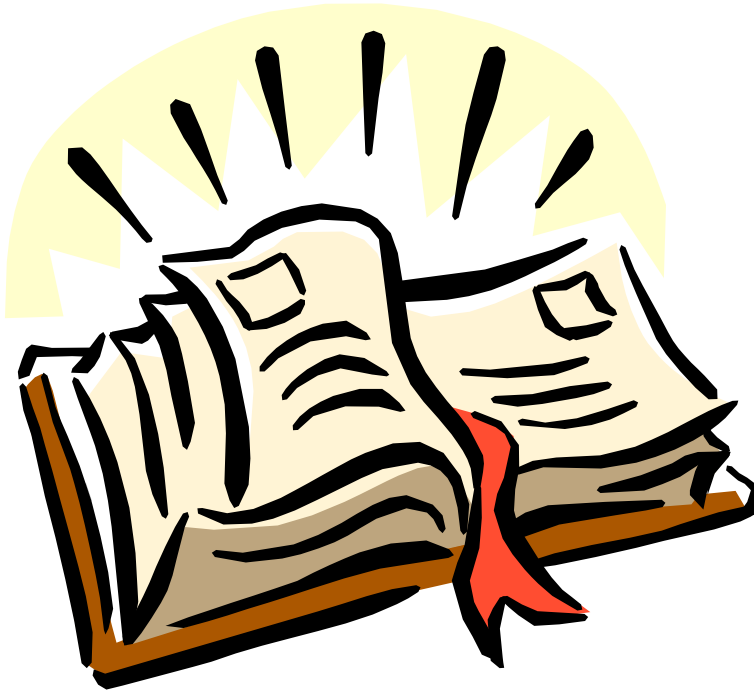


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Just Live By Faith

THEME: God wants us to trust Him.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 10:26 – 39

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 **living by faith**. The theme was "**God wants us to trust in Him.**" We can trust in God because He is worthy of our trust. Walking by faith means that sometimes we just have to trust in God even when we can't see or understand what He is doing in our lives. As shown so many times in scripture, God never let anyone down who trusted in Him. Over the next couple of weeks we are going to look at faith and some of God's people who lived their lives by faith in God.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Hebrews 10:26-39**. 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!

What is Faith?

Text: Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Also read Hebrews 11:1-3

Have you ever taken a few minutes to think about a chair? Well, it's amazing the lessons we can learn about faith by considering a simple chair. We can look at a chair and see that it has four legs, a seat and a back. We can walk around the chair and look under it and even tap on the seat to see if it is sturdy enough to hold up our weight. We might even begin to believe, because of everything that we can see, that if we were to sit in that chair, it would hold us up. But we will never really know if it will hold us up until we actually sit down on it.

Faith is a lot like trusting a chair to hold us up before we actually try it. Like the chair example, we have to do something about what we believe and sit in it before we can really know that it will work. We can believe many things about Jesus. We can believe that he lived 2,000 years ago or that he died on the cross and is God's Son. But until we trust in Him completely and ask Him to come into our hearts we really don't "know" Him. We need to put our trust in Jesus and see that He will do everything He promises.

If you have asked Jesus to come into your heart then you know about faith. You have trusted Him to forgive you of your sins and give you eternal life. Even though we don't see Jesus, we believe and trust in Him. If you haven't yet put your trust in Jesus you can ask Him to come into your heart right now. As our memory verse this week in Hebrews 10:38 states, God wants us to "live by faith." This means that we will live every day trusting in Jesus. Over the next couple of weeks we will look at the lives of some great people in the Bible who lived by faith (trusting in God).

- Think of a time when you trusted in the Lord and He helped you. What did you learn?
- How does God's creation help us to know more about Him and believe in Him?
- What does living by faith mean to you?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faith: Trusting in God even though you can't see or understand everything.

Living by faith: Living everyday trusting in Jesus for everything.

Faithful Abel

Text: Hebrews 11:4 - "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks."

Also read Genesis 4:1-15

Have you ever had an argument with a brother or sister? Cain and Abel are the first brothers we read about in the Bible. The story of Cain and Abel is very sad. Cain became so angry at his brother Abel that he actually killed him. What happened that made Cain so mad, and why do we read about Abel in the great chapter in Hebrews about the heroes of faith? Let's find out!

Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. Cain was a farmer and grew lots of fruits and vegetables, while Abel was a shepherd, taking care of sheep. A time came when both Cain and Abel brought an offering to the Lord. Cain brought some fruit that he grew and Abel brought a firstborn lamb from his flock to the Lord. While it may not seem like any problem, there was actually a big problem. God refused to accept Cain's offering, while He gladly accepted Abel's offering of his lamb. This made Cain furious with his brother and one day when he had the opportunity he killed Him. God had to punish Cain and sent him away forever.

But why did God accept Abel's gift and not Cain's, and why is Abel called a man of faith in the Bible? The problem is that Cain tried to offer to God the things that he produced from the ground. That is kind of like when we try to tell God how good we are and how He should accept us because of the good things we do. But Abel brought the firstborn of his flocks. This is a picture of Jesus who is God's only son. This offering was acceptable to God because it pictures Jesus. Abel didn't produce the sheep, but rather when it was sacrificed its' blood would cover his sins, just like Jesus' blood removes our sin. So Abel came to God by faith and Cain came to God through his own works. How sad that Cain's heart was so far from God that he would kill his brother.

What we learn from Abel is that when we come to God we have to come to Him through faith in His son Jesus. We can't come to Him and try to convince Him of how good we are and how we deserve to go to heaven. Only if our sins are forgiven by Jesus can we have a relationship with Him. Let's always remember to come to God through faith in Jesus!

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Offering: Anything we bring to God and offer to Him.

Faith in Jesus: Complete trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

Day Three

Faithful Enoch

Text: Hebrews 11:7 - "By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, 'and was not found, because God had taken him'; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

Also read Genesis 5:21-24

A man named J. Vernon McGee tells a wonderful story about a little girl who had just got out of her Sunday School class. Her mother asked, "What did your teacher tell you about today?" The little girl said, "She told us all about this man Enoch." And the mother said, "Well, what about Enoch?" So the little girl told her mom this story: "Enoch lived a long time ago, and God would come by every afternoon and say to him 'Enoch, would you like to take a walk with Me?' Enoch would say, 'Yes, I'd like to take a walk with you, God.' And so every day God would come by Enoch's house, and Enoch would go walking with God. One day God came by and said, 'Enoch, let's take a long walk today. I want to talk to you.' So they started out. Enoch got his coat - even took his lunch, and they started walking. They walked and they walked and they walked, and finally it got late. Enoch said, 'My, it's getting late, and I am a long way from home. Maybe we'd better start back.' But God said, 'Enoch, you are closer to My home than you are to your home, so you come on and go home with Me.' And so Enoch went home with God."

Enoch is an interesting man in the Bible. We don't know a lot about Him, but he is certainly described as a man of faith. Probably the biggest thing we know about Enoch is that he is described as a man who "walked with God." Just like our story told by the little girl, Enoch was a man who knew God and spent time with God. We also see that he was a man who pleased God. Now we are also told that it is impossible to please God without faith. In other words, for Enoch to please God, he had to one day trust in God and all of his promises. That began a wonderful relationship he had with God. Then one day God took him to be with him. Enoch never died. He was one of two men in the Bible who didn't die. The other man is Elijah. If you remember his story, he went to heaven in a great chariot of fire and a whirlwind. What a blessing it must have been for Enoch to never have to face death, just simply be taken to heaven.

What can we learn from Enoch? We learn how important it is to walk with God. No matter what we do in life, there is nothing greater than walking with the Lord. That simply means to have a relationship with Him and spend time with Him every day. Then we also learn that to have that relationship with Him we have to come to God by faith. Like Enoch we also need to put our complete trust in God.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Walking with God: To have a relationship and spend time with God.

Faithful Noah

Text: Hebrews 11:7 - "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

Also read Genesis 6:5-22

Many of you know about the story of Noah and the ark. Noah and his family were faithful and God saved them on the ark when He judged all of the wicked people in the world. Noah was an example of living by faith. There was almost 100 years between God telling Noah to build the ark and when the rain began. During this time Noah had to trust that the Lord had everything in control. It must have been hard for Noah to continue working for 100 years, waiting for rain and not seeing it happen. But Noah was faithful to God and did exactly what God asked him to do. Even though people probably laughed at Noah, he kept right on building the ark in obedience to God. The day finally came when the rains came just as God had promised and only Noah and his family were saved.

Noah lived by faith when no one else around him wanted to have anything to do with God. Each one was doing what they wanted to do and didn't care about obeying God. Noah didn't look around at what everyone else was doing or saying, but kept trusting in the promise of God. He was also a good example to his family in doing what was right.

Sometimes, for us to live by faith may mean that we do it alone. Maybe other children around us aren't interested in serving the Lord and it seems that only our family wants to serve God. Maybe you have even been laughed at because you believe in Jesus. God blessed Noah because he lived by faith and trusted in the Lord to help him during this time. God has great plans for your life just like He did for Noah. We only have to trust in Him and be obedient to do what He wants us to do.

- Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? What was that like?
- How do you think Noah felt as he was building the ark?
- Why is it so important to do what God says even though no one else wants to?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Wickedness: Doing bad things
Righteousness: Doing right things

Faithful Abraham

Text: Hebrews 11:8 - "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would afterward receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

Also read Hebrews 11:8-10

Sometimes walking by faith can be kind of scary. Have you ever had to move to another city? Maybe you know someone who has moved near you who has come from a city far away or even another country. That would be pretty scary to leave behind all of your friends, your favorite park or that front sidewalk that is just perfect for rollerblading and go to a new city. How will you ever make new friends? What will your new neighbors be like? What will the new church be like? These are all things that we probably think about when we move.

Abraham was not only moving to another city, but he was moving to another country, a foreign country that he didn't know much about. He left his parents and relatives behind and set out to go to the land that God had promised to him. Abraham had to walk by faith, trusting God every step of the way as he traveled to this new land that God wanted him to go to. The most important thing for Abraham was obeying what God said for him to do no matter how scary it might be. When God spoke to Abraham, he obeyed. He just trusted God to take care of all of the details of making sure everything worked out.

There may be things in your life that God wants you to do that seem hard. But, if we live by faith and trust in Him, then everything will work out. We will be blessed by the Lord if we obey just like Abraham did. God has a plan for our lives that will be wonderful and full of adventure. We only have to trust in Him and He will make it all happen.

- Have you ever had to move to a new city? What was that like? How did the Lord help you during that time? If not, what do you think it would be like?
- How do you think living by faith will help you to obey the Lord?
- How do you think God helped Abraham during this time? How might He help you when you live by faith?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Called: Asked by God to do something special for Him.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"Now the just
shall live by
faith."

Third Grade and Above

"Now the just
shall live by
faith."

Hebrews 10:38a