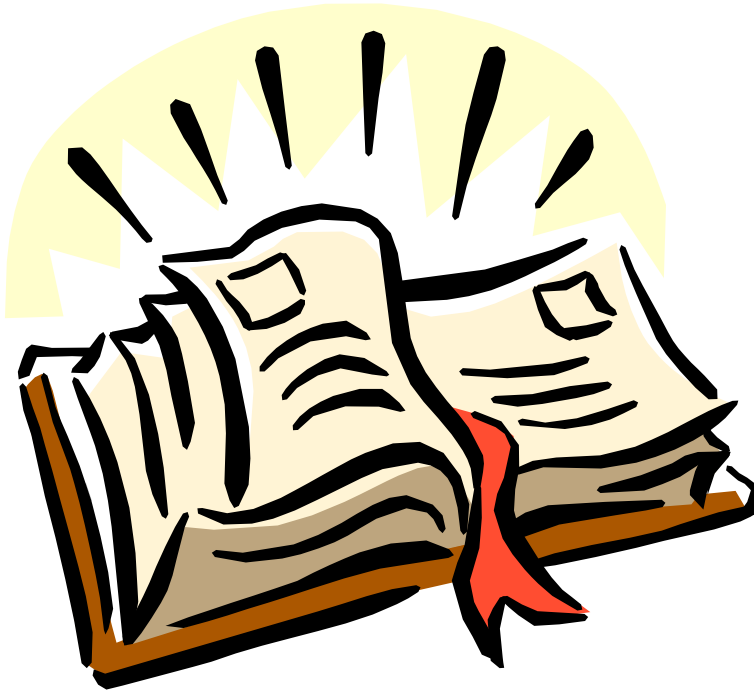


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: By Grace through Faith

THEME: Jesus died that we might live!

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:1-10

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 our lesson was **By Grace through Faith**. The theme was "**Jesus died that we might live.**" This week we learned about how that Jesus died on the cross so we can have eternal life. We also learned about His grace. At no cost to us Jesus died for our sins, so we can begin a new life in Him by simply receiving His free gift!

Grace is receiving what we do not deserve. We do not deserve to be forgiven of our sins. We don't deserve to be freed from the bondage of sin in our lives. We do not deserve to be given eternal life. We deserve to die and be separated from God forever because of our sin. But through grace, God's undeserved favor, we can be forgiven, freed and enjoy life everlasting in relationship with God. What a wonderful theme to study this week!

The section of scripture that we studied was **Ephesians 2:1-10**. 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!

"The Deceiver"

Text: Colossians 1:21 – "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled."

Also read Ephesians 2:1-2; Genesis 3:1-7

In a garden, a very long time ago, God created a man and a woman. The man and woman were given everything they ever needed and wanted. They never got hungry or lacked shelter; their thoughts were full of joy and upon the Lord. They never spoke badly to one another or were unkind. When they spoke to each other they always spoke the truth. They were not jealous, evil, or hateful. They did not do mean things to one another and they loved each other very much, but more importantly they loved God.

God gave them clear instructions on how to live. He also told them not to eat from a certain tree. God said, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die (Genesis 2:17)." Then came the deceiver whose name was Satan and he disguised himself as a serpent. He was a liar and wanted God's beautiful creation to be destroyed. He approached the woman and said, "You can eat from the tree. Don't listen to God, nothing will happen to you (Genesis 3:4)." The woman believed the snake. She and her husband ate from the tree and disobeyed God. Because they disobeyed they became separated from God. They chose their own desires over what God wanted them to do. When they disobeyed God it also hurt us because we have all come from Adam and Eve. Their sin is still being passed on to everyone in the world.

Ever since that time, man has been living in disobedience to God. God is perfect and lives in heaven which is also perfect. Sin can't be there with God. We also cannot be there unless something is done to fix our problem with sin. So, God did something for us through His Son Jesus dying on the cross and taking the punishment for our sins. Now we do not have to be separated from God any more. We can be with Him forever. All we have to do is just believe in Jesus and ask Him into our hearts. Have you received God's gift of His Son?

- Who deceived Eve in the garden?
- Can the deceiver still mislead or lie to people today?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Deceiver: Someone who tricks or fools people into doing something. Satan is a deceiver.

What are Wages?

Text: Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Also read 1 Peter 1:3-4

Have you ever heard your mom or dad say, “Money doesn’t grow on trees”? Now, be honest...have you ever really thought money grows on trees? Some people might wish they had a big tree in their back yard that produced money every year. Actually what your mom and dad are trying to explain is that money doesn’t just come from out of nowhere. It has to be earned. How do we earn money? By going to work and being paid for that work. Even as children we may be paid an allowance for working and doing things around the house. The payment that we receive for our work is called “wages”.

The Bible also talks about receiving wages. We receive wages for the things we do. We are told that the wages of sin is death. So if we give our lives over to doing bad things and the ways of this world then we will only find ourselves being paid with misery and separation from God. Sin may seem like a fun thing to do, but the devil wants you to believe that so he can trick you into doing wrong things. He does not care about you one bit and He wants to see your life destroyed by making bad choices and receiving the wages of those bad choices.

On the other hand, we are told that we can be given a free gift instead of earning the wages of sin. This gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. A gift is different than wages. It is something that someone gives you even if you never do any work. We do not have to do anything to earn our salvation. We just need to believe in Jesus Christ as our savior and we will be saved. It is really that simple. So don’t work to be a slave to sin and end up being paid the wages of death! Rather take the free gift that God offers to you through Jesus.

- What are wages?
- What are the wages of sin?
- What is the free gift of God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Wages - The payment for something; the result of work.

Day Three

What is Your Response?

Text: Ephesians 2:8,9 – “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Also read John 1:12,13

Marcy arrived home to find a gift sitting on the table. “Who could it be from?” wondered Marcy. The gift was wrapped in beautiful wrapping paper. It had a large colorful bow on top and a large white card that said, “To: Marcy, Thank you for being a friend.” Marcy was not sure whom the gift was from. There was no clue or information stating who sent it. Marcy opened the package to find a beautiful hand crafted doll. The doll was gorgeous! Marcy was so thankful for the gift but she did not know who to thank.

What do you do when someone gives you a gift? If someone was to give you a gift and you did not know who gave it to you, what would you do? Most people say “Thank you” or do something really nice for the person who gave the gift. What about a gift that lasts forever? What would you do for someone who gives you that type of gift? Well, we have been given a very precious gift that lasts forever and we know exactly who gave it to us.

God is the one who has given us the gift of eternal life. We are all dead inside because of our sin, but God's grace (undeserved favor) stepped in and He sent Jesus Christ to die on a cross for our sins. God gives us this gift when we place our faith in His Son, Jesus who is the greatest gift anyone could ever receive. Because our salvation is a gift, we need to respond with gratitude, praise, and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father. It should make us want to serve the Lord more than ever. When we realize that someone has done something nice for us, does not it make us want to do something kind back? That is how it is with God. He has given us His Son, and Jesus gave up His very life for us. That should make us want to give Him our hearts and our lives!

- How well do you respond to others for the gifts that they give you?
- What type of response do you give God for His gracious gifts that He has given to you?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Grace: Love, favor or giving towards someone who doesn't deserve it.

Gift: A God given ability or talent; something offered to show kindness or appreciation.

The Rescue

Text: John 6:29 – “Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

Also read Romans 10:8-10

The bright red car was traveling way too fast! It was going much faster than the posted speed limit. Most cars travel 25 miles per hour where there are houses and children playing. The red convertible was traveling at almost 50 miles per hour. Mr. Johnson heard something loud coming down his street and noticed his neighbor's little son running into the street after his ball. It almost seemed like everything began to go in slow motion. The little boy's mother turned and saw what was happening from the window and began to run out of her house.

Mr. Johnson knew that his mother could not get there in time so he started to move quickly. He dropped what he was doing and ran towards the little boy. The driver of the car didn't notice that a man was running towards a child. The music was too loud and the driver's eyes were looking down rather than on the roadway. As the car approached, Mr. Johnson pushed the little child out of the way just in time. You could hear the screeching tires from miles away. When the car came to a stop, Mr. Johnson was lying on the ground. The car had hit him. The ambulance and police arrived and found that Mr. Johnson had died. Mr. Johnson lost his life to save the life of the little boy. The boy's family was filled with sorrow over the loss of Mr. Johnson, but they were full of appreciation and thankfulness for what he had done.

Jesus did something for us that is very similar to what Mr. Johnson did for that little boy. He saw the danger we were in and came and died so that we could live. No one forced Him to come here and suffer for us. Imagine leaving heaven and all of the glory there to come here. He saw the danger of death that we were in and laid down His life on the cross so that we could be rescued from the danger of death, sin and hell. That is what grace is. He has done everything for us to be able to spend eternity with Him. Have allowed Him to rescue you?

- What did Mr. Johnson do for his neighbor?
- What did Jesus do for us?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Rescue: To save or remove from danger. Jesus gave His life to rescue us.

Day Five

A Brand New You!

Text: Jeremiah 17:10 - "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doing."

Also read Hebrews 4:12, 13, Proverbs 3:7, John 3:16

"Why did he do those horrible things? He said he was a Christian. I can't believe he is saying and doing those things. How many times has he been sent to the principal's office? I thought he was a Christian." Have these thoughts ever come into your mind after seeing someone who says they are a Christian do something he or she should not have done? I know I have thought these types of thoughts many times. What we do often shows others where our heart is. If we say we know Jesus, our lives should begin to look more and more like His. We cannot judge or decide whether another person is a Christian or not; that is between them and the Lord. We just need to make sure that our lives always reflect the Lord Jesus.

When others find out that you are saved, is it because of how you act around others or by what you tell them? When we become a new creation in Jesus we leave behind our old life, and old ways. It does not mean we never do anything wrong again. We will do wrong things sometimes, but that shouldn't be how we are living all of the time. Good things should begin to come out of our lives. When we say that we are Christians with our mouths but what we do shows something different then we are not being honest. Our lives should **show** others that we belong to Jesus.

What does your life show to others? Are you different than those who are in this world? When you see someone who says that they believe in Jesus and they continue to do something that a Christian should not do, how can you point them back to Jesus? Don't forget that we need to be filled with love! Your life can make a difference not only to those who do not know Jesus, but also to those who are weak or who have drifted in their relationship with Jesus. Stay in God's Word every day and pray to Him daily and others will see how He has created a brand new you.

Kid's Prayer Time



This week we have studied about the grace of God through Jesus. We need to thank God for His grace in our lives and then pray that others would see a difference in our lives. Pray that God will use your life to bring others to Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“For by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God...”

Third Grade and Above

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8, 9