

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Paul is Arrested in the Temple

THEME: There is no room for prejudice in the Christian life; Jesus died for all men.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 21:26 – 22:29



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 when Paul is Arrested in the Temple. The theme was "There is no room for prejudice in the Christian life; Jesus died for all." The Jews were very prejudiced towards the Gentiles. They did not like Paul preaching about Jesus and they especially did not want him preaching to Gentiles. But Paul overcame all prejudice to tell others about Jesus. That was the most important thing to him.

We all need to learn to be more like Jesus and Paul and not be prejudiced towards others. We need to love and accept everyone no matter how different they are and be willing to share the love of Jesus with them. This week we will be looking more closely at these truths.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 21:26 - 22:29**. 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!

An Unreasonable Hatred

Text: Acts 21:34 – “And some among the crowd cried one thing and some another. So when he could not ascertain the truth because of the tumult, he commanded him to be taken into the barracks.”

Also read Acts 21:17-32

Paul had gone through many difficult times since he chose to follow Jesus, but he always had a burning desire to share Jesus with others. He especially wanted the Jewish people to know about Jesus. Because he traveled many places, Paul was well known in a lot of cities. He would always try to find out where the Jews were meeting in the cities that he would visit and go there to preach the gospel of Jesus. Since the Jews did not believe in Jesus, this made Paul a very unpopular person among the Jews.

In today's Bible reading, we see Paul coming to worship God in the temple in the city of Jerusalem. The temple was a place where only the Jews could go inside to worship God. Paul was not trying to cause any problems, but trouble always seemed to find out where Paul was. It seems the enemy was always trying to cause problems for Paul. Several Jewish men at the temple seized Paul and began to beat him.

They did not like Paul preaching salvation to the Gentiles. These Jewish men hated the Gentiles and did not want Paul to preach Jesus at all, let alone to the “Gentile dogs (as they would call them)”. The Jews were prejudiced against the Gentiles and they hated them with an unreasonable hatred. They dragged Paul out of the temple and were actually going to try to kill him. But God had other plans for Paul and so the Roman captain and his guards came to see what was happening. The Jewish men were afraid of the Romans, because Rome had become the ruling empire over Israel, the nation where Jerusalem was. They stopped beating Paul. They had let their prejudice of the Gentile nations cause them to hate so much they would kill someone. But notice that they did not even know why they were beating Paul up. They could not answer the commander when he asked what Paul had done. Prejudice causes unreasonable hatred. It makes people do mean things. There is no room in the Christian life for prejudice. Jesus died for every person.

- Why did the Jewish men beat Paul?
- What do you think God thinks about prejudice?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Prejudice: A hostile, irrational anger directed toward someone who is different from you.

Overcoming Prejudice

Text: Acts 21:13 – “Then Paul answered, ‘What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’”

Also read Acts 21:27-36

For many of the disciples of Jesus that we read about in the New Testament we see that their lives were often filled from one day to the next with danger. God used them in a powerful way to share the good news of Jesus with others, but there were times when they were persecuted and beaten because they believed in Jesus. Remember Stephen? He was stoned and killed for his faith in the Lord Jesus. For most, there was great danger in the lives of the early Christians for staying faithful to spread the gospel. For some in the world today it is a danger for them also.

One of Jesus' Apostles by the name of Paul wrote much of the New Testament. Paul had spent a lot of his life being mean to the Christians. He would search out the believers in a city and have them jailed or beaten or both. When he became a believer, Jesus told him to go and teach the Gentile nations all around. The Jews had spent all of their lives hating the Gentiles. The Jews did not know what to think about this man who was teaching the most hated people about God. So they beat him and tried to kill him more than once.

Paul was determined to spread the gospel though. He knew that he had a job to do and he was not going to allow an old prejudice to get in the way. Paul could have refused to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, but he overcame prejudice with a great love for the people who were lost. If Paul had not preached the gospel, many of the churches which were started by Paul would never have begun. These churches—Philippi, Thessalonica, and Corinth, were the cornerstones of the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord used Paul's willingness to be obedient and throw away all of his hatred and prejudice and the Church spread throughout the world. Through Paul and other disciples like him, people have learned for 2,000 years about the peace, love and sacrifice the Lord gave to us on the cross at Calvary. There is no room for prejudice in the Christian life. God cannot use hate-filled people to show His love and grace to a dying world.

- Paul was a Jew, so why were the Jews beating him?
- What caused the men to stop listening to Paul?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Hatred: Extreme dislike usually caused by fear or misunderstanding.

Day Three

Jesus Loves the Outcast

(Part One of Two)

Text: John 6:37 – “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

Also read John 6:35-51

One Saturday morning Jenny's mother took her to a neighborhood in the city she had never seen before. Many of the people spoke in a language she had never heard. Her mother had heard of the language, but could not speak it. Still, Jenny found that she could understand a lot of what was going on just by watching the people. Jenny's mother told her that they were going to spend the day there to share the love of Jesus with some of the women who lived in that neighborhood.

Jenny's mom brought clothing to share with some of the women there. There were several others that came from the church to help out. There were a lot of women who came to receive some clothing and food. Jenny saw one woman standing away from everyone, holding her baby. The others ignored her, or even shoved her out of the way. Jenny noticed that the baby's hands were not completely formed. As the other women pushed the young mother, they would say something and Jenny saw the woman flinch and turn away, shielding her baby from the words that were being said. Jenny's mom walked over to the woman.

In our Bible reading today, Jesus speaks about His followers. Jesus says that He will call them and He will not cast any of them out. As followers of Jesus, we are learning to be like Him. While we can never be just like Jesus because He is perfect in every way, we can show people His love for us. In the world, many people are cruel and do very ugly things. The world has hate and prejudice toward things they do not understand. But Jesus loves everyone and as His followers, we are called to love with the same kind of love. We must always remember there is no room for prejudice in the Christian life because Jesus died for everyone. **Continued on Day Four...**

- Have you ever felt like someone was prejudiced against you?
- Name some ways prejudice can show itself.
- Who in this world wants people to be prejudiced?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Outcast: Someone who is ignored completely by their own society.

Day Four

A Witness of Love

(Part Two of Two)

Text: Luke 19:9-10 - "And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'"

Also read Luke 19:1-10

Continued from Day Three... Jenny and her mom had come to show Jesus to these wonderful people and they desired to be like Jesus. As Jenny's mom walked toward the woman with the baby, she did not look at the other women who were standing there, although everyone watched closely as she approached the outcast. In her mother's hands, Jenny saw the best baby clothes and blankets they had brought to minister to the women that day. Some of the women stopped to listen carefully to what Jenny's mom was saying. She needed someone to help her speak the language, but still the love of Jesus came through in what she shared.

She could tell that her mother was encouraging the woman. Her mother put her arm around the woman and smiled. Jenny felt as if Jesus were standing right next to her mother. As her mother lifted the baby with the unformed hands from the mother, the other women watched and whispered. Jenny felt her heart was full to bursting as she watched her mother hold the baby tight and hug the mother. The woman's eyes filled with tears. Jenny's mom continued to minister to the woman and her child in front of the others, giving her the best clothing and plenty of food. The woman asked Jesus into her heart right then and there. The other women were silent, still wondering what was happening. This one act of kindness towards someone who was different showed in a very special way what Jesus is like. Several other women asked Jesus into their hearts that day and were changed forever.

When we accept others no matter what they look like, or what kind of problems they have, we are showing the love of Jesus. Prejudice is a sin that separates us from the Lord and others who have a lot to offer as friends. Jesus never wants us to hate or hurt someone because they do not look like us or they speak differently. There is no room for prejudice in the Christian life. Jesus died for everyone.

- Why was the woman outcast from the others?
- Have you ever known someone who looked very different from you?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Accepting: To receive and respond to someone with approval.

Day Five

Pride, Prejudice and Jesus' Love

Text: Matthew 7:12 - "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Also read Matthew 8:5-13

Jeremy watched as the two boys faced each other in the fellowship hall. Ever since Ahmed started coming to church, Greg had been putting the new boy down. Jeremy felt like the Lord might want him to say something to his friend Greg, but was not sure. He was worried that Greg might say that it was none of his business, but he knew that Jesus wanted him to say something. Greg was his friend, but he was very wrong. Jeremy did not know Ahmed very well, but he could tell he loved Jesus. Just because he was born in a different country was no reason to pick on him.

Jeremy went over to Greg and told him that he wanted to share something with him. He took his friend's Bible and turned to Matthew 7:12. Greg listened as Jeremy read the verse. Greg felt bad that he had not welcomed the new boy. He knew in his heart that he was wrong and prejudiced against Ahmed and the Lord did not want him to be like that. As Greg asked for forgiveness he felt a great joy and peace in his heart for being obedient to God's word.

Jesus never condemned anyone for being different than Him. He was gentle, kind and loving to everyone He met. In today's Bible reading, we read about Jesus healing a soldier's servant. Not only did Jesus listen to the man, who was a Gentile and despised by the Jews, but the Lord healed the man's servant. It did not matter to Jesus that the man was not a Jew. But Jesus was VERY impressed with the faith that the soldier had in Him. Look again at the reading and see how Jesus compares the soldier's faith in Him to all of Israel. Jesus cares for all of mankind. He healed the servant with just a word because of the centurion's faith. And Jesus does not care where we were born, what color our skin is, who our parents are or how big our bank account is. He just wants us to be saved and spend eternity with Him. To be a Christian means to be like Jesus. There is no room in the life of a Christian for prejudice. Jesus died for everyone.

- What did Greg learn in our story today?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray and ask Jesus to show you if there is any prejudice in your heart toward someone. If there is, ask the Lord to take away the prejudice and pray for them. Thank Jesus for dying for us all.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Be happy when people say bad things about you because you follow Jesus, your reward will be great in heaven. People did the same evil to the prophets.”

Third Grade and Above

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:11-12