

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Son of the Widow of Nain

THEME: Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 7:11-17

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 Widow from Nain**. (Luke 7:11-17). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Jesus had compassion on the widow of Nain and raised her son from the dead. Isn't it exciting to know that the One who we put our trust in has power over death? We who believe in Jesus will have eternal life because when He rose from the dead, He forever conquered death!

In devotions this week, we will look at this story from different angles. It will help us to understand a little bit more about who Jesus is and how much He cares for us, how He has conquered death, and how we need to be compassionate just like He is!

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

A Visit from God

Text: **Luke 7:16** - "Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen up among us'; and, 'God has visited His people.'"

Also read John 1:14-18

Have you ever had relatives visit you from out of town? Maybe they stopped by your house for a little while or maybe they spent a few nights. Soon, they packed up and headed back to where they came from. That's is what a visitor does. He comes over for a little while but always leaves. A visitor does not stay forever at your house. If he did he would not be a visitor. He would be a permanent resident!

Jesus came to earth as a visitor. The book of John tells us that he came in the flesh as a man and stayed here for a while. After He died and rose again, He went back to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. Our Bible passage this week uses the same word when it says, "God has visited his people." When Jesus raised the son of the widow from the dead, the people of Nain knew that indeed, God had visited them. Imagine meeting God in the flesh. Imagine realizing when you looked at Jesus, you were looking at the face of God! Jesus visited Nain for only a short time, but imagine how privileged the people felt.

Jesus came to this earth as a visitor, living among us, to show us who God is. John wrote of the privilege of being with Jesus: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested and we have seen, and bear witness and declare to you..." (1 John 1:1,2). Jesus came not only to show us who God is, but to bring us into a relationship with God. He took the punishment for our sins at the cross in order that we might be forgiven. Now, in a relationship with God, through faith in Jesus Christ, Jesus becomes to us much more than a visitor. He comes into our hearts as a permanent resident. He desires, through the Holy Spirit He as give to us, to settle down and make Himself at home in our hearts. How blessed we are that the God who made the heavens and earth loves us deeply and desires to dwell within us. Just a short visit with Jesus is awesome, but now by faith, He dwells in our hearts forever. Is Jesus at home in your heart?

- Describe the difference between a visitor and a permanent resident?
- Does Jesus come to visit or to settle down and be at home in our hearts?
- Why does Jesus want to dwell with us forever?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Visitor: Someone who comes for a while to stay or visit.

Fear or Fright?

Text: **Luke 7:16** - "*Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet has risen up among us'; and, 'God has visited His people.'*"

Also read 2 Timothy 1:13

Have you ever been afraid of the dark? Or maybe you're afraid of spiders and snakes. There are a lot of things that can make us fearful. The Bible teaches us that we should fear God and keep his commandments. Should we be afraid of God? What does that mean? Do I fear God in the same way I fear other things? Let's take a closer look at what the Bible teaches us about fear.

The Bible says the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 19:9). In Acts 9:31 we read that we are to walk "in fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit." Peter exhorts, "Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king" (1 Peter 2:17). Yet, in other scriptures, we are told, "God has not given us a spirit of fear" (2 Timothy 1:13). And, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). Do these scriptures contradict (go against) each other? No! It means there are two kinds of fear. "Fearing God" means that you recognize and respect who God is—Lord of all—awesome in power, holiness, and righteousness as well as gentle in love and great in mercy.

When Jesus raised the son of the widow from the dead, the Bible says fear came upon all of the people, and they glorified God. Notice what "fear" caused them to do—they gave honor and respect to God. So, how do we fear the Lord? We keep a deep respect in our hearts for who God is—His power and might, His righteousness, and His love. The fear of God causes us to marvel at the wonderful love shown to us at the cross and not want to neglect (fail to respond to) such a wonderful salvation. Instead, we want to turn away from sin and to walk in His ways. We do not want to cause grief (sadness) to the to God; instead, we desire that our thoughts and actions please God. In Psalm 19:9 we read, "The fear of the Lord is clean." The other kind of fear—the fear of the world—that frightens and upsets us is not clean. We can let God's love calm those fears, for His perfect love will cast out that kind of fear, as we grow closer to Him.

- What does it mean to "fear the Lord?"
- There are two kinds of fear. Which fear does the Bible say is clean?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Fear of the Lord: Respect for God; respect for His power and authority.

Dead or Alive

Text: Luke 7:12 - "And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her."

Also read John 11:25

Unless the rapture happens in our lifetime, we will all one day face death. Have you heard it said, "The statistics on death are staggering—one out of every one person will die." The death of someone we love is never an easy thing. So that day in Nain, we can imagine the grief of the widow as she followed her only son for burial.

As Jesus approached the city gate, He witnessed this funeral procession. When he saw the mother, the Bible says Jesus had compassion on her. Jesus said, "Do not weep." He reached out His hand, touched the coffin, and called the young man back to life again. The people were amazed. They had seen many people die, but never had they seen one come back to life. We read that fear came upon all of them, and they glorified God. Jesus showed everyone that He has power over death.

Concerning death, in 1 Thessalonians 4:13, we read we are not "to sorrow as others who have no hope." Jesus conquered death when He died on the cross, taking the punishment for our sins upon Himself. His resurrection from the dead, three days later, proved His power over death. Now, those who believe in Jesus will one day live with Him in Heaven forever. In John 11:25,26 Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die...." Because of Jesus, we all have hope and comfort! Jesus said concerning those that believe in Him, "...I give them eternal life and they shall never perish..." (John 10:28). The hope of Heaven, living eternally with Jesus, is a great hope, is it not?

- What did Jesus show the people of Nain?
- What happened three days after Jesus died on the cross to prove that He has power over death?
- What great hope do we as Christians have when we die?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Resurrection - the rising of one to life after death.

Widows

Text: Luke 7:13- "When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.'"

Also read James 1:27

Do you know what a widow is? It is important for us to find out because the Bible tells us to care for widows. The Bible commands us to help them and visit them (Acts 6:1, James 1:27). A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

In Jesus' day, widows were usually very poor, especially if they had no grown children to help them. Women, in those days, did not share the ability the men had to earn a living. They mostly cared for the needs of their husband and children. Since the widow of Nain had obviously already lost her husband, the loss of her only son meant she could find herself lacking in things necessary to survive—food and shelter. It is sad to think this woman had most likely given all her time and energy to raising her children and taking care of her husband. Now, with no one left who could support the family, she would find herself in great need. Jesus had compassion on the widow of Nain. He brought her only son back to life!

Though not all widows are lacking in the necessities of life today, the Bible is clear that we should have a heart of caring for them. Do you know a widow? Perhaps, just brightening her day by visiting, sharing smiles and spending time with her. Being a widow can be lonely. What about sharing acts of kindness. Are there things you can do like mowing the lawn, helping to clean the house, or other chores? You can be the hand of Jesus' love extended to a widow. As you find opportunity to do the things God asks us to do, you will find great joy!

- How did Jesus help the widow in this story?
- What does the Bible say we should do to help widows?
- Do you know a widow? What can you do to help?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Widow: A woman whose husband has died.

Compassion

Text: Luke 7:13 - "When the Lord saw her, He had *compassion* on her and said to her, 'Do not weep.'"

Also read Matthew 18:21-35

Compassion is being concerned for the suffering of another. It really means to "suffer with" another. Have you ever had someone be compassionate with you? This would be a time when someone helped you when you were in a difficult spot. Have you ever shown compassion on someone else? Both are great experiences. The Bible tells us that God is full of compassion (Ps. 86:15). This means that He understands what it means to suffer in this world and desires to "suffer with" us. Jesus gives us a good example of compassion in our Bible passage as He raises the widow's son from the dead. He stopped; He looked at the widow, feeling her suffering; and then He helped her. Throughout the Gospel, as Jesus extends healing and comfort to those in need, we see compassion demonstrated.

In Matthew 9:36 it tells us that "when He saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd." Also we see the heart of Jesus as He looks out over a multitude of people and again "was moved with compassion for them and He healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14). Jesus had compassion on the multitude and fed them all miraculously—4,000 men and the women and children who accompanied them (Matthew 15:32-39). Jesus showed compassion for the blind and sick when He healed blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52). The list goes on and on.

Jesus demonstrated, powerfully, compassion on those who were doing wrongful acts against Him when on the cross He cried, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Jesus desires that we show compassion. He tells a story about a king who showed compassion to his servant by forgiving him a great debt. The servant went out and refused to show compassion toward a fellow servant who owed him money. When the king found out, he said this to the unmerciful servant, "I forgave you all that debt... shouldn't you have had compassion on your fellow servant?" (Matthew 18:32, 33). Since God has shown such great compassion on us, forgiving all our sins against Him and daily blessing us with His love, should we not follow His example? We will be becoming more like Jesus as we show compassion to others—those who are needy and suffering, even those who have wronged us!

- What ways have others shown compassion for you? How does Jesus show compassion for you?
- How can you show compassion toward others?

Kid's Prayer Time



Thank the Lord for who He is and all He has done for us!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"Then fear came upon all,
and they glorified God,
saying, 'A great prophet has
risen up among us'; and, 'God
has visited His people.'"

Third Grade and Above

"Then fear came upon all,
and they glorified God,
saying, 'A great prophet has
risen up among us'; and, 'God
has visited His people.'"

Luke 7:16