

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: The Birth of Jesus

THEME: God is in control of all things.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

Our lesson this week covered "**The Birth of Jesus.**" We talked about the prophets and prophecies foretelling the birth of Jesus, His birth in the manger, and His purpose in coming—the salvation of mankind. We encourage you to review these scriptures (**Luke 2:1-7**) with your child. As we consider the birth of Jesus, we realize **God is in control of all things.** Though the world seemed out of control, God had a plan. Just at the right time, He sent His Son Jesus into the world to provide salvation for man.

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

A Throne for a Child

Text: Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Also read Isaiah 9:6,7

We can certainly see that God is in control of all things when we look at "prophecy." Prophecy, in the Bible, is the speaking forth of the Word of God. God used people in the Old Testament called prophets to declare His Word to His people, occasionally, speaking of things that would happen in the future. Do you know what will happen before it happens? Yet, the Bible says God knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10).

The Prophets told of a time when Jesus (the "Messiah") would come—the one anointed (chosen) by God to come to take away the sins of the world. Isaiah was a prophet. God spoke through him about the coming Messiah several hundred years before Jesus came! Isaiah said that Jesus would come as a child. He will be called the "Mighty God," and we are told that He will sit on the throne of David forever. When we see that God spoke these things several hundred years ago, and they happened just as God said they would, we realize that God is in control of all things. We can trust in Him and His Word.

As you think about the birth of Jesus, think about how amazing it is that God became a man in Jesus Christ and lived among all of us! Jesus, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, set aside all of the glory of heaven to be born as a little baby in a manger. And, think about the sureness of God's Word! God keeps His promises. He is in control of the past, present, and future, and His Word will never fail.

- What is prophecy?
- How does it help us know God keeps His Word?
- What did Isaiah say would happen several hundred years before it happened?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



- Prophecy:** Speaking the "Word of God." It can be telling about future events or just speaking forth what God says (the Bible).
- Prophet:** Someone who speaks forth the "Word of God."
- Messiah:** The anointed or chosen one; Jesus.

Nebuchadnezzar's Lesson

Text: Daniel 4:35 - "All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'"

Also read Daniel 4:28-37

"Wasn't that the greatest skit that you have ever seen?" Sara said. "Oh, and wasn't I great in the part of Mary? My acting was just superb." Sara kept boasting to her brothers and friends after the Christmas play at church. She had done a great job acting as Mary in the play, but her boasting soon became annoying. Dad overheard Sara boasting. Upon their arrival home, he called Sara in for a talk. "You did a fine job, tonight," complimented Dad. "I know," Sara responded proudly. Then Dad gently said, "Sara, it's important to remember that God gives us the gifts and talents we have; so when we have opportunities to use those gifts and talents, the glory belongs to the Lord, not to us. Let's take a look at the Bible. I have a great story about this very thing."

Dad shared the story of powerful King Nebuchadnezzar who eventually extended his kingdom to rule over the entire known world of that day. "He began to think very highly of himself," Dad continued, "desiring praise and glory for what he had done, refusing to acknowledge that God was in control and gave power and kingdoms to who he pleased. God loved Nebuchadnezzar. Knowing that his sinful pride would destroy him, God decided to teach him a powerful lesson." Dad concluded the story with a happy ending: "Though Nebuchadnezzar learned the really 'hard' way, he now knew that all glory belonged to God. It was not Nebuchadnezzar, but God who was in control, and it was God who gave him the ability to rule."

Dad closed the Bible and looked affectionately at Sara. "The stories God recorded for us in the Old Testament are meant to help us know what God expects and to keep us from making the same mistakes. It is a good thing if we learn the 'easy' way. What about you, Sara? God has blessed you with a wonderful talent. Will you give Him glory?"

- Why was Nebuchadnezzar boasting?
- Why was it foolish for Nebuchadnezzar to boast?
- Why do you think it is an important thing for you to give God glory for the talents, abilities, and good things God does in your life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Boasting: Telling others how great we are; bragging.
Glory: Credit, fame, praise.

Day Three

Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: Micah 5:2 - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

Also read Micah 5:2-4 and Luke 2:1-5

Dad had just finished reading the Christmas story to the family. Joel had a puzzled look on his face. "What are you thinking?" Mom asked. Joel said, "I thought Jesus was born in Nazareth. But here it says he was born in Bethlehem." "Well," Dad said, "Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but He grew up in Nazareth, the city where Mary and Joseph lived. Let me tell you the story."

"God proclaimed through the prophet Micah that Jesus would come out of Bethlehem over 400 years before his birth (Micah 5:2). Bethlehem was about 70 miles away from Nazareth, the city where Joseph and Mary were living. Yet, God's Word cannot fail—Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. It would seem as though God had a problem to solve in order to keep His Word. Well, the king of the whole known world at that time was Caesar Augustus, leader of the Roman Empire. Caesar decided to make a decree that everyone should return go to the place they were from to be registered for taxes. Amazingly, this happened just at the time when Jesus was about to be born. Because Mary and Joseph were both related to David who came from Bethlehem, they had no choice but to travel to Bethlehem to be registered. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the very city of which Micah spoke, Mary gave birth to Jesus."

"The powerful Caesar Augustus did not realize, it was God who stirred His heart to send forth a decree. When God promises something in His Word, He will move nations and kings to make it happen! Ultimately, God is the leader of the whole earth and in control."

"Awesome," responded Joel. "It is awesome," replied Dad, "when you think about it. What else but a decree from a powerful king would make a woman who was ready to have a baby any day make such a journey away from her home? It's great to know that just as God was in control, working behind the scenes, in the lives of Joseph and Mary at the birth of Jesus, so God is in control of our lives, though we might not see His hand at the time. We can trust Him!"

- How did God get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem?
- How does knowing that God is in control of all things help you to trust Him?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Bethlehem: City where Jesus was born as foretold in Micah 5:2.

Day Four

It's All Under Control!

Text: Genesis 40:23 - "Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him."

Also read Genesis 41:1-45

Joseph is an amazing man! If there was anyone who ever could have thought that everything was out of control, it was probably Joseph. He was not treated fairly several times. His brothers wanted to kill him, but instead sold him to be a slave. He ended up in Egypt and was wrongly accused of a crime he never committed. As a result, he went to prison. There he interpreted dreams for two men who were in prison, and one was restored to his position as butler with the king. Though Joseph had asked the man to remember him, he forgot all about Joseph. So Joseph remained in prison, alone and forgotten, or was he?

Looking at the events of his life, it certainly did not look like God was "for" Joseph, "working everything together for good." But, Joseph remained faithful to the Lord. After two long years, the butler remembered Joseph. Joseph interpreted a dream for Pharaoh and was immediately released from prison to become the second in command over all of Egypt. Finally, things started to make sense. God was going to use Joseph in this position to bless the rest of his family and save Israel from destruction during a desperate time of famine that was soon to come. Through everything, God had been in control, and remained in control.

When things are tough in your life, remember the story of Joseph. Remember that God has everything in His control. He can and will work good into any situation for His children. Learn this important Bible verse: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28)."

- How does the end of the story of Joseph show that God had been in control?
- How does the story of Joseph's life help you to trust in the Lord more?

Kid's Bible Activity



Make a book of drawings showing all of the "bad" situations that Joseph was in. Then draw how God rescued him. Keep this as a reminder that God is in control.

Day Five

Who Holds It All Together?

Text: Colossians 1:17 - "And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

Also read Psalm 93

If you ever want to see how God is in control of all things, you don't have to look very far, just look up! Look at the universe, the planets, the stars, or the moon. How did they get there? Why do they stay there? How did our planet get positioned at just the right distance from the sun and stay there so that we could live? Could any of these things just happen? A beautiful work of art doesn't just appear on a canvass; it takes an artist to create it. God is the artist of all the beauty we see around us. He created everything and holds everything together for us. God is in control of all things. As it says in psalm 93, "The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The Lord is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved."

If He can create this universe and hold it all together, certainly He can help us in our needs. It's comforting to know that we have a great, big, powerful God on our side. We read in Psalm 93:4 that the Lord is mightier than the mighty waves on the sea. God's Word says that God will be there for us in time of need and will help us. How great it is to know that we can trust in Him.

Psalm 93 gives us more comfort as the psalmist states, "Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting." Also, "Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever." We can trust in the Lord because He is in control of all things and His testimonies are very sure. He will never change, and He will keep His promises to us. The world or other people may sometimes let us down, but when we trust in the Lord, He will never let us down.

- How does God's creation help you to understand His power?
- If God holds the universe together, is it difficult for Him to hold you together (to take care of you)?
- Are there some things that you may be worried about that you can give to Him?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is a lot that we can be thankful for. This week when you pray you can thank the Lord for being in control of all things. Ask Him to help you to trust in Him more and more.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son...and laid Him in a manger...”

Third Grade and Above

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Luke 2:7