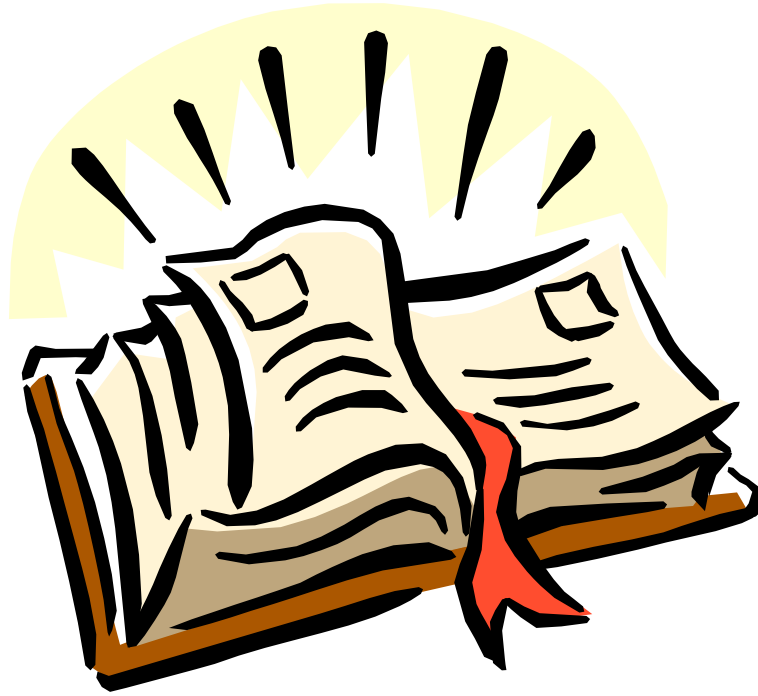


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: Jesus Turns Water into Wine

THEME: Jesus is the joy of our salvation.

SCRIPTURE: John 2:1-12



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

In the lesson this week, we learned about **Jesus turning water into wine (John 2:1-12)**. We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. The theme was "**Jesus is the joy of our salvation.**" Through our faith in Jesus, God's love has been poured out in our hearts, and we now rejoice in our relationship with God through Him. Our joy is made full as we let His love overflow to others.

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

God is into Doing Miracles!

Text: **John 2:23** - "Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did."

Also read John 20:30-31

"It was amazing! Our dog, Spot, was running after a car and was struck by the rear wheels. Spot tumbled a couple of times and got up and ran over to the side. We all ran over to see if he was okay. He was not hurt at all! It's got to be a miracle!"

Maybe at some time in your life you or those you know well have had an experience like this—times when you have seen something really awesome happen and you knew it was a miracle. Miracles are events that seem to not have a natural explanation. For example, people cannot make water into wine, but at the wedding in Cana, Jesus did! That just doesn't happen apart from God getting involved. God is involved in our lives, today! As a result, whether big or small, "miracles" happen all of the time.

Miracles demonstrate God's desire to be involved in our lives. Jesus restored sight to the blind, made the lame to walk, even brought the dead back to life again. In Luke 4:18, Jesus spoke of His ministry among us as He quoted Isaiah the prophet.

The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;

God's mighty acts witness to His power and reality, building faith in both unbelievers and believers. In Acts 2:22 Peter proclaimed, "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know..." God is still doing miracles, touching our lives with His mighty hand and love, today. One of His greatest miracles is a life that is changed! Has He changed your life?

- What miracles of Jesus do you recall? What is your favorite?

What does God demonstrate to us through miracles?

- Do you know anyone who has experienced a miracle? Can Mom or Dad tell you about a time they witnessed a miracle?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Miracle: An unusual happening that cannot be explained by nature or science; something only God can do.

A Different Plan

Text: John 2:5 - "His mother said to the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it.'

Also read John 2:1-11, Proverbs 3:5-6

Mary was Jesus' mother and she submitted to His ways of doing things. Mary did not understand everything about Jesus, but she knew that He was the Son of God. While attending a wedding in Cana, Mary became aware that a problem existed; there was no more wine at the wedding party. Instead of trying to solve the problem on her own, she submitted to Jesus and allowed Him to deal with it as He saw best. She did not know if Jesus would perform a miracle, but she did know that He was capable of anything, and she put her trust in Him. She told the servants to do whatever Jesus asked them.

When you have a problem, do you try to deal with it on your own? Or do you bring your problem to Jesus so that He can deal with it as He sees best? We may think we know the best way for God to fix our problem, but He is much more wise than we are. It is wise for us to submit our lives completely to Him, like Mary, and allow Him to deal with the problem as He sees best.

Proverbs 3:5-6 is a great exhortation to those who need God's help and direction for life-- through the daily circumstances we face and the major decisions we make. In these verses, we are reminded to not only to trust the Lord with our whole heart, but to acknowledge Him in all our ways. What does acknowledge mean? Make God a vital part of everything you do, every move you make. Like Mary, be content to leave your plans in His hands, and God's plan for you will unfold.

- How did Mary show she trusted Jesus to do what He thought best?
- What are some ways that you can acknowledge Jesus in your life?
- According to Proverbs 3:5-6, what will happen to those who trust God with all their heart and acknowledge Him in all their ways?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Acknowledge:	to make note of, or to give credit where it is due.
Plan:	a goal that is being worked towards.
Submit:	to give in to the authority, control, or choice of another.

He is Joyous!

Text: John 15:11 - "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

Also read Psalm 16:11

There are a lot of things that can happen in our lives that give us joy. Things like a new baby, a wedding, a family reunion, or a new friend. Joy makes our hearts feel good, even when we have problems in our lives. Others will see the joy in our hearts and wonder why we are joyful. Joy is deeper than just a happy feeling. Happiness is a fleeting feeling, which can change depending on what is going on around us. Happiness escapes easy when my big brother is picking on me, but joy goes beyond that.

As a Christian, joy is a deep down peace and contentment you experience even when things may not be going so well around me. While the joy you experience from this world will eventually fail, the joy God supplies will last forever. One person described joy as **J**esus **O**verflowing in **Y**ou. The reality of God's presence and great love will always bring deep-down joy. God's love truly dwelling within will manifest itself in not only loving God in response to His love for us, but also loving those around us. When God's love is showing itself through us, our joy compounds and becomes full, for we are obeying His commandment (John 15:11,12). Another great acronym for joy is **J**esus first, **O**thers second, **Y**ou last.

Are you a little short on joy? You don't ever need to be short on joy! Start by growing in your relationship with God. Get to know Him and His great love for you through reading the Bible and prayer. As you remain in relationship with Him, your life will begin to show the fruit of His Spirit working in you, which is love. His love working in your life and flowing to others will bring great joy.

- How are joy and happiness different?
- Where does real and lasting joy in the life of a Christian come from?
- If you are short on joy, what can you do?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Joyfulness: Deep inner gladness and delight.

Rejoice!

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - "Rejoice always."

Also read Acts 16:16-31

Mr. Wilson had been in the hospital for about two weeks. Mrs. Wilson was under a lot of stress because of her husband's illness. Now, besides caring for her three children, she had to manage the family business. The children helped her every night, but the work continued to pile up causing Mrs. Wilson to worry. One day the youngest of the Wilson children walked into the room and shouted, "Mom, my jeans are dirty and my socks haven't been washed yet, and..." Mrs. Wilson couldn't handle it anymore. While her children stood, watching, she broke down and began crying.

Thinking of how he might comfort Mom, her middle son remembered the story about Paul and Silas in prison singing hymns. "Mom, can we just sing a hymn and praise the Lord?" "Sure we can," Mrs. Wilson replied. The whole family began to sing a hymn, and the pressure just seemed to lift. Now, the family's focus was on God and His strength and ability to see them through. Even in the midst of a really difficult time, Mrs. Wilson learned that she could still rejoice in the Lord.

The Apostle Paul knew firsthand that problems in life can wear a person down, both physically and spiritually. But, we see in Acts 16:25, Paul knew that the joy of the Lord was his strength. Paul and Silas could have broken down and started crying or could have tried to break out of jail, but instead they had faith in Jesus and rejoiced despite the way things looked! There is no dungeon deep enough, no night black enough, to block out the light of God's love! We have God's promises that tell us all things are working together for our good (Romans 8:28) and that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Let us remember to focus our attention on God! Let's praise the Lord even through our most difficult times.

- How did the Wilson family focus their attention on God when things around them bad?
- Do you have a favorite hymn or song you like to sing to praise the Lord?
- Why can you be joyful in all circumstances?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Rejoice: Voicing glad or happy feelings; expressing joy or great delight

Day Five

Everlasting Joy

Text: Psalm 119:111 - "Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart."

Also read John 15:9-11

In just a few minutes, John will be standing on a stage competing for the finals in his school Spelling Bee. John has done well throughout the contest and now he has made it to the final round and is one of only two students who are left. Mary gets the first word and she attempts to spell it. She misses it by one letter. John is excited; he knows the word! John has been working so hard for this competition. At last, it's his turn. He spells the word correctly and John is crowned the new spelling bee champion for Templeton Elementary School. John and his family are radiating with excitement.

When John woke up the next morning, he noticed that he wasn't as excited as he was when he won the Spelling Bee. He was still happy about his winning, but the excitement had kind of worn off. John would be back into his same old routine today. He wondered if anyone would remember how well he had done the day before. That's the nature of happiness—it can come and go! Joy, however, is different.

Remember, the joy Jesus spoke of is in constant supply, a steady flow, despite the difficulties one experiences. The Bible says that Jesus was anointed "with the oil of joy" (Hebrews 1:9). In every circumstance, Jesus experienced joy. We, too, can experience joy in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. As we respond to God's love, by yielding to Him and allow His love to flow through us to others, great joy will result for we are obeying His commands. And, unlike happiness that comes and goes, we will experience a joy that will not wear out. It's everlasting!

- Can you think of a time you were really excited about something? Did your excitement wear out?
- Can you have joy no matter what is happening around you?
- Where does everlasting joy come from?

Kid's Prayer Time



Think about the difference between joy and happiness! Remember, if you are short on joy, get to know God better, praying and reading your Bible, and remember to do what He's asked you to do: to love one another, which will compound your joy. Jesus is the joy of our salvation.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"This beginning of signs
Jesus did in Cana of Galilee,
and showed His glory; and
His disciples believed in
Him."

Third Grade and Above

"This beginning of signs
Jesus did in Cana of Galilee,
and manifested His glory;
and His disciples believed in
Him."

John 2:11