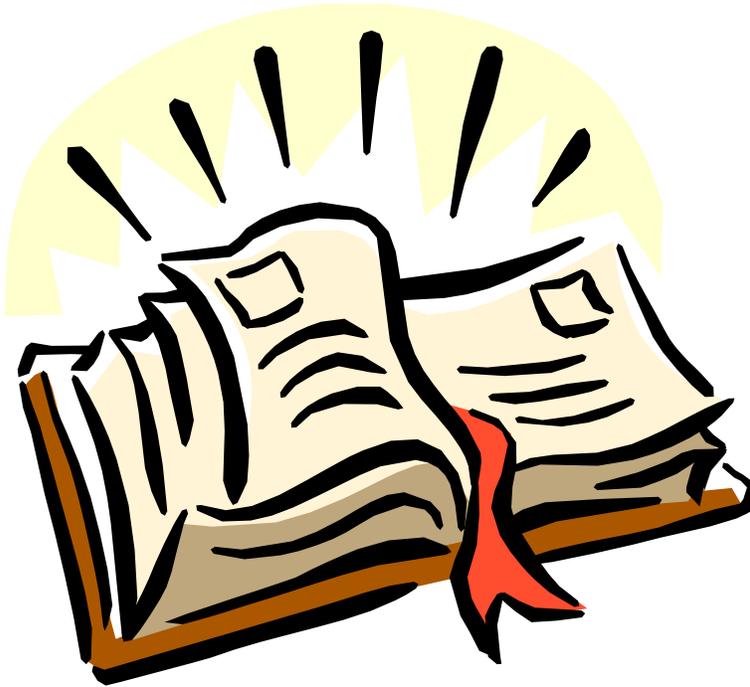


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Jesus is Crucified

THEME: Jesus died for you and me!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 23:26 – 49



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 the time when Jesus is Crucified. The theme was "Jesus died for you and me!" Jesus willingly went to the cross to die for our sins. Without Jesus' death on the cross we could not have salvation. Since He died for us we can have eternal life and fellowship with God.

There are many things that we can learn from Jesus' crucifixion. We are going to look at some of the different aspects of the cross this week. We hope that this is a blessing to your family as you look at and are reminded of what Jesus has provided for you.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 23:26-49**. 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

Born to Die for Us

Text: Luke 2:34b-35 - "...Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel; and for a sign which will be spoken against; (yes, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Read Luke 2:25-38

We all know the story of the birth of Jesus. We especially get to hear about it at Christmas time when most of the world sets aside a holiday for His birth. But did you know that the Bible tells us the precious baby Jesus in the manger would one day die on the cross for everyone's sin? After Jesus was born, his mother and Joseph took Him to the temple for His baby dedication and God revealed His plan to Joseph and Mary. On that day in the temple the prophetess Anna and a man named Simeon confirmed He was the Savior who would bring salvation to the people. Joseph and Mary knew that they had a special son. Maybe Mary thought of these words when she stood beneath the cross and watched her son die for the sins of the whole world, including yours and mine.

Could you imagine being Mary that day? To think that God had chosen you to be the one to raise His Son, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, God in the flesh. They knew that Jesus had a special purpose. It soon became very clear that Jesus' only desire was to fulfill the will of His Father. But God's plan would one day lead Him to the cross. That is really why Jesus came into this world, to provide salvation for us.

The Bible says that Jesus was, "a lamb slain before the foundation of the world." It wasn't a surprise to God that Adam and Eve sinned or that we have sinned. He knew even before He created Adam and Eve that His Son would one day die for our sins. He loved us so much that He still wanted to have a relationship with us, even if that meant the death of His own Son. He doesn't want you or I to spend eternity separated from Him. All we need to do is **confess** with our mouth that we have sinned, or done wrong things and believe in our hearts that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, then we will be forgiven and receive eternal life. If you haven't believed in Jesus you can do that right now!

- Who is Jesus and what did He do for you and me?
- Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Confession: A statement that you believe in something. When I say, "I believe in Jesus," that is my confession.

Remember, Jesus Cares!

Text: Colossians 2:6,7 - "As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

Also read Colossians 2:6-15

Jack didn't know why he loved to help people so much. His mother said he was such a caring person now. It hadn't always been that way though, just since he accepted Jesus as his Savior. He had a heart and a desire to serve other people. Jack's mom said it was because Jesus had made him a new person, and had changed his heart. Jack remembered when he never wanted to obey his mom and dad. He still had times when he would feel like not listening to his parents or have an angry moment with his brother. But it was during these times that Jack would pray and ask the Lord to bring his heart back from his selfishness and to help him not to be that way.

Do you know what happened? Jesus would help him during these times. Jack would remember the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross and his heart would change. He would remember how that Jesus gave His life for Him. What if Jesus had been selfish? He probably wouldn't have gone to the cross. Just remembering these things and praying to ask for the Lord's help would always help him during these times.

Jack was learning what it meant to die to self and become more like Jesus. Jesus cares for us so much! He wants all of us to experience His peace and love in our hearts. He also wants to help us to be loving and caring towards others instead of selfish. He gives us His Holy Spirit to help us to become more like Him. We can live for Jesus and be caring like Jesus when we have a desire to and ask for His help. Jack was learning how to grow in His walk with the Lord. The next time you are tempted to be selfish, try to pray about it and ask the Lord to help you and see what happens.

- Do we have power to fight against our selfishness and sin? Who gave us power?
- What are some of the ways you are tempted by sin?
- How did Jesus win over our sins and selfishness?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Selfishness: Not caring about other people.

Caring: To be interested and concerned about others.

Choosing Jesus

Text: Luke 23:43 - "And Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'"

Read: Luke 23:26-43

Think about a time when you have had to make a choice. Did you find it difficult to make a choice? We make a lot of choices every day. What are we going to wear? What will we eat? What toys do I want to play with? Which video game do I rent? While many of us have different choices in life, there is a choice that every one of us will one day have. This is the most important decision we will ever make in our lives.

When Jesus died on the cross, He made it possible for us to have a relationship with God. But having a relationship with God through Jesus is not something that just happens. It is a choice that we make to ask Jesus to come into our hearts to live. Everyone will one day have the choice to ask Jesus to come into his or her hearts or to not ask Jesus to come in. But it is the most important decision anyone can make because when we ask Jesus into our hearts we receive eternal life. In today's reading, Jesus gives two men the choice of believing in Him or not.

The two men were in the same place as Jesus. They were going to be crucified on crosses with Him. They were thieves and were receiving the punishment for the bad things they had done. But Jesus had never done anything bad. One of the thieves mocked or laughed at Jesus, denying Him as Lord and Savior. The other man accepted Jesus into his life. Jesus spoke to this man before He died, giving him the assurance of eternal life in paradise with Him. The criminal confessed his sin and accepted Jesus as his Lord. Jesus gave him an eternal life sentence. He promises the same for each of us, if we accept Him as Lord and Savior. Those two men had a choice and so do we. We need to choose Jesus! How loving our God is and how He cares for you and me!

- Tell about a time when you had to make choices.
- Have you chosen to follow Jesus?
- Why is salvation the most important decision you will ever make?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Eternal Life: Life that will continue forever with no death.

Paradise: Another word describing heaven.

Dying to Self, (Part 1)

Text: John 16:22 - "Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."

Read John 16:5-33

Sandy was a busy young lady. She was very popular and had many friends. She was usually invited to spend Friday night with a friend, or to go skating with her friends on Saturday, but she nearly always refused to go. There was something that she did every Saturday that was more important than going skating or doing anything else. It was something that Sandy felt was so important that she gave up all her invitations to go places so she could do this. Sandy always went to visit Steven.

Steven was a special friend of Sandy's. When he first moved in to her neighborhood, she went to say hello. But Steven's mom answered the door and said Steven couldn't go outside like the other children. Steven had something wrong with his body that caused him to be in a wheelchair. A lot of the kids made fun of Steven, but Sandy knew that Steven was such a nice friend. It hurt her heart when they made fun of him. So she would go and read the Bible to Steven every Saturday and pray with him. Sandy felt that this was more important than going to friend's homes or skating. For Sandy this was a **sacrifice**, but it was a **sacrifice** that Jesus would approve of and that gave her great **joy** in her heart.

Jesus was our Lord and Savior but people mocked Him and laughed at Him when He was on the cross. He sacrificed His life for us, even before we were born. Only one man, a criminal on a cross, accepted Jesus while on the cross next to the Lord. Jesus could have come down from the cross. He never even had to be on the cross at all. He could have stayed in heaven on His throne. But Jesus knew that we needed a sacrifice for our sins so that we could be in heaven with Him, so He chose to be our sacrifice. He was perfect in every way, but He died on the cross for you and for me. **Continued on Day Five...**

- Do you think Jesus is Sandy's Lord and Savior? Why?
- If you saw someone different than you, what would you do?
- Do you know someone like Steven who needs a friend?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Joy: Great happiness -- delight.

Sacrifice: Offering something special to God, such as your time, talents or treasures.

Day Five

Dying to Self (Part 2)

Text: John 12:32-33 - "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

Read John 12:3-7; John 12:23-43

Continued from Day Four... Sandy kept coming to Stephen's house regularly. Stephen's mom and dad were very glad that Sandy came over each week. They had never seen someone care for their son so much before. They were used to having to protect their son from the jokes of others. Seeing Sandy's love in action was refreshing for them. At first they thought that Sandy would get tired of reading the Bible to Stephen and eventually quit coming over. It wasn't long before they realized that Sandy truly had something special in her heart.

Sandy was happy to explain to Stephen's mom that it was Jesus' love for her that made Sandy so filled with joy. Sandy told Stephen's mom that Jesus gave His life for the whole world and that He put love for Stephen in her heart. Stephen's mom was very impressed by the love that came out of Sandy's heart towards her son. Sandy invited them to learn about Jesus and His Word at her church and the next week, they all went together to learn about God's Word at church.

Jesus sacrificed His life for us on the cross. He died because He loved us all so much He wanted us to live with Him forever. Scripture tells us all about the sacrifice of Jesus. If we read the Word of God every day, we learn more about our great, loving Lord who gave up His throne in heaven to come to us and give up His life so we can be with Him eternally. Sandy was following the example of Jesus by giving up a part of her life so someone else could know Him and be with Him eternally. She knew Jesus died on the Cross for us all and she shared it with everyone.

- What did Jesus do for us all?
- Have you given up something for Jesus? What?
- How much do you share the love of Jesus with others?

Kid's Prayer Time



We have a great, loving Lord who gave up His life for everyone in the world. As you pray this week, think about the sacrifice of Jesus. Remember His love for the whole world, especially the weak, the poor and the people no one else cares about. Share Jesus' love with everyone!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"... by His stripes we are
healed."

Third Grade and Above

"But He was wounded for
our transgressions, He was
bruised for our iniquities;
the chastisement for our
peace was upon Him, and
by His stripes we are
healed."

Isaiah 53:5