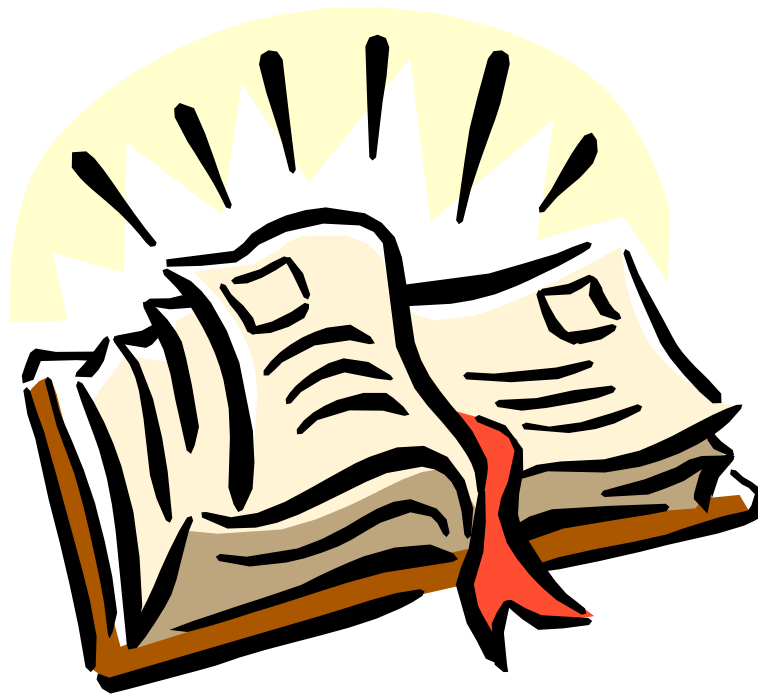


# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: The Day of the Lord**

**THEME: God wants us to encourage one another, because He is coming soon.**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11**



# 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 **The Day of the Lord**. The theme was "**God wants us to encourage one another because He is coming soon.**" Jesus is coming back soon! What exciting news! We as Christians have a great hope that the rest of the world doesn't have. We know that one day Jesus will return for His people, that is you and I if we have asked Jesus to come into our lives.

Sometimes we can look around at our world and get kind of bummed out. Jesus wants you and me to be encouragers. We need to encourage each other in the hope of Jesus' soon return. That way when our problems seem huge we rest in the Lord knowing that He will work everything out.

The section of scripture that we studied was **1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**. 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

# "I'll See Grandma Again"

**Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:14** - "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."

**Also read 1 Corinthians 15:20**

Joel had never been to a funeral before. There were a lot of new sights and sounds all around him that he had never seen. Wearing a suit was always a strange thing for him. His mom was really sad because it was her mom (Joel's grandmother) who had passed away. Joel's heart was very sad also. He loved his grandmother very much. He sat down and began to remember all of the fun things he got to do with grandma. He loved climbing the huge mulberry tree in her front yard. He also remembered the summers he got to stay with her and the times she would open up her Bible and share with him all kinds of exciting stories.

The pastor who spoke at the service talked about how that one day those who know the Lord will get to see Joel's grandmother again. He talked about how that when the Lord returns, He is going to bring back with Him all the Christian believers who died while on earth. Then the pastor said that if we know Jesus, we will get to see those we love again at that time. He told about the sure hope we have in Jesus because He rose from the dead and now death has no more power over Him or all of us who believe in Him.

Joel listened closely to the words of the pastor. He knew that he had asked Jesus into his heart a couple of summers ago. In fact, it was with his grandmother that he prayed to receive Jesus. As he thought about what the pastor had said, he bowed his head and quietly prayed, "Thank you Jesus that you will bring my grandma with you when you come to earth again." After he prayed, his heart was filled with joy. He knew that the Bible promised that he would see his grandma again. He hoped she would have some more great stories to share with him when he saw her again.

- Who are some people that have already died and who you want to see again?
- Name some ways that you can "hold fast" to your belief in Jesus.
- What are some of the fruit that will come from your life when you "hold fast" to Jesus?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Sleep:** In our reading today sleep is talking about when someone dies and goes to be with the Lord.

# The Rapture

**Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:17** – “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

**Also read 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**

When I was a child, I remember going to the Bible bookstore with my mom. I loved to go there and look at all of the toys and stickers they had for children. Many times my mom would buy one of those toys or stickers for me. At the Bible bookstore that I went to, there was a painting that I still remember to this day...MANY years later. I was always amazed at the picture. I would spend several minutes every time I went just looking at all of the different parts of it.

The painting showed a very busy city with highways and busy people. But it was not a typical day at all. You would see cars crashing, planes falling, and graves in cemeteries opening up. Then you would realize that what was happening was that several people were disappearing and being caught up into heaven. Then you would look up and see the Lord in the clouds receiving those who were disappearing. That picture always fascinated me even though I didn't fully understand it.

This was a picture of what is called the rapture. The rapture is when the Lord returns for His people. He is going to rapture them, or catch them up to be with Him in clouds to meet Him. After that happens it will be a very bad and a very sad time on the earth. It is called the Great Tribulation. There will be seven years of very bad times. But no one has to go through that time. Anyone can be raptured when Jesus returns. All we have to do is ask Jesus to come into our hearts. I am excited that I won't be here during those seven years, but I also want to pray for those who don't know Jesus so that they would come to Jesus and not go through that time as well. Let's promise to pray for others who do not know Jesus this week.

- What is the rapture?
- What is the Great Tribulation?
- Why do Christians have hope?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Rapture:** The event described in the Bible when the Christians who are alive when Jesus returns are “caught up” to meet Jesus in the clouds.”

Day Three

# Children of the Light

**Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:5** - "You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness."

**Also read 1 John 1:5-7**

We learn in the Bible that the Lord's return is going to be like a "thief in the night". What do you think that means? Let's think about it for a moment. A thief is a person who wants to rob or steal something and they will often come at night. They do it in the darkness because they don't want anyone to see them. They want to hide and not do it in the open. When people don't know Jesus they are living in spiritual darkness. They aren't looking for Jesus' coming so when He does come back they will be taken by surprise, like having a thief come to your house when you are not expecting it.

But we are told that we are children of light when we know Jesus. We won't be taken by surprise when the Lord returns. We will never know which day or at what hour Jesus will come back for us, but we do know that the time is near. The Bible tells us what the world will be like before His return. The Bible says that people will love themselves; not want to obey; be mean to one another; only think of themselves and no one else; only loving money and not God. That sounds a lot like some people today doesn't it. Christians will know that the time is near because they are children of light. The light chases away darkness.

Jesus will return very soon and it is important that we are prepared. How can we be prepared? First, by making sure that we know Him as our Lord and Savior. Have you asked Jesus to come inside your heart and live forever? You can do that right now by just simply believing in Him. Then for those of us who know Jesus, we need to walk in the light. That just means living our lives to please the Lord. We need to read our Bibles and pray every day to learn what God wants us to do. We will also find that God wants to use us to tell others about Jesus in these "last days" before His return. Let's be ready for Him to return and tell others so that the day won't come like a thief in the night to them.

- Why does a thief come in the night?
- Will Jesus' return be a surprise to people who don't know Jesus?
- How can you get ready for Jesus' return?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Thief in the Night:** A person who comes to rob and steal under the covering of darkness; a picture of how people who don't know Jesus will be surprised at Jesus' return.

# Barney the Encourager

**Text: Acts 11:23** - "When (Barnabas) came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord."

**Also read Acts 11:19-26**

"I sure didn't do a very good job when I told Jerry about Jesus today. He said Christians are goofy and he laughed at me." Marty was sharing with his friend Barney about how bad it went when he told Jerry about Jesus. Jerry was one of the toughest kids in school. Marty saw Jerry every day in math class. He prayed for Jerry and knew that the Lord wanted him to tell Jerry about Jesus. Marty went up to Jerry and began to tell him that Jesus loves him and wants to be his friend. Jerry just started laughing at Marty and began to make fun of him in front of all of the other children.

Barney felt really bad for his friend Marty. He wanted to help him feel better. Barney told Marty that the most important thing was that he had obeyed what the Lord had told him to do. He said that it is really up to the Lord to help people understand about Jesus. We just have to be willing to tell others the good news about Jesus. Barney also told Marty that maybe one day Jerry would remember what Marty had said and turn to Jesus. Marty felt a lot better after talking with Barney.

Barney encouraged Marty. Marty was feeling hurt about what had happened when he tried to tell Jerry about Jesus and Barney said things to help Marty feel better. Our theme this week is about being an encouragement to each other. We need to help our friends and family who are going through difficult times. In our Bible passage we read about a man named Barnabas who was very good at giving encouragement, just like Barney. Barnabas encouraged the people in the church at Antioch. Let's all encourage one another to keep on following the Lord!

- Why was Marty sad?
- What did Barney do?
- How is Barney like the Bible character Barnabas?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Encouragement:** When you share something that brings comfort and courage to another person's heart.

Day Five

# Watch and Pray

**Text: Mark 13:33** - "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is."

**Also read Mark 13:32-37**

None of us know the day or hour when Jesus will return. Only our heavenly Father knows when that will be. But we look forward to that day when we will hear the sound of a trumpet and look up to see Jesus coming for us with open arms to receive us to be with Him forever. But what should we do while we are waiting for Jesus to return? Does He want us to be busy doing something until He comes for us? The answer is yes! In this verse, we see two things that He wants us to be doing.

First of all, Jesus wants us to be watching for His return. We should always be looking for Him to come back and take us to heaven. Sometimes in our lives we can get busy doing so many things. Things like going to school, doing our chores or playing takes up a lot of our day. Doing these things is very important, but we should always have the attitude of being ready for Jesus to return. Are we doing our best in school? Are we working hard doing our chores? Are we obeying our mom and dad? Are we using our time the best way? When Jesus returns, we want Him to find us being busy about the things He wants us to do.

We also see that Jesus wants us to pray. We need to pray every day and especially now that we are living in the last days. We need to pray that the Lord would help us to live for Him. We should pray for other people we know that haven't asked Jesus to come into their hearts. We should pray and ask the Lord to use us to share the good news of Jesus' love to everyone we meet.

- Do we know when Jesus will come back?
- Who is the only one who knows when Jesus is coming back?
- What should we be doing while we are waiting?

## Kid's Prayer Time



This week when you pray you can thank the Lord for the promise of His return. Pray for those you know who haven't asked Jesus into their hearts. Ask him to help you to live for Him and continue to watch and pray while you wait for His return.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

**“We should be sober,  
putting on the breastplate  
of faith and the helmet  
of salvation.”**

Third Grade and Above

**“Let us who are of the day  
be sober, putting on the  
breastplate of faith and  
love, and as a helmet the  
hope of salvation.”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:8**