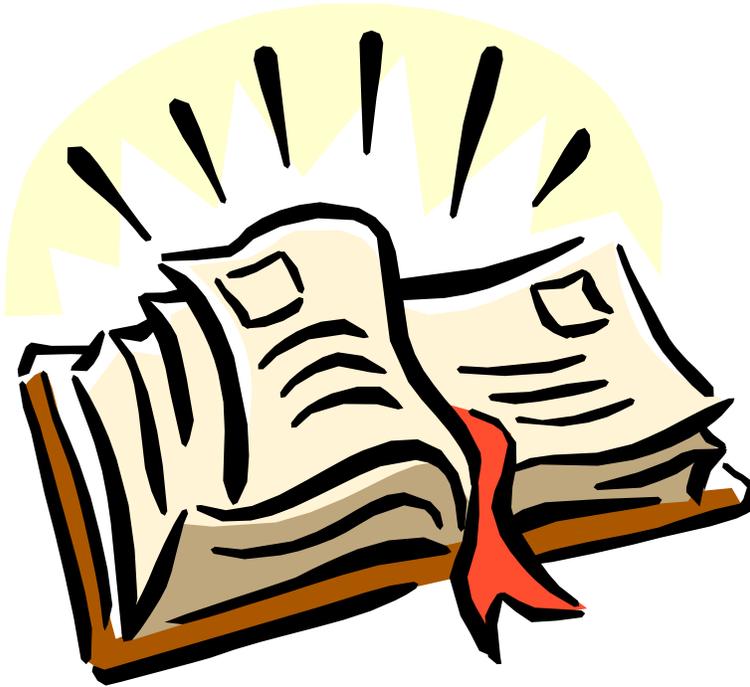


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Jesus Restores Peter

THEME: We show our love for Jesus by helping others!

SCRIPTURE: John 21:15-19



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. This 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 Jesus Restoring Peter. The theme was "We show our love for Jesus by helping others." Peter had denied Jesus three times. In the lesson we studied this week we see Jesus restoring Peter and bringing him back to a place of ministry. Isn't it wonderful that in our failures that we can find forgiveness in Jesus?

This week we will look at a friendship that went bad for two young boys. We will see how the Lord worked it out through forgiveness and restoration. We will also see what the Lord taught these two boys, what He taught Peter when he was restored, and what He wants to teach us.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 21:15-19**. 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!

Sin and the Broken Heart

Text: 1 John 4:21 – “And this commandment we have from Him; that he who loves God must love his brother also.”

Also read John 20:15

A few weeks ago we read the story about Joshua and Kevin. These were the two boys that met at church camp and Joshua was in a wheel chair. They had become friends at camp and Kevin swore to Joshua that he would be his friend forever. But Kevin didn't keep his promise because he denied Joshua three times in front of his friends because they thought Joshua was “different.” Kevin felt like they might laugh at him if they knew that he was Joshua's friend. Well, this story helped us to learn more about Peter's denial of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you remember how that Peter denied knowing Jesus three times because he was afraid? We will learn this week how that Jesus forgave Peter and we are going to learn about it through the relationship between Joshua and Kevin.

After Kevin had denied Joshua the last time at school he felt horrible. Just like when Peter denied Jesus, his friend. The Bible teaches us that after Peter's third denial, he went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:62). Kevin, like Peter was being convicted of his sin and when the Holy Spirit convicts us, we feel guilty in our conscience and we have a broken heart. We need to confess to the Lord when we are convicted of our sin because that leads us to seek His forgiveness, which then leads us to repentance or to turn away from our sin.

Kevin cried when he got home from school that day. He asked the Lord to forgive him for his betrayal of Joshua and wanted never to turn his back on a friend again. Kevin was sure that Joshua probably hated him by now and would not be willing to forgive him. But we will find that Joshua is a lot like Jesus. Just like in the story of Peter, Jesus welcomed Peter back and forgave him of his sin. We are all like Kevin and Peter; we are sinners. God wants to restore us so he can use us. It doesn't mean we are perfect but it does mean we must be willing to ask forgiveness, turn away from our sins and place others as more important than ourselves. **Continued on Day Two...**

- Why did Kevin feel so badly?
- Can you think of a time when you were convicted by the Holy Spirit for your sin?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Conviction: To be shown by the Holy Spirit that we have done something wrong, convinced that we are guilty for something.

Day Two

Time to Make It Right!

Text: Matthew 5:24 - "First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift."

Also read Matthew 6:15

Continued from Day One... Which do you think is harder, having to forgive someone for something they've done to you, or asking forgiveness for something you have done to someone else? Both can be very hard because they are painful. When we need forgiveness, we must be humble and when we forgive others we must give mercy, grace, and compassion. Like Peter with Jesus, he had to be humble towards the Lord and the Lord was gracious, merciful and compassionate towards Peter.

In our story of Kevin and Joshua, these two boys had to do the same if they were to be friends again. It must have been difficult for Joshua to forgive Kevin for being so rude and unkind; and just as difficult for Kevin to ask for Joshua's forgiveness. But they each wanted to please the Lord so they knew what they needed to do. So Kevin made a decision to call Joshua and Joshua made a decision in his heart to forgive Kevin. Kevin tried to call Joshua several times that day but no one was home. Kevin decided that he would keep trying until he talked to Joshua.

The next day at school, Joshua was coming down the hallway in his wheelchair and Kevin was coming out of his classroom with his friends. Just then, Kevin caught Joshua's eyes and he smiled at him. Joshua waved to Kevin and said, "Hi Kevin." Kevin knew what he had to do. He walked up to Joshua and said, "Hi Josh, how are you doing?" What a surprise on the faces of Kevin's buddies! They started joking and saying things like, "We didn't think you knew that guy Kevin," and "That's the wheelchair kid, he thinks he knows you." Kevin had to turn to these guys and say, "I do know him, his name is Joshua and I've been lying all this time about not knowing him." Wow, that took guts to stand up and tell the truth. What would you do if you had been Kevin? **Continued on Day Three...**

- What was Kevin's attitude in this situation?
- What was Joshua's attitude in this situation?
- Is there someone that you need to forgive? Or to ask for forgiveness from?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Reconciliation: To bring back together again in peace.

Day Three

Yes, Yes, and Yes!

Text: 1 John 4:19 - "We love Him because He first loved us."

Also read John 21:15-17

Continued from Day Two... Just as Kevin had denied knowing Joshua three different times, so had Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Just think of all of the things that Jesus could have done to Peter: He might have rejected Peter, or He might have embarrassed Peter in front of the other disciples. Worse of all, He could have chosen not to forgive Peter.

In John 21:15-17 we see several ways that the Lord showed His love and forgiveness towards Peter. First, he talked to Peter directly by asking him three times if he loved Him. Jesus did not do this to embarrass Peter. He did it to show the other disciples that He was accepting Peter and loved him. You will see that after each time Jesus asked if Peter loved Him and Peter said, "yes" that the Lord was telling Peter what he must do to show his love for Him. He was telling Peter, "I love you and want to use you."

Secondly, Jesus was teaching Peter to be His disciple. Jesus showed so much love towards Peter. And like Joshua and Kevin, Joshua had already decided in his heart that he would forgive Kevin. And Kevin made it right by standing up for his friend in front of his other "so called" friends. Remember that love is an action word. That means that it causes us to do something. If we tell someone we love them we must show them in the way we treat them. This is how Jesus treated Peter. **Continued on Day Four...**

If we love Jesus we will do three things:

1. **Feed His lambs.** That means to teach others about His word.
 2. **Tend His sheep.** That means to help those in need and to give to those who don't have.
 3. **Feed His sheep.** After we tell others and care for them, we share more of His word with them and others.
- Do you love Jesus?
 - Have you ever fed or tended His lambs or sheep?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Love: Read 1 Corinthians 13 in your Bible

Don't Get Mad, Forgive!

Text: Matthew 10:39 - "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

Also read John 21:18

Continued from Day Three... We've been learning about God restoring Peter and we've been learning about our responsibility when we sin and when we've been sinned against. Joshua and Kevin are examples of what it means to lose our life. As Matthew 10:39 reads, "He who finds his life will lose it and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." Joshua was willing to lay down his right to be bitter and angry with Kevin and Kevin was laying down his pride to seek forgiveness. This meant Kevin was also willing to give up his "other friends" to do what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Kevin was taking a risk and he was trusting in the Lord to give him courage and he wasn't sure if Joshua would even forgive him. That's how it must be when we follow Jesus. We can't be concerned about what others might think or say and we have to be willing to trust completely in Jesus for what happens.

Joshua was also revealing the love of Jesus towards Kevin by being forgiving. It took the grace of God to help Joshua have a soft heart filled with compassion for Kevin. Maybe there have been times you have had to forgive people for hurting you. Maybe you just wanted to stay mad and not pray for them. But what will happen is that bitterness and anger will keep us from having a close relationship with God and until we see our own sin and be willing to forgive others, we won't have real peace in our lives.

To follow Jesus we have to sometimes lay down what we feel like doing in order to do the right thing. We need to let Jesus have every part of our lives. Each day we must ask God to help us, and each day we must give our lives to Him. Have you given your life to Him today? Are you willing to ask Him for help? **Continued on Day Five...**

- Did Joshua hold bitterness in his heart towards Kevin?
- Are you bitter and unforgiving towards someone? If so, will you ask for God to help you to forgive?
- Does Jesus have your whole heart and life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Bitter: Holding sourness in your heart towards someone; anger.

Day Five

Apology Accepted

Text: John 21:19 - "This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, 'Follow Me.' "

Also read John 10:15

Continued from Day Four... So Joshua accepted Kevin's apology and the two became friends again. The Lord really blessed their friendship. Kevin learned that the other kids who he thought were his friends really weren't. They began to make fun of Kevin and laugh at him. Kevin was thankful that he found out that these "friends" never really cared about him. He also found out that a real friend would stick by you no matter what. What a blessing it is to have friends, even if they are a little bit different than us. Joshua had a disability, but that didn't matter to Kevin. And Joshua learned that it is good to forgive even when we may not feel like it. The Lord can bring reconciliation. He certainly brought Joshua and Kevin back together and He also restored Peter who went on to do some wonderful things for the Lord and His kingdom.

Even though there was peace in the end and reconciliation between these two friends, asking for forgiveness and forgiving is not always easy. We have to trust Jesus to help us to do the right thing. We don't always feel like doing the right thing, but when we obey the word of God, then the Lord will bless us. Let's decide to follow Jesus and do the right thing no matter how we feel or what we think that others may think of us. We will find that when we trust Jesus He will give us true friends.

Is there someone that you can think of who you need to forgive? Or maybe there is someone who you need to ask for forgiveness from. Jesus wants us to do the right thing. He will help you and give you the strength to do what is right. Just pray and ask Him to help you to do what is right. You will find that He will give you the strength you need. It still may not be easy for you, but Jesus will always give you the grace you need to do the right thing.

- What happened to Joshua and Kevin when they did the right thing?
- Is it always easy to do the right thing?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray for God to help you notice those that you may need to forgive or ask forgiveness from, then to show you what you need to do.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"...He restores my soul..."

Third Grade and Above

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

Psalm 23:1-3