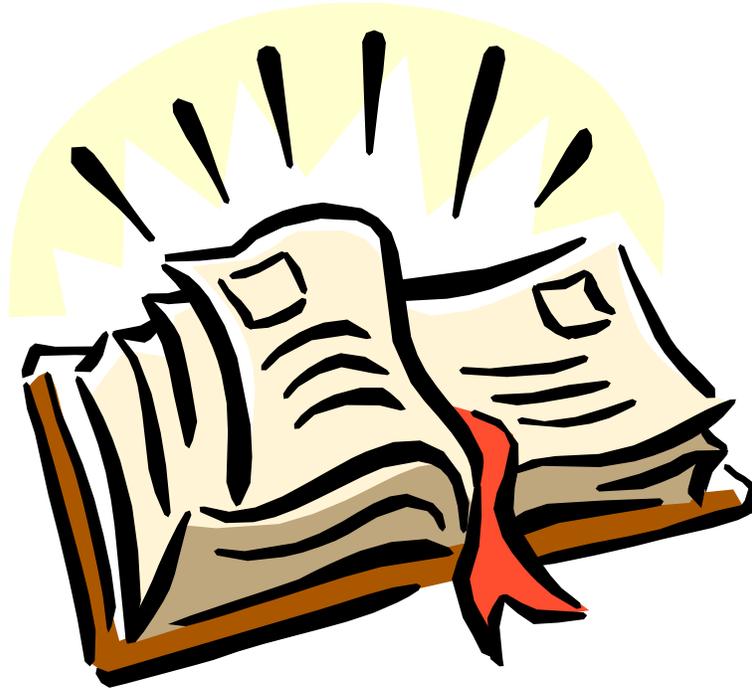


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Through the Roof

THEME: We walk by faith, not by sight.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 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 four friends who lowered the paralytic man **through the roof** to be healed by Jesus (**Mark 2:1-12**). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. The theme was "**we walk by faith, not by sight.**" Sin is like a sickness in our life. Just like the paralyzed man, we can have our sickness (sin) healed or forgiven by putting our trust in Christ and asking Him to forgive us. It's exciting to know that God sent His Son to die on the cross to forgive us of our sins. Trusting and putting our faith in Christ will fill our life with peace. Great News!!!

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

Faith to Believe

Text: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Also read Mark 2:3-5

The word had spread through Capernaum about a great man by the name of Jesus who was a miracle-working Teacher. The crowds were very large as they gathered to hear and see the works of Jesus Christ. Jesus knew these people were there to see Him heal the sick and cast out demons. He only wished that they were there to hear His message of the Gospel. But He knew that many were there only to see what was going on and didn't have a real interest in His message. But, there were four friends of a man who really demonstrated their faith in Jesus. They were men who walked by faith, not by sight.

The four men took their friend who was a paralytic (which means he could not move his arms or legs) to be healed by Jesus. These men arrived to find an enormous crowd of people trying to get to Jesus. There was no way they could get through the crowd to bring their friend to be healed. Just think how easy it would have been to turn away from the crowd and say, "Well, there is no sense in trying to get to Jesus today! Maybe we can come back tomorrow." But these four men had the **faith to believe** that Jesus could and would meet their friend's need, so the crowd would not discourage them.

Trusting that Jesus would heal their friend, these men worked together and dared to do something different—they decided to lower their friend through the roof to get him to Jesus so He could heal him; and Jesus did! In Mark 2:5 the Bible says, "Jesus saw their faith." To have faith in Jesus means to put your trust in Him, to believe He will take care of you no matter what your condition is. Do we look at our problems and feel defeated or discouraged, or do we look at our problems in light of Jesus and what He can do?

- Have you or someone you know been miraculously healed?
- How did the four friends demonstrate that they had faith in Jesus?
- What pleases God? Read Hebrews 11:5-6 for the answer.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faith: Trusting in God. Knowing that He can do all things, even things that seem that seem impossible to us.

Walking on Water

Text: Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Also read Matthew 14:28-33

Jimmy was outside during recess playing with his friends Tommy and Michael. Tommy and Michael wanted to do something that was against school rules. They wanted to leave the campus and go across the street to the grocery store to buy some candy. Jimmy knew this was a wrong choice. Jimmy told Tommy and Michael to wait until after school to buy the candy. But the boys didn't like that idea. Jimmy was able to stand strong in his faith in Jesus, and he chose not to go with Tommy and Michael. What could have happened to Jimmy if he chose to go with the other boys? Let's look at what happened to Peter when he took his eyes off of the Lord?

As you read about Peter in Matthew 14:28-33, you learn that he took a step of faith and boldly stepped out of the boat and onto the water. Trusting Jesus, Peter actually walked on water! But once the wind increased, Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and focused on the wind. What happened next? Peter began to sink. Although he began to sink, He didn't keep sinking. He called out to Jesus as he was sinking: "Lord, save me!" Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

It was not wise for Peter to take his eyes off of Jesus, but he did the right thing when he began to sink. He knew that Jesus could save him, so he cried out for help. When you are faced with difficult times such as peer pressure (friends trying to get you to do what you know you shouldn't), and you feel yourself sinking, do you call out to the Lord? As a Christian, there will be times of difficulty when we feel ourselves pressured and tempted to do the wrong thing. Keep your eyes on Jesus. But, should pressure and temptation distract you and you find yourself beginning to sink, call upon the Lord. He promises to help you. When we keep Jesus in focus, the world will see a faith that brings glory to God.

- Have you ever been in a situation where your friends tried to pressure you into something? How did you handle it?
- Why did Peter take his eyes off of Jesus?
- What "right thing" did Peter remember to do when he started to sink?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Trial: When God allows temptations, hardships, or our relationship with other people to test our faith.

Faith is Trusting in a Great Big God!

Text: Hebrews 6:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Also read Hebrews 11:8,9,10.

Mr. Johnson and his family lived in a beautiful two-story home with a nice pool and spa. They were able to do a lot of extra things like go to the movies, go on weekend getaways, and do a lot of fun things. The Johnson family had their own restaurant business, and it was quite successful. They enjoyed working in the restaurant business together as a family. They were very happy with their lives and wouldn't change it for anything.

One day God spoke to Mr. Johnson's heart and told him He had a plan for him to go to a different country to do missionary work. Mr. Johnson was a faithful servant and loved the Lord very much. He was excited to be called to become a missionary. But God's plan did not look so exciting to the kids. They didn't want to leave their friends and comfort in the United States to go to Peru at first--living conditions in Peru were pretty rough. They would have to sell everything before leaving for Peru. But, the kids knew that they were in God's hands, and He could be trusted. The Johnson's did as God had planned for them and they received rewards greater than any material reward they could have received here. After a few years serving in Peru, all the kids can look back on their experience with great joy and would not trade it for anything.

It pleases God when our faith reveals that He is first in every area of our life. As you read Hebrews 8-10, think about how Abraham must have felt going somewhere he had never been before and knew nothing about. Yet, he journeyed to a far country by faith, trusting God. And, though he dwelt in tents, having no permanent home, he looked forward to the day he would dwell with God in His home forevermore. God might have a plan for us that will require us to give up something in order to do it, but when we answer His call and must give up something, God will bless us over and over for our obedience. And, remember, when we experience times that test us, we grow as Christians.

- Why was it hard, at first, for the Johnson kids to be excited about going to Peru? What helped them decide they would be okay in Peru?
- Would you leave something you enjoy having or doing for the Lord?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Abide: To rest or dwell in God's will. Obedience

Forgiven or Healed?

Text: Mark 2:5- "When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

Also read Isaiah 1:16-20

Remember, the four men who went up to the roof of the house to lower their friend through an opening and down to Jesus. That was very bold! They knew that Jesus would help their friend *if* they could just get him to Jesus. Others who saw the crowd may have discouraged and left, missing an opportunity to hear the Good News and to be healed and forgiven.

When Jesus saw the man who needed healing, He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." Jesus went to the most important issue first. For, sin can paralyze us spiritually. Jesus, who is truly God, is the only one who has the power to forgive man's sin. This man was not only healed because of his faith in Jesus, but more importantly, he was saved and forgiven by believing in Jesus. He walked away as a brand new person!

Believing in Jesus, asking Him into our life to be our Lord and Savior, is the most important issue in our lives as well. God has provided a great salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He gave His life for us, taking the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross, in order that we might be forgiven and live in a new relationship with God. He not only promises a new life as He walks with us here and works His changes inside us, but he promises life forever with Him. Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? If you haven't, it would be wise not to delay! Jesus said, "...he that comes to me, I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37). It brings God great joy when we receive His gift of salvation.

- How did the paralytic man make it to Jesus?
- Have you ever asked Jesus to come into your life?
- Are there friends or family members you have who you would like to pray for to receive Jesus? (Remember, God used the paralytic man's friends to bring him to Jesus.)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Forgiven: Pardoned, released or let go of. Free from the penalty of sin.

Which Is Easier?

Text: Mark 2:9 - "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?'"

Also read Mark 2:6-12

Jesus was so popular that the religious leaders, known as the Scribes and Pharisees, could not ignore Him. Instead, in their jealousy, they sought to find some fault that would make Jesus look bad to the people, some way that Jesus might break one of their rules. How sad that these religious leaders did not come to the house in Capernaum with an open heart to hear Jesus! When Jesus told the paralytic man that his sins were forgiven, the religious leaders were ready to jump on the opportunity to make it look like Jesus had done something wrong. Jesus saw the religious leaders sitting around and knew what was in their heart. They were thinking Jesus had committed blasphemy, for they thought, "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Indeed, Jesus was claiming to be God! One way Jesus proved to be God is by reading the religious leaders' hearts and telling them what they were thinking.

Jesus gave them something to think about. Which is easier to say—"Your sins are forgiven you," or to say "Arise, take up your bed and walk?" Jesus was pointing out that it is easier to say: "Your sins are forgiven" because such a statement does not require visible proof. But, Jesus wanted the people to understand that He indeed was God and had the power to forgive sins, so He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Everyone glorified God as the paralytic rose up and went his way, healed. Jesus had put first things, first—forgiveness of sins. Our bodies will not last forever, but our spirits will! It is God's desire that all men come to know the salvation offered to them through faith in Jesus Christ and live forever with Him. Jesus laid down His life, taking the punishment we deserved on the cross, so that forgiveness and life everlasting would be possible. Let us remember to put first things first. This life will soon be over, but our relationship with God through Jesus Christ will go on forever. Thank God for His great salvation!

- Did Jesus heal the man first or forgive His sins first?
- Why do you think forgiveness of sins is more important than healing of our bodies?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is a lot that we can be thankful for. Even our faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8,9). Thank God for His great salvation, the forgiveness He provided us through faith in Jesus Christ. Thank God for the faith to believe in Him and, thus, enjoy His love and kindness toward us.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"Immediately he arose,
took up the bed and went
out in the presence of
them all, so that all were
amazed and glorified God."

Third Grade and Above

"Immediately he arose,
took up the bed and went
out in the presence of
them all, so that all were
amazed and glorified God."

Mark 2:12a