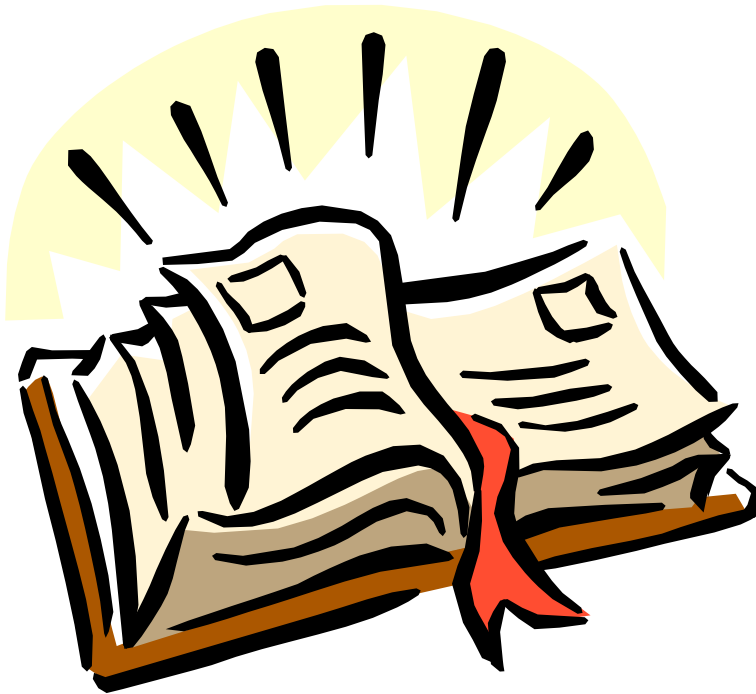


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Children of Light

THEME: God wants us to walk as children of light.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:1-18



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 **walking as Children of Light**. The theme was "**God wants us to walk as children of light.**" We discover in the Bible that Jesus is the light of the world. As His children we are to walk, or live our lives as children of light.

What does it mean to walk in His light? We hope to discover more about that this week. One important truth for us to learn is that we are to be lights in this dark world. We should reflect the light of Jesus in this dark and fallen world. The Bible has much to say about light and how we can walk as children of light.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Ephesians 5:1-18**. 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

Afraid of the Dark

Text: Psalm 27:1 - "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Also read Psalm 27:1-5

"What are those noises? They sound so loud!" Jennie asked nervously. "Just birds up in the trees, nothing to worry about," dad said reassuringly. Jennie's little brother Joel piped in, "Yeah they are bats, with big fangs and probably have rabies!" "Joel, stop talking like that, your sister is scared right now." "It is just that it is so dark", Jennie shared. "Yeah, I feel really bad that I misjudged how close it was to getting dark," dad said. "When we left camp to go for a walk I didn't think it would get this dark so soon. Let's just stick to the path and everything will be OK."

Dad, Jennie and Joel set out on a walk from their campground this evening. They just didn't realize how close it was to dark. Dad knew that if they just kept to the path then they would make it back to camp all right. But Jennie was very afraid of the dark. She is going to learn a valuable lesson about trusting the Lord when she is afraid.

"Did anyone bring a flashlight?" Joel asked. "No, I didn't think we would need one," dad responded. "I sure wish we had one right about now", Jennie shared as her voice trembled. All of a sudden dad stopped. He stood very still and whispered, "listen." Jennie and Joel listened very carefully and heard some twigs breaking and bushes rustling. "Oh no! What is it dad? A mountain lion? A bear?" "I don't know," dad answered, "but we had better get low and stay together. They crouched down and continued to listen. "Dad, I'm scared," Joel shared. "See Joel, I told you bad things happen in the dark," Jennie added. "Kids, we need to stop and pray," dad shared. "We shouldn't let our fears get the best of us. We don't know exactly what that is moving around out there, but we can pray and ask the Lord to protect us and take away our fear." Dad began to pray. He asked the Lord to help them to get back to camp and to protect them on the path. He asked Him to be their light so that they wouldn't be afraid of the dark. Then all three said, "Amen!"

Are you afraid of the dark? The dark can be a very scary thing. The Bible talks about darkness. It talks about regular darkness as well as spiritual darkness (the place we are apart from Jesus). That can be a pretty scary place to be. The Bible tells us that the Lord is our light. We don't have to fear, just simply put our trust in the Lord. Dad, Jennie and Joel put their trust in the Lord. He is their light and their help in time of need.

Continued on Day Two...

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Light: Brightness that enables me to see. In the Bible God is our light.

Day Two

A Light for My Path

Text: Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Also read Psalm 119:105-106

Continued from Day One... The noise kept getting closer and closer. Jennie, Joel and dad didn't know exactly what it was moving in the bushes around them, but they knew it was getting closer. It was so dark, if only they had a flashlight then they could see what it was and could maybe get back to their camp. As the noise became louder it began to sound like someone walking. Dad thought he could even see that it looked like a person in the shadows. Dad called out, "Hello, can you help us?" "Hello guys, we were worried about you!" Dad instantly recognized the voice. It was his friend Jerry who along with his family was up camping with them.

"Wow, is it good to hear your voice. God really does hear our prayers," dad shared. "I never had any doubt!" Jennie shared confidently. "Watch out for the bat!" Joel shouted. Jennie screamed and grabbed her dad. "You guys knock that off," dad said. Jerry continued, "We knew you went for walk, but got concerned when it got dark and you hadn't returned. So I decided I would come and look for you." "I am so glad you did," dad said. Jerry pulled out a flashlight and asked, "You need one of these?" Dad smiled and said, "yes, very much...what a blessing." Dad turned on the flashlight and they could see the path perfectly. They returned to camp safe and sound and enjoyed the rest of their time.

Dad, Jennie and Joel learned a lot through this experience about trusting the Lord. They became afraid of the dark and had to remember that the Lord was their light and that they needed to trust in Him when they are afraid. We can also see another example of a Bible truth. Just like they didn't know where to go or what to do in the dark, that all changed when they got a flashlight. The Bible says that God's Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path. In our walk with the Lord we certainly don't want to walk in darkness. We want to walk in the light. How we can do that is by getting to know our Bible really well. And like a flashlight, God's Word will help us to see what path we are on and how to get to the place that God wants us to be. God is so good to give us everything we need.

- Tell about a time when you were afraid?
- How did God help dad, Jennie and Joel when they were afraid in the dark?
- How can you get light for your path (see Psalm 119:105)?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Light to my path: God's Word shows us how to live our lives.

The Light of the World

Text: John 8:12 - "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'"

Also read John 9:1-9

In our story today we read about a time when a blind man was introduced to the Light of the World. This man had never seen light or anything else for that matter for his entire life. He was born blind. Could you imagine being blind? Your world would always be dark. Jesus' disciples asked him, who sinned, this man or his parents? Jesus answered them and said that this man wasn't blind because of his sin or his parent's sin, but rather for the works of God to be shown in his life. Then Jesus shares that He is the light of the world.

Imagine this blind man hearing Jesus say that. He may have heard about something called light, but he had never seen it or experienced it. Now he was in the presence of the light of the world. What would happen? Jesus had compassion on the man and wanted to heal him. He spat on the ground and made clay. Then he covered the eyes of the blind man with the clay. Then he told the man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. So the man went, washed and could see.

For the first time ever he could see light. This picture is an example of us before we come to know Jesus. The Bible says that we are born in spiritual darkness, blinded by sin. We can't know God or have a relationship with Him because of our spiritual blindness. But then we hear about Jesus, who is the light of the world. He has come to bring light into this world so that we could have salvation. Then when we put our trust in Jesus, like the blind man he healed, the spiritual blindness is removed from our lives. We can see. We can have a relationship with Jesus. If you have never met the light of the world (Jesus) then you are still spiritually blind. May you come to know Him and allow Him to take away your blindness.

- How long was the man in our story blind?
- Who is the Light of the World?
- How can we be delivered from spiritual blindness?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Blind:

Not being able to see.

Spiritual Blindness: Not being able to see or understand spiritual things because our sin has separated us from God.

Lights in a Dark World

Text: Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Also read Matthew 5:14-16

Mandy was very excited about the science field trip to the planetarium. She has known about it for 6 weeks and had been counting the days on her calendar. Mandy loves science, but she especially enjoys learning about astronomy - the study of the planets, stars and galaxies. Mandy and her mom got off the bus and began the tour of the planetarium. They went into a room that had an exhibit of the moon and stars. The room was completely dark except for a button in the center of the room. Mandy went over to the button and pushed it.

As soon as Mandy pushed the button the entire room lit up. But it wasn't regular lights that you might find in a room; it was all the lights of the heavens. There were stars and planets. The ceiling was even round so it made you feel like you were out in space seeing all of the stars. It was fantastic. The planetarium guide came and began to explain how that the heavens light up. She explained that all of the stars, planets and moons actually don't have any light of their own. They reflect the light of the sun. The sun is so bright that what we see is the light bouncing off of the other objects in space. That is how our moon lights up. It is really just a reflection of the sun. Mandy was amazed at how powerful the sun was and how so many objects can reflect its light and be so beautiful.

This is a good example of our Bible reading today. Jesus told His disciples (and us) to let our light shine before men, so they can see our good works and give glory to God. We are told in the Bible that Jesus is the light of the world. But Jesus is now in heaven with the Father. So He wants us to His lights here in this dark world. Kind of like the stars and planets in the sky we need to reflect the light of Jesus in this world. How we do that is to become more and more like Jesus every day. First we need to ask Him to come into our lives, and then we need to spend time with Him every day. Then we will become more and more like Him and people will begin to see Him in our lives. Let's remember that we are a reflection of Jesus. Is your light shining before men? **Continued on Day Five...**

- What did Mandy think was so amazing at the planetarium?
- How are we to reflect the light of the world - Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Reflect: To throw back; for example a mirror throws back our image. As lights in this world we need to reflect the light of the world.

Day Five

Walking in the Light

Text: 1 John 1:7 - "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Also read 1 John 1:5-7

Continued from Day Four... Mandy continued her tour of the planetarium. She went on to another room that had an exhibit of the sun. It told all about the sun; how powerful it is; and how it lights up the entire universe. Mandy learned about the light that the sun provides for our planet and how life on Earth is so dependent on the sun.

"Mom, I never knew the sun was so important to life here on Earth," Mandy shared. "It is very important, without it we wouldn't be able to live." "Yeah, and we couldn't have fun at the beach either during the summer, because without the sun it would just be dark, cold and miserable," Mandy said. Mandy and her mom continued their tour through the planetarium and had a great time together. They also help us to learn some very important truths from the Bible.

Imagine our world without the sun to give us light, warmth and energy. It is hard to imagine because life wouldn't be able to exist here. In the same way that the sun is so important to life here, Jesus, the light of the world, is so important to our lives. We can not be saved any other way except through Jesus. Then after we are saved we are to walk in the light. We need to walk in His light; the light of His Word and His truth. We should no longer walk in darkness. People that don't know Jesus walk in darkness, but when we have a relationship with Him we begin to walk in His light. Our lives should be different from this world. Does it mean that we will never make mistakes? No, but we will realize that Jesus is the light of the world and we will want to live our lives fully in the light! Let's be children of light and live our lives as a reflection of Jesus!

- What did Mandy learn about the sun?
- Why is it so important for us to understand that Jesus is the light of the world?
- How can we walk in the light?

Kid's Prayer Time



Today when you pray, thank Jesus for being the light of the world. Ask Him to help you to live your life as a reflection of Him. This dark world needs the light of Jesus. Ask Jesus to help you be a light.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

"...now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

Third Grade and Above

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

Ephesians 5:8