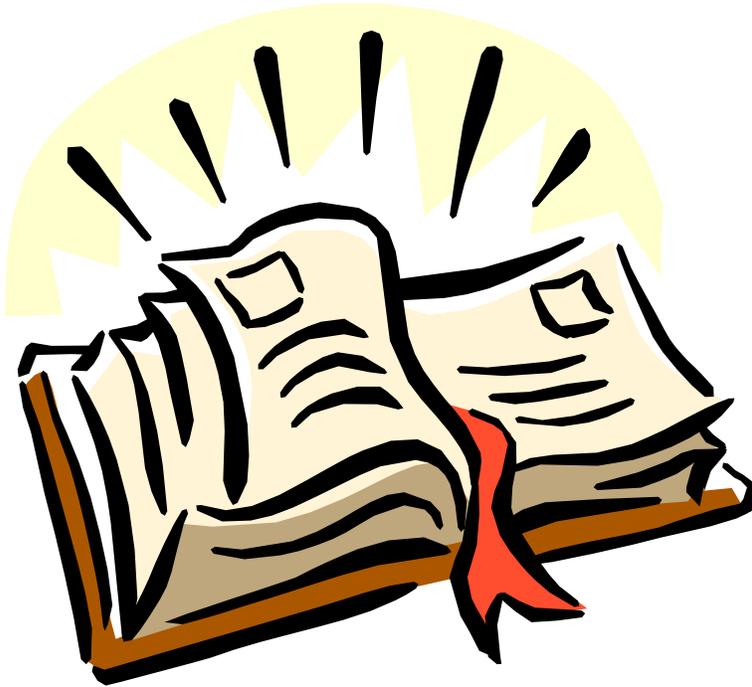


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



**LESSON TITLE: God's Call – That No Flesh
Should Glory!**

**THEME: Only what is done for Christ will
last.**

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

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 the title of the lesson was "God's Call-That No Flesh Should Glory. The theme was "Only what is done for Christ will last." As believers in Jesus He allows us to get to do some pretty wonderful things. The Lord uses us to bless others, to share about salvation and may even use us to pray with someone to receive Jesus. But we can also be tempted to think that we are accomplishing things in our own strength. How we need to be careful.

Only God should receive the glory for anything good in our lives. We also have to be careful to remember that everything we do in this life is going to pass away, except what is done for Jesus. If we really want to make our lives count for eternity then we need to be serving Jesus.

The section of scripture that we studied was **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**. 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!

Crown of Glory!

Text: 1 Peter 5:4 - "And when the chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive a crown of glory that will not fade away."

Also read 2 Chronicles 25:1-9

Through many years of hard work, Richard's family had purchased several acres of land and had all kinds of animals living on their ranch. They were very blessed and had plenty of everything they could possibly need. Their ranch even provided jobs for many in the family and also a lot of Richard's friends. Every person who worked on the ranch had a special job to do. Everyone worked at their job really hard and were thankful for their work, except for Richard. Every morning Richard would get up and do what he was supposed to do, but something was very wrong. His heart was not in his work. All he could think of was traveling far away to another country. Richard loved adventure and felt that if he could just leave the ranch with all of its work that he would be happy. He would often tell others what he wanted to do. When he was older his father allowed Richard to go and find his adventure.

His new adventure was very exciting at first, but soon he ran out of money. Reality began to set in. He would have to find a job and work to keep his adventure going, but he didn't like the jobs that were available. It didn't take very long for him to remember his father's ranch. "Life wasn't so bad there after all", he thought to himself so Richard headed back home. His father was very excited to see him and he wasn't upset with Richard at all. He told Richard that he could come back to work and even learn to take over the family business one day.

God is **always** faithful even when we are faithless! Sometimes we are like Richard and have to learn the hard way. But, like Richard's father, God is loving, kind and forgiving. Richard learned that setting his eyes on the things in this world didn't make him happy. He learned that he needed to set his eyes on what his father provided for him. So too, we need to set our eyes on our eternal reward in heaven. Only what we do for Jesus will last so let's keep our focus and our hearts on those things that will last for eternity.

- What did Richard learn in today's story?
- What should we keep our focus and heart centered on?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Crown of Glory: An eternal reward that Jesus gives to those who follow Him and are faithful.

Faithful: Being trustworthy, doing what the Lord asks us to do.

Day Two

Full of Self

Text: John 1:3 - "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

Also read Ephesians 2:9,10

Grant Elementary's Drama Club had twenty-five aspiring and excited fifth-grade actors. One of the boys named Timmy was chosen for the leading role in the next play they were going to perform. Timmy was very talented, but there was one problem. He knew how talented he was and he wanted everyone else to know it as well. He would often brag about his great talents to the other members of the club. He would say things like, "It's no wonder they chose me to have the lead role, since I'm so talented. In fact, I think everyone should watch me to learn how to be a good actor." Timmy was always praising himself and when someone told him he did a good job he would often say, "I know!"

All the other club members felt like they were in the shadow of Timmy's greatness. They stopped having fun as they came to practices every day and heard all about Timmy and his great acting skills. Many of the children decided to leave the club, but, his best friend Earl, who was also in the drama club, was willing to overlook Timmy's high opinion of himself. He knew how Timmy had received his talents. God had blessed him! As boastful as Timmy was, Earl remained loyal to his friend and liked Timmy even though he wasn't sure if he was a Christian. He wanted more than anything for Timmy to become a Christian and give glory to the Lord for his talents. He knew that someday he would need to talk to Timmy about these things so he prayed for the right time to share.

Opening night for the big play came. It was a GREAT performance! After the curtains were drawn Earl saw Timmy coming off of the stage. Earl knew this was the right time to share with Timmy. "Timmy, you are a natural, that's for sure," admitted Earl. "Yea," replied Timmy. "You know your talent is a gift from God," Earl continued. For the longest minute, Timmy didn't say a word. Finally, Timmy began to defend himself, "I have worked hard and come a long way, why should I give the credit to someone else?" "Well, the Bible says..." Earl continued to share with Timmy and he began to realize that he was wrong and maybe even hurt a lot of people's feelings. Timmy apologized to Earl. Timmy learned that God created all men in His image and He has given each one of us unique talents. Everything we have, talents, gifts, health are all to be given back to God for His glory.

- Have you ever been tempted to boast? What should you do?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Glory: honor and respect; greatness and majesty.

Day in Court

Text: Revelation 20:12 - "And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged, each one according to his works."

Also read Revelation 20:11-15

Imagine a huge courtroom in heaven with millions of people standing before the judge and waiting for their judgment. You see a great white throne and the judge coming out to take His place. It is God Himself who is the judge. Every inch of the courtroom is filled with His glory. His Son, Jesus is with Him next to His great throne. The Book of Life is opened and the people are called to stand before God one by one.

Joanne is first to be called to stand before God and give an account of her life. After reading His notes, God asks, "Joanne, I see here you have been a good wife and a good mother; your girls have been in Girl Scouts, soccer, and drama. You're an active member of the PTA. You pay your bills on time and you've never hurt anyone. Is this all correct?" "Yes," she answers, "I am a good person; I've done a lot of good things." God asks Joanne, "Have you been perfect and never sinned?" Joanne replies, "Well, compared to John, my neighbor, who has been in jail for a year and left his kids alone to be raised by their mother, I'm better than that!" God replies, "My word says, 'for all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.'" God then asks if her name was written in the Book of Life; it was not. He then asks Jesus if He knows her and with sadness in His eyes He says, "I never knew her." God explained that no one can come to Him and be forgiven of sin except through His Son Jesus. She would not be allowed to enter heaven.

God then called John, Joanne's neighbor to stand before Him. "John, is this true, what has been spoken about you?" asked God. "Yes, Father," he replies. God then asked, "What do you have to say for yourself?" John looks up humbly and says, "While I was in jail, a man was sent to me who told me about your Son, Jesus and I accepted Him into my heart and repented of my sins." God then asked if His name was found in the Book of Life; it was. He then looked to his Son and asked, "Do you know John?" Jesus stood up, placed his arm around John, and said, "Yes Father, I do know John." Based on his relationship with Jesus and not on any good things he had done, John was allowed into heaven. Only what we do for Jesus will last in eternity!

- If you were to stand before God today what would you say?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Judgment: Punishment for sin; a decision of a court or judge.

Jars of Clay

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:7 - "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."

Also read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Joel's best friend Robby had been in and out of the hospital for months now. Joel had just found out that Robby had a rare form of cancer and may only have a couple of years left to live. It really made Joel sad to think about losing his best friend, but he knew that Robby was a Christian and would be with the Lord. Joel visited Robby every day to play with him and try to keep him encouraged through his illness.

The interesting thing was that it seemed Joel was sadder about Robby's illness than Robby was. Sometimes Joel even thought Robby shouldn't be so happy all of the time. One day Joel came over to Robby's house and was really sad. Robby's condition had grown worse and Joel was feeling really bad about it. When Joel entered Robby's room he was in bed resting. Robby's face lit up with a big smile to see his friend. "Hey, do you want to play a card game?" Robby asked. Joel just couldn't understand it. He replied, "How can you be so happy all of the time when you are so sick? It seems like I'm more upset about this than you are!"

Robby just smiled and said that when he first heard that he was really sick he would get sad a lot. But one day his dad shared something with him that changed the way he felt. He told him that God created us in "earthen vessels" or "jars of clay". He is talking about our bodies. They are weak and can sometimes get sick. Everyone will grow older and even die someday. But God gives us His "treasure" when we ask Jesus into our hearts. So God puts His treasure of eternal life into our weak bodies. It is kind of like putting your most valuable things in a clay pot. The only problem with putting treasure in clay pots is that they can break real easy. "Kind of like my mom's flower vase I broke last week." Joel said. "That's right Joel," Robby replied. **Continued on Day Five...**

- Why was Joel sad?
- What do clay jars have to do with Robby having joy?
- Can God get glory from Robby's life even when he is sick?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Earthen Vessels: Clay pottery in Bible times refers to our bodies.

Day Five

Jars of Clay (Part Two)

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:7 - "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

Continued from Day Four... Joel got out the cards that he and Robby were going to play with and passed them out. "So why would God want to put treasure into something that breaks real easy?" Joel asked with a puzzled look on his face. "Well, my dad said that the Bible teaches us that He does it this way so that He can receive the glory. When He puts His treasure in us it means that we have to trust in Him that He will take care of us. We are very weak and He is very strong. So even though my body isn't working right I still have eternal life and can praise the Lord for that."

"So does that mean you are never afraid?" Joel asked. "No, I sometimes can get afraid, but when I do I know that I can pray with my mom and dad and the Lord will help me. He gives me joy that I can't even explain, so I want to give Him all of the glory." "Well, you are certainly a very good example to me," Joel replied with a big smile as they began to play their card game.

Sometimes things may happen in our lives or in the lives of our family or friends that we don't always understand. We love them so very much yet we see them suffering or sick. God knows that we are weak and sometimes will get sick. There are times when the Lord chooses to heal people that are sick and other times He chooses not to. But, we need to just trust in Him that He will do what is best for His children. When we trust in Him we have the wonderful treasure of eternal life in our weak bodies. In this way, God receives the glory in our lives just like God received the glory in Robby's life and helped Joel to understand a little bit more of how God works. The next time we are faced with problems in our lives let's remember to trust in the Lord and give Him glory always.

- What did Joel learn from Robby?
- What have you learned from the story of Joel and Robby?

Kid's Prayer Time



As you pray this week, ask the Lord to help you to focus on the things that are important to Him in your life. His rewards are eternal.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise and the weak things to shame the strong.”

Third Grade and Above

“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty...”

1 Corinthians 1:27