Giving our lives to Jesus and allowing Him to be in control of our lives.

Day Three

What Are We To Do?

Text: Romans 6:18 - "And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

Also read Romans 6:11-23

Continued from Day Two... "Didn't you ask Jesus to come into your heart a few years ago?" Mr. Martin asked Joel. "Yes, at Vacation Bible School." Joel answered. "Did you know that Jesus came to live inside of your heart?" Mr. Martin continued. "Yes," said Joel. "Then the Bible says that there was a very important change that happened in your life. You have become a brand new creation. The old Joel has passed away and now there is a brand new Joel who is created to serve Jesus," Mr. Martin said. "So now you can say 'no' to what you feel like doing and 'yes' to what Jesus wants you to do."

Mr. Martin continued, "When we come to class on Sundays we are learning about Jesus from the Bible. So if you are being silly, are the other children thinking about Jesus or are they thinking about you?" Mr. Martin asked. Joel thought for a moment and said, "They are thinking about me." Mr. Martin asked kindly, "Who do you think Jesus would want to have the attention focused on?" "Him?" asked Joel. "That's right" replied Mr. Martin. "There may be children here who have never heard about Jesus and this is the only time all week long that they can hear about Him. So it is important that they get that chance to hear about Him."

"And if you are struggling with being able to control yourself, Jesus promises that He can help you with that. The Bible says that in Jesus we are no longer slaves to sin. That means that when a thought or desire to sin comes into our minds we don't have to do what it says. We can pray and ask Jesus to help us. And Jesus promises to help us. We can also ask the Lord to help us to do what is right."

Joel knew that what Mr. Martin was saying was right, but he had never really heard that he didn't have to sin when he felt like it. He apologized to Mr. Martin for acting up in class and Mr. Martin prayed for Joel. Joel really began to think about what Mr. Martin shared with him and even prayed later when he got home. **Continued on Day Four...**

- How does Jesus help us to say "no" to sin?
- Have you ever felt like you couldn't help it when you sinned?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Righteousness: Doing right things.

Day Four

I Can Do It, With Jesus' Help!

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:13 - "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

Also read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Continued from Day Three... Joel thought about what Mr. Martin said all week and he decided that he would really make an effort to do what is right in class. He did have a desire to do what is right, but just found it too tempting sometimes to do what he felt like doing. Sunday came and there was his friend Jimmy waiting in class. He went over and sat by him. So far, so good!

As class began Mr. Martin asked if any of the children would like to stand and say the memory verse from last week. A few children recited their verses and then Timmy Walker stood up. It just so happened that Timmy's chair was right in front of Joel. Joel thought for a moment, "It would be so easy to just move my foot out a little bit and move Timmy's chair. Wouldn't that be hilarious if Timmy fell to the floor when he tried to sit down? Think of all of the laughs I would get."

Joel began to move his foot forward to go for it when all of a sudden he remembered the words that Mr. Martin shared with him last week. He remembered that in Jesus he is not a slave to sin and can say "no" to sin if he wants to. He also remembered that Jesus will help with temptation if he would only ask. So instead of moving Timmy's chair out from under him he decided to stop and pray. Quietly Joel prayed a simple prayer, "Dear Jesus, please help me to do what is right and obey you. Please help me not to sin, in Jesus name, amen." All of a sudden the desire went away to move Timmy's chair. Joel was amazed. Jesus really did help him. **Continued of Day Five...**

- What did Joel learn about saying "no" to sin?
- What happened when Joel did what was right?
- What do you think will happen when you ask Jesus to help you not to sin?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Temptation: Feeling a strong urge to do wrong.
Prayer: Talking to God.

Day Five

Be an Example!

Text: 1 Timothy 4:12 - "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Also read 1 Timothy 4:12-16

Continued from Day Four... Mr. Martin had watched Joel out of the corner of his eye. He saw that Joel's foot was moving forward to move the chair out from under Timmy Walker. But he also noticed that Joel moved his foot back. Mr. Martin quietly thanked the Lord for what He was doing in Joel's life. After class Mr. Martin talked to Joel and he shared what happened. They both got to pray together. Mr. Martin encouraged Joel to continue to grow in His relationship with Jesus.

Over time Joel became stronger and stronger in the Lord. Instead of trying to make people laugh in class he became an example to them. He even began to share with others about Jesus. Joel was excited to learn that he had been freed from sin and could live his life obeying Jesus.

Our story this week teaches us a lot about obeying Jesus. We sometimes can think that we can't have self control or say "no" to sin. We think that we have to give in. But in Jesus we learn that isn't true. When we believe in Jesus we are freed from the power of sin in our lives. And we are free now to serve Jesus and do what He wants us to. When we learn about how much Jesus loves us it just makes us want to serve Him more and more. Then as we grow in Him we can become an example to others.

In the Bible, Timothy was a very young pastor. Paul told him to not let anyone put him down because he was young, but rather he should be an example of Jesus to others. When he does that then others would be drawn to Jesus and encouraged to follow him. God wants to use our lives in amazing ways. When we obey then he can use us for His plans and then we'll find out the wonderful adventure of faith that He has for us.

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is always there for you?
- How will it help you to pray to know that God will always be there to listen?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray, ask the Lord to help you to understand the truth that you are freed from sin. Ask Him to help you to say "no" to sin and "yes" to what is right.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**“And having been set
free from sin, you
became slaves of
righteousness.”**

Third Grade and Above

**“And having been set
free from sin, you
became slaves of
righteousness.”**

Romans 6:18