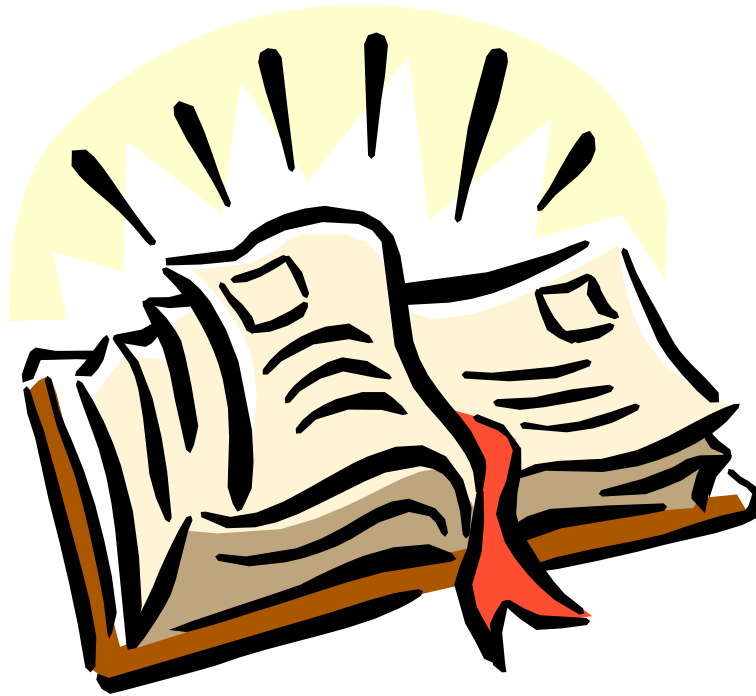


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

THEME: Children are precious to Jesus!

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:10-14

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 Parable of the Lost Sheep**. In this story that Jesus told we see how much He loves children and how that **children are very precious to Him**. He loves us so much that He would leave everything else behind so that He could come and find us when we are lost.

Without Jesus all of us are like lost sheep. Isn't it great to know that He is looking for us and wants to save us. Our sin has separated us from God, but through Jesus we can have a beautiful relationship with God. Jesus wants to live in your heart and let you know how precious you are to Him.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 18:10-14**. 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!

Jesus Takes Care of the Little Ones!

Text: Matthew 18:10 - "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."

Also read Matthew 18:10-14

Jessica, who is eight years old, has an older brother named Joel. He is twelve. They walk home from school together every day. One day Jessica was walking a little faster than Joel and without noticing she began to get ahead of him. Before long she was so far ahead of him that he couldn't see her any longer. But she just kept walking along without noticing a thing. All of a sudden a boy she didn't recognize was standing in front of her. He was bigger than she was and looked pretty mean.

"Hey kid! Got any money?" the boy said harshly. Jessica was scared. She was told not to talk to strangers and so she ignored him. She tried to walk around him, but when she did, he grabbed her by the arm. Jessica wanted to cry. She prayed silently, "Jesus help!" Just then she saw her brother Joel run up to the boy, and he quickly pulled his hands off of her. "You had better leave my sister alone!" threatened Joel. The boy immediately ran away. Jessica looked up at Joel and smiled and said another silent prayer, "thank you Lord for protecting me." She thanked Joel too. Jessica was glad to have someone to look after her and keep her safe.

Did you know that you have someone like that? Jesus is always looking out for us. He protects us from bullies or anyone else who would want to harm us. In Matthew 18:10, Jesus warns people not to despise or treat children unkindly because they have angels that are watching over them. That means that when someone is mean to a child, God takes it very seriously. He loves children very much.

- Have you ever been in a scary situation like Jessica?
- What did Jessica do when this happened?
- Can you think of some ways that the Lord has helped you in scary times?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Despise: To regard with extreme dislike or hostility. A lot like hate.
Protection: To help or keep someone from harm.

Day Two

A Gift From Above

Text: Psalm 127:3 - "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward."

Also read Psalm 127:3-5

Have you ever heard someone with a brand new baby say that their baby is a "blessing from heaven?" That's because children are very special gifts from the Lord to moms and dads. Did you know that you are a special gift to your mom and dad? The Lord loves your mom and dad so much that He wanted to give them a wonderful gift. Maybe the Lord has given you brothers and sisters. Every one of you is a blessing from the Lord to your parents.

These Bible verses also talk about how children are like arrows in the hand of a warrior. If a warrior does not have any arrows He will not be able to fight. This shows us how much children are needed. Sometimes when we are kids we might feel like we get in the way of all of the adults, but God wants us to know that children are special and are very much needed to grow up to serve the Lord and be used by Him.

Children also bring joy to their parent's hearts. You can probably think of a lot of times when you made them laugh by doing something really silly or blessed them with joy when you helped them with some work around the house. Maybe, you were really nice to your brother or sister. The Lord blesses your parents in many, many ways through you.

Don't ever forget that you are a gift from the Lord. He loves you very much, and He loves your mom and dad very much. As you continue to grow in the Lord, you will bring a big smile to the Lord's heart and to your parent's heart. So on your next birthday, just put a big bow on your head and tell your parents that you are God's special gift to them. But, then again, they probably already know that!

- What does the Lord think of children?
- How does the phrase "arrows in the hand of a warrior" show you that you are very much needed?
- How can you be a blessing to your parents?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Quiver: Pouch or holder for arrows.

The Shepherd's Heart

Text: Psalm 23:1 - "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Also read Psalm 23

What a wonderful shepherd that we have. In today's devotion we are going to look at the 23rd Psalm and see how that the Psalm shows us how that Jesus loves us like a shepherd.

<u>Psalm 23</u>	<u>Shows Us</u>
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.	Jesus takes care of our every need!
Makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.	Jesus gives us peace and rest through the Holy Spirit.
He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His names sake.	Jesus forgives us when we sin and will help us to do what is right.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:	Jesus will take away every fear that we have when we trust in Him.
For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.	When we ask Jesus into our hearts, He is with us all of the time and comforts us.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;	Jesus helps us in the tough situations that we face.
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.	Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to help us to bear fruit and live for Him.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;	Jesus gives us His goodness and mercy all of the time.
And I will dwell in the house of LORD forever.	Jesus gives us eternal life.

- Choose one thing from the above list and tell how the Lord has shown this in your life.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Shepherd: A person who takes care of sheep.

Day Four

What Can I Do?

Text: 1 Samuel 3:4 - "...that the Lord called Samuel. And he answered, 'Here I am!'"

Also read 1 Samuel 3:1-20

'I'll just serve the Lord when I grow up', Johnny thought to himself. For a while now, Johnny had been wondering what the Lord might want him to do. But he couldn't think of any way that the Lord could use him because he was just a "kid." He thought that he would have to be grown up to really be used by God. So he decided that he would just wait.

One day after coming in from playing outside he saw the mail lying on the dining table. He started to look at the mail. Mom had already opened it up. He saw a letter from a missionary that told about a need for Bibles in the country of India. As he read the letter he started to think about all of the people who didn't have any Bibles to read. "What about all of the children in India who haven't been able to hear about Jesus?" he thought to himself. It seemed like the Lord was speaking to his heart that maybe he could be used to send some Bibles to India. "But how Lord", Johnny thought, "I'm just a kid!"

What do you think Samuel must have thought when the Lord spoke to him that night so long ago? At first, he thought it was Eli the priest who was calling him, but it wasn't. Finally he realized that it was the Lord who was calling him. God had a special purpose for Samuel. He also has a special plan for our lives. Even though Samuel was just a boy, God wanted to use him. Johnny is going to learn that God can use him. If we want to be used by him and make ourselves available, He will certainly use us too. Like Samuel, we should say, "Here I am!" It doesn't matter how old we are, children are important to the Lord and He can use children greatly. **Continued on Day Five...**

- Why do you think that Johnny felt like he needed to wait until he 'grew up' to be used by the Lord?
- How did the Lord begin to speak to Johnny's heart about ways to serve Him?
- What did Samuel do when the Lord spoke to him?

Kid's Bible Activity:



Pray and then make a list of 3 ways that you can be used by the Lord. Just ask Him and He will show you ways that He can use your life!

Day Five

What Can I Do?

Text: 1 Samuel 3:19 - "So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground."

Also read 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Continued from Day Four... The next day, before Johnny got out of bed, he prayed and asked the Lord to show him how he could help the missionaries give Bibles to the people in India. He got up and went into his mom and dad's bedroom to tell them good morning. Up on the shelf, they had a big bucket filled with pennies that had collected over several months from the family putting their extra pennies in it. Johnny asked, "Dad, what are you going to do with all of those pennies?" "I'm not sure," his dad replied, "I really don't have the time to count them or put them into the paper rollers."

Johnny's eyes got big and he asked, "What if I were to count and wrap the pennies for you, would you let me have them?" Well, I suppose if you go to all of that work to count them ...sure, you can have them" Johnny's dad answered. "Thanks Dad!" Johnny said excitedly as he grabbed the bucket and ran back to his room.

Johnny worked on the bucket of pennies all day long. His little sister even helped out. That night he brought in all of the rolls of pennies to his dad and showed him. "Here are all of the penny rolls I counted." "Wow!" his dad replied, "There are definitely a lot of pennies there! What are you going to do with all of your money now?" Johnny did not hesitate for a moment. He said, "I want to send it to the missionaries in India to buy Bibles!" "What a great thing to do" His dad answered, "It looks like the Lord is using you to bless a lot of other people."

Samuel was also used greatly by the Lord. He became a great prophet in Israel. What plans do you suppose that the Lord has for you? When we are willing, God can always use us. It seems that He especially likes to use children to do great things!

- How was Johnny used by the Lord?
- In what ways do you think the Lord wants to use your life?

Kid Prayer Time



This week when we pray let's remember to thank the Lord for how He shows us how much He loves us by giving us the example of a shepherd. Let's also remember to ask Him to show us what special things that He would like to do through our lives.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**“For the Son of Man
has come to save that
which was lost.”**

Third Grade and Above

**“For the Son of Man
has come to save that
which was lost.”**

Matthew 18:11