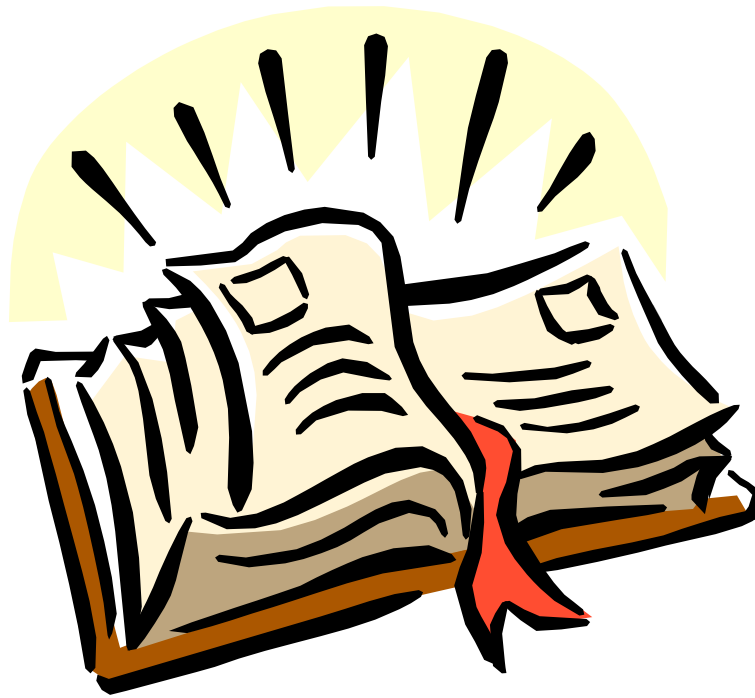


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: The Birth of John the Baptist

THEME: God is worthy of our praise.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39-80



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

In the lesson this week, we learned about **the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:39-80)**. We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. This was a very special time for Zacharias and Elizabeth, John's parents. Mary, the mother of Jesus, came to spend time with Elizabeth, and all of them rejoiced together in the Lord for the fulfillment of His promises in their lives.

Our theme this week is **God is worthy of our praise**. We can praise God for many things, but especially the precious gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Our hearts can sing out in praise like Mary as we consider the great miracle of Jesus' birth and what it means to us.

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

One in Ten

Text: Luke 17:15 - "Now one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,"

Also read Luke 17:11-19

Joel and Katie love it when Grandma and Grandpa come to visit. They can't wait to get to spend some time with them. Grandma and Grandpa always love to give good gifts. It never fails that they have something wonderful every time they visit. This time was no exception. Grandma pulled out a couple of gifts shortly after they arrived. They were excited and ripped open the packages.

Joel ran off to his room to play with his new toy, but Katie stayed in the living room. Katie went up to Grandma and Grandpa and gave them a big hug and thanked them. After a while mom went into Joel's room and found Joel happily playing with his new toy. She asked Joel, "Did you forget to do something?" Joel thought for a moment and said, "Did I forget to feed the dog again?"

Mom just smiled and said, "You know, there is a story in the Bible about ten men who were healed from their disease and only one of them went to Jesus to thank Him for healing him. This man was so grateful that he fell on his face and glorified the Lord. But the other nine were so excited about what was done for them that they forgot to thank the One who provided the healing." "I forgot to thank Grandma and Grandpa, didn't I?" Joel said. "It's never too late to say thank you!" replied Mom.

Let us remember to praise the Lord for every good thing He does in our lives. We should concentrate on the giver, not the gift. Just think for a few minutes about all of the wonderful things He has done in your life, and then praise Him!

- What did Joel learn about being thankful?
- What great things has Jesus done in your life?
- What are some ways that you can praise Him?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Leprosy: A very serious type of skin disease that had no cure. People with leprosy had to stay away from other people.

Glorify: To praise, honor or extol.

Hannah's Song

Text: 1 Samuel 1:27 - "For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him."

Also read 1 Samuel 2:1-11

Hannah always wanted to have a child, but she could not. This made her very sad. One day, she poured her heart out to the Lord in prayer, asking that He answer her request for a child. She also made a very special promise to the Lord. She said that if God gave her a child, she would dedicate him to the Lord for his entire life. The Lord heard her prayer and gave her a wonderful baby boy who she named Samuel.

Hannah was so filled with joy over what God had done in her life that she prayed a beautiful prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. She "rejoiced" in the Lord. To rejoice is to be to be filled with joy. Hannah kept her promise and gave Samuel to the Lord. He grew up to be a great man of God and led the nation of Israel. He served as a judge, prophet, and priest. He was also used by God to anoint King David who would eventually rule over all of Israel.

Just as Hannah rejoiced in the Lord, let us continually be rejoicing in the Lord because of who He is. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16, we are told, "Rejoice always." God loves us, and He has given us every blessing imaginable. He has especially blessed us with a relationship with Him through Jesus.

Hannah knew that her strength came from the Lord. He is all-powerful and can do anything. Isn't it great to worship a God who can do any thing. He is awesome! As we consider how great the Lord is, just thinking about who He is and what He is like, we can worship Him and sing praises to Him just like Hannah. What a great God that we serve! Let's take every opportunity we can to bless the Lord with our praise.

- What did Hannah praise the Lord for?
- What are some things that you can think of that cause you to praise the Lord?
- Think of one of your favorite praise songs and sing it together with your family.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Rejoice: To be filled with joy and thanksgiving towards the Lord.

Joyful Shouting!

Text: Psalm 100:4 - "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."

Also read Psalm 100:1-5

The shouts coming from Timmy one Sunday morning were definitely not shouts of praise unto the Lord. Timmy woke up very tired and grouchy on that day. He always looked forward to Sundays when he could go to church to learn about Jesus and see his friends, but, he got to bed a little later than usual the night before, and it appeared it was going to be a bad morning. When he went to get his tithe money out of his piggy bank, he found that his little brother (three years old) had gotten into it. There were only a few coins left. As he went outside of his room, he found coins in different places all over the house. This was when the shouting began. "RYAN," Timmy shouted, "Where are the rest of my coins?!"

Ryan seemed to have that ability and timing to be at the wrong place, doing the wrong thing, at the wrong time. To him, Timmy's piggy bank only meant a wonderful opportunity to find treasure and then hide it all in different places around the house. Timmy was angry! When Mom heard Timmy shouting at Ryan, she came quickly to investigate what had happened. She had both the boys apologize to one another and make up. "Boys," mom exhorted, "when we are getting ready to go to church, there is an attitude we should have, and it's not this one. The Bible encourages us to 'enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.'"

Mom read Psalm 100 and shared that she hoped the only shouting she heard in their home as they prepared to go to church would be "joyful shouts" unto the Lord. What a great privilege it is to go to the house of God and worship the Lord with other believers. We praise Him for who He is and all He has done for us. Timmy asked, "Mom, can we sing a song to the Lord right now?" "Sure," replied Mom, "and instead of shouting at each other, let's shout 'Praise the Lord.'" Timmy was having a much better day now!

- When was the last time you had a bad day? What was it like?
- Why is it important for us to praise the Lord?
- How do you think praising the Lord would help you when you are having a bad day?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Shout to the Lord: Joyfully proclaim or praise the Lord.

Praising Jesus

Text: Luke 24:52,53 - "And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen."

Also read Luke 24:49-53

Can you imagine being one of the disciples, standing there on the mountain with Jesus just before He was about to go to heaven? His disciples had spent three and a half years with Him. They had learned much from Him. They had seen Him do wonderful miracles and proclaim the wonderful news of the kingdom of heaven. Then, they had seen Him being nailed to a cross and die. But, it wasn't over. They witnessed the greatest miracle of all—Jesus rose again from the dead. He came back to His disciples and encouraged them before He ascended up to heaven.

If you were one of the disciples, what do you think you would have done after Jesus left to go to the Father? Would you be sad or happy? The disciples knew that though they would not see Jesus among them in body, He would be with them. His Holy Spirit would live inside them, giving them power and teaching and leading them in His way. We see four things that the disciples did after Jesus left them.

1. They worshiped Him.
2. They had great joy.
3. They were continually in the temple praising Him.
4. They were continually blessing God.

As the disciples remembered everything that Jesus had done and were assured of all He would do, there was only one thing for them to do, praise Him. When we consider who Jesus is and what He has done and will do for us, it makes us want to worship and glorify Him. As we read the Bible, we grow in our understanding of who God is, all He has done for us, and all He promises to do. Like the disciples, may our hearts be continually filled with praise.

- As you learn more and more about Jesus how does that make you want to worship Him more?
- Think about all God has done for you and praise Him.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ascension: The return of Jesus to heaven 40 days after He rose from the dead.

Day Five

Rejoicing Again and Again

Text: **Philippians 4:4** - "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"
Also read Philippians 4:4-7

Have you ever thought much about the sun? Maybe you have studied space in school. No doubt, you've noticed that the sun rises every morning and sets every night. We know that this happens because the earth is continually spinning and rotating around the sun. Every day the earth will spin around once. This happens every day, month after month and year after year. It is continual. This is how the Bible says that we are to rejoice. We should rejoice always, every day, month after month, and year after year. Sometimes, we can't see the sun, though it is daytime, because the clouds or a storm blocks our view. But, the sun remains providing us with warmth and light.

The Bible says that one of the fruits of the Spirit is joy. When we are rejoicing, it means we are filled with joy and praise for the Lord. Because joy is a fruit of the Spirit, as Christians, we should always be filled with joy.

It may be easier to see joy on some days than on other days. Maybe clouds have come to cover up or hide the joy in our hearts—maybe something has happened to make us sad or we are just having a bad day. It helps to remember that God gives us His joy through the Holy Spirit as a gift. Even when things around us are hard, we can still be filled with joy because our rejoicing is in the Lord, not in the things or situations around us. Paul is a great example; for when he wrote, "Rejoice in the Lord always," he was in jail! A lot of terrible things happened to Paul (see 2 Corinthians 11:23-28), but he still wrote that we could rejoice in the Lord always. The next time you are having a tough time, just remember to "rejoice in the Lord always!"

- What does it mean to you to rejoice in the Lord always?
- What are some things that you have to be thankful for?
- How can your rejoicing in the Lord encourage someone else?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is a lot that we can praise the Lord for. This week when you pray, take a few minutes to praise and worship Him. Perhaps, you can sing some praise songs together as a family.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.”

Third Grade and Above

“And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.”

Luke 1:50