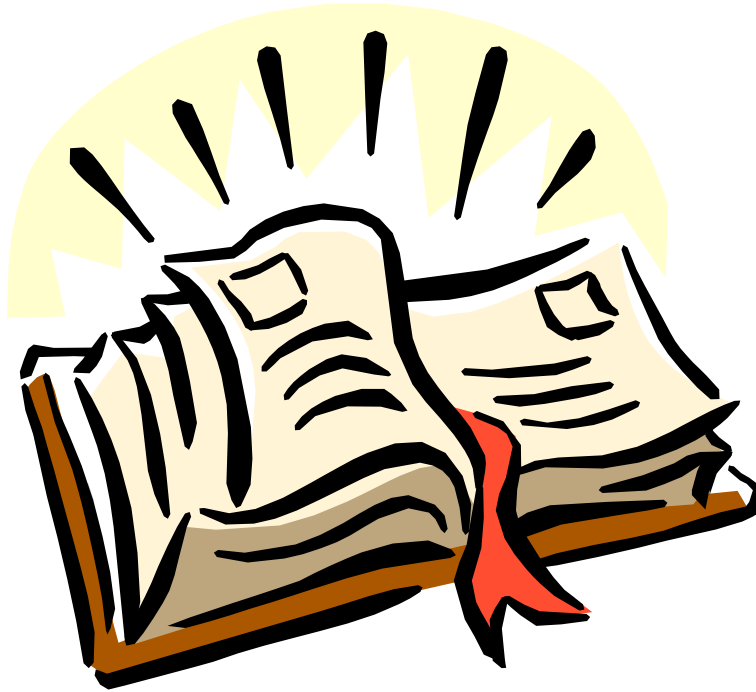


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Concerning Fiery Trials

THEME: God is faithful when we are going through a tough time.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 4:12-19

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 our children learned about dealing with **Fiery Trials**. As adults, we may be very familiar with trials, but often children go through trials as well. We may encounter trials through difficult relationships, finances, job stress, etc. It is important as parents that we help our children prepare for trials in their lives. For children, trials can be things like dealing with difficult school subjects, losing a parent, problems with siblings or working through disappointments. We learn that when we trust God, He will use these trials for our good.

The section of scripture we studied was **1 Peter 4:12-19**. In these verses we have some practical advice on how to deal with trials in our lives. Whether it is being persecuted for the name of Jesus or a different type of trial, God wants us to learn how to deal with them. Over the next week talk to your children and find out what their fiery trials are. Pray together and apply Biblical steps to overcoming trials. When we walk through the trials with our children now and teach them the way God wants them to handle difficulties, it will train them to handle "adult" trials later.

The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme from 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 devotions 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

Building Faith Muscles

Text: James 1:2,3 - "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

Also read James 1:2-4

Do you know how body-builders get their big muscles? They use heavy weights and lift them over and over again. Lifting the heavy weights actually causes the muscles to tear. When the muscles are given time to rest, the body heals the tears with scar tissue. When this is done over a period of time, the scar tissues build upon each other causing the muscles to grow. Lifting heavy weights is hard and sometimes painful. But the body builders know they have to endure the pain in order to achieve their goal of having big muscles.

In the same way, God uses trials in our lives to produce big "faith muscles." Trials are difficult and sometimes painful times that we go through in our lives. They are times when things just don't go the right way no matter what we do. Maybe there is a kid at school who picks on you because you love Jesus; or maybe a little brother or sister who keeps going into your room and breaking your favorite Lego creations; or, maybe you or someone you love is sick.

No matter what the trial, God sees and knows what you are going through. Just like James says, God uses trials to produce patience (His fruit of the Spirit) so that we will be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. So, the next time you are in a trial, just remember God has a purpose for you in the difficult time. He is strengthening you and helping you to develop your "faith muscles."

- What are some "trials" that you have gone through? How did God help you?
- In what ways do you think that God makes us more patient during trials?
- The next time you find yourself in a trial just trust in the Lord and know that He has everything under control and is producing something good in your life.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Perfect &

Complete: Mature or grown up in the Lord.

Trial: A difficult time that we go through.

Patience: Endurance, hanging in there even when times are tough.

Sink or Trust

Text: Psalm 91:14-16 - "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."

Also read Matthew 14:25-32

Peter was so excited! Jesus was walking on the water and He invited Peter to come and walk with Him. Over the side of the boat Peter went, feet first. He started walking on the water towards Jesus, keeping his eyes focused on Him, but something happened. Maybe he started thinking about how people can't walk on water; it just doesn't happen. Or maybe the great winds blowing the waves started to scare him. But whatever the reason, he took his eyes off of Jesus and he could feel himself sinking deeper and deeper into the dark water.

Even though Peter's lack of faith (belief in Jesus) caused him to sink, he realized his only hope during this very wet trial was to cry out to Jesus. "Lord, save me!" Peter cried. Jesus was faithful and stretched out His hand to pull him up. The interesting thing about Peter's trial is that it was brought on because he took his eyes off of Jesus. Sometimes we take our eyes off of Jesus and try to do things in our own strength. We may end up in a trial if we do the same thing, but like Peter the answer is to just call out to Jesus and He is always there to save us.

During those trials in our lives when it seems like we are sinking, we must look to Jesus and His mighty, outstretched hand. Trust Jesus to hold onto you during those difficult times because He is always faithful. Peter learned a valuable lesson from this experience and he later wrote to encourage other Christians by saying, "Casting all of your care upon Him for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

- Tell about a time when you called out to Jesus and He helped you.
- How does knowing that Jesus will rescue you out of difficult times help you?
- Have you cast all of your cares upon Him?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Faithful: Dependable and worthy of trust.

Day Three

Wiggle While You Wait

Text: Psalm 27:14 - "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say on the Lord!"

Also read Psalm 40:1-3

Have you ever had a loose tooth? First, you notice that it is not as secure in your gums as your other teeth. You put your finger on it and see if it budes. Yep! It wiggles a little. You wait a few more days. You can feel it get looser as you bite into your apple. And you continue to wait. But it's still not ready to come out just yet. So you wait some more. You look in the mirror and wiggle it again. Oh my, it's hanging by a thread! You decide to wait just a little while longer before you pull it. And then, during lunchtime, it happens! Just as you are taking that second bite of your bologna sandwich, you feel the final tug. Your tooth is out!

When we are in a trial and we call to the Lord, we then need to wait for Him and His timing to see us through. We know that it is only a matter of time between a tooth getting loose and it coming out. Even if you've never lost a tooth before, you know this to be true because of friends, brothers or sisters. It is a pattern. A pattern is something that keeps happening over and over again. God's faithfulness keeps happening over and over again. We trust; we wait; we may not know exactly when God will answer, but we know He will because He always does.

So just like that loose tooth, you can know that when you are in a trial it will be only a matter of time until it is over. You can wait upon the Lord and trust in Him to see you through. Sometimes it is kind of scary, or even painful while you wait for that tooth to come out, but with God's help, everything will be just fine. One day you will bite into your bologna sandwich and find that you have grown a whole new tooth and have learned how to trust in the Lord a little bit more.

- Think about a time when you had to wait for something. What was that like?
- Have you ever had to wait through a difficult time? How did the Lord help you during that time?
- How does God's faithfulness help us to wait upon Him during trials or difficult times?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Waiting on the Lord: Trusting in the Lord over a period of time.
Strengthen: To make stronger.

Anything but a Shot!

Text: John 16:33 - "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Also read Romans 5:3-5

Sammy loves to play outside! In fact, climbing is one of his favorite things to do. One day he was over at a friend's house who lived in the country. They went out to play and saw this huge pile of wood that just looked too good to resist climbing. So they started their adventure to conquer this great mountain. But as they were climbing Sammy stepped down and felt a sharp pain in his foot. "Ouch!!!" Sammy had stepped on nail and was it ever painful! Sammy's mom came to pick him up from his friend's home and told him the bad news. He was going to have to go to the doctor and may have to have a shot. "Anything but a shot," Sammy thought to himself.

At the doctor's office everyone was real nice. The doctor came in to see Sammy. He examined his foot and got it cleaned and bandaged. Then he told Sammy the very thing that he didn't want to hear. "We will have to give you a Tetanus shot." And without even thinking, Sammy yelled out, "anything but a shot!" But the doctor explained that even though the shot will hurt it is actually a good thing because it will help Sammy not to get sick. The shot will protect him and help him to get better. Sammy was still kind of scared, but agreed that it would be the best thing. His mom prayed with him before the shot and that helped him to feel better.

Sometimes trials are kind of like getting a shot. Like Sammy, we may say, "anything but a trial." But God's Word promises us that whenever trials come into our lives they are there to produce good things in our lives, like Sammy's shot. Romans 5:3-5 says that tough times in our lives helps us to hang in there (endurance), to be more like Jesus (character) and trust that everything will work out (hope). So we can actually rejoice in trials when we understand that God is working out good things in our hearts.

- How do you feel about shots? Does it help some to know that they are for your good?
- What are some ways that trials can make us more like Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Perseverance: Hanging in there when things are tough.

Character: Being like Jesus.

Hope: Knowing Jesus will work everything out.

Day Five

Paul, Silas and a Philippian Jailer

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:2 - "But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict."

Also read Acts 16:22-34

Sometimes God allows trials in our lives so we can help others to understand more about Jesus and the Gospel. That's what happened in this Philippian jail with Paul and Silas. They were thrown in jail because they were teaching about Jesus. In fact, the leaders of the city even had them beaten and then put into the inner prison where it would be most secure. But what was Paul and Silas' reaction? They stayed up to pray to the Lord and to sing hymns. All of the other prisoners were listening to them. You wonder if maybe the jailer was listening and wondering what it was about Paul and Silas that would make them sing praises even in the middle of suffering in prison. Of course we know that it is because they had Jesus in their hearts.

Later, God rescued Paul and Silas and when the jailer supposed that the prisoners had escaped, he knew that he would be in a lot of trouble. He felt like the only thing for him to do was to take his own life. But Paul and Silas didn't run away. They knew that God had a plan for everything that happened. They knew that even though they had suffered, God wanted them to share the good news of Jesus with the jailer. So they told the jailer and his family about Jesus and they all were saved and baptized that night. God had blessed this family through Paul and Silas' suffering.

Sometimes when we have "fiery" trials, maybe it is because God wants us to be a witness for him. He wants us to pray and praise Him so that we can be an example to others. We never know who may be watching and listening, and who may be ready to hear about Jesus and ask Him into their hearts. God used the trials in Paul and Silas' life to help others to believe in Jesus. Maybe he wants to use trials in our lives for the same purpose also.

- Tell about a time in your family when God used a trial to help someone else.
- How does this story of Paul and Silas help you to better understand Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose"?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray that the Lord will help you whenever you are in a trial, to remember to trust in Him and that He has everything under control.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

“...let those who suffer according to the will of God commit themselves to our faithful Creator.”

Third Grade and Above

“Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”

1 Peter 4:19