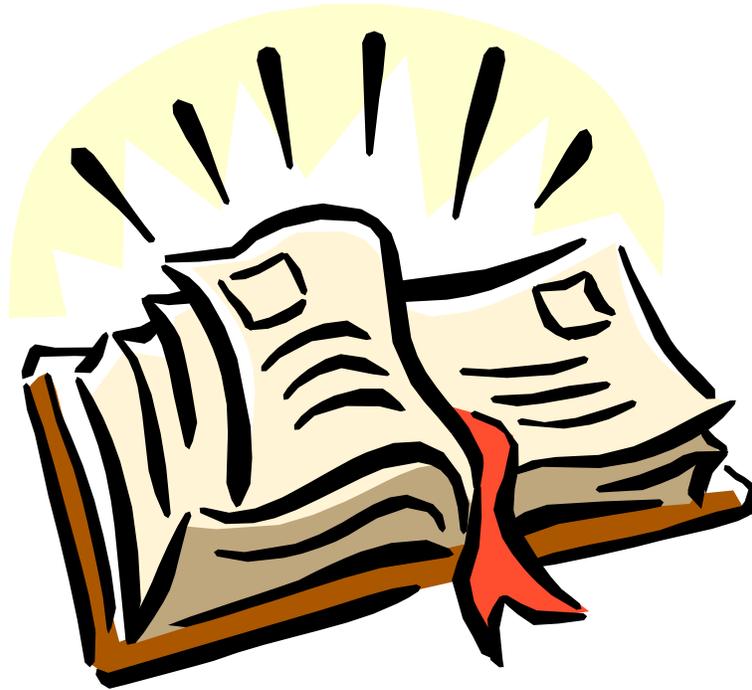


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Wise Men

THEME: The just will live by faith.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12

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.

In the lesson this week, we learned about **the Wise Men** who came to visit Jesus some time after He was born (**Matthew 2:1-12**). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. The Wise Men believed in God's Word; they followed a sign that God gave in the heavens to show where they should go to worship the newborn King. They **walked by faith** in God and we, too, can walk by faith when we trust in the Lord!

Sometimes, walking by faith means that we have to step out into areas that may not be comfortable. The wise men went to an entirely different country in order to do what God had called them to do. They focused their attention on what God had for them more than their present comfortable situation.

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

Day One

Can You See the Sunshine?

Text: John 1:18 - "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the father, He has declared him."

Also read Exodus 33:17-23

Joel was excited to go on his first airplane trip. He was going to fly with his mom and dad to visit his grandparents, and he had looked forward to this trip for several weeks. Now, the day had finally come. There was only one problem, though—it was foggy outside. Joel had a window seat reserved on the airplane and didn't want to miss a thing. He had looked forward to a nice, bright day with the sun shining.

Dad knew that Joel was a little disappointed. Joel asked his dad why the sun went away? His dad explained that the sun did not really go away; he just could not see it right now. He told Joel that once they got to a certain height in the airplane, they would be above the fog, and he would see the sun once more. Dad continued to encourage, "Because, we will be flying for a long time, we will probably see some areas that don't have any fog at all."

"That's kind of like what my Sunday school teacher told us a couple of weeks ago," said Joel. "He said when we walk by faith (believing in Jesus), we don't see God with our eyes, but we know He is there, just like a cloudy day does not mean the sun is gone—it only means that we can't see it." "That's right!" Dad said, "Right now, we can't see God with our eyes, but one day in Heaven we will see Him face-to-face. By faith, we know that God loves us and is always there for us." Joel put a broad smile on. A little fog for a while would be okay with Joel. It would be a great trip.

Though, we don't see God with our eyes right now, we know He is there. The evidence of God surrounds us in creation and His love and promises comfort our hearts. We must "walk by faith," trusting God, and one day our faith will become "sight" as we see Him face-to-face.

- Why was Joel discouraged?
- What does it mean to "walk by faith?"
- What do we as Christians have to look forward to one day?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Walking by faith: Trusting in the Lord as we live our lives for Him. Not doing things by what we "see," but by what we know to be true about God in His Word.

Day Two

The Heavens Declare God's Glory

Text: Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

Also read Psalm 19:1-6

God used a star in Heaven to lead the Wise Men to Jesus, the Savior of the entire world, offering eternal life to all who believe in Him. Though the Wise Men were not from Israel, they were probably familiar with the Bible verses that told about the One who would be sent by God to take away the sins of the world. These men walked by faith. They first believed God and then obeyed God—journeying to a far country to find the One that the star was pointing them to—Jesus!

Just as God used a star in Heaven to inspire the Wise Men to walk by faith to a far country, seeking Jesus, so today, God uses the heavens to declare His glory to man and encourage man to seek Him. When man looks at the awesome beauty of God's creation, and truly tries to make sense of it, he can only conclude that there is a Creator. This couldn't have "just happened." Like a beautiful work of art must have an artist behind it, so the wonders of creation could not exist without God.

To what extent is God seeking to reach out to man? We read in Psalm 19 that day and night the heavens speak to the whole world about the glory of God. It says there is not any language barrier where His voice is not heard. All over the world, every nation and people can hear the voice of God being spoken in the wonder and beauty of His creation. God has promised that those who seek Him will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13) and the one who comes to Him will never be turned away (John 6:37). Just as God led the Wise Men to His Son Jesus over 2,000 years ago, God is leading lost men to Jesus, the Savior of the world. God does not want man to wander aimlessly; God wants to lead man to His Son and a rich, meaningful relationship with Him. Have you begun your journey of faith? You can begin to walk with God, today, by believing in and accepting forgiveness from Jesus who gave His life on the cross, taking the punishment for your sin (wrong doing).

- How did the Wise Men know to go to Bethlehem?
- How do the heavens speak of God to us?
- Is God still leading man to Himself?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Magi: Another name for the Wise Men who came to visit Jesus.
Firmament: Another word for sky.

Day Three

I Can't Trust My Chariot

Text: Psalm 20:7 - "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

Also read Psalm 20

Sometimes, life can be hard. Bad things might happen in our lives that we really don't understand. In times like these, it may be very difficult for us to walk by faith. Though we want to continue trusting in the Lord, we often want to, also, try to deal with the problem in our own strength. During these times, we sometimes take our eyes off the Lord, refusing to walk by faith, and become focused on the situation at hand that we see all around us. King David was a very good king who loved the Lord, but he made a few mistakes. One time he took his eyes off of the Lord and started to look at his own strength.

God had been very clear to the kings in Israel that they needed to trust in the Lord. They were never to try to build up their army (multiply horses), but one time, David wanted to know just how strong his army was, so he gave orders to the commander of his army, Joab, to go out and count every man in the army. Joab went out and did what David asked him to do, and this greatly displeased the Lord. David had turned His focus away from trusting God to trusting in his great army, instead. As a result, the Lord sent judgment upon David and the nation of Israel (2 Samuel 24).

Sometimes we, too, trust in our own power and strength, rather than the Lord. God wants to get all the glory for His work in our lives. In fact, the Bible teaches that when we are weak, His strength will be most clearly seen. We shouldn't count how many chariots we have in order to fight the enemy. We should not be evaluating (thinking about) how strong and capable we are to face tough times and hard situations. Instead, we should be looking at how strong our God is and walk by faith, trusting in Him to fight all of our battles.

- Why was it wrong for David to count his army?
- Why is foolish to trust in and rely on anything (ourselves included) but the Lord when we face difficult situations?
- Talk to Mom and Dad about a time they looked to God for the help and strength they needed to face a difficult time.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Chariot: A two-wheeled carriage pulled by one or more horses.

Walking On Water

Text: Matthew 14:30 - "But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!'"

Also read Matthew 14:22-33

Have you ever daydreamed or thought about what life would be like if you never had to go to school. You might think that would be wonderful. If only you could be born with all of the knowledge of math, English, and science so that you wouldn't have to go through the process of learning it all in school. As we walk with Jesus, we sometimes wish the same thing. We wish that we could know everything that we need to know **RIGHT NOW** in order to live for Jesus the way that He wants us to. But, like school, we have to go through a process of learning how to live and walk by faith. We make mistakes along the way, but God is always there to pick us back up as we learn.

There were a lot of great things about the Apostle Peter. He was always willing to take a risk and step out when he felt that the Lord wanted him to. Whenever Jesus told him to come out onto the stormy sea, he jumped out of the boat and began to walk on water. It would take a lot of faith just to do that. Sometimes, the Lord may want us to do something for Him that requires us to have faith (believe) in Him. If we never get out of the boat, we may never see what He has for us.

As Peter walked on the water, he learned a valuable lesson in the school of "walking by faith." Whenever he began to look at the wind and the waves, he became afraid and began to sink. He cried out to Jesus, and immediately, Jesus rescued him. Peter probably wished he never had to go through that scary experience, but it would forever teach him about walking by faith. He learned that he should never take his eyes off Jesus and look at all of the problems around him. As we learn to walk by faith, we must remember, as did Peter, to keep our eyes on Jesus and not on the problems and difficulties we face. It is good for us to remember we are in a learning process. We will fail, but we will learn! And God will remain faithful and true to us in the process. There is no such thing as a good "instant" version of school—math, English, science will take time to learn. So, as you learn to walk by faith, remember it's a process, but surely, good things are happening. You are growing in His grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

- How is our walk with Jesus similar to school?
- Can you think of any ways that the Lord has taught you or your family to "walk by faith?"

Kid's Bible Activity



Draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper. On one side, draw a picture of Peter walking on the water towards Jesus and on the other side, draw a picture of how the Lord has taught you to walk by faith.

Day Five

Time For the Big Test!

Text: James 1:3 - "...knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

Also read James 1:2-4

Katie was getting a little nervous about the big test coming up at school. She had studied all week long and felt like she was ready, but still didn't want to take the test. This was a test in a subject that she really didn't like so that made it even more difficult. The night before, she prayed with her mom that the Lord would help her with her test the next day. Mom encouraged Katie to just relax and do the best she could. She reminded Katie that a test just helps us to know how well we are doing in a particular subject and where we might need improvement.

"Even God will allow us to be tested sometimes," Mom continued. "God gives us tests?" Katie responded. "Yes, in James we read that we will fall into all kinds of trials (tests) in life. God allows trials (difficult times and situations) to happen in order to teach us things and, sometimes, to show us where we are weak and really need His help to be more like Jesus. Also, our faith is tested in order that we will learn patience—that is, a growing endurance for trials (an ability to hang in there), because we know God is faithful to us and is working good things in our lives through the trials."

"Like when the boys pick on me at school?" Katie said. "Is that a trial?" "That's a good example," Mom said. "As you hang in there, you will grow in patience, becoming more like Jesus in your character. And, you'll see where you aren't doing so well in your walk with Jesus, just like your test tomorrow in school will show you how well you are doing. I hope you do well on your test, tomorrow. I'll be praying. And, even more importantly, if those boys pick on you, I'll be praying you do well on that test!" "Thanks, Mom," Katie said, "I feel a lot better now."

- Tell about a time when you had a "big test." Were you nervous?
- What does James say that the testing of our faith will produce in our lives?
- How will you respond the next time that a trial (tough time) comes into your life?

Kid's Prayer Time



We learned a lot about living by faith this week. Pray and ask the Lord to help you to learn how to walk by faith. To continue to grow in Him and become more and more like Jesus every day. God bless you as you continue to "grow up" in Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"And when they saw
the star, they rejoiced
exceedingly with great
joy."

Third Grade and Above

"And when they saw
the star, they rejoiced
exceedingly with great
joy."

Matthew 2:10