

# Bible Time for Kids!



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

**LESSON TITLE: Angels and Shepherds**

**THEME: God is our salvation.**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-20**



# 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.

This week we learned about the about the **Angels and Shepherds** who were present at the birth of Jesus (**Luke 2:8-20**). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Our theme was "**God Is Our Salvation.**" It is exciting to know that we have salvation through Jesus Christ. God's love for us is so great that He sent His only son to die on a cross for our sins and all we have to do is believe in Him and accept Him as our Savior. By doing this, God promises us an eternal life with Him in His Kingdom. Salvation is Great News!

If we try to find salvation on our own path, we will lead ourselves into a "dead end." Salvation is not something we can find on our own. The Bible tells us that "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). What is that name? Jesus! "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

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

Day One

# A Gift from God

**Text: Ephesians 2:8** - "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God."

**Also read: Titus 3:4-7**

Most of us who celebrate Christmas can look forward to receiving some type of gift from a parent, sister, brother, family member, or friend. Christmas morning will come, and we will race to find and open all of the gifts with our name.

Receiving gifts is always fun; but after a few months, we are often tired of the gifts we received. The excitement we once felt wears off. We will learn this week in our devotions that God has a special gift with our names written on it. He has given us the **free** gift of salvation—forgiveness of sins (wrongdoing) and a promise of life forever in a new relationship with Him—through faith in Jesus Christ, His only Son. Jesus provided our salvation through His death on the cross. All we need to do to receive this gift is to believe in Him and ask Him to forgive our sins. Truly, this is the greatest gift man could ever receive. All the gifts we receive while we are here on earth cannot compare!

God's gift of salvation has been extended to all the people of the world. Sadly, not everyone will receive this gift with open arms. If you have not received God's eternal gift yet, do it today! Ask God to forgive you of your sins (wrongdoing) and to make you His child. Jesus will come and live in your heart, and the Holy Spirit will change your life. When you say, "Yes, Lord, I receive your free gift of salvation, you will have discovered the true meaning of Christmas."

- Have you received God's free gift of salvation by accepting Jesus into your heart?
- Can you think of some friends or family who have not received God's eternal gift? Pray and ask the Lord to change their hearts so they can experience God's love and grace.
- Optional: Read about Zacchaeus meeting the Lord in Luke 19:1-10.

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Salvation:** God's free gift of forgiveness and eternal life which we receive by asking God's forgiveness and believing that Jesus took the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross.

# "Shortcuts"

**Text:** John 3:7 - "Do not marvel that I said to you, ' You must be born again.'"

**Also read:** Matthew 25:46

Mark's father, Mr. Johnson, gave Mark a great high school graduation present—he would finance a camping trip to the mountains. Mark's father, Mr. Johnson, helped Mark and John (his friend) plan a trip to a camping ground he had camped at many times. He gave specific directions to Mark so he could locate the camp. He reminded Mark to follow these directions, staying on familiar roads. Mark and his friend headed out for the grand adventure.

As Mark approached the city of Dunston, he saw the road his father told him to take. He also noticed a road traveling across a bridge that would get him to the campsite nearly 15 minutes earlier. Which road should he take—the one his father knew was safe for him or the short cut he knew nothing about? Mark decided to take the shortcut. As their vehicle drove onto the bridge, they heard the sound of boards breaking beneath their car. The car broke through the boards, fell about 4 feet, and landed in a dry riverbed. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but what a mess! All their plans for adventure and fun would be replaced with the steps they would need to take to deal with their new circumstances. If only they had listened to Mark's father!

The path we walk, as Christians, is a straight and narrow path. God gives us complete directions to stay on the path. All we need to do is to listen to Him through His Word and speak to Him through prayer. If we try to do things apart from Him we will end up in tragedy. There is only one way to get to heaven--through Jesus Christ. NO SHORTCUTS! Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- Have you ever taken a shortcut and ended up in trouble or getting someone else in trouble?
- What are some ways we can stay on God's path to righteousness?
- When do you listen to God for instructions?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Will:** My ability to choose or decide  
**God's will:** God's desire for my life, which I can choose to do.

Day Three

# A Serpent of Bronze

**Text: John 3:14,15** - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

**Also read: Numbers 21:1-9**

In Numbers 21:1-9, we read about how God granted Israel victory over the Canaanites, whom they totally destroyed. But the people complained against God and Moses because they lacked water and had grown tired of eating manna, which God supplied each day. God judged the sin of the people by sending poisonous serpents, which began to bite and kill the complainers. The people admitted their sin to Moses and asked him to pray to God to remove the serpents. Moses prayed to God for the people, and God heard their prayer. God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. Moses placed the serpent on the pole and lifted it high for the people to see, providing a way for them to live.

That serpent of bronze placed on a pole was a picture of what God would do years later in providing the Jesus, the Savior of the world, so that our sins could be forgiven. The snakes that bit the people are a picture of sin and how it poisons our life and causes death. Jesus explained that as the Israelites were healed from their sickness by just looking at the snake on the pole, we can be saved, today, from the sickness of sin by looking to Jesus who took the punishment for our sins on the cross.

It is sad that the serpent, the Devil, has bitten this world. There is so much that is wrong in this world because of the serpent and sin. But God made a way of victory over the serpent and over sin through the cross of Jesus Christ. If we just "look" to Jesus accepting by faith His free gift salvation, the poison of sin in our lives will be removed, and we will receive the gift of eternal life. Have you done that? Let us be thankful for God's wonderful gift of grace.

- After God gave the children of Israel a great victory over the Canaanites, what sin did they commit?
- How were the children of Israel saved from the poisonous snakebites?
- How can people be saved, today, from the poison of sin?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Faith:** Believing what God says about Himself and what He will do.  
**Sin:** Less than perfect.

# Are You Thirsty?

**Text:** John 4:4 - "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

**Also read:** John 4:1-26

The Johnson boys were outside playing basketball. The temperature outside was a scorching 105 degrees. After playing a rigorous four hours of basketball, the exhausted boys came inside to get a drink of water. Mr. Johnson was in the kitchen looking on as the two boys hovered over the kitchen sink drinking one glass of water after another. The thirsty boys drank and drank. Tommy, the littlest of the Johnson boys remarked, "I'm so thirsty, I can't get filled up."

Tommy's remark reminded Mr. Johnson of a Bible story—the story about the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well. He began to recount the story to the exhausted boys who had plopped down in the dining room chairs to recover. "...Jesus offered the woman at the well 'living water' water that she might never thirst again." "Yeah, I'd like that," exclaimed Tommy, "if all I have to do is take one drink from Jesus, and I won't have to drink anymore water." "Well," continued Dad, "Jesus went on to explain that He is the 'living water.' He satisfies our thirst for a life that has purpose and meaning. He offers us a completely satisfying life in relationship with God; and this life, in relationship with God, will last forever!"

When we're thirsty, nothing tastes better than a huge glass of cool water! But, water that comes out of a faucet can only satisfy our thirst for a little while. People try to satisfy their thirst for God with stuff in this life—money, things, attention from others; but they just keep on being thirsty. If they would give their hearts to Jesus, He would satisfy their thirst, for He is the 'living water,' and they would not thirst again. Sounds like quite a deal, doesn't it?

- What is "living water?"
- What happens when people try to satisfy their thirst with stuff in this life—money things, attention from others, etc?
- Take time to pray today for those who need to drink from the "living water" that flows from Jesus Christ.

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



"Living Water" - Everlasting life

Day Five

# The Reason for the Season!

**Text: Isaiah 7:14** - "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

**Also read: Matthew 1:18-2:23**

This week in our devotions, we talked about God's wonderful gift that He provided for us. Jesus Christ was born in a manger and brought into this world to save us from sin. When the holiday season is here, millions of people go to the stores searching for gifts to give to family members and friends. Most people won't take the time to think about the true meaning of Christmas. The world has, for the most part, forgotten what this holiday is all about. As Christians, God can use us to remind the weary world of the true meaning and purpose of Christmas--God sent His Son into the world to save them.

How do we know the Bible is true? How do we know that, indeed, Jesus did come to save us? It is a good thing for us to learn the details of Jesus' birth. They show that God kept His promises about the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. In recording Jesus' birth, Matthew explained: *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet (Matthew 1:22).* It tells us that the Bible is true!

Look up the following prophecies in the Old Testament; then match each with the detail it foretold about Christ's birth.

## The Old Testament.....

Isaiah 7:14

Micah 5:2

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 22:15-18

2 Samuel 7: 12-16

Isaiah 9:6

## Foretold these details:

His birthplace

His Name

Member of Abraham's family

Member of David's family

God Himself

Offspring of the woman

- Can you think of another prophecy that hasn't happened yet?
- During the holiday season this year, plan a family project that will help you remember the true meaning of Christmas.

## Kid's Prayer Time



Pray that the Lord will remain in the center of your heart this season and that others will discover the true meaning of Christmas.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"For there is born to you  
this day in the city of  
David a Savior, who is  
Christ the Lord."**

Third Grade and Above

**"For there is born to you  
this day in the city of  
David a Savior, who is  
Christ the Lord."**

**Luke 2:11**