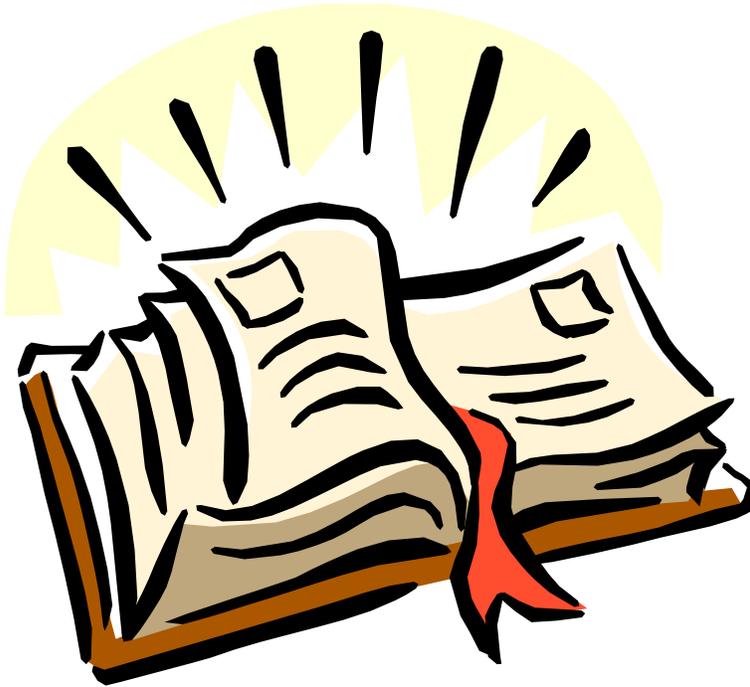


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Demas Forsakes Paul

THEME: God loves faithfulness.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:9-21

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 time when **Demas Forsakes Paul**. The theme was "**God loves faithfulness.**" We learned that Demas loved the things of this world more than the Lord. We also saw how that He forsook the Lord and he forsook working with the apostle Paul to go after worldly things. We also learned about Paul who faithfully finished his race. God wants us to be faithful to the end.

As Christians, we need to honor God and be faithful in everything that we do. At times, there can be things that tempt us to give up, or to follow after the world's ways. We need to keep our eyes on the prize like the Apostle Paul and find strength in Jesus Christ. Our lives bear the name of Jesus Christ; therefore we need to wear that name with honor and serve Jesus faithfully.

The section of scripture that we studied was **2 Timothy 4:9-21**. 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!

Keeping a Promise

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:20 – “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”

Also read Hebrews 6:17,18

“But you promised dad!” exclaimed Jeff. “I am sorry, I just can’t spend time with you today because I need to get caught up on some work,” replied Jeff’s father, Mr. Johnson. “Dad, you have promised me every week that we would spend time together on Fridays. We haven’t been able to spend one Friday together for over 6 months. That’s 24 Fridays and 24 promises you have broken.” “We will talk about this later son, I promise,” Mr. Johnson repeated as he exited the house.

“I promise,” is a sentence that Jeff has been hearing for a long time. A promise is something that holds a lot of value when it is not broken. But when we promise something to someone and then we don’t do what we promised, then we begin to break the trust we have with that person. Since our word has been broken the person we hurt will probably not believe us the next time we say, “I promise.”

Promises are not meant to be broken. God wants us to be faithful in everything, including the things that we say. Unfortunately, Satan will try to get us to break our promises. Satan is a liar and has no problem breaking promises. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus. He keeps every one of His promises. Maybe you have had someone break a promise in your life. Remember to keep your eyes on Jesus. He loves you and whatever He says, He will do! By keeping our focus on Jesus we are stronger when the temptation comes for us to break our promises with others. God has promised us many things, and every one of them will come to pass. He will never forsake us nor leave us. Let us imitate His faithfulness by being faithful to Him in our lives.

- Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? How did it make you feel?
- How can you find the strength to be faithful to others?
- Have you ever broken a promise to someone?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Promise: A written or spoken agreement to do or not to do something.

Faithful: Doing what you say you will do or are supposed to do.

Day Two

For the Love of this World

Text: Romans 12:2 – “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Also read 1 John 2:15-17

“Tomorrow, let’s go and sneak into the movie theater,” said Janice. “Yeah, that sounds like fun. I have never done anything like that before,” said Lucy. Kim replied, “What do you think will happen to us if we get caught?” “Oh nothing, they will probably just kick us out, but I won’t get caught because I’ve done it many times and I haven’t been caught yet,” said Janice. “We’ll meet behind the movie theater tomorrow around noon.”

That night Kim lay in bed tossing and turning. She could not sleep because of her fear of doing something wrong. Kim is a Christian and she knows that sneaking into the movie theater is wrong. She did not feel comfortable about doing a wrong thing. God’s Holy Spirit was speaking to her heart and telling her that what was about to happen tomorrow was wrong. Do you think Kim will listen to the Holy Spirit? What would you do? Even though it sounds fun and exciting to do, it is wrong for Kim to break the law.

This wasn’t the first time Kim was confronted with temptation. There were other times when she was tempted with lying, stealing, cheating, and wanting to be mean towards other people. Because she was a Christian, she had self-control. The Holy Spirit gave her the strength to say “no” to temptations in the past. The attraction of the world is greatly magnified by Satan who is head of its system. He tries to make sin look good and then laughs at us when we give in to temptation. We need to turn away from sin and temptation. The solution to loving this world too much is to have a greater love for the Father (1 John 2:15). The Christian who seeks daily to please God in everything and who faithfully grows through prayer, study of God’s Word, and witnessing won’t easily give in to the temptations of this world. **Continued on Day Three...**

- What do you do when someone wants you to do something you know is wrong?
- Have you ever been tempted?
- How can you remain strong in your relationship with Christ?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Temptation: Feeling a strong urge to do wrong.

Day Three

Enmity with God

Text: James 4:4 – “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Also read 1 John 2:15

Continued from Day Two... Kim lay in bed and began to pray. “Lord, I know that sneaking into the movie theater without paying is wrong. I ask for your strength to stand strong against the temptation of doing what’s wrong. Please help me to call Janice and tell her that I will not be sneaking in with her and Lucy, in Jesus’ name, Amen.” The next morning, Kim awoke and raced over to the phone. She called Janice and told her how she felt about sneaking into the movie theater. She told her it was wrong and why she felt the way she did. She also had an opportunity not only to tell her about her relationship with Jesus but she was able to show her Jesus by her actions as well.

After she got off of the phone she felt wonderful inside. There was such a peaceful feeling in her life for doing the right thing and by being obedient to Jesus. Even though Janice gave her a hard time and told her how she would miss out on a lot of fun, Kim stood strong and said “no.” The only way she could do this was by trusting in God and asking Him for His strength to say “no.” This story is one example of how someone could be tempted to do what is wrong. Too often, people leave what is right because the things of the world are attractive to them. Remember the most important solution to loving the world too much is having greater love for the Father (1 John 2:15).

Unfortunately, there are tragic effects that loving the world too much will produce in the believer's life:

- A turning away from the Lord's work and from other believers (2 Timothy 4:10)
- Separation from God (James 4:4)
- Shameful sins (2 Peter 1: 4)
- Easily tricked by false teachers (1 John 4:1)

Stay faithful to God and don't let these tragedies happen to you!

- Can you tell of a time when you were tempted and you chose to do what was right?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Enmity with God: Friendship with the world.

God is Faithful

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:9 – “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Also read Isaiah 49:7

“I have known Lisa for 35 years. I can truthfully say she has been honest in her words, thoughts, and actions for the 35 years I have known her.” “He is the most thoughtful person I have ever met.” “Did you see that child open the door for those people? How considerate he was.” These comments have been said over and over again about many people in this world. Have you ever had anyone say anything like that about you? As a believer in Jesus Christ, we are to live a life that reflects Him. Others should be able to see a difference between non-Christians and us by our actions, thoughts, and words.

When we are faithful or trustworthy with the little things that God gives us, then we will be trusted with bigger things. God is faithful to keep His Word to us. He has never broken a promise and He never will! We can trust everything we read in His Word. Once we take the steps of faithfulness within God's will, He will bless us and we will grow considerably. Sometimes it is the little things that show Jesus in our lives the most. Like speaking kindly to others, letting someone go ahead of us, smiling and saying “thank you.” Jesus can use every one of these acts of kindness in a mean world to tell about His loving heart for this world.

We know that Satan will do anything in his power to cause us to stumble. He likes to make things look appetizing to our sinful nature. If we fall into temptation and sin, we pull ourselves away from God. By reading His Word, praying, and being in constant fellowship with Jesus, we are stronger and it's harder for Satan to cause us to stumble. God loves faithfulness in all of His children. We can help change another person's life just by our actions, thoughts, and words. Stay true to God by being faithful in everything you do!

- How easily do you get distracted from God's will for your life?
- Do others notice your faithfulness?
- What are some ways you stay faithful to God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faithfulness: Staying true to God in my thoughts, words, and actions.

Day Five

Of What Value Are You?

Text: Mark 9:50 – “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

Also read Matthew 5:13

Mr. Johnson asked, “How does the meat taste?” Not wanting to hurt Mr. Johnson’s feelings, Michael replied, “Not bad.” Mr. Johnson had cooked the meat at a slow temperature all afternoon. He took the meat from the refrigerator and placed it directly onto the grill. He added some seasoning but he didn’t add any salt to it. The meat didn’t have a very good flavor. Michael really didn’t like it very much because it tasted kind of plain without the salt. When salt is added to some foods it brings out the flavor. But, Michael was thankful and just kept eating.

If a seasoning has no flavor, it has no value. Why even call it seasoning if you can’t taste anything? We shouldn’t blend in with everyone else. Just as salt brings out the best flavor in food, we should also bring out the flavor of Jesus Christ in this world. Others around us will want some of the flavor of Christ that we have. We can be just like salt!

Jesus used salt to show us the qualities that should be found in Christians. In Leviticus 2:13, when salt was used with a sacrifice, it showed God’s faithful promise (covenant) with his people. We can remember God’s faithfulness from this picture. In Matthew 5:13 we read how we can change the “flavor” of this world we live in. Also, just as salt is used to prevent meat from getting rotten, we should work against the rottenness of the world we live in. Let’s always remember to have the desire to be the “salt” of the earth with the love and message of God. We want to be useful to God and not like a steak without any seasoning.

- Have you ever had a steak without any seasoning? What did you think?
- How can we be salt in this world?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week we have learned about the faithfulness of God. We can become distracted from His faithfulness by the deceptions found in this world. Our actions, words, and thoughts show where our hearts are. God loves faithfulness.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

**“The Lord will deliver
me and keep me for His
heavenly kingdom.”**

Third Grade and Above

**“The Lord will deliver
me from every evil work
and preserve me for
His heavenly kingdom.”**

2 Timothy 4:18