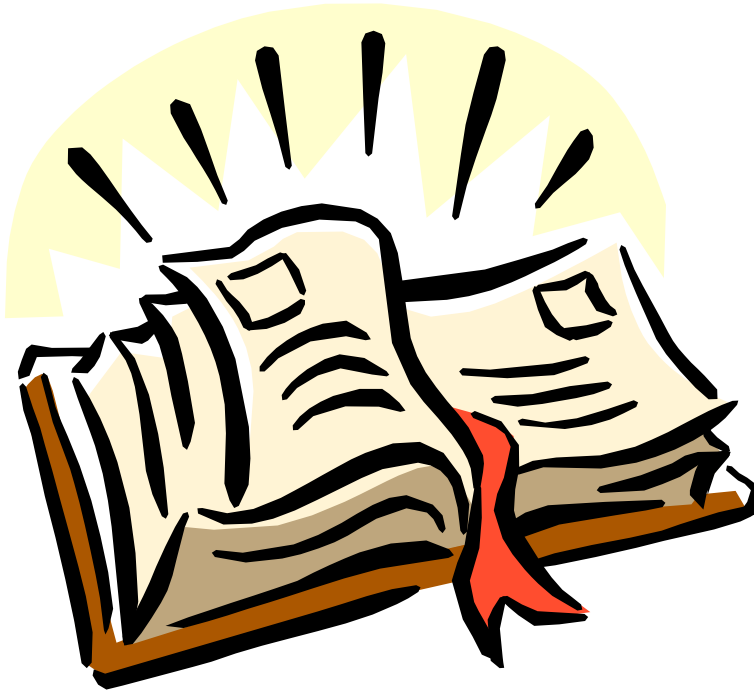


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Gift of Love

THEME: God desires for us to demonstrate His love!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13



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 Gift of Love. The theme was "God desires for us to demonstrate His love." One of the most famous verses in the Bible is John 3:16. It starts off with "For God so loved the world..." God loves every person in this world very much. So much that He was willing to send His Son to die for us. That is LOVE!

This week we are going to look at God's love for us and how the Lord wants us to love others. When we grow in the Lord our lives will look more and more like Jesus' life. That means that we will begin to love others like Jesus loves them and us. God's love is a wonderful thing. Is it flowing out of our lives?

The section of scripture that we studied was 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. 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!

Abide in Jesus' Love

Text: John 15:9 & 12 - "As the father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in my love. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Read John 15:1-12; also James 5:19-20

Lucas was a brand new Christian and had just started to go to Jeff's church. He was already beginning to make new friends. That was amazing to Lucas because he wasn't always a very friendly boy. Lucas had a very bad temper and would say and do things that weren't very nice to others. One day he ran into Jeff at church. Lucas had been very mean to him at school a few months back. Jeff was very small and Lucas had teased him often, even pushing him down and laughing at him. But Jeff wouldn't fight back.

Lucas tried to avoid him at church, but Jeff came right up to him. Lucas waited for Jeff to say something mean to him to make up for everything he had done to him. But Jeff stuck his hand out and welcomed the new boy to church. Then he actually hugged Lucas. Lucas didn't know what to say. He found out that Jeff had been following Jesus for a very long time and had long ago forgiven Lucas for being mean to him. Jeff said that Jesus commanded that he love Lucas and Jeff had been praying for him to be saved. Lucas had no more doubts about the power of God's love. He saw it shining through Jeff's eyes because Jeff was abiding in the love of Jesus.

Jeff answered Jesus' command to love others by living it out in his life. He prayed for someone who didn't like him and was not saved. Jesus loved others without regard to His own self. He loved all of us so much that He allowed man to nail Him to a cross because of our sins. How else can people know the power of Jesus' love, unless we show them what it is? We need to love others as Jesus loved us and gave Himself for us. We must live the love of Jesus everyday. This is how Jesus' love can shine through us to others.

- Lucas was Jeff's enemy. What did Jeff do that proved he loved Lucas like Jesus?
- What does Jesus command us to do?
- What happens when we abide in Jesus? (John 15:5)

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Abiding in Jesus love: To stay or continue in the love of Jesus. When we abide in the love of Jesus, we stay in His love, never leaving it for our own needs and desires.

Day Two

Jesus' Gift of Love

Part 1 of 2

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:3 - "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing."

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

Stephanie was very blessed. She had a great home and her mom and dad loved her very much. She loved to go to school and she always did well, getting very good grades. She was popular in school and had a lot of friends she played with on the playground at recess. On one day a new kid who showed up at school. Her name was Charlene. She was quiet and kept to herself and seemed to be sad most of the time. Some of Stephanie's "friends" would talk about Charlene whenever her clothes weren't always freshly washed. They would snicker and talk about how it almost looked as if she slept in them.

Stephanie always felt very uncomfortable when the other girls would make fun of Charlene, but she never spoke up. She would pray for Charlene, but she wouldn't invite her to her house. She even took a bag full of her very best clothes and gave them to Charlene. Still Stephanie felt like she should be doing more. Stephanie talked to her mom about the situation. After praying, Stephanie's mom showed her 1 Corinthians 13 and shared with her about loving people God's way. It opened Stephanie's eyes to what was happening. Stephanie really cared for Charlene, but had never opened up her heart to the new girl. Love was more than giving her gifts. Love was more than praying for her. It was being a friend to her and sharing Jesus' love by spending time with her.

Doing good things for other people is very important. But sometimes a Christian can do all the right things for others and still be missing a gift that is the most important one - LOVE. Jesus has called us to use the gift of love to bless others. The good things we do come out of the gift of love. There is always someone who needs to be helped. But helping is not the only gift we have to give as children who love and serve the Lord. We need to give away Jesus' love to others so they can see Him in our lives and be drawn to Him. Who can you show Jesus' love to today? **Continued on Day Three...**

- What is the one gift we must have to share any other gifts with people?
- Which gift will never fail?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Love: Unselfish concern and care for another person. Read 1 Cor 13:4-8

Day Three

Jesus' Gift of Love

Part 2 of 2

Text: Romans 5:5 - "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Romans 5:1-11

Continued from Day Two... Stephanie felt so much better after praying with her mom. She had learned that there was more to sharing Jesus' love than doing nice things for others. It was Jesus' love in us that others can see. The next day Stephanie saw Charlene at school and asked her to come over after school to play. Charlene began to light up. She was excited to have a new friend. Their friendship grew and Stephanie even got to share with Charlene about Jesus.

But there were sometimes problems for the new friends. Stephanie's old friends didn't understand the love of Jesus. In fact, many of them wouldn't even come around when Charlene was there. Stephanie noticed that some of her friends would stop talking when she and Charlene walked up. Some would even turn around and walk away without even saying goodbye. Stephanie was saddened by the attitude of her friends. Even though she was afraid she would lose friends, Stephanie tried to talk to them. She tried to share with them that Charlene was very nice if they just gave her a chance. She even got to tell them about Jesus and His love for them. Some of her friends could tell that there was something different about her and began to ask questions about Jesus.

It is not possible for us to love someone who is different than us on our own. But when the love of Jesus is in our hearts, we can become like Jesus, sharing His love with others. Stephanie was able to overcome the desire to please her friends by allowing God's love to be shown in her life. She began to love Charlene like Jesus does. In a world that is given over to selfishness, a Christian should strongly desire the best gift of all—the love of Jesus for all of mankind.

- What was the result of Stephanie submitting to the Holy Spirit?
- Would it be easy for you to go against what your friends do?
- Do you think God's Love is powerful? Why?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



And now abides faith, hope, and love; **but the greatest of all is love.**

Loving the Brethren

Text: John 13:34,35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Read John 13:31-36

Jeremy and Paul kind of knew each other, but not real well. They passed in the hallway at school and they went to the same church. But Jeremy had always felt like Paul didn't like him very much. There were times when he would say "hi" to Paul, and Paul would barely nod or look at Jeremy, and he would never speak a word. One day at school, Jeremy noticed a crowd had gathered on the field. As Jeremy found his way to the front of the crowd he found Paul was facing Jamie, one of the kids in school who was always getting into fights at school. It looked like Jamie was about to pounce on Paul.

Jeremy thought that maybe Paul had done something to deserve getting pounced on. But in his heart he felt the tug of the Holy Spirit. Paul was his brother in the Lord, no matter what kind of attitude he had. Jeremy asked Jesus for the courage to face Jamie. He went up and began to talk to Jamie and Paul. It was amazing how the words Jeremy spoke calmed both of the boys down. Jamie walked away and Jeremy and Paul walked together back to class. As the two boys walked away, Jeremy asked Paul what had happened. For the first time, Jeremy realized why Paul never spoke. Paul's speech was slow, and he stuttered quite a bit. Jeremy felt sad in his heart. Paul had spent all this time suffering without a brother to stand up for him.

Jesus wants us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to even love those who we don't know very well. It is this great love for others that sets a Christian apart from others, in a world that is not very kind. When Christians stand together and help one another, people can see the love of Jesus shine through. It is much easier for the world to see the love of Jesus, who died for the sins of the whole world, when we show that love to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We are ambassadors of the love of Jesus. Let's remember to love our brothers and sisters in Jesus.

- What did Jeremy do that looked like Jesus?
- What does Jesus command we do that proves we are His disciples?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ambassadors: A person who is representing another person or country. As ambassadors of Jesus we are representing Him and His kingdom.

Day Five

Love the Lord Your God

Text: **Matthew 22:37** - "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'"

Read Matthew 22:37-40; John 3:16; also Matthew 5:38-48

God loves us so very much! We could spend our entire lives and eternity just exploring the riches and depth of His love for us. He shows us how He loves in so many ways and blesses us with many different kinds of gifts. But there is one way that the Lord shows His love for us, which stands out above and beyond all of the other ways. It is the gift of love He has given us through His Son Jesus. God didn't send His Son to die for us because He had to, but because He loves us. He loved us so much that it broke His heart that we were separated from Him because of our sin. So He sent His Son Jesus because of His love and He died in our place so that we could have eternal life.

So how can we return that love? We were created to love the Lord, so when we become a Christian it is very natural for us to begin to love the Lord back. When we understand what God has done for us and how much He loves us, we can't help but love Him back. We want to give Him our lives and everything. We want to tell others about Jesus, serve others and obey Him. We want to become like Jesus and grow in our knowledge of Him every day.

The Holy Spirit who lives inside of us will help us to do that. We can love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. It is so wonderful to know that the Lord loves us. He could have looked at us and seen how we sin and do things wrong and not want anything to do with us, but that is not the way the Lord is. The Bible says that God is love and everything that He does is loving. God loves you! Have you allowed His love to come into your heart? If not you can do that right now!

- Why would God send His Son to die for you?
- What is the one thing we show if we have Jesus in our heart?
- Do you have God's love in your heart?

Kid's Prayer Time



God's Love is greater than anything we can imagine. Pray this week that you can let God's love shine in your heart so brightly that others can see it and that you can serve as a witness to the lost. Ask God to continually fill you with the Holy Spirit that you may show God's love to others.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“And now abide faith,
hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these
is love.”

Third Grade and Above

“And now abide faith,
hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these
is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13