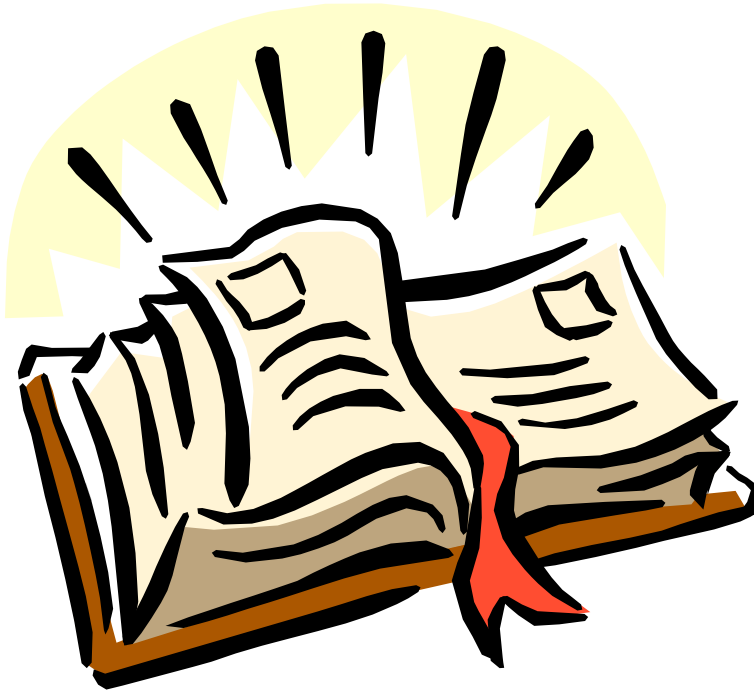


# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: Sharing the Gospel**

**THEME: We are saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him into our hearts.**

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 10:1 – 11:36**

# 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 **Sharing the Gospel**. The theme was "**We are saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him into our hearts.**" It's exciting to know that God has made it so simple to come to Him. All we need to do is simply believe in Him and ask Him to come into our hearts. Sometimes we try to make it more complicated, but it is really that simple.

This truth is so wonderful and so needed that Jesus wants us to share it with everyone. We need to tell others about Jesus! The Bible says that those who share the good news of Jesus have beautiful feet. That is certainly a lot better than having stinky feet! This week we are going to learn more about this wonderful news we have to share and how we can tell others about Jesus.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Romans 10:1-11:36**. 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

# The Heart is the Main Part

**Text: Romans 10:9, 10** - "... that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

## Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Old Testament tells of a day when the Prophet Samuel was looking for a new king for Israel. God told him to go to the family of Jesse. Jesse had several boys who looked good and were strong. It seemed like any one of them could have been qualified to be king. Samuel thought the oldest brother would make a great choice, but God told him, "no." So Samuel looked at each brother, one by one, but God kept saying, "no."

Finally, Samuel asked Jesse if he had any more sons. He said there is one more son who was tending sheep in the fields. So Samuel asked for him to be called there right away. As soon as he saw David he knew that this was God's choice. David was the least likely in the family to be made king. He was the youngest and was stuck doing the worst jobs, like tending the sheep. But God told Samuel something very important which helped him to understand God's choices. He said, "...the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

God is also looking at our hearts today. That's why it is so important when we ask Jesus to come into our hearts that we believe in our hearts, not just say that we believe. Paul wrote in our Bible reading today about that. He said we must believe in our hearts that Jesus rose from the dead in order to be saved. Sometimes people might SAY that they are saved, but they have never BELIEVED in Jesus in their hearts. God always looks at our hearts, just like He looked at David's heart. We need to do more than just say we know Jesus; we need to believe in Him in our hearts.

- What was the prophet Samuel doing in our story?
- What was the most important thing to God in choosing a king?
- Why is it important for us to believe in Jesus in our hearts?

### Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Confess:** To speak something aloud we believe to be true. We confess Jesus is our Lord and Savior when we accept Him in our hearts.

Day Two

# No, Thank You

**Text: John 6:40** - "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

**Also John 6:22-40**

Christmas morning came. All of the gifts were wrapped and ready to be opened. Joey woke up that morning like any other morning. He got out of bed, walked into the living room and sat on the couch. He wasn't excited at all. His little brother and sister ran down the stairs full of joy and excitement. Then mom and dad came and told the children they could open the gifts. Well, Joey's little brother and sister tore into the packages like there was no tomorrow, but Joey just sat on the couch.

Dad picked up a gift and brought it over to Joey and said, "here son, we would like you to have this gift." Joey just looked at him and said, "No, thank you." "But son, we picked this out especially for you. It means so much to us for you to have it." But nothing dad would say would make Joey take the gift. So finally dad just decided to lay it back under the tree where it sat all day.

Now this story seems kind of silly, doesn't it? Who would ever sit on a couch on Christmas morning and not open a gift that was given to them? Well as silly as it sounds that is what people do every day with the gift of eternal life. The Bible says that eternal life with God is a free gift. Anyone can have this gift and it is the best gift anyone can ever receive. Even though our heavenly Father offers this gift to everyone, many just look at the Father and say, "No, thank you". Others may not even say thank you, but turn their backs on God, but the gift is still there. God loves us very much and has done everything possible for us to have a relationship with Him. If we say no, He won't force it on us. Let's make sure to take the free gift of salvation!

- What did Joey do in our story today?
- Would you say no to a free gift?
- Have you said yes to God's free gift of eternal life?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Everlasting life:** Spiritual life that goes on forever and ever with God. It is a free gift from God.

Day Three

# Donuts and Hearts

**Text: John 17:20,21** - "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

**Also read John 17:1-26**

Have you ever wondered what our hearts look like apart from Jesus? Just go to a Donut Shop and order a big glazed donut. Look at that donut and the big hole in the center. That is what our heart is like without Jesus. We have a giant hole in our heart that can only be filled by His love. God created us that way so that we would desire to come to Him. We all need Jesus.

In today's scripture we see Jesus praying. First He prays that God would be glorified through His death on the cross. Then He prays for His special friends, the disciples, who had traveled with Him for three years. He asks God to be glorified through their lives. The third group Jesus prays for is US!! Isn't it neat to know that Jesus prayed for you before you were ever born? He calls us His very own. He knows that life isn't easy for His followers and that we would need the power of God to live for Him. We must be one with Jesus to have that power for the job He wants us to do.

What is the job that Jesus has for us? Jesus wants us to tell the whole world about Him. Before we were saved our hearts were a lot like those donuts. They may have had maple or chocolate on the outside, even looking really good, but they were still empty with a big hole on the inside. Jesus filled that hole in our hearts with His love. But there are a lot more "donut hearts" in this world that need filling. There are so many boys and girls, and adults too who need to hear the wonderful news about Jesus. Then when they believe in Jesus their hearts will be filled as well.

- How are our hearts like donuts?
- What does Jesus want us to do?
- Has your heart been filled with Jesus' love?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Believe:** To have a firm faith or trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Day Four

# Reach Out and Grab His Hand!

**Text: John 11:25-26-** "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"

**Read John 11:18-27**

Katie was terrified! She was stuck on the roof of her home all by herself. The floodwaters had come so quickly. They kept rising higher and higher. She was hanging on for her very life. She knew that if she let go she would be washed away with the water and would probably drown. Then she heard a familiar voice call out to her, "Katie, just let go and I'll catch you!"

It was her father's voice. She knew that voice and all of a sudden a great calm came over her. She turned her head and saw her dad there waiting to catch her. But she would have to let go for him to catch her. Because of the swift waters he wasn't able to get all of the way to her. The only way to safety was to let go and trust that her father would catch her. She thought for a few moments, she was so afraid, but she knew that her dad would never let her drown. So she counted, "one...two...three..." She let go and began to be caught away with the current of the water.

This is what it is like for us when we are saved. We have to put all of our trust in our Heavenly Father. We are in the same kind of danger that Katie was in. We will die in our sin and be separated from God forever if we don't let go and trust completely in Him. He is the only one who can save us. That is why He sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again the third day. He conquered death so that we could live forever. Just as Katie's father reached out into the water and scooped her up. She was saved! Our Heavenly Father wants to do the same thing for us. Jesus is the resurrection and the life! All we need to do is believe in Him and we shall never die.

- Why was Katie afraid?
- What did her father do?
- What has our Heavenly Father done for us?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Resurrection:** to rise from the dead, as Jesus did on the third day of His death.

Day Five

# We Have a Great Story to Tell!

**Text: Psalm 40:10** - "I have not hidden your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly."

## Read Psalm 40

Have you ever experienced a time when you had a really good story to tell and you told everyone who would listen? You shared it with your brothers and sisters and then your mom and dad. Maybe you even got to share it with your grandpa and grandma. Maybe it was a really funny story or a sad story that you wanted to share. It's fun to tell stories to other people, isn't it? You like to see your friends and family hear and enjoy your story.

Did you know that Jesus has a very special story to tell? It is called the *Gospel*, or good news. It is the best story that can be told to anyone. Ever since the time of Jesus, people have been telling this story to others. The story keeps being told and one day even you and I were told about how Jesus was born and lived a perfect life. Then some very mean religious leaders crucified him, but we also find out that He laid down His life willingly because He wanted us to live forever with Him. Three days later He rose again, to live forever and He offers eternal life to any one who would only believe in Him. What a great story!

This story never gets old or tiring to hear. In fact, Jesus told His followers to go out into the whole world and tell this story. He wants everyone to hear it. Then when other people hear it they too will believe in Jesus and ask Him to come and live inside of their hearts. Let's not hold this story in our own hearts, but share it with everyone we meet. Can you think of anyone that you would like to share this story with today?

- What stories do you have to share with others?
- What does Jesus want us to do with His story, the *Gospel*?

### Kid's Prayer Time



This week, think about the good things the Lord has done for you and your family and share them with each other. Maybe the Lord has healed someone in your family, or saved someone who you never thought would be saved. Thank the Lord for your salvation and ask Him to help you to share the good news of salvation with as many people as you can.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"How beautiful are the feet of the person who brings good news, who proclaims peace and announces salvation."

Third Grade and Above

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things."

Isaiah 52:7