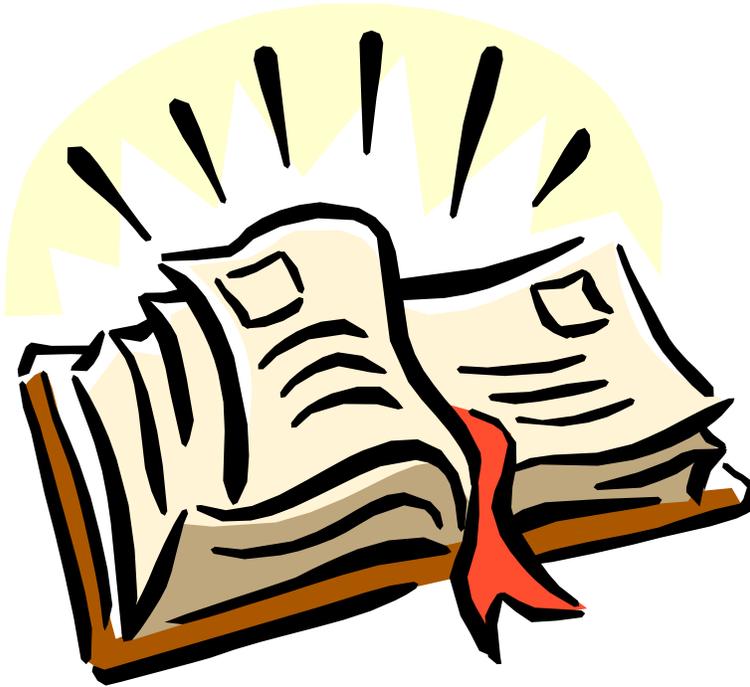


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Signs, End of the Age and the Tribulation

THEME: Jesus wants us to be ready for His return.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:3-28

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. Bible Time for Kids 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 we learned about **Signs, End of the Age & the Tribulation**. The theme was "**Jesus wants us to be ready for His return.**" We are living in the last days and know that Jesus is going to return soon. Jesus told his disciples that they need to be watching and waiting, looking for His return.

Some "end time" things may be hard for some children to grasp, but the main thing is that they know that Jesus loves them. He is going to return for them and no matter how "scary" the tribulation may sound, we don't have to be afraid. Jesus will take us to be with Him and we won't have to go through that terrible time. For believers, these things are exciting. Make this week an exciting time as you study the end times as a family.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 24:3-28**. 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

When Are We Going To Be There?

Text: Matthew 25:13- "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the son of Man is coming."

Also read Mark 13:32-33

When I was a young child I remember our family trips to Disneyland. One of the things I remember most was how long the drive in the car was. The drive from our house to Disneyland was about 6 hours. That was kind of like waiting an eternity for a kid. I can remember looking out of the car window at the road and thinking it would never end. I tried to stop thinking about Disneyland, but couldn't. I just couldn't wait to get there. So from time to time I would ask my mom, the famous long car ride question, "When are we going to be there?" And Mom would say, "In a little while." In a little while? What does that mean? Kids do not know what a little while means. What I wanted to know was when exactly this car ride would finally be over. I want to get to Disneyland!

That car ride was kind of like how it was for Jesus' disciples. They were asking Jesus the same kind of questions a kid would ask his mom. They asked, "Tell us when these things will be?" They wanted to know exactly when Jesus would establish His kingdom. They wanted an exact date and time, but Jesus instead answered like my mom did and said, "in a little while". He did not actually say it like that but He definitely did not give them an exact date. Jesus gave them enough information to keep them looking and expecting.

The Bible does not give us an exact time when we can expect Jesus to come back to earth to rule and reign forever. In Matthew 25:13 Jesus says, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the son of Man is coming." Jesus gives us an idea about the time and He tells us what things will be like just before His return, but the important thing is to keep watching and expecting.

My mom did give me something to look for on our trip. She said when we got close we would start looking for the Matterhorn. Believe me, I kept looking and looking and looking. Then finally it happened, I saw the top of the mountain. This is like what the Bible calls a sign. We will see things happen around us that will help us to know that Jesus' return is very close. Are you looking for the return of Jesus? I know I am.

- Tell about a time you were on a long car ride? Did you ask, "when will we get there?" How is that like waiting for Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Watch: To look for someone or something. We are to watch for Jesus' return.

The End

Text: Matthew 24:13 - "But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

Also read Revelation 19:11-14

Have you ever read the book of *Genesis*? *Genesis* means "the book of beginnings." When you read it you get the answers to all the important questions about how everything began. It tells us how the world began, how man began, and how sin began, etc. I love reading *Genesis* because *God* is telling us how things started. The Bible has all the answers to all the important questions. Not only does *God* tell us about the beginning of this world and of man and of sin, but He also tells us about how things will end. This world will not continue the same way forever. *God* has promised to bring evil, suffering and wickedness to an end.

In *Matthew 24* we see the disciples asking *Jesus* about when the end would come. Let's find out some of the things that will happen at the end of this age.

Jesus tells the disciples there will be all kinds of wars and people talking about going to war. There will also be times when there is no food to eat, a lot of different kinds of diseases and earthquakes all over the world. *Jesus* also warns us that in the last days there will be men who will try to deceive us into believing that they are saviors, or even that they are *Jesus*. *Jesus* says this is only the beginning of the end.

Next *Jesus* tells us about a time of great tribulation. Tribulation means trouble, and lots of it. The Bible teaches us that this tribulation time will last for seven years. At the end of this tribulation *Jesus* will return to the earth to wipe out the enemies of *God* and rule and reign for a thousand years of peace. The good news is that the Bible says that those of us who have made *Jesus* our savior will not have to suffer during the tribulation. So this means when we read *Matthew 24:15* we can be thankful to *God* that we do not have to go through all these tough times. In verses 30 and 31 we see that *Jesus* will come back to the earth at the end of this age with power and glory. We will be able to come with Him to rule and reign with Him. The Bible says in *Revelation 19:14* that we will ride with Him to His victory over His enemies. It is so good to read the Bible and see that in the end *God* wins.

- What will it be like here during the tribulation?
- When we know *Jesus* is there anything about the tribulation we need to be afraid of?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Endure: To hang in there and not give up; trust in the Lord no matter what.

Day Three

True or False?

Text: Matthew 24:11 - "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many."

Also read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Take this True or False quiz:

1. **TRUE OR FALSE:** There are a lot of different ways to get to God.
2. **TRUE OR FALSE:** The world will keep getting better until it becomes a perfect place.
3. **TRUE OR FALSE:** God will never put an end to evil and suffering.
4. **TRUE OR FALSE:** If the good things you do outweigh the bad things you do then you're good enough for Heaven.

The answer to each of these statements is FALSE! The sad thing is that there are a lot of people who believe these things are true. Why are so many people so deceived? Let's look at a few of the Bible's answers.

In Matthew 24 there are a lot of warnings given for people to watch out for false teachers. What is a false teacher? A false teacher is a person who gives false information about the truth. Jesus wants us to know that there will be people who will say they are telling the truth about Him, but do not believe them. He said they would try to deceive many people. So how do we know who is a deceiver and a liar? By knowing our Bible! That's what tells us what is true and what is false. Let's look at what the Bible says about the true or false statements at the beginning of this lesson.

Are there many different ways to God? No. Jesus says He was the only way to get to God and that there is no other (John 14:6). Will the world keep getting better and better? No. The Bible says that if God did not shorten the days of man that he would destroy himself (Matt. 24). This also answers another question of whether God will put an end to evil and suffering (Rev. 21). The answer to that is yes. Finally, can I get to heaven by doing more good things than bad things? No! The Bible says that believing in Jesus is the only way we can get to heaven, not by doing good things. That is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So don't be deceived.

- How did you do on your quiz? Where can you find the answers to any question?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



False Prophet: a person who gives false information about the truth of God.

Day Four

The Anti-Christ and the Last Days

Text: Matthew 24:15-16 - "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."

Also read Daniel 9:27

The Bible talks about a ruler who will come one day who will want to have the whole world join together. This ruler is called the anti-Christ. He is called the anti-Christ because he will try to be in the place of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He will try to trick the world into following him. No one knows for sure who this person will be. But he will be ruling most of the world during that terrible time called the tribulation. Thank the Lord that He will take all of us to be with Him before any of those things happen!

In Matthew 24:15, the Bible tells us about the "abomination of desolation". What is the abomination of desolation? In the book of Daniel 9 and 11, there is a prophecy about a person who would do wicked and evil things in the temple of God. This is talking about the anti-Christ. Let's look at the story of the anti-Christ.

The anti-Christ is so evil that when he is in power he will act like he wants to help the Jews in Israel rebuild their temple. After it is built he will then go into the temple and declare that he is God. Can you imagine that? He will want the whole world to worship him as God. This is the abomination of desolation. Isn't it just like Satan to try to imitate God?

Satan has always wanted to be worshipped as God. That's why he was cast out of heaven. Well sorry, he is not God! He is only a fallen angel. Israel's eyes will be opened and realize that he is a false Christ. They will refuse to worship the anti-Christ. In the next 3 1/2 years it will be the anti-Christ's goal to destroy Israel. At the end of the second 3 1/2 years the anti-Christ will bring the armies of the world to destroy Israel. But God will fight for Israel. Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives and will come and destroy the anti-Christ and his armies.

- According to the Bible who is the abomination of desolation?
- Who wins in the end?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Abomination of Desolation: The anti-Christ; the person that will lead the world away from Christ and towards worshipping himself in the end times.

Day Five

Let The Whole World Know!

Text: Matthew 24:14 - "...the gospel of the kingdom will be preceded in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

Also read Matthew 28:18-20

As a kid we used to sing a song called "Joy is the Flag." One of the lines would read like this, "Joy is the flag flying high over the castle of my heart. For the king is in residence there. Fly it high in the sky. Let the whole world know that the king is in residence there." We used to sing it and wave our hands like flags. The idea is that the whole world needs to know about Jesus. We need to tell the whole world that Jesus is the savior. In Matthew 24:14, we see that Jesus says when the whole world is reached with the good news of Jesus, the end will come. Let's take a look at this verse.

God wants the whole world to know about His love and salvation. We as Christians are told to go into the world and make disciples of all nations. We are the light of the world. We bring the light of truth to dark hearts when we share the good news of Jesus. God wants us to reach the world. The Bible says that God is not willing that any should perish but that all would come to repentance. God wants everyone to be in heaven with Him. It also says that He sent His only Son to die for us so that we could have eternal life. This is all because He loves the people of the world so much.

In the last days, there will be many that will try to deceive people. There will be men that will try to keep people from hearing the good news of Jesus. There are people who will never accept Jesus as Lord, simply because they believe false teachers. We need to let the flag fly high over the castle of our heart. Let the whole world know. The world can be rescued from hell by the saving power of Jesus. Are you willing to let your world know?

- Jesus said that we as believers are the _____ of the world.
- Is it important to tell others about Jesus?
- Do you tell your friends about Jesus?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week when you pray ask the Lord to help you to continue to watch and pray for His soon return. What a wonderful day that is going to be. Let's continually be praying for others to come to Jesus before it is too late for an eternity.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"But he who
endures to the end
shall be saved."**

Third Grade and Above

**"But he who
endures to the end
shall be saved."**

Matthew 24:13