

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Old Man & the New Man

THEME: God wants us to put on the "new man."

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:17-32



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 Old Man and New Man**. The theme was "**God wants us to put on the 'new man.'**" When we come to Jesus we are told that we become a brand new creation. But how do we live out this new life every day?

Ephesians 4 tells us that we need to put off the old man and put on the new man. This section of scripture is very practical. We can sit down with our children and talk about some very important themes like lying, stealing, anger and what we say. Jesus is very concerned about all of these things and shares with us how we can live for Him in this wicked world. This week we will look closer at putting off the old and putting on the new.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Ephesians 4:17-32**. 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!

Put Off and Put On

Text: Ephesians 4:24 - "...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness."

Also read Ephesians 4:20-24

Every morning we have a choice to make. After we get up, we might go and have breakfast and then brush our teeth. Then the big decision of the day comes. What are we going to wear today? For some of us it is a bigger decision than for others. Some of us might look in our closet and agonize over all the choices we have for clothes to put on. Others of us maybe only have one or two pairs of pants and few shirts and really do not give it a lot of thought.

Imagine though taking out two outfits from your closet and laying them on your bed. Let's say one of those outfits is old, dirty, smelly and has all kinds of holes. Let's say that you set right next to it a brand new outfit. It is really nice, is perfectly clean and does not have any holes in it at all. Which set of clothes would you rather wear? Now except for a few boys under age 10 who would probably go for the dirty and holey clothes, most of you probably would choose the new, clean set of clothes. We like to have on things that are clean and that we look nice in.

This is a good example of what the Bible is talking about when it tells us to put off the old man and put on the new man. Think of it like an outfit of clothes. Our old man, who we used to be before we came to Jesus is dirty, smelly and has all kinds of holes. We do not want to be like the old sinful person we used to be before Jesus. But our new man, the person that Jesus has made us to be when we asked Him to come into our lives, is clean and neat. Everyday we have the choice as to what clothes we are going wear. We also have the choice as to whether or not we will put on our "old man" or our "new man". The Bible tells us that we should put on our "new man" so we can be like Jesus. We will look different, talk different and act different from people who do not walk with Jesus. And because we are like Jesus others will want to know more about Jesus because of our lives. So next time you wake up remember to not just put on some nice clothes for the day, but to also put on the new man!

- Do you think a lot about what you are going to wear every day?
- Why is it important to think about putting on our "new man" every day?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Old Man: The old, sinful person we were before coming to Jesus.

New Man: The new, forgiven person we are after coming to Jesus.

Day Two

Put Off Lying

Text: Proverbs 12:22 - "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight."

Also read Proverbs 12:17-22

Have you ever heard of the story about the boy who cried, "Wolf!"? It is a really good story to remind us about the importance of telling the truth. The Bible tells us in many places that we should only speak what is true and never lie. It is important because if we are to put on our "new man" in Jesus then we are going to look like Jesus. Jesus never lied. Let's look at the story of the boy who cried "Wolf!" and find out what happens to a young man who has a problem telling the truth.

There once was a boy who took care of some sheep outside of his little town. He was bored one day and thought that he would have some fun. So he decided to run into town and cry out, "Wolf! Wolf!" just to see what everyone would do. So he went to town and began to run through the streets crying, "Wolf! Wolf! Wolf!" Many of the townspeople dropped what they were doing and ran to aid of the sheep. They were concerned that the boy's sheep would be harmed. They ran just over the hill to the pasture where the little boy kept his sheep. There they found the sheep safe, sound and restful. There was no wolf and no danger. Then came the little boy, just laughing and laughing. He thought it was very funny that all the people came running when everything was really OK.

The next day, the boy thought he would have some more fun so he ran into town and cried out again, "Wolf! Wolf! Wolf!" Many of the townspeople dropped what they were doing and ran just over the hill to the pasture where the little boy kept his sheep. There were the sheep safe, sound and restful. No wolf and no danger. Then the boy came once again laughing and saying, "Ha Ha, I got you guys again!" The people did not find it very funny and were quite upset as they returned home.

The next day the boy was taking care of his sheep and from the corner of his eye he saw something move. It was large and gray and slipped behind a rock. All of a sudden it jumped over the rock and towards his sheep. The little boy ran over the hill crying, "Wolf! Wolf! Wolf!" But no one would listen. "Oh, that's the boy who cries wolf, pay no attention to him," said one of the townspeople. So no one came to his aide. The wolf killed some of his sheep that day and almost killed him. But why would not anyone come to help? Because no one could trust what he said any more. Trust is broken very easy, a simple lie will do it, but regaining the trust of people is very hard. Let's be careful to always tell the truth.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Lying: Telling something that is false.

Day Three

Put Off Anger

Text: Proverbs 15:1 - "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Also read Ephesians 4:26-27

Janie was really mad this time! Jimmy finally crossed the line and was he ever going to pay for it. Janie had spent years collecting her special dolls, with all of the clothes and special accessories. And then in only a few short minutes her brother Jimmy ruined them all. Janie couldn't believe her eyes when she got home from school. She simply walked out into the backyard to see what Jimmy was up to and there he was, having a mud fight with her doll collection. He was just laughing and having a great time as he played with his sister's dolls. Mud was everywhere, all over her dolls and all over their clothes.

Well this was too much for Janie to handle. She ran over to her little brother and started to yell at him. She was so mad that her face was turning red. Mom heard the commotion and ran to the backyard. She realized immediately what had happened, and just in time, because Janie was getting Jimmy in a head lock and might have rubbed his face in the mud if mom hadn't shown up. Mom told them both to settle down and get cleaned up. She told them both to meet her in their rooms so she could get to the bottom of what was going on.

This is an interesting situation. What do you think is the right thing? Was it Ok what Jimmy did with Janie's dolls? Was it OK for Janie to get as angry as she did? These are all interesting questions and will help us to learn about anger and how we can put off anger. Sometimes we get angry for different reasons. In the Bible we read about a time when Jesus got angry. One day he came across some moneychangers in the temple who were being mean and taking advantage of God's people. This made Jesus very angry. But he was angry because other people were being wronged. This is a good example for us because so often we get angry when we feel like we are being wronged. The Bible says that we may get angry, but we should never sin against someone else. Righteous anger is when we might get angry because someone else is being wronged. Selfish anger is when we are just mad because we have been wronged. We need to be careful of that kind of anger. We need to talk to people who have wronged us, but be careful about becoming angry. The Bible says that God will take care of judging people for doing wrong things. But we need to love others and take care of problems the right way. Janie should have taken care of this problem the right way. She could have talked to Jimmy or to her mother. She did not need to get angry and put him in a head lock. Part of "putting on" our new nature is "putting off" anger. Let's be like Jesus and remember to always answer softly to turn away anger.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Anger - Getting mad because some had done something against us.

Put Off Stealing

Text: Ephesians 4:28 - "Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."

Also read Joshua 7:1-26

In our story today we read about a man by the name of Achan. The Israelites were entering the new land of Israel. God was helping them with their enemies. They had a great victory at Jericho. One of the instructions that God gave them was to not take anything from Jericho for themselves. Anything valuable was to be dedicated to the Lord and the rest of the things were to be destroyed. Achan may have thought that no one was watching, but God knew all along what he had done.

When Achan was in Jericho he saw some beautiful clothes, some silver and some gold. He decided to go ahead and take these items for himself. Maybe he thought no one would notice or miss these things. Maybe he thought it would not be a big deal if he went ahead and stole these things. So he picked up the items and hid them. Later he took them to his tent and began to bury them, thinking that no one would find out if he just took a few things.

Later, the Israelites were going to attack another town called Ai. A group of Israelites went to fight against this new town. But the Israelites were badly defeated that day. When Joshua asked the Lord what had happened he said because someone had disobeyed God's command and stole some of the things from Jericho. Later Joshua found out that it was Achan who had done this terrible thing.

We learn a lot from this story. We learn that even though we may think no one is watching, God is always watching. He knows what is in our hearts. We might think that we can take something that does not belong to us and no one will get hurt, but our sin does affect others. Achan's sin affected his family and the entire nation of Israel. When we become a new creation in Jesus we should no longer take things that are not ours. If we stole things before we should not do that any longer. Rather we should work hard with our hands. Jesus wants us to work hard so we can be able to give to others. God wants to use us to be a blessing to others. Let's remember that we can never get away with stealing. Rather, as a new person in Jesus let's put off stealing and put on hard work and giving.

- Why is it important to put off stealing in our lives?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Stealing - Taking something that isn't yours.

Day Five

Put Off Bad Talking

Text: Ephesians 4:29 - "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

Also read James 3:1-12

Have you ever been on a large ship? Think about a huge aircraft carrier. What an incredible ship. But as big as the aircraft carrier is, did you know that it is just a small thing called a rudder that steers it when it is out to sea. It is very small by comparison. When the captain wants to turn left or right he moves the rudder and the large ship will move towards the left or right. So really it is something very small that moves something very big.

In a similar way you may have heard about forest fires. Many forest fires start from just a little spark or a match. It doesn't take much. Again something very small can begin something very big.

In the Bible our tongues are compared to a rudder on a ship and a little spark that sets a forest on fire. What that tells us is that our tongues can be very powerful. Really what is powerful is what we say, or don't say. Our tongues can hurt people in a very bad way, or our tongues can build people up and encourage them.

Putting off our old man and putting on our new man has a lot to do with what we say. We should no longer talk about inappropriate things. We shouldn't joke like the world jokes. We should put other people down because they are different from us. We shouldn't be mean to other people. Rather our mouths should be used to help and to encourage people. In fact, have you ever heard the saying, "If you can't say anything nice, you shouldn't say anything at all?" That is a very true statement. Whenever we say something it should be for the purpose of helping others or praising the Lord. If we are going to tear someone down then we need to stop and pray and ask the Lord to help us not to do that.

- How does a rudder and a match compare with our tongues?
- Why are the things that come out of our mouths so important to the Lord?

Kid's Prayer Time



Today when you pray, ask the Lord to help you to put off the old man and put on the new man. Ask the Lord to help you to grow in Him and that He would help you to become more and more like Jesus every day.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

"...put on the new man
which was created
according to God,"

Third Grade and Above

"...and that you put on the
new man which was
created according to
God, in righteousness
and true holiness."

Ephesians 4:24