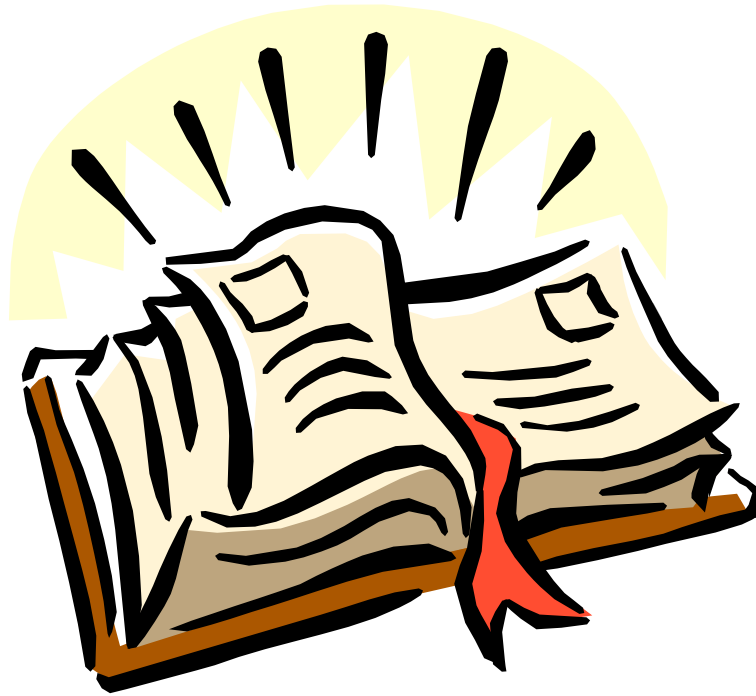


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: Parable of Wheat & Tares

THEME: Not everyone who says he is a Christian is really a Christian.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



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 Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24-30,36-43.)**. We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Jesus taught us that **not everyone who says that they are a Christian may really be a Christian**. There are false prophets and others who may try to make us think that they are real, but instead they really don't believe in Jesus.

Wheat is good and can be used for food. The tares are weeds or thorns that come along side of the wheat and rob it of water and minerals in the soil. We should be careful of those who would try to make us think they are Christians, but really are trying to lead us away from Him. This week we will learn that the Lord has given us ways to tell what is true and what is false.

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

Be Careful!

Text: 2 Corinthians 11:13 - "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ."

Also read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Jackie and Sarah were friends at school, but they didn't know each other very well. Jackie knew Sarah went to church, also, but it was a different church than the one she was attending. One day, Sarah invited Jackie to her church. Jackie asked her mom and dad if she could go with Sarah. Mom and Dad asked if she knew what the name of the church and what they taught. Jackie wasn't sure. "I always thought that every church was the same, as long as they believe in Jesus," Jackie said. "Not every church is the same," replied Dad. Some may say they believe in Jesus, but they believe different things about Him. Some churches falsely teach that Jesus really isn't God. They teach that He was just a man. Other groups teach that we can become gods."

"Wow", responded Jackie with surprise, "I never realized that some churches believed those things. How can we know which group is right?" "God gave us the Bible, His Word, to know what is true or false," replied Dad. "He gave us the Holy Spirit to lead us and help us understand God's Word. If anyone tells us anything that doesn't sound right, we can just check to see if it is in the Bible. Sarah's church may be just fine, but it is probably a good idea to be careful and ask her about it." "Okay, I will," replied Jackie.

The next day, Jackie found that Sarah was a Mormon. Their teachings are very different than those taught in the Bible—the Word of God. Jackie knew she could not accept an invitation to her church, but she purposed in her heart to pray for Sarah everyday.

The Apostle Paul planted many churches and had the joy of watching them grow. He warned them of the danger of false brethren (those who claim to be Christians and are not) and false teachings (teachings not found in the Bible). God has given us His sure Word—the Bible and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us test and prove all that we are told.

- What has God given us to help us stay strong in His truth and not be led away by what is false?
- Do you read the Bible daily, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



False: Something that is not right, it is wrong or fake.

Apostle: Someone sent out for a special purpose.

False Apostle: Someone who is not really who they say they are. They twist the truth of God's Word for their own gain.

Simply Saved!

Text: Galatians 1:6,7 - "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ."

Also read Galatians 1:1-9

Could you imagine going to church and hearing someone teach you that if you want to go to heaven, you must believe in Jesus, get baptized, keep all of the Ten Commandments for the rest of your life, and sing the Hokey Pokey at least ten times. If you have received the good teaching of the Bible for a while, you know this is not the truth. You know that we are saved by believing in Jesus. We do not need to do anything else.

The young churches in the region of Galatia were visited by some Jewish men who taught them false ideas. They taught them that in order to be saved, they had to believe in Jesus *and* keep all the laws and traditions of the Jews. In other words, they were saying faith in Jesus was not enough, you must also keep laws and traditions. This made the Apostle Paul very sad; so he wrote the Galatians a letter, which is now one of the books of the Bible, in order to help to correct their thinking. He warned them not to allow these false teachers to move them away from the good teachings of the Gospel. Do not accept a "different gospel"—one different than that which you have been taught.

The true Gospel message is simple. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." That's it, nothing more! Some people try to "work" their way to God. They feel that if they do certain good things or enough good things, they will get to heaven. But Paul reminds them and us in Galatians that salvation is free gift from God. There is nothing we can do to earn it. It is a gift—a gift to those who simply believe in Jesus.

- How are we saved?
- Do we need to do good works as well as "believe in Jesus" in order to be saved?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Different gospel: Anything other than the "true" gospel (good news) presented in the Bible.

Am I a Tare?

Text: Matthew 13:30 - "Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn'"

Also read Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43

Jesse and Jerry were best friends who did everything together. They had been in the same class in school since first grade. They rode the same kind of bike; they had the same favorite color; and they both hated studying math in school. They even went to the same church together. They were like brothers. When Jerry and Jesse were ten, Jerry invited Jesse to his grandpa's house, who lived in the woods. The two boys headed out for a walk in the crisp mountain air. As the trail got a little steeper, Jerry slipped on a rock. To Jesse's surprise, Jerry began cursing. Noticing Jesse's shock, Jerry laughed and said, "Ahhh, quit being a baby." It was the first time Jesse ever heard his friend talk like that, and he knew that kind of language did not make God happy.

"Don't you want God to be pleased with you?" Jesse asked his friend. "I always talk this way when I'm up in the woods. So does my dad," Jerry retorted. This really bothered Jesse. He had never seen Jerry act like this in church or at home. Jesse didn't understand. But, he loved his friend. Jesse thought for a moment. He wanted to help Jerry understand that when Jesus lives inside of us, we will want to act differently.

"Did you know that the Holy Spirit lives inside of you?" Jesse asked Jerry. "God can hear everything that we say, and even knows what we are thinking. When Jesus is our Lord and we are yielding our life to Him, we become brand new inside; we will be different from the world." "I guess I had better think about my relationship with Jesus," Jerry said. "Yeah, let's get real with Jesus. Let's pray together." The two boys bowed their heads and prayed that Jesus would indeed be in control of their lives. After praying, Jerry glanced up at his friend, "I'm sorry if I upset you." "That's okay," Jesse said. Let's start over. There are wheat—people who are genuine about their faith—and tares—people who are not allowing Jesus to be the Lord of their lives. It is never too late for a tare to become wheat through the love and help of Jesus.

- Do you think everyone who goes to church is saved?
- Was Jesus the Lord (Master) of Jerry's life when he tripped over the rocks?
- Is it ever too late to realize we are not walking with the Lord and turn around?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Tare: A weed, grows along side wheat but is not good for anything.

Real or Fake?

Text: 1 John 4:1 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Also read 1 John 4:1-6

Have you ever looked at a real diamond and a fake diamond side by side? They make and sell fake diamonds that don't cost nearly as much as regular diamonds. Sometimes, people who want a diamond but can't afford it will buy a fake one and wear it. It is very hard to tell it apart from the real thing. One is real and one is glass. They are both clear. They both shine. They both sparkle in the light. How can you know the difference? There is a test. Only real diamonds can cut glass. Fake diamonds cannot cut glass.

The Bible says that many false prophets have gone out into the world. How, then, can we know what is true? How can we tell the real from the fake? The Lord has given us a way to "test the spirits." In our reading, today, we see that one way we can tell what is true from what is fake is by listening to what they say. If anyone does not believe or say that Jesus is God who has come in the flesh, then they are not of God. We will know that they are false, and we should stay away from them.

We have been given the Bible—the Word of God—in order that we might rightly understand God's truths. If we believe in Jesus, we have been given the Holy Spirit inside us to help us understand God's Word and know the truth from lies. Through the study of the Bible and the work of the Spirit in our lives, we will know what is real and what is fake. In 2 Timothy 2:15 we read, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." As we are diligent in our study of God's Word, we will be able to rightly divide the Word of truth. We will not follow after that which is false.

- How can you tell the difference between real and fake diamonds?
- How do we test the spirits to know if they are real or not?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



False Prophet: Someone who teaches the wrong thing but wants you to think they are teaching the truth.

Day Five

Greater is He in Me!

Text: 1 John 4:4 - "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

Also read 1 John 4:1-6

Who are false prophets and where do they come from? False prophets are people who teach the wrong things about God. They may write books, teach people, or even start new churches that don't believe or teach the Bible. Sometimes, they say that their books are just as important as or even more important than the Bible. The Bible tells us that we need to be very careful of these false prophets.

It is the work of Satan, our enemy, to send out these false prophets so that people will get confused and not know what the truth is. If he can keep as many people away as possible from the truth, he is happy. Though it sounds scary to think that Satan is attempting to deceive us and keep us away from the truth, we are promised that we have overcome them because "...He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

What a wonderful promise! Greater is He who is in us! Who is in us? God! He has already won the battle against Satan. Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. Satan is powerless over us. Satan may try to use people to lead others away from Jesus and the truth; but if we have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, He will protect us and keep us. In John 10:27-29 Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand." And, we have the Holy Spirit living within to teach us all things, leading us into all truth. Truly, with God's help, we have overcome the enemy!

- Who are false prophets?
- Where do they come from?
- How are we, as Christians, kept safe from the efforts of Satan to deceive us?

Kid's Prayer Time



Thank the Lord for the Bible, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and His promise of protection. Pray that you will become well grounded and settled in God's truth and able to help others!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun..."

Third Grade and Above

"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matthew 13:43