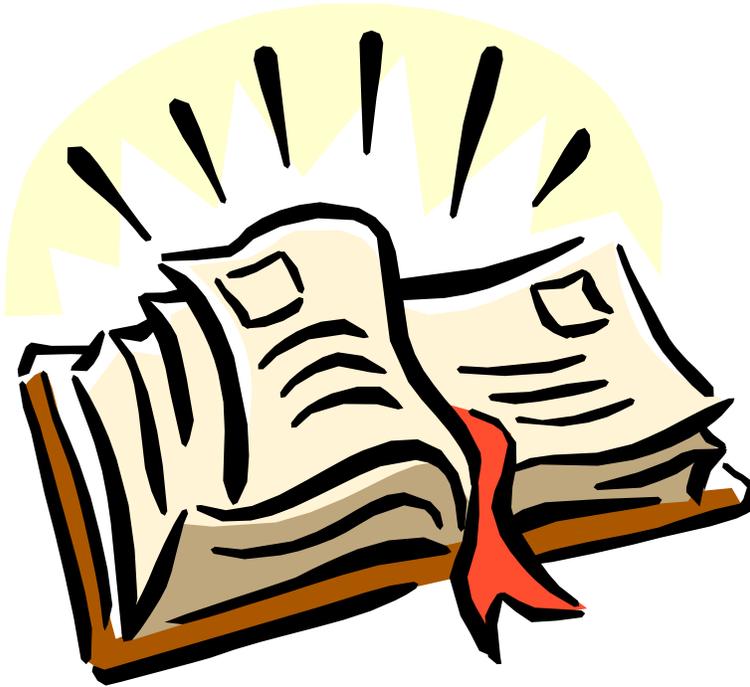


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Parable of the Ten Maidens

THEME: We should watch for Jesus' return.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:1-13

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 Parable of the Ten Maidens**. The theme was "**We should watch for the Lord's return.**" Jesus is coming back for His people one day. We will spend eternity with Him. It is very important that we obey Jesus and be watching and waiting for His return.

We will see two different types of people in our devotions this week: those who were ready for Jesus to come and those who weren't. Those who were ready got to go to the marriage feast with the bridegroom (Jesus) and those who weren't ready didn't get to go with Him. We need to make sure that we are ready to go and be with Him by asking Him to come into our hearts.

The section of scripture that we studied on Sunday was **Matthew 25:1-13**. 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!

Denied!

Text: Romans 8:9 – “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Also Read: Matthew 13:47-50

Shane put on his shorts and tucked in his “Pipeline Skateboard” shirt. Today was the day that all professional skateboarders were to skate at the Pipeline Skate Park. Shane had told everyone that he was a professional skateboarder, but he really wasn't. He just liked all the attention it got him. Shane had been able to hang around a couple of professional skateboarders last year while he was visiting his uncle in Southern California. He thought it would be cool for people to think he was like the professional skateboarders. But the problem with Shane was that he couldn't ride a skateboard. He just told everyone he was injured and unable to skate. Eventually this lie would catch up with him.

Shane knew what kind of clothes to wear to “look the part”. He figured he would go to the park and just sign autographs. If anyone asked him to skate, he would just tell them he was injured from a big fall. So there he was at the park signing autographs. One of the fans asked him to stand on his board so he could take a picture of him. Shane figured he could at least stand on a board without anyone noticing that he wasn't really a professional skater. Shane was very prideful as he stood on the board for a picture. He decided to stand on one foot and try to “show off” for the camera. When he did this he lost his balance and the skateboard began to roll backwards while Shane was still on it. Before he could get his balance, it rolled down one of the hills and over a jump. Shane fell off and he looked pretty silly. Almost everyone was laughing and they couldn't believe that he was really a professional skateboarder. Shane was embarrassed and hurt.

There are many people today who think because they go to church, have a Bible, or wear a Christian shirt that they are truly saved. Maybe they think they are saved because they “hang out” with other Christians, or maybe because their mom and dad are Christians. Just like Shane claimed to be a professional skateboarder, many people claim to be Christians. The Bible says that anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ is not God's. (Romans 8:9). Just because someone says they're Christian doesn't always mean they really are a Christian.

- What do you think a real Christian looks like?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Spirit of Christ: The Holy Spirit.

The Wedding

Text: Matthew 25:6 – "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

Also Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Jenny's big sister, Marsha, was getting dressed in her beautiful white wedding dress. Jenny stared at her big sister and admired her beauty as she was getting ready for her wedding. She could tell that her sister couldn't wait to see her bridegroom. She has been preparing for this day as long as Jenny could remember. Jenny knew that Marsha would soon be married to her bridegroom, Tony. Jenny was very happy for Marsha. She couldn't wait until the day she could get married. During the ceremony, Jenny sat quietly in the front row as she watched her big sister place the ring on Tony's finger. Marsha repeated her wedding vows and then she kissed her bridegroom. Jenny knew that her sister and Tony would be together forever.

The Bible uses marriage to teach us about the relationship we have with Jesus. Jesus tells us in our passage about a bridegroom who returns to take his bride and of the wedding feast that follows. The bridegroom is Jesus and the bride is His church (people who believe in Him). When we see this picture in the Bible, we can see that the wedding feast represents heaven. Have you ever been to a wedding? If you have, you have probably noticed a lot of happy and joyful people. When Jesus returns we too will have everlasting joy and happiness with Him. We will live forever with our bridegroom. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 tells us that the Lord Himself will descend from heaven and we will be caught up together with all the Christians in the clouds to be with the Lord.

Just as Jenny's big sister, Marsha, was getting married to Tony, we too will see our bridegroom, Jesus someday. We don't know when that day will come but we need to prepare as if it was going to happen right now! It's wonderful to know that we do not have to live here, in this world forever. We get to spend eternity with our Lord and Savior. That is the best news I have heard in a long time! The deep, tender relationship that God designed for people who are married is patterned after the love Jesus has for His people, the church. When a man leaves his mother and father for marriage, he is to cleave or hold onto his wife. They become one, just like we are united with Jesus as His bride.

- Tell about a time when you went to a wedding. What did you like about it?
- Read Ephesians 5:25-29 to understand the relationship of Jesus to His Church.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



United: To come together as one

Day Three

Left Behind!

Text: Matthew 25:10 – “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.”

Also Read: Luke 13:25, Matthew 7:23

Sudden chaos hit the world. There were fires, earthquakes, cars wrecking, train derailments, airplanes falling out of the sky, and much, much more. All over the news there were reports of problems in Asia, Europe, North America, and all the other continents in the world. What happened? Mr. Johnson was relieved that his family was all okay. There was Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Timmy Johnson and Missy Johnson. Mr. Johnson couldn't believe what was happening. He told his family what he had seen on the way home from work. He said he saw a fire engine on the side of the road with its lights and sirens going, but no one was in or near it! He also saw many car crashes with no one located in or near the vehicles. Could this be the end of the world?

Mr. Johnson remembered hearing from Tom Wilson about a time when Jesus would return to take all the Christians home to be with Him. Tom Wilson lived two doors down from the Johnsons. Mr. Johnson asked his son Timmy to run down to Mr. Wilson's house and see how they were doing. Timmy returned and said they were all gone! Timmy said the lawn mower was in the front yard and was running. The hose was lying next to the car and the water was running. Mr. Johnson ran across the street to see if Mrs. Comstock was home. He knew that Mrs. Comstock was a Christian and he wanted to see if she was home. When he arrived he found Mrs. Comstock's dog on a leash in the front yard. There was no sight of Mrs. Comstock. “Where are all the Christian people?” wondered Mr. Johnson. Suddenly, Mr. Johnson felt very sick. He had realized that Christians were gone and he and his family were left behind. Mr. Johnson had never accepted Jesus as his savior. He attended church twice a year, on Easter and Christmas. He believed in God but he never gave his life to Jesus. “What's going to happen to me now?” thought Mr. Johnson.

Have you turned your life over to Jesus and asked Him to forgive you for your sins? The times we live in now are proof that the end is very near. Jesus Christ will be returning soon to take all of His children to be with him. Do not put off your salvation! The Bible says that now is the day of salvation. Just ask Jesus to come into your heart.

- How do you know you are saved? (Read John 3:16)
- Are you ready for Jesus' return?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Rapture: When all of the Christians will be caught up to meet Jesus in the air.

Day Four

Prepared or Not Prepared, That Is The Question!

Text: Matthew 24:36 - "But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

Also Read: Zechariah 14:7

Mrs. Smith just placed the dinner on the table when the doorbell rang. "Who could that be?" thought Mrs. Smith. "Did any of you invite someone over to our house?" she asked her children. "No", replied the children. Mrs. Smith walked over to the door and opened it. "Surprise!" Standing at the front door was Mrs. Smith's brother and his family. Mrs. Smith was caught totally off guard. She was happy to see her brother, but she wasn't expecting his return to her house so soon. Her brother Troy usually visited at least once a year but he usually gave her notice on when he would be coming through town. Mrs. Smith didn't fix enough food for her brother's family. She also had plans with her children for the next day.

Has an unexpected visitor ever caught your family off guard? Most people don't like being unprepared for their company. If you know someone is coming over for a while what do you or your parents usually do? They prepare themselves by buying extra food, cleaning the house, and making sure they have plenty of time to visit. We know from reading Matthew 24:36 that Jesus will return one day but no one knows what day it will be. Not even the angels know, but only God. So, if we know that Jesus is returning someday, shouldn't we be getting ready for that day?

Sadly, there will be a lot of people who are not prepared for Jesus' return. For those who don't know Jesus it will be very sudden, like a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:10). What would happen if a thief sent a letter to the house that he was going to rob telling the people living there what day he would be robbing them? Do you think the people would be ready for him? They would probably call the police department and have them waiting there to arrest the thief. When Jesus returns it will be very quick and a surprise to those who are not saved. We need to be prepared for His return. We know for sure, one day He will return and we want to be with Him forever. So let's be ready, waiting, and watching for His return. Don't be caught off guard!

- How can you prepare yourself for Jesus' return?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Prepared: To make ready before something happens.

Awake and Alert

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: Matthew 26:38-41

We have learned this week in our devotions that Jesus will return again soon. We can see from the Bible that the exact day His return is not important, because He does not tell us when that will be. He does tell us though that we need to be ready for when that day does come. Matthew 25:13 tells us to watch for His return. We “watch” when we stay alert and remind ourselves that our Lord may come at any time. When we are prepared, our hearts are tuned in to God’s will for our lives. We are studying His word, spending time with other Christians, attending church, and talking to Him about everything we do.

When we don’t think much about His return, in our hearts we won’t be ready for His return. It is very easy to be distracted while we are growing in His ways. One of the things that can distract us is the world we live in. To be distracted means our attention is focused on the things around us and not on the Lord. When our eyes are off of the Lord, it’s difficult to watch for Him. As Christians, we need to prepare ourselves for His return each and every day that the Lord gives us. We can start by giving ourselves to Him each morning when we wake up. We can put on the armor of God to protect us from the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

We should watch for the Lord’s return. If we are awake and alert to His return, our eyes will be watching out for Him. This doesn’t mean that we are to sit by the window every day with our bags packed waiting for Christ to come streaming through the clouds calling out for us to join Him. It does mean that we need to be doing God’s will for our life. We need to stay in His word, we need to communicate with Him each and every day (pray), we need to fellowship with other Christians, we need to receive teaching from God’s word, and we need to let others see what Jesus has done in our life. God will fulfill His promise. So let’s keep our eyes focused on Him!

- Have you ever been distracted by anything? How can we focus on Jesus?

Kid’s Prayer Time



This week you can pray that the Lord will protect you from anything that could keep your eyes off of Jesus. We need to be ready, waiting and watching for His return. If you or someone you know hasn’t accepted Jesus as their savior, you need to do so to have eternal life with Him. All you need to do is ask and He will answer.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"...the Son of Man is
coming."

Third Grade and Above

"Watch therefore, for
you know neither the day
nor the hour in which
the Son of Man is
coming."

Matthew 25:13