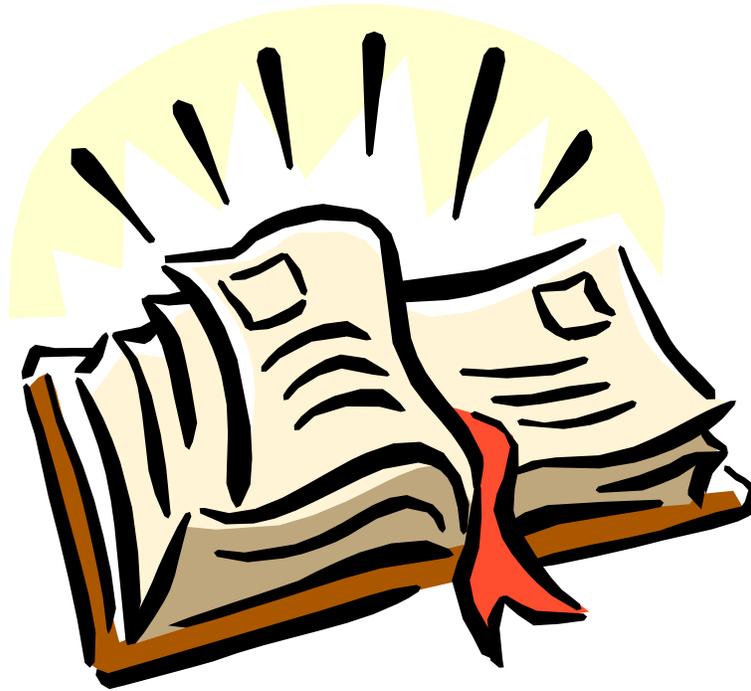


# Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON TITLE: Love Your Enemies**

**THEME: God gives us true love for others.**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:43-48**



# 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 **loving our enemies** (**Matthew 5:43-48**). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. Loving your enemies can be a very difficult thing to do. The world would tell us to get even with those who want to hurt us, to stand up to our enemies and fight back when we are treated wrongly. But when Jesus came, He gave us a very different message.

Jesus said that **we are to love our enemies**, to do good to those that hate us and even pray for those who want to treat us badly. Maybe there is someone you know who is especially difficult to love. In our devotions this week, we will learn about loving others even when they are completely unlovable.

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

# Getting Even, Part One

**Text:** 1 Samuel 26:23 - "May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today; but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed."

**Also read 1 Samuel 26:13-25**

One day, Joel was riding his bike by himself on his street. Down the street there lived a boy who seemed to always like to give Joel a bad time. Every time that Joel would ride by his house, he always hoped that this boy would not be outside. Unfortunately, this day, the boy was out in his front yard playing football with another friend. As soon as he saw Joel, he said, "Hey, watch this pass!" and threw the football at Joel, hitting Joel's handlebars which caused him to lose control and fall off of his bike. Though Joel was okay, just a few little scratches, he had to endure the other boys laughing hysterically at him as he picked up his bike and rode back home.

On the way home, Joel was very angry. "Why were these boys so mean to me?" he thought, "I never did anything to them." He told his mom about what had happened. She helped him with his scratches and encouraged him. His mom pointed out that it is God who changes hearts. She suggested they pray for the two boys—that they would come to know Jesus.

In the Bible, David had to go through something similar. The king of Israel, Saul, became very jealous of David and wanted to kill David. In fact, he chased after David for ten years! David even had some chances to get back at Saul for how mean he was. But David followed the Lord and refused to repay evil for evil (Romans 12:17). David did what was right and the Lord blessed him. David's kindness toward Saul (sparing his life two times) had a big impact on Saul. Saul realized that what he was doing was wrong. We'll find out tomorrow how Joel responds to an opportunity to "get even." **(Continued on Day Two)**

- Have you ever had someone be mean to you for no reason?
- Who can change hearts that are wrong?
- What action did Joel and his mom decide to take?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Revenge:** Getting back at someone who has done something wrong to us.

Day Two

## Getting Even, Part Two

**Text: 2 Samuel 9:1** - "Now David said, 'Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?'"

**Also read 2 Samuel 9:1-13**

**(Continued from Day One)** The next day, Joel did not feel angry with the boy who knocked him off his bike. In fact, praying with his mother about the whole thing made him realize that the boy did not know Jesus, and he felt badly for him. Joel went on with his life. He grabbed his football and started playing catch with his brother. After a little bit, he looked down the street. The boy who had thrown the football at him the day before was riding his bike, with no hands, towards Joel's house. "What an easy target!" Joel thought to himself for a moment.

But then, Joel remembered the story of David. Even though King Saul was mean to David, David never tried to get back at him. He knew that if he threw the football at this boy, he would not be doing what God wanted; and, he certainly would not be able to tell this boy about Jesus. Joel said a quick prayer and as the boy rode his bike by his house, Joel just smiled, waved, and yelled out, "Hi!" The boy didn't say a word. He had seen the football and thought for sure that it would be coming at him. He didn't know what to think.

In our Bible reading, today, we learned about a boy named Mephibosheth. He was one of King Saul's grandsons. David wanted to show kindness to him, even though his grandfather was very mean to David. By showing kindness, David showed God's love. We can do the same thing when people are mean to us. Remember, Jesus pointed out that when we love our enemies, bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us, we are the children of our Father in Heaven. In other words, we can be a "witness" of the kind of love God shows toward undeserving man!

**(Continued on Day Three)**

- Have you ever had a time when you were able to show kindness to someone who was mean to you?
- Did you find that it was easy or hard to show kindness to that person?
- Who will help us to be nice to those who are mean to us?

### Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Kindness:** Doing something nice that will help someone else.

## Getting Even, Part Three

**Text: Romans 12:21** - "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

**Also read Romans 12:17-21**

**(Continued from Day Two)** The boy from down the street still could not figure out why Joel had been nice to him after he had picked on him and knocked him off his bicycle. If someone had been mean to him, he would have certainly tried to get back at them. The next day he decided that he would ride over to Joel's house and ask him what his problem was.

The next day arrived, and he rode up to Joel's house. Joel was outside with his little brother playing. At first Joel thought, "Oh no, what's going to happen now?" The boy walked up to him, and Joel said, "Hi." Then the boy asked, "Why didn't you throw your football at me, yesterday, when I rode my bike by your house?" Joel thought for a moment, and then smiled and said, "Because I did not think that was what Jesus would want me to do, so I didn't." Then the boy said, "Why wouldn't Jesus want you to get back at me?" "Because Jesus said we should be nice to those who are mean to us," replied Joel.

Joel was able to be a witness of Jesus love because he did what was right when someone was mean to him. Joel was even able to invite the boy to come to his Bible Club as his guest to learn more about Jesus. God can use a situation such as that to change someone's heart forever. What should we do the next time someone is mean to us? Should we try to get even with them or should we be kind and loving so that we can share Jesus with them?

- In Romans 12:21, we are told to overcome evil with good. How did Joel do that?
- Why do you think that Jesus wants us to be nice to those who are mean to us?
- When we show kindness to our enemies, who are acting like?

### **Kid's Bible Dictionary**



**Overcome:** to be on top of, or have power over something ("overcome evil with good").

# God Loves His Enemies

**Text: Romans 5:10** - "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

**Also read Romans 5:8-11**

Perhaps, you have studied different wars that have been fought in your History class. Unfortunately, there have been a lot of wars fought in the world over the years. There are always two sides in a war; these two sides are enemies with each other. War is sad, though sometimes necessary to defend a country. Many lives have been lost in wars, especially World War I and II.

Before we come to Jesus, we are at war with God. Man in the beginning rejected the rule of God. In sin and rebellion, man said that we wanted to rule himself and do what he wanted to do. So, man became an enemy of God and separated from Him.

In Romans, Chapter 5, we learn that God showed us how much he loved us by sending His Son to die on the cross for us even while we were enemies. While we were opposed to God and fighting against Him, Jesus died for us. Now, by faith in Jesus Christ who took the punishment we deserved, we can be, no longer enemies, but friends of God. We can now walk in the close relationship with God that we were created for. Instead of the conflict we experienced when we were at war with the one who made us, we will experience great peace.

- What is the state (condition) of man apart from God?
- How did God demonstrate (show) His love for us?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Enemy:** Someone separated from or against another.  
**Reconciliation:** Bringing two enemies back together.

Day Five

## WDJD - What Did Jesus Do?

**Text: Luke 23:34** - "Then Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do.'" And they divided His garments and cast lots.

**Also read Luke 23:32-37**

Everyone has heard of WWJD—"What would Jesus do?" But when it comes to loving our enemies, we can also ask, "What *did* Jesus do?" Consider the cross of Calvary—the pain and suffering our Lord endured for us. Though Jesus never did any wrong, He died on the cross, taking upon Himself our sins and suffering and dying in our place while we were still enemies.

Even while He was on the cross, dying, the religious rulers and the soldiers were sneering at him and mocking him. Jesus prayed aloud, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Jesus loved those who were crucifying Him. Jesus loved us, who were at one time enemies, separated from God because of our sins. Jesus said in John 3:17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." There at the cross of Calvary, God's love and forgiveness was extended to all mankind who would believe and receive His gift.

We, too, should love our enemies. Like Jesus said, we should bless those who curse us, do good to those that hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use us. That may not be easy for us to do, but Jesus was our example. Are you having a tough time loving others? Perhaps, a particular person is really bugging you. God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us to live for Him. Through His grace and power, we can do what Jesus did. We can love our enemies.

- What were the religious leaders and soldiers doing when Jesus was crucified?
- What did Jesus do when the religious leaders and soldiers were doing terrible things to Him?
- What should we do when others are mean to us?

### Kid's Prayer Time



Pray the Lord will help you to love your enemies. Perhaps, you know someone who is difficult to love. Pray you can love them with the same love that God loves you.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"But I say to you love your enemies, do good to people who hate you and pray for those who hurt you.

Third Grade and Above

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

**Matthew 5:44**