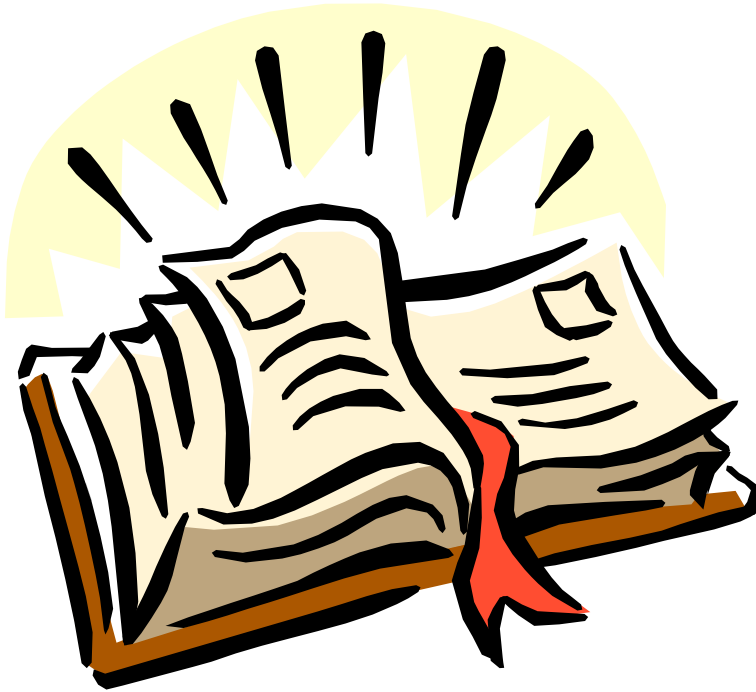


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Let Us Love One Another

THEME: God wants us to love one another.

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 4:7-16

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 **loving one another**. As Christians we are commanded to love one another. In fact Jesus said that this would be the primary way that others will know that we are Christians. How do we love one another? With the same love that God loved us in Jesus. Our love for one another ought to look like Jesus' love for us. It will be sacrificial, forgiving and kind. If our lives aren't marked by these qualities then we are not displaying genuine love from God.

Love is a concept that most children can easily identify with. Hopefully they are receiving love, nurture and care from their parents just as God intends and see an example of our Heavenly Father's love in them. This lesson encourages us to reach out to one another in love just like God reached out to us in love by sending His son to die on the cross for us.

The section of scripture that we studied was **1 John 4:7-16**. 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

The Power of Love

Text: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Also read Romans 5:6-8

No matter how mean Jimmy was to Carlos it just didn't seem to affect him. Jimmy always picked on Carlos at school. He would say mean things, call him names and even try to get Carlos to fight with him. Carlos never really knew why Jimmy was so mean except that he learned from the Bible that like Jesus, he was supposed to love those who were mean to him. So every time Jimmy was mean Carlos just continued to do something nice in return. He was never mean back and never said mean things about Jimmy. What was the result? It drove Jimmy absolutely crazy!

Jimmy kept trying to find new ways to be mean to Carlos. One day Jimmy threw a paper airplane in class and the teacher turned around and it hit the teacher. The teacher immediately asked who did it. Jimmy pointed to Carlos and said that he was the one who did it. Carlos knew he had a choice to make. He decided to take the blame for Jimmy. Jimmy was amazed at what Carlos did for him so after class he went to Carlos and asked, "Why did you take the blame for the paper airplane?" Then Carlos looked at Jimmy and said, "Because it is the same thing that Jesus did for me. When He died on the cross He forgave us of all of our sins. And He did this because He loves us."

Jimmy didn't know what to say, but he knew there was something different about Carlos. He decided that he wouldn't pick on Carlos anymore. In fact, he thought it was pretty cool what Carlos did for him. When Carlos invited Jimmy to church with him next Sunday, Jimmy decided to go to learn about Jesus and why Carlos was so different.

- Tell about a time when someone was mean to you? Were you mean back or were you kind and loving?
- How did Jimmy know that Carlos was a disciple of Jesus?
- How can you demonstrate the love of Jesus to others?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Demonstrate: To show or to prove something.
God's love (agape): Love that is willing to sacrifice for us even when we are still enemies towards God (sinners).

A Clanging Cymbal

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:1 - "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal."

Also read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

It was finally half time at the football game and the band was entering onto the field to begin the show. As the band began to play their first song everyone sounded great except for one person, the cymbal player. The cymbal player was banging the cymbals together as loud as she could. She was offbeat and just made the whole song sound bad. The audience felt bad for the cymbal player because they knew she was trying but was unfortunately making the whole band sound terrible. The same is true for us as Christians if we aren't showing love. We start sounding like that cymbal player, offbeat and clanging.

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth and explained to them that without love he was nothing. He could do a lot of great things like teaching, prophesying, understanding great mysteries, knowing everything about the Bible, have incredible faith, give away everything he had to the poor or even give his life for the Lord. But if he didn't have love, none of these things would matter. Of all of the gifts God can give us, or the great things that He may allow us to do, there is nothing greater in this life than God's love.

We, as Christians are kind of like that band. When we are all working together and loving one another we can put on a great concert and glorify the Lord. But if we do not show love towards others we start to make our own sound, which doesn't go with the rest of the band, and that sound that we make when we do not show love is not a very good one. Let's remember the importance of love in our service to the Lord. It doesn't matter how much we know or do for the Lord if we don't have love! Does the love of Jesus come out of your life, or do you sound like a clanging cymbal?

- Have you ever heard a "clanging" cymbal? What was that like?
- What if you know everything there is to know about the Bible and do not show love towards others, how do you suppose God sees that?
- Why is it so important to be loving?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Clanging: A loud, undesirable noise.

Day Three

What Does Love Look Like?

Text: 1 Peter 4:8 - "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.'"

Also read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Wow! Was Katie having a bad day! Everything seemed to go wrong. She had just lost her soccer game, she fell down and skinned her knee during the game and on the way walking home someone passed by on their bike and splashed mud all over her clothes. Things just couldn't seem to get any worse. Then she got home and found out that her little brother got into her room while she was gone and made a huge mess. All of her things were scattered everywhere. When she saw her brother she was so upset that she began to yell at him. Mom was sitting in the next room and overheard what was going on so she asked Katie to come and explain what was going on.

Mom already knew that Katie was having a pretty rough day. She also knew that even though her brother was wrong in destroying her room it still wasn't a reason for her to yell at him. After Katie described how terrible her day was, mom pulled out her Bible and turned to 1 Corinthians 13 and began to read. But she read it differently. At least Katie had never heard it this way. Mom read, "Love is impatient and is mean; love wants what everyone else has and likes to parade itself, it is arrogant; it is rude, seeks its own way, is easily provoked and thinks bad things about others; rejoices in sin, but never the truth; can't bear anything, doesn't believe much and endures nothing."

Katie was wondering if mom felt O.K. because that certainly didn't sound right. Then mom explained that Katie's reaction to her brother and yelling at him was kind of like how she read that list. It was, of course, the opposite of what it should be. She then read it the right way and explained that when we love others we will be patient and kind. Even when our little brother is bugging us, we should always react in love.

- Can you think of a time that you had a "bad day?" How did you react?
- How do you think that Jesus would have reacted in Katie's situation?
- Can you name at least 5 qualities of love out of the 15 mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



(Love) suffers long: Being patient, putting up with a lot from someone else.

Day Four

Show Me Your Identification

Text: John 13:35 - "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Also read John 13:34,35/John 15:12,13

How can we tell if someone is a policeman or a fireman? We can always tell by the uniform they are wearing. If we see someone wearing a lab coat with a stethoscope we know that person is probably a doctor. Whenever people who don't know Jesus look at us, how can they tell that we are Christians? Is it by the Christian T-shirt we wear or the bumper stickers on our cars? Maybe that gives them an idea, but Jesus said the best way for people to know that we are really His disciples is through our love for one another. Whenever we love others, especially our brothers and sisters in Jesus, we are showing our love for Jesus.

Imagine someone who doesn't know Jesus getting invited to a Sunday School class and when they arrive on Sunday they see all the children are disobeying their teacher, being rude to one another and fighting. What do you suppose that person will think about Christians and Jesus? They can see people being mean to one another everywhere. But if they come to church and see the same thing it is hard for them to see Jesus. But imagine them coming and seeing the other children being nice to one another, listening to their teacher and being loving and kind. They will then know that there is something different about church and Jesus.

When we are loving and kind towards one another it shows the world what Jesus is like. How can the world know that we are Jesus' disciples? We show it through our love for one another. Think about ways that you can love others this week in order to show them that you believe in Jesus!

- How do you think that being loving towards others shows that you believe in Jesus?
- How did Jesus show his love towards us?
- What ways can you think of to be loving towards others?

Kdi's Bible Dictionary



Disciple: Follower of Jesus.
Commandment: Something that Jesus wants us to do.

Becoming an Artist

Text: Ephesians 5:2 - "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

Also read Galatians 5:22-26

There is a story of a boy who one day saw an artist painting a beautiful picture. The artist was sitting outdoors near the ocean painting a wonderful picture of the ocean and the cliffs. The boy became so excited about what he saw the artist do that he wanted to do the same thing. He immediately went and bought a canvas, paints, brushes and even one of those little hats that painters like to wear. He figured he would do everything he could to become just like that artist he saw.

The next day he went to the same spot and there was the artist continuing to paint his beautiful picture. The boy asked the artist if he could sit next to him and begin to paint the same picture. The artist said sure! So the boy began to paint. He tried as hard as he could. He watched every move that the artist made and tried to do the same thing. After a couple of hours he looked at his picture and then the artist's picture and he noticed that his picture just wasn't as good as the artist's. He then realized that he could never duplicate the artist's work by himself. The only way he could be as good would be if the artist came inside him and painted through him. Only then could his painting be just as good.

When we talk about loving one another like Jesus loves us we find that it isn't always that easy to do. We look at Jesus and see how perfect He is and then look at our own lives and see how we fall so short. Jesus knew that living a life of love would be difficult for us. That is why He gave us the Holy Spirit to help us to become like Him. Love is the fruit of the Spirit. When we become Christians, the Holy Spirit lives inside of us. Because the Holy Spirit is inside us, He helps us to love, just like Jesus. The next time that you find it hard to be loving towards someone ask the Lord to help you, and He will!

- Do you find it hard to be loving sometimes?
- How is Jesus the perfect example of love?
- How can we become more like Jesus?

Kid's Prayer Time



Pray this week and thank the Lord that He loves us so greatly. Also pray and ask the Lord to help us to be more loving towards one another.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God...”

Third Grade and Above

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”

1 John 4:7