

# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: The Jerusalem Council**

**THEME: The Holy Spirit always brings unity to those who seek God's will.**

**SCRIPTURE: Acts 15:1-29**



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 we learned about The Jerusalem Council. The theme was "The Holy Spirit always brings unity to those who seek God's will." Unfortunately, we are not always united as Christians. There are situations that happen that can cause strife and division among believers.

We can avoid the strife and division by calling on God's Holy Spirit to help us to solve all of our problems. The Holy Spirit brings us believers together when we are seeking to do God's will. There are some wonderful things to learn this week from our Bible readings. Guidance by the Holy Spirit, unity, and compromising, are three areas we will look at this week.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 15:1-29**. 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!

Day One

# With One Accord

**Text: Acts 1:14a** - "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,..."

**Also read Acts 2:1**

Half of the people in the Main Street Christian Church wanted the sanctuary to be painted brown and half of the people wanted it to be painted white. Unfortunately, they could not decide on what color to paint the sanctuary. Meetings were held every Sunday after church, to vote on a color for the inside wall of the sanctuary. Every time the congregation met and voted the end result would always be half voted for one color and the other half voted for the other color. They could not come to an agreement for the color of the paint.

As the meetings continued, the people were getting more impatient and frustrated. One night, the arguments were so intense there was talk about splitting the church among the believers. The people who wanted the sanctuary white would leave and start a new church and paint the inside white and the people who wanted it brown would stay and paint the inside brown. Thankfully the church did not divide. One of the leaders came up with an idea. The people agreed to **compromise** and paint the trim white and the wall brown.

Even though choosing a color of paint may seem like a simple thing, sometimes churches can have disagreements like the one in the story above. Sadly, churches have split over little issues. The Lord calls us as believers to be unified with one another. This week we will learn about how the Jewish and Gentile Christians disagreed on a certain issue. The Jews were stating that the Gentiles had to be circumcised and be obedient to the Law of Moses before they could be saved. Just like the example above, we will see that the Jews and the Gentiles were able to come to a loving compromise. As believers we are to seek God's will in order for growth to take place in our life and in the church. The Holy Spirit always brings unity to those who seek God's will.

- Is it easy for you to compromise with someone who you disagree with?
- Have you ever had to compromise with someone?
- Is God pleased when His people are mad at one another?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Compromise:** To give up my opinion for the sake of unity with others.

Day Two

## A Witness to the Lost

**Text: Acts 15:8** – “So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us.”

**Also read John 17:20-21**

When others see my life do they see Jesus? I have to ask myself this question often. I want to represent Jesus in everything I do. I want others to see Jesus in my life, not me. Also when we get together with other Christians we should show Jesus to the world. How can we show Jesus to the world? By coming together as Christians and providing for those with needs, by helping others in our community or preaching the gospel to the lost. When we do this Jesus is revealed to our city.

But what happens when non-believers see a church fighting with one another over silly things that really do not matter? What do they think if a church splits over something foolish like not being able to decide on a paint color or because some people wanted to have a picnic after church every Sunday and some didn't? When a church divides because of one group of people disagreeing with another, those who are not saved see that we are in no way different from the world. What is attractive about that?

Sometimes churches can have real problems. But the important thing for Christians is how we deal with the problems. Do we solve them as the world would solve them? Or do we look to God's Word to solve our problems? Which way do you think would honor God? Practicing what God has shown to us from His Word solves Church problems. When we follow God's will and plan then we are putting others first. When we put others first, we will not be arguing with one another, but loving and helping them. It is important to God for others to see His character in His people. Those who do not know Jesus should be able to see how Christians react to someone who has lost a loved one, how clothing is provided to those who are in need, or how the Church can come to the aid of a family who has lost everything from a hurricane. The basis of being united in Jesus is LOVE. John 15:12 states, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Let our love for Jesus and one another be an example to the world.

- What is revealed in your life?

### Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Love:** A decision of the will to care for another person totally apart from any good quality, ability or desire to respond that they may have.

# United in Love

**Text: 1 Corinthians 13:3** – “And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

**Also read 1 Corinthians 13 & 1 John 4:8**

“Did you see the flyer at church,” asked Julie. “There is an audition for the upcoming Christmas play. I want to be in the play because I have a lot of talent that I can offer; I can sing, dance and act,” stated Julie. “Do you want to try out, Amanda?” asked Julie. “Maybe, I need to pray about it first,” replied Amanda. Julie and Amanda are very good friends. They have been attending church together since they were 5 years old. They are both 11 and in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Julie is very proud of her achievements and she is glad to tell everyone else all about her talents, even a little bit too much at times. Amanda is the quiet one. She does not talk a lot about her talents and is modest about what she can do.

Try-outs for the big Christmas production would be held in just 2 weeks. There were a lot of positions that needed to be filled. “I want to audition for the part of Miss Crumpet,” exclaimed Julie. The part of Miss Crumpet was the most important part of the play. Miss Crumpet’s part had more singing than any other part. Naturally, Julie wanted to be in that role. But that was not enough for Julie. She not only wanted to be Miss Crumpet but she was going to insist on playing another part as well. She wanted to have two parts in the Christmas play.

Amanda, on the other hand, was going to audition for a small part. She really wanted to audition for the part of Miss Crumpet but she knew that Julie wanted it really bad. Julie was a better actress than Amanda was, but Amanda was a better singer than Julie was. The part of Miss Crumpet involved more singing than it did acting; but, Julie did not care. She wanted to be the star of the show. **Continued on Day Four...**

- Julie wanted to do her own thing without acknowledging God or considering others. What would you do differently?
- What was good about Amanda’s attitude?
- What kind of attitude does Jesus want us to have towards others?

## Kid’s Bible Dictionary



**Acknowledge:** To admit the truth of something.

Day Four

# Guidance by the Holy Spirit

**Text: Proverbs 18:13** - "He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him."

**Also read Acts 15:36 - 16:15**

**Continued from Day Three...** Amanda continued to pray about and ask the Lord which part that He wanted her to try out for. Amanda wanted others to see God's love and promises through this play. She was not concerned about getting the best part or that everyone was going to see her. Everyday, she would pray and ask the Lord to fill her with His Holy Spirit to help her to do everything to honor Him. Amanda wanted to hear from the Lord and know what He wanted before deciding on what part to audition for.

About one week before the audition was to happen an announcement was made at church. Before worship time Pastor Jim stated "For those of you wanting to audition for this upcoming Christmas play, you need to fill out an audition form stating the part you would like to try-out for. I will then make a chart which shows the times of the auditions for the different parts in the play."

Amanda felt the Lord was putting the part of Miss Crumpet on her heart. "What about Julie?" Amanda thought to herself. "Lord, what should I say to Julie?" Amanda knew that she needed to tell Julie what the Lord had placed on her heart. Amanda saw Julie on the way out to the parking lot. "Julie, I need to talk to you," said Amanda. "What is it?" responded Julie. Amanda explained everything that was on her heart. Julie was very upset. "You cannot audition for Miss Crumpet! I told you last week that I was going to be Miss Crumpet! You will not get the part! Julie stormed off and said that she couldn't be Amanda's friend anymore. **Continued on day Five...**

- Which girl do you think is being guided by the Holy Spirit?
- Do you think they are united with one another about the purpose of the play?
- What do you think needs to happen for these problems to be fixed?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Guidance:** Telling or learning the right way to go from someone who knows the way. The Holy Spirit is leading Amanda in her decision about the audition.

Day Five

# Loving Compromise

**Text: 1 Corinthians 2:10** – “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

**Also read Leviticus 19:18**

**Continued from day Four...** The auditions came and both girls tried out for Miss Crumpet. The results would not be posted until the next day. Julie passed Amanda in the hallway and said, “If you get the part of Miss Crumpet I will never come to this church again nor will I ever be your friend again.” Amanda was very upset over what Julie had said to her. “Was this play that important to Julie?” thought Amanda. “Was she performing for her selfish reasons or was she doing this because the Lord had placed it on her heart?” These questions kept coming up in Amanda’s mind.

Amanda prayed most of the night for Julie and for what the Lord would have her to do. The next morning Julie called Amanda to apologize for what she had said. She told Amanda that she was praying the night before and the Lord spoke to her heart about her bad attitude. She asked for forgiveness for being so selfish and jealous. Amanda forgave Julie and said that it did not matter to her who got the part as long as God’s will is done. The next day both girls arrived at the church together. Outside of the youth pastor’s office was the posted results. The part of Miss Crumpet was given to Amanda. Amanda knew that Julie was disappointed. Amanda went into the youth pastor’s office and asked if she could give the part to Julie. The youth pastor said it would be fine because Julie was a close second to Amanda. Amanda offered the part to Julie. Julie was amazed that Amanda would do such a thing. Julie was very pleased with Amanda’s heart, but said that it was really her part. But then Amanda had an idea. Maybe they could work on the part together in case Amanda got sick or could not end up doing it. “Hey, that’s a great idea,” responded Julie, “That way we can be united in sending God’s message of love to others.”

In order for God’s will to be done in our lives, we need to be obedient and submissive to Him. He promises that He will bless us when we are united under His will. We need to always remember to put others first and trust God for everything else.

## Kid’s Prayer Time



As believers there we will be times when we disagree with others. But we need to remember that the basis of our faith is God’s love. Remember to compromise instead of causing strife between others. We are united by the Holy Spirit when we seek to do God’s will. Ask the Lord to help you to put others first.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

Third Grade and Above

"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

**Acts 15:11**