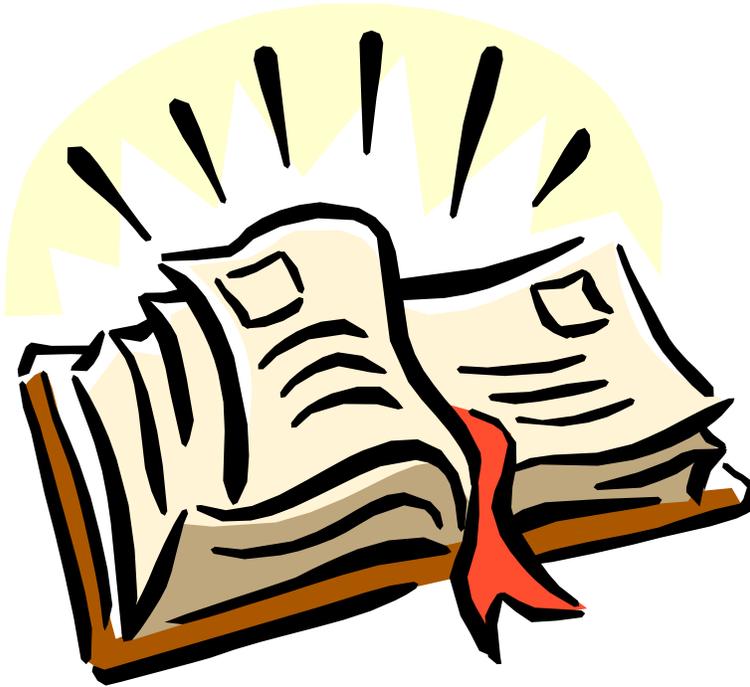


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Our Chief Cornerstone

THEME: Jesus is our cornerstone!

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 2:19-22



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 **Our Chief Cornerstone**. The theme was “**Jesus is our cornerstone.**” When people built buildings in Bible times they laid a foundation just like we do today. But their foundations were usually made from rocks or stones instead of cement, and the most important rock in the foundation was the one called the cornerstone.

The cornerstone would be set and all of the other rocks would be set next to it. Where it was placed was very important because it determined whether or not the building would be strong and built straight. Jesus is our cornerstone, which means that we need to be careful to build our lives on the strong foundation of Jesus and His word. This week we are going to look closer at our cornerstone - Jesus and how we can build our lives upon Him.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Ephesians 2:19-22**. 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

We are the Living Stones

Text: 1 Peter 2:5 - "you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Also read 1 Peter 2:1-10

When you hear the word "church" what do you think of? Do you think of the building that your family goes to each Sunday to worship God? God has provided a nice place for His people to come together each week to worship Him. But the building isn't really the church. Instead, the church is all of the people who come to the building to worship. In our Bible verse today we are called "living stones". Each one of us is a stone, alive in the Lord and all of us together make up a spiritual house dedicated to the worship of the Lord.

Thousands of years ago, in Old Testament times, God chose the Israelites to be the examples to the whole world of who He is. They also worshipped God in a building called a temple. Similar to a pastor today, the priests who served God in the temple were there to teach people how to live a life pleasing to God. The Bible says that now each person who believes in Jesus is a priest who offers up spiritual sacrifices. In other words, we don't need to go to a building or have anyone to sacrifice for us because Jesus has given us the greatest sacrifice by giving us His life. So now we can have our own relationship with God through Jesus. We do not have to go through anyone else. And God's house has now become all of His people who worship Him.

We are blessed to be the living stones of God's house. Each of us is a living stone because God lives inside our hearts. The foundation we need to build our lives on is Jesus. He is the only one that will last. We should not try to build our lives on our own ideas or what we think is right. We should build our lives on our cornerstone (the most important part of the foundation), Jesus. We are living stones built on the solid rock of Jesus.

- What do we have to lay aside to be part of the living house of God? (verse 1)
- Who are the people who stumble? (verses 7-8)
- If God chooses us, who will reject us? (verse 4)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Chosen: To be picked out for something.

Rejected: When someone or something is not picked or chosen.

Building Sandcastles

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:11 - "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Also read 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Tanisha loved to build sandcastles at the beach. She would spend hours building these wonderful castles with towers and walls. But later in the day, the tide would begin to come in and the ocean water would rise up to her sandcastle. It would not take long for the water to wash away the sand at the bottom of her beautiful castle. Eventually the entire castle would collapse.

Tanisha's dad watched what was happening and saw that she was sad to see her beautiful creation destroyed. He wanted to encourage her and try to teach her something about good foundations at the same time. He asked Tanisha if they could build a new castle together. She thought that would be a great idea. The first thing he told her to do was to search for some good rocks and a little bit of driftwood. He explained that they were going to make a strong foundation out of rock and that they would place the sand on top to make it last longer when the water came. It sounded like a good idea to Tanisha.

With dad's help it did not take long to get a strong foundation put together. Next, they put the sand on top of the foundation and made new towers and walls. This castle was even better than the first one. Later, the tides came close and went around the rocks, but the castle still stood. Tanisha's father explained to her that when Jesus is our foundation our lives will hold up and be strong just like the castle. It is important that we build our lives on the right foundation. How can we build our lives on the foundation of Jesus? By reading and learning His Word. The next day Tanisha's family went to the beach again. She was excited to see what had happened. She ran down to the place they were the day before and sure enough the castle was still standing. "Thanks dad for telling me about a foundation for my castle", Tanisha said. "Sure, Tanisha! I hope you will always remember how important a good foundation is for your life as well," replied dad.

- Have you ever made sandcastles?
- What did you learn about good foundations in our story today?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Foundation: The part of a building that holds it up. We build our homes on foundations so they stay standing. Likewise, need to build our solid foundation of Jesus and His Word

Day Three

Different, Yet the Same

Text: Ephesians 2:21-22 - "...in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit."

Also read Ephesians 2:11-22

Manuel met Peter at the skating rink one night. Both boys were Christians, but they did not go to the same church. They became friends right away and wanted to spend more time together. But since they did not go to the same church they decided that they would like to find out more about each other's church. What they found was that there were a lot of things different about their churches. But, there were also some very important things that were the same.

Peter went to a church that had communion every Sunday, while Manuel's church had communion once a month. Peter's minister wore a purple robe and most of the people dressed up in suits and ties. At Manuel's church, most of the people wore everyday clothes and some even wore jeans and t-shirts. At Peter's church there was a choir dressed in robes and they sang songs out of a hymnal. At Manuel's church they had a worship team and sang newer songs.

After trading Sundays several times, both boys talked about the differences in their churches. They noticed that there were a lot of things different and they each thought that the differences were pretty neat. But what really caught their attention was how much alike the churches were. Peter's minister and Manuel's pastor both taught from the Bible that Jesus came to die for the sins of the world. Both churches believed that the Bible is God's Word and that Jesus is the foundation for our lives. In fact, one Sunday at Peter's church the minister taught on Jesus being our foundation and the following Sunday at Manuel's church the pastor taught on the same thing. What the boys learned was that it did not matter how the people at the two churches dressed, or how the services were different. Peter and Manuel learned that the only thing that mattered was that Jesus was the foundation, the cornerstone of each church and that they taught the Word of God.

- Who is the cornerstone of the church?
- Can we go to different churches and still be followers of Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Cornerstone - The most important part of a foundation.

Two Foundations

Text: Matthew 7:24 - "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:"

Also read Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus told the story once about two different men who built their homes on two very different foundations. The first man built his house on a rock. When he was finished with building his home we are told that some great storms came. The rain and the wind blew and battered the house, but it remained standing because of the strong foundation. This man's house was very secure because he was wise to build his house on a rock.

The second man that we are told about was not as wise. He built his house on the sand. He may have built a very beautiful house but when the storms came that didn't matter at all. The rain and the wind came and battered the house built on the sand and this house was destroyed. Because it was built on sand, it could not stand up against the powerful storms.

Jesus told this story in the Bible to teach us a lesson. He tells us that if we will listen to his teaching and instruction for our lives and then do it, we will be like the man who built his house on the rock. No matter what happens in life; or what storms come our way, we will remain standing because Jesus is our foundation. But, if we refuse to listen to Jesus' teaching and do not do what He says, then we will be like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. When the storms of life come then we will be wiped out because we don't have any foundation. We have a choice of which foundation we will build our lives on. Will it be Jesus the rock or will it be our own wisdom? Will we only find that that wisdom is just sinking sand? Let's build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus!

- What foundation did the "wise man" build his house upon?
- What foundation did the "foolish man" build his house upon?
- What foundation do we need to build our lives upon?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Wisdom: God's teaching about how we can live a blessed life.

Foolishness: Refusing to listen to God's wisdom and do what He says.

Day Five

The Foundation of New Jerusalem

Text: Revelation 21:14 - "Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

Also read Revelation 21:9-27

We have been learning this week that Jesus is the chief cornerstone. We also learned that each one of us are smaller stones in the glorious building that He is making called the church. The Bible tells us that while Jesus is the cornerstone, he also chose the twelve apostles and they became part of the foundation. The church has been built on this very foundation over 2000 years. It is interesting to find in our reading today that the New Jerusalem that is promised for all of us to live in for eternity has the names of the apostles on the twelve foundations of the walls.

Why is this important? Well, in order to have a good foundation the builders would measure everything from the cornerstone. So, with Jesus as the cornerstone, and the apostles next to Him in the foundation we are then placed on the foundation. The foundation of the apostles is kind of like the Word of God since God used them to write the New Testament. It is important because there is no other foundation that we should build our lives on.

Some people might say we could build our lives on another foundation other than Jesus and God's Word. Some build their lives on a religious leader named Buddha. Others build their lives on a leader named Mohammed and a book called the Koran. There are many others who have said that people should follow them. The problem is that those other things are not the foundation that God laid. If we build our lives on anything other than what God has provided then our lives will be built on a weak foundation that will one day crumble. We need to be careful to build our lives on Jesus. He has a wonderful life and eternity planned for us. Let's build our lives on Him!

- Whose names will be on the foundations of the walls of New Jerusalem?
- Who is the cornerstone?
- Why is it important to build our lives on the foundation that God chose?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week, as you pray thank the Lord for the foundation that He has provided for you in Jesus Christ. Pray for those you know who are building their lives on the sinking sand of this world or anything other than Jesus and the Bible.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing: it is marvelous in our eyes."

Third Grade and Above

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing: it is marvelous in our eyes."

Psalm 118:22-23