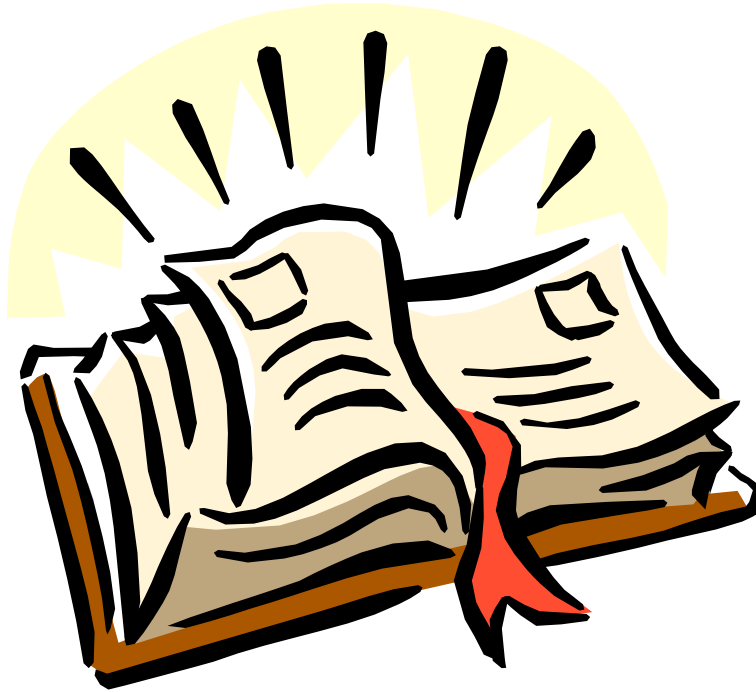


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Our Great High Priest

THEME: God is always there for us.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14 – 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 "Our Great High Priest"-JESUS. The theme was "God is always there for us." It's exciting to know that God is always available to us whenever we need Him. Not only is He available but He says we can BOLDLY go to His throne of grace and we will find mercy in our time of need.

For children, life can sometimes be frightening. There are a lot of things in this world to be afraid of. But if we understand who our High Priest is and that we can go to Him at any time and He will help us, then it helps us get through those times of trials in our lives.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Hebrews 4:14 - 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!

Don't Let Go!

Text: Hebrews 4:14 - "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us **hold fast our** confession."

Also read John 15:1-11

In the Bible, a High Priest was responsible to go before the Lord on behalf of the people and make an offering for their sin. They were supposed to do this once per year on a special day. In the book of Hebrews we learn that Jesus came as our High Priest and died on the cross for our sins one time and would never have to do it again. If we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and believe in Him we will be forgiven.

We are encouraged to first realize who our High Priest is. It is Jesus and He is our "great" High Priest. The reason that He is greater than all of the other High Priests in the Bible is because He is God and will never die. He is the only one who can provide forgiveness for our sins once and for all. So because of who our High Priest is, we need to hold onto Him through our belief in Him.

Then once we realize who our High Priest is we need to hold on tight to Him. Sometimes life can be hard, and as we grow to know Jesus better we learn how that we need to trust in Him more and more each day. In John 15:1-11 Jesus talked about how, in order for a branch to produce any fruit it would have to abide (remain attached) to the vine. We are the branches in that story and Jesus is the vine. As a branch, we also need to abide or "hold fast" to Jesus, then we will grow and be fruitful.

- In what ways has Jesus been "great" in your life?
- Name some ways that you can "hold fast" to your belief in Jesus.
- What is some of the fruit that will come from your life when you "hold fast" to Jesus? (See Gal. 5:22-23)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



High Priest: A man appointed by God to offer an animal sacrifice once per year in the temple for the sins of the people.

Confession: A statement that you believe in something. When I say, "I believe in Jesus," that is my confession.

What's a Mediator?

Text: 1 Timothy 2:5 - "For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*"

Also read Hebrews 7:24-27

Imagine a courtroom. The judge is there in his black robe. The accused is waiting to hear what his sentence will be. The jury has found him guilty and there is nothing that he can do now except wait for the judge to give his sentence. The room is silent and the judge speaks, "Because this person is found guilty he will have to be put to death." The people in the room gasp as the sentence is read. Then just at that moment the judge's son walks into the room and says, "I will stand in that person's place so that he won't have to die." It breaks the judge's heart, but he allows his own son to take on the sentence of death so that the one found guilty could be forgiven and set free.

As amazing as this story sounds this is what Jesus did for us. All of us are guilty because of our sin. Sin just means that we miss the mark or standard that God has set for us. Everyone who has ever been born has sinned (Romans 3:23). Because of our sin, we are like the guilty one in the story (Romans 6:23). But Jesus came and became our mediator. He died on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins and have eternal life. God loved us enough to send His Son so that if we would only believe in Him we could have everlasting life (John 3:16).

A mediator is a "go-between." If there were two people fighting, a mediator would be someone who could come between them and help them to come back together and be friends. Because we sin, we can't be friends with God. In fact, the Bible says that we were even enemies with God. But Jesus, as our mediator comes between God and us and provides a way for us to be friends with God. It cost Him his life, but He did it because He loves us so much.

- Have you ever tried to help two people who were fighting to become friends? What happened?
- What are some ways that we can show Jesus how thankful we are that He is our Mediator?
- What does it mean to you to be God's "friend?"

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Mediator: Someone who helps two different people who are enemies with one another to become friends.

Day Three

Does Jesus Really Understand?

Text: Hebrews 4:15 - "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin."

Also read Matthew 4:1-11

Have you ever known someone who got really sick? Maybe they had to stay in bed and couldn't play with their friends or go outside. How did that make you feel. You probably "sympathized" with them. Whenever you feel sympathy, it just means that you feel the same as someone else is feeling. We've been learning about Jesus being our High Priest. Even though Jesus was God, He came to this Earth as a man. Because He was a man, He knows what it is like to be a man. He knows all of the areas that we are weak in and how we might make mistakes or fail. He can sympathize with us.

As Christians, we will still have temptations to sin or do wrong things. When Jesus was here He knew exactly what it was like to be tempted. On three different occasions Satan came to Jesus and tried to get Him to sin. He knows exactly what it is like to be tempted to sin and can understand when we pray and ask Him to help us when we are tempted. Jesus never gave in to Satan or his tricks. He fought back whenever he was tempted by telling Satan what the Word of God said. Through God's word, Satan was defeated, and he will be defeated in our lives by knowing and living by God's word.

Jesus loves us very much and knows everything we are going through. We can pray to Him for help whenever we are being tempted, and He promises to help us. We can trust that the Lord always has our best at heart. We shouldn't be discouraged when we are tempted. We know that our High Priest, Jesus understands exactly what we are going through and will help us.

- Think about a time when you "sympathized" for someone else. Maybe a family member or friend. Describe what that was like.
- Based on Jesus' example what are some ways that you can fight against temptation?
- How does it help you to know that Jesus understands your weaknesses?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Sympathize: Being able to understand what someone else is going through.

The Throne of Grace

Text: Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Also read Hebrews 10:19-23

If you were to travel to Washington, DC, go to the White House and walk right up to the door and ask to talk to the President immediately, do you think that they would let you in? Probably not! It would be doubtful that you would even make it past the front gate. It is almost impossible to see important people any time that we want to. They are usually too busy for us or maybe they don't think we are as important as someone else is. It is wonderful to learn that God is never like that. We can go to Him at any time, anywhere and know that He will be there for us with mercy and grace.

Whenever you think of the word "boldly," what comes to mind? Sometimes, because God is so great and awesome we might be afraid of what He may think about us. He's so big and we think that He is too busy for our little needs. But to come boldly means that we don't have to be afraid. Just like a child who can walk right up and sit on their father's lap and tell them all about their fears and joys, their scrapes, bruises and their needs, we can go to our Heavenly Father any time.

We also learn that He never ignores us. He says that He will give us mercy and grace. Mercy means that He won't give us what we deserve. When we do things wrong and really ask for forgiveness and mean it, then He will always forgive us. Then, He gives us grace, which is what we don't deserve. His desire is to bless His children and He is always there for us.

- If "throne" represents authority or power (think of a ruler or king) and "grace" means receiving what we don't deserve, what do you suppose the "throne of grace" is?
- Should we ever feel scared to talk to Jesus?
- Are there any times that we can't go to God and talk to Him?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Throne of Grace: God using His power and authority for our good.
Mercy: Not receiving what we deserve (forgiveness).
Grace: Receiving what we don't deserve.
Boldly: Going to the Lord without being afraid.

Day Five

Does God Ever Take a Vacation?

Text: Psalm 121:4 - "Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

Also read Psalm 121:1-8

Have you ever seen a bear at a zoo? Or maybe you have studied different kinds of bears in school. One of the interesting things that bears do is hibernate. They go to sleep for an entire winter. Could you imagine sleeping for several months? Of course you certainly wouldn't want to be the one to wake up a bear who has been sleeping that long. He would probably be extremely grumpy. As we have learned this week, God is always there for us, it is interesting to know that God never takes a nap let alone sleep for several months. And He is definitely never grumpy!

In this Psalm we can learn a lot about how God is always there for us. First of all, He protects us. Any time that we need help we can always call on Him. He promises that He will be there to help us. Also, this Psalm says that He never "slumbers nor sleeps." That means we can go to Him at any time of the day or night and know that He is there to hear our prayer.

It is also interesting to see that He is described as being shade for us. This also shows how He protects us. If you have ever been outside on a really hot day, when the sun is beating down on you and you find a nice shade tree, you know how much of a comfort that can be. The Lord will protect us from harm. We also see that His protection isn't just for a little while but it is "forevermore." **He is always there for us!**

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is always there for you?
- How will it help you to pray to know that God will always be there to listen?
- How can you help others who might be afraid?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is a lot that we can be thankful for. This week when you pray, thank the Lord for always being there for you; for being our High Priest and Mediator. Ask Him to help you to not be afraid, but to come boldly to Him when you need Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

“Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may find grace to help in time of need.”

Third Grade and Above

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16