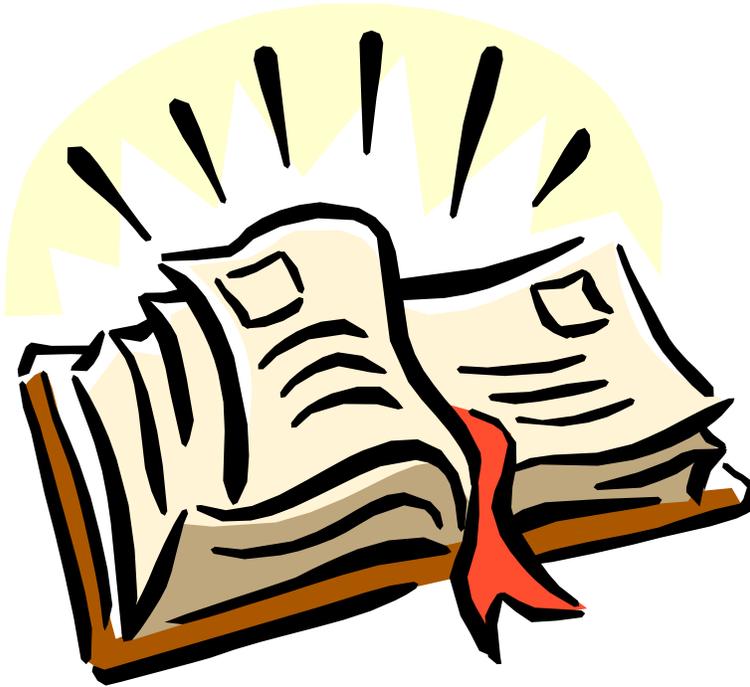


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Ananias and Sapphira

THEME: God knows what is in our hearts.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 5:1-11



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 we learned about Ananias and Sapphira. The theme was "God knows what is in our hearts." We saw how that Ananias and Sapphira wanted the early church to think they were giving a great sum of money. But really they were holding some back. They lied to the Lord. But God knew their hearts and they were judged.

Sometimes we think we might be getting away with things, but the Lord can see into our hearts all of the time. We need to be honest with ourselves, with others and especially with the Lord. He loves us so very much and desires for us to have a blessed life walking in Him.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 5:1-11**. 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!

God Knows the Truth

Text: Acts 5:4b - "...Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Also read Acts 5:1-11

Just the other day Doug met Tony and immediately he really liked his new friend. Tony could do cool things like play the 12-string guitar and ride horses at his ranch in the mountains. Tony promised to teach Doug how to play his guitar someday, but the guitar was always in the shop. Tony told Doug that it would be fixed some time and then he would teach him. Tony also promised he would take Doug to his ranch in the mountains, but they never seemed to have a chance to go there either.

One day Doug borrowed another friend's guitar, since Tony had promised to teach him how to play. When he got to Tony's house, Tony was out, but Doug told Tony's mom the plan. Tony's mom was surprised. She said Tony was out with his dad, but she was surprised that he would offer to teach Doug how to play guitar since Tony didn't even know how to play the guitar himself. Doug also found out that Tony didn't have a ranch in the mountains either. Tony had only wanted to impress Doug but he lied to do it. He was not truthful to his new friend. This really hurt Doug that his new friend would lie to him.

Today's scripture focuses on two people who wanted to impress the early church and the disciples. Ananais and his wife Sapphira sold some land to give away the money to the church, but they did not tell the truth about how much they sold the land for. They lied. They kept some of it back, but they wanted everyone to think they had made a big sacrifice by selling their land. Instead of only lying to the people, Ananais and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit and they paid a terrible price for their lie. God knew the deepest part of their hearts. God knows Tony's heart and he knows our hearts. We need to be truthful to the Lord and to others. God sees everything and He loves us, let's be truthful with Him!

- Why did Tony lie to Doug?
- Why would Ananais and Sapphira lie to Peter?
- Why would it be foolish to try to lie to God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Lying: An untrue statement to give a false impression.

Truth: A statement according to facts—what is real.

Day Two

God and the King's Heart

Text: 1 Samuel 16:7b - "...For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Most of us know about King David and how he was a mighty and powerful king. He did a lot of cool things for the Lord before and after he was king including killing the giant Goliath. King David had a great love for the LORD. When we read the Book of Psalms we find many songs that King David wrote to praise God and we see how much He loved God. In the Psalms we see David's heart. It was because he had a heart that was after God that He chose David to be king of Israel.

In today's Bible reading, we read of the day when David was chosen as king. God had already chosen King Saul to rule over Israel, but he refused to be obedient to the Lord. So now he was going to choose a new king. God was looking for a special man who would be a good ruler over His people. It had to be someone with a very special heart for Him.

God sent his prophet Samuel to David's father's house. First Samuel thought the oldest son would be chosen king; after all he kind of looked like a king. But next we read something a bit strange. God tells His prophet that the most important thing to Him was not how someone looked on the outside; it was the heart of a man that was most important to Him. Even though David was a shepherd, it was his heart that God found to be just right for Him to use. The prophet is told that David is the one who should be anointed with oil and made king.

Just like David, God wants our hearts to be right with Him. Sometimes we look at the outward appearances and think someone is really strong or really cool. But remember what God says is the most important thing - a person's heart. So if we want to be the absolute best and be used by God then we need a heart that is after Him, just like King David.

- Is your heart turned toward God?
- Have you asked Jesus into your heart?
- Who knows the deepest part of your heart?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Obedient: Willing to follow the direction of your parents or of God.

Day Three

God Knows the Betraying Heart

Text: Luke 22:47-48 - "And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude, and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, 'Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss? "

Also read Luke 22:1-6 and John 13:21-30

Have you ever had someone act like they liked you and were nice to you only to find out that they really never liked you at all? Maybe they just wanted something from you. Sometimes people pretend or act nice when really their heart is not kind at all. It is hard when you meet a person like that to tell what they are really thinking about. But God always knows the deep matters of the heart.

Today we read about Judas Iscariot. He spent three years with Jesus. Judas was trusted by those who were closest to Jesus, the disciples. All the miracles and the teachings of Jesus were right there for Judas to hear and see. But, as we read today, Judas' heart was not turned toward Jesus. His heart was turned toward money. He allowed money to be more important than Jesus. Jesus knew of Judas' secret plan to betray Him to the Pharisees. But he still allowed Judas to stay with him and the disciples.

This just shows Jesus' mercy. Even though Judas had a wicked heart and Jesus knows every heart, He still allowed Judas to stay. In fact, Jesus washed Judas' feet the night he was betrayed. Pretty amazing! But when all was said and done Satan had entered Judas' heart and he set out to betray Him. So God used even Judas to accomplish His plan. How we need to be careful to know what is in our hearts. Is Jesus in our hearts? Or is something else there taking the place of Jesus?

- Have you ever had anyone "betray" you?
- Did you know that God can see what is inside your heart now?
- How did Jesus know what Judas would do?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Betray: To be unfaithful or disloyal. Judas betrayed Jesus.

God Sees a Willing Heart

Text: Acts 9:6 - "So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'"

Also read Acts: 9:1-9 & 9:23-31

Jim and Daniel had to walk the long way home all of the time because Jeff always chased them if they went the short way. Jeff would throw things at them and tell them that he was going to beat them up. Jim and Daniel loved Jesus and knew that Jeff had gone through some tough times since his mother had died. They both prayed for Jeff, but they stayed far away from him. Then for a few months the boys didn't see Jeff so they began to walk home the short way again. They thought it was going pretty well until one day when suddenly Jeff was back. Jim told Daniel not to even try to go the short way. He had heard Jeff had been living with his uncle, who was a Christian, but Jim didn't think it would matter, as mean as Jeff had been. So they turned around and went the long way.

The next day they were very surprised and a little afraid when Jeff came over to them at school and asked them to walk the short way home with him. They thought that maybe they were being set up for some big problems. Jeff told them he knew they were Christians and he asked them to forgive him for being so mean to them. The boys could hardly believe it. They thought Jeff could never be nice. They didn't know Jeff's heart, but God knew the deepest part of Jeff's heart. Jeff explained that while staying with his uncle he had asked Jesus to come into his heart.

We might never know why someone is mean to us, but God knows everyone's hearts. Jeff's heart was empty, like Saul in our Bible reading. God can fill an empty heart with His never-ending love. Saul had helped to persecute Christians and was someone to fear greatly. But Jesus knew Saul's heart and how Saul would be obedient and was just waiting to have his heart filled with God's love. When God filled Paul with His love he became a great man of God and was responsible to bring many others to the Lord. He even wrote much of the New Testament. God not only knows a heart, He can change a heart.

- Did Jim and Daniel know Jeff's heart? Who did?
- Who knew Saul's heart would change?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Forgive: To give grace to one who is sorry. Jim and Daniel forgave Jeff for being mean to them.

Day Five

God Knows a Believing Heart

Text: Matt 15:28 - "Then Jesus answered her and said to her, 'O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour."

Read Matt 15:21-28

In today's Bible reading we meet a woman who had a daughter who suffered very much. This woman was not from Israel. But Jesus had come to the area where she lived. She was a *Gentile*, and they did not worship the Lord in the same way that the people from Israel did. In fact, people from Israel would never talk to other people like this woman. They would think they were much better than them. But not Jesus, He wanted to reach out to everyone who needed Him.

What was in this woman's heart? She believed in Jesus and what He could do for her. She had heard that He healed and helped people. She had to just reach out to Him and see if He would help her. Jesus knew the deepest part of her heart and knew that she did believe in Him with all of her heart. So Jesus healed her daughter.

What is in your heart today? Do you believe in Jesus? Having a right heart before God is the most important thing we can ever do. We might try to lie or hide things from other people. But God sees and knows everything. We can't hide anything from Him. If there is anything that we need to make right with Him we need to do that as soon as possible. Let's be like King David and be a boy or girl who is after the Lord's heart!

- Do you believe that Jesus can see inside your heart?
- Have you given your heart to Jesus?
- Share with your family what you learned this week about how God knows our hearts.

Kid's Prayer Time



This week, consider how much the Lord really knows about you. Sometimes the Lord even knows more about us than we do. Ask Jesus in prayer to reveal to you something that needs to be changed in your heart. Give Jesus your whole heart today.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done."

Third Grade and Above

"And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch."

Acts 5:12