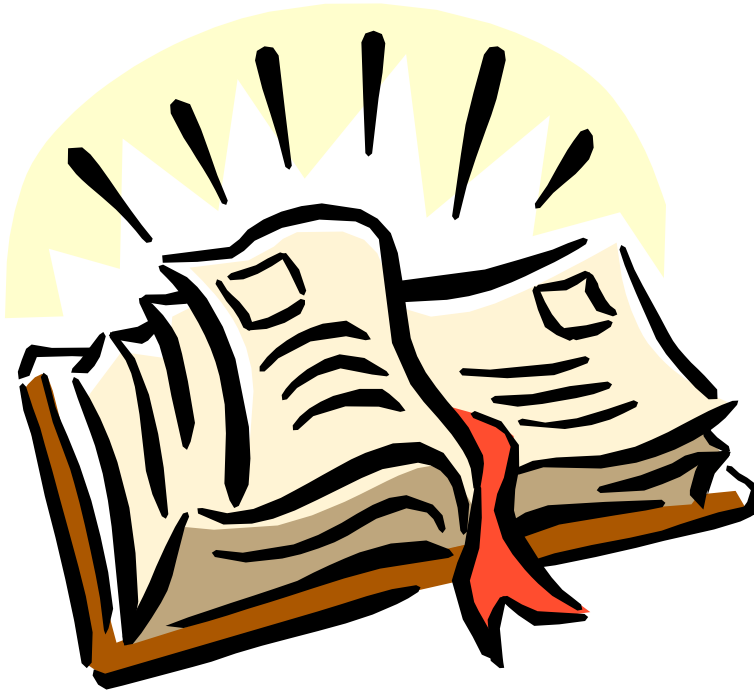


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: In Christ, We are a New Creation

THEME: We are a new creation in Jesus!

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21



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 that In Christ, We are a New Creation. The theme was "We are a new creation in Jesus"! Think about that for a moment! Did you know that because Jesus died on the cross for our sins that we can begin a new life in Him just by asking?! Once our new life begins, our heart become brand new and we begin to produce fruit so others can see and taste the love provided by Jesus.

After reading the daily devotions this week, you and your child can discuss what motivates us to say and do the things that we do. Since we are brand new people, our desires and actions should be different. Jesus' presence in our hearts should be the greatest reason for what we say and do.

The section of scripture that we studied was **2 Corinthians 5:14-21**. 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

No Cost to You!

Text: Romans 3:24 – “Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:18,19

“I can't pay this credit card debt!” exclaimed Mark's father. “We have spent too much money over the past few months. I can't believe we owe so much money to our credit card account.” Spending money is an easy thing to do. Most people like to spend money instead of saving it or helping others with it. Like Mark's father, so many people are unable to pay back the money they owe. Over time, the debt gets larger and harder to pay off. Sometimes it can even take several years to pay off something you owe.

What if God were to say to us, “Every time you sin, you must pay Me back for the sin you committed. I will not speak to you or protect you until your debt is paid in full”? How would that make you feel? We probably would not hear from God very often or feel very protected. That's because none of us would ever be able to pay back God for the sins we committed. NEVER, EVER! We sin every day and can never pay the price for our sin. This means we would have to be perfect. Our sins would add up faster than any good things we could do in order to even things out. No one has ever been perfect, except for Jesus. That is why He is the only one who can help us.

The good news is that Jesus paid for every one of our sins, past, present and future. **At no cost to any one of us**, Jesus took care of the debt of sin we owed. When Jesus died on the cross he paid that debt for us. God placed all of our sins upon Jesus as He hung on the cross, which means that we can start out fresh, and forgiven of our sin. We become a brand new creation in Jesus. What is the result? The debt of our sins is erased and God replaces our sin with the goodness (righteousness) of Jesus. We can now go and live our lives for Jesus as a brand new creation, no longer under the control of sin. Let's remember to always be thankful that Jesus paid the debt of our sin with His very life.

- Does it cost anything to become a Christian?
- Does God want you to pay Him back for your sins?
- What does it mean to have your debt of sin taken care of?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Debt: Something owed.

Justified: Just as if I never sinned (declared to be right with God).

A New Relationship

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Also read Colossians 2:6-7 and Ephesians 2:21

One day, two friends, Nancy and John were looking at a painting of Jesus on the cross. They were looking at the same picture, but they saw two very different things. “What do you see when you look at that painting?” Nancy asked. “Well, I see a man hanging on a cross who is bleeding and has a crown of thorns on his head,” replied John. “What do you see Nancy?” “Well, I see an eternal picture.” “A what?” replied John. “I see eternal life,” Nancy said. By this time John was very confused and said, “How do you get eternal life out of a picture that has a man hanging on a cross? What do you see that I can't see?” Nancy went on to explain to John how she saw the picture and what it meant.

Our new relationship with Jesus brings about a new relationship to the world and to the people around us. We see things differently as a Christian than we used to. Before becoming a Christian we could read the Bible or look at something like a painting of Jesus on the cross and not understand very much. We might even ask, “What's the big deal?” We would probably be like John and just see a man hanging on a cross who is bleeding and has a crown of thorns on his head. Once we are Christians, we can be like Nancy and see a picture of what Jesus has done for us. But, we can only see like Nancy if we have asked Jesus to come into our life. When you become a Christian you are a new creation in Christ and you will see things differently than you did before.

We cannot make that change in our lives on our own. We need God to change our hearts and how does He do that? He does it by sending His Spirit into our lives when we become a Christian, helping us to see things differently, through His eyes. When I look at a painting of Jesus on the cross I am filled with joy because He has taken my place. I know He suffered for me so I could come directly into the presence of God. Jesus saved my life! I can be with Him forever because I have invited Him into my life. What do you see?

- What do you see when you look at your friends or family who don't know Jesus?
- Read Galatians 3:28. We are all one in whom?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



New Creation: The beginning of a new life in God's family, which occurs when I ask the Lord Jesus into my heart.

Day Three

Ambassador Bob

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:20 – “Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us.”

Also read 1 Corinthians 3:9

Ambassador Bob was a ministering dude! He would carry his Bible everywhere and tell people about Jesus. He was never without a handy gospel tract to give out at all times. It was very common to see Ambassador Bob at the park telling people about the love of Jesus and the salvation offered through Jesus. Ambassador Bob was ready and willing to go anywhere that the Lord would call him to go, even if it were to another country. Ambassador Bob was on a mission to tell people about Jesus. He was truly a Fisher of Men! God used Ambassador Bob as an “ambassador” to bring people to Himself.

Is Ambassador Bob any different from you or me? Do I need to be in a special club to be an ambassador for Christ? Do we have to memorize a special verse or be a Christian for several years first? “No way,” is the appropriate answer for all of the above questions. When we receive Jesus, we too, can be an ambassador for God to this world. God tells us to go out and share with the world about His love and salvation He provides through His Son, Jesus.

The Bible says that we are all to be ambassadors for Jesus. An ambassador has the job of representing one country to another. The United States has ambassadors living in other countries. Their job is to represent our country to the people in those foreign countries. We are now members of God’s kingdom in Jesus. We are to represent God’s kingdom as ambassadors to the people in this world! The world is in rebellion against God but Jesus wants people to know that they can turn to Him and be forgiven. We represent Jesus and His heart towards the world. We need to do a good job of representing Him. What a great privilege it is to be heaven’s ambassadors to the lost of this world! So you can be Ambassador Billy, Ambassador Jennifer or even Ambassador Bob!

- Why has God sent ambassadors into the world?
- How are you doing as one of Jesus’ ambassadors?
- Let’s all be the best ambassadors we can be!

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ambassador: Someone chosen to speak or act for an important person or country. As believers, we are Jesus’ ambassadors to this world.

Make Me an Instrument

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Also read 1 Peter 2:22-24

Today was the day of the big concert that everyone had been waiting for. The Johnson family arrived at the concert one hour early so they could get good seats. The musician they came to see was one of their favorite performers. The music that came out of the instrument he played was very soothing and comforting. It was amazing to them how someone could play beautiful music from a piece of metal that had holes in it. Cary Johnson had tried many times to play a song from the same type of instrument. It never sounded the same as when their favorite musician played it. In fact, Cary's music was out of tune for the most part. She knew she had to practice hard in order for her music to sound that good.

Have you ever picked up a musical instrument and tried to play something for the first time? It probably was not a sound that soothed others ears. Did you know our lives are like an instrument? We can either be in tune or out of tune. We can comfort others or be a discomfort to others. If we are a new creation in Jesus and are living according to His plan others can be comforted by what we say and do. God can use us as instruments to help others. But, if we are not living our lives for Jesus, then we are probably more of a discomfort to others than a comfort. Our instrument may sound out of tune and drive others crazy.

When an instrument is tuned just right and played the right way, beautiful music can be the result. Our lives should be finely tuned instruments that are being played by God. Our actions can show the result of our love for Him. He is the greatest musician that ever played, and when we allow Him to use us, together we can really make beautiful music. What kind of instrument are you? Are you allowing the Lord to use you or are you going your own way and not allowing Him to use you? Lord, make us instruments for you. Play us so others can see your glory.

- Do you play an instrument? What kind do you play? Do you like the music that comes out of an instrument that is in tune and played properly?
- Are you willing to let the Lord play His song through your life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Instrument: a means or tool by which something is done or accomplished

Day Five

What Motivates You?

Text: Jeremiah 17:10 – “I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doing.”

Also read Hebrews 4:12,13, Proverbs 3:7, John 3:16

“Why did he do those horrible things?” “He said he was a Christian!” “I can’t believe he is saying and doing those things!” “How many times has he been sent to the principal’s office?” “I thought he was a Christian.” Have these thoughts ever come into your mind after seeing someone who says they are a Christian and see them do something he or she shouldn’t have done? We can sometimes think these things when we see someone who says one thing and does another. In order to really love Jesus it isn’t just what we say, but what we do that is also important. What we do can reveal where our heart really is. We shouldn’t judge or try to guess if someone else is really a Christian, but we need to make sure in our own lives whether or not what we say lines up with what we do.

When others find out that we are Christians is it because of how we act or by what we tell them? When we become a new creation in Christ we leave behind those things that we used to do apart from Jesus. It does not mean we never sin again, but it does mean that those things do not control us like they used to. We are also to grow every day in Jesus. If we tell people that we are Christians with our mouths but our actions show something different then something is wrong. We need to look into our hearts to see why that is and ask Jesus to forgive us if it is needed.

What do you show to others? Are you any different than those who do not know Jesus? When you see someone who says they know Jesus but then they do something that a Christian should not do, how can you point them back to Jesus? Your life can make a difference not only to those who are not Christians, but also to those who are weak or who have drifted away from Jesus. Stay in His Word and talk to Him daily so others will see how He created a new you.

- How would Jesus want our words to match up with what we do?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week we have studied about being a new creation in Christ. People should see a difference in our life. Pray and ask Jesus to help you to represent Him so others can come into the light and see Him. Pray that God will use your life as an instrument to bring others to Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Third Grade and Above

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17