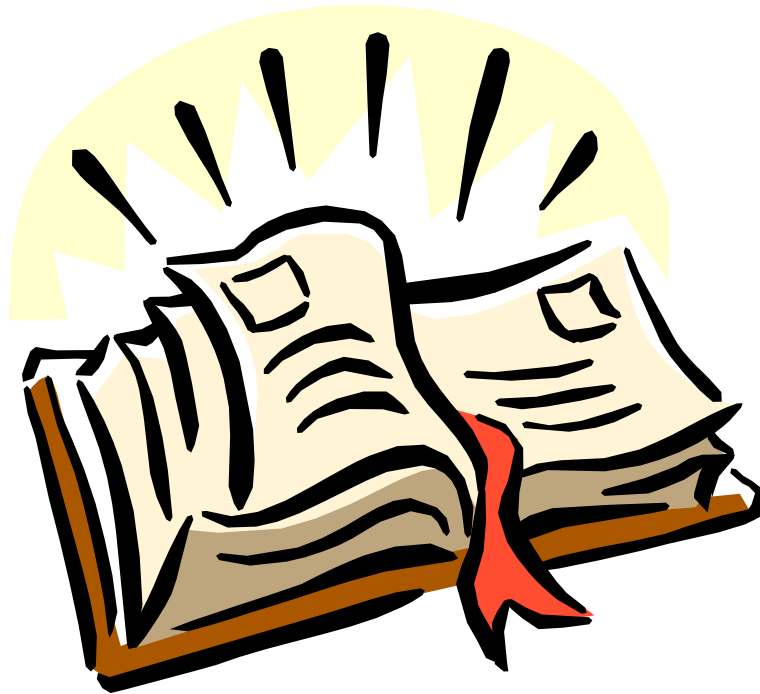


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Husbands and Wives

THEME: God has a plan for relationships.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:18-33



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 **Husbands and Wives**. The theme was "**God has a plan for relationships.**" God has a lot to say in His Word about relationships. He was the one who instituted the idea of marriage and family. So we need to know what He has to say about these things.

This week we are going to look at the relationship of husband and wife. We will discover that God performed the first marriage ceremony many years ago in the Garden of Eden. Ever since then men and women have been getting married. What does God say about marriage? While it may be many years before our children have to even think about marriage, it is still good to have a basic understanding of what God says in His word about it.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Ephesians 5:18-33**. 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!

God Has a Plan

Text: Genesis 2:24 - "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Also read Genesis 2:18-25

Imagine Adam in the beautiful Garden of Eden. He was in the most beautiful place on earth. With all of the amazing plants and animals surrounding him he was able to enjoy creation to its fullest. But there was one little problem in this otherwise perfect place. God had given Adam the task to name all of the animals. But as Adam gave names to the birds and the beasts he began to notice that all of the animals had companions. But there was no companion in all of creation that was suitable to be a companion for Adam. Maybe Adam was a little bit lonely and wished he could have someone like him to be able to talk to and to share this beautiful garden with.

God knew exactly what Adam needed. So He caused a deep sleep to fall over Adam and He took one of his ribs while he was sleeping. He closed up Adam's side and took the rib and made a woman. After He made the woman, God brought her to Adam. There was no doubt that she was very beautiful because God had created her. It was at this time that God began something that men and women would do throughout the ages. He began marriage. Adam and Eve became the very first man and wife. Eve was the perfect companion and helper for Adam. They would be able to share together the beauty, wonder and riches of God's creation.

The Bible says that when a man and woman are married that the man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife and the two become one flesh. So it is like they are one person. God's plan for marriage is for one man to marry one woman for their entire lives. Maybe you haven't thought a lot about marriage, and that is OK. But what we do need to know about, even as children, is that God does have a beautiful plan. And if we decide to live our lives according to His plan then our lives will be very blessed. So if God has marriage in His future plans for your life, make sure to know about what His plan is. His Word, the Bible has a lot to say about relationships and about marriage. We are going to look at this closer during this week.

- What was the one thing missing for Adam in the Garden of Eden?
- How did God provide for Adam?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Marriage: A man and a woman making a promise before God to live together for the rest of their lives and thereby becoming husband and wife.

Husbands

Text: 1 Peter 3:7 - "Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."

Also read Ephesians 5:28-29

Today we are going to look at what the Bible tells husbands. For young boys it is important to know what kind of husband God would want you to one day become, if you become married. The husband is given a lot of responsibility. He has to make a lot of important decisions. The decisions he makes isn't just for himself, but for his wife and his family. Let's look at some of the things that the Bible says to husbands.

Husbands are told by the Lord to love their wives. They need to cherish them and take care of them the same way they would take care of themselves. We spend a lot of time taking care of our needs. Maybe we spend time fixing up our hair or picking out the right clothes. In the same way, husbands need to love and care for their wives. They need to think about what is important to them. Another part of love is husbands being willing to do anything for their wives. Jesus showed us what perfect love is in that He laid down His life for us on the cross. In the same way husbands should be willing to lay their lives down for their wives.

Husbands are also to honor their wives. A wife is a gift to a husband, so the husband should honor and respect her. He should never be mean or demanding, but kind, gentle and loving towards her. A great way for a husband to know how to treat their wife is to ask the question, "Is this how Jesus treats me?" The Bible says that the marriage relationship is a picture of Jesus and His bride the church (as we will see in our devotions on a later day). So as we see how Jesus treats His bride, we should treat our brides the same way.

So boys, you may not think about it now, but someday you may want to get married. Always remember to love, honor and respect your bride. God will greatly bless you and your marriage if you do.

- Why is it important for young boys to learn about what the Bible says about being a husband?
- What have you learned about being a godly husband?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Husband: The man in a marriage.

Wives

Text: Proverbs 31:10 - "Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies."

Also read Proverbs 31:10-31

In today's devotion we are going to look at wives. The Bible also shares a lot about being a godly wife and it is very important for young girls to know and understand what kind of wife He would like you to be, if you are one day married. The Bible talks about wives being a helper and a companion to their husbands. Wives are such a blessing to their husbands because they help them in so many areas. God must have known that men would need a lot of help so he graciously made wives to help them in life.

Wives are also to honor and respect their husbands. God has established that the husband is the head of the home. He has the responsibility to make the decisions. At the same time wives can have a lot of wisdom to help the husband make good decisions together with his wife. Wives are to love their husbands and respond to him in the same way that we would respond to Jesus. Marriage is a picture of Jesus and His church. Just as wives would respond to Jesus (in love, honor and respect), wives should respond to their husbands.

Proverbs 31 gives a lot of things that describes a godly wife. She also has a lot of responsibility in the home. A godly wife is a hard worker, she is wise, she helps take care of those who are in need, she is kind and gentle, she raises her children well, and she is more concerned about her relationship with the Lord than about her own charm and beauty. Wow, there are a lot of things to think about. God will give the grace to live these things out. When a husband and wife are both seeking the Lord and being obedient to what His Word says, then they are going to be blessed with a wonderful marriage. Maybe the Lord has marriage in your future, and maybe He doesn't. But these are still good things to learn about from God's Word.

- Why is it so important to study about husbands and wives?
- What are some ways that wives can be helpers to their husbands?
- What one thing about godly wives stands out to you from Proverbs 31?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Wife: The woman in the marriage.
Virtuous: Displaying what is right.

Marriage is a Picture

Text: Ephesians 5:25 - "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it,"

Also read Ephesians 5:23-27

The Bible tells us that the relationship between a husband and a wife is a beautiful picture of another relationship. That relationship is the relationship between Jesus and His people, the church. Seeing this picture helps husbands and wives know better how to be a better husband and wife. Husbands can look to Jesus and see how much Jesus loved us and was willing to die on the cross for us. Husbands should have the same kind of love for their bride, so much so that they would be willing to lay down their lives. In the same way, wives can look at God's people, the church and see how easy it is for them to respond to so much love. Wives can also learn how to respond to their husbands in the same way.

But understanding this picture doesn't just help us to become better husbands and wives. It also helps us to understand how we can show others in the world who Jesus is. When a husband and wife who love each other, respect each other, and honor each other are out in public then Jesus can shine through their lives. So when a husband is acting like Jesus and laying down his life for his wife and the wife is responding in love and honor to her husband then others will see Jesus. They will want to know more about who Jesus is.

Unfortunately there are problems in many marriages today, even among Christians. The husband or the wife can often be selfish and demand their own way. When this happens it destroys the picture that God intended, and can cause a lot of hurt. It is important for us to know that God does have a plan for marriage. God can overcome problems and trials in any area of our life and He can do the same in relationships. If God wants you to be married one day remember the relationship between Jesus and the church and know that that is how God wants your marriage to be.

- What is marriage a picture of?
- Who pictures the husband?
- Who pictures the wife?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Picture: An image to help us to see the real thing. Marriage is a picture of Jesus' relationship with His people, the church.

Day Five

Jesus and His Bride

Text: Revelation 19:7 - "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

Also read Revelation 19:7-10

In our last devotion we looked at how marriage is a picture of the relationship between Jesus and His bride, the church. Today we are going to look closer at that relationship that we have as Jesus' bride. What an amazing thing to be called the bride of Christ. In our Bible reading today we read about a marriage supper. It is a very special celebration when all of the people who have ever believed in Jesus will be brought together in heaven. You and I will be there if we believe in Jesus. It is going to be a wonderful occasion when Jesus will marry His bride.

We are told that we will be wearing fine linen, clean and bright. The beautiful clothes will represent the righteous acts of the saints. In other words, it will show all of the good things that His people have done. It is going to be a big feast with lots of food and there will be a big party, full of joy. We are going to be with Jesus for all of eternity. Right now we are promised to Jesus, kind of like an engagement. But then we will get to be with Him forever.

What a beautiful picture for us to be given. There really is no more closer relationship on this earth than that of husband and wife. And the Bible says that is going to be the kind of relationship we will have with Jesus forever. Just as a newly married couple who desire to be together, we will get to spend eternity with Jesus. What a wonderful time that is going to be. Let's remember to thank the Lord for all He has provided for us. What a blessing it is to be a part of the bride of Christ.

- Who is the bride of Christ?
- What will His bride wear at the marriage supper in heaven?
- Will you be at the marriage supper of the Lamb?

Kid's Prayer Time



Today when you pray, thank Jesus for teaching us this week about husbands and wives. Ask Him to help you to be the best husband or wife you can be, if He would have you to get married some day. Then thank Him for the beautiful picture of His relationship with us through marriage.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

“...let each one of you love his own wife as himself, and let the wife respect her husband.”

Third Grade and Above

“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

Ephesians 5:33