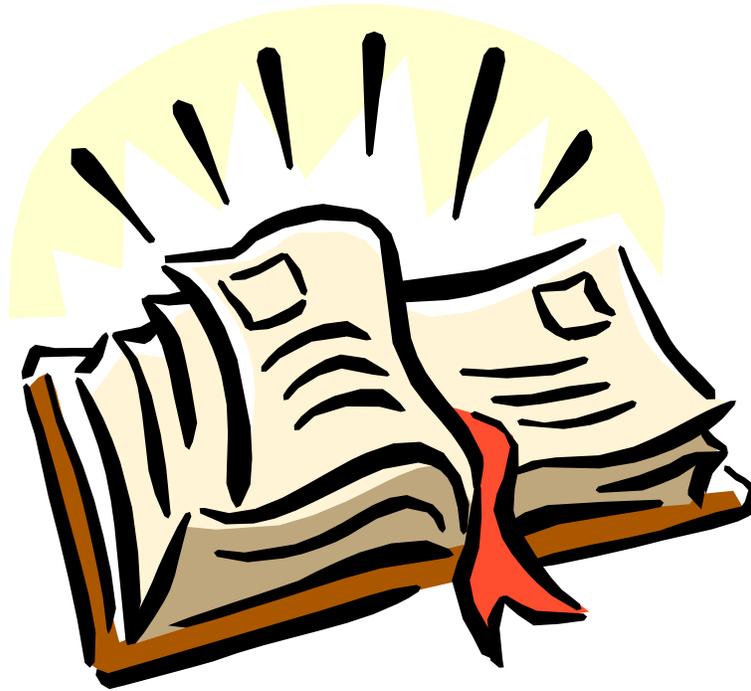


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Jesus and Nicodemus

THEME: We all need a new, spiritual birth.

SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-21

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 talked about **Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)**. Nicodemus was a leader among the Jews and came to Jesus during the night to ask Him some questions. Jesus answer gives us one of the clearest statements of salvation in the whole Bible. Jesus said we "must be born again."

We all need a new, spiritual birth. Sin (wrong doing) had separated us from God. Through faith in Jesus Christ who took the punishment for our sins, we can be born of the Spirit. With God's Spirit in control, we are like brand new—"old things have passed away...all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Enjoy this week as you continue to look at our wonderful salvation and new birth found in Jesus.

Twister

Text: John 3:8 - "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Also read John 3:1-8

I can remember as a kid growing up, we would have these miniature tornadoes that would spin down onto the playground during recess. A miniature tornado is just wind moving around very fast causing a whirlwind, but these tornadoes would pick up a lot of dust and dirt as well as plastic sandwich bags, paper sacks, napkins and other assorted litter, twirling it all up into the air. After lifting up the trash it would fling off a few items at a time from the core, releasing them to drift back down to earth. If you were in a good spot you could watch the twister move, zigzagging all across the playground, moving left or right, as the wind would shift it. It was as if you could see the wind, but what you were really seeing was the *effects* of the wind—a lot of dirt and trash spinning around.

Jesus told Nicodemus that the Spirit of God is like the wind. The Spirit of God can not be seen, but He is at work drawing people toward Jesus (John 6:44). The Spirit of God will blow like the wind into the heart of anyone who will receive Jesus as Savior. We can not see Him, but we can see the effects of His power in our lives. Just like we could see the twister in the playground because of the things that it twirled around, we can see the Spirit's work in our life when He saves us and makes a change in our hearts and lives. Other people sitting in a good spot to see us can also see God at work in our lives.

So the next time you see a tornado on television or a whirlwind on your playground, think about how the Spirit of God is moving all over the world to reach the hearts of men and women, boys, and girls. Watch the effect He has in your life as well as the lives of others as you believe in Jesus and yield to His Lordship. God desires to work in our lives in a powerful way. He desires that our lives be a witness of His reality and glory—that He is real, gracious and merciful, and He works among His people.

- Have you ever seen a real tornado? What was that like?
- How is the wind like the Holy Spirit?
- How can the Holy Spirit be seen in your life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Wind: One of the symbols for the Holy Spirit.

Born Twice

Text: John 3:4 - "Nicodemus said to Him, 'how can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?'"

Also read John 3:1-8

Have you ever heard someone say, "If you are born once you will die twice, but if you are born twice you will die only once?" What does it mean? We have all been born into this world as new babies. We will all die someday. That is one birth and one death. But, the Bible says that those who die without knowing Jesus will spend all of eternity separated from Him. This is called the "second death" (Revelation 21:8).

Sadly, someone who dies without Jesus will have one birth and two deaths. In 2 Peter 3:9, the Bible says that God is not willing (it is not His desire), that any man perish (be eternally separated from Him). God has provided a way so that need not happen. How? By being born again! If we are born a second time, we will not die twice. After we die once, we will live eternally with God, forever and ever!

Nicodemus did not understand how someone could be born twice. But Jesus explained to Nicodemus that there are two kinds of births. The first is a physical birth, the birth of a newborn baby; the second, is a spiritual birth. That happens when, by faith, we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, believing that He took upon Himself the punishment for our sins in order that we might be forgiven and brought into fellowship with God. When we accept Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes and lives inside us, making our spirit alive! We are born of the Spirit!

No one need experience that "second death." Jesus laid down His life to make the way of salvation open to all.

- To live eternally, we need to be born _____.
- How did Jesus make the way so we would not experience the second death?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Born Again: Receiving Jesus as our savior by trusting in Him. Our spirit is made alive through the Holy Spirit.

Day Three

Snake on a Stick

Text: John 3:14 - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up."

Also read Numbers 21:4-9

Have you ever heard the expression, "That will come back to bite you!" If you have, it would have been after you had done something wrong that was sure to have consequences. Perhaps, you would be punished or become quite uncomfortable as a result of your wrong doing."

As a result of their wrongdoing, the children of Israel did indeed experience the "biting" effect of sin. We read in Numbers that the Lord sent fiery serpents among the children of Israel as a punishment for their complaining. Many died as a result of their deadly bites. The people understood their need to repent and confessed their sin to Moses, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us." Moses prayed and the Lord instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and place it on a pole. Those who were bitten could simply look at the bronze serpent and live!

The Bible says the whole world lays in wickedness. Man, indeed, has experienced the consequences of his sin—separation from God, sorrow, pain, and ultimately death. We were once without hope, miserable in the world and awaiting God's righteous judgment. But, the Bible says that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)! Jesus took the punishment—the consequences—we should have suffered in order that He might save us! In Romans 6:23 we read, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Just like the children of Israel who, when bitten by the deadly snakes, could look at the bronze snake and live, we can look upon Jesus who was lifted up upon the cross to purchase our forgiveness, and we can live, eternally!

If someone among the children of Israel chose not to look at the bronze snake, they would not be healed—they would die! Sounds like a pretty foolish choice, doesn't it! God gives each of us a choice to accept or reject Jesus who came to save us from our sins. How foolish it would be if we refuse the gift of life with Jesus—a gift that begins now with a "life abundant" and continues through eternity!

- Sin has consequences—death! What did Jesus do to help us?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Consequences: The unpleasant or difficult results that follow an action.

He Loves Me...He Loves Me Not...

Text: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Also read Romans 5:8

Picking the dandelion from the grass, the young girl began to pull the petals out one by one and with the first said, "He loves me." Then she would pull another and say, "He loves me not." Then another, "He loves me." Then another, "He loves me not." Then another, "He loves me." Then still another, "He loves me not." Until she pulled the last petal, which ended in a shout with "He loves me!"

Have you ever heard of this game? The funny thing is that no matter how many petals that were on the flower or even if she said, "He loves me," after each time she pulled out a petal, it wouldn't change the young man's heart for the girl. Some people wonder if God loves them. It's as though they are playing that "loves me, loves me not" game of guessing. Or worse, they may think that maybe He doesn't even care if they exist at all.

Have you ever wondered if God loves you? God wants you to be very sure of His love for you. In 1 John 4:16 we read, "...we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him." God does not want one person in the entire world to wonder if He loves him. His love was demonstrated when Jesus went to the cross, taking upon Himself the punishment we deserved. God gave us His Word, the Bible, which declares the truth of His love. Have you memorized John 3:16? Hiding God's Word in our heart is a great way to defend yourself from the attacks of the enemy. When the devil tries to convince you that God does not care for you, you can pull out those verses you have memorized like John 3:16 and use them like a powerful weapon to fight against the lies and attacks of the enemy.

Do you know the song, "Jesus Loves Me"? Part of it goes like this, "Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me...The Bible tells me so!" The precious truth of God's love will follow you all your life!

- Do you know for sure that God loves you?
- How does John 3:16 help you to understand God's love for you? (God will always point to cross of Jesus Christ when we ask for the proof of His love.)

Kid's Bible Activity

Sing "Jesus loves Me."



Day Five

Bats of the Bible

Text: John 3:19 - "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Also read John 3:19-21

Have you ever studied bats in school? Bats sleep all day, usually in a cave or dark place, and come out only at night to look for food and do all of the other things that bats do. One thing is for sure--bats hate the light! They will always return to their cave or resting place before the sun comes up the next day. The Bible tells us some people love the darkness. They are a lot like bats!

In John 3:19-21, we read that light (Jesus) has come into the world, but there are people who love darkness instead of Jesus, because they practice or do evil things. People who make a habit out of doing evil are people who really hate the light (Jesus). They will not come to the light (Jesus) because they are afraid the light will expose their evil deeds. When the light comes, they hide in dark places—places where they should not be. Sounds a lot like a bat! God desires that all men come to Him and turn away from doing evil things, but, unfortunately, some people love what they are doing more than the light of Jesus. Because the darkness has blinded their eyes, they reject Jesus, the life and light of the world.

In Ephesians 5:8,9 we read, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)..." When we walk in the light, yielding to our Lord Jesus Christ, our lives will show forth the good fruit of goodness, righteousness, and truth. When we walk in the light, we will have fellowship with each other and the blood of Jesus will cleanse us from all sin (1 John 1:7). When we walk in the light, we will know where we are going. In Psalm 119:105 we read, "Your word [is] a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." God does not want us to stumble, not knowing our way, nor to hide in shame. Let us walk in the light!

- Have you ever seen a real bat?
- Why do most people who do evil want to do it in the darkness?
- Why is it so important to come into the light of Jesus?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week we learned a lot about Jesus and the wonderful new birth He offers each one of us. Let's pray this week and thank Him for such a great salvation.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Third Grade and Above

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

John 3:17