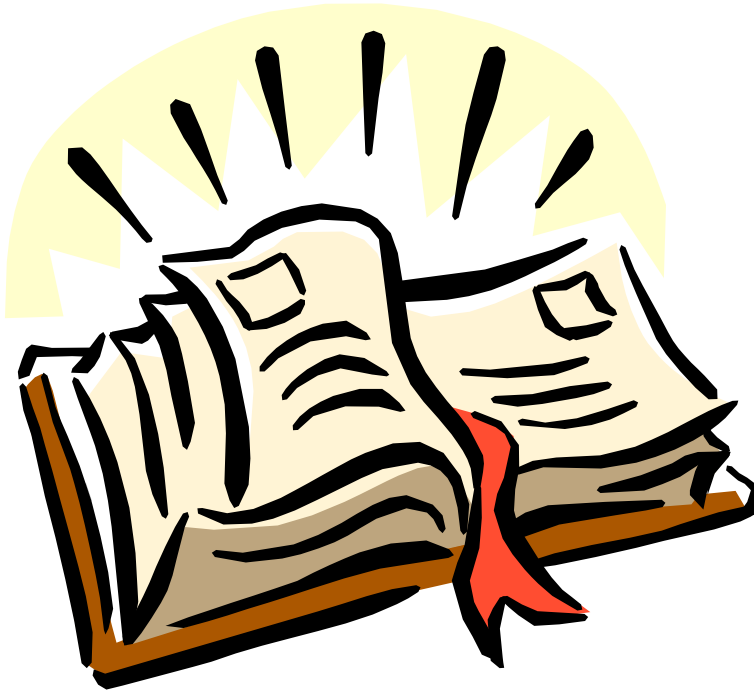


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Paul Goes Before Agrippa

**THEME: We should take every opportunity
to tell others about Jesus.**

SCRIPTURE: Acts 25:13 – 26:32



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 time when **Paul Went Before Agrippa**. The theme was "**We should take every opportunity to tell others about Jesus.**" Prior to Paul going before Agrippa, he had been imprisoned for two years and did not know whether he would be released from jail or not. However, when he was presented before the king, he was allowed to speak the truth of Jesus and he did!

Have you ever had to talk to someone really important? Maybe you were a little bit afraid. From Paul's example we are taught it does not matter what our circumstances may be, we must take every opportunity to tell others about Jesus Christ.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 25:13-26:32**. 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 Season is It?

Text: 2 Timothy 4:2 - "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

Also read Acts 26:1-3

We have been learning about Paul's ministry and his imprisonment. Paul had been in jail for over two years and was now being brought in front of King Agrippa to try to show that he did not do anything wrong. Imagine how it must have been for Paul to be in prison for over two years and not know what was going to happen to him, all because he was preaching about Jesus Christ. It could have been real easy for Paul to become discouraged or think that God had abandoned him. But when the time had come for Paul to be brought before the king, the Lord opened the door for Paul to speak. Paul was grateful for the opportunity to share about Jesus. He spoke with confidence and boldness and he did it all in love for the people he was speaking to.

In our Bible verse for today we read about preaching the gospel and being ready in and out of season. This just means that God wants us to be ready to tell others about Jesus at all times—that is what was happening to Paul. He found himself in front of men who had the legal power to set him free, put him back in jail or even put him to death. Still his faith in the Lord was not going to be shaken, just tested. Paul could have appealed to these men and said things only to please them. But he spoke the truth of Jesus Christ. What courage that must have took.

Paul was more concerned about preaching the Word of God than protecting himself from possible physical harm. What an example for all of us to learn from. As Christians we will be faced with circumstances that may seem hard or frightening to preach God's Word and the truth about Jesus, but they will only prove to test our faith and present an opportunity to speak of Jesus' love. Do not wait for times that are comfortable to speak of Jesus; ask God to make you ready to share about him any time. He will be faithful to prepare you for anything. Put your trust in the Lord and He will protect and lead you in and out of season.

- Tell about a time to speak of Jesus that you might think seems "out of season."
- How can we be prepared in any "weather" to preach the gospel?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



In & Out of Season: Trusting God in all circumstances so we may be ready to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in good or bad times.

Day Two

Give Your Testimony

Text: Acts 26:9 - "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."

Also read Acts 26:10-11

Can you remember the time when you asked Jesus to live inside of your heart? Do you remember when you first found out that you were a sinner and needed God's forgiveness? What was your life like before you heard the good news of Jesus? These questions are very important when it comes to sharing the good news of Jesus with someone who does not know about Him. When we see ourselves as sinners and see how Jesus paid for our sins through His death on the cross, we need to share that with others. Paul saw the opportunity to tell about the kinds of things that he used to do before he believed in Jesus. Paul was sharing his testimony to show how Jesus had changed his heart and life.

What is your testimony? Perhaps you have always gone to church and do not remember asking Jesus into your heart. Just because a person goes to church doesn't make them a Christian. They may even believe that Jesus is their Savior and believe that He is the Son of God, but until they ask for forgiveness and ask Jesus to live in their heart, they are not saved. We must believe that we are sinners and the only way to be forgiven is to believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Paul wanted these people to see their sin and that through Jesus Christ they would be saved. That is why our testimony is so important. It reminds us what Jesus did for us on the cross and it is an opportunity to share with people who do not believe in Jesus how He will forgive them of their sins if they will only ask Him to.

Have you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins? If you have never asked Jesus to come and live in your heart and be your savior you can do it today. It may be hard for you to think of yourself as a sinner. When we read about Paul and the awful things he did to Christians, you may think, "Wow, I'm not bad like that." However the Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" and there is only one person who is without sin. He is Jesus Christ. So we all need Jesus and when we come to Him we have a story to share with others about what Jesus has done in our lives.

- What is your testimony?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Testimony: The story of how you came to believe in Jesus Christ and ask Him into your life.

Day Three

Is the Gospel Foolish?

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18 - "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Also read Acts 26:24

We have been reading about how Paul defended the gospel of Jesus to King Agrippa and Festus. He's been sharing what his life was like before he believed in Jesus and how the Lord appeared to him and called him to preach the gospel. When Festus heard these things he thought that Paul was crazy. Festus was spiritually blind (he could not see or hear the truth of God's Word) and so when he heard the things that Paul was sharing he thought Paul was nuts. That is how it is for a lot of people in the world when they hear the gospel of Jesus. They do not respond and they think it is just nonsense. They are blinded by their sin and by the devil. It is by God's grace that we know the truth of who He is and that when we heard the gospel we received God's free gift of salvation.

When we share with others about Jesus we can expect some people to respond how Festus did, but we should never let that stop us from speaking about Jesus' love for others. Even Jesus was accused of being crazy for saying He was the Son of God. But Jesus did not let that stop His ministry. He loved the lost and wanted everyone to know that He was sent so they could live eternally in heaven. Paul did not let Festus scare him into not speaking about the Lord Jesus. Paul knew that he was to share about Jesus with everyone and it is still the same today. Even when we think that people are going to think we are weird or crazy, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that will do the work in people's hearts. We just need to be willing to plant the seeds. Paul was doing just that, he was willing to witness to all of the people, even when his life was in danger and when he knew that some of them would call him crazy. We never know when we start talking about the wonderful things that Jesus has done for us just who might be listening and hearing the truth. Paul was risking his life to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ because he knew that "...God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." Paul was living to see others saved.

We are so blessed in our country right now because we are free to attend church and still speak about Jesus openly. Like Paul though, there are a lot of other Christians in other parts of the world who are willing to risk their lives to share about the love of Jesus so others may be saved. As a Christian we can expect to be persecuted; if we are not, are we really living for God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Persecuted: To be laughed at, jailed, beaten or killed because you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord.

Day Four

Faith as a Mustard Seed

Text: Acts 26:28 - "Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian.' "

Also read Acts 26:29

The Bible does not tell us if Agrippa ever became a Christian but it sure does look like God was working in this man's heart. God wants us to tell everyone about Him, but He is the one who will change their hearts. There are some people who may be mean and angry and do not want to hear a thing about God, but when we continue to pray for them as we should, the Holy Spirit will draw them to Himself. Sometimes it is the meanest, most rebellious people that God is working on, calling them into His kingdom.

Look at Paul! He was killing and torturing Christians when God totally shocked him on the road to Damascus. When we say things like "that person will never come to Christ," it is kind of like we are saying that God is not able to do it. Paul knew what type of person he was before he gave his heart to Jesus and he knew that God was almighty and had the power to change any heart. Paul had faith because he knew what Jesus had done for his life and he wanted to see these people changed by Jesus just like he was.

We do not know what the Lord continued to do in Agrippa's heart but he was probably never the same after hearing the gospel. And we do not know what the Lord continued to do in the heart of Festus either. But Paul's trust was in Jesus even though things looked pretty rough for him. When we are faced with difficult things and do not know what to do we need to trust in God's Word to lead us. Paul did just that when he was imprisoned and faced with death. He continued to preach the gospel. True faith believes in what we cannot see and Paul was not sure whether he would be set free or be put to death but he trusted in the Lord to take care of everything. Do you have that kind of faith? Are you willing to speak the truth about Jesus no matter what happens? When you do you never know who may be listening and come to believe in Jesus as their Savior. But Paul showed so much love towards the people he was witnessing to he said that he hoped they all would be just like him, but without the chains. That is love, when we want well for others even when we may be suffering because of them.

- Was Paul still a witness for Jesus even though he spent two years in prison?
- Does God want us to be a witness for Him even when things are difficult?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faith: To believe and trust in God without seeing Him.

Day Five

God is in Control

Text: Acts 26:32 – “Then Agrippa said to Festus, 'This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.' ”

Also read Acts 25:11

In Romans 8:28 the Bible says, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” If we are walking with God we are promised that all things work together for good. Not “some things” or “may work together” but “all things work together”! What an awesome promise when we are following the Lord. Paul must have been clinging to the promise that what he was going through was going to work out for good. After all, he is the one who wrote those words in the book of Romans. Paul was now going to have to go before Caesar, the leader of the whole world at that time. I know that if that were me, I would have been really scared to stand before the leader of world. Perhaps Paul felt the same way, but you would have never guessed by his reaction. He knew that even when things were not looking real good for him that God was still in control. Paul is an example of trusting in Jesus no matter what is happening around us or to us.

Do you think that Paul was sorry that he asked to see to Caesar? He probably would have been set free if he had not. But this too was all part of God's plan for Paul to preach the gospel in Rome. So Paul made up his mind that he would preach about Jesus wherever he goes. That is boldness in Jesus. Paul was going to be able to preach to Caesar and to people in Rome. What we forget sometimes is God is in control of everything, even those things that are hard or unhappy. The Jews and Romans had the authority to put Paul in prison and even put him to death, but really none of this could happen unless God allowed it. When things are scary or sad it is easy to think that maybe God has forgotten about us, but He is allowing you to go through that for a good purpose.

There is never a bad time to tell someone about Jesus Christ. Paul and the other apostles made it their life's goal to tell others about the saving grace of the Lord. Will you ask God to help you to tell others about Jesus?

- Can you think of a time in your life when God turned something bad into good?

Kid's Prayer Time



There is a lot that we can be thankful for. This week pray that the Lord will put others in your life so you can share Jesus with them. Pray that you will be filled with the Holy Spirit, to be bold, to be a witness for Jesus.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Then Agrippa said, ‘You almost persuade me to become a Christian.’”

Third Grade and Above

“Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You almost persuade me to become a Christian.’”

Acts 26:28