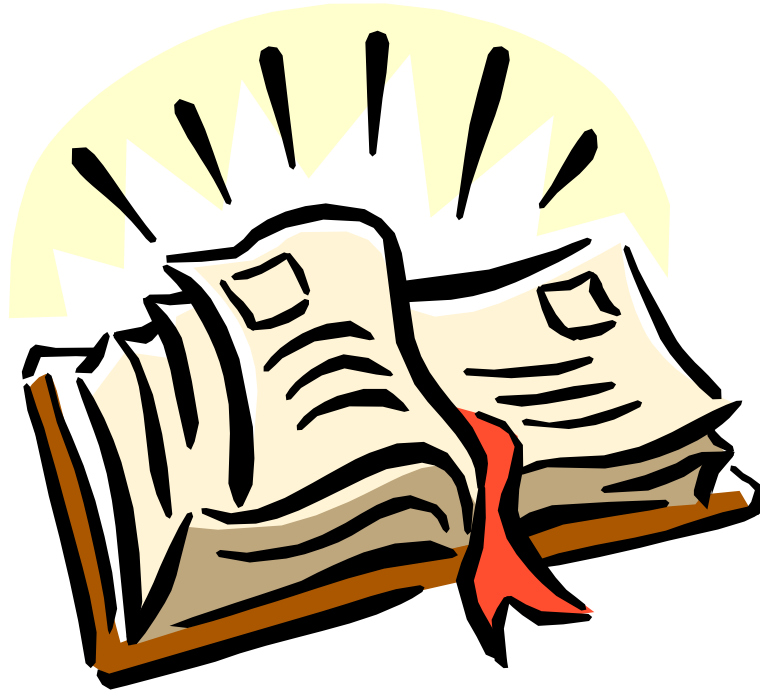


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: An Example in Humility

THEME: We need to be humble like Jesus.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:1-16



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 **An Example in Humility**. The theme was "**We need to be humble like Jesus.**" Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. He laid down the glory of heaven and His very life in humbly going to the cross and dying for our sins. Jesus also lived a very humble life. He was not proud or arrogant at all. Sometimes we can be guilty of pride in our lives. How we need to be like Jesus!

This week we will look at some examples of God's servants in the Bible who demonstrated humility in their lives. We will learn that in order for us to come to the Lord and then live for the Lord, we need to have humility. We need to be willing to lay down our rights for the sake of others. Then we will truly look like Jesus in our humility.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Philippians 2:1-16**. 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

King David

Text: 2 Samuel 7:18 - "Then King David went in and sat before the Lord; and he said: 'Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?'"

Also read 2 Samuel 7

Have you ever wanted to do something that was really good for someone else, but couldn't? Maybe you wanted to help out a friend in need, but couldn't because your mom said that you had to finish your homework. You had to be humble and obey your mom. But when you obeyed your mom did you find that you will were blessed? King David had something like that happen to him one day. This week we will be looking at different Bible characters and how they showed humility. We will begin with King David.

David loved God very much. In fact, the Bible says that he was a man after God's own heart. After David became king he built a really big palace. It was very nice and comfortable. One day David thought about how that God's dwelling place was in a tent. Back in those days God's presence was on the Ark of the Covenant, which was in a tent called the tabernacle. David wanted to build a really nice house for God. He didn't feel like it was right for Him to be in a nice house while God lived in a tent. So he set out to build God a house.

God spoke to David through the prophet Nathan. God said that He never asked for a house and was right where He wanted to be. But rather than David building God a house, God told David that He would build him a house. He said that He would always have a ruler who was from his line sitting on the throne of Israel. So God made a promise to David. David's line came all the way down to Jesus who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, so God had kept His promise.

David could have been sad that He couldn't do what he wanted to do. But instead he was so amazed and blessed by God's love and grace. God told him, "no", but then blessed him in a really great way. David was humble and as our verse reads above he realized that it was all God's grace. He asked, "Who am I, O Lord God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?" He didn't get mad that he couldn't do what he wanted, but rather just sat before the Lord and worshipped Him for His goodness. How we need to be humble and accept God's plan for our lives, even if it is different than our plans.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Humility: Seeing myself as God sees me and knowing my weaknesses; understanding and appreciating the true worth of others so that I respect them and consider their ideas.

Day Two

King Solomon

Text: 1 Kings 3:7 - "Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in."

Also 1 Kings 3:4-14

Have you ever had to stand up before your school class or your class at church and say something? Were you nervous about doing that? Sometimes it is hard for us to stand before others and speak. I remember as a child having to give a report in front of my whole class. I was really nervous because I didn't know if everyone would like my report or not. Or worse, would they laugh at me and think I was silly. I was really afraid. But then I remembered to pray and ask the Lord to help me to stand up there in front of my class and share what I had to share. And you know what? The Lord was there with me and gave me strength.

King Solomon may have felt that same way when he began to reign as king in Israel. Solomon was David's son and would follow his father as king. King David was a very good king and had big shoes to fill. Solomon knew that he didn't have the strength in himself to do the best thing for the nation. In fact he said, "I'm just a child, I don't know how to go out or come in, or how to rule from a throne." Solomon saw that his strength would have to come somewhere else beside himself, and that place would be from the Lord.

One day the Lord came to him in a dream and said, "Ask of me anything you want." Could you imagine God asking you that question? What would you ask for? Solomon refused to ask for riches or a big army or anything for himself, but rather he asked for an understanding heart so he could help God's people. That really blessed God's heart. So God made him the wisest king ever. How we need to have humility when we are given things to do by the Lord. Solomon humbled himself before God and God blessed him greatly. Even more we need to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.

- What was Solomon's attitude when he became king?
- Who did he put his trust in?
- Who are you putting your trust in to help you to do what God wants you to do?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Wisdom: Rightly putting to practice the knowledge that God gives us from His Word.

Naaman

Text: 2 Kings 5:15a - "And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, 'Indeed now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel...'"

Also read 2 Kings 5:1-19

Naaman was a very powerful man. He was from a different country than Israel and was the commander of that nation's army. He had won many battles and was no doubt a very strong man. But there was one problem that Naaman had; he had leprosy. Leprosy in Bible times was a really bad skin disease. There were no cures for it and often people who had leprosy had to spend the rest of their lives living away from everyone else in places where only lepers live. So no doubt Naaman could take care of any enemy or foe, except this one.

One day he hears about a prophet in Israel who can possibly help him. He goes to his king who sends him to the prophet Elisha for help. He sends a letter with some gifts. When he arrives at Elisha's house, Elisha sends out a messenger and tells Naaman to go dip seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was furious when he heard this. "Doesn't Elisha know who I am? How important I am? How dare he not come out to greet me! I thought he would come out and wave his arms around and say special things, then, 'poof', I'd be healed. Then to tell me to go dip seven times in the Jordan; I could have stayed home and dipped in better rivers. Forget it, I refuse to do it!" Well, it's a good thing one of his servants was there to help him figure this out. He told him that he ought to at least try

Well, Naaman listened to his servant and humbled himself. He went to the Jordan River and dipped seven times and he was healed. He was no longer angry at Elisha, but thankful for what he had done for him. Sometimes our pride and thinking that we are something more than we are can keep us from God's blessing. It is very sad that some people are too proud to come to Jesus and give their lives to him. They think they are tough enough and don't need Jesus. They can handle life and their problems, so they refuse Jesus and turn away from Him. How sad that their pride will keep them from eternal life with Jesus. Don't let your pride keep you away from Jesus. Give your life, your all, your everything to Him and trust Him to take care of you.

- Why did Naaman get mad at Elisha?
- Why is pride so dangerous?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Pride: Thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to.

Day Four

John the Baptist

Text: John 3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease."

Also read John 3:22-30

Sometimes we can see other people doing something better than us and we can become jealous. Being humble means that we will rejoice when others around us succeed. We should never become jealous of them. There was a time when John the Baptist was tested in this very thing. But he didn't allow jealousy to have any place in his life, instead he was very humble and a very good example to us.

There was a time when John the Baptist began his ministry that a lot of people were coming to him to be baptized. Every day there would be long lines of people waiting to be baptized by John. This wasn't because John was so special, but because the Holy Spirit was doing a work to prepare people for the coming of Jesus. So John had a wonderful ministry going on when Jesus came to him to be baptized. When Jesus came John pointed out Jesus in the crowd and said, "There is Jesus, He is the one sent by God to take away the sins of the world." He pointed them to Jesus.

After a while more and more people began to follow Jesus. Then in our reading today we read about a disciple of John's coming to him to tell him that Jesus and his disciples are now baptizing more people than John, and everyone is going to Jesus now. It is almost like he is saying, "John, we better do something, we had a great thing happening and now it is all going to be ruined because all the people are going to Jesus." But John the Baptist was a very humble man and taught his disciples and us a valuable lesson about humility. He said that God gives everyone their work to do. God gave John the Baptist his work and he faithfully completed it. He told them that Jesus is the one they should look for, not him. He said he is Jesus' friend. Then he talks about how that Jesus is greater than anyone and has come from heaven. So John tells them that he needs to decrease and Jesus needs to increase. What that means is that they should be hearing less and less of John and more and more of Jesus.

That is the same attitude of humility that we should have. Our lives should become less and less important and Jesus becomes more and more important. Is Jesus becoming more and more important in your life? Are your wants and desires more important than Jesus. Everything we do in life should be centered on giving Jesus glory. Let's learn to be like John the Baptist.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Baptism: Immersing people in water as a public declaration of their repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Day Five

The Apostle Paul

Text: 1 Timothy 1:15 - "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

Also read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Sometimes when we think about great heroes in the Bible we often think about the apostle Paul. He was a great man of God who took the gospel all over the known world in his day. He loved Jesus with all of his heart. But one of the things that marked this great man of God was his humility. He never forgot where he came from or who he was before he came to Jesus. And he was always thankful to God for what He made him to be. Sometimes after we have served Jesus for a while we might be tempted to think that we are something special, that maybe God chose us because we are so talented. But Paul never thought that way.

Paul wrote to Timothy towards the end of his life and talked about how thankful he was that Jesus considered him trustworthy to serve Him. He is saying that it is such a blessing to be used by God, because I know what I used to be. He said that there was a time when I would laugh at the name of Jesus. I would hunt down Christians and try to hurt them any way I could. But God had so much mercy on me. He knew that I didn't understand what I was doing. He was so kind and gracious. He came to me and filled me with the love of Jesus.

Then he goes on to say that Jesus came into this world to save sinners, and I'm the worst sinner of all. God has used me as an example of His grace. He has taken someone who hated His Son Jesus and His people and allowed me to serve Him. What an amazing thing. Then Paul just praises God for how good He is. For us to be truly humble it is important for us to go back to cross often, even daily. And remember why it was that Jesus had to be nailed to the cross. It was because of our sin and disobedience. Then when we think about what Jesus did and what he saved us from it should produce humility, thanksgiving and praise in our hearts. What a wonderful God we serve. Let's serve Him with all of our hearts!

- How did Paul show humility?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray ask the Lord to develop humility in your life. Ask Him to take away any pride that is in your heart and replace it with His spirit and grace. Ask Him to use you this week as you decrease and He increases.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

“...in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

Third Grade and Above

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

Philippians 2:3