

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Just Enough Grace

THEME: God helps us when we suffer.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10



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 Just Enough Grace. The theme was "God helps us when we suffer." There is a lot of suffering in this world, but can it happen to Christians. If we study the Bible for very long we will learn that God's people can and do suffer in this world. Even as children we can sometimes suffer different things. Maybe it is an illness, or maybe our parent lost their job, or maybe someone is mean to us because we took a stand for Jesus.

In our devotions this week we are going to look at what God has to say about suffering. One thing we know for sure is that if we suffer in this world that we also will receive the grace that we need from the Lord to help us to get through it. That is a promise to us from the Lord.

The section of scripture that we studied was **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**. 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

Sinning and Suffering

Text: Galatians 6:7 - "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Also read Genesis 3:16-19

"I don't get why I have to stay inside the house while all my friends are outside playing!" Jimmy complained to himself as he flopped onto the couch. "I don't know if I can survive being cooped up for another moment. Why do I have to suffer like this?" His dad was listening from another room and walked out into the living room. "Wow, what a lovely day outside," Jimmy's father said. "Yeah, I wish I could go outside," stated Jimmy. "Why can't you?" his dad asked. "Well, instead of doing my homework, I started playing with Timmy and after a while he got on my nerves so I punched him. Right about that time mom walked into the room and wasn't very happy."

"For brothers, you and Timmy sure seem to get upset with one another a lot," said dad. "So tell me what happened." "Well, mom made me apologize to Timmy and then she told me I lost the privilege of going outside, and now I think I am going to die," Jimmy shared. "I don't think you will die, but it is really a bummer that you aren't able to go outside. Sometimes when we sin, or do wrong things, we end up suffering because of it. You are suffering the consequences of hitting your brother. I hope you have learned a valuable lesson today, Jimmy," said dad. "Yeah, I shouldn't have hit Timmy," Jimmy said. "I'll definitely think twice next time before I hit anyone again."

Sometimes we suffer in life because of our sin. Just like Jimmy, he lost the privilege of going outside because he hit his brother. The Bible says that we will reap what we sow. If we plant good things in our life then we will reap good things. But if we sow bad things then we will reap bad things also. We can look around in our world and see many people suffering because of bad choices that they have made. Let's make sure to listen to God and His Word and live a life blessed by God, instead of suffering because of sin.

- Why was Jimmy not able to play outside?
- Have you ever "suffered" because of something wrong that you have done?
- What does the Bible mean when it says, "we shall reap what we sow?"

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Suffering: Going through times of discomfort, pain, hurt, or loss.

Serving and Suffering

Text: Jeremiah 38:6 - "So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the king's son, which was in the court of the prison, and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire. So Jeremiah sank in the mire."

Also read Jeremiah 38:1-6

Sometimes we can do the right thing and still suffer for it. The prophet Jeremiah is a good example of that. He loved God and obeyed Him in everything he was asked to do.

Jeremiah's job was to declare God's Word to the people of Israel. But sadly the people of Israel were sinning against God and did not want to hear anything that Jeremiah had to share. But God loved His people so much that He still sent Jeremiah to tell them the truth.

After a while the people got so mad at Jeremiah that they wanted to kill him. Isn't it sad that these people were so filled with sin and hate that they would actually want to kill God's prophet? But that is exactly what happened. One day they arrested Jeremiah and lowered him into a dungeon. At the bottom of this pit there was a lot of mud and water and the Bible says that Jeremiah sank down into the mire, or mud. He was left there to die. But God had other plans and sent someone to help him.

Just because we obey the Lord and do what He wants us to do does not mean that we will never suffer. Actually, in some ways we may suffer more. Jesus told his disciples that they were not greater than Him; if He suffered then they would as well. That is true for us as well. But what we have to remember is that we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us and helping us to get through any suffering that the world may send our way. Even if people are mean to us because we love Jesus, the Lord will give us strength. Let's remember that we serve God and obeying Him is more important than anything that anyone might say or do to us because we serve Him. If someone makes fun of you because you love Jesus, just remember Jeremiah in the mud pit.

- Why did the people of Israel throw Jeremiah into a mud pit?
- Can we do what is right and still suffer?
- Has anyone ever made fun of you because you made a stand for Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Dungeon: A place where prisoners are sent to; Jeremiah was arrested and placed into a dungeon, even though he didn't do anything wrong.

Day Three

The Savior and Suffering

Text: John 19:30 - "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

Also read John 19:1-30

"What happened to you?" mom asked as Joel came into house. "You don't want to know," Joel responded. Joel was soaking wet from head to toe. He just rode his bike home and was looking very sad. Mom told Joel, "Go ahead and change your clothes then lets have some warm cocoa and you can tell me all about it. Joel changed and came back into the kitchen where mom had the cocoa all ready for him.

"I don't understand why people have to be so mean," Joel stated. "All I did was tell a boy about Jesus at recess time. I told him all about how much I love Jesus and what He has done in my life. But Tommy and his group of bullies heard me and started making fun of me. Then after school as I was unlocking my bike to come home they snuck up behind me with a bucket of water and dumped it on me. Then they yelled, 'there you go Jesus Freak' and ran off. I just got on my bike and rode home."

"I'm really sorry that happened son," mom responded. "Sometimes people can be really mean, even when you are really nice. I'm really glad that you took a stand for Jesus. But sometimes when we stand up for Jesus it may get other people who do not love Jesus upset. One thing you know for sure is that Jesus understands how you feel. He never did anything wrong and always loved and helped people. But there were people who did not believe in Jesus and they thought that He might take all of their power so they wanted to get rid of Him, even kill Him. Eventually they did have Jesus arrested and finally killed on the cross, but only because Jesus willingly laid down His life for us. Jesus suffered a lot on the cross, we can read all about it in the Bible. Jesus also told us in the Bible that we would suffer also for His sake. Because the world hates Jesus they will also hate us. But like Jesus also told us, we need to pray for those who would want to be mean to us."

"Can we pray for Tommy and his friends?" Joel asked. "Certainly!" said mom. They bowed their heads and prayed. Joel felt much better now and knew that everything would be all right. Sure, Tommy might try to do something again, but maybe Joel's example might be the thing that helps Tommy to understand how much Jesus loves him.

- Have you taken a stand for Jesus in your school or neighborhood? How did it go?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Persecution: treating someone in a cruel way because they stand up for Jesus.

Singing in Suffering

Text: Acts 16:25 - "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."

Also read Acts 16:16-34

Like we learned in our lesson this week, the Apostle Paul certainly knew what it meant to suffer. In our Bible reading today we learn about the time when he and Silas were thrown into Jail in the city of Philippi. All they did was help out a girl who was in need. They cast out an evil spirit from her. But the people who made money from her fortune telling got really mad and demanded that the authorities do something. They got everyone so worked up that they decided that they needed to put Paul and Silas in the inner jail and fasten their hands and feet to chains. They wanted to make sure that there was no way of escape for them.

But the beautiful part of this story is how Paul and Silas reacted. Did they get mad at the people for putting them in jail? No. Did they complain to God about their circumstances? No. Did they wonder if God had forgot about them or if He was really in control? No. What they did do was to sing worship songs and pray. And all the other prisoners were listening to them (and maybe guards were listening as well).

All of a sudden there was a great earthquake and the doors of the prison were opened. The guard woke up from sleep and thought all of the prisoners had escaped. He knew that he would be punished by death so he was going to take his own life. But Paul called out and told him to stop. He explained that all of the prisoners were there. The guard ran to Paul and knelt down and asked, "what must I do to be saved?" What an opportunity for Paul to share the gospel. And he did share the gospel and the guard and his whole family were saved.

We never know who may be watching our lives. Imagine if Paul had not sung praises, but rather started complaining. That guard would not have seen anything different in Paul's life. If we are going through a difficult time we need to keep our focus on Jesus and keep on praising Him. We need to understand that He will take care of us. Let's sing His praises in good times and bad times and all the time.

- How should we react to suffering in our lives?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Prison: A place where people who commit crimes are kept.

Suffering to Share

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:6 - "Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."

Also read 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

Jenny picked out a beautiful bouquet of balloons and got into the car with her mom to go and visit her friend Bethany. Bethany was in the hospital because she had a type of cancer called leukemia. The doctor's said the Bethany should get better, but she would have to go through several treatments first. Jenny and Bethany had been friends for a long time, but there was something that Bethany did not know about Jenny.

Jenny arrived at the hospital and went up to Bethany's room. They hugged and laughed for a while as Jenny updated Bethany on everything going on at school. Then Bethany began to get tears in her eyes. "What's wrong?" Jenny asked. "I just miss being at school with my friends." "I know what that is like," Jenny said. "How do you know what that is like? You aren't sick like me," Bethany said. "Actually I have been sick like you," Jenny responded. "I had leukemia once myself." Bethany couldn't believe it; her friend had never told her that before.

Jenny began to explain what had happened to her. She shared that she did suffer a lot when it was all happening, but that the Lord healed her. She shared that she understood what Bethany was feeling and would always be there for her friend. Bethany was thankful for Jenny and how she really understood what she was going through. The Bible tells us that sometimes we are allowed to go through suffering so that we can learn to be a comfort to others. That is exactly what happened to Jenny. She had gone through suffering for a period of time, but was now used by God to be a comfort to someone else.

- What was special about Jenny that helped her to be a comfort to Bethany?
- How can you help others around you who might be suffering?

Kid's Prayer Time



Are you going through a time of suffering right now? This week when you pray ask the Lord to help you through the difficult time. Do you know others who are suffering. Ask the Lord how you can be a blessing and a help to them.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.'"

Third Grade and Above

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

2 Corinthians 12:9