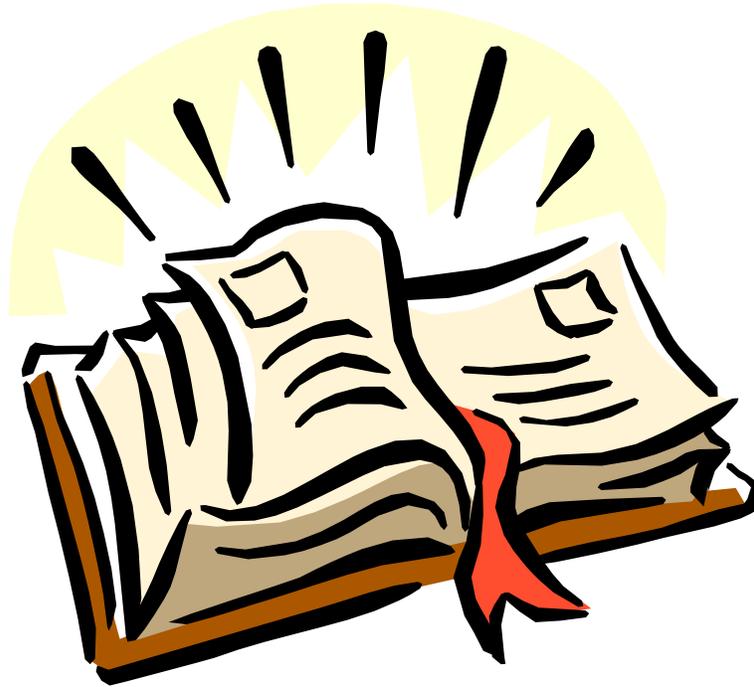


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Faith Without Works

THEME: God wants us to live out our faith.

SCRIPTURE: James 2:14-26

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 **Faith Without Works**. The theme was "**Living out our faith.**" The Bible tells us that faith without works (or living for Jesus) cannot be called faith. Faith without works is dead, and a dead faith is worse than no faith at all.

God tells us that our faith must produce; it must be visible. Verbal faith is not enough. Faith must inspire action. As God's children we can show the world our faith in God by our actions. Are our children and living a life of faith? As you read the section of scripture and study the devotions, talk to your children about ways that they can live out their faith.

The section of scripture that we studied was **James 2:14-26**. 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

Do You Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk?

Text: James 2:14 - "What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?"

Also read: Matthew 7:21-23

Have you ever met someone who tells you all about what they can do but they never seem to do it? They like to talk and talk but they never do anything they say they will. Sometimes people who claim to be Christians do the same thing. They say they are a believer in Jesus, but nothing in their lives shows that they are. They talk a lot, but don't walk it out. These people are pretending to be something they are not.

There was once a golfer who liked to brag about how good he was. He learned every aspect of the game. He knew what to say, and could tell you all about famous golf players and the names of every famous golf course. He "looked" like a golfer by how he dressed and what he said. But could he really play the game?

One day he was in a big golf tournament. He tried to get out of it at the last minute, but his friends who had been hearing him brag for a long time wouldn't let him. He was paired up to play with someone who hadn't been playing for a long time. The new golfer was a little nervous because he didn't look like a golfer or know as much as his partner seemed to. But, to everyone's surprise, after they finished the 18th hole it was the inexperienced golfer that had won the game! The first golfer may have looked like or sounded like a golfer, but that didn't make him a golfer.

As you read Matthew 7:21-23 we learn that not everyone who talks about being a Christian is really a Christian. Jesus is more concerned about our *walk* with Him than our *talk* about Him. He wants us to do what is *right*, not just say the words (James 1:22-25). We see many people who talk the "Christian" talk but their walk doesn't show it. The Bible says that our "outside" will change when our "inside" has changed. We should talk about living for Christ, but make sure that we actually do the things Jesus wants us to do.

- Do people know that you believe in Jesus by what you say or what you do, or both?
- Ask the Lord to reveal to you those areas where your walk can be strengthened.
- Why is it important to live out what we say?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faith: Trusting in God.

Works: An act or deed. Something we do.

Prayer and Faith

Text: Daniel 6:10 - "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."

Also read: Daniel 6:1-28

As we live out our faith in Jesus we will continue to grow closer to Him. What is one of the best ways that we can grow? We can grow through prayer. **Prayer** is how we communicate with God. The Lord tells us to be patient and to come to Him in prayer about everything (Philippians 4:6-7).

In our Bible reading today, we learn that Daniel prayed continually and was faithful in his relationship with God (Daniel 6:10b). We can also see the example that Jesus showed us when He prayed. Jesus was very close to His Father when He prayed. As followers of Jesus we should want to learn how to have the same close relationship with God that Jesus and Daniel did. When we have times that our faith is being tested or we are being treated unfairly because we believe in Jesus, we need to know that God is bigger than our problems. We can be like Daniel and refuse to look at circumstances and instead come to God for guidance and strength (Dan. 6:10, 11). When the lions are about to attack, trust in the Lord and He will help you.

Living out a life of faith can be difficult at times. We can come across a lot of things that get in the way of our walk and these things can interrupt our relationship with the Lord. We must be able to approach God's throne in prayer with confidence (Hebrews 4:16) and according to His will He hears us (1 John 5:14-15). Let us continue to **abide** in Christ's teachings and not wander from Him. Let's continue to grow in our relationship with the Lord through prayer.

- According to the Bible, when is a good time to pray? (see 1 Thess. 5:17)
- How do you seek help when you are faced with a difficulty in your life?
- Pray regularly, no matter what, because prayer is your lifeline to God.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Prayer: Talking with God not just to Him. It is time spent in His presence.
Abide: Remaining in one place and not changing.

What Is Your Motive?

Text: Matthew 6:1 - "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven".

Also read Matthew 6:1-4

When we talk about living out our faith it is important to do good things for the right reasons. Our heart should be right before the Lord. We should never expect anything in return. Can you remember a time when you did something for someone out of kindness and love from your heart? Did you expect some kind of reward or favor in return?

There is a true story about a Christian man who was traveling home to meet his wife for dinner. On his way home he noticed a limousine on the side of the freeway. The limousine driver was changing a flat tire. The man decided to pull over and help the man changing the tire. After helping, the darkened window of the limousine rolled down. Behind the window was a very rich and famous man. He thanked the man and asked what he could do for him. The humble man said, "just send my wife some flowers". A week later the man and his wife received a beautiful arrangement of flowers with a card that read: "I have paid off your mortgage (the loan with the bank), thanks again for your kind heart". What a blessing!

The man who pulled off of the road to help did so out of kindness and love from his heart. He didn't do it to make himself look good but to bring glory to God. God looks into our hearts and knows why we do good things. When we do things out of love God knows that and will bless us. The most important thing is what is in our heart. Jesus says we should check out our motives in three areas: giving (Matthew 6:4), prayer (Matthew 6:6), and fasting (Matthew 6:18). We need to remember that the Bible tells us to do our good deeds quietly, not telling everyone about all of the good things we do. And we should do them in secret without any thought of reward.

- With your next good deed, ask yourself, "Would I still do this if no one would ever know I did it?"
- Pray and ask the Lord to show you what nice thing He would like you to do for someone else.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Reward: Something given or offered in return for a service.

Day Four

Having Faith to Obey

Text: Romans 10:17 - "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Also read: Genesis 22:1-14

Imagine that God has given you something you have always wanted, something you have prayed for many times. Finally, after many years of waiting you finally receive it. You are incredibly excited about it. You spend hours each week with this special gift from God. Then one night, while lying in bed, God speaks to you and tells you to give back this gift that you love dearly. How would you feel about that? Would you have the faith to be obedient?

Abraham knew what that felt like. As you read Genesis 22:1-14, look at how much faith Abraham had in his relationship with God. Abraham loved God and knew he could trust Him in this difficult situation. Abraham had wanted a son for many years. God had even promised him that He would give him a son. But weeks, months, and years passed by and no son. But finally, God kept His promise and gave Abraham a son. Then one day God asked Abraham to give that son back. Abraham was faithful and obedient and did not question God's commands. As God's children we face various tests of our faith. God uses these tests to strengthen our faith (James 1:2-4) and to help us understand more about Him so we can help others when they go through tough times (2 Corinthians 1:3,4). Also, you will notice that God took care of Abraham in this situation just like He will always take care of us.

God wants us to have faith to obey Him even when it's hard. Maybe you are going through some hard times now and you don't understand why. Remember, God is in control and He has a special plan He is working out in your life. Hard times cause us to put more faith in God. Living by faith means that we truly believe what God has said and obey Him no matter what is going on in our life. God will provide strength, courage and all that we need in order to go through it and come out looking more like Jesus.

- Did you know that your actions show how much you really trust Him? (James 2:17)
- How would you feel if you had to give something up that you loved?
- What are some ways you can express your faith in God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Obedience: The willingness to obey; doing what you are asked to do

Childlike Faith

Text: Mark 10:15 - "I tell you the truth, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Also read: Mark 10:13-16

"There is no need to worry, Mommy. God's word says He will keep us safe," Ashley said confidently. Ashley's Mommy didn't know what to say. She and her husband didn't think much about God, and they had never taken their children to church. But, ever since Ashley had been going to Kids Bible Club she seemed to be talking more about God and trusting in Him. Ashley's father recently lost his job and Ashley's mother was a homemaker. Times were difficult in the Adams home because they didn't have very much money. "Mommy", Ashley called out, "I know God will take care of our needs. He promises us that in the Bible." As Ashley ran out to play, Mrs. Adams wondered, "what if there really is a God we can trust? Life would be so different..."

Like Ashley, our faith (belief in Jesus) can be an example to someone who doesn't believe in Jesus. Children often have the desire and the ability to trust God wholeheartedly. They have the faith and humility to believe what God says. That's what Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:1-4.

Jesus said that people should believe in him with a childlike faith. That just means that we believe and trust what He says is true. We should not have to know and understand all the mysteries of this world; but we should know that God loves us and provides forgiveness for our sins (John 3:16). Let us come to know God as a child would with a simple and trusting heart.

- What does Jesus mean when He said to become like a child?
- Do you trust God with all your heart?
- How can you help others trust in God?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is a lot that we can be thankful for. This week when you pray you can thank the Lord for the changes He is making in your life. Ask the Lord to point others to His glory through your faith and good works.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**“For as the body without
the spirit is dead, so
faith without works is
dead also.”**

Third Grade and Above

**“For as the body without
the spirit is dead, so
faith without works is
dead also.”**

James 2:26