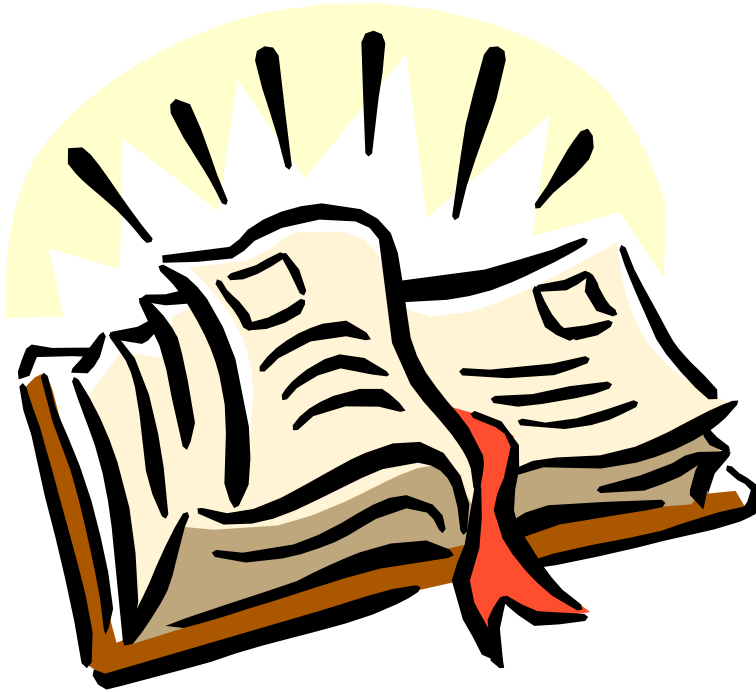


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Be Holy

**THEME: Jesus wants us to grow in Him
and be holy.**

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:13-2:12

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 **Being Holy**. The theme was "**Jesus wants us to grow in Him and be holy.**" Holiness means to be separate from this world. When we are saved Jesus just doesn't leave us how He found us. He makes us into a brand new creation and then helps us to grow in Him. Part of that growth is to become holy.

This world is filled with sin and wants to drag us down with it. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus, our perfect example. As we learned in our lesson that we should be holy just as our God is holy. We are going to look closer at the subject of holiness this week in our devotions. Remember that God has a plan for our lives and wants us to be different from the rest of the world.

The section of scripture that we studied was **1 Peter 1:13-2:12**. 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

God is Holy

Text: 1 Samuel 2:2 - "No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God."

Also read: 1 Samuel 2:1-11

"Is it green?" Stacey asked. "Yes", replied Nathan. Stacey continued, "Is it ugly or pretty?" "Well that depends, some people might think it is ugly," said Nathan. Stacey began to think some more. She only had one more question to go. Stacey and Nathan loved to play the game "20 Questions". They would take turns thinking of something to stump the other person. Stacey had already asked 19 questions and had determined that it was an animal, could be found at a zoo, was only about a foot or two long, could walk and climb and liked to eat bugs. Now she only had one more question. "Does it live in an aquarium?" Stacey asked. "Yes" replied Nathan. "It's an Iguana!" shouted Stacey. "You're right!" Nathan shared and then congratulated Stacey on a great game.

Maybe you have played "20 Questions" before. The fun part is thinking up questions to help you find out what it is that the other person is thinking about. We can find out a lot about something by describing it. If I describe to you what an Iguana looks like you'll be able to have a better picture in your mind of what it looks like. It isn't very much different when we learn about spiritual things. For us to understand more about God the Bible describes Him to us. There is a big word called, "attributes". This word really means "a description." So when we talk about learning about the "attributes of God" then we are talking about those things that describe God so we can understand better who He is. He wants us to know Him and learn about what He is like.

This week we are studying just one of the many attributes of God - His Holiness. The Bible tells us that God is Holy. That means that He is perfect in every way. There is no sin or imperfection in any way. God is so perfect and Holy that it is hard for us to even imagine it. But He is without blemish, perfect; full of glory and completely absent of sin. In our sinful condition we are the complete opposite; imperfect and unholy. Because of this we can't have a relationship with Him. We will share more about how we can have a relationship with Him later this week. But God definitely wants us to know this about Himself. He is holy and perfect. Isn't it great to know that we can serve a God who is holy! Who would want to worship a God that sins and is not perfect? Our God is completely holy, perfect and sinless in every way. Praise Him for His holiness.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Holiness: Perfect purity in thought, word, and action.

Day Two

Be Like ME!

Text: Leviticus 19:2 - "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'"

Also read: Leviticus 19:1-18

Have you ever tried to do something impossible before? I knew of a young boy one time who figured he could fly. Why not? He would look at birds and they just stretched out their wings and took off. It couldn't be that hard he thought to himself. So one day he climbed up on the top bunk on his bunk bed in his room and decided to jump off. Well, it didn't take long for reality to hit him, along with the carpet on the floor. Thankfully he wasn't hurt at all, but he learned a valuable lesson. He was not able to fly. He would have to find another way to fly...like perhaps in an airplane.

Yesterday we learned about one of the ways that the Bible describes God. We learned that He is holy, or perfect. In the Old Testament God said something very interesting to His people. He told them to be holy, just like He is holy. He also gave them commandments to live their lives by. When we first hear that God wants us to be holy or perfect just like Him we might think, "OK, I can do that, let me just roll up my sleeves and give it a try." But not too long after we find that we fail. We can't be holy like God is holy because we are sinners.

God told His people to be holy and gave them all of these commandments (or rules) so that they would realize that they can't in their own power or strength ever be holy like God is holy (see Galatians 3:24). People all through the ages may try to be perfect like God, but soon find out that they can't do it. There has to be another way. God wouldn't tell us to do something and not provide a way for us to do it. He has provided a way through Jesus who did live a holy and perfect life. We are going to look more at how this works tomorrow!

Continued on Day Three...

- Tell about a time when you tried to do something impossible, but wasn't able to.
- What was the purpose of the commandments (law) that God gave to His people?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



The Law: A list of commandments given by God to His people to show them how to live holy lives.

Day Three

How to Be Holy

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him".

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Continued from Day Two... I am over 6 feet tall, which means that I can reach a lot of things that are up high. Sometimes my children want to reach something that is on a high shelf, but find they can't because they are too short. They try to stand on their tip toes and stretch with all their might but they just can't reach what they are after. But when I notice their struggle sometimes I will come in and stand behind them. Then I'll pick them up and lift them up to the top shelf and let them get what they are looking for. Then they will say, "thank you" and head out of the room.

In a way this gives us a picture of the answer to the question, "How can I be holy?" In our devotions this week we have learned that God is holy and perfect. Then we learned that He tells us to also be holy, but we can't because we are sinners and do wrong things. In many ways every person on this planet is like the child who is trying to reach to that top shelf, but no matter how much effort they just can't. We also can try to reach for God and try to make ourselves holy, but in our own strength we can never do it because we will fail. No one can be perfect all of the time and in every way, except for God.

So how can we become holy? God knew that we were not able to be holy like Him. So He provided a way for us to be made holy. God set aside the glory of heaven and became a man. He took on human flesh (see John 1:1-14). Jesus was born into this world and He is all God and all man. So He, and only He, could live the perfect, holy life that none of us could live. Then He died on the cross and "became sin" for us. So in His perfect holiness, he took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. When we believe in Jesus our sins are completely removed, we become a brand new creation. We then can live a life of holiness through the power that Jesus gives us. We can still make mistakes, but God sees us as holy because of what Jesus has done for us. Just like I help my children reach up to the top shelf, Jesus provides a way for us to reach God. We can never do it on our own, but only through God's son, Jesus (see John 14:6).

- How does God make us holy?
- Have you believed in Jesus and asked Him to come into your life and make you holy?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Righteousness: Living and doing the "right" thing.

Day Four

Anything/Anytime/Any Place!

Text: Romans 12:1 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Also read: Romans 12:1-2

In the first three devotions this week we looked at holiness and how we can become holy through Jesus. But what comes after that? After we come to Jesus and He makes us a brand new creation what should be next in our lives? The Bible tells us that after we come to Jesus that we need to walk in holiness, or our new life. Our lives are set apart to be used by God for whatever special purpose He may have. In our Bible reading today we are given the answer to the question,

We are to present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. So now that I have been made holy through the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross, I need to now give myself completely to the Lord for whatever He would want in my life. I am no longer the boss over my life, but Jesus is to be master, Lord and king! Whatever He says, and whatever would please Him is what I now want to do. So my prayer to Him should be something like, "Lord, I will do anything that you would want to do. I am willing to give up whatever I think is best; to do what you think is best. I will serve you anytime that you ask me to serve you. And I will go anywhere to serve you, whether that is to tell my neighbor about you or someone around the world someday. Lord, give me the ability to serve you no matter what."

When we have that kind of attitude then it is a blessing to the Lord. He wants His people to be willing servants who can be used by Him to make a difference in a dark world. In Romans 12:2 we are told how that we are to continue living a holy life. How can we do that? Through reading our Bibles and praying every day. If you have asked Jesus to come into your life, have you completely given your life to Him? Are we willing to do anything, at anytime, or go any place for the Lord?

- After coming to Jesus, how can we continue to walk in holiness?
- How has God transformed you since you have become a Christian?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Living Sacrifice: Living our lives in such a way that daily we are offering our lives to the Lord to be used by Him for His purposes and plans.

Day Five

Put Off/Put On

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

Also read: Ephesians 4:17-24

My children enjoy playing "Dress Up" sometimes. In fact, they have a big plastic container called the "dress up box" filled with all kinds of different costumes and things to help them dress up as any character they might like to dress up as. They have a lot of fun changing from one costume to another. It is interesting that by simply putting on a cowboy hat, a vest and some boots that "POOF", they are a cowboy. Then they can take off the cowboy outfit and put on a bandana over their heads, put on an eye patch and get a plastic sword and all of a sudden they are transformed into a pirate. Kind of like playing dress up the Bible tells us that we are to put off certain things in our lives and then put on others. It is a lot like playing dress up.

The Bible tells us that we need to put off, or take off all of the "old man" things (Ephesians 4:22). These would be all of the old sinful or bad things we used to do before we came to know Jesus. Like old clothes we need to get rid of all of that kind of behavior. In fact, we shouldn't even keep it in our closet anymore to put it back on from time to time, rather we need to get it out of our lives and somewhere that we will never try to put it on again.

Then after taking off the "old man" stuff, we need to put on the "new man" stuff. Like a brand new outfit that we get at the store we need to dress up in righteousness and holiness. Good things should be coming out of our lives now that Jesus has saved us and has made us holy. So we should be loving, kind and have self-control (see the fruit of the spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23). Our "new man" clothes are the clothes that we should be wearing every day. Let's commit this week to live out our lives in holiness as God has called us to.

- Have you ever played "dress up?" What is your favorite character to dress up as?
- What kind of life should we "put on" every day?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray that the Lord would help you to understand better how that He is holy and wants us to be holy as well. Pray and ask Him to help you to be holy in all you and do. Commit to put on the "new man" every day as you serve Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"...but as He who
called you is holy, you
also be holy in all you
conduct,"

Third Grade and Above

"...but as He who
called you is holy, you
also be holy in all you
conduct,"

1 Peter 1:15