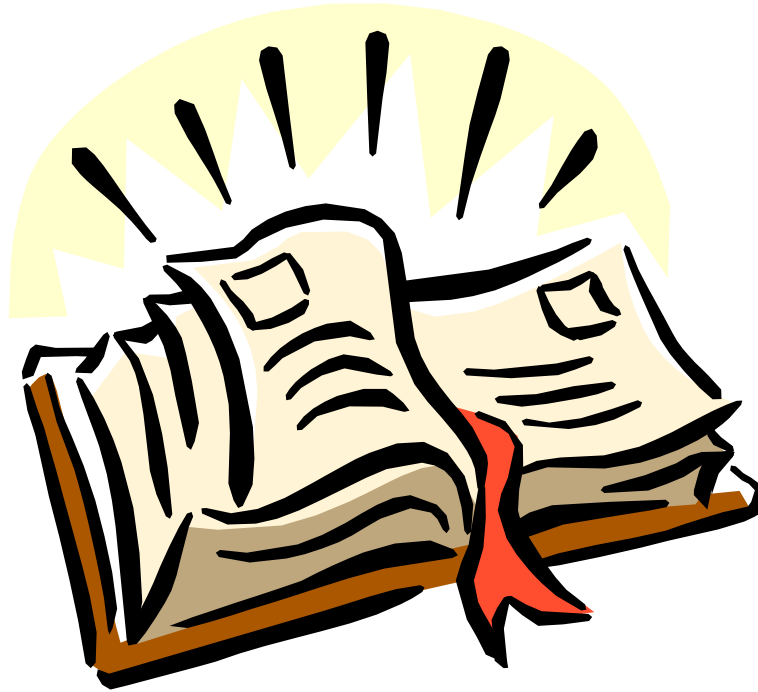


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Saul is Converted



THEME: The good news of the gospel tell of God's power to give salvation to everyone who believes.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:1-4; 9:1-22

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 in we learned about the time when Saul is converted. The theme was "The good news of the Gospel tell of God's power to give salvation to everyone who believes." It's wonderful to see the power God has to change someone's heart. We can receive salvation by believing in his Son, Jesus Christ! Our lives continue to transform when we spend time with God in prayer and in His word.

The gospel means "good news". It is the good news that Jesus died, was buried and rose again the third day for our salvation. There is power in the gospel! In this world where we can just turn on the news on our television for even a few moments and hear more bad news than we can handle, how our children need some good news. The good news is that God loved this world enough to give us His Son Jesus. And He can change our lives forever.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 8:1-4; 9:1-22**. 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

Persecution at School (Part 1)

Text: 2 Timothy 3:12 – “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

Also read Philippians 1:29

On the first day of school Joshua wore his favorite shirt. On the front of the shirt is a basketball player slam-dunking a basketball. On the back of the shirt is a verse that reads, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,” Philippians 4:13. Joshua just bought the shirt at a Christian basketball camp he attended over the summer. If he had known what others might say because of him wearing that shirt, maybe he would have chosen something different to wear that morning.

Joshua is in the 5th grade. He committed his life to Jesus when he was 5 years old. He loves Jesus and has a close walk with Him. Joshua's parents and sister are also committed to serving Jesus. Joshua did not think anything about being teased or talked about that morning when he put on his shirt. In fact, Joshua has worn shirts, hats, bracelets, and necklaces that talked about Jesus before, why should today be any different?

Joshua just finished his timed math assignment. It was just about time for his morning recess. He looked over towards Tommy to see if he was finished yet. Tommy was looking right at Joshua. Joshua smiled. Tommy just sneered at him. Joshua felt uncomfortable and looked away. “What did I do?” Joshua thought to himself. The bell rang and Joshua went outside to meet up with the guys playing basketball. “Do you want something Bible boy?” said one of the kids. “Yeah! Why don't you pray and maybe God will play basketball with you,” said another boy. “Why are they doing this to me?” Joshua said to himself. “I hate this school,” Joshua said silently to himself as he turned around and walked towards his classroom. **Continued on Day Two...**

- Have you ever been treated cruel for being a Christian?
- What do you think Joshua should do about this situation?
- Do you think that Jesus knows how Joshua feels?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Persecution: treating someone in a cruel way because he or she is different.

Day Two

Persecution at School (Part 2)

Text: John 15:20 - "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."

Also read Matthew 5:11,12

Continued from Day One... Joshua went back into his classroom and sat quietly at his desk. He felt like crying. He could not believe how those guys treated him. What was all that talk about the Bible and praying to God? Is it because of what I have on my shirt? Maybe it's because I pray before I eat? All these thoughts were going through Joshua's mind. What should I do about this?

After school, Joshua raced home. He talked to his parents about what took place at school that day. Joshua's parents talked to him about persecution and about how kids can be cruel sometimes to others who are living for Jesus. Joshua is different than a lot of the kids. He is obedient, trustworthy, and caring towards others. He desires to be this way because of Jesus. But those things also made him stand out as being different. Joshua's parents prayed with him. They prayed for the kids who were persecuting Joshua. They prayed that God would send His Holy Spirit to convict them of their sins so they too would turn to Jesus.

Joshua returned to school the next day. He knew that God would be with him. He remembered the story about Saul in Acts 8:1-4; 9:1-22. Saul was a persecutor whose life was transformed into a servant of Jesus. Joshua felt at peace after talking to his parents and praying. He knew that he did not have to face these kids alone.

As Joshua approached the playground he noticed the same kids playing basketball. Joshua approached them and asked if he could play with them. "Get out of here church boy," cried one of the boys. "This is going to take some time," Joshua thought to himself. Instead of walking away and pouting, Joshua walked away praying for their salvation. **Continued on Day Three...**

- Why would you want to pray for someone after they treated you badly?
- Can God change the hearts of these boys who are mistreating Joshua?
How? (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Suffering: going through times of discomfort, hurt, pain, or loss

Day Three

Conversion

Text: Psalm 19:7 – “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.”

Also read Acts 3:26

Continued from Day Two... Tommy was known as the “bully” of the campus. He would go out of his way just to make fun of or to pick-on someone. He especially liked to pick on the kids he knew were Christians. Of course, Tommy was not a Christian. He was raised to believe that there was no God. So, he thought Christians were way out there in their beliefs. Although Tommy was inconsiderate of others, there were many who thought of him often and were praying for him.

Once a week, a group of Christian students would meet after school and pray for other kids in the school. Tommy was one of those students who were being prayed for. In fact, Joshua volunteered to be the one who would especially pray for Tommy. Joshua prayed everyday for Tommy's heart. He prayed that Tommy would come to know Jesus. Joshua prayed for many months. He did not see any change in Tommy. He figured that Tommy's heart was just too hard. But Joshua knew that all things are possible through Jesus Christ. So He did not give up, but hung in there and kept on praying.

One day Tommy and Joshua's 5th grade teacher, Mr. Jenkins, assigned the class to work in groups for a science project. Guess who was assigned with Tommy? That's right! Joshua was. The science project was to last for 6 weeks. Over the six-week course both Tommy and Joshua began to become friends. This was a wonderful opportunity for Joshua to tell Tommy about Jesus. He was able to share about Jesus and do what he had learned from God's Word. After the 6-weeks Tommy agreed to go to church with Joshua. He continued in prayer for Tommy. Then finally, after all these months, Tommy finally accepted Jesus into his heart. **Continued on Day Four...**

- How often do you pray for others you know?
- Knowing that Jesus can change the heart of others, is there someone you can pray for that needs a change of heart?
- What was it that changed Tommy's heart?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Persevere: Keeping on through a hard or discouraging time without complaining or quitting.

Conversion: Turning to God from sin to accept Christ as Savior.

Transformation

Text: 2 Corinthians 3:18 – “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Also read James 1:22-25

Continued from Day Three... Over the course of the summer, Tommy continued in his eagerness for the Lord. Tommy was attending the same church that Joshua attended. Tommy grew stronger in the Lord each and every day. During the summer Tommy and Joshua would meet once a week to pray and talk about the Bible. Tommy's heart began to soften for others too.

Before too long it was time for school to start again. Tommy and Joshua were in the 6th grade this year. A lot of things had changed in a short period of time. When others saw Tommy and Joshua show up together on campus they were surprised. In fact, so many of the 6th graders were talking about how Tommy was different. Tommy was not picking on anyone, he was not making fun of others nor was he trying to push around the smaller kids. He was different. “Why was he different?” others would ask.

This was a powerful witness for the Lord. Tommy was one of the biggest persecutors in the school. He used to do awful things to Christians and now he was one of them. Tommy's life had begun to reveal Jesus Christ. He began to meet with the other kids that met once a week for prayer. It was the same group that prayed for him to come to the Lord! Tommy also started a Fellowship for Christian Athletes group at the school. He was now more helpful to the teachers and to the students and his grades improved. Tommy changed so much that his parents started asking him questions about Jesus. Before too long, Tommy's parents started going to church. Tommy also shared about Jesus to a lot of the kids at school. He was kind of like Paul in that he used to persecute those who love Jesus. But once the Lord got a hold of his heart he was on fire for Him. He wanted to tell everyone about Jesus just like the Apostle Paul did. When we are willing, God can do some amazing things through us.

Continued on Day Five...

- Why was Tommy so different now?
- Did Tommy change on his own?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Transformation: changing the way one looks on the inside and out.

Day Five

A New Creation

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Also read Ephesians 4:22-24

Continued from Day Four... This week we have read 4 devotions about two kids named Tommy and Joshua. Tommy was a kid who enjoyed persecuting Christians everyday at school. Through prayer, Joshua had an opportunity to witness to Tommy about God's salvation in Jesus. Tommy became a Christian and a powerful witness for Jesus. Tommy continues to lead others to Jesus today. He has put off the old Tommy and he has become a brand new person (Ephesians 4:22-24).

This week we learned about a man named Saul. He, like Tommy also was a persecutor of Christians. Jesus met Saul on the road to Damascus. That experience with Jesus saved his life. Saul's name was changed to Paul and he would become a powerful witness for the Lord. God does not care about our background. He does not care if you were a persecutor, a liar, a thief, a bully, or a troublemaker. What He does care about is your salvation. God will forgive you for your past. God has promised you a new beginning. All of the old things have passed away and all things have become brand new. Not just a few things but ALL things.

There might be someone you know who has a terrible attitude towards Christians. He or she might even be mean to people that know Jesus. What should you do about this? What did Joshua do about Tommy? You can start by getting down on your knees and praying for that person. It can be hard to pray for someone who has mistreated you. God can change anyone or anything. Nothing is too impossible for Him. There are many Christians walking this earth today because someone prayed for them. So if you know someone who needs a change in his or her life, start with prayer. You can pray for that person each and every day.

- What did the story of Joshua and Tommy teach you this week?

Kid's Prayer Time



There are a lot of people in this world who need to have a conversion in their life like Saul did. You probably know of kids at school or in your neighborhood who like to make fun of others because they are different. You can help those kids change by praying for them and asking God to change their hearts.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"Saul increased in strength, proving that Jesus is the Christ and the Jews could not argue with him."

Third Grade and Above

"But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ."

Acts 9:22