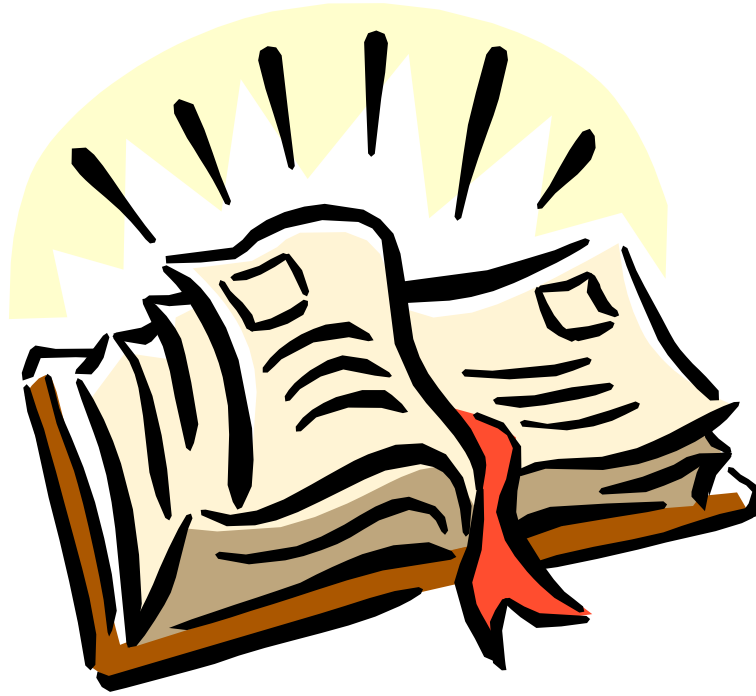


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Pool at Bethesda

THEME: Jesus brings healing and hope to a dying world.

SCRIPTURE: John 5:1-15

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 **The Pool at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)**. We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. The theme was "**Jesus brings healing & hope to a dying world.**" It's exciting to know that God has a lot of grace and mercy on us. Not only can He heal our diseases but he provides us eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ. Great News!!!

As we consider the lame man at the pool in our devotions this week, we will see that in many ways we are like him. We have a desperate need for hope and healing because of the grievous disease of sin. How thankful we are that Jesus came to bring such hope.

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

Day One

Our Spiritual Need

Text: Galatians 5:25 - "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Also read Ephesians 2:4-6

It is 6:00 in the morning and, "BEEP!" the alarm goes off. John wakes up so he can start out his day with a run around his neighborhood. Before he starts running he does 50 push-ups and 100 sit-ups. John also drinks his Vita-pro, Muscle-max, and Carbo-boost drinks. They don't taste that great, but they sure do help build the body! During John's lunch break at school, he goes to the weight room and lifts weights. John also goes to the tanning salon after school each day, and then once a week, he's off to the hair salon for a fresh cut. John is very concerned about how he looks and what others think about him.

John tells everyone that he is a Christian, but he has not been to church in a long time. You see, on Sundays he likes to ride his mountain bike with his friend Jake. It's also been a long time since John has spent any time in God's Word or prayer. John's spiritual need has been neglected because of his desire to "look" good. John needs God to do a work in his heart to help him get his priorities straight. He needs the sin of "self" to be removed from his heart!

The lame man at the pool of Bethesda knew he had a physical need. He knew he needed hope and healing. Sometimes, we have physical needs, but like John in our story, we may also have spiritual needs. We do not always see those in our lives. Jesus wants to help us with our spiritual needs. He wants to change us from the inside out. There is not a physical condition too difficult for Him to heal. There is no spiritual condition too difficult for Him to heal.

- Think of some ways our priorities can become messed up. What things might compete with our love for God?
- Who can change us from the inside out?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



J esus
O verflowing in
Y ou!

Hoping For a Cure

Text: Acts 22:16 - "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Also read John 5:2-4

Can you imagine being sick all of your life and the only hope you have to be healed is to wait by a pool, hoping to be the first in, when an angel stirs the water. John 5:4 tells us that there were sick people waiting by a pool for an angel to descend and stir up the water. We do not know for sure if an angel really did stir the water or if this was only a superstition the people had. They believed that when the water was stirred up, the first person to step into the pool would be healed of their sickness. So, these sick people would wait day after day hoping for the angel to descend, so they could be healed.

When a person is sick without a cure, they will do almost anything to find hope and healing. There are many people who travel thousands of miles and spend thousands of dollars to find healing. Unfortunately, the only hope that the lame man in our Bible reading had was that "maybe" someday the angel would come and stir the water, and he would be the first one in the pool. Because Jesus met him at the pool, this man went from nearly hopeless to completely healed.

Without Jesus we are just as hopeless as the lame man. Our sinful condition is like a sickness because sin separates us from God. Only Jesus can remove the sin from our hearts. God loves us so much that he sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and to take the punishment for our sins (John 3:16). When we believe and acknowledge Jesus as our Savior and Lord, He will forgive and cleanse us from our sins. We, just like the man Jesus met at the pool, can have a new start and a new life.

- What do you think it was like for the man waiting by the pool?
- What happened when the man in the story met Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Superstition:	trusting in chance or something thought to be magic.
Separate:	to keep apart.
Cure:	to make better.

Do You Want To Be Made Well?

Text: John 5:6 - "When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?'"

Also read Numbers 21:4-9

Tony was a man who had lived with pain for over 20 years. While only 16 years old, he was riding a horse and was thrown off. At the time, he had the accident, he didn't want to go to the doctor or seek any help. He was always a "tough guy," and he thought going to the doctor might make him look weak to his friends. However, at 37 years old, he was suffering from the kinds of aches and pains that someone much older than him might have. Tony was paying the price for not seeking help earlier. A little therapy and help from the doctor when he was younger might have made the pain much less. The poor choice Tony made—to be concerned with the opinion of his friends—had consequences.

The Bible says that "...all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin separated all of mankind from a relationship with the God. God loved us and sent His only Son to take the punishment for our sins so that we who come to Him through faith might be forgiven and restored. Jesus asks us, gently, lovingly, if we want to be made well. He will never force us to come to Him. He will not make us get saved from our sins!

There are many things that might keep a person from coming to Jesus. Like Tony, some may be afraid of what their friends might think. They do not want anyone to laugh at them when they discover they are Christians. It is tragic that many refuse the invitation of Jesus, for there is no other way to be made well.

The Bible warns in Ecclesiastes to "remember now your Creator in the days of your youth..." It is a wise thing, indeed, to accept the invitation of Jesus to be made well while you are young. You can spare yourself much pain and bring yourself much blessing. When Jesus asks you if you would like to be made well, say YES! YES! YES!

- Why did Tony suffer in his older years?
- Why is it a wise thing to ask Jesus into your heart when you are young?

Kid's Bible Activity



Make a list of family and/or friends who don't know Jesus. Set aside time today to pray for them, that they would say "yes" to Jesus.

He Picked Up His Mat and Walked!

Text: 1 John 5:3 - "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And His commands are not burdensome."

Also read John 5:8-9a

"Don't Move! And don't say a word! I will be right back." Jarrod froze as his father ran back to the campsite to retrieve his gun. All he could hear was a strange rattling noise. Jarrod trusted his dad and obeyed. When Jarrod's father returned, he took aim and shot the diamondback rattlesnake that had been coiled and ready to strike Jarrod's leg. Jarrod did not see the snake even though it was within inches of striking his body. Jarrod was so shaken that he started to cry. Jarrod's father wrapped his arms around him and said, "I am so thankful you obeyed me, Jarrod!" Obedience on the spot had saved Jarrod's life!

Maybe, you or someone you know has been in a life-threatening situation. How important it is to obey those who know how to help! From the time you have been born, you have been learning the importance of obeying those in authority over you, like your mom, dad, and Jesus. When Jesus commanded the paralyzed man to get up and walk, he listened and obeyed. Just think what would have happened to him if he thought, "Who is this man?" "Can I really walk just because He says I can?" No doubt, he was glad the words of Jesus had moved him to action. For, indeed, he could take up his mat and walk.

Jesus must have rejoiced that the paralyzed man responded to His words in faith. Jesus had given him an impossible command; he had asked him to do the one thing he was not capable of doing. Jesus rejoices when we trust and obey Him. Though a situation may look scary, even hopeless, we will never be disappointed when we choose to obey Him. Just as it would have been foolish for the lame man to refuse to obey Jesus, it is foolish and sad when we do not trust and obey God. God's intentions for us are always good (Romans 8:28). His promises are sure.

- If the lame man had not trusted and obeyed Jesus, what would have happened?
- Why is it foolish not to obey God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Obedience: gladly doing what pleases Jesus.

Day Five

No Comparison

Text: John 5:14 - "Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, 'See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.'"

Also read Romans 6:23

Though the crippled man had been healed miraculously by Jesus, he did not know who Jesus was or anything about Him! When the Jewish leaders asked him who had healed him, he told them he did not know. Jesus sought after the man he had healed. When Jesus found the man in the temple area, He revealed Himself to him and exhorted him to sin no more. Though healing on the outside was important, Jesus knew healing on the inside was of much greater importance.

Jesus strove to help people understand that spiritual things are much more important than physical things—the things of this earth. Our relationship with God should be our greatest concern. In Mark 8:36, He said, "...what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Nothing can replace your relationship with God. The happiness, health, or wealth this world offers is fleeting. The temporal satisfaction of this world will always leave us thirsting for that which is most important—a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Jesus said to the woman at the well, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." How unwise it would be to replace a relationship with God that is eternal with the water of this world—money, pleasure, popularity—which offers only a temporary satisfaction, leaving us thirsty again.

Though God may bless us with wealth, good health, nice things, and fun times, He will always remind us to keep first things, first. The most important thing that happened to the crippled man that day was not his physical healing—not the miracle—but the spiritual healing. He met the Savior of the world who takes our sins away and gives us eternal life with Him. May our relationship with God, which is eternal, always be most important in our life!

- What is the most important thing that happened to the crippled man? Why is that more important than his being healed?
- How long will physical, earthly blessings last? How long will spiritual blessings (a relationship with God) last?

Kid's Prayer Time



Thank the Lord for the compassion he has on us. Pray that God will always be first in our lives.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well...”

Third Grade and Above

“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.”

John 5:8-9a