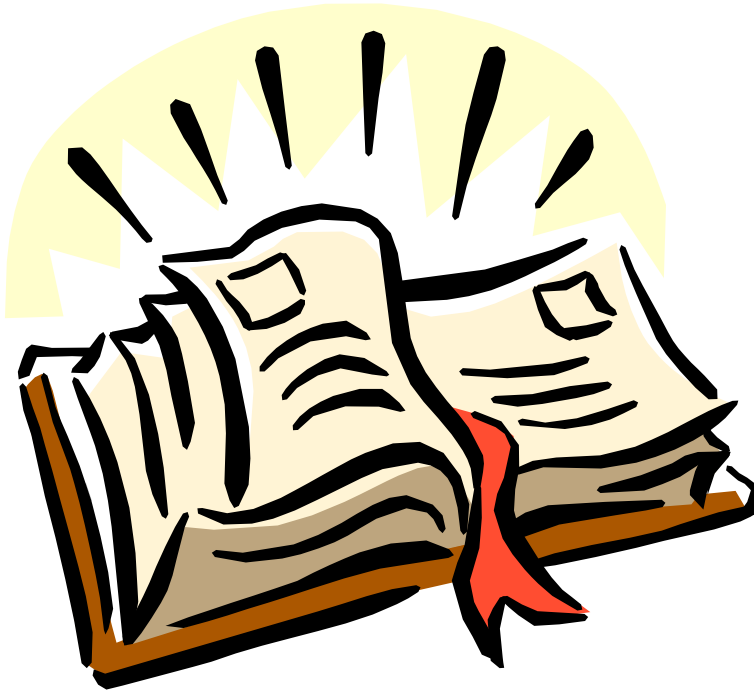


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Spiritual Gifts

THEME: God gives us all different gifts to serve Him and to serve others!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 14:1-40



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 **Spiritual Gifts**. The theme was "**God gives us all different gifts to serve Him and to serve others.**" The subject of spiritual gifts is very important for children to understand. It is while we are young that we can discover some of the gifts that the Lord has given us and begin to develop them for His purposes and plans.

This week we will look at different facets of the subject of spiritual gifts. We hope that the children will see that the Lord has at least one gift for them to use for His kingdom and that He desires their gifts to be used as a blessing to others. Enjoy spending time in God's Word this week as you learn more about spiritual gifts.

The section of scripture that we studied was **1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 14:1-40**. 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

We All Have a Spiritual Gift

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:7 - "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:"

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Scott was feeling a little out of place lately. It seemed that everyone in his family had a special talent from the Lord except for him. His sister Sarah could sing like an angel. His brother Todd was able to play praise songs on the guitar. His father taught a 3rd grade class at church and his mom made meals for people in the church when they got sick. It seemed like the whole family did things for the Lord except for Scott. Scott just thought about all the things he couldn't do. He couldn't sing and he was not very good at playing guitar, he couldn't teach a class and no one would want to eat anything he cooked.

One day Scott went to his dad and told him that he felt like there was nothing he could do for the Lord. Scott's dad prayed with him and then he talked about how God gives gifts to each person to share with others. His dad encouraged Scott to spend some time with the Lord and to ask the Lord to show him what gift or gifts had been given to him. After a few days of praying, the answer came. Scott thought about what he enjoyed doing. He truly enjoyed writing stories and poems. So he sat down and began to write and out came a beautiful poem. He told his family about it at dinnertime and everyone was excited for Scott. Later His brother got his guitar and put music to Scott's poem and his sister sang and it became a beautiful song that praised Jesus.

Scott was so busy looking at his brother and sister that he forgot something important that we need to always remember. God has given each one of us gifts to bring glory to Him. And often our gifts will work together with other people's gifts so that even more people can be blessed. In 1 Corinthians, we learn that EVERYONE has at least one gift and some have more. These gifts are given to be shared with others. Sometimes we can focus on ourselves too much and forget that we have a loving heavenly Father who wants us to use our gifts to bless others. All we need to do is ask Him what our gift is and He will show us. We should never look at someone else and compare our life to theirs. God has a special plan and spiritual gifts for each one of us.

- What was Scott looking at instead of God?
- Do you already know what your spiritual gift is? If not how can you find out?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Spiritual gifts: Special talents or abilities that the Holy Spirit gives us to bless others and point them to Jesus.

Day Two

God's Gifts Work Together

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:11 - "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills,"

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-13

Have you ever been to a music concert? Maybe you have been to one that has all kinds of musical instruments. As you watched all of the people playing their instruments, have you noticed that even though there are many instruments, there is only one song? It takes flutes, clarinets, violins, trombones, guitars and drums all working together to make one beautiful song. Each person is playing a different instrument and each instrument is making a different sound, but it is the same song! They are all playing the same notes. Imagine what the song would sound like if each person played anything they wanted to. It would be a sound catastrophe! But you will also notice that a band has a person in front called the conductor who gives direction to the players in order for them to make a beautiful song.

Spiritual gifts are a lot like this. Each gift is different, like instruments in a band and each person has a spiritual gift that may be used in different ways. We don't all have the same gifts, but we are all using our gifts for the same purpose - to glorify God. Today we read that the Holy Spirit gives all of us different gifts. No one is left without a gift to "play" in the "Family of God Band." There is the gift of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, healings, the working of miracles, discernment of spirits, different kinds of tongues, the interpretation of tongues, helps, and teaching. Wow! There are plenty of spiritual "instruments" to go around.

We also see that there is One who directs all of these gifts so they all come together in beautiful harmony and are pleasing to God. His name is the Holy Spirit and He is the Conductor who pulls all the gifts together to glorify God the Father. It is under His direction that we use our gifts for the sake of others. All we need to do is to find out what our gift is and then learn to use it to bless others and the Lord. We will find the Lord will use our lives to make beautiful "music" in His kingdom.

- How are musical instruments like spiritual gifts?
- How can you use your gifts to glorify God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Glorify: Giving God the honor, praise and admiration He is due.

Day Three

God's Gifts Are For Sharing

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:24b-25 - "But God composed the body, having given greater honor to the part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that member should have the same care for one another."

Read also 1 Corinthians 12:14-31

So why do you suppose God gives His people gifts? When we think of gifts we might think of our birthday or Christmas. We may get some new toy to play with or clothes to wear. If we think of spiritual gifts in the same way as the gifts we get on our birthdays or Christmas we might get the wrong idea about spiritual gifts. You see, there is a very big difference. Spiritual gifts are not for us to keep and play with; they are for us to share with others. God blesses us with spiritual gifts for the purpose of sharing them with others so that they can be blessed.

Take Sundays at church for example. The pastor is in the Sanctuary teaching God's Word. He has a gift of prophecy and teaching. This means that God has gifted him to speak forth His Word and help people to understand what the Bible is saying. The teacher in your Sunday school class also has the gift of teaching. There are the people who greet you at the door as you arrive to church; they are using a gift of hospitality. There are the people who clean up after service, they are using the gift of serving. Others are encouraging others in their walk with the Lord, some are singing beautiful praises to Jesus or helping with the puppet ministry. Everyone is using their gifts together to be a blessing to one another. This is how God wants His body, the church, to work.

God has a list of gifts that He gives and everyone has at least one. God tells us in the Bible that we should earnestly desire the best gifts. What do you think the best gift for you would be? Well, maybe the best gift for each one of us is the gift that God has picked out especially for us. That is the gift that He knows will be a blessing to other people. Let's find out what our gifts are and then use them to bless other people.

- How are spiritual gifts different from gifts you receive on your birthday?
- Why does God give us spiritual gifts?
- How can you use your gift to help others?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Prophecy: The "speaking forth" of God's word to people.

What Are Tongues?

Text: 1 Corinthians 14:4 - "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-19

Joel's dad was reading the Bible with Joel and his sister one day. They read through the New Testament a little bit each morning and they come to Acts chapter 2. In Acts chapter 2 is the story of the Day of Pentecost. That is the day that the Holy Spirit came upon the church to empower God's people to be witnesses for Jesus. But one of the things that Joel's dad read puzzled him. "...And they spoke with other tongues..." "Dad", Joel asked, "What does it mean to speak with other tongues?"

Joel's dad thought for a moment and turned to 1 Corinthians 14 to share with Joel what the Bible says about it. "First of all, we see in Acts that tongues were to praise the Lord. They were used to declare the wonderful works of God. We also see in the Bible that tongues are one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12). God didn't want us to be confused about this so he gave us 1 Corinthians 14 to help us to understand. We learn that tongues are a good gift, but not the most important of the gifts. We also see that not everyone has the gift of tongues. Tongues are for people to be strengthened in the Lord in their own personal devotion time. Paul also said that if someone speaks in tongues at church that there should always be someone to interpret it so everyone could understand."

"Wow", Joel said. "I am still kind of confused." "Well, that's OK, you don't have to understand everything about all of this today", Dad replied, "But just remember this; God doesn't want us to be confused. In fact 1 Corinthians 14:33 says that God is not the author of confusion but of peace. God has given us guidelines for how we should do things; they are found in the Bible. God also said that everything should be done decently and in order. So if things seem to not be orderly, then it is probably not of the Lord. So tongues are a good thing when they are used in the right way according to God's Word."

- In Acts 2, what were God's people saying in other tongues?
- If God is not the author of confusion, who do you think is?
- Does everyone have the gift of tongues?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Tongues: A gift of language, used to praise God and strengthen believers.

Use 'Em!

Text: Romans 12:6 - "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us **USE** them:"

Also read Romans 12:6-8

Imagine going out to the mailbox one day and inside there is card from your Aunt Jane. You take the card into the house and open it up. Inside is a note that tells you to go out and buy a brand new van to bless your family. Then there is a check to cover the entire cost of a new van. Your parents are excited and jump in the old clunker that you have had for years and head to the car dealer to get the new van. You pick out the perfect one; it has all the fancy gadgets. Your dad pays for it with Aunt Jane's generous check. Then you take the van home and park it in front of your house. Then your dad says, "Isn't this van nice! We are just going to leave it here parked and never drive it anywhere so we can always look at it." One of mom's eyebrows raises quite high, and you have never quite seen that look on her face as she says, "What was that you said?"

Well this seems like a pretty silly story, but it helps us to understand spiritual gifts. You see the gifts that God gives us are pretty important. Imagine having this brand new van and the blessing that it could be to take people on church outings or using it other ways to serve people. Well, in the same way if the Lord gives us the gift of mercy, or teaching, or ministry (serving) or any of the other gifts we can't just let it sit there and collect dust. We need to use our gifts to help others.

God has given everyone of His children special gifts. He gives them absolutely free, but He gives them with a special purpose in mind; He wants us to be a blessing to one another as well as be witnesses to those who don't know Him. Sometimes our gifts can be used to help someone in need. We can then invite them to church and they will be open to come and learn about Jesus. It is amazing how God will use us if we are just willing to be used by Him.

- Why was it silly to leave the van parked in the front of the house?
- Why should we use our spiritual gifts?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray and ask the Lord what your spiritual gifts are. Then ask the Lord how you can use them to be a blessing and serve others. Pray for your friends and family also that they may know also what their gifts are and that they will grow in Jesus.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“There is one Spirit who decides what gift to give each person.”

Third Grade and Above

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

1 Corinthians 12:11