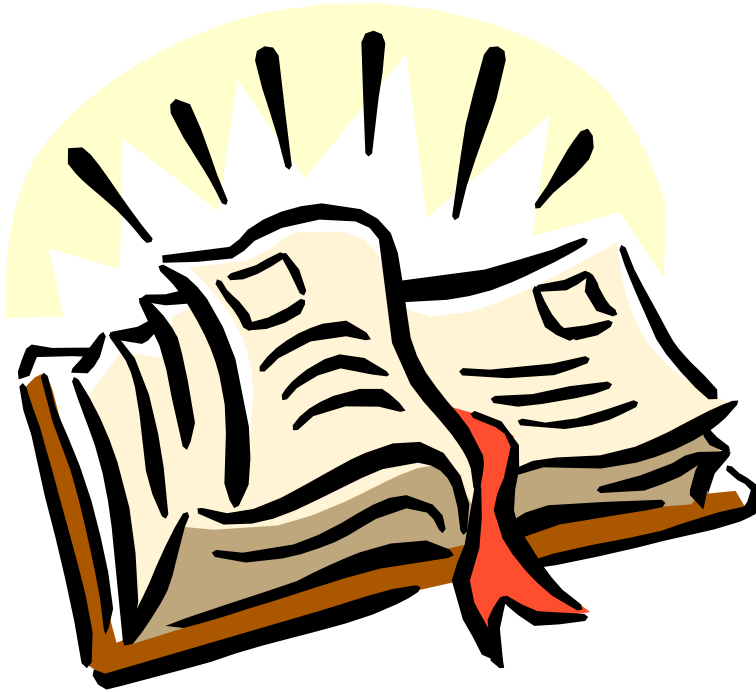


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Peter's Denial

**THEME: Good intentions are not enough;
it's what we do that counts!**

SCRIPTURE: John 18:15-18; 25-27



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 Peter's Denial. The theme was "Good intentions are not enough; it's what we do that counts." This story reveals how deceiving and wicked our hearts are. But even more importantly it shows God's grace and mercy, and His forgiveness of our sin through His son Jesus Christ.

It is important for us to know as we walk with Jesus that He knows our heart better than we do. And even though we may "think" good thoughts and even "speak" good thoughts, if we do not follow through with the right actions our good intentions will never be good enough to please God.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 18:15-18; 25-27**. 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

The Meeting

Text: John 13:37 - "Peter said to Him, 'Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for your sake.' "

Also read John 13:38

We have been learning about the last days and hours before Jesus was crucified. This week we will read how Jesus' disciples reacted to His arrest, and the fact that He would soon be returning to heaven, and leaving them with the Holy Spirit. As Peter's heart deceived him, we will learn that our hearts can be the same. We are going to enjoy a story about 2 friends and much like Peter and Jesus, we will see that our good intentions are not enough; it's what we do that counts.

Our story begins at a summer camp where several churches gather each summer. Hundreds of kids would get together from all over and have seven great days of fellowship, worship, and fun. This was the first summer that Kevin was going. He had asked Jesus into his heart a few months earlier and he was really looking forward to having a lot of fun. There was another boy and his name was Joshua. Joshua was really excited about going too. Both of these boys were 10 years old. Kevin was very athletic, outgoing and liked to be the center of attention. Joshua was in a wheelchair and had been born unable to walk. He was not shy, but he wasn't as sure of himself as Kevin was. Joshua had been a Christian for 3 years and truly believed that some day he might serve God full time.

It was the first day of camp and Kevin and Joshua were placed in the same cabin. Because of Joshua's condition, the counselor asked if any one would be willing to help Josh to get in and out of bed and into his wheelchair. A boy named Scott eagerly agreed to help Joshua during the next week. Kevin thought about it, but felt awkward around Joshua so he didn't offer any help. Have you ever been asked to do something that you weren't familiar with? Did you do it, or did you avoid it because of fear? A lot of times we say things we think we will follow through with, but don't end up doing it. What do you think will happen between Kevin and Joshua? **CONTINUED ON DAY TWO...**

- Have you ever felt awkward about helping someone who seemed different from you?
- If you do feel awkward, why do you think that is?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Intentions: Something that you mean to do, but sometimes we don't do everything that we mean to.

Day Two

The Friendship

Text: Psalm 94:11 - "The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile."

Also read Isaiah 55:8

CONTINUED FROM DAY ONE... As the days passed at camp, Kevin was beginning to see a friendship develop between Scott and Joshua. What Kevin could not understand, was how Joshua could have so much joy when he was so physically limited. Kevin actually became jealous of this friendship between the two other boys and wanted Joshua to be his friend too. Do you think Kevin is being selfish? Kevin was only thinking about himself. Do you suppose when Peter denied knowing Jesus that he was being selfish? Unfortunately we are all capable of thinking only of ourselves. Only God truly knows us. Even when we think good thoughts God looks into our hearts and knows if we really will turn that good thought into actions (See 1 Samuel 16:7).

Now Kevin was determined to spend more time with Joshua, and he did. He would go for walks with him and push him around. They laughed a lot together and Kevin was beginning to really like Joshua. Even though Joshua couldn't walk, he liked all the things ten-year old boys like. They talked about the Lord together and Joshua even told Kevin how he desired to preach one day to people about Jesus. Kevin was actually more into the fun of church and he had a hard time understanding how Joshua knew the Lord wanted him to teach the Bible someday. They talked a lot that week and Kevin even made Joshua a promise, "I'll write to you each week when I get home and I'll even call you if my Mom and Dad will let me." Joshua was happy to have met a new friend and he was grateful that the friendship was not going to end at camp. The last two days at camp, they were inseparable. You would have thought they had known one another forever.

Finally the day came to leave for home. They exchanged addresses, gave their secret handshake and Joshua gave Kevin his favorite baseball cap. They swore to always be the best of friends. Have you ever given someone a promise? Did you keep your word? What do you think will become of the friendship between Kevin and Joshua? **CONTINUED ON DAY THREE...**

- How important is it to God that we watch what we say?
- Have you said something to someone that you did not fulfill?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Futile: Useless, not of any worth.

Day Three

The First Denial

Text: John 18:17 - "Then the servant girl said to Peter, 'Are you not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' "

Also read Matthew 10:33

CONTINUED FROM DAY TWO... When Kevin arrived home from camp he told his family all about his new friend Joshua. He shared with his sister, Debbie that he did not care that Joshua was handicapped and as far as Kevin was concerned he was just "one of the guys."

Well, some weeks later Joshua had written Kevin 2 letters but Kevin became pretty busy with his friends in the neighborhood and didn't take the time to write back. Kevin intended to call, but there were just so many other things to do. Joshua had even gotten permission from his parents and called Kevin 3 times, but Kevin was never home and never returned Joshua's calls. How do you think this made Joshua feel? Can you imagine how Jesus must have felt when Peter denied Him? Have you ever been forgotten about?

Joshua wrote Kevin one last letter and it had a big surprise in it. Joshua's father was being transferred to a new job and it was in the city where Kevin lived. Joshua wanted to find out what school Kevin would be attending. With the new school year only one week away Joshua wanted to surprise Kevin with the great news. But when Kevin received the letter, he was too busy to open it. He tossed it aside on his dresser and eventually it got covered with sports magazines.

It came to the first day of school and Joshua and Kevin would be going to the same school, although neither of them knew it. Kevin was walking to class with three of his buddies when Joshua came around a corner and bumped into Kevin. Startled, Kevin yelled, "Hey watch where you're going!" Joshua said, "Kevin it's me, Joshua." Kevin's buddies started to laugh at Joshua and asked, "Do you know this weirdo?" Kevin knew Joshua, but he paused for a moment and replied, "I don't know this guy!" They all walked away laughing. Kevin wanted his friends to think he was cool; really that is called pride. He wanted to be "one of the guys" and not let on that he knew Joshua. Are there lessons that Kevin is going to learn? We'll find out more tomorrow. **CONTINUED ON DAY FOUR...**

- Why did Peter deny Jesus?
- Was Peter trying to protect his reputation?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Reputation: A quality or character that is judged by people around us.

Day Four

The Second Denial

Text: John 18:25 - "Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, 'You are not also one of His disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not!' "

Also read James 1:14

CONTINUED FROM DAY THREE... When Joshua's mom picked him up from school that day, he told her all about the horrible thing that happened to him. When they got home she prayed with him and asked God to help him to forgive Kevin. Joshua couldn't believe how Kevin had treated him and denied knowing him. What hurt the most was that Kevin was a Christian. Just like Peter or Kevin, we are all able to sin against others. We can even deny knowing Jesus in what we say or do. Why do you think that is so? Are we afraid of what others may think or what may happen if we tell people we follow Jesus? Joshua was going to grow through this also because God was going to teach both boys about themselves and more about their heavenly Father.

The next day at school Joshua was hoping he would not see Kevin because he was mad and hurt. Kevin on the other hand did not want to see Joshua because he knew he had lied and felt bad about it. But, they did see each other again. This time they were in the school cafeteria when one of Kevin's friends said, "Hey, Kevin isn't that the kid who thought you knew him? By the way, how did he know your name?" Kevin denied knowing Joshua again and said, "I don't know. Maybe he knows my sister or something. You know she has a lot of weird friends." They all laughed, but Kevin was grieving inside. He knew what he was doing was wrong, but how could he let his friends know the truth? They probably wouldn't want to be friends with him anymore.

Has Kevin sinned so badly that Jesus won't or can't forgive him? Peter was forgiven for denying Jesus but he had to ask God to forgive him. Have you ever done something that you thought God would not forgive you for? Did He forgive you? **CONTINUED ON DAY FIVE...**

- Look at your own heart, is there anything that you need to ask the Lord and others forgiveness for?
- Do any of us deserve to be forgiven? Tell why you think "yes" or "no."

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Reject - To turn away from.

Day Five

The Third Denial

Text: John 18:27 - "Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed."

Also read Numbers 32:23

CONTINUED FROM DAY FOUR... It was the third day of the new school year and both boys had a lot on their minds...and hearts. Kevin wanted to hide from his sin because he was feeling bad about it and Joshua wanted to hide from Kevin because he was hurt and embarrassed from being rejected. Peter wanted to hide from his sin too. He had denied his Lord and Savior. Have you ever denied knowing Jesus? How do you suppose that God deals with that kind of sin? The way He deals with all other sin, when we confess and ask for forgiveness and repent, the Lord forgives even the sin of denying Him. What do you think Kevin and Joshua should do? Kevin needs to ask forgiveness for what he has done and Joshua needs to forgive Kevin. Let's see what happens.

As the school day went on the bell rang to go home. While Joshua was getting ready to be picked up by his mom, Kevin and his friends and Kevin's sister were walking by him. Joshua gave a look at Kevin and smiled and said, "hi Kevin." Kevin's friends said, "What's up with that guy, he sure acts like he knows you?" And then Kevin denied knowing him a third time. But Kevin's sister said, "Hey Kevin that sounds like the friend you described when you were at camp last summer." His sister turned around and smiled at Joshua and said, "Is your name Joshua?" "Yes," replied Joshua.

Kevin wanted to run and hide. He had been caught lying and denying someone who thought he was a friend. No matter how we try to run or hide from our sin, God's word tells us, our sin always finds us out. Kevin was very sad and later came to Joshua and asked for forgiveness. Joshua forgave him and they did become best friends. Kevin learned not to worry about what his friends thought. Are we denying Jesus through what we do or say, or by what we don't say? If we are we need to ask for His forgiveness. There is nothing that surprises God. Remember, He knows everything!

- Is there someone who has hurt you that you need to forgive? If so, ask God to help you.

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray that your good intentions will be turned into right actions. Ask the Lord to help you to always acknowledge Him no matter what anyone else may think about you. God bless you!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**“Therefore whoever
confesses Me before men,
him I will also confess
before My Father who is in
heaven.”**

Third Grade and Above

**“Therefore whoever
confesses Me before men,
him I will also confess
before My Father who is in
heaven.”**

Matthew 10:32