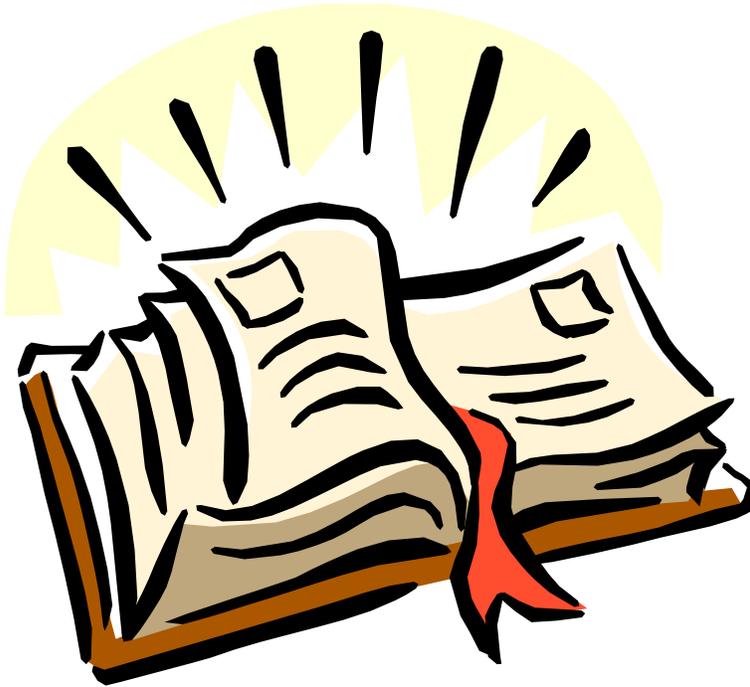


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Great Commandment

THEME: Love is the fulfillment of the Law.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 12:28-34



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 Great Commandment**. The theme was "**Love is the fulfillment of the Law.**" The religious leaders asked Jesus a question about the Law of Moses. They asked which law was the most important to follow. In Jesus' beautiful response we have a great answer. He said that we should love God with everything in us and to love our neighbors. He said these two things take care of the entire Law.

The one thing that these two things have in common is love. We are to love God completely and love others; and in so doing we will fulfill the law. Jesus fulfilled the law because He lived this out completely. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts He will help us to become loving just like Him.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Mark 12:28-34**. 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!

Only One

Text: Mark 12:29 – “Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.” ’”

Also read 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

“Dad, someone is at the door!” yelled Brian. “Could you get it for me?” Dad called back. “I’ll be right there.”

Brian opened the door and standing there was an older man and a young woman. They were dressed in suits and holding brief cases. “Can I help you?” asked Brian. “Wouldn’t you like to live in paradise?” asked the gentleman. Brian glanced down and saw the man holding a flyer. Brian recognized the flyer and remembered what his father had said about what these people believe. “My dad will be right with you,” responded Brian.

Mr. Hobbs stepped outside of the door and met the two people standing there. He was very familiar with what they had to say. Mr. Hobbs was well prepared to share God’s word with them. The people said that they believe in Jesus and they also believe in God. But what they don’t believe in is that Jesus is God. They believe that Jesus is a god; therefore there is more than one god in their belief. Mr. Hobbs continued to tell them about what the Bible says about only one God. After about thirty minutes the pair left. Mr. Hobbs returns inside shaking his head. “What’s wrong Dad?” asked Brian. “Those two people are so blind to the truth. They just don’t understand that Jesus is God who has come in flesh (the deity of Christ). I pray that God’s word will penetrate their hearts,” answered his dad.

Some of you may have seen your parents talking to people who don’t believe that Jesus is God. Someday you might have to share what you believe with others. Now is a good time to start preparing for that day. There are many parts of the Bible that tell us that Jesus is God. John 1:1-5 is one of them. Also see what Jesus says about this in John 8:58, John 10:30 and John 5:17-30. There are many other areas of the Bible that prove this fact that Jesus is God. Take some time and look them up with your parents.

- Did you know that not everyone who says they are a Christian believe the same things?
- According to the Bible is Jesus God?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Deity of Christ: The fact that Jesus is God come in human flesh.

Day Two

Fulfilling the Commandment

Text: Mark 12:30 - " 'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment."

Also read 1 John 4:19

How can we fulfill the commandment in Mark 12:30? Did you know that there are many people who are around us all the time who watch the way we act in public and how we treat others? Sometimes when we are with others who don't believe in Jesus it is like we are under a microscope because we are Christians. People watch everything we do to see if we are truly living like Jesus. They are hoping to see that Jesus is really living inside of us. By loving the Lord with all of our soul, mind, and strength we want to do the things that glorify Him. If we love God, we will experience His love within and will express that love to others.

By loving the Lord with all your soul, mind, and strength you are giving God all of yourself in everything you do. An example might be when you do something for someone else without being asked. Maybe it could be something like cleaning your room after you play with your toys or taking out the trash without being told to do so. Your heart, because of Jesus living inside, likes to bless others. When you do this others see Jesus in you. Who gets the glory when others see Jesus in you? Jesus does. Another example is when someone at school tries to get you to do something wrong. If you fall into this temptation you will sin against God. But, if you stand strong and courageous and turn away from the sin because you love the Lord, again, Jesus gets the glory.

Remember the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego (Dan. 3:1-25)? These 3 friends of Daniel would not bow down to the gold statue of King Nebuchadnezzar. And anyone who would not bow down to the statue would be placed in a fiery furnace. These 3 men loved God. They only bowed down to God; therefore they would not bow down to anyone or anything else. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were placed in the fiery furnace. God protected them so they wouldn't die. By standing for God and being strong these 3 men did not let someone else influence them. God received the glory on that day. So by loving the Lord with all your soul, mind, and strength you can also turn away from sin and turn towards God, and He will get all of the glory.

- Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Do you acknowledge Him in all your ways?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Glory: Honor to God, greatness or majesty used to describe God.

Day Three

My Neighbor

Text: Leviticus 19:18 - "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."

Also read Galatians 5:13-14

Jenny arrived home from school and slammed her books on the counter top. "I can't stand Marsha!" she shouted. "What's the matter?" asked Mom. "Marsha always takes the credit for something I have done. Today at school I suggested some ways we could earn money to buy props for the drama club. Marsha overheard me tell Jackie about ways we could earn the money and then she went over and told Mr. Jenkins the ideas. He gave her all the credit for it! This isn't the first time she's done something behind my back. I will get even with her. Marsha will never be one of my friends!" shouted Jenny.

Jenny's mom was a little concerned about the way Jenny was responding to this situation, so she sat down and began to share with her daughter. "You know Jenny, there are a lot of people in this world that do things that hurt others. I was a little shocked to hear you say you would get even with Marsha for what she had done to you. Jenny, look at the bracelet you are wearing. What do those initials stand for?" "What would Jesus do?" stated Jenny. "I know what Jesus would do," her mom said quietly. "He would have treated Marsha with love, regardless of how she treated Him. Remember the Bible verse from last week?" asked Mom. "It says to love your neighbor as yourself. How can you apply that to your situation with Marsha?"

Jenny thought about what her mom had said for a while. "Would I want to be treated the way I treated Marsha and would I want someone to get even with me for something I did to hurt them?" thought Jenny. Jenny knew what she needed to do. Jenny prayed and asked that the Lord would forgive her, then she asked Him to help her to love Marsha. Even though what Marsha did was wrong, Jenny was able to show love and kindness to Marsha the next time she saw her. Jenny even got to tell Marsha about the situation that bothered her. Marsha asked for forgiveness and they became great friends after that. Remember a neighbor can be anyone, it doesn't necessarily mean it's the person who lives next to you. Show God's love by treating others the way you would want to be treated.

- What do you think it means to love someone else as yourself?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Love: A decision of the will to care for and do good for others.

Losing a Friend

Text: Luke 21:16-17 - "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will send some of you to your death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake."

Also read 1 John 4:18

Christy became a Christian about a month ago. She is on fire for the Lord! She is going to two services on Sunday, Wednesday night Bible study, and Saturday morning prayer meetings. Christy is in Jr. High School and a lot of times there is pressure from her friends to do things that are not right. Christy is growing up in the Lord and He has taken away many of her old desires to do wrong things. Christy's friends are not enjoying her anymore. This is difficult for Christy to deal with but she knows that her old friends might not like to hang around her because she believes in Jesus now. Christy's friends are not Christians therefore they don't see things the same way that Christy does.

Have you ever been in a situation similar to that? Like when a non-Christian friend or an old friend calls or come by to visit and they wonder why you don't want to do the things they do? I know I have and sometimes I still come across friends who remember me the way I used to be before I came to know Jesus. Once my old friends find out that I belong to Jesus, they don't want to do anything with me anymore. And you know what? That's O.K. with me! What bothers me is that they are lost without Jesus. I am thankful that I can pray for them and get an opportunity to tell them about Jesus and His love for them. But because I love the Lord and He is in me, I know there are people who won't like me or people who might try to cause me pain because I believe in Jesus.

I know it is difficult to deal with friends who want you to act a certain way when you are trying to serve Jesus. So many kids, even Christian kids, are influenced their friends. By loving God and committing yourself to Him, you won't worry about what others think. Let your old friends see the light that now shines in your heart because of Jesus. Love the Lord God in every thing you do! Someone is definitely watching you.

- Have you had friends treat you differently because you are a Christian?
- Have you lost the desire for hanging around with your non-believing friends?
- How do you act around non-believers?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Division: Separation or conflict because of your belief in Jesus.

Day Five

Showing Your Love for Jesus

Text: 1 John 4:7 - "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

Also read 1 John 4:15-21

This week we have learned about the greatest commandment spoken of in the Bible. Remember in Mark 12:28-34, a scribe approached Jesus and asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Do you remember the answer Jesus gave to him? First, Jesus tells us that the Lord our God is one, and we are to love the Lord with all our soul, mind, and strength. Second, Jesus says to love your neighbor as yourself. We can see from scripture that Jesus wants us to love Him and by doing this we will have a heart that loves others. In 1 John 4:15-21 let's take a look at how we can show our love for Jesus.

Let's call it the 4 C's of love.

1. **CONFESS** Jesus to others (1 John 4:15)- Tell others about Jesus Christ. Jesus tells us that whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. Confess is to tell of or to make known. Do we tell others about Jesus?
2. **CONFIDENCE** in Jesus' love (1 John 4:16-17) - Confidence is a feeling of trust or belief. By trusting and believing in the love of God we have the boldness to stand up for what is right and for what we believe in. We are not ashamed of who we are in Jesus (1 John 2:28).
3. **CONDUCT** (1 John 4:18-19) - Our conduct is our personal behavior, the way we act around others. Do others see Jesus in us?
4. **CONCERN** for others (1 John 4:20-21) - The Bible tells us that if we say "I love God" but we hate our brother, then we are lying. Because if we truly love God we will have love for our brothers and sisters in Christ also.

Love is a very important issue with God. We must set an example of how to love others. What a great witness we can be when others, especially non-believers, see us expressing love from our heart.

- How can you show the 4 "C's" of love in your life?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week we learned about fulfilling the commandment of love. In your prayer time with the Lord, ask Him to search your heart and to bring this expression of love to the surface so others will see Him in your life.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“...love Him with all the heart.”

Third Grade and Above

“And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Mark 12:33