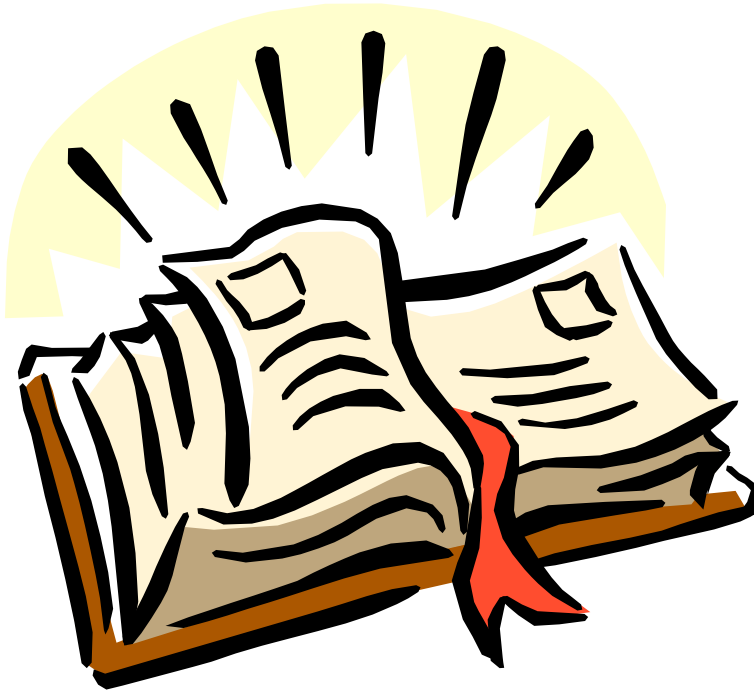


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

**LESSON TITLE: Jesus is the Way, the Truth,
and the Life**

THEME: We can always trust Jesus.

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-6



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 that **Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life**. The theme was "**we can always trust Jesus.**" Jesus was always letting His disciples know that He was leaving to be with the Father and that He was preparing a place for them in heaven to join Him.

In our devotion this week we will learn that it is only through Jesus that we can go to the Father. And though we do not see Jesus with our eyes it is by faith we learn to trust in Jesus.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 14:1-6**. 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

Three Friends on a Journey

Text: John 14:18 - "I will not leave you orphans; I will come for you."

Also read John 14:3

Once upon a time there were three friends. They lived over two thousand years ago and they used to walk everywhere they went. One day, these three friends decided they were going to go on a journey. They had no map, no guide and took off not even knowing where they were headed.

As they left on their journey, the first friend said, "I don't believe we are going the right way, for I am unable to see ahead of us. This path is narrow and difficult; surely we are going to end up in trouble." The second friend said to him, "Oh Doubt, why must you always question that way? Let me guide us. Stay near to my side for I will never leave you alone." The name of the second friend was Pride. He always wanted to be in the lead and he was very sure of himself. And then the third friend said, "Please, both of you, we must have faith in God. He will direct our paths but we must believe." This last friend was named Trust. He was always encouraging, believing and turning to God.

Well the trip was becoming tiresome. They were in the middle of a very dark forest. Doubt said, "I am turning back. This is not the right way." Pride said, "I know we must turn here and I will set us on the right path." And then Trust spoke up saying, "Let us pray and ask God for His guidance."

Where are the friends going? Do they even know where they are headed? That is what it is like without Jesus in our heart. We are going though life with no directions, no instructions and no guidance. But those who do not know Jesus or won't let Him into their lives are on a path to destruction, while believers in Jesus are on a path leading to Heaven. What do you think is going to happen to the three friends? **Continued on Day Two.**

- Is the way to the Father broad and easy or narrow and hard?
- Do you know where you are going with the Lord?
- How does Jesus direct your steps every day?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Orphan: A child who does not have any living parents.

Day Two

"I am the Way"

Text: John 14:4 - "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Also read Malachi 3:1

Continued from Day One... Well, the three friends stuck together and took Trust's advice. They prayed and then found a nice spot to sleep for the night. They slept that night very peacefully. When they awoke they began to disagree about which way to go next. As they were talking to one another, suddenly a man appeared. They were quite puzzled and wondered who He was, how He got there, and where He was going. The Man spoke, "Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me." Though the Man was very kind when He spoke, they all three knew He was mighty and strong. Trust asked, "Who are you?" He answered them; "I am the Way." Trust desired to follow Him. Doubt wanted proof that He was the Way and Pride swore he would never leave His side. The Way said, "Follow Me." And they did as He said.

As they journeyed, Pride became tired and decided to take another road because he believed he could find a soft, comfortable place to lay his head. Doubt was beginning to wonder if they were lost again. And Trust, he just wanted to stay near the Way. So Pride went one way, Doubt another, and Trust continued on with the Way.

Do you ever want to go your own way and not consider where the Lord would have you go? Like in our story, Jesus was telling the disciples that He is the Way. When we believe in Jesus we can go right to the heavenly Father and there is no other way but through Jesus. Have you ever doubted Jesus like Doubt did? Or ever thought your way was the right way like Pride? Or do you just simply follow Jesus like Trust? Where will Doubt and Pride end up? Will the Way help them get back on the right road again? Let's find out what happens tomorrow. **Continued on Day Three.**

- Talk about a time when you trusted in Jesus.
- Which road would you take?
- Can you think of three of Jesus' disciples in the Bible that Doubt, Pride and Trust seem to be like?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Doubt: To distrust; have no confidence or belief in.

Day Three

"I am the Truth"

Text: John 8:32 - "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Also read John 1:14

Continued from Day Two... Pride found a soft place to lay his head. It was in the shade of a fig tree and there was lush, green grass for him to lay his head. He thought he was so strong and smart for leaving the Way. He lay down and went to sleep. Doubt on the other hand was confused and was wishing he had stayed with the Way. He began to be scared and trembled inside. He decided he was not going any further, so he sat down and prayed for help. Night came and went. When Pride woke up he felt the hot sun on his face. He looked and the fig tree had died during the night and he was lying in a thorn patch. There were thorns everywhere. How he longed to be with his friends and especially the Way. Pride remembered how he told the Way, "We will never leave your side." Pride realized he had sinned and he cried out to God that the Way would find him again.

Meanwhile, Doubt began to doubt himself and all of his own selfish decisions. He also longed to be with his friends and in the presence of the Way. The Way knew their heart and He knew where to find Pride and Doubt, so He led Trust to each of them. The Way first came to Pride and said, "I am the Truth." Pride knew he must always trust the Way for he knew he was the only truth. Pride asked for forgiveness and then Trust smiled and took him by the hand. Next the Way came to Doubt. Doubt fell at the Way's feet and said, "Surely you are the only way and the only truth; please forgive me for doubting." The three friends now knew that the Man was the Way and the Truth so they gratefully walked on with Him on their journey.

What happens when we leave God's path? There is darkness, loneliness, and fear. That is why we should never leave His path. But we are promised that Jesus (the Way) has left this world to be with the Father and is preparing a special place for His children in Heaven. We will see what more the three friends will learn about the man who is the Way and the Truth tomorrow. **Continued on Day Four**

- Will you pray for someone you know who has turned away from God?
- Will Jesus forgive us when we ask Him to?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Truth: honesty, that which is true and right.

Day Four

And the Life

Text: John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

Also read Ephesians 2:18

Continued from Day Three... All three friends were now reunited and more importantly, they learned that the Man who was leading them called Himself the Way and the Truth. The friends were rejoicing to be together again and for the love and forgiveness they received from the Way and the Truth. As they walked the Man said he was going to have to leave them soon. But where He was going He was going to prepare a place for them to live forever with Him and with His Father. The three men were sad and frightened and did not understand why He must leave.

This must have been how Jesus' disciples felt as He told them of His departure. The disciples had spent every day of the last three years side by side with Jesus. How they needed His comfort. This story is similar because the man who is the Way, the Truth and the Life in the story is Jesus. And He is the only way to our Heavenly Father.

The three friends in our story are like Thomas, Peter and John, Jesus' disciples in the Bible. Jesus had revealed to them who He was and assured them that they could always trust in Him. Even though He was leaving He would one day return for them and they would be with Him forever. We who believe in Jesus today still have this wonderful promise. Sometimes we might let doubt or pride keep us from fully following Jesus like Thomas and Peter did. But Jesus is still loving and forgiving. When we turn to Him and follow Him with our whole hearts we learn that He truly is the ONLY Way!

Jesus' disciples needed to trust that Jesus would come back for them to take them to His heavenly home. And we must trust in Him as well. One day He will return for us and we need to be ready. If you are not ready, you can ask Him into your heart today. Maybe you have begun to doubt or become prideful and have begun to live your life without Jesus. Today is the day to turn back and ask Jesus to forgive you just like Pride and Doubt did. We will learn more about how that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life tomorrow.

- Even though we don't see Jesus with our eyes, is He still always with us?
- Are you a disciple of Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Disciple: One who accepts the teachings of Christ as Savior and spreads the gospel.

Day Five

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Text: John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Also Acts 4:10-12

We learned this week that Jesus is the Way, the only way to God the Father. Through Jesus we live eternally in heaven when we believe in Him. We also learned that Jesus is the Truth. God wrote the Bible for us to know and understand His truth. In John chapter one we read that the Word became flesh. This is Jesus. Jesus is God and Jesus is truth. We can put all of our trust in Him. No matter what, He will never let us down. He is also the only way to God. Some people say that there are a lot of different ways to get to God. But God sent His only precious son, Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. He didn't provide any other way for us to be saved. Only through Jesus can we get to heaven. But He also made it so easy. All we need to do is simply believe in Him and ask Him to come into our hearts.

The story about the friends and the Man, who called Himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life, is a story about you and me and Jesus. Sometimes we might be like Doubt and doubt whether He is really leading us. We also sometimes turn from God and go our own way just like Pride. But what we need to do is to turn from our own ways and trust in Jesus with our whole hearts just like Trust did in the story.

Share with someone today how Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Remember too, that the only way we come to God is by believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior. When you ask Him into your life you will be on the right way to eternal life. Learn more about God's truth by praying and reading your Bible every day. God bless you this week.

- How do we know we can trust Jesus in everything?
- Are you living in God's will today? If not, pray that He will lead you back to His path.

Kid's Prayer Time



This week ask the Lord to search your heart. Are you trusting in Him completely? Ask for His help in serving Him this week. Pray for others who may not be walking with the Lord right now. Ask Him to help you to be bold in telling others about the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"...you believe in God,
believe also in Me."**

Third Grade and Above

**"Let not your heart be
troubled; you believe
in God, believe also in
Me."**

John 14:1