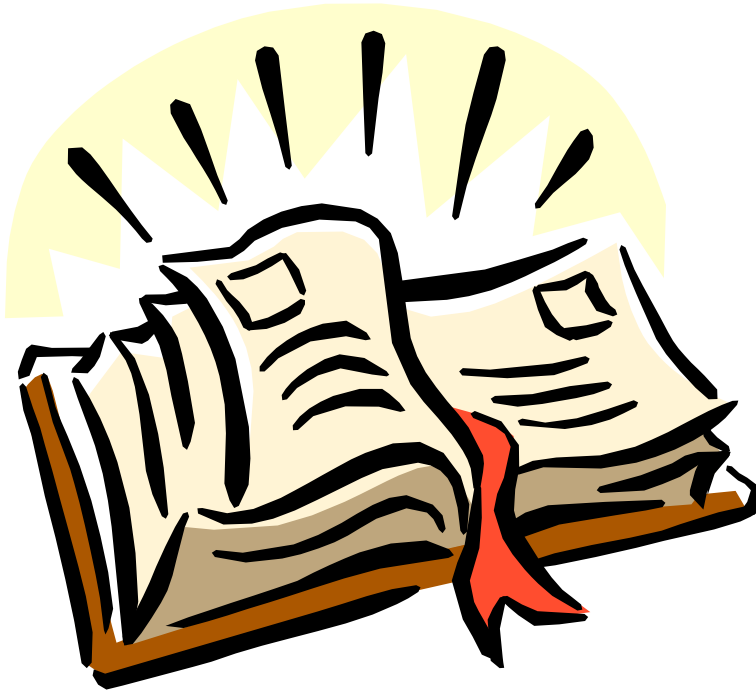


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Second Coming

THEME: Jesus is coming again.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 24:27-31

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 **The Second Coming of Jesus**. The theme was "**Jesus is coming again.**" In our lesson we learned about the time when Jesus was talking to His disciples and telling them what the end times would be like and about when He will return for His church.

In these Bible verses we learn more about the importance of being ready for Jesus' final return and how we serve a just and righteous God. For in Jesus' second coming the unbeliever will receive eternal punishment but Jesus' faithful followers will be gathered together to live for eternity in Heaven. We will learn more about this in our devotions this week.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 24:27-31**. 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!

Ready or Not

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:16 - "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."

Also read 2 Thessalonians 1:7

Imagine you are playing a game of Hide and Seek. Someone counts to twenty with their eyes closed and you must find a place to hide while they are counting. What if you took your time and waited until they had counted to the number fifteen to begin to find a place to hide? Chances are you would be caught trying to find your place to hide. You were given time to prepare a place to hide, but for some reason you took your time and were unprepared when the seeker called out, "Ready or not, here I come."

Now think of Jesus and His return. Unlike the game of hide and seek, Jesus' return is real and is not a game. There will be no place to hide when He returns with His heavenly host of angels. There will be nothing to fear for those who are ready, watching and waiting for His return. As Christians we should be looking forward to His return. Like Hide and Seek we have all been given plenty of time to get ready. Those who don't prepare by asking Jesus into their hearts will be caught unprepared. Sadly, that means spending eternity separated from God. No one knows when Jesus is going to come again but we can trust that He will. And those who watch for His return have no need to be told when the hour will come for they are always ready.

The only way we can be prepared is to live a life committed to Jesus. And in being committed to Jesus we desire to have a personal and intimate relationship with Him as our Lord and Savior. Jesus said in Revelation 22:7, "Behold, I am coming quickly." Is there someone you know who needs to hear about Jesus this week? One day it may be too late, we can't play around with our eternity. Share with your mom and dad about what it means to be prepared for Jesus' Second Coming.

- How did Jesus come to earth the first time?
- How will He return the second time?
- Will anyone be able to hide from Jesus when He returns?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Committed: A promise kept; to continue on God's path.

Day Two

Two Thousand Years?

Text: Matthew 24:27 - "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Also read Isaiah 66:16

When Jesus spoke these words from Matthew 24:27 to His disciples it was over two thousand years ago. That is a long time ago isn't it? A lot has happened since then! But for God it really isn't a very long time. It is interesting that to God a thousand years is like a day and a day is like a thousand years. Now that is a hard thing to understand. The important thing to know is that God has His timing all figured out. There is a day and hour that Jesus is going to return. We don't have to worry about knowing when that is. We just need to make sure that we are ready.

Why do you think Jesus told His disciples about what the world would be like before His return? Jesus wanted us to know when His return would be getting close. He wants every man, woman and child to know about His return and even more so, to believe in Him before His Second Coming. Not only did Jesus speak about His Second Coming, but also the Old Testament is filled with prophecies of Jesus' First Coming (birth) and Second Coming. Isaiah 66:16 is just one of many prophecies regarding Jesus' return.

Two thousand years may seem like a long time according to us. But as Isaiah 55:8 reads, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. We are told in Hebrews 10:37, "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry."

We can be sure of Jesus' return although we don't know the day or the hour. Jesus made it very clear in Matthew 24:27 that His appearance will be like the lightning that flashes from east to west. Everyone will see His coming and it will happen fast. For some it will be a surprise. Will you share with someone today about Jesus Christ's return?

- Do you ever think it will be a long time until Jesus comes back?
- Do you think two thousand years is long time to God?
- Who can you tell about Jesus today?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Tarry: To delay arrival.

He Is the Light

Text: Matthew 24:29 - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

Also read Revelation 21:23

When you read these words that Jesus said do they kind of scare you a little bit? Is it because everything will be dark? I know when I was a child I didn't like for every light to be out in my house. I would ask my parents to leave on the hall light or have a night light in my room. The darkness was pretty scary. This does sound like a scary time in our reading today. But it is not for those who know Jesus, only for those who won't turn away from their sin and turn to Jesus.

Because we believe in Jesus, we can't wait for His return. We know that Jesus is the light of the world and that in Him is no darkness at all (see 1 John 1:5). When we asked Jesus to come into our hearts His light began to shine in us. There will never be any more darkness in us. What a great reason to get excited about knowing Jesus. Because we have the Holy Spirit always living in our hearts it is kind of like always having a night light in our hearts even though we live in a very dark world. But for those who are separated from God through sin this will be a very scary day, a very dark day. Sadly, there are people living in darkness today - spiritual darkness. These people need the light of Jesus to shine into their hearts, to expose their sin and to light their way. How will they see the light of Jesus? Only through His light shining in us!

We are to be the "light of the world and salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13-16. Therefore when He returns, we will not be in spiritual darkness for He shines through us. The world is already dark and evil. The light of Jesus is desperately needed. Only through a life controlled by the Holy Spirit can we be true lights to this dark world. What are some of the ways that Jesus' light shines from your life?

- Are you ready for Jesus' Second Coming?
- If not, will you ask Him to come into your heart and shine His light on your life?
- Can others see your light, or is it hidden?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Expose: to bring to light. God will expose sin in our lives.

"Wolf!"

Text: Matthew 24:30 - "The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Also read Mark 13:33

You may already know the story about the boy who cried wolf. Let's take a look at it again today: There was a shepherd boy who watched over a flock of sheep. For fun he would look for all of the other shepherds and then scream, "Wolf!" and all the other shepherds would run out to help him, only to find out that he was tricking them just to see them run. The boy would just laugh at the other shepherds as they walked back to their flocks. Then on another day he would do the same thing just to see the other shepherds jump up and run to his rescue. Well this went on for several weeks until one day a wolf really did come after the boy's sheep and when he cried, "wolf!" no one came to his rescue.

We can use that story to help us understand better Jesus' Second Coming. Non-believers who laugh at God and do not want to turn from their sin and ask for forgiveness through Jesus Christ are like the boy who cried wolf. They think they can trick God or cry out on the day of Jesus' Second Coming and then be rescued. They might even think, "I can play around now, but when I'm really in danger I can cry out and God will be there." The thing they don't understand is that the day will really come when there will no longer be an opportunity to be rescued.

These people are only fooling themselves. They will be those that **mourn** when they see Jesus coming, because then it will be too late to turn to Him. How important it is to come to Jesus now before it is too late. The Bible says that now is the time for salvation. Everything has been provided in Jesus on the cross. We only need to believe in Him. Let's not play around with something as important as where we will spend eternity. Come to Jesus today if you haven't already.

- Have you ever cried "wolf" before.
- Why is it so important not to play around about being a Christian?
- Have you asked Jesus to come into your heart?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Mourn: To be very sad, like over the loss (death) of someone you love.

Day Five

Living Like We're Leaving!

Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:17 - "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

Also read Matthew 24:31

If you knew that Jesus was coming back today what would you do? Would you be asking the Lord for forgiveness, showing love or kindness to someone, telling those who didn't know Him that He was coming? This is how we ought to be living our lives every day, as though Jesus may return at any moment. Can you imagine how different the world would be if every Christian everywhere lived every day looking forward to Jesus' return and lived as though He may return at any moment?

We would probably be more careful about how we treat others. We might be more patient or kind. We would also probably tell a lot more people about Jesus. There are so many that need to hear the message that He is coming back. But it shouldn't just be in the things that we say, but people need to see Jesus in our lives. How can you show Jesus? By obeying your parents, being kind to your brothers and sisters or maybe by helping someone whom is in need.

What an awesome day it will be when Jesus returns for His people. Imagine being caught up in a split second to be with Jesus for eternity! Every believer, from all over the world will be gathered to be with Him. This is called the rapture. It's almost seems too good to be true, but it is. Next time you get discouraged or sad about something, just remember that this is not really our home and that our real home is in heaven with God our Father and Jesus. All I have to remember is that Jesus is coming back and that it is going to be soon. Remember to watch and pray and keep your eyes focused on Jesus' return and your life as a Christian will begin to change and look a lot more like the life of Jesus.

- Talk about what you would do differently today if you know Jesus was going to return today.
- How would your life change if you lived it each day that way?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week when you pray ask God to help you look forward to Christ's return and ask Him to prepare you for that day. God bless you.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"Jesus is coming soon."

Third Grade and Above

"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

Matthew 24:27