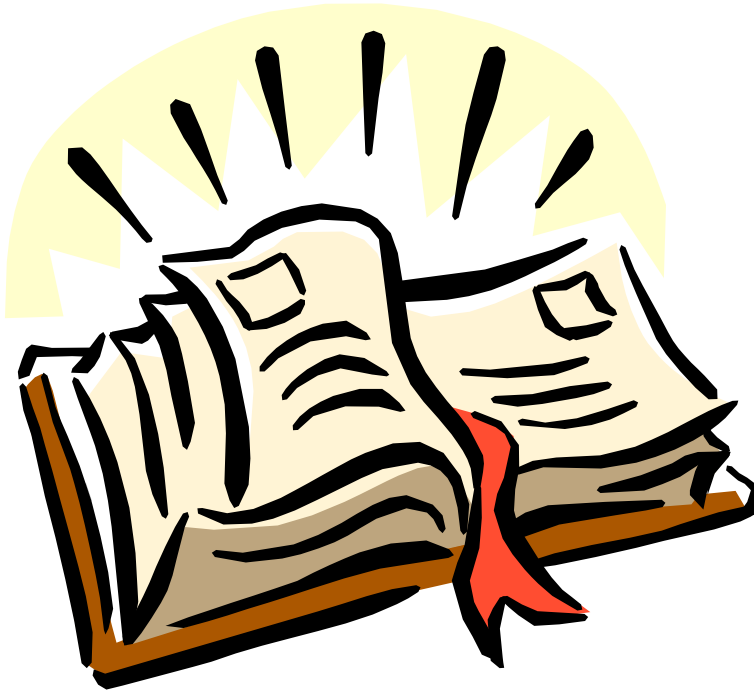


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: False Prophets

THEME: God wants us to watch out for false teachers.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 2:1-22



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 **False Teachers** and how dangerous they can be. The theme of our lesson was **God wants us to watch out for false teachers**. We also learned some ways that we can identify false teachers through God's Word. God has given us His Word and the Holy Spirit to be able to help us know truth from error.

For children, this topic may be difficult to understand. The main point is for us to become so familiar with the truth that error can be easily recognized. The Bible gives us ways to test what we are hearing. Of course, if we ever hear anything that denies Jesus, we know what they are saying is not of God. God is faithful to help us to know what is true and what is not.

The section of scripture we studied was **2 Peter 2:1-22**. 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!

Truth Tester

Text: 1 John 4:1 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test** the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Also read 1 John 4:1-6

Have you ever been to the Gold Country? It is in the foothills and mountains of Northern California. It is there where they discovered gold in the 1840's. If you have ever been up there maybe you had the chance to go panning for gold. It is a lot of fun to be able to get a pan and go down to a stream to try to find some real gold. You scoop up some sand and water from the bottom of the stream, then you swirl it around in the pan several times allowing some water to spill over the edges. The lighter dirt and sand swirls out, leaving small rocks and hopefully a gold nugget!

Many times though, you may find a shiny, golden nugget that looks like gold. At first, you're excited to think that you may have actually found a gold nugget. But when you take it to ask an expert, he tells you that it is only a look-alike called "fools gold." It looks like the real thing, shines like the real thing and even feels like the real thing. But when the expert tests it, it turns out to be fools gold and completely worthless.

The Bible says that we should "test" what people say about Jesus to make sure that it is the real thing. For example, if someone tells us that Jesus wasn't really God, He was just a really good man, we know that is not true. How do we test it? We go to the expert - the Word of God. The Bible says that Jesus is God who came in the flesh (John 1:14). So we can test what anyone tells us through the Bible and through the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us. A lot of people believe different things about Jesus. Like spotting fools gold, we should be able to spot wrong ideas about Jesus after testing it in our "truth tester."

- Have you ever been fooled by "fools gold?" How did you find out that it wasn't real?
- What are the two ways that you can test what people say about Jesus?
- How should we react to those who don't believe the same way about Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



False Prophet: A person or teacher who teaches wrong things about Jesus.
Test: A way of determining whether something that is said is true or not. We test truth through the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

Be a Berean

Text: Acts 17:11 - "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."

Also read Acts 17:10-12

Could you ever imagine questioning the great Apostle Paul? After all, Paul wrote most of the New Testament. He was the world's greatest missionary and lived his life completely for the Lord. But he was still a man and he was very aware of that. So when he and Silas went to a place called Berea, they went to the Jew's place of worship (the synagogue) and began to preach Jesus to them. The Bereans gladly listened to what Paul was saying but they wanted to make sure it was right, so they began to compare what he was saying with the Scriptures. Did Paul's teaching match what was revealed in the Scriptures or was it different?

Now Paul could have got upset about this. He could have said, "How dare they question what I am teaching, I am an apostle!" But Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and responded in love. He encouraged them to check out what he was teaching. In fact, he even told them that they were doing a good thing in that they were checking his teaching with the Scriptures. What did Paul have to worry about? His teaching completely lined up with the Bible. He wanted people to go to the Word to find out if what he was saying was true.

What was the result? Many people believed in Jesus! How exciting! We should also be a Berean and we should always compare what we hear to the Bible. The Lord will show us whether or not what we are hearing is in line with His Word. The more that we know His Word the better we can tell what is true and what is a lie.

- How can you be a Berean?
- What are some ways that you can think of that will help you to get to know the Word better?
- Pray and ask the Lord to help you to know His truth better through His Word.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Bereans: People from Berea who tested what Paul said by comparing it with the Word of God.

An Angel of Light

Text: 2 Corinthians 11:14 - "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."

Also read 2 Corinthians 11:12-15

Have you ever wondered why bank robbers or others who do bad things want to wear masks? Why don't they just come in without a mask and do their bad things? Well, they don't want to be recognized by anyone. They are afraid of being caught and know that if they are recognized that they will have to go to prison. Also, if they are a known robber there is a chance that someone might know who they are before they get a chance to carry out their crime. So they wear a mask to disguise themselves so that no one will know who they are.

This is how Satan works. He will try to disguise himself so that he can't be recognized as he tries to deceive people. The Bible says that he is a thief and will try to keep as many people as he can from knowing the truth. So he will disguise himself with a mask. In fact, he even has people who may say that they love Jesus in disguise to lead them away from the truth. This is why we have to be careful to test things by God's Word. The Bible helps us to remove the mask of anyone who may be trying to deceive us.

What are some other ways we can tell who is a real minister of light? A true minister of light will be a servant and desire to serve others rather than being served. A real minister of light will love others and want to help others. Also, a real minister of light will be giving rather than being selfish or desiring money or other things for themselves. Even though they may try to wear a mask there are some ways that we can tell who they are. The Lord loves us and will help us to be safe, but we need to be on guard.

- Why do you think bad guys want to wear a mask?
- How can you tell the difference between real and false ministers of light?
- What are some ways that you can remove the mask of a false minister of light?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Angel of Light: a messenger of something good. Satan will try to look good, but will really try to cause problems and destroy.

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Text: Matthew 7:15 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

Also read Matthew 7:15-23

Most of you are familiar with the story of Little Red Riding Hood. You remember how the Big Bad Wolf wanted to gobble up Little Red Riding Hood, so he dressed up like her grandmother and hid. Of course, he wanted Little Red Riding Hood to think that he was her grandmother so that he could surprise her. But when she came in, she noticed that something just wasn't quite right. Grandma's eyes were so much bigger than usual, her ears were a lot bigger, and her teeth were a lot bigger too. It was then that she realized this wasn't her grandma at all, it was the Wolf! So she took off running.

False teachers are a lot like that wolf and Jesus said that we as Christians are like sheep. One of the interesting things about sheep is that they are pretty helpless. They can be attacked very easily. So whenever a wolf (false teacher) wants to attack the sheep they will try to dress up like a sheep and make all of the sheep think that they are one of them. But inside, they are really a ravenous (hungry) wolf.

Just like Little Red Riding Hood, we too can notice some differences in these wolves that can't be hidden no matter how hard they try. Jesus called it fruit. He said that you can't get grapes from a thorn bush, and it's the same way with these wolves. Their lives will produce bad fruit and we can know them if they say one thing and do another. Good fruit can only come from those who truly belong to Jesus. You can find a comparison of bad fruit with good fruit in Galatians 5:19-25. So watch out for wolves in sheep's clothing!

- What will wolves try to do to get at the sheep?
- How can we tell the difference between a real sheep and a wolf dressed up in sheep's clothing?
- What should we do when we run into one of these wolves?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Ravenous Wolves: False teachers who want to try to hurt the sheep.
Sheep: God's children, Christians.

Day Five

The Good Shepherd

Text: John 10:11 - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

Also read John 10:1-18

Joel couldn't wait! He was finally at his uncle's ranch in Australia. He had waited all summer long in order to make this trip. He was going to learn everything there was about being a shepherd. His uncle had a lot of sheep on his ranch and kept very good care of them. His very first night there, Joel and his uncle went out to check on the sheep. It was very quiet and kind of scary out in the Australian countryside. Just then, they heard a noise and saw a wolf begin to chase after one of the sheep. Joel's uncle sent his dogs after the wolf and jumped in his truck and drove as fast as he could to the wolf.

They got there just in time to keep the sheep from being attacked. They chased the wolf away, but they knew that they would have to keep an eye out because the wolf might return. Joel's uncle began to explain to Joel how thankful he is that his job helps to remind him about how Jesus protects us as our good shepherd. We are like sheep and our enemy will try to attack us sometimes, but our good shepherd Jesus will protect us from harm.

As our good shepherd, Jesus will take care of all of our needs. He will also lead us and show us where we are to go. Jesus also protects us from the enemy. As we have been talking about false teachers this week it is true that we need to be watchful and careful, but at the same time we don't have to be afraid of them. Our good shepherd is watching over us and will protect us from them as we continue to trust in Him.

- What do you think a shepherd uses to take care of their sheep?
- Read Psalm 23. How does God take care of us in the same way?
- How does knowing that Jesus is our good shepherd help you to not be afraid?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week you can pray the Lord will help you to be watchful for false teachers. Also, ask Him to help you to know His Word so much that you can recognize truth from error. Then thank Him that He is our good shepherd and will protect us from the enemy.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

“...there will be false teachers among you,”

Third Grade and Above

“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you,”

2 Peter 2:1a