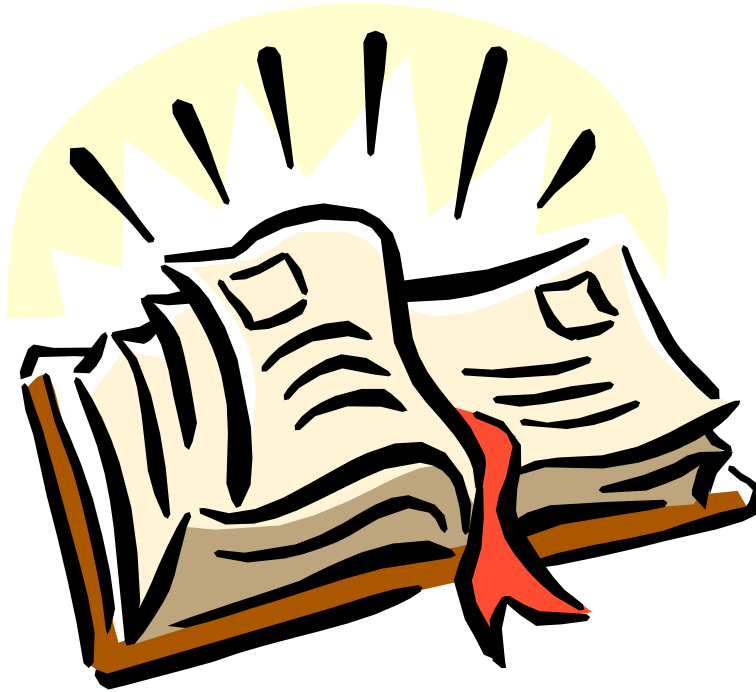


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Be A Living Sacrifice

THEME: God wants our lives to be a living sacrifice.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1 – 15:13



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 **Being a Living Sacrifice**. The theme was "**God wants our lives to be a living sacrifice.**" What does it mean to be a living sacrifice? We all have a lot to learn about giving ourselves completely to the Lord for His service.

For children, learning to give their lives as a sacrifice is really learning how to be like Jesus. It isn't always easy to share our things, to forgive like Jesus or to give up something for the sake of others. But this is how Jesus lived His life and how He wants each of us to live ours. A sacrifice is not always pleasing, but it is necessary. We need to be willing to give ourselves completely to the Lord and follow Him all the way.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Romans 12:1 - 15:13**. 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

Love With A "Sisterly" Love

Text: Romans 12:10 - "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."

Read Romans 12:1-13 and Matthew 25:31-40

Tara had many friends and spent a lot of time with them. Tara's sister, Sharon would watch with envy at all the people who greeted her sister at church or called to ask her to come over or go somewhere. Sharon wished that she were as popular as her sister was. "No one ever asks me to come over and play!" Sharon would think to herself. Sharon became more and more angry at her sister as the days went by, even though Tara would offer to take her with her when she visited friends.

Finally, one day she couldn't stand it anymore and started telling her mother how every one ignored her and only paid attention to Tara. Sharon's mom sat quietly on the edge of the bed for a few moments and then prayed with Sharon. When she was through, her mom started talking about how Jesus shared how we should act toward others. Sharon's mom pointed out that Tara was always being kind to others, even towards Sharon when she was not being invited to go places with friends. Her mother also pointed out how even when Sharon didn't have a good attitude towards her sister she still was trying to be like Jesus. Tara had also been praying that Sharon would find more friends. Sharon knew that her anger at Tara was wrong so she went to her sister and asked for forgiveness. Tara gave her a big hug and told her that she would hang out with her anytime.

Tara was a model for what Jesus would have us to do. She spent time in prayer for her sister, and she did not get mad when she knew that Sharon was upset with her, but she tried to help Sharon and give her **preference** over her own feelings. We should always consider the needs of others before our own needs. Sometimes it isn't easy to get along with our brothers and sisters. As Christians all other believers are our brothers and sisters. We need to love them as well. Part of presenting ourselves as living sacrifices is loving others like Jesus. God will bless us when we obey and become like Jesus.

- What did Sharon learn in our story today?
- Have you ever had a time when you felt like Sharon? What happened?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Preference: The opportunity to put others before your own needs. Jesus gave us preference over Himself because He took our sins and became a sacrifice for us when He died on the cross.

Humble School

Text: Romans 12:16 - "Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble."

Read Romans 12:14-21 and Matthew 18:1-4

Tom and Richard were friends since they were 5 years old. They lived in different neighborhoods, but they were still best friends. Tom started to make new friends who liked to wear the latest and coolest clothes and hang out in the arcades at the mall. Richard couldn't go because he never had any money, but he would call his friend Tom and they still did things together like camping and hanging out after church.

One day Tom became very ill and spent two months in the hospital. The doctors said he nearly died. Tom never once saw his arcade buddies the whole time he was sick, but Richard came every day. It was Richard who prayed with Tom when his pain was so bad he cried. Richard was right there with Tom's homework everyday, helping him to finish it. Tom got out of the hospital and still Richard came by his house. One day Tom's new friends came over to his house. They laughed when Richard showed up with his homework and they made fun of him when he offered to pay for Tom. Tom realized that Richard was a humble and true friend. After he was better, Tom never went back to the arcades to hang out. He and Richard spent time together doing fun things and began to pray for the other kids together.

There are many people in the world who are confused about what it means to be humble. Being humble is to place yourself under someone else. It is to see others as more important than yourself and to have a desire to serve others like Jesus. In our story today, Tom learned that a true friend sacrifices time and energy for his friends. Richard had a humble heart and a desire to serve his sick friend. He knew that Tom was not able to go to school, but he would serve his friend daily by bringing him his homework. God wants us to love one another and be of the same mind, associating with the humble things of God, not the things of the world.

- What lesson did Tom learn?
- How was Richard like Jesus?
- Do you have a friend like Richard?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Humble: meek; lowly; small; modest; plain; simple. Its opposite is arrogant; conceited; smug.

Day Three

Do No Harm to a Neighbor

Text: Romans 13:10 - "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

Read Romans 13 and Matthew 5:38-48

It was very hard for Stacy to keep from getting angry when Deanna was around. Deanna might be a neighbor, but she was also always trying to make Stacy mad. They were both 10 years old and their parents worked together. But every time Deanna came over, she would take things that didn't belong to her. Stacy had finally had it when her favorite stuffed animal came up missing one day. When she told her mom about what had been going on, her mother thought it would be good to pray for Deanna. Stacy said that she thought that they ought to call the police. But her mom said that prayer was what Deanna really needed and also that she needed a friend. Stacy felt that forgiving Deanna would be the hardest thing she would ever do. But she decided to try to be a friend.

The next day Stacy went to Deanna's house to invite her to go ice skating with her family. The look on Deanna's face said it all. She was totally surprised that Stacy would invite her anywhere. The very next day, Stacy found her stuffed animal on the steps of her house when she came home from school. As she got to know Deanna better, she found out that she was adopted recently and had lived a very tough life before coming to be with her new parents. Stacy began to find that she really cared for Deanna more and more as Jesus spoke to her heart about loving her.

Stacy found out what it was like to be a living sacrifice. It would be a very hard thing to be kind to someone who had stolen from you, wouldn't it? But Stacy learned that people sometimes just need a little bit of love to show how loving they can be. That is what Jesus did for us. The Lord blessed Stacy because she gained a friend through her sacrifice. Think about something the Lord has asked you to give up for someone else. Maybe it is a few minutes of your day to help out someone else, or a phone call to a lonely relative or friend? Give God a chance to love people through you by being a living sacrifice.

- Why was Stacy angry?
- In what way was Stacy blessed for her obedience?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Sacrifice: Giving up something freely so that others can benefit from it.

For the Sake of Others

Text: Romans 14:7-8 - "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself, for if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

Read Romans 14:1-23

For special treats, Kathleen loved to eat candy, and she never had a problem sharing it with her friends. But one of her friends, Alyssa, had a medical condition that would not allow her to eat sugar without getting very sick and it could even cause her to die. Kathleen knew that her friend Alyssa could only eat sugar-free candy. So Kathleen made sure she asked her mom to get only sugar-free candy treats to share. She did this whether or not her friend Alyssa was around just to make sure that she could never feel left out if she happened to show up. Kathleen was always aware that if she gave Alyssa the wrong candy, her friend would get very sick. Because Kathleen loved her friend, she sacrificed the desire for sugar treats so she could share the joy of the treat with her friend Alyssa.

In today's Bible reading, Paul writes about eating certain kinds of food around a brother in the Lord. Like the short story above, this scripture teaches us a lesson about the way we live and act around our brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul, who wrote the Book of Romans under the direction of the Holy Spirit, knew that some Christians were under the belief that eating certain foods was sinful. Although some Christians were okay with eating those foods, it was causing problems in the church. Paul was trying to teach that it was more important to build up and support the brethren of the church than it was to show everyone they could eat anything they wanted.

What can we learn from all of this? The most important thing is not what we can or can't do. If someone believes in their heart that they shouldn't do something (or can't because of a physical problem, like Alyssa) we need to honor that. Being like Jesus and giving ourselves as a living sacrifice means that we will be willing to give up things we want for the benefit of our brothers and sisters. Jesus laid down His life for others, shouldn't we be willing to do the same?

- Was Kathleen considering Alyssa before her own desires?
- How can Jesus be honored in our lives?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Stumble: to make another Christian give in to something they feel is sinful or to make them feel bad because of what they believe about certain things.

Day Five

Strengthen Your Brother

Text: Romans 15:1-2 - "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification."

Also read Romans 15:1-13

John was pretty upset at his friend Jake. They had grown up together and were very close friends, just like brothers. But this time, John thought Jake had gone too far. He had been acting pretty strange lately, ever since his dad lost his job. This time Jake had taken John's skateboard without asking, and now the board was broken. It had taken John four months of raking leaves last year to get that board. John was stomping around the house, feeling pretty angry when his dad noticed his attitude.

John and his dad talked for awhile about what had happened with the board. John's dad always prayed before giving his son advice and this time was no different. As the father and son talked, one scripture kept coming to mind over and over again. John looked up the scripture with his dad. It was Romans 15:1, about strengthening the brethren. God's direction was pretty clear for John after that. His dad told him to always listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. John knew that Jake had been troubled about his dad losing his job and instead of being angry and mad, John went to Jake with a humble, loving heart and prayed with him and forgave him.

It isn't always easy to forgive someone when they have done wrong to us. John had a point...Jake shouldn't have borrowed without asking and should have been more responsible. But the Lord Jesus always took the humble road. It is better to strengthen our brothers and sisters in the Lord than to tear them up with anger, gossip, malice or hatred. These emotions can ruin a relationship and turn people away from the love of God. It is better to build people up in the love of the Lord, no matter what hurts you must endure. This is another way we can be a living sacrifice.

- What would you do if someone broke something really special of yours?
- In our story, what did John learn was the right thing to do?

Kid's Prayer Time



Thank God today for the living sacrifice of Jesus. If he had not been willing to die on the cross for us, we would never be able to go to heaven. Show God you love him by being a living sacrifice yourself this week and give Jesus the glory!!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"By the mercy of God offer your body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God which is the right way for you to worship."

Third Grade and Above

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Romans 12:1