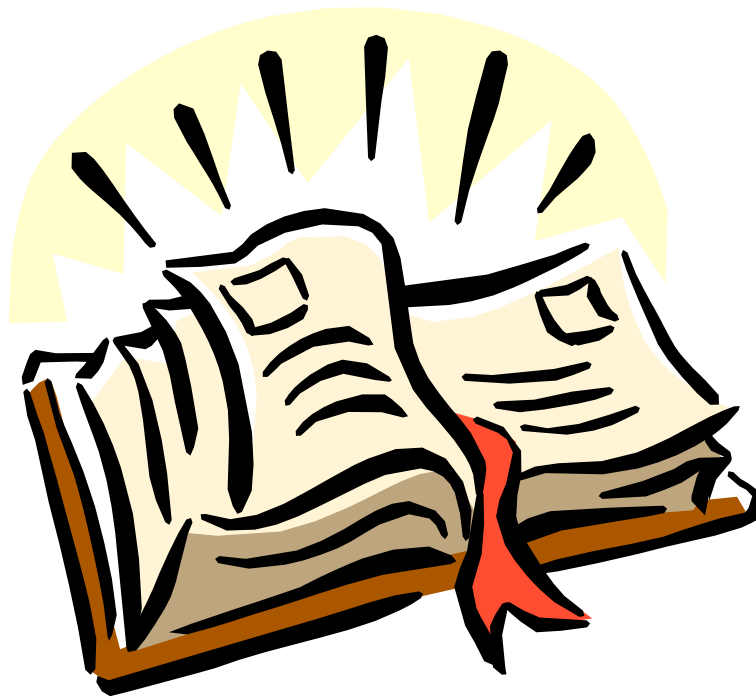


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



**LESSON TITLE: Jesus Visits the Temple
as a Boy.**

THEME: God is worthy of our obedience.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:39-52

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' visit to the temple as a boy (Luke 2:39-52)**. The theme was "**God is Worthy of Our Obedience.**" We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. It's exciting to know that Jesus was once a child also and that He gives us examples of how to live as a child as well as an adult. As children, we can follow the example of Jesus and live a life pleasing to God.

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

Setting an Example

Text: Titus 2:7a - "In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works."

Also read 2 Chronicles 34:1-8, 18, 29-31

Joel woke up this morning and walked into the kitchen. He sat down at the table and began reading his Bible. He enjoyed reading his devotions every morning before breakfast. Soon after Joel woke up, his sister, Katie, came in and sat down next to him. Katie noticed that Joel was reading his Bible and devotions. Katie got up from the table and went into her bedroom to get her Bible. Katie returned and sat next to Joel. Katie did not know how to read, but she pretended to be like her brother.

Jesus was a child at one time, just like you. He set the example for how we are to live. As followers of Jesus, we can be examples to those around us. Think about the example you are to others at home, at church, or at school. Little children want to be grown up, so they like to act like the bigger kids. So, younger children will often be watching those who are older and trying to mimic or copy them. In Titus 2:7, we are encouraged to show ourselves to be a pattern of good works in all things. When we read about Jesus this week, try to copy some of His patterns.

In 2 Chronicles, we are introduced to a very young king by the name of Josiah who began ruling in Judah at only eight years old. Even though he was very young, he became a great example to God's people, even the adults! King Josiah was influenced to do great things for God by the godly example of an earlier king—King David! He followed the pattern of King David and began to seek after David's God (verse 3). God rewarded Josiah's obedience. He became an example to others, a pattern of good works.

- Why is showing a pattern of good works (being a good example) to others important? Can you think of others who might be watching your example—your brothers or sisters, some friends?
- When reading about Jesus this week, write down some examples that He set and pray that you would follow them.
- What young king noticed the example King David set and decided to follow God just as King David did?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Pattern: Something worth copying.

Growing in Wisdom

Text: Luke 2:40 - "And the Child (Jesus) grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him."

Also read James 1:5

As Marina was returning home from a friend's house, she noticed two men following behind her. The sun was going down and it was starting to get dark outside. Marina began to get frightened and started walking faster. She prayed to God for His protection and trusted the Lord for the wisdom to do the right thing. When she approached the corner, she noticed Mr. Goodson's light was on inside his house. Mr. Goodson was the mechanic who repaired her father's car. Marina ran over to his house and used the phone to call her parents. Marina's mother and father were very pleased to see that Marina used good wisdom when she felt she was in danger. Marina's parents picked her up and returned home. Marina's father told her, "Those men may not have intended to harm you in any way, but you never know. You did the wise thing Marina, it's better to be safe than sorry."

When Marina realized two strangers were following her, she had to make an immediate decision. We will often find ourselves in situations we don't expect. How important it is that we use good wisdom to make the right choices. God is the source of perfect wisdom. He can help us with every choice in life. We are wise when we draw wisdom from Him to respond to life's situations.

Jesus grew not only in size, but in wisdom. How do we grow in wisdom? In James 1:5, we are told to ask God for wisdom, and He will be happy to give it to us. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

- What does wisdom help us to do?
- How do we get wisdom from God? Hint: James 1:5
- For more fun, read Proverbs 30:24-28. What does each animal mentioned in that passage teach you about wisdom?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Wisdom: Good sense; insight; understanding. The Bible says the fear (respect, reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Day Three

What Did You Say?

Text: Luke 2:46- "Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both **listening** to them and asking them questions."

Also read Hebrews 2:1-3

Jesus was a good listener. How do we know? He listened *and* asked questions. We call that active listening; in other words, Jesus was paying good attention and was very involved in what he was hearing while he was listening to the teachers in the temple. What kind of a listener are you? Do you simply hear or *really* listen. Listening is a tool we use to communicate to others: we receive important instructions and directions when we listen to our parents, our teachers, our pastors, etc. Listening is such an important tool to our growth in the Lord that in James 1:19, we are exhorted to "be swift to hear, slow to speak..."

The most important one to listen to is God. God wants to reveal His love and nature and give us guidance and direction. As we spend quiet time with God and as we read His Word, we are seeking to listen to Him. Jesus listened continually to the Father. In Isaiah 50:4,5 we read prophetic verses concerning Jesus: "The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away." Isaiah 50:4,5

Listening is also a great gift we give to others, as we show our concern for them by hearing what they have to say and taking note of their needs. As we demonstrate that we value others by listening, we are a witness of God's love. Not only did Jesus listen to His parents and instructors, he listened to others, considering their spoken and unspoken needs. (Consider the woman at the well and Nicodemus.)

So, are you listening, *really* listening? Ask God to help you develop this important skill.

- Can you describe the difference between "hearing" and really listening ("active listening")?
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- How do you listen to God?
- What do you show people when you are willing to carefully listen to them?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Listening: to pay attention in order to hear what someone is saying.

Obedience

Text: 1 John 2:6 - "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

Also read Luke 2:49-52

"Children are to obey their parents for this is the will of God," Mr. Ben, the Sunday school teacher stated. Michelle leaned over to her friend Allison and said, "You should see the list of chores my Mom gave me, today. No thanks, I'm looking for a way out." "Yeah," Allison chimed in, "if you find some good way out, let me know. I'll use it next time I get a list." Do you think Michelle and Allison are good examples of obedience for us to follow?

When it comes to obedience, Jesus is our example. God put Jesus under the authority of Mary and Joseph during His childhood, and in obedience to God, He was obedient to them. In Luke 2:41-52, we read that after Jesus' earthly parents searched frantically for three days for Jesus (only 12 years old at that time), they found Him in the temple. Jesus asked why they had sought Him. "Did they not understand He must be doing the will of His Father?" Yet, though his parents did not understand, Jesus showed no disrespect, but the Bible says he was "subject to them" returning to Nazareth with them.

Let's look at 1 John 2:6, again. "He who says he abides"...This part of the verse refers to you and me if we say we are Christians. If we really do abide (remain or dwell) in Him, if indeed He is our Lord and His Spirit is leading us, it should show in our actions. We will walk as He walked. We will do as He does! Jesus was obedient to God and to His parents. Let us be obedient to God and our parents as well as others who are placed in authority over us, such as our teachers, baby sitters, grandparents, etc.

- What do you think would be the right thing for Michelle and Allison to do in the above story?
- What is one way Jesus was an example to us when He was child?
- How do we know we are abiding in Him? Will our actions show we are abiding?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Obey: To follow the commands or guidance of someone else.
Abide: To remain or live in. Like "abiding" in a home.

Day Five

A Balanced Life

Text: Luke 2:52 - "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Also read Luke 2:40

In order for our body to grow, we need to have a balanced diet. We eat foods such as fruits, breads, meat, vegetables, and dairy products so our body can be nourished and grow healthy. In order for our minds and knowledge to grow, we need to read, listen, and think. To grow spiritually, we need to pray, read our Bibles, go to church, and possibly even suffer at times. We need to spend time doing things that help us to be healthy. If we neglect those things, we will be sick, weak, and ineffective.

This week, we have learned about Jesus as a child, and some of the examples he gave us to live our life as His children. Jesus had a balanced life--He grew both physically and mentally, and spiritually. Doing well in every aspect of His human life was important to Jesus, and it should be important to us.

To grow spiritually, Jesus devoted Himself to prayer and study of the scriptures. He is our example of what it is like to walk in a loving relationship with the Father, listening and receiving instructions from Him. Speaking of His relationship with the Father, Jesus said, "...I always do those things that please Him" (John 8:29).

Let us be careful to develop fully and grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. If we don't eat the right foods, our body can get sick; if we don't read or think, our minds can get weak; and, most importantly, if we don't spend time with the Lord, our spiritual life starts to fade. When we are not strong with God, we give Satan an opportunity to lead us astray. Don't let Satan lead you away! Keep fit in the Lord!

- How do we grow in strength?
- What happens if we do not spend time with the Lord?
- Are there ways you can improve your spiritual diet?

Kid's Prayer Time



Thank the Lord for the example He has set for you. Pray that you might walk in obedience to the Father as Jesus did, nurturing a loving relationship with God through reading the Bible, praying, and going to church.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"And Jesus increased
in wisdom and stature,
and in favor with God
and men."**

Third Grade and Above

**"And Jesus increased
in wisdom and stature,
and in favor with God
and men."**

Luke 2:52