

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Voyage to Rome

**THEME: The best place to witness is where
God has placed you.**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 27:1–12



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 Paul's Voyage to Rome. The theme was "The best place to witness is where God has placed you."

We find that Paul is on his way to Rome to stand before Caesar, the most powerful man in the world. Paul is going to go through a lot of things to get to Rome, but God had everything in control. Paul knew that he could be a witness of Jesus' love wherever God had placed him.

Sometimes we can lose sight of contentment in our lives. Contentment simply means being happy where God has placed us and with what we are given. Often we think we will be happier if we are just in another place, or have a few more things. Paul teaches us that we need to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves, and see it as an opportunity to share Jesus' love with others.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 27:1-12**. 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 Impatient?

Text: James 1:22 – “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

Also read Acts 27:9-11 and Matthew 7:24-27

Johnny was looking forward to going to the Harvest Crusade this year with his father. He had heard about wonderful things that the Lord was doing at the Crusades. One of the guest musicians at the Crusade this year was Crystal Lewis, who happened to be Johnny's favorite singer. Johnny is on fire for the Lord and all he wants in life is to serve Him. Johnny is very eager to go anywhere the Lord may send him, but Johnny sometimes gets out ahead of the Lord in his excitement. This sometimes causes problems.

When Johnny and his father arrived at the Harvest Crusade parking lot there were hundreds of servants handing out information cards for different types of ministries that people could get involved in. Johnny collected about 40 cards and he began filling out the cards when he took a seat. Johnny was excited and he wanted to serve in every area. The only problem was that there aren't enough hours in the day to serve in all the areas he signed up for. He didn't take the time to think about how much time it would take to volunteer for 40 ministries. He was excited to serve, which is good, but he wasn't listening to what God's plan was for his life.

Trying to do something you believe God would want you to do before He tells you to do it is not a very good thing. We end up doing things because we feel we have to and not because God has called us or put it on our hearts. We end up committing to too many things and we can't do anything very well. Listening to God and doing things for God should be done together. First, we need to **LISTEN** to what God has spoken to our hearts about what He wants. He will guide and direct us through His Holy Spirit. Secondly, we need to **DO** what he tells us. What happens at home when you don't do what you are asked to do? Listening is an important part of our lives. Johnny wanted to do too much, even for good reasons. God had placed him right where He wanted him to be. What Johnny and each of us need to do is to ask the Lord what HE would have us to do.

- Do you listen to God before doing things for Him?
- Why is it important to listen to God for direction?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Impatient: showing by my looks, words, or actions that I am annoyed or bored because I must wait for someone or something.

Contentment

Text: Philippians 4:11 – “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state that I am, to be content.”

Also read 1 Timothy 6:6-8, Hebrews 13:5

“Lord, please send me to Africa to be a witness for you; I am unable to witness here to my friends. I am too afraid to tell them about Jesus here because they might laugh at me, so please Lord, send me.” Michael just finished praying to the Lord asking Him to send him to another country to tell others about Jesus. Michael is finishing up the sixth grade and is having some difficulty with his friends. Some of his schoolmates are making fun of him and trying to pressure him into things he doesn't want to do. Michael has been witnessing to his friends but they are not making it easy for him to share with them God's Word.

Michael is willing to give up living here in the United States because of the persecution he suffers from his friends. He thinks that by going to another country everything will be better. He doesn't realize that persecution can be far more severe in Africa than it is here in the United States. There are Christians who have been killed and imprisoned for witnessing to others in some foreign countries.

As Michael continued throughout the rest of the day, the Lord began to speak to his heart. The Lord reminded Michael that being here in the United States is truly where He wants him to be. Maybe someday he will be a missionary to Africa, but for now he needs to be a witness where God has placed him. There is a reason why Michael is attending Baker Elementary School and why he is in certain classes. There is a reason for everything in Michael's life. God has placed Michael in certain situations so he can share God's Word to those living in darkness in Baker Elementary. Even though there will be times of difficulty, Michael can make it through the strength provided by Jesus Christ. Michael was very encouraged that afternoon and asked the Lord to help him be a better witness for Him right here.

- Have you ever been made fun of because you told others about Jesus?
- What has the Lord placed on your heart about witnessing to others?
- Have you ever felt like quitting something that the Lord has placed you in? (Phil. 4:13)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Contentment: Being quietly satisfied with what I have and who God has made me; accepting God's care and provisions for me.

He is My Guide

Text: Psalm 73:24 – “You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”

Also read Exodus 13:21,22

“Mom, there is a lady in this restaurant sitting over there with a dog lying next to her,” said Marsha. “Can I bring my cat with me next time we come here?” Marsha’s mother explained to her that the dog lying next to the lady was a guide dog. People who are blind use guide dogs. The dogs are specially trained to lead people around who can not see. The dog sees things for them. When there is something in their path, the dog will walk around it. The dogs also are trained in crossing the streets and in assisting their owner at home. “Wow, I didn’t know that,” said Marsha. “I guess I won’t be able to bring my cat in the next time we eat here.” “No, I guess not,” said mom. “I wonder if there are guide cats,” said Marsha. “I don’t think so,” laughed Marsha’s mom.

As Christians, we have someone who sees for us also. That someone is the Holy Spirit. Our eyes have been opened by Jesus’ death on the cross. When we turn to Him our eyes are opened and we can see. The Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us. Each day we need to have God’s Holy Spirit lead us. We need to read God’s Word and ask that the Holy Spirit would guide us into “all truth” (John 15). If we try to do things on our own, we will bump into things or have problems. He directs us around those things so we don’t fall down.

When we are led by the Holy Spirit, He will also use us to tell others about how wonderful a relationship with Jesus is. God wants to use us to share His message to others. He will place us in certain places so we can be used to bring others to Him. If we try to do things our own way instead of God’s way we will bump into things in our path again, but God wants to lead us and help us to do what He wants us to do. Let’s allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. He will deliver us out of life’s problems. Next time you go to dinner somewhere don’t forget to take your “guide” with you – the Holy Spirit.

- Is God’s Holy Spirit leading you?
- Read Isaiah 58:11 to see what God can provide for you.

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Guidance: Telling or learning the right way to go.

Do Not Lose Heart

Text: Galatians 6:9 – “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

Also read Job 19:1-29

Not very long ago, I was reading a newsletter from *Gospel for Asia*. I read about a man who is a missionary. He was riding his bicycle in a very rough area with a lot of trees and mountains. He had a great eagerness to reach the village before nightfall for safety. On his way to the village, he spotted someone sitting under a tree near the roadway. The missionary stopped to find out what the man was doing all alone in this rough area. The man explained that he had been on his way home to his village, but he had become so exhausted he was unable to go any further.

The missionary offered the exhausted man a ride to the next village. The man would have to sit on the back rack of the missionary's bike. The extra load would slow down the missionary considerably, and he would have to peddle a lot harder. Have you ever tried to ride your bike through a field? It's difficult enough to ride by yourself, but it must be very exhausting to ride a bicycle with another person on the back.

The missionary was able to make it through this very difficult time because he was looking for the opportunity to tell another person about Jesus. The missionary was content or happy with where God had placed him and wanted to be used by God in every thing that might come his way. Because of that contentment he was able to be a guide to this man who was exhausted from walking. There will be times in your Christian life when God will place you in difficult situations. You can endure the difficulty by doing what's right in God's eyes. God will lift you up and provide everything you need through His Holy Spirit. Don't be afraid to be used by God, right where he has placed you. Is there something you can do for Him today?

- What does the Lord promise to someone who can endure temptation? (James 1:12)
- How can you endure a time of difficulty? (Hebrews 12: 1-4)
- What are some ways that God can use you today?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Endurance: Continuing to do right during times of weariness, pain or opposition.

Day Five

Living in Peace

Text: Philippians 4:6 – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”

Also read 1 Thessalonians 5:17,18

When you live according to God's will He will use you to be a witness of His love to others. In a previous devotion we talked about Michael being used at Baker Elementary School. Michael was suffering from the pressure of his friends. He was being made fun of because he was a Christian and he wanted others to know about Jesus. Like Michael, we may have to deal with things that are hard. But we need to also remember that God has placed us there and we can look to Him for strength. We need to be thankful for the places that God has put us in.

Three things we need to consider in our prayer life is:

1. Be worried for nothing,
2. Be prayerful in all things
3. And be thankful for everything (1 Thessalonians 5: 18).

When we do what God wants us to do, we can be used by Him to tell others about Jesus. Instead of complaining or wishing that we were somewhere else, doing something better, we need to pray and ask the Lord to provide strength and the ability to do what He wants us to do, where He has placed us. You can endure times of hardship through His strength.

We have it very easy living here in the United States. We can witness to others in the grocery store, in school, and in the mall. We are free to tell others about God without receiving any physical pain or imprisonment for what we say. In other countries there are missionaries who walk 20 - 30 miles a day to tell others about Jesus. There are missionaries who have been killed, tortured, or imprisoned for handing out a Bible or a tract. Even though they live in difficult areas, they endure those difficulties to do God's will. They are living in contentment where He has placed them and desire to be used by God in those places. How about you? Are you willing to stay where he has placed you?

Kid's Prayer Time



God has a plan for each of us. His plan is probably not the same for you as it is for me. We need to pray and ask the Lord to show us what His plan is for us. Then we need to ask for the strength to do what He wants for us and to be content or happy where He places us. We should be faithful in all things. Ask Him to help you to be a witness where He has placed you.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"I do not count my life dear, only that I complete the work that the Lord Jesus has given me, to tell people the good news of God's grace."

Third Grade and Above

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Acts 20:24