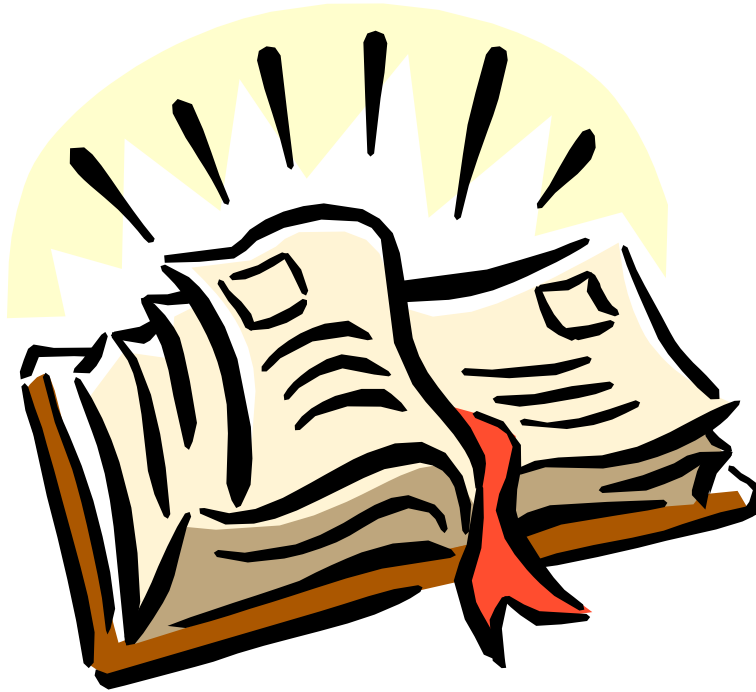


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Last Days

THEME: Even though the last days will be bad, God is still in control.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:1-9



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 Last Days**. The theme was "**Even though the end times will be bad, God is still in control.**" Can you imagine what this world will be like when Jesus comes back for us? A young pastor named Timothy is told that when Jesus comes back to take us with Him to heaven, the earth is going to be a very bad place. People won't care anymore about obeying God and will be very selfish (sounds kind of like today!).

But, even though the last days will be a difficult time to live in, God is still in control and has given us hope through His Son Jesus. So, when we think that things are out of control, we need to remember that nothing happens apart from God's knowledge. We can rest in His love for us as His children. We don't need to be afraid of the future. Let's take a closer look at the last days and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

The section of scripture that we studied was **2 Timothy 3:1-9**. 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

God Is Still In Control

Text: **Jeremiah 29:11** - "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Also read Exodus 13:17-19; 14:5-31

Have you ever felt that all hope was lost when something scary or bad happened in your life? Did you feel that God wasn't listening or that He just wasn't there? Was there ever an obstacle that you just couldn't overcome and you thought the Lord was not going to hear your prayer to help you? There are many things in life that make us want to despair and give up. But we must always remember that **GOD IS IN CONTROL**, and there is nothing too big for Him to handle. He has a plan that is best for you and He wants to forever listen, guide, protect, and see that His plans are done in your life.

In today's Bible story, we learned that Moses and the Hebrew people were faced with many hardships when they were set free from slavery and began their travels to the land of promise. They could have easily lost hope. They had to walk across a desert because God told them to go a certain way. Then they came to the Red Sea and didn't know how to cross the big body of water. They also had the Egyptians coming after them to recapture and place them back in slavery. What were they supposed to do? Well, they looked to the Lord for guidance and protection. As all hope seemed to be lost, God told Moses to hold up his staff and the waters of the Red Sea parted. The Hebrew children were able to walk through the Sea. Then the sea closed up, stopping the Egyptians. **GOD WAS IN CONTROL!**

Moses and his people truly thought that they were going to be captured by the Egyptians, and it seemed they had no way out. But the Lord, with His mighty power, made a way for them to overcome the obstacle that was in front of them. Maybe you are facing something really scary right now in your life. God can help you just like He helped Moses and His people so many years ago. When we trust in the Lord and believe He will take care of us, He will provide a way. Remember He is in control. We can rest in Him. God is in control through good times and bad. When you are in a tough situation, remember that God's phone is never busy, and He can be reached through prayer anytime.

- Who can you trust and know that He is in control in any situation?
- What is the hardest thing for God to help us with?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Obstacle: Something in your way, stopping you from completing something
Egyptians: People from the land of Egypt who used the Israelites as slaves.

Trusting the Lord by Faith

Text: Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart lean not on your own understanding; in all ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

Also read Psalm 28:7; 1 Peter 1:5; Daniel 6:14-22

Have you ever asked the question, “How could God let bad things happen?” A lot of people do ask that question. The Bible has an answer for us. The first thing we have to know is that God is always present and knows what happens, but He is not the one causing the bad things to happen. It all goes back to the story of Adam and Eve when they first turned away from God and sinned (Genesis 3:1-7). Because of sin, people do bad things. People get sick and die, and people are mean sometimes. But that doesn't mean that God isn't in control and very active in what happens in this world. If we look around we can see God working all of the time.

In our Bible story today, Daniel is put to the ultimate test of his faith. He had to trust that the Lord would protect him from being ripped apart and eaten by the lions. Could you imagine yourself being Daniel and the only “bad” thing that you did was to worship and thank God for what He has done for you? And then you find yourself being thrown into a den of hungry lions because of it? It doesn't sound very fair does it? But Daniel knew that the Lord was still there with Him and that He was going to be okay because he had faith that God was going to see Him through this rough trial in His life.

We have the choice of how we will react to problems in our lives. We can get scared and try to run and hide. We can get upset with God and tell Him about how unfair it is that we are having a problem. Or we can simply put our faith and trust in Him and know that He wants what is best for us and will help us. Do you trust in the Lord Jesus when trials come? Do you ever doubt that God will be there? The Lord has given us many promises and said that He will never leave us. Jesus told us that as our shepherd He would forever help us, watch over us and make sure that we are kept safe. Because of sin in this world bad things will happen, but we have Jesus to help us through anything!

- Did Daniel ever just give up?
- Who was there for Daniel, and who is always there for us?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Trial: an instance of trouble or hardship; a test of patience or faith

Trust: confidence, placing oneself in the Lord's care

Day Three

Following Jesus' Example

Text: 1 John 2:6- "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as Jesus walked."

Also read Romans 12:9

As Johnny came home from school one afternoon there were a group of boys who jumped out from behind a bush and began to call Johnny names. They called him "Bible boy" and laughed at him. Johnny didn't say anything back to the boys. He did read his Bible at lunchtime and told other kids about Jesus at school when he could, but he was always nice. Next, one of the boys clinched his fist and swung at Johnny's face. His fist hit Johnny's jaw and caused him to fall to the ground. The other boys laughed and ran off. Johnny got up, with tears in his eyes and a sore jaw. He told his mom about what had happened. She called his teacher and then prayed with him. Johnny knew that what the boys did was wrong, but he also knew that they didn't know Jesus. Johnny prayed for these boys that they would come to know Jesus.

Johnny and his mom talked about what had happened for a while. Johnny's mom told him that people can sometimes be mean and that Jesus said it would even get worse as the time of His return got closer. But then she also told him how important it is for us to continue to be like Jesus in every way. We need to love our enemies just as Jesus did. He was willing to lay down His life for others. We need to pray for those who persecute us. We need to be like Jesus, especially in these last days!

There are many things that we must face each day as Christians, but these trials help us to grow closer to the Lord. It can be difficult at times to decide how we should handle problems that come our way. The Bible talks about how that in the last days, things will be really bad. Jesus is returning soon and we could be living in the last days right now. How should we act in these days? We need to be just like Jesus. Jesus was perfect when He lived on the Earth, and He provided the example that as Christians should follow. We can never be perfect like Jesus, but we can make sure we are acting like Jesus would. Then, people will be able to see Jesus in us.

- Whose example must we follow?
- What situation do you face that you need to ask, "How would Jesus do it?"

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Example: To act or be like someone or something.

Persecute: To make somebody the victim of continual pestering.
To harass or annoy (someone) persistently

Day Four

What Will The Last Days Be Like?

Text: 2 Timothy 3:1 – “But know this that in the last days, perilous times will come.

Also read 2 Timothy 3:1-8

Today we are going to look at the last days. What are the last days? It is the period of time just before Jesus comes a second time. He promises in the Bible that He will return for us. But He also tells us that in the days just before His return, people will be very bad. We are probably living in these days right now. We don't know exactly when Jesus will return, but we can look around and see that the way the Bible describes the last days is a lot like our world today. Let's look at some of the things Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy to tell him what those days would be like.

- People will love themselves more than anything else.
- People will love money more than God.
- People will tell everyone how good they are.
- People will be proud and say they don't need God.
- People will say bad things about God.
- People will disobey their parents.
- People will not thank God for anything.
- People won't care about living for God; they will only do what they want to do.
- People won't forgive others who have wronged them.
- People will speak evil of other people.
- People won't be able to control themselves.
- People will be mean and cruel.
- People will hate things that are good and love things that are bad.
- People will be disloyal to their friends.
- People will love pleasure more than loving God.

What do you think? Does that sound anything like the world today? We know that we are living in the last days and it is important to share the good news of Jesus with other people. We want them to know Jesus before He returns to judge those who have given themselves over to sin. We look forward to Jesus' return, but for those who don't know Him it will be a very sad time. Let's keep telling others about Jesus!

- Do you think Jesus' return may be soon? Why?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Last Days: The time before the return of Jesus.

Day Five

We Have Hope!

Text: John 3:16-17- "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son Jesus, that whosoever believes in Him, will not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Also read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

During a birthday party, Sue and her friends decided to play the question game. The rules were that no matter what question you were asked, you had to answer it. Well, after about ten minutes of playing the game, one of the girls turned to Sue and asked her, "If you died today, do you know where would you go?" As Sue sat there, almost everyone started to giggle and Sue thought to herself that maybe the other kids didn't know Jesus.

Sue bowed her head and said a small prayer, as the room fell silent because her friends couldn't believe what she was doing. She then looked up and said, "I would be going to heaven. I have asked Jesus to come into my heart and he has forgiven me. He loves all of us and has promised that anyone who would ask Him into their heart and put all their faith in Him, "shall not perish but have everlasting life." So, yes, I know where I am going, but now my question to all of you is, do you?"

Everyone living during the time of Jesus' return will face the last days. But two very different things will happen. For those who know Jesus, they will be caught up to be with Him and will not have to go through the worse part, the Great Tribulation. Those who don't know Jesus will go through a very terrible time. The Great Tribulation will be so bad that many people will wish they were dead. But God's plan is that no one would have to go through that time if they would only turn to Jesus and place their trust in Him. God sent his only Son, Jesus to die on the cross as the payment for our sins. We, as Christians, have nothing to fear because we have hope. But there are people who do not know Jesus. They need to hear the good news and Jesus wants to use us to share it with them. So, my question to you is, "Where will you go when you die?" And if you answer that you would go to be with Jesus then the next question is, "Do you know others who need to hear the good news?"

Kid's Prayer Time



Knowing that God is always in control and trusting in Him is what God wants us to do. With our eyes fixed on Jesus and following His example, we have nothing to worry about as the last days approach. Pray that the Lord would help you to love Jesus and show others how to find Jesus in their heart.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

“In the last days bad times will come.”

Third Grade and Above

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:”

2 Timothy 3:1