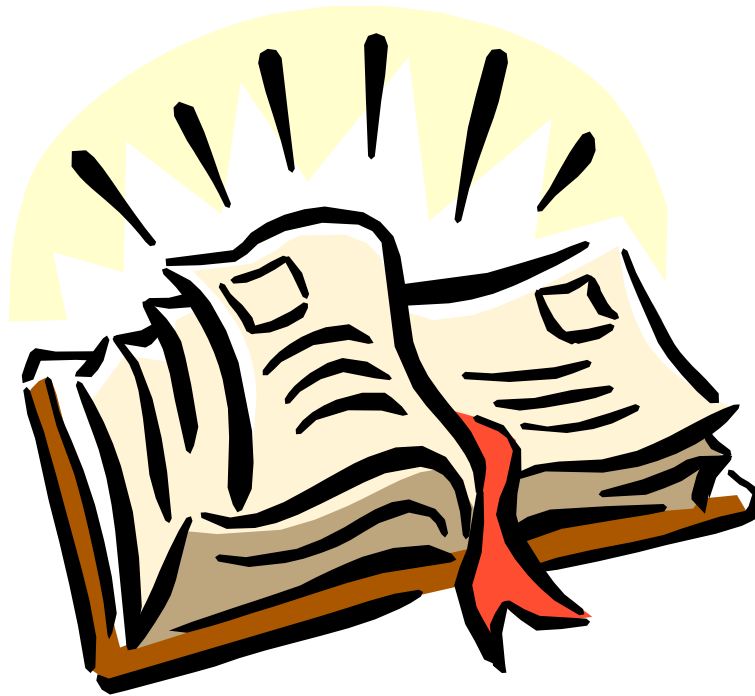


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: _____

LESSON TITLE: Gabriel Visits Mary

THEME: God is worthy of our trust.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-38



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 looked at **Luke 1:26-28** and learned, "**God is worthy of our trust.**" The angel Gabriel visited Mary with some wonderful news. She was to be chosen for a very special purpose. She would give birth to the Messiah, Jesus! Mary had to trust in the Lord as she received this exciting news. We too can place our confidence in God and experience His peace!

Life can be frightening at times. Children often find themselves afraid. How important it is that we learn to trust in God and understand we can go to Him at anytime in prayer. God is there to help us through every circumstance of life.

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

Day One

Who Do You Trust In?

Text: John 10:9 - "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

Also read: John 10:1-18

A long time ago in the village of Doubt lived a young man by the name of Alex. Alex was walking down a village street one day and was met by a stranger. The stranger did not really seem to be a kind-hearted man; he was serious and stern looking. Yet, the stranger told Alex of a wonderful kingdom. Alex wanted to go to that kingdom. The stranger was pleased and told him what he would need to do. Alex would need to earn a gold coin to pay for the admission. Alex would have to work for him every day after school to earn the coin. Once Alex received the coin, he would have to hold onto it until the day came to enter the kingdom. The only way Alex could enter into this kingdom was by giving the gatekeeper this special gold coin. If Alex was to lose this coin, then he would never be able to enter the kingdom. Alex determined he would work hard to enter this kingdom, but he was worried that his work would be acceptable to the stranger and that he would be able to hang on carefully to the coin once he earned it.

After Alex left the stranger, he came across another person. This person was different than the first. He was a gentle, kind, and a loving man. He was known as the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd spoke to Alex about this same kingdom, and His description was very vivid. He told Alex that everything about this kingdom is written in a Holy Book (Revelation 21). Alex was very thankful to hear about this city. Alex asked The Good Shepherd, "When can I start working so I can earn a gold coin to enter this fine kingdom." The Good Shepherd smiled and replied, "**I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture**" (John 10:9). The Good Shepherd told Alex all he needed to do was to trust in Him, for he had already paid the price for Alex to enter into His Kingdom. Alex did not have to earn any gold coins to enter into this Kingdom. He would not need to work his way into this Kingdom. The Good Shepherd wanted him there and so had done what was necessary, paying the price, so Alex could enter in.

It did not take long for Alex to know he could trust (put his confidence in) the Good Shepherd. Through Jesus, we can enter into a fabulous Kingdom. All we have to do is trust and believe in Jesus Christ (The Good Shepherd). He has paid the price for our sins through the cross.

- What was the difference between the stranger and the Good Shepherd?
- Who is the Good Shepherd?

Kid's Bible Activity



Write down the word **TRUST**. Think of a word that begins with each letter that reminds you of God. Here's an example: **T-truth R-righteous U-understanding S-salvation T-terrific**

A Trustworthy God

Text: Psalm 117:2 - "For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"

Also Read: Deuteronomy 32:4

One day, Katie was with her family standing near her back-yard pool. Her dog jumped up and before Katie knew it, she was in the pool. Katie did not know how to swim! She panicked when she realized that she was in the deep end of the pool. Quickly, she grabbed onto the side of the pool. As soon as Katie's father noticed, he ran over to Katie and tried to grab her hand to pull her out. But, Katie was so frightened that she continued to clutch the side of the pool! Katie's father assured her everything would be all right. She just needed to let go.

When Katie let go, her father pulled her out of the water to safety. "Katie, are you all right?" her father asked. Katie was a little shaken, but was recovering quickly. Wrapping Katie in a too-big towel, her father gently brushed the wet strands of hair away from her face, "Do you remember all of the times you jumped from your bed and I caught you? You trusted in me to catch you, and I always did." Katie shook her head yes. "Well, learning to swim is kind of like jumping off of your bed. If you trust me and follow my directions, I'll teach you how to swim, and you'll be swimming and playing with your friends in no time."

Katie knew before she would be able to swim, she would need to trust that her father was a capable teacher and would keep her safe. It would be important to overcome her fear and do as her father instructed. Just as Katie needed to trust her father, we need to trust our Heavenly Father. Sometimes, following God's instructions, we must let go of things we think will help us and keep us safe, knowing that God is trustworthy. God has given us His Word that all things that happen to us work together for good (Romans 8:28); He has a future and a hope for us (Jeremiah 29:11); and He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). God's plan for us cannot compare to any safety, security, or happiness we could find trusting in the things of this world. We can trust God because He is trustworthy.

- What helped Katie to finally let go of the side of the pool?
- How do we know that God is trustworthy?
- Discuss with your family the many times God has proved Himself trustworthy to them through difficult circumstances.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Trust:

Relying on something to be true; God is my trust

Trustworthy:

Deserving of trust or confidence.

Steadfast

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Also read: Daniel 6:1-28

Have you ever been tempted to stop doing what is right (reading your Bible, praying, or obeying your parents) because others who are not Christians laughed at you? God wants us to trust in Him. He is happy when we do the right things even if others don't like it. Our Bible reading, today, reminds us to be strong in our faith and stand firm when we face difficulties, always abounding in God's work and remembering that God's work is important.

Daniel was determined to be faithful to God, no matter what happened. God protected Daniel even when, in order to obey God, Daniel went against the law of the King. God can give us courage, like He did with Daniel, to do what is right even when others don't. He can give us the boldness to tell others about what we believe in, even if others disagree. He can give us boldness to pray before our meals even though we are surrounded by those who don't. It is important to be a good example even at home as we obey our parents, pray before our meals, or read and memorize God's Word.

It's not always easy to trust in God and to be faithful. This week, remember 1 Corinthians 15:58 and choose to remain steadfast and immovable with God. Don't let pressure from others stop you from doing what is right. God will help you to be faithful, just like He helped Daniel.

- What did Daniel do when others didn't want him to do what was right?
- What do you do when others ask you to do something you know is not right?
- Pray each day that the Lord will provide strength for you to be steadfast and immovable for Him. Thank Him for His faithfulness to help.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Steadfast: Firm, persistent and determined to be unmovable in our service to the Lord.

Meeting Our Needs

Text: Philippians 4:19 - "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Also read: 1 Kings 17:1-16

The month of December started off to be a very difficult month for Mrs. Jones and her two children. Mrs. Jones was a single parent who worked full time for the local newspaper. Mrs. Jones was told that the newspaper was cutting back on their budget, and they could not afford to keep all of the people who worked there. Since Mrs. Jones was one of the last people hired at the newspaper, she would be one of the first people to lose her job. According to Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Jones boss, her last day would be in exactly one week. What would Mrs. Jones do? She had no way to pay for her rent, utilities, or food, and Christmas coming up.

This was certainly a very hard thing for the Jones family. Who would they turn to for protection? The good news is that Mrs. Jones was a Christian. The very first thing she did when she found out about losing her job was to turn all of her cares and problems over to the Lord. She knew, through reading the Bible, that God would take care of her needs (Luke 12:28-30). Mrs. Jones had complete trust in the Lord. Sometimes, we must go through difficult times so that our trust in God can grow bigger. Sure enough! After praying, the Lord provided a new job within a week for Mrs. Jones. This job even paid more than the last one. Mrs. Jones and her children thanked the Lord together and had a very blessed holiday season.

After reading 1 Kings 17:1-16, we can see how God provided for the needs of Elijah and the poor widow. God is true to His Word! God is the provider who meets the needs of His children. Tell God about your needs and trust Him to provide for you. He may do it in a way you do not expect, take longer than you think He should, or He may meet a need you do not even know you have. But you can be confident He will provide (Philippians 4:19).

- What are some of your needs? (Discuss the difference between a want and a need.)
- How can I be confident that God will provide my needs?
- How can you help others who are in need of something?

Kid's Dictionary



Need: Something that is necessary and required.

Eternal Life

Text: John 5:24 - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life."

Also read: John 3:16

This week we have learned that God is worthy of our trust. Our confidence should be placed in God alone. When we trust in God, we accept His Word as being the truth. Jesus said that He alone is the way to everlasting (eternal) life. He promises us everlasting life in heaven with Him. Can you imagine life in heaven with Jesus? The Bible says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man; the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Although our trust in God will bring us many blessings while here on earth, we will not experience all the rewards God has promised us until heaven. The greatest reward of our trust is coming when we see Christ Jesus face to face.

Take time every day to think about what it means to put your trust in the Lord. Remember, we are living temporarily here on earth. It will not be heaven until heaven! Our eternal home is in heaven with our Father God.

- How should the knowledge that we will one day be in heaven forever with Jesus affect the way we live now?

Kid's Bible Activity



Look up the following verses. On the right, list the blessing that God promises when we trust in Him:

Trusting God

Brings His Children...

Psalm 32:10

Psalm 37:5-6

Psalm 115:11

Isaiah 26:3

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"For with God
nothing will be
impossible."

Third Grade and Above

"For with God
nothing will be
impossible."

Luke 1:37