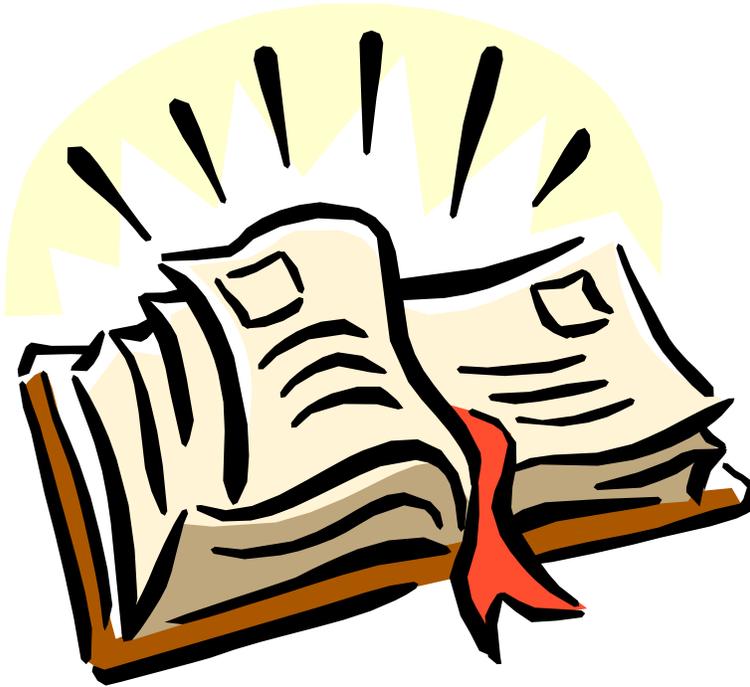


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

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**LESSON TITLE: The Churches of Macedonia
are Giving**

**THEME: God blesses those who give
according to and beyond their ability.**

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 8:1-7



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 Churches of Macedonia and their Giving. The theme was "God blesses those who give according to and beyond their ability." Some of the Christians in the early church had special needs. The Macedonian Christians were known as people who were willing to give of their resources in order to help those who were in need.

We can learn from the Bible story we studied along with many other verses in the Bible that God wants us to know so we can be encouraged to give to others. We should be quick to give when we see others in need. When we are giving we will always be pleasing the Lord. This week we will be looking at some examples of giving.

The section of scripture that we studied was **2 Corinthians 8:1-7**. 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

The Mountain Bike or Matthew?

(Part 1 of 2)

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:3 - "For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing."

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

Thomas had a dream of owning his very own mountain bike ever since he could remember. He did odd jobs for his family to earn extra money and even went around the neighborhood to mow lawns or pull weeds for a few extra dollars. It seemed like everyone on the whole block knew that Thomas was saving for a bike. Thomas placed pictures of his new bike all over his room. He had been saving for months and now, finally, he almost had enough money for the bike.

Thomas also had a good friend named Matthew who had been going through a very tough time since his father had become ill. Their family struggled to pay their bills and Matthew had begun a paper route with his brother so they could help buy groceries for their family. Early every morning Matthew and his brother would deliver the papers on their bicycles. One day Matthew came over and was very sad. His bicycle was broken and there was no money to fix it. If he didn't get it fixed they wouldn't be able to keep the paper route and then they would lose the extra money for their family. That was a big problem! Matthew was a Christian and was certain that God was in control of the situation. The two friends prayed together about the family's needs. After he prayed, Thomas felt the Lord speaking to his heart about the mountain bike. He went to his dad and explained what had happened to Matthew and what Thomas thought God wanted him to do. They prayed about it and asked God to show them what He wanted them to do.

Thomas had a decision to make about whether his desire for a mountain bike was stronger than his desire to help his friend. **Continued on Day Two...**

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation like Thomas?
- Would you be willing to give up something you wanted if another person needed it more?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Giving: To freely hand something to another person.

Day Two

The Mountain Bike or Matthew?

(Part 2 of 2)

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:13-14 - "For *I do not mean* that others should be eased and you burdened; but by an equality, *that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack*—that there may be equality."

Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-15

Continued from Day One... At first, Thomas was torn when it seemed like God wanted him to give his mountain bike money to Matthew. Thomas loved Matthew like a brother, but he had saved up for so long and was ready now to buy the mountain bike of his dreams. But something just didn't seem right. How could he get a brand new mountain bike and ride it around when his friend's bike was broken and he could not continue the paper route that helped their family buy food. As Thomas prayed and read his Bible he knew what the right thing was to do. Thomas gathered his money and gave it to Matthew.

Matthew was very surprised! He could not believe that his friend Thomas would want to give him his mountain bike money. He began to refuse the gift, but Thomas explained how he learned that this was a gift from the Lord to help Matthew and his family. The two friends looked in the paper for a bike that would work for Matthew's bike route. They read in the newspaper about a moving sale just up the street. They decided to go check it out. There were two bikes for sale, and they were both mountain bikes. It was the last day of the moving sale and the man who owned the bikes needed to get rid of everything. He offered both bikes at a two-for-one price. Matthew counted the money and it was just enough to buy both of the bikes and still have a few dollars left over. The bikes were in great shape and Thomas and Matthew both thanked the Lord together.

God desires to bless us. We need to give because we love them and want to do the right thing. Our desire and our focus should be on pleasing God. When an opportunity to give to someone in need comes our way and we have the ability to meet the need, we should pray and ask the Lord what He would have us do.

- If you were Thomas what would you have done?
- How was Thomas blessed by doing the right thing?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Blessing: Something wonderful that comes from the hand of God.

Day Three

Giving Time

(Part 1 of 2)

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:7 - "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:1-7

Regina and her sister, Sarah, are very close. Sarah is much older than Regina, but she spends most of her free time with her sister. Sarah is a kind and loving person and she always shares what Jesus is doing in her life with her little sister. Regina asked Jesus into her heart one day while praying with her sister. Regina always felt that it was a blessing to have such a great sister. She knows that Sarah could spend her time doing many other things, but she wants to give a gift of her time to her little sister. Her life is an example for her sister and others.

One day Sarah got a new babysitting job on weekdays after school. Sarah was a very popular babysitter for the people at their church. Regina knew this would mean that Sarah would not be able to spend as much time with her, but they could still get together in the evenings and on Saturdays. When Sarah would get home in the evenings Regina noticed that she was always full of happiness. She was not tired or grouchy. She would always talk about the children she babysat like they were members of the family. Regina knew Sarah felt it was important to work hard at her job, especially as a Christian. Regina also knew that there was something very special about this family that Sarah worked for. The mother was a single mom who worked very hard to support her children, but could not be there when they got home. Regina asked Sarah if she could go along one day, just to meet the children her sister always talked about. Sarah checked with the mom and got permission for Regina to come. Regina was very curious to meet these people who had made her sister so happy and cheerful.

Sarah's example has given her sister much to think about. She gives a valuable gift to her sister; the gift of her time. Sarah does not desire her own wants or needs first. She desires to spend her time wisely and to share Jesus with her little sister. It is an eternal gift when we share our time and share Jesus with someone else. How do we use our time? Are we giving our time to the Lord for Him to use? **Continued on Day Four...**

- How can you use your time for Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Cheerful: Full of joy. The Holy Spirit fills us with joy to give. We should give to others with a heart filled with joy and happiness.

Giving Time

(Part 2 of 2)

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:8 - "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-15

Continued from Day Three... Regina could not wait to meet these people who had touched Sarah's heart so much. But her sister made sure Regina brought her schoolwork with her. Before they got to the family's house, Sarah stopped at the store. She picked up some food and then went over to the woman's home. It was the tiniest trailer house that Regina had ever seen. Even though there were three children, the trailer was neat and tidy. The trailer was small, but the children were very happy as they got home from school. They were excited to see Regina, but they also seemed to know that it was time for homework. Everyone did their homework together. Sarah would help when someone got stuck on something. Then Regina watched her sister prepare dinner for the children and their mother. She asked if the woman paid Sarah back for the food when she paid for Sarah's time. Sarah smiled a sweet smile and laughed. She told her sister that she was very well paid for her time.

The children laughed and played games with Regina until their mom came home. Just before she came home, everyone pitched in to clean up the home. When the children's mom got home she excitedly scooped up her children into her arms and gave them all a big hug. She smiled and gave Sarah a hug and thanked her for everything. The mom gave Sarah an envelope and said, "Now this time I want you to keep this!" The envelope had money in it for Sarah's pay. But as usual, Sarah would take the envelope, smile and put it somewhere in the home so the mom would end up finding it. She did not want to take anything for what she was doing and she knew the mom could use the money more than she could. Regina learned on this day what a cheerful, loving giver that Sarah truly was.

God has a way of supplying the needs of all of His children. He places His people at the right place and right time to help others. Sometimes it means giving our time, talents or things in order to be greatly used by God. But we are the ones who are the most blessed when we cheerfully give to others.

- What did Sarah do that pleased the Lord?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Sufficiency: Ability to meet all needs.

Abundance: Plenty, more than enough.

Day Five

The Greatest Gift of All

Text: Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8-21

Think of the best gift that you could ever imagine in the whole wide world. Think really hard. It has to be the best thing you could think of. OK, are you ready? If you could receive the best gift in the world what would it be? Maybe you said a new bike or a new swimming pool in your backyard, or unlimited passes to an amusement park. Well the Bible tells us about a very special gift that any one of us can have and it's completely free. In fact, even if you wanted to buy this gift there would not be enough money to equal it's value. What do you suppose that gift is?

The Bible tells us that salvation is a free gift from God. God paid the price for the gift when He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and pay the price for us. We deserve to die for our sin (disobedience) and be separated from God forever. But God did not want to leave us in that condition. He wants us to be in His family forever. So Jesus came and died in our place so we do not have to. He now offers His free gift of salvation to anyone who wants to receive it.

Could you imagine being on an airplane that loses one of its' engines and begins falling from the sky. What if someone offered to give you a parachute? It was not going to cost you anything, all you had to do was take it. Salvation is like that. We are living in a world that is going to crash and burn one day, but God is offering us a free gift that will rescue us out of the big crash. We can receive Jesus just like that parachute and be saved. It is yours if you will only receive it. Have you received God's free gift of salvation?

- What is God's free gift to you?
- Why do we need to be saved?
- How do we receive God's free gift of eternal life?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week, if you haven't prayed to ask Jesus to come into your heart you can do that right now. If you have, pray that the Lord would show you ways that you can give to others. Ask Him to show you how He would want you to help others who are in need. Then go and give of your time, talent or treasure to others.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"You are rich in faith,
speaking, knowledge, and love
for us; be rich also in this
grace."

Third Grade and Above

"But as you abound in
everything - faith, in speech,
in knowledge, in all diligence;
and in your love for us - see
that you abound in this grace
also."

2 Corinthians 8:7