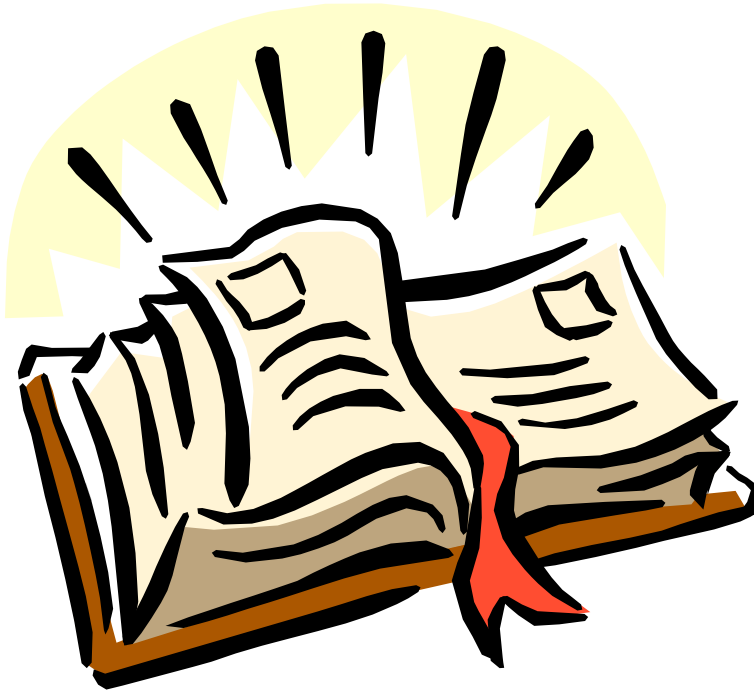


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: So You Want to Be a Leader?

THEME: God tells us how we can become leaders in His church.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 3:1-16

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 what it means to be a leader in Jesus' church. The theme was "God tells us how we can become leaders in His church." God's Word says a lot about being a leader in the church. This week we are going to look closer at the qualifications of being a leader in Jesus' church.

Maybe your child has a desire to be a missionary, or a pastor, or an evangelist. These devotions will help them to understand better what God wants for people who have those positions.

The section of scripture that we studied was **1 Timothy 3:1-16**. 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

You Need to Be a Follower Before You Can Be a Leader!

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:1 – “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

Also read Ephesians 5:1

This week we are studying God's Word to find out how we can become a leader in His church. In order for us to become a leader, we must first become a follower. All of the greatest leaders in the Bible started out as followers and continued as followers until their death. Who do you think they followed? If you said, “Jesus Christ,” then you are right! In order for someone to learn how to become a leader in the church, first they must be following the greatest leader of all!

Paul was a great leader during the New Testament times. Paul traveled throughout the world and started many churches. There were some people who wanted to follow Paul because he was a great leader. They wanted to learn as much as they could from Paul and his ministry. In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul writes to the church of Corinth and says in order to be a Godly leader you must do like I do, which is to imitate Christ. Paul knew the only way to be an effective leader was to imitate Jesus Christ. He didn't want people to follow his example just because he was a knowledgeable and godly man; rather he wanted people to follow him because he followed the example of Jesus.

In order for us to be an effective leader in the church, we must first have an effective relationship with Jesus Christ. We need to follow Jesus and let others follow His examples not ours! Our life is a reflection of whom or what we follow. As Christians, we want people to see that we follow Jesus Christ. When His life is showing through our life, people are attracted to Him. What a great way to lead others to Him!

- Would you like to be a leader in God's church? Why?
- What are some qualities of a Godly leader? Remember the qualities of Jesus Christ.
- Does Jesus shine in your life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Leader: showing a person the right way to go or the right thing to do by your examples.

Day Two

Do You Have a Desire to Lead?

Text: 1 Timothy 3:1 – “This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.”

Also read Psalm 37:4

Mrs. Johnson asked her 3rd grade class a question one afternoon. “What do you want to be when you grow up and why do you desire that type of a job?” Many kids said they wanted to be a policeman, firefighter, or a professional athlete because of the excitement or money. However, there was one child, Matthew, who wanted to be something different. Matthew said he wanted to be the President of the United States someday. Then Mrs. Johnson asked him why he wanted that type of a job and got a very interesting answer. Matthew responded, “I want to be president so I can have power over others and be the leader of all the people.”

Matthew had a desire to be a leader but his desire was for all the **WRONG** reasons. If you were to ask a non-Christian what makes a good leader you might hear answers like, “he or she needs to be rich, or they need to be tall and good looking or they must be highly educated,” these are just a few examples of what you might hear. What type of response would you expect if you were to ask a Christian the same question?

A Christian desiring to be a leader should be a person who desires to serve others, not to be served. On day one we learned about the important characteristics of a godly leader. Jesus is the example for all Christian leaders to follow. Some day you might have a desire to lead in an area of ministry in the church you attend. Maybe you have that desire now on your heart to become a leader. How did that desire get placed on your heart? Is your desire to be a leader because you want to have power and authority over other people? If you desire to lead others because you want to serve and share Christ then you are going to follow the example of many godly people like the Apostle Paul, Peter, King David, Esther, and Nehemiah. First you must follow Him in your personal life then you should have a desire on your heart to lead others to Him.

- What is the desire of your heart?
- Why is it wrong to want to be a leader so you can boss other people around?
- Do you know of someone who is a good example of a godly leader? Who is it?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Desire: To long after, to reach out after

Day Three

Your Conduct in Christ

Text: 2 Kings 22:1 – “Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.”

Also read 2 Kings 22:1-13

Mrs. Robinson noticed how well Jonah responded towards other children. Jonah's conduct was wonderful to watch. He was never rude or insulting to any of the children. Everyone in his class liked him and they enjoyed playing with him. Mrs. Robinson was especially delighted how Jonah would respond to her. “There is something different about this child,” Mrs. Robinson would always think to herself. Why can't all of the children in my class be like him? “He is such a gifted leader.” She would often wonder if his behavior was because of how his parents raised him or if it was just the way he was made.

One evening Mrs. Robinson had an opportunity to meet with Jonah's parents at a parent-teacher conference. Mrs. Robinson was very eager to tell Jonah's mother and father all about how well behaved Jonah is in and out of class. When she asked Jonah's parents how they did it, regarding Jonah's behavior, she was even more eager to have some of what they had. Jonah's parents told Mrs. Robinson about their relationship with Jesus Christ. They also told her about how Jonah also has a personal relationship with Jesus. The reason Jonah behaves the way he does is because Jesus is the most important person in his life. All those benefits and blessings come as a result of a personal relationship with Jesus. They had an opportunity to tell Mrs. Robinson about salvation and how she could have the same type of relationship.

Jonah was a leader at the age of 9. He probably didn't even know what it meant to be a leader. He just continued to live his life for the Lord and the leadership came as a result. There are children all over this world who have led adults to a personal relationship with Jesus because of their conduct. It is important to be an example of Christ by the way you act or respond to something. You can truly be a leader to others regardless of how old you are.

- What was it about Jonah that drew Mrs. Robinson to Jesus?
- In what ways can you be a leader at a young age?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Conduct: The way that one acts; behavior

Welcoming Words

Text: Psalm 51:15 – “O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.”

Also read Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 19:14

“You’re a loser! I don’t want you around here, so get lost!” shouted Amanda. Amanda was very upset with her sister Bridget. Bridget embarrassed Amanda at break time. She told Amanda’s classmates that Amanda sucks her thumb and sleeps with a special baby blanket. Amanda was very hurt that Bridget would do such a thing to her. Bridget knew a lot of secret things about Amanda because Bridget and Amanda were sisters. Sometimes their words were very hurtful towards each other. Bridget and Amanda knew that it was wrong to speak to each other the way they sometimes did. If their parents were to hear what had happened they would have been very upset and sad.

There have been many times that Amanda and Bridget were disciplined for what or how they responded to a situation. Their parents knew how hurtful words are and can be towards another person. Most importantly, Amanda and Bridget’s parents knew that words that were not encouraging did not represent praise and honor to Jesus. Christians do get mad and upset too! But what happens when we get upset or angry? Do our words reveal what’s inside of our hearts? Do the words give encouragement to others and praise to Jesus Christ?

It’s very important as a Christian to watch what we say, especially in a public setting. Other people may misunderstand what it means to be a Christian by how we talk. We don’t want Jesus to be misunderstood by others. We represent Him in all things that we do. Our hearts can be very wicked and we need to have self-control in our response to our embarrassment or anger. The Psalmist writes in Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. If you desire to be a leader your words need to be an example to others.

- Are your words acceptable to God?
- How do you treat your brother or sister?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Praise: Telling God how much I appreciate His greatness and beauty;
Speaking to others about God's greatness.

Day Five

Does Age Matter to Be a Leader?

Text: 1 Timothy 4:12 – “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.”

Also read Philipians 3:17

Mr. Norman's sixth grade Sunday school class stood against the wall during worship time. Almost all of the sixth graders stood without expression with their hands in their pockets. The singing began and all of the other children were enjoying the music and performing the hand movements. About 10 minutes into the worship time, Mr. Norman was looking around the worship area. He was amazed at what he noticed. Many of the kids in other classes began to just stand with their hands in their pocket and not worship. Why was this happening? The worship team was very good and the singers were very animated with their movements. Worship time was usually a lot of fun for these kids but today something just didn't seem right.

Mr. Norman glanced over towards his students. Suddenly, it dawned on him why so many kids were not singing. They were following the lead of the sixth graders. “Monkey see, monkey do”, Mr. Norton thought to himself. As the songs continued there were more and more children not singing or “acting-out” the songs. “What an impact these 6th graders have on the other kids,” Mr. Norton quietly said to himself. “They even impact some of the adults.” There were some adults who stopped clapping or singing. Could all of this be just because of the sixth graders?

When worship was over, Mr. Norton's class returned to the classroom. Mr. Norton felt the Lord was speaking to him regarding the example of the 6th graders. Mr. Norton opened God's word to 1 Timothy 4:12. He explained that it didn't matter how young they were, they were a living example to all. This was very important because they were leading others to not participate just by their example. They were leaders and they didn't even know it! “You don't have to be an adult to be a leader”, expressed Mr. Norton. “You can be a great leader at any age!” Adults, children, teenagers, and people of all ages watch everything you do. Your words, actions, and conduct reveal your leadership skills. Being a godly leader doesn't take age or education but it does take submission to Christ first! The sixth graders learned that day that they need to be the example in worship time.

Kid's Prayer Time



Pray that God will help you to be an example to other. If you desire to be a leader, ask God to help you.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

"If a man desires the position of a leader, he desires a good work."

Third Grade and Above

"This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work."

1 Timothy 3:1