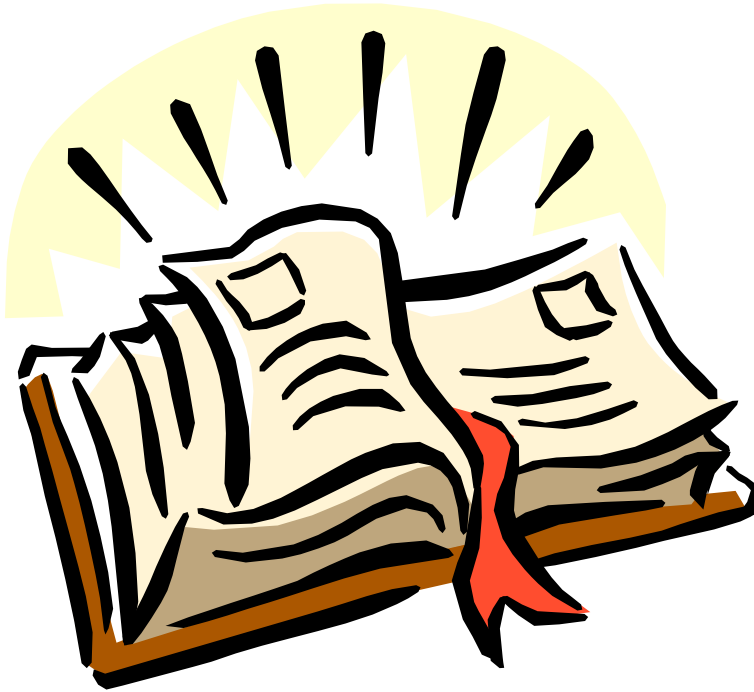


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Learning to Submit

THEME: God wants us to submit to others.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:13-3:12

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids 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 **Submission**. The theme was "**God wants us to submit to others.**" Submission means to give up our own will and obey someone else. One of the most valuable lessons a child can learn is to submit to authority. It begins with submitting to God and carries through submitting to parents, teachers and other authorities in their lives. If we fight against God and against authority we will only hurt ourselves.

In this week's devotions we will present to the children various areas of their lives which they need to submit in. It is our prayer that the children would learn the wisdom found in submitting every area of their life to the Lord.

The section of scripture that we studied was **1 Peter 2:13-3:12**. 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

Submit to God

Text: Proverbs 1:7 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Also read: James 4:7

"You had better not climb up there!" Jimmy shouted to his brother. "Why not? I can reach up there", Jimmy's brother Carlos snapped back. "But mom and dad said not to climb on the shelves because we might get hurt." Jimmy replied. "Ah, who cares what they say, they just don't know how easy this is for me," Carlos said with pride, "besides, that candy up there is looking pretty good." Carlos wanted that candy really bad and began to climb up on the second shelf from the bottom in order to reach the top shelf. He stretched and reached and almost had the candy in his grasp. "Just a little higher", Carlos thought to himself. So he stood on his tip toes and finally the candy was in his grasp! But all of a sudden the shelf under his feet got wobbly and began to move. Before he knew it he was on the ground as well as the shelves and everything on them.

Thankfully Carlos was OK, but he learned a valuable lesson. Carlos learned how important it is to submit to his mom and dad and by submitting to his parents he is actually submitting to God. Sometimes there might be things that we want to do really badly. We might even think that we can do it without any problem. But maybe our parents, who know better than us, might look at what we want to do and say, "No, I don't think that is a good idea." We then have a choice to make. Will we listen to our parents and submit to them, or will we go ahead and do what we want to do. What we find is that when we submit and do what is right then everything will be fine. But if we disobey then that is when the problems begin.

It is the same way in our relationship with God. We need to learn to submit to Him and His ways. God has given us His Word to teach us how He wants us to live. Everything that He writes in the Bible is for our protection and given to us because He loves us. If we will obey Him then we will find that we will have a very blessed and good life. But if we refuse to submit to Him then we are going to have all kinds of problems. In our Bible reading today we are told that the fear of the Lord, or respect for Him is the beginning of knowledge. How we need to remember that. If we will submit every area of our life to God and live according to His Word then we will have the absolute best life possible. If Carlos had just listened to his parents that disaster wouldn't have happened. Let's submit to God in all things!

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Submission: Giving up my own desires; willingly obeying another person.

Saul Submits

Text: Acts 9:6 - "So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'"

Also read: Acts 9:1-21

Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus and like every one of us when we meet Jesus we have to decide whether or not we will submit to Him and follow Him, or walk away and refuse to accept Him. Saul was a very powerful religious leader for the Jews at the time. He knew a lot about the scriptures and loved his religion. But he hated Christians. He wanted them all arrested and thrown into prison because they believed in Jesus. Even with this hatred in his heart he still thought that he was serving the Lord. He really wasn't serving the Lord at all; he was serving himself and his own desires.

On that day that Saul was traveling to Damascus he wanted to arrest some more Christians. But instead of him finding Christians, he found Jesus. Jesus asked him, "Saul, why are you persecuting me? I am the one you are persecuting, how can you kick against the goads?" A goad is an instrument that a farmer would use with their animals that work for them. It is a stick with a sharp instrument at the end that they would prod or poke their animals with to get them to do what they wanted them to do. Jesus was saying to Saul, "why are you fighting against me? I'm trying to get your attention, but you are fighting against me." Sometimes we can fight against God. We like our sin too much and don't want to obey God. We need to listen when Jesus speaks to us.

Saul listened that day and received Jesus into his life. He could have been filled with pride and refused to submit to Jesus. But Jesus got his attention. There was a bright light which blinded Saul for three days. Saul knew that Jesus was speaking and Saul listened. He decided to stop fighting against Jesus and completely submitted to Him. This is the story of how the great apostle Paul came to know Jesus. Saul's name was changed to Paul and he went on to become a great man of God. But it all began with his submission to Jesus. Without submission he never could have been used like he was. Have you submitted your life to Jesus? He wants us all to stop fighting against Him and receive Him into our lives.

- What did Saul learn in his life about submission?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Goad: An instrument used by farmers in Bible times to prod or poke their animals in order to get them to do what they wanted them to do.

Day Three

Submit to One Another

Text: Ephesians 5:21 - "...submitting to one another in the fear of God."

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

"Hey, those are my swim goggles." Mark shouted to his sister Maggie. "No way, Jose! These are my goggles," Maggie quickly responded. The shouting match went on for what seemed like forever when finally Mark tried to grab the goggles out of Maggie's hand. Maggie held onto them with all of her might. "Hey, get your hands off of my goggles," she shouted to Mark. "There mine and I'm going to take them." Just as Mark grabbed hold of the goggles Maggie jerked back. Mark and Maggie had such a firm grip on the goggles that the rubber between the lenses ripped apart. "Now you did it, I'm telling mom!" Maggie said furiously as she threw down her piece of what once were very nice swim goggles onto the ground and stormed into the house.

Mom came out and listened to both sides of the story and saw the broken swim goggles. She decided that this would be a great lesson for her children on sharing and how to submit to one another. She asked Mark to go inside and get a Bible. When he came back out she had him look up Ephesians 5:21. She asked Maggie what it means to "submit". She said, "I think it means to do what you say." "That's true," mom replied, "So Mark, then what does it mean to submit to one another?" Mark thought for a moment and said, "Well, it means that Maggie should have submitted to me and gave me the goggles." Maggie just rolled her eyes and said, "See mom, what I have to deal with."

"Actually," mom interrupted, "It means that both of you should have stopped and thought about what would have been best for the other person. To submit means that I'm willing to give up what I want for someone else. So if you Mark would have submitted you might have done something like let Maggie use them for a while and agree on a time when you could use them. Or Maggie, you might have said to Mark, 'OK, go ahead and use them, but could I use them in 15 minutes?' But because you both wanted your own way now no one has the goggles, and that is really a bummer because I'm not going to be able to buy another pair." Mark and Maggie thought for a moment and asked one another for forgiveness. "I'm sorry Mark," Maggie said. "I'm sorry too, next time we both want something I'll let you go first." Mark replied. "Thanks, and I'll share with you," Maggie said. Mom shared, "I'm sorry you lost your goggles, but I am even more glad that you are learning how to submit to one another, just like Jesus wants!"

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Submitting to one another: When one person lays aside what they want for the sake of another.

Submit to Authority

Text: Romans 13:1 - "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."

Also read: Romans 13:1-7

Joel and Christopher were very excited about the Respect Fair coming up at their church. They had been looking forward to it for several weeks. Every year as part of their mid-week Bible club they have a respect fair to help the children learn about respecting those who serve the community. Joel especially likes to climb up on the fire engine and check out all the cool gizmos and handles on the side. But Christopher's favorite was the police motorcycle. He thought that was pretty cool when the officer picked him up last year and let him actually sit on the motorcycle.

While all those things were a lot of fun (not to mention the soda and cookies they got) they also got to learn a lot about respect and submitting to authority. Their pastor shared about how important it is to obey and respect those who God has placed in our community to protect and help us. Joel knew of some kids at his school that just like to make fun of policemen and aren't very nice. But he knew that was wrong. He even thought that maybe someday he could be a fire fighter.

God wants us to respect those who are in our community, state and nation who serve in the government. Whether it is a police officer, a fire man, our mayor, our governor or the president we need to show honor and respect. The Bible says that God has placed them there for our safety and protection. So we need to submit to their authority and give them the respect that God wants us to.

As a fun project, maybe you could write a letter this week to a police officer, fire fighter or government leader. Share how much you appreciate what they do and that you are praying for them. Make sure you do pray for them and then send the letter off to them. It will no doubt be a special blessing to them to know that you are praying for them.

- What were Joel and Christopher's favorite parts of the Respect Fair?
- Why is it important that we respect governing authorities?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Respect: To feel or show regard for or preference towards.

Day Five

Submit to Mom and Dad

Text: Ephesians 6:1 - "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

Also read: Ephesians 6:1-3

Why is it so important that we obey our parents? Well the Bible says that we need to honor and obey our parents. But also as we grow up we learn that the Bible tells to obey our moms and dads so that we can learn how to obey the Lord. God loves us very much and wants us to have the best life possible. And how we have the best life possible is to obey and submit to what God tells us to do. God says that if we will obey our mother and our fathers that "it will be well with us and we will have a long life." So if we don't honor and obey our parents then it would be true that things won't be well with us.

Get a piece of paper and draw a big circle. Draw a little picture of yourself in the middle of the circle. This circle represents God's protection over your life. Write at the top of the circle "honor" and at the bottom "obey" (get someone to help with this if it is difficult). Next on the left side write, "live well" and on the other side write, "live long". As long as we honor and obey our parents as God tells us then we will remain in God's protection and blessing.

Now imagine stepping out of that circle. That happens if we disobey. If we disobey we remove ourselves from God's place of blessing and protection. We are now in a place of danger because things may not go well for us. God still loves us very much and wants us to be back in the place of protection and blessing, inside of the circle. So because He loves us He will discipline or correct us to get us back into that circle. Our parents are doing the same thing when they discipline us. They love us and want us to be in a place of blessing. And that happens when we obey and submit. When we learn to submit to God and to our parents it is very easy for us to submit to others in our lives. And it is also very easy for the Lord to bless our lives. Let's remember to always submit to Him no matter what.

- What is the promise for our lives if we honor and obey our parents?
- Why is it important for us to submit to the Lord?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray that the Lord would help you to submit in all the areas that He wants you to submit in. Ask for strength to obey and to do what He wants you to do. God bless you this week.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

**“Therefore submit
yourselves to every
law of man for
the Lord's sake...”**

Third Grade and Above

**“Therefore submit
yourselves to every
ordinance of man for
the Lord's sake...”**

1 Peter 2:13a