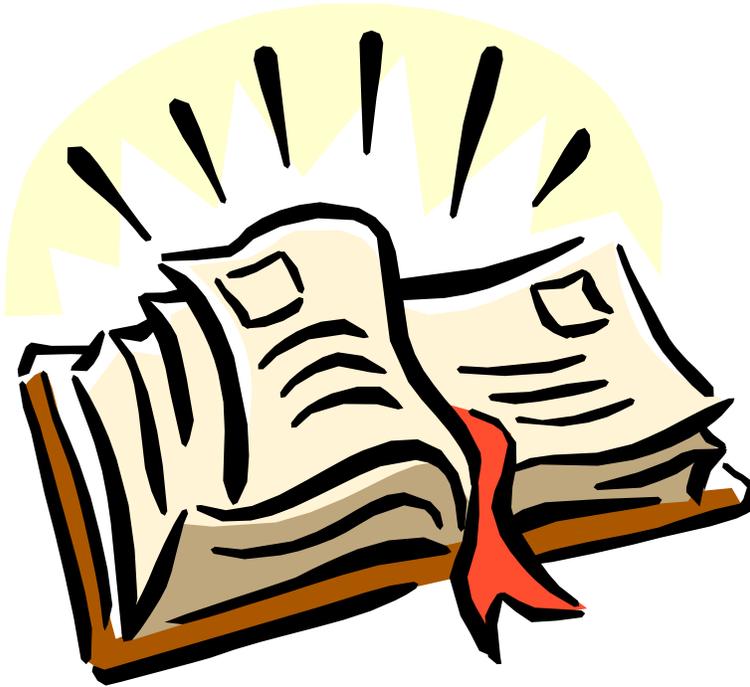


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Thomas Doubts

THEME: Jesus wants His peace to be with us.

SCRIPTURE: John 20:24-29

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. This is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned the story about the time when Thomas Doubts. Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples. He heard the news about Jesus rising from the dead and he had a very difficult time believing that it really happened. He was the type of person who had to see it to believe it. Jesus in His grace and mercy didn't get mad at Thomas, but came and showed him the nail prints in His hands and the wound in His side. But when Jesus showed him, he told him that there is a special blessing for those who have not seen Jesus yet still believe.

The theme was "Jesus wants His peace to be with us." When Jesus appeared to His disciples He wanted them to have His peace. He also wants us to have His peace. Sometimes children will go through difficult times. It is important for them to know that Jesus has promised to give them peace and to help them when they need it.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 20:24-29**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate. May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Peace & Comfort

Text: John 14:29: - "and now I have told you before it comes to pass, that, when it is come to pass you might believe."

Also read John 14:1-31

Sometimes it just wasn't easy for Joey to relax. He was always thinking of things that might happen to him. He seemed to be fearful about everything. Many of his friends found his fears to get a little bit tiring. Randy was one of Joey's best friends and one day they were fishing at the lake. Joey's dad let them go out on a raft a little bit away from the shore. Suddenly Joey wouldn't move. In fact, Joey was as stiff as a board. Randy asked his friend what the problem was. Joey was so frightened he couldn't even talk. When he finally spoke, he told Randy he wanted to go back to shore.

Randy was patient with his friend and finally found out that Joey was afraid they would actually catch a fish. Joey said if they caught a fish, they would have to reel it in. If they reeled it in, they might tip the raft over. If they tipped the raft over, they might drown. Joey had panic in his voice as he shared these fears. Randy was pretty tired of all the fuss. He pointed to the life preservers Joey's dad had made them wear. Randy said he wasn't worried because Joey's dad was watching them and they were prepared in case they fell into the water.

Just as Joey's dad had made certain preparations for the boys, Jesus also prepared the disciples for His departure and gave them reassurance that He would come again. In today's scripture reading we read over and over again how Jesus was preparing His disciples for His death, resurrection and going up into heaven. We also read of Jesus' comfort that He gives to us. He reassures us with His Word written so long ago for us today. Jesus wants us to have His peace.

- Do you think Joey had the peace of Jesus?
- Are you afraid sometimes? When are times you are afraid?
- What should we do when we are afraid?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Reassure: to say or do something to remove the doubts and fears of someone

Proof Positive

Text: John 20:27 - "Then He said to Thomas, 'Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.'"

Also read John 20:24-29

Thomas was a very interesting disciple of Jesus. He isn't very different from us today. He did not want to believe in something that was false. He had wondered if it could really be true that Jesus was alive again. He just wasn't certain when the first reports came in about Jesus rising from the dead. But Jesus knew Thomas. In his heart he really wanted to believe, but he needed to see Jesus and the marks in his hands and side before he believed. He wanted to be positive that Jesus had truly, really and truly, risen from the grave. And Jesus knew that. Jesus came and spoke to Thomas. Since He knew Thomas needed to believe He had returned the first thing He says is "Peace to you!"

Jesus wanted to comfort Thomas. He was not mad at Thomas for doubting but wanted him to believe. The Lord doesn't want Thomas, or you and me, to have any doubts. Jesus didn't get upset with Thomas or tell him that he was bad for asking, but he did miss out on some of the joy the other disciples got to have because of his doubts. Jesus comes and shows His hands and side to Thomas. When Thomas sees and hears Jesus, he doesn't even need to touch Jesus' hands anymore. He just simply declares Jesus as his Lord and God. Thomas knew the truth. Jesus conquered death. Thomas was excited that it was true and immediately worships Jesus.

Jesus has given us a special blessing. We haven't seen Jesus, the nail prints in His hands or the scar in His side from the spear of the soldiers, but we do believe in Him. We see Him by faith. We trust in Him and we know that He is with us because the Holy Spirit lives inside our hearts when we trust in Jesus. What a blessing it is to believe in Jesus! Let's never doubt, but always trust in Jesus!

- Why did Thomas think that seeing Jesus would help him to believe?
- Who was Jesus talking about when He said, "blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed"?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Positive: To be sure of something, not doubting.

Peace and Trust

Text: Matt 14:27 - "But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.'"

Also read Matthew 14:22-33

Sara's family was going through one problem after another. In the last few weeks, it seemed as though nothing was going right. First the car broke down, then her brother got sick and today Sara just found out her best friend was moving away. It was just not a good time for her. She knew she should be praying, like her mom and dad did when her brother got sick but it was hard for Sara to pray alone.

Sara went to her room to think about all of this. She thought about her mom. She seemed to be handling everything OK and it seemed like she always knew what to say and do when a problem was too hard for Sara to solve. Just about that time Sara's mom came into her room to talk to her. She put her arm around her daughter and prayed for Jesus to give Sara His peace in her heart. After they prayed Sara began to feel better. Then Sara's mom told Sara about a time when Jesus' disciples were very afraid and needed to have Jesus give them peace.

The disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee in their boat. The weather became bad and the sea got very rough. They thought the boat was going to sink and that they would drown. Jesus knew what was happening and he walked out on the water to the boat where the disciples were. They were afraid when they first saw Jesus, but He told them to be of good cheer! I am here, don't be afraid! But hadn't Jesus seen the storm? Why was He so calm? It was because He is God. He has power over the storms and over every situation. We need to remember that He is in control of everything. We need to trust in Him and ask Him to help us. He is faithful to come to us and help us to not be afraid. Sara felt much better after talking to her mom. She knew that Jesus would take care of everything.

- What were the problems that Sara faced?
- What are some problems you are having in your life right now?
- What should you do when you have troubles?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Peace: Freedom from upsetting thoughts and feelings; a peace of mind;
A peace from knowing God.

Jesus is Our Peace

Text: Ephesians 2:14 - "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation."

Also read Ephesians 2:13-22

Becky and Jason were always arguing. It seemed there was nothing for them to agree on. They weren't friends at all. At school they stayed as far away from each other as they could get, even trying to get desks a whole room apart. Both of them were friendly to others, and they even had one friend in common who hated to see the two of them argue.

Jimmy was very small for his age, and many of the other kids picked on him, except for Becky and Jason. Becky and Jason could be nice when they wanted to, but they never wanted to be nice to each other. Jimmy knew that Jesus could change their hearts and make them kind and loving to everyone, even each other. One day Jimmy decided that he would invite both Becky and Jason to church on the same day, but he wouldn't tell each of them that the other one might come. It was a big surprise at first for the two, but it was there that the two enemies found that they had something in common—their friend Jimmy. Suddenly, the huge wall between Becky and Jason crumbled. They had found that they kind of liked each other's company and they soon developed a strong friendship at school, home and at church.

This is an example of our Bible verse today. We are separated from God because of our sin. Sin is like a gigantic wall that comes between God and us. But we have a friend who can break down the wall and bring us close to God. Jesus is that friend who will break down that wall between God and us. Through His death on the cross, Jesus became our peace. In our scripture in Ephesians, Paul writes to Jews and Gentiles who once were enemies. He explains how that Jesus made them equals in His body, the church. Then he tells them something wonderful—a message of hope for us today. As believers, we are part of the household of the Creator of everything. Even though our sin made us enemies with God, through the blood of Jesus Christ, we can be with God forever.

- How did Jason and Becky become friends?
- How is what Jimmy did for Jason and Becky kind of like what Jesus did for us?
- Do you know of anyone who needs to be encouraged to be a friend to someone else?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Righteous: Right on; to be right or holy before God. We become righteous by faith in Jesus Christ.

Day Five

He Gives His Peace to Us

Text: John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Also read John 16:33

Just before Jesus went to the cross He wanted to make sure that His friends, the disciples really understood something. He knew that things might get really tough for them. But He wanted to make sure that they knew that no matter how bad anything ever got in their lives that Jesus was going to give them peace. Can you think of a time in your life when you had a hard time? In John 16:33, Jesus called these times tribulations. We know that we are going to have these times in our lives. Even though we are Christians and we serve Jesus that doesn't mean that everything is going to go the way we want it to all of the time.

But Jesus said, "Be of good cheer!" Don't let these things get you down. He said to remember that He has overcome the world. When He died on the cross and rose from the dead He proved that He is in control of everything, even life and death. So, we know that He loves us and we can put our trust in Him. He has promised to give us His peace. He will quiet and settle our hearts, even in the middle of some very difficult times.

Jesus gives us the kind of peace that is really lasting. Jesus said that our hearts don't need to be afraid. He will take care of every problem. And we know that no matter what happens in this life, He is preparing a wonderful place for His people. We know that will be a place of perfect peace. He loves us so much and desires for us to be with Him. He promises to help us in our lives now until that day that He comes to take us to be with Him.

- Have you ever had a time when you have been afraid?
- Did you ask Jesus to help you and to give you peace? What happened?

Kid's Prayer Time



Praise God today for the peace we have in Jesus. Think about how it might be to live in a place where no one can talk about Jesus and share what He has done in your life. Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ. Christ who do not know peace in the world but who endure suffering in the name of Jesus.

Memory Verse...

Kindergarten and Below

**"Blessed are those who
have not seen and yet
have believed!"**

First Grade and Above

**"Jesus said to him,
'Thomas, because you
have seen Me, you have
believed. Blessed are
those who have not seen
and yet have believed.'"**

John 20:29