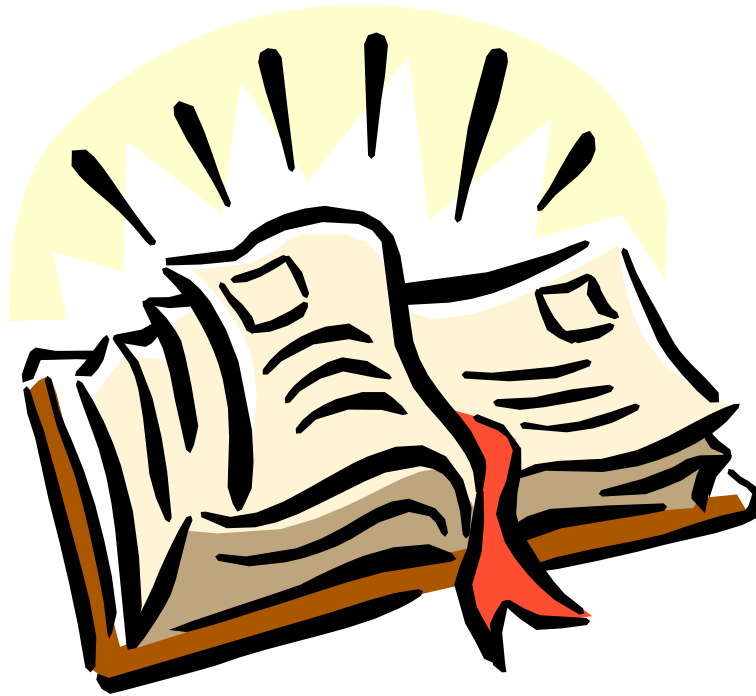


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Fishers of Men

THEME: We should follow Jesus and live for Him.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11; 6:6-11

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 time that Jesus called His disciples. When He called them, He told them that He was going to make them "**fishers of men.**" He taught them for 3 _ years and when He empowered them with the Holy Spirit this band of disciples changed the world. The Lord also wants us to be "**fishers of men.**"

When Jesus called the disciples, they were willing to forsake all and follow Him. The Lord wants us to have the same kind of heart in following Him. Would we be willing to go or do anything that He asked us to? Would we be willing to give up anything for the sake of the gospel? It is really a matter of where our heart is. Let's look at some more things this week about what it means to be a "**fisher of men.**"

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 5:1-11 and 6:12-16.** 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!

God Calls a Third Grader (part 1)

Text: Matthew 28:19 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
Also read Matthew 28:18-20

By the time I was eight years old I definitely knew what a missionary was. My parents were (and still are) planting churches in the Appalachian Mountains. My dad, being a pastor, always invited missionaries to stay in our home. Mother read missionary stories to me and I'd get down on my knees and pray for missions! My parents taught me that a person doesn't start being a missionary when he goes "across the sea"; a missionary is anyone who tells others of Jesus.

Then God impressed on my young heart that He wanted me to commit my life to Him as a missionary, "But God, I'm too young to decide to be a missionary," I argued. "What if I want to marry someone someday who isn't going to be a missionary?"

In the third grade I struggled so much with God's calling that I couldn't concentrate on my math problems. Finally, I said, "OK, Lord, I'll be a missionary!" And that was that! The rest of my life was spent preparing for the foreign mission field.

I could tell, as could others, that God was working in areas of my life, such as self-centeredness and selfishness. My Sunday school teacher noticed a positive behavior change one day as she passed out cookies during a children's meeting. More children had attended than were anticipated and there weren't enough refreshments. When the teacher started to give me a cookie, I politely volunteered, "No thank you." After class she personally thanked me for being willing to give up my cookie. **Continued on Day Two...**

(Taken from "God Calls a Third Grader" by Sandra Bowyer in Evangelizing Today's Child Magazine)

- Have you ever felt like God might be calling you to mission work?
- What country is the most interesting to you?
- What kind of missionary work could you do right now?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Missionary: One sent forth to preach the gospel of Jesus in areas and to people who have not heard the gospel.

Day Two

God Calls a Third Grader (part 2)

Text: Luke 24:47 - "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Also read Luke 24:44-47

...Continued from Day One. My summers were dedicated to reaching children with the gospel in a Christian camp. In high school God gave me a different tract each week to pass out. Through the tracts one of my friends accepted the Lord. One teacher even asked me, "What is it you believe that makes you different?"

As a teen I conducted a Bible study on the book of James. When I came to the part about patience, I prayed, "Lord, give me patience!" He chose to answer the prayer through my home economics class. I was having difficulty learning to put in an invisible zipper. Every time I thought I had the skill mastered, my teacher would say, "No, that isn't good enough. Take it out and do it again." About the seventh time, the teacher suddenly looked into my eyes and a change came over her face. She tenderly replied, "I've never had a student like you before." The Lord was teaching me patience.

After graduation I visited a missionary aunt and uncle in Ecuador, then enrolled in Bible College. The Lord chose to bless me with a wonderful Christian husband, Kenneth. We, along with our two sons, have served as missionaries in the remote mountains of Mexico with UFM International for over 14 years. Yes, decisions made as a child changed my whole life!

What is God calling you to do for Him? God is still calling "Fishers of Men" today. Let's listen for His call to follow Him. Jesus wants us to take His gospel into all nations. Maybe He can use you and me! Maybe He can use us right now to share His love with our friends and family.

(Taken from "God Calls a Third Grader" by Sandra Bowyer in Evangelizing Today's Child Magazine)

- Have you ever met a missionary? What were they like?
- Can you think of some missionaries to pray for together as a family?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Evangelist: A person who tells others about Jesus and helps them to believe in Him.

Beautiful Feet

Text: Romans 10:15 - "And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!'"

Also read Romans 10:8-17

If you are a Christian, think back to the time that you asked Jesus into your heart. It was such a wonderful time as you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. But how did you know that you were supposed to ask Him into your heart. How did you know that you were to admit that you were a sinner and that you needed to have Jesus come into your life? Someone had to tell you about Jesus, and tell you about believing in Him in order to be saved. Someone had to tell you the "good news" or gospel of Jesus Christ so that you could become a Christian.

In our reading today, Paul says that those who would preach the gospel or tell others about Jesus have beautiful feet. It was a wonderful thing that they came bringing the good news of Jesus. In the book of Ephesians, Paul talked about having our feet covered with the preparation of the gospel. What this means is that we should be prepared to always share the good news of Jesus wherever our feet take us. The Lord wants to use us to further His kingdom. As we go and tell others about Jesus, they will also believe in Jesus, just like we did when we listened to the person who faithfully told us about Jesus.

The disciples learned this as they became "fishers of men." The Lord used them greatly to share with others the good news. In Acts chapter 2 we see where Peter preached 1 time and over 3,000 people believed in Jesus. This is how the Lord desires to get His word out. He uses people like Peter and people like us who are willing to tell others about Him.

- Who first told you about Jesus?
- How can you have beautiful feet?
- Why is it important to tell others about Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Preach: To proclaim or speak forth a truth.

Ambassadors

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - "Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

The Williams family was visiting the museum one day in San Francisco. When they arrived at Golden Gate Park they noticed a large crowd of people gathered in front of the museum. There were television cameras and a lot of people in nice suits. As they approached the museum entrance they asked someone standing nearby what was happening. "The Russian ambassador has come to visit San Francisco today," they said nicely. "What's an ambassador?" Joel quickly asked his dad. "Well it is someone who represents another country. The Russian ambassador comes here to help us to understand his country. We also send an ambassador to Russia so that they can better understand us," Dad explained.

"Maybe I can be an ambassador to Africa and see all of the neat things over there," Joel said. "That is very possible, Joel," Dad replied, "In a very real way though all of us who are Christians are already ambassadors." "Really?" Joel said. Dad chuckled and said, "Really Joel, we are ambassadors for the kingdom of God. We have a relationship with the king and He wants us to help others to understand what His kingdom is all about. So He sends us out as ambassadors for Him.

When we tell others about Jesus, or just live our lives according to His word, we are showing the world what it means to live in God's kingdom. As ambassadors we have a duty to help others to understand God's kingdom." "Wow, Ambassador Joel! I like that," Joel said, "I'm going to look for the next chance to tell someone about God's kingdom."

- Have you ever heard of an ambassador before? How would you describe what they do?
- What does it mean to you that you are an ambassador for God's kingdom?
- What things can you think of that would help you to be a good ambassador?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ambassador: Someone who represents a country or kingdom.
Kingdom of God: God's spiritual kingdom, where He rules.

Day Five

The Rich Young Ruler

Text: Luke 18:22 - "So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, 'You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.'"

Also read Luke 18:18-27

In Luke 5 when Jesus called the disciples we are told that they laid down their nets and forsook everything in order to follow Jesus. When we commit our lives to Jesus we need to be willing to also make Him the Lord of our lives. This means that we would follow Him no matter what. There should be nothing more important in our lives than living for Jesus. In our hearts, we can ask ourselves the question, "Am I willing to lay down everything so that I can follow Jesus?" We can only answer this question for ourselves. But it is the most important question in our life if we want to be a disciple of Jesus.

In our Bible reading today we see a man who had everything. He was very rich and very powerful. He was also very young. He had his whole life ahead of him. He came to Jesus one day and asked Him what it would take to have eternal life. He was a very good man and lived by all of the laws. But Jesus was able to look into his heart.

Jesus told him that there was only one thing that he lacked. He needed to sell everything that he had and follow Jesus. This made the man very sad, because he was very rich. Being rich is not a bad thing, but in his heart, his riches were the most important thing to him. Jesus knew that for the young ruler to follow Jesus, he would have to be willing to put Jesus before everything else in his heart. What is the most important thing in our hearts? Are we willing to set those things aside for the sake of following Jesus?

- Why did the rich young ruler go away sad after talking to Jesus?
- What does it mean to you to forsake all and follow Jesus?
- Have you asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week we learned about being "fishers of men" and following Jesus. As you pray, ask the Lord to help you to be a fisher of men and to share your belief in Jesus with others. Also, ask Him to help you to learn more and more what it means to totally follow Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Then He said to them,
'Follow Me, and I will make
you fishers of men.' They
immediately left their nets,
and followed Him.”

Third Grade and Above

“Then He said to them,
'Follow Me, and I will make
you fishers of men.' They
immediately left their nets,
and followed Him.”

Matthew 4:19-20