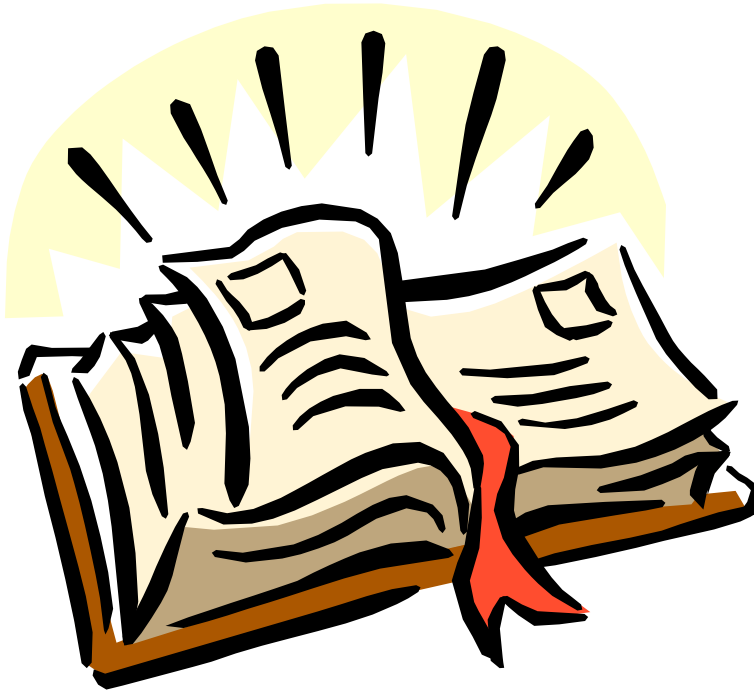


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

**LESSON TITLE: Peter and John
Arrested and Released**

**THEME: The Holy Spirit will give us
boldness to share the gospel with others.**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:1-31



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 & John Being Arrested and Released. The theme was "The Holy Spirit will give us boldness to share the gospel with others." Apart from God's Holy Spirit can a Christian be an effective witness to others? The answer is absolutely NO! We will learn together this week how we can become a bold and powerful witness for God as the early church was. And we will learn that it can only be through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes it can be difficult for children to be witnesses in front of other children their age. Children can be, like adults, consumed with "what will they think of me?" As parents we need to lead our children to what the Bible says. There are treasures of truth in God's word for dealing with embarrassment and helping us to be a bold witness for Jesus.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 4:1-31**. 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

Are You Embarrassed?

Text: Romans 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

Also read Psalms 40:9

The bell rang for lunch and Joshua raced to the cafeteria to get a seat near the front door. Joshua was a new student at school and he still felt a little uncomfortable with his surroundings. Joshua sat down and started removing his lunch from his lunch sack. A few more boys sat down next to Joshua. “Hi, can we join you?” asked one of the boys. “Sure”, replied Joshua. “Is this your first year at this school?” “Yes,” answered Joshua. “Where did you go to school last year?” asked one of the boys. “I was home-schooled”, replied Joshua. “Why?” asked Tommy. Now Tommy was one of the most popular guys in school and he was sitting right next to Joshua. “Because my parents made me”, said Joshua. Joshua didn’t know how to answer that question. He knew that wasn’t the real reason, but he wanted Tommy to like him and not think he was weird.

Joshua felt really bad inside. He had prayed earlier for an opportunity to witness to some other children. This would have been a great opportunity to tell them that he was a Christian and they had home-schooled for a while because they felt like that is what the Lord wanted them to do for that time. Joshua wanted others to know about Jesus, but he was afraid these boys would laugh and make fun of him because he was a Christian. Joshua thought, “I will make friends with those guys first, then I will tell them about Jesus.”

Joshua threw away his trash and went out to play. The other boys soon followed and caught up with Joshua. “Would you like to play some basketball?” “Sure”, replied Joshua. After a short time playing the bell rang. Joshua and the other boys raced to their classroom. The teacher asked the boys to take out their math books. Joshua pulled his math book out from his desk. As Joshua was opening his textbook a 3 x 5 card fell onto the floor. Written on the card was a note; “Have a good day today. I love you Joshua. Love, Mom.” Also underneath the note was a Bible verse; Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” **Continued on Day Two...**

- Have you ever been embarrassed about being a Christian?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ashamed: Feeling shame or guilt, embarrassment

Day Two

How Do You Become Bold?

Text: Acts 4:7 – “And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, “By what power or by what name have you done this?”

Also read Acts 4:8,33

Continued from Day One... Tommy leaned over and picked up the 3 x 5 card. He glanced at the card and noticed the note from Joshua's mom and handed the card to Joshua. “I believe you dropped this”, replied Tommy. Joshua reached over and took the card from Tommy. Joshua looked at the card. “What's this?! Joshua thought to himself. “Why would my mom do this to me?” Joshua was so embarrassed. He thought for sure that Tommy and the other guys would tease him about his card he got from his mother.

During recess Tommy walked over to Joshua. “Hey Joshua, are you a Christian?” Joshua stopped in his tracks! “Uh..., uh..., no! My mom is and she's always writing goofy stuff to me,” Joshua said. “That's too bad,” replied Tommy. “That verse your mom wrote on the card is one of my favorite verses.” Joshua felt like he was going to get sick. “I can't believe what I just did! I denied Jesus just like Peter did,” Joshua thought to himself. “Oh Lord, please forgive me for denying you and not standing strong,” Joshua prayed silently to himself.

“Hey Joshua I would like to chat with you after school,” said Tommy. “O.K.” replied Joshua. After school was out Tommy met up with Joshua and told him all about Jesus. He told Joshua how cool it was to have a mom who prays for him and who places verses in his book bag. Joshua told Tommy that he too was a Christian. He felt bad for trying to pretend like he was not. Tommy knew the story about Peter (Matthew 26:69-75) and he accepted Joshua's apology. Joshua had one question for Tommy. “How did you get the boldness to talk about Jesus in school? Tommy proceeded to tell Joshua about the power and strength that comes from the Holy Spirit. That evening Joshua asked the Lord to provide him with power so he too could have the boldness to talk about Jesus in school. **Continued on Day Three...**

- Where can you find boldness to share God's word? (Acts 4:31)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Power: The ability to act or to do something with force or strength
Boldness: Overcoming fear so that I do what is right with strength and courage.

Day Three

Empowered By God

Text: Acts 1:8 – “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem; and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Also read John 16:13 & 14

Continued from Day Two... Joshua prayed and knew that he had received the power that God promised through the Holy Spirit. Joshua raced to school the next morning and met up with Tommy before class began. “Hey Tommy, I want to thank you for telling me about the Holy Spirit. I have prayed that the Lord would use me to be a witness for Him here at school.” Tommy encouraged Joshua and told him that he would be praying for him. Joshua and Tommy hurried to the classroom before the tardy bell rang.

During lunch, Joshua noticed the yard duty teacher was not in the greatest of moods. She was usually very happy and full of laughter. Joshua went over to talk to her and tried to cheer her up. Nothing was working. In fact, she told Joshua that she was having a terrible day. Joshua told her he would pray for her. She was amazed that someone would do something like that for her, especially a 5th grade student. Most of the students didn't even talk to her. She asked Joshua if he went to Church. Joshua told her all about the church he attends. In fact, the conversation led to Jesus. Joshua told the yard duty teacher all about Jesus - who He is and what He did for us. Joshua continued to witness to her and pray for her.

Joshua was able to tell others about Jesus because he had received boldness from the Holy Spirit. Joshua continued to tell others about Jesus. He not only told them about Jesus but he showed them too. Joshua's life revealed Jesus. Joshua always made an attempt to do something for someone at school. He stayed after school to help the teachers and the cafeteria workers clean up. God received the glory, not Joshua. Joshua was able to lead a lot of people to Jesus all because of the power given to him by the Holy Spirit.

- What was the main thing that Joshua learned in this story?
- What have you learned about boldness?
- Have you asked for the Holy Spirit to give you strength and boldness?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Empowered: To enable (God's Holy Spirit enables us to have boldness)

Enable: give (someone or something) the authority or means to do something

Day Four

Trust in God's Spirit

Text: Mark 16:15 – “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Also read Judges 3:9-10

Larry darted out of the door and raced over to the park. Every Saturday at Ralston Park kids meet to ride their skateboards. Larry was a new Christian and he wanted to try out some of the techniques he learned from a new book that he just read. The book was named, “Three Ways To Force A Friend To Christ.” As Larry was running to the park he went over the 3 ways in his mind. “If the first attempt fails, go on to the next one, 1 of these 3 ways has to work according to the book,” thought Larry. Here’s the three ways:

1. Bribe your friend to accept Christ by taking him/her to lunch after church.
2. Tell your friend you will let him borrow your PlayStation video game unit if he becomes a Christian.
3. Put your friend in a wrestling hold and make him accept Christ before you let him go.

Larry arrived at the park and the first person he ran into was Teddy. “Hi Teddy,” said Larry. “Would you like to go to church with me on Sunday? And if you do I will take you to lunch after the service.” “No thanks,” replied Teddy. “How about if I let you borrow my PlayStation if you go to church with me?” “I already have a PlayStation,” replied Teddy. “OK, you asked for it”, said Larry. Larry reached over and grabbed Teddy, did his best wrestling move to take him to the ground and then held him there. Teddy was struggling to get loose. “Hey, what are you doing?” screamed Teddy. “I will let you go if you go to church with me,” Larry said. “Ok, Ok, I’ll go,” said Teddy. “One more thing,” replied Larry. “You need to repeat this prayer after me.” “What?!” replied Teddy. “Just repeat it!” Larry said. “Ok, whatever,” Teddy answered.

Do you think this kind of tactic works for leading someone to Jesus? We’ll find out.

Continues on Day Five...

- Do you think Larry was filled with the Holy Spirit?
- What do you think about the book that Larry was reading?
- What should Larry have done differently?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Evangelist: One who shares the good news of the gospel.

Day Five

Sharing Our Faith

Text: 1 Corinthians 2:4 – “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”
Also read 1 Thessalonians 1:5

Continued from Day Four... Mike heard the noise coming from the Skateboard Park. He walked over to the area where all the noise was coming from. Mike saw Larry holding Teddy in a wrestling hold. Mike walked up to Larry and said, “Let him go Larry!” “I will, I just want to see if his life has changed first.” “What are you talking about Larry?” Larry replied, “I just made Teddy accept Jesus as his savior.” “You did what? Did I hear you right? Did you say you made Teddy receive Jesus?” “Yes, that’s what I said. I just read this fantastic book about how you can force others to accept Christ”, replied Larry. Mike asked, “Larry can I talk to you for a minute?” “Sure,” replied Larry.

Mike has been a Christian for some time now. He talked to Larry about how you can NOT force someone into being a Christian. He said that Jesus didn’t want someone to come to Him by force. He wants a sincere heart, one that asks for forgiveness. Mike showed Larry some important Bible verses about how the Holy Spirit helps people to understand about accepting Jesus. The following are some verses that Mike wrote down for Larry. Make sure to look up these Bible verses for yourself and pray that God would bring His Holy Spirit upon you so you can be a witness for HIM.

1. The Holy Spirit prepares us to be a witness for Jesus (Ephesians 4:11, Acts 16:6,7, Acts 11:24).
2. The Holy Spirit gives us power to be a witness (1 Corinthians 2:13, 1 Corinthians 2:4, 1 Thessalonians 1:5).
3. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher (John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:14).
4. The Holy Spirit helps people to understand that they have sinned (Luke 15:7, Acts 2:37, John 16:8, Luke 15:20,21).

- What do you suppose Larry learned from this experience? What did you learn?

Kid's Prayer Time



As we share the gospel, we must remember that only God the Holy Spirit can give life. He is the one who opens the understanding of others, convicts them of sin, and causes them to want to turn to Jesus. Pray for God's Holy Spirit this week. Pray that you would be used to plant God's word in the lives of others.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“...they saw the boldness of
Peter and John...”

Third Grade and Above

“Now when they saw the
boldness of Peter and John,
and perceived that they were
uneducated and untrained men,
they marveled. And they
realized that they had been
with Jesus.”

Acts 4:13