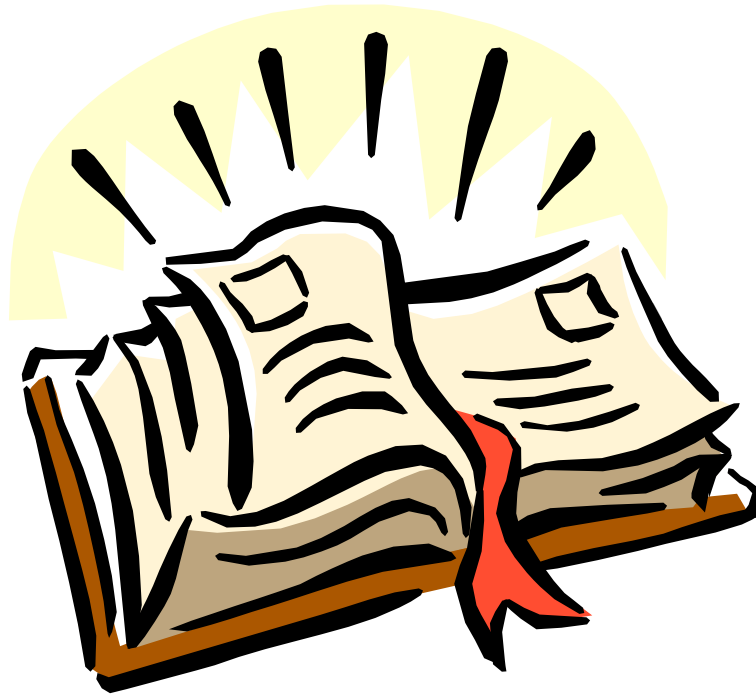


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: The Beatitudes

THEME: Real happiness is found in Jesus.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12



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 Beatitudes**. What wonderful lessons we are taught in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We can try to find happiness in so many different things, but what we find out is that **true happiness is only found in following Jesus**. What a blessing it is to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

Children can learn at any age that this world has nothing substantial to offer us. They can learn that we will only be able to be happy if we follow Jesus. The Beatitudes show us some of the "blessings" for those who follow Jesus. Let's look a little closer this week at the Beatitudes and see what the Lord wants to teach us.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 5:1-12**. 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

Meek - Not Sleek

Text: Matthew 5:5 - "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

Also read Psalm 37:11

Imagine with me, if you will, a horse. Not just any horse, but a wild stallion. Let's make him a black stallion. A wild black stallion who was found out in the hills where he runs with several other wild horses. Now let's say that there is a man who catches him and puts him in a horse corral out on a ranch. The wild stallion is running back and forth in the corral snorting, jumping and flexing all of his muscles. Then the man goes out into the middle of the corral and begins to try to tame this wild horse. He first puts a rope around him to lead him, then later puts a saddle on him to ride him. It takes a long time, and the horse even throws the man off of his back a few times, but finally the wild horse is broken.

Next we see our black stallion standing back out on the hills, where he once ran with the wild horses. This time he's with a rider on his back and a bridle bit in his mouth. He still has his bulging muscles and a look of great strength and power, but now it is under the control of the rider who leads him simply by pulling on the reins, left or right or forward or backward.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." The word meek is often associated with being weak. But like the wild horse, he still had a lot of strength but it was under the control of another. Meekness in our lives means that we are brought under the control of Jesus. He leads us and directs us. Sometimes we might try to fight against that, but we will be happiest when we follow Him. And there is a special promise with that. It is the meek that will inherit the earth. When you are a Christian you may have a lot of "strengths" but the important thing is that your strengths are under Jesus' control.

- How is the example of someone taming a wild horse like our lives being controlled by the Lord?
- Have you ever seen wild horses? How do they compare to tame horses?
- How can your life be more under the control of Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Meek: Power under control, our lives under God's control.

Inherit: Receiving something that is passed on from a parent to a child.

The Big Gulp

Text: Matthew 5:6 - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Also read Isaiah 55:1-3

Have you ever been really, really thirsty? Your mouth is so dry that it feels like all you have in your throat are a bunch of cotton balls. If you were that thirsty right now and you were out in the desert under the baking hot sun, what would you be thinking about? What would you be dreaming about? Yes...Water! Now let's say in the distance, up on a hill you could see a table. And on the table was a huge glass of ice water. How hard would you try to make it to that table? How much would that big glass of water be worth to you? It would be worth everything to you wouldn't it? You would run to it and grab it and begin to gulp, gulp, gulp!

Jesus says to us in His Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." There is a thirst that people have in their hearts. This thirst is a spiritual thirst. It can only be satisfied by Jesus. Sometimes people try to satisfy this thirst by drinking down all kinds of other things besides Jesus. They drink down false religions, they try to get a lot of money or power in this world, yet they are not satisfied.

Jesus met a woman at a well in John 4. This woman had been trying to fill her thirst with relationships. Yet she was now thirstier than ever when she met Jesus. Jesus spoke to her about the water He could give her and if she would drink of that water she would never thirst again. She accepted Jesus' offer to receive living water and she went away as though her spirit had soaked in a big gulp of water. Only Jesus can give us the water of life that can satisfy our spiritual thirst. Has your spiritual thirst been quenched with the water of life? If not, it can be by simply asking Jesus to come into your heart.

- Tell about a time when you were really, really thirsty.
- How does that compare with the thirst that we have in our hearts for God?
- How can you share the "Water of Life" with others?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Hunger and Thirst: Natural reactions in our bodies that tell us that we need food and water in order to stay alive. We hunger and thirst for righteousness because we need Jesus in order to live spiritually.

"Peace Man!"

Text: Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God."

Also read Romans 12:18

"Peace Man!" is a phrase that the hippies used to use in the 1960's and early 70's. It expressed a desire for peace, love and freedom to spread to the entire world. That is a nice thought, peace and love in every home and in every country in the world. But unfortunately it will never work apart from Jesus. That's the problem. We can't have peace apart from Jesus. There will only be world peace when Jesus comes back to rule the world Himself. Until then there is no hope for world peace. Yet a person can have peace in their hearts, in the middle of a world that is pretty crazy and not so peaceful.

Jesus speaks to us in Matthew chapter 5 and says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall become the sons of God." Well if Jesus said it was a blessing to be a peacemaker, then we should want to bring peace to the world. But if there is no hope of world peace until Jesus comes back, then how do we share peace with the world? The peace that Jesus is speaking about is not a peace that is on the outside, but on the inside.

The Bible teaches us that in this world there is going to be tribulation and trials (John 16). But Jesus can give a man peace on the inside. Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you..." The peace that Jesus gives is a peace with God. Jesus' peace is not of this world but from God. So if the world did not give it to us, then the world can not take it away from us. When we share Jesus with others we are being peacemakers. When we accept Jesus we have made our peace with God. I think we need a new saying to bring peace to the world. Instead of "Peace Man" we should say, "Peace Man...through Jesus!". There is a popular bumper sticker that says it well. It says, "No Jesus, No peace. Know Jesus, Know peace."

- What do you think the world will be like when Jesus returns?
- How can we have peace in our hearts?
- How can you be a peacemaker?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Peacemaker: One who brings peace or makes peace on behalf of others.

Expecting Persecution

Text: Matthew 5:10 - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Also read Matthew 5:10-12

There is a story of a very good man. In fact, he was a very good man who loved Jesus and wanted to follow Him. But this very good man was sought after by many other men who wanted to kill him. He had to hide away from them and hide his Bible or his family would be in danger. Why do you think that anyone would ever try to hurt or to kill someone, even though that person had never done anything wrong? In fact, they only did what was good, right and helpful to others. It sounds crazy doesn't it? But for many of our brothers and sisters all over the world, that is how they live. Also, it is the same way that Jesus was treated.

Jesus tells us to expect to be persecuted because we are His followers. This means that there will be times when people do and say evil things against us just because we love Jesus and are sharing His truth. Jesus said, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you." (John 15:18). So if they did evil against Jesus, who was perfect, how much more will they hate us. The reason Jesus tells us this is to let us know that we should expect persecution. We would not expect to be treated wrongly when we have never done anything wrong. But Jesus says that we will face persecution for righteousness sake. When we do bad things we would expect to suffer, but not when we are doing good things for God.

Are you expecting persecution? Are you willing to face persecution because you are telling others about the salvation of Jesus? Maybe someone has laughed at you or treated you meanly because you told them about Jesus. Jesus said you are blessed when you face persecution for His sake. He tells us to "rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven." Our reward is not only in heaven, but it is Heaven. So if they persecuted Jesus we can expect persecution in our lives when we live for Him.

- Have you ever been teased or laughed at because you believe in Jesus?
- What ways can we pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted all over the world? Perhaps as a family you can pray for them today.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Persecution: The abuse or torture of others because of their belief in Jesus.

Day Five

Poor, Poor, Pitiful Me

Text: Matthew 5:3 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Also read Psalm 82:3-4

Have you ever seen pictures of poor, suffering people in different parts of the world? The little babies that look so skinny and sickly? When we see them we think of them as the poorest of the poor and it makes us sad. Maybe your parents have told you some time that you had better eat all of the food on your plate because there are starving children in this world. It is so true that we need to be careful about how we use the things that the Lord blesses us with. But there is a lesson we can learn from the poor.

When you are poor you are considered to be in need. You need food or shelter or money. To be poor is to acknowledge that you do not have all that you need. Jesus said it was a blessing to be poor spiritually. But what does it mean to be poor spiritually and how could that possibly be a blessing? Well the same situation that is true for the physically poor is also true for the spiritually poor. The physically poor are needy and so are the spiritually poor. They admit that they need help. They admit they need forgiveness for their sins. They know they need God's spiritual life and His spiritual food and shelter.

An example of this is Jesus? He once spoke to the Pharisees and said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." Then He explains what this means by saying, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Jesus told the Pharisees that He was looking for those who knew they were needy and poor spiritually. But the Pharisees didn't think that they had any spiritual need. They thought they were OK as they were. But the problem they had was that they were only trusting in themselves. God is looking for those of us who realize that we are poor and needy sinners and that there is none righteous, no not one. We need Jesus to forgive us and help us. So unless we admit that we are spiritually poor without God, we can not be saved and inherit the kingdom of heaven.

- What does being poor in spirit mean?
- How can we be rich in spirit?

Kid's Prayer Time



There are a lot of treasures in the Beatitudes. This week when we pray, let's ask the Lord to help us to live out everything that we have learned. What a blessing it is to follow Jesus.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...”

Third Grade and Above

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...”

Matthew 5:12