

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

**LESSON TITLE: The Excellence of the
Knowledge of Christ**

**THEME: Knowing Jesus is the greatest
thing in life.**

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:3-11



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 Excellence of the Knowledge of Christ**. The theme was "**Knowing Jesus is the greatest thing in life.**" Stop and think for a moment about your relationship with Jesus. Isn't that the most important thing in your life? As a Christian it should be. It certainly was in Paul's life. As we study his life we see that Jesus was at the center of everything that he did. And what a great life he lived.

It is important for us to learn about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus. We can first ask Him to come inside of our hearts and then we can pray to Him everyday and read the Bible to get to know Him better and better. Then we will find that growing in Jesus and getting to know Him more and more each day is the best thing that can happen in our lives.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Philippians 3:3-11**. 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 Littlest Pharisee

Text: Matthew 5:20 – “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Also read Matthew 5:17-20

Molly walked into the school cafeteria with a big Bible in her hand and plopped it right on the table in front of 3 other startled children. They let out a quiet giggle and just continued to eat their lunch. Molly went to get her lunch and sat back down by the same kids. She sat her tray down, looked around, cleared her throat quite loudly, folded her hands together and proceeded to pray.

“Oh Lord, thank you that I am not like all of these other children; that I am holy and good. Help them to realize how good I am and that I always do good things and that you love me because of all of the good things I do. Forgive them for they have not seen how to live the right way like me. Oh and thank you for the food, Amen.” Molly opened her eyes and the 3 children who were sitting next to her were gone.

Bobby saw what had happened. He had just picked up his lunch and decided to sit across from Molly. “Hello,” Bobby said nicely. “Oh, hello,” Molly replied. “Are you a Christian? You know I try not to sit by people who aren’t Christians.” Bobby answered back, “Well, actually I am a Christian. Why do you think those other 3 kids didn’t want to sit by you?” “Oh them,” Molly replied. “They are probably not Christians and don’t want to hang around with someone as holy as me.”

“What makes you so good?” Bobby asked. “Well, all of the good things I do... I go to church, I read my Bible and do good things...” Molly replied. “What about Jesus?” said Bobby. “What about Him?” Molly asked. “Well the most important thing is not what we do, but Who we know. I am a Christian because I have a relationship with Jesus, not because I do good things to make Him like me. Knowing Jesus is the most important thing in life. The Bible says that none of us are good, so we need Jesus,” Bobby explained. “So I don’t have to do all of these things to be a Christian?” Molly asked. “No, just ask Jesus to come into your heart and then you will start a wonderful relationship with Him,” Bobby replied. Molly sat quietly and thought about it and finally said, “What a relief!” Bobby just smiled.

- What did Molly have a problem understanding about being a Christian?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Pharisees: A religious group among the Jews, that prided themselves
f.or their self-righteousness

Day Two

What's the Most Important Thing?

Text: Mark 10:21 – “Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

Also read Mark 10:17-22

Today we read a story about the rich young ruler who had it made in life. But one day he met Jesus and had to make a decision about what would be the most important thing in his life. What is the most important thing in your life? We have to be careful because if the most important thing in our life is anything other than Jesus then that thing may actually be keeping us away from Him, like it was for the young man in our story.

The rich young ruler had it all. He had all the money he could want, he was powerful and he was still very young. He had his whole life ahead of him. But he knew that he was missing something inside of his heart and Jesus had the answer. He didn't have eternal life and Jesus was the one who had eternal life and could give it to him. So he decided to go to Jesus to find out how he could get eternal life.

I wonder if maybe he thought he would be able to buy eternal life from Jesus. By the way he talked to Jesus it sounds like he thought he deserved eternal life because he was a good man. Maybe he was a good man, but he was still missing something. The one thing that stood between this young man and eternal life was his riches. Jesus told him to sell everything he had and give the money to the poor. He became very sad when Jesus said this and he went away grieved because he had a lot of stuff. His stuff was more important in his heart than a relationship with Jesus.

The most important thing in our lives should be our relationship with Jesus. We need to be willing to give up everything for that. Let's be careful not to allow anything to become more important to us. Jesus wants us to have eternal life, but He will not take second place to anything else in our hearts. He wants to have first place. Have you given Him first place in your heart?

- Why did the rich young ruler go away sad after talking to Jesus?
- What place does Jesus want to have in your heart?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



The most important thing in life: A relationship with Jesus!

Examining Ourselves

Text: 2 Corinthians 13:5a- "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?"
Also read Proverbs 21:1-3

Can you remember your last math test? Why did your teacher give you that test? No, not because they are mean! Teachers give tests to their students to see if they know the things that they have studied, like math. The Bible tells us that it is important to examine our own lives. It is kind of like giving ourselves a test. The question we need to ask in our own heart is, "Do I know Jesus?" There isn't anyone else in the whole world that can answer that question for us. Only we can know how it is between God and us. Since Jesus teaches us that knowing Him is the most important thing in life then we know it is something very important for us to understand.

How can we examine our lives? We can first ask ourselves if there is a time we know of in our lives when we asked Jesus to come into our hearts. Then we can look to see how Jesus has made us different people. When we ask Jesus into our hearts He will come in and begin to change us. He will work to make us more like Him. So, if we see that happening in our lives then we know that we have a relationship with Jesus.

Paul said that knowing Jesus was the most important thing in His life. It should also be the most important thing in our lives. Have you ever thought that sometimes you didn't need Jesus to help you through a problem, situation, or question? That you could rely on yourself to make a right decision on your own? It is important that as we walk with the Lord each day, that we continually ask ourselves, "What Would Jesus Do?" We must examine our lives to see if we are first of all following Him and then are growing in Him each day. Take a few moments today and ask yourself, "Do I truly believe in Jesus and am I learning what I need to know from Him?" The Lord knows our hearts and what is really inside so we should never try to hide from Him. If you haven't given your life to Jesus, you can today.

- Why do teachers give tests?
- How can we examine our hearts?
- Why is it so important to examine our hearts?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Examine: to question, to look at closely, to study.

Discipleship for Jesus

Text: 1 Corinthians 7:17- "But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk."

Also read Mark 10:28-31

One day, there was a man who decided that he was going to go with his church on a mission trip to Africa. He had never been to Africa before or even had a real interest in mission work, but he wanted to share the gospel and so he went there for ten days. When he returned home, the Lord began to work in his heart. The Lord put it on his heart to take his family and move to Africa to spread the Word of God. To begin a church so people could learn about the Lord, and come to accept Jesus into their hearts. Immediately, he and his family gave away or sold almost all they had, and gave the Lord their lives to do what He wanted with them.

This is an example of being a disciple. The Lord put something on this missionary's heart and he answered the call to do it. To be a true disciple of Jesus, we must be willing to lay down not only our stuff, but our lives too. To know and follow Jesus means that nothing we have compares to Him and that if He asks us to sell, or give something we have to Him, we must do it.

If Jesus asked you right now to lay down your life for Him, would you? Could you sell your house, car, bike, shirt or favorite toy? Is Jesus worth it? Yes! We must always remember that Jesus died for us so that we might have everlasting life and forgiveness through Him. He suffered on the cross and shed His blood for you and me so that all our sins could be forgiven. Nothing we could give is even comparable to what Jesus did, so if the Lord does ask us to give up something, then we should willingly give it to Him.

- If you had to give up your favorite thing for the Lord, what would it be?
- What is the greatest thing Jesus gave up for us?
- What other Bible stories have you learned where people either gave their life or something else for the Lord?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



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| Missionary: | someone who shares Jesus with others. |
| Possessions: | things that we own or have. |
| Disciple: | a follower and learner of the Lord Jesus. |

Our Big Mission

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24 - "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives a prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it."

Also read Philipians 3:12-14

It is the championship track meet and all the finest runners are preparing for the big race as they line up at the starting line. As you study the runners, you take note of a young runner named Joey at the farthest end of the starting line. The athletes get ready, get set, and when they hear "Go!" they take off running. The crowd stands on edge; the runners run as fast as they can. After a while the three top place champions are past the finish line. As the crowd cheers and the winners receive their glory, you take notice of Joey who is still running. The race is over but he is still running towards the finish line. After the crowd began leaving the stadium someone ran up to Joey and asked him, "Why do you keep running when you know you've already lost?" He said, "Because it isn't the idea of winning, but giving it my all to try to win the prize."

Each day there is a race that we as believers in Jesus need to run. It is the race of knowing and following the example Jesus has set for us. In the Bible, Paul is a wonderful example of running in a big mission for the Lord. His service to the Lord began with giving his life to Christ, then continued on by spreading the gospel, writing letters to different churches that needed understanding of God's Word and the standard the Lord expected from them.

How do you run your race? The right race to run in is the one that allows you to know, believe, and have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Always remember that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Without Him, there is no hope. Find Him and expect the ultimate prize, spending the rest of eternity in heaven. Remember to pray for all come to know Jesus, and make sure to share Jesus with everyone you know, so that everyone can run for the trophy we love and hold dear; our Lord and Savior Jesus.

- Who do we run our race for and why?

Kid's Prayer Time



Knowing Jesus is the greatest gift a person can forever receive. Pray that the strength is given to you to be able to lay down all for the Lord and that He will be the ultimate prize you seek when you run the race.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Third Grade and Above

“But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Philippians 3:8a