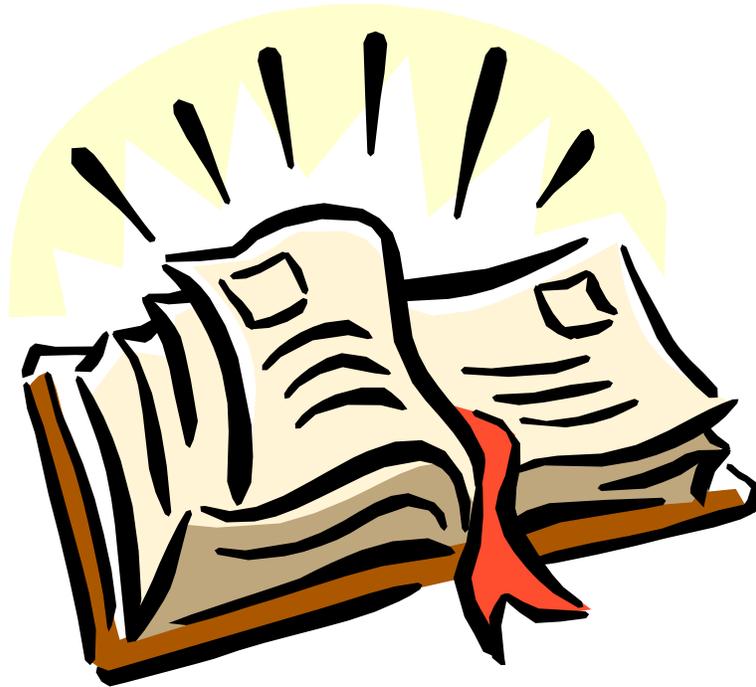


# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: The Two Natures**

**THEME: Even though we are saved, we still sin sometimes.**

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 7:1-25**



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 The Two Natures. The theme was "Even though we are saved, we still sin sometimes."

The section of scripture that we studied was Romans 7:1-25. 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

# Walking in a New Life

**Text: Romans 6:4** – “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

**Also read Romans 12:2**

Can you really be born again? How does that happen? There is a story in the New Testament about a man by the name of Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews, and he went to Christ and spoke to Him regarding the miracles that Christ was performing. Jesus witnessed to Nicodemus by telling him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus replied, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born? Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus was unsure what it meant to be born again. Did that mean a person would have to become a little baby again? No! When you are born into this world you are born with a sinful nature. Sin is anything you and I think, say, or do that is displeasing to God. God is perfect and He is unable to have a relationship with anyone who is a sinner. The Bible says, (Romans 3:10), As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one.” Sin separates us from God. If we continue to live a life of sin we will be punished eternally in hell. In order for us to be made right, we must look to the one who paid the price for our sin. His name is Jesus Christ! God’s own Son came to this earth to save us from eternal hell. Jesus took the place of our sin on the cross and He died so we could live.

Being born again means you have confessed your sins and have asked Jesus Christ to forgive you. You have received Him as your Savior. When you have done this, your old way has died. You are a new living creature with a new life in Him. Therefore, you are born into a new life or born again! With this new life in Christ comes a new person. Your old way has died and your new way of living has begun. As we study this week’s devotion we will learn about the new life in Christ. As you begin to study Ephesians 4: 22-32 you will begin to understand what the new you can do!

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Reconciliation:** To bring into a changed relationship. We have been reconciled into a right relationship with God through Jesus.

**Righteous:** That which is just and fair.

Day Two

# A Change of Condition

**Text: Romans 12:2** – “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

**Also read Ephesians 4:23**

In school most of you have probably learned about the change that takes place when a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly. For those of you who have not learned about this, let me give you a quick science class. An insect larva is a wingless, often wormlike form of a newly hatched insect, like a caterpillar. When it's time for change, the caterpillar makes a new home and becomes very inactive, which is known as the pupa stage. After living in this inactive stage for awhile, the caterpillar develops a new body and wings. When this stage is over the new insect that appears is not a caterpillar anymore but a beautiful butterfly! This is known as metamorphosis or transformation.

The bible tells us that we should not be conformed to this world, but be transformed. Being conformed to this world is when you chose to be like the world. You want to act, say, look, and participate as those who are not of Jesus Christ. Transformed is just what a caterpillar does when it changes its condition. It is no longer a caterpillar after transformation, but now is a butterfly. We need to be transformed! We need to change our condition! That can only be done through Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit. When you become a new Christian you begin the transformation from your old way into your new way. You are putting on the new man, which is described in Ephesians 4:24-29.

Romans 12:2 tells us not to be like the world and to change our condition. It also tells us how to do it! After Paul says, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed BY the renewing of your mind.” So how do I change my condition and do not be like this world? I renew my mind! Renewing means that I am different than I was in the past. I can renew, or be different, by being encouraged in God's Word, having a daily devotional life with Him. I need to be in His Word every single day. Not every other day, but every day. I also need to talk to Him every day as well. How do I do that? By praying to Him, going to church, and spending time with other believers helps me to renew my mind in Christ. It is a tough world to live in as a Christian, but God gives us the ingredients we need to put on the new man and to grow in Him.

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Transformed** – Changing our old way into a new way.

Day Three

# Having Integrity

**Text: Ephesians 4:25** - "Therefore, putting away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another."

**Also read Zechariah 8:16**

Johnny and his father, Jack, were just finishing up their packing for the weekend getaway. They were planning on going camping in the mountains and doing some fly-fishing. This trip had been planned for quite a few months. As Johnny's father was loading the last piece of equipment into the car, the phone rang. Johnny picked up the phone, "hello," he said. "Can I speak with your father," replied the voice. "Dad, the phone is for you." On the phone was the boss of Johnny's dad. He was a very nice man. He also was a Christian. "Hi Jack, sorry to bother you this morning, but we need you to come into work." Jack was very upset. "Can't you get a hold of someone else?" said Johnny's father. "I am sorry Jack, but you are the only one available and we need you at work right now!"

Johnny could tell there was something terribly wrong with the phone conversation. Johnny knew it was his father's work place calling for him to come in. "Can't you just tell them you are sick or you have to be somewhere for a family emergency?" said Johnny. "Well, that's what my flesh wants, but I need to be honest and do what needs to be done." Johnny really didn't want his father to lie to anyone. Johnny was very disappointed, but he knew that it wouldn't please the Lord if his father, Jack, were to be dishonest about going into work.

This week in church Johnny learned about putting on the new man. One of the ways people can see your new life is by being honest in everything you do. God does not want us to lie, because it is a sin and God doesn't lie. How would you feel if God lied to us? We probably wouldn't trust Him if He were to do that. God tells us in His Word that the father of lies is Satan, John 8: 44. Johnny knew that Satan is the head of all liars. Johnny wanted to be like his father because his father did what Jesus would have done in the same situation. The blessing behind telling the truth for Johnny's father was that they didn't need him after all. When Jack, Johnny's father, arrived at work, the boss told him that they took care of the problem and he could go home. That was great news for Johnny and his father. They were able to pack their lunches and be at the campsite by noon! God truly blesses those who keep His commands. Being honest with other people shows that the condition of your life has change. God receives the glory when others notice you!

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Integrity:** Being honest and just in all that I think, feel, or do.

# Forgiving Others

**Text: Ephesians 4:32** – “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.”

**Also Read Mark 11:25 and Colossians 3:13**

As the Christian students at the High School formed a circle and held hands, mockers began to chant crude and obscene things towards them. This was a normal occurrence that happened each and every day. These Christian students would gather near the cafeteria, form a circle, hold hands and would begin praying. Some days it was very difficult to hear each other pray because of the non-Christian student's laughter or rude comments. It took a lot of boldness to stand and form a circle in the midst of all the other teenagers. But, the students were capable of standing strong because of the strength they received from the Lord.

At the close of the prayer, one of the students would plead to the Lord, “Please forgive them because they do not know what they are doing.” The students had compassion and concern on the non-believers. A forgiving heart was evident of the new nature of Christ in their lives. So easily they could have listened to their flesh and responded back to the non-believers in a not-so-Christian way.

A little over 2000 years ago those same words were mentioned by Jesus Christ, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Luke 23:34) Jesus was mocked, laughed at, beaten, spit upon, and crucified, but He still had a forgiving heart towards those who treated Him wrong. When we are mocked, teased, treated wrongly, or hurt by someone else we need to imitate the life of Jesus by forgiving him or her also. It's very hard to do but by His strength and His Holy Spirit we are able to do all things. One of the characteristics of putting on the new nature is that of forgiveness.

- Share of a time that you showed forgiveness. How about a time when you did not?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Forgiveness:** Letting go of my anger and my desire to punish someone who has wronged me.

Day Five

## Face Your Sin, Confess It, Forsake It

**Text: Ephesians 4:30** - "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

**Also read Isaiah 7:13**

Andrew watched as his grandmother entered the room. He noticed that she had forty dollars lying on the counter near her purse. When no one was watching, Andrew walked by the counter, picked up the money, and put it in his pocket. A few hours later, Andrew and his grandmother left for FunMart to meet up with his cousins. Andrew's grandmother was looking all throughout her purse for the money. She couldn't believe that she had misplaced it. She had no idea that Andrew took the money. She went over to the ATM and got out more money so her grandchildren could play the video games.

As the days past, Andrew had a horrible feeling inside of his stomach. He could not stop thinking about the money he had taken. He felt horrible. He was so miserable and exhausted. He was unable to sleep very well because of the conviction on his heart regarding the money. Finally, Andrew had to respond to the Holy Spirit's conviction on his heart. First, Andrew recognized what he had done was wrong. Secondly, he confessed his sin to God. He asked God to forgive him for what he had done. Thirdly, Andrew would stay away from stealing again. He had learned his lesson. He was not going to take anything that didn't belong to him ever again! After bringing this sin to the Lord, Andrew went and asked his grandmother for forgiveness. He explained to her how he had asked God for forgiveness and how he had learned a great lesson from this. His grandmother was very thankful that Andrew listened to the Holy Spirit's conviction on his life.

We too need to listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We need to face our sins, confess them, and forsake or stay away from them! God is so gracious to forgive us our sins. We are going to make mistakes as Christians. Even when we put on the new nature! The evidence of a new natured Christian is when we sin we listen to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and we respond to Him. A conviction is feeling guilt for wrong I have done. The Holy Spirit places a conviction in our hearts when we sin. When we don't respond to the conviction and we continue to live in sin, the Holy Spirit is grieved or sorrowed. Remember to listen to the conviction. Face your sin, confess it, and forsake it!

- What does it mean to you that Jesus is always there for you?
- How will it help you to pray to know that God will always be there to listen?
- How can you help others who might be afraid?

### Kid's Prayer Time



This week we have learned a lot about putting on the new man. We can only put on a new nature when we have been born again. Jesus Christ is the only one who can change us from our old ways. Give God the praise for saving you from destruction. As we draw closer to Him, others will see His joyous life in us. What an awesome way for others to get to know our Lord!

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"I thank God that I am delivered from sin through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Third Grade and Above

"I thank God - through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God but with the flesh the law of sin."

Romans 7:25