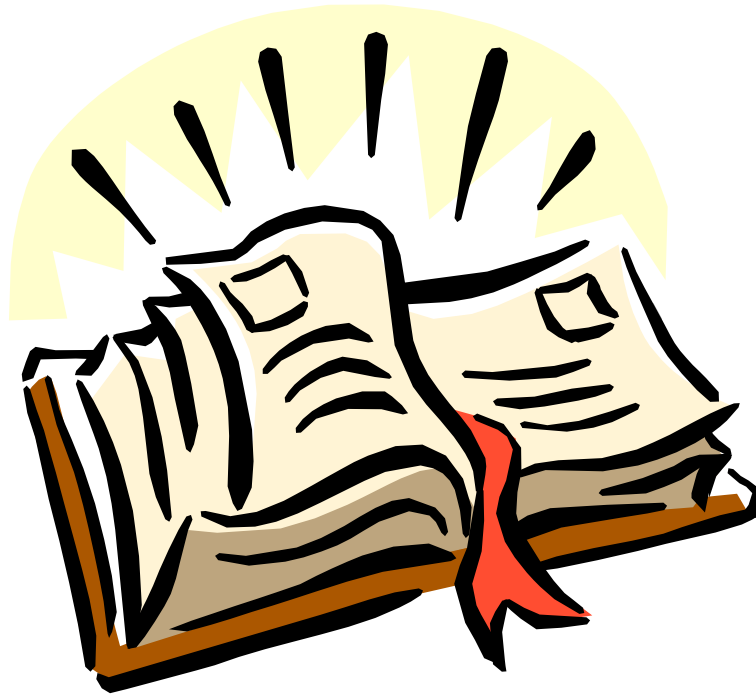


# Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON TITLE: Love Your Enemies**

**THEME: God gives us true love for  
Him.**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48**



# 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 our enemies**. That can be a very difficult thing to do. The world would tell us to get even with those who would want to hurt us. We should stand up to our enemies, and fight back when we are treated wrongly. But when Jesus came, He gave us a very different message than what the world says.

Jesus said that **we need to love our enemies**, to do good to those that hate us and even pray for those who want to treat us badly. Maybe there is someone you know who is especially difficult to love. Maybe they don't like you at all. In our devotions this week we will learn about loving others even when they are completely unlovable.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 5:43-48**. 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!

# Getting Even, Part One

**Text:** 1 Samuel 26:23 - "May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today; but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed."

**Also read 1 Samuel 26:13-25**

One day Joel was riding his bike by himself on his street. Down the street there lived a boy who seemed to always like to give Joel a bad time. Every time that Joel would ride by his house he always hoped that this boy wouldn't be outside. Well, unfortunately today the boy was out in his front yard playing football with another friend. As soon as he saw Joel he said, "Hey, watch this pass!" He threw the football right at Joel. The ball hit Joel's handlebars, which made him lose control and fall off of his bike. He was OK, just a few little scratches. He picked up his bike and rode back home. The other boys were laughing hysterically the entire time.

On the way home, Joel was very angry. "Why did these boys have to be so mean to me?" he thought, "I never did anything to them." He just didn't understand why they would do this. He told his mom about what had happened. She helped him with his scratches and encouraged him. She said that they should pray together for the boy down the street and his friend that the Lord change their hearts. So they both prayed together for them.

In the Bible, David had to go through something similar. The king of Israel, Saul became very jealous of David and wanted to kill David. In fact, he chased after David for 10 years! David even had some chances to get back at Saul for how mean he was. But David followed the Lord and refused to repay evil for evil (Romans 12:17). David did what was right and the Lord blessed him. His kindness towards Saul and sparing his life two times had a big impact on Saul. He realized that what he was doing was wrong. We'll find out tomorrow how Joel responds to an opportunity to "get even." **(Continued on Day Two)**

- Have you ever had someone be mean to you for no reason?
- What did you do when that would happen?
- Joel and his mom prayed for this boy that was mean to him. How do you think that this will help? How has prayer helped you in times like this?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Revenge:** Getting back at someone who has done something wrong to us.

Day Two

## Getting Even, Part Two

**Text: 2 Samuel 9:1** - "Now David said, 'Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?'"

**Also read 2 Samuel 9:1-13**

**(Continued from Day One)** Joel did not feel angry the next day. In fact, after praying about what happened with his mother and praying for the boy who had knocked him off his bicycle, Joel realized the boy did not know Jesus and felt badly for him. Joel went on with his life. He grabbed his football and started playing catch with his brother. After a little bit he looked down the street and there was the boy who threw the football at him yesterday riding his bike towards Joel's house. And not only that, but he was riding with no hands. "What an easy target!" Joel thought to himself for a moment.

But then he remembered the story of David. How that even though King Saul was mean to him, he never tried to get back at him. He knew that if he threw the football at this boy that he would probably just start bigger problems and may never get a chance to tell the boy about Jesus. Joel said a quick prayer and as the boy rode his bike by his house, Joel just smiled, waved and yelled out "Hi!" The boy didn't say a word. He had seen the football and thought for sure that it would be coming at him. He didn't know what to think.

In our Bible reading today we learned about a boy named Mephibosheth. He was one of King Saul's grandsons. David wanted to show kindness to him, even though his grandfather was very mean to him. By showing kindness, David showed God's love. We can do the same thing when people are mean to us. We can be like Jesus and love our enemies and be nice to those who would like to mean to us. What we are doing is being a witness for Jesus!

**(Continued on Day Three)**

- Have you ever had a time when you were able to show kindness to someone who was mean to you?
- Did you find that it was easy or hard to show kindness to that person?
- Who will help us to be nice to those who are mean to us?

### Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Kindness:** Doing something nice that will help someone else.

Day Three

## Getting Even, Part Three

**Text: Romans 12:21** - "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

**Also read Romans 12:17-21**

**(Continued from Day Two)** The boy from down the street still could not figure out why Joel had been nice to him after he had picked on him and knocked him off his bicycle. If someone had been mean to him, he would have certainly tried to get back at them. The next day he decided that he would ride over to Joel's house and ask him what his problem was.

The next day arrived and he rode up to Joel's house. Joel was outside with his little brother playing. At first Joel thought, "Oh no, what's going to happen now?" The boy walked up to him and Joel said, "Hi." Then the boy asked, "Why didn't you throw your football at me yesterday when I rode my bike by your house?" Joel thought for a moment, and then smiled and said, "because I did not think that was what Jesus would want me to do, so I didn't." Then the boy said, "Why wouldn't Jesus want you to get back at me?" "Well," Joel said, "Jesus said in the Bible that we should be nice to those who are mean to us."

Joel got to witness about Jesus and his love because he did what was right when someone was mean to him. Joel was even able to invite the boy to come to Calvary Kids' Bible Club as his guest to learn more about Jesus. Maybe Jesus will use this entire situation to bring this boy to Himself and change his heart forever. What should we do the next time that someone is mean to us? Should we try to get even with them, or should we be kind and loving so that we can share Jesus with them? I think Jesus wants us to love those who are not very nice to us.

- Have you ever been able to witness to someone who has been mean to you?
- Why do you think that Jesus wants us to be nice to those who are mean to us?
- What did Joel do that was right?

### Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Overcome:** to be on top of, or have power over something ("overcome evil with good").

# God Loves His Enemies

**Text: Romans 5:10** - "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

**Also read Romans 5:8-11**

Maybe in your history class in school you have studied different wars that have been fought. Unfortunately there have been a lot of wars fought in the world over the years. There are always two sides in a war and these two sides are enemies with one another. Maybe one side has broken away from the other and they began to fight. Unfortunately there have been a lot of lives lost in wars, especially World War 1 and 2. Before we come to Jesus, we are at war with God.

Mankind did not want God to rule over him any more, so he rebelled against God (sinned). We said that we wanted to rule ourselves and do what we wanted to do. So we became enemies of God and separated from Him. Many people spend their lives trying to fight against God and everything that He stands for. But it made God very sad that we sinned against Him. When God saw that we were His enemies He did something so that no one would have to lose their lives.

We learn in our reading today that God showed us how much He loves us by sending His Son Jesus to die for us on the cross. Even while we were still His enemy, He died for us. So now, if we would only believe in Him we can be His friend instead of His enemy. That is great news! The war is over, Jesus has won and we can now have a wonderful relationship with the Lord! We don't have to fight against God anymore. We can ask for forgiveness and have eternal life. God loves us, even when we were His enemies!

- How does God show us that He loves us so much?
- What did Jesus do so that we wouldn't have to be His enemy anymore?
- How does seeing how much that God loves us help us to love our enemies?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Enemy:** Someone separated from or against another.  
**Reconciliation:** Bringing two enemies back together.

Day Five

# WDJD - What Did Jesus Do?

**Text: Luke 23:34** - "Then Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do.'" And they divided His garments and cast lots.

**Also read Luke 23:32-37**

Everyone has heard of WWJD - What Would Jesus Do? But when it comes to loving our enemies we can ask another question. What DID Jesus Do? When you think about what Jesus went through when He was crucified you see that it was a very terrible thing. Even while He was on the cross dying, the religious rulers and the soldiers were sneering at him and mocking him. Jesus never did anything wrong, yet there he was on the cross, not for His sins but for all of our sins. He never said anything hateful back. He never sought their destruction, He responded in grace and love.

He said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Jesus just prayed and asked for them to be forgiven. He said they just don't understand what they are doing. What an example for us! Sometimes we may feel like getting back at someone who is doing something mean to us. But we can always look to Jesus as the best example of what to do in these situations. Jesus loved those who were crucifying Him. And He loves us.

We too should love our enemies. Like Jesus said, we should bless those who curse us, do good to those that hate us and pray for those who spitefully use us. That may not be easy for us to do. But Jesus said that He would give us the Holy Spirit to help us to live for Him. So if we are having a tough time loving others and being like Jesus, we can just ask for His help. Let's learn to love our enemies just like Jesus did. Remember - WDJD?!

- What were the religious leaders and soldiers doing when Jesus was crucified?
- What did Jesus do when the religious leaders and soldiers were doing terrible things to Him?
- What should we do when others are mean to us?

## Kid's Prayer Time



This week we can pray that the Lord would help us to love our enemies and to do good to those who would want to be mean to us. Maybe you can think of someone in particular who is very difficult to love because they are so mean. Pray for them this week and see what the Lord will do.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"But I say to you love your enemies, do good to people who hate you and pray for those who hurt you.

Third Grade and Above

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

**Matthew 5:44**