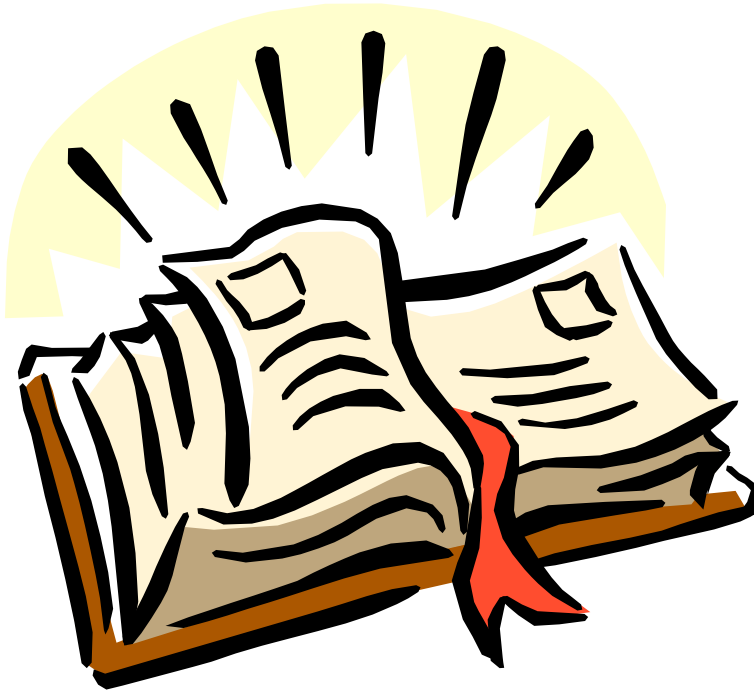


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Seven Churches

THEME: Jesus desires to speak to His people.

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 1:20-3:22

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. Bible Time for Kids 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 seven churches** in Asia. These are the churches that Jesus spoke to through the Apostle John in the book of Revelation. Jesus had a lot to say to the seven churches at that time and He has a lot to say to us today. **Jesus continues to speak to us through His Word and the Holy Spirit**. Isn't it wonderful to know that the Lord wants to speak to us to teach us how to live for Him?

Jesus had some good things to say about how the people in the churches were doing and He also had some words of correction. Since there was so much material to cover and lessons to be learned from this section of scripture, we will highlight five of the churches in our devotions this week. Each church will have a different emphasis and lesson to be learned.

The section of scripture we studied was **Revelation 1:20 - 3:22**. 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

Remember Glowie the Glow Worm?

Text: Revelation 2:4 - "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Also read Revelation 2:1-7

It was one of those days, you know the kind; rainy, wet and miserable. There wasn't anything to do. Joel went to his Dad and declared, "I'm bored!" Well Dad had the perfect solution, as so often Dads do, "Let's do that project we've been putting off forever! Let's clean out your old toy box." Joel wasn't exactly filled with a sense of excitement, but he thought to himself, "Why not, we've been putting it off for a while."

Dad and Joel tore into the old toy box. It was filled with lots of things that were broken or had missing parts. They began to set those aside. The one thing Joel didn't expect to find were all the memories that came back to him. After a while he reached down to the bottom of the toy box and as he pressed down he saw a very dim light. "Glowie!" Joel yelled out. "Who-ie?" Dad replied. "You remember Glowie. It's the Glow Worm that you and mom got me on my third birthday," Joel said. "I remember," Dad said, "We couldn't pry Glowie out of your arms, you took him everywhere." "I guess he just doesn't mean as much now after all these years," Joel said. "Well, maybe we can clean off Glowie and give him a new battery and he'll be good as new," shared Dad. "Sounds great," said Joey.

The church in Ephesus was a lot like Joel and Glowie. When they first received Jesus they were so excited! They couldn't wait to tell others about Jesus. They loved Him so much and couldn't imagine going anywhere without Him. But over time they began to forget about Jesus. They still went to church and even did very good things, but they started to forget their first love. Jesus wasn't as important as He used to be in their lives. We are also in danger of losing our first love, Jesus. As time goes by in our lives let's always remember to stay close to Jesus! If you have strayed from Jesus over time, simply ask him to forgive you and then return to Him with all of your heart.

- Tell about the time you asked Jesus into your life?
- How was Joel and Glowie like the church in Ephesus?
- Think about your relationship with Jesus now; have you forgotten your first love?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Remembering Your First Love: Continually having the same love and excitement for Jesus as when you first met Him.

Suffering in Smyrna

Text: Revelation 2:10b - "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Also read Revelation 2:8-11

"...And thank you Lord for our Bibles and the freedom that we have here to read them. In Jesus name, Amen," Dad prayed. The family had just finished their devotions and it was almost time for bed. But Katie had a question for Mom and Dad. "Dad, why do you always thank God that we can read the Bible? Why wouldn't we be able to read the Bible?" "Well, not everyone can have a Bible to read," Dad said. "There are some places in the world where it is against the law to own a Bible and you could be thrown in jail if you are ever caught reading a Bible." "Really?" Katie said with a surprised look. "Why wouldn't they let people read the Bible?"

Dad explained, "The people who are the rulers don't believe in Jesus. They don't want anyone else to hear the good news of Jesus. So they will do anything to stop them, including hurting them or putting them in prison. What they don't understand is that they are really doing what the enemy (the devil) wants them to do. So we need to pray for our brothers and sisters in all of these countries who have to live in fear of their lives just so they can worship Jesus."

"Which countries are they?" Katie asked. "Run and get your globe and I'll show you a few," Dad said. So Katie got her globe and returned. Dad pointed out to her some countries that don't allow people to worship Jesus. Some of them are China, Pakistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba. "Can we pray again and ask the Lord to help everyone in these countries who are Christians?" Katie asked. "Certainly we can," Dad said.

- How were the Christians in Smyrna like Christians today in countries that don't allow people to worship Jesus?
- Find a globe or world map. See if you can find some of the countries mentioned in the story. Ask Mom or Dad for help if you need to.
- Pray for your brothers and sisters in these countries who may be suffering.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Martyr: Someone who dies for their belief in Jesus.
Persecution: The hurting of others for their belief in Jesus.

Day Three

Let's Go Swimming!

Text: Revelation 3:1 - "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: 'I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.'"

Also read Revelation 3:1-6

Get your Bible and turn to the very back of it, where the maps are. Are you there yet? Look for a map of Israel. Ask Mom or Dad to help you if you need to. On the map of Israel look for a place called the Dead Sea. Have you ever heard of this sea? There are some very interesting things about the Dead Sea. It is actually a large lake and is about 50 miles long and 10 miles wide. The Jordan River flows into it, but there is no outlet for any of the water to get out. Why doesn't it overflow? Because it is so hot there that the water evaporates very fast. After the water goes away it leaves a lot of salt. In fact, the Dead Sea is five times as salty as the ocean. Okay, we'll stop the science lesson.

You would have a lot of fun swimming in the Dead Sea because you would never sink! You would just float because of all of the salt. The water is different than regular ocean water making it very easy to float on the surface of the water (No, this isn't the sea that Jesus walked on). How did this sea get its name? If you were to look at the Dead Sea it would look like any other lake. There wouldn't be anything to make you think otherwise. But because of all of the salt and minerals there is nothing living in the Dead Sea. It looks like there may be fish or other forms of life in the lake, but there is nothing there. So, when you visit you will have to put your fishing poles away.

The church that Jesus spoke to in Sardis was a lot like the Dead Sea. It looked alive on the outside, but on the inside it was dead. They were doing a lot of neat things as a church but their relationship with the Lord wasn't real. Jesus said that they needed to be careful not to do things just to look alive. The most important thing for us as Christians is to have a relationship with Jesus. Everything we do should come out of our relationship with Him (John 15:1-8). Then, when we really know Jesus, **living water** will flow out of our lives and bless others and we won't be like the Dead Sea!

- How is the Dead Sea like the church in Sardis?
- Why is our relationship with the Lord so important?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Dead Sea: A very salty body of water in Southern Israel with no marine life.

Philadelphia Faithfulness

Text: Revelation 3:8 - "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

Also read Revelation 3:7-13

Whenever you think about all of the wonderful things about being a kid, what do you think of? Amusement Parks? Ice Cream? Chores? What was that last one again? Chores? Where did that come from? Chores may not be the first thing that comes to mind for you when you think of the most important thing about being a kid. But did you know that chores can be a very important part of being a kid. You see, faithfulness is very important to the Lord. Faithfulness is when we do what we are asked to do without grumbling or complaining. Doing our chores helps us to learn how to be faithful. It is also a blessing to our Mom and Dad.

Jesus says some very good things about the church in Philadelphia. They were a very faithful church. They obeyed the Lord and did the things He asked them to do. The Bible says that even though they had a "little strength" they still kept His Word and never denied His name. Sometimes we might feel like we don't have enough strength to do what we are asked to do, but Jesus will help us just like He helped the church in Philadelphia. We just need to be faithful in what He has asked us to do.

The Lord blessed the church in Philadelphia because they were faithful and gave them some very special promises. The Lord promises to bless us when we are faithful to Him. We all, as God's children, hope to hear Him say someday, "Well done my good and faithful servant." So doing chores helps us to learn about faithfulness, which helps us to please the Lord. Rejoice the next time you are asked to take out the trash, it's just another lesson in faithfulness!

- How do chores teach us faithfulness?
- How was the church in Philadelphia faithful to the Lord?
- Pray and ask the Lord to help you to learn faithfulness.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faithfulness: Doing what we are asked to do.

Chores: Fun and exciting ways to learn about faithfulness.

Day Five

Lukewarm Pizza Anyone?

Text: Revelation 3:15 - "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot."

Also read Revelation 3:14-22

Doesn't a nice big slice of pizza sound wonderful right now? Well, maybe it doesn't depending on the time of day that you're reading this. Of course, some people enjoy their pizza in the morning right out of the refrigerator and like to eat it cold. While others can only eat it hot and prefer it for lunch or dinner. So whether you are reading this in the morning or in the evening, there is no doubt someone nearby who likes their pizza either cold or hot. How do you like your pizza?

One thing that probably most pizza lovers would agree on is that even though they may like it hot or cold, they really don't like it after it has sat out a while, when it is not really hot and not really cold, kind of in between. It just doesn't taste the same. You either have to put it in the microwave for a couple of minutes or get it into the refrigerator. You don't want to leave it like it is. You want it to either be hot or cold, not lukewarm (in between cold and hot).

When Jesus spoke to the church in Laodicea, He said that they were kind of like that pizza that had been sitting out. They weren't hot and they weren't cold, just lukewarm. What He meant was that they weren't on fire for Him or excited to serve Him, but they also didn't totally forsake Him. They were just there. They stopped trusting in Him because they felt that they had everything that they needed. They didn't need Jesus any more. Jesus said that He would rather they be cold towards Him or hot towards Him, not in between. We can learn from this church. We should be on fire for Jesus and excited about serving Him. He is returning one day soon and we want to be ready and waiting! So if you are lukewarm get on fire for Jesus!

- What did Jesus say was the problem with the church in Laodicea?
- How can we keep from being lukewarm?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is a lot that we covered this week concerning the seven churches in Asia. As we pray we can be thankful that Jesus still speaks to us today in His Word and through the Holy Spirit. Also ask Him to help you to apply all of the lessons that you have learned this week.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

“Behold, I stand at the door
and knock. If anyone hears
My voice and opens the
door, I will dine with him.”

Third Grade and Above

“Behold, I stand at the door
and knock. If anyone hears
My voice and opens the
door, I will come in to him
and dine with him, and he
with Me.”

Revelation 3:20