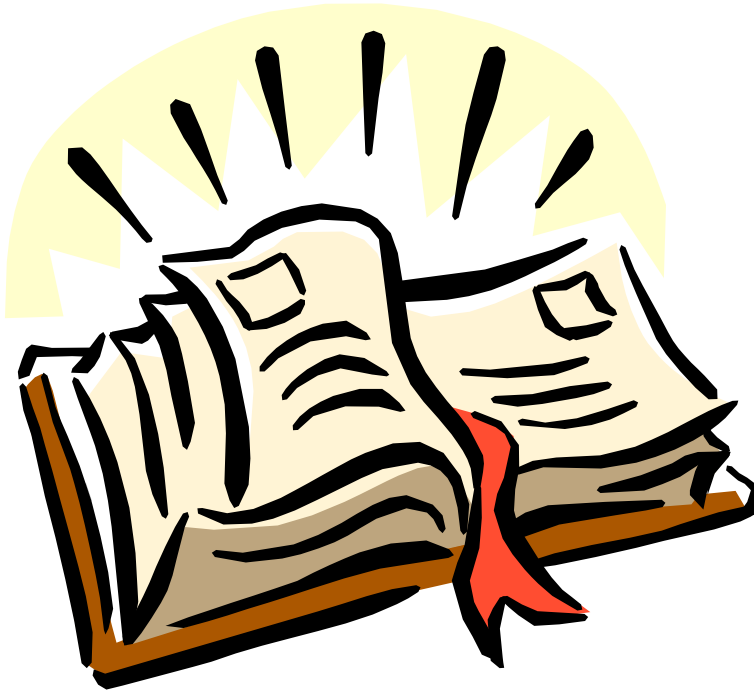


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Church in Antioch



THEME: In order to make a difference in the world, we need to let Jesus make a difference in us.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 11:19-30

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 in Children's Church we learned about **The Church in Antioch**. The theme was **"In order to make a difference in the world, we need to let Jesus make a difference in us"**. This world offers so many distractions for us as Christians. If we are not letting Jesus make a difference in our lives, we can easily take our focus off of Him.

There is a lot that we can learn from the church in Antioch. The Antioch church made a big difference in the world because they were obedient to the Lord. They had a heart to reach the world for Jesus, as we will see in coming weeks that Paul and Barnabas were sent out as missionaries from Antioch.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 11:19-30**. 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

What Do We Have To Eat?

Text: John 6:35 – “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

Also read John 6:48-51

Instead of having breakfast, Joey reached into the candy basket and pulled out two chocolate candy bars. “I’ll eat these and then I’ll go outside to play,” Joey thought to himself. After Joey gobbled down the candy bars, he reached into the refrigerator and pulled out a soda. Joey drank the soda and ran outside. When Joey returned from playing, he was hungry. He looked in the cabinets and the refrigerator for something to eat. There were carrots, broccoli, bread, chicken, fruit, and a lot of other healthy kinds food, but he just passed right by those things. Joey wanted something that tasted good to fill the hunger pangs in his stomach. Joey looked in the drawer beneath the can opener. “Oh boy, chocolate chip cookies!” Joey thought to himself. Joey choked down the cookies, then he drank another can of soda. “Ah. I am full,” Joey said silently.

About an hour later Joey was sitting on the couch in the living room when he got a terrible pain in his stomach. He did not feel very well at all. He ate too much junk food! His stomach started to hurt so bad that he began to cry. Joey learned a very important lesson about eating junk food for breakfast and lunch instead of eating healthy food.

What if the only things we had to eat were candy, cookies, and soda? We might think that would be fun, but did not you think that after a while you might get tired of that? Like Joey, you would start feeling sick. We need to eat healthy food so we can grow up big and strong. The Bible tells us about spiritual food. Reading God’s Word each and every day is one way we can grow strong and healthy. Jesus promises us that we will never hunger or thirst again as long as we come to Him. As Christians, we can make a difference in this world but we need to let Jesus make a difference in us first. And a very important way He makes a difference in us is by reading the Bible.

- Have you ever gotten sick from eating too much junk food? What did you learn?
- Do you hunger for God’s Word?
- How can you fill your hunger for God’s Word?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Hunger for God’s Word: The discomfort or weakness caused by a need for God’s Word.

The Copycat

Text: 1 Corinthians 11:1 – “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

Also read Acts 11:24

Mr. Jackson was an older man who had been teaching Sunday school classes for almost 30 years. Everyone loved having Mr. Jackson as a teacher. He was very polite, considerate of others, and a great listener. Mr. Jackson would often be seen down at the local hamburger hut buying lunches for those who could not afford to buy a lunch. He truly cared about other people. He was a very kind and gentle man.

There were a lot of children in Mr. Jackson's class whose parents were also at one time in his Sunday School class. Mr. Jackson touched the hearts of many people. People would often watch how Mr. Jackson would act towards others. He was always so encouraging and uplifting. People would often think to themselves, “I want to treat people just like Mr. Jackson does, or I want to have a relationship with Jesus just like Mr. Jackson has, or I want to love others just like Mr. Jackson does.” Out of all the people in this world, why would people want to be like Mr. Jackson? Because everyone could see Jesus in the things that he did and they want to be like Jesus.

When Paul was speaking to the church of Corinth he told them to imitate him because he imitates Jesus. Have you ever played the game copycat? That is the game where you copy what another person is doing. Well Paul was telling these people to copy him because he was copying Jesus. When we see others who have a wonderful relationship with Jesus, we see the good things that come out of their lives, like Mr. Jackson. They have the fruit of the Spirit in their lives: love, joy, and peace, etc. (Galatians 5). We want to be like them because God's Holy Spirit is saying that is what Jesus is like, and we want to be like Jesus. In order for this world to see Jesus, there needs to be a change in the lives of His people. We need to be different than other kids in the world. When we are like Jesus then others will see it and want to be more like Him also. For us to be more like Jesus all we need to do is to ask Him to make us more like Him every day. Let's do that right now!

- If you could imitate anyone, who would you want it to be?
- Who did Paul imitate?
- In what ways do you imitate Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Imitate: To seek to follow the example of another.

Day Three

Followers of the Way

Text: Proverbs 3:5,6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”

Also read Acts 9:2

“Things just don’t seem right this year in school! There needs to be some changes!” Casey said forcefully. “Now that we are 6th graders we need to make some important decisions this year,” agreed Stacey. Casey and Stacey were ready to take on Dilliard Elementary School. They were very excited about changing many of the school’s policies. Casey had just been elected mayor of Dilliard School. Each new school year, a 6th grader is elected to be mayor of the whole school. Part of the job of mayor is to give a list to the principal saying what school policies they think should be changed. This year Casey got the job. Casey was very excited about being mayor and about trying to change some of the school’s policies. He was going to meet with the principle, Mr. Maples, very soon to bring up some things that he felt needed changing.

Casey and Stacey met after school the afternoon before the big meeting. “Stacey, let’s go over the items for tomorrows meeting,” Casey said. Stacey pulled out a list from her backpack and placed it on the table. On the list were the following things:

1. No more school uniforms
2. Longer recesses
3. More gym equipment
4. New school colors

Casey and Stacey were ready to rule the school. Casey was so sure that his plan would work that he called all of his friends and told them what the changes were going to be. He knew if he could make Mr. Maples change these rules that everyone would think he was pretty cool. Casey was so confident and proud of himself. He felt very important. **Continued on Day Four...**

- Who does Casey need to acknowledge?
- What would you do if you were mayor of your school?

Kid’s Bible Dictionary



Acknowledge: to recognize the authority of someone. As Christians we need to recognize God in everything we do.

Follow Me

Text: Mark 8:34 - ..."Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

Also read Luke 14:27

Continued from day Three... Casey's pride and ego was getting pretty big. He was beginning to focus too much on power and not spending enough time listening to others. Things soon began to be a problem for him because his pride was starting to get on the other kids nerves. Instead of more kids being his friend, he was starting to lose friends. Casey was acting as if he was the king of Dilliard Elementary School, not the mayor. Stacey was even getting tired of how Casey was treating her. Stacey was being treated like his personal slave. "Get this" or "Do that!" Casey would say to Stacey. This was not a loving way to treat a friend.

Casey was very eager to speak with Mr. Maples. On the morning before the meeting, Casey was very confident in his ability to get what he wanted. He walked up to Stacey and said, "Stacey, if you just do what I tell you and follow me around, you will become popular and get what you want from this school." Stacey was stunned. She thought to herself, "This mayor position has gone to Casey's head." Stacey responded, "Casey, in order for anything to change around here YOU need to follow someone." "Who do I need to follow? You?" responded Casey. "No," replied Stacey. "You need to follow Jesus."

Those words really sunk into Casey's heart. You see Casey is a Christian. He knows about Jesus. Unfortunately, when he became school mayor he took his focus off of Jesus and placed it on the power of being in charge. Casey felt terrible inside. He apologized to Stacey for how he had treated her. He also prayed and asked the Lord to forgive him for how he was acting. Then he prayed and asked the Lord to help him to be a good mayor at Dilliard Elementary School. After school Casey went to Mr. Maples office. Silently to himself he repeated Mark 8:34, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." **Continued on Day Five...**

- What does Mark 8:34 mean to you?
- Can you make a difference in this world? How?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Deny: To do without desired things, to say no to yourself.

Follow: To go after another.

Submission to God

Text: James 4:7 – “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

Also read Acts 9:1-21

Continued from Day Four... Casey strolled into Mr. Maples's office for his meeting. “Good afternoon Casey,” said Mr. Maples. “Good afternoon Mr. Maples,” responded Casey. “I understand you have some changes in mind for this school,” said Mr. Maples. “Well, after praying and thinking about what I had planned to say at first, there have been some changes. Mr. Maples what do I need to do to help this school?” “You are already doing it,” replied Mr. Maples. “Uh, I don't understand?” questioned Casey. “Well Casey, I have heard about how you thought you could change this school by being elected mayor. You thought by being mayor you had power over everyone, including me. But, by acknowledging Jesus you have shown me who is really in control of your life. I too am a Christian. I have to run this school every single school day. But, I could never do it apart from Jesus.” “Wow,” Casey thought to himself. Mr. Maples continued, “In order for you or for anyone to make a difference, you need to let Jesus make a difference in your own heart first.”

Casey left the meeting with a huge smile on his face and a joyous feeling in his heart. He met up with Stacey and told her the wonderful news about Mr. Maples and what he had said. Casey committed his position of mayor to the Lord. He asked Jesus to use him while he was mayor at Dilliard Elementary School. Casey did not mind at all that the things he wanted to change at first did not get changed. He knew that those rules were in place because they were good for the school. God had placed Casey in this position for a reason. Casey's growth in Jesus was increasing every day. He knows that in order for anything to change in this world, that first the change needs to take place within our own hearts.

- What did Casey learn from everything he went through?
- To be a good leader, what kinds of things are important?

Kid's Prayer Time



There are many ways we can make a difference in this world. We definitely can't do it on our own. We need to let Jesus make a difference in us first. By doing what He wants, we can see how He will work through us. Pray for God's plans to be done through your life. Listen to Him and follow His ways.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"By the Lord's hand, a
great number believed
and turned to the Lord."

Third Grade and Above

"And the hand of the
Lord was with them, and
a great number believed
and turned to the Lord."

Acts 11:21