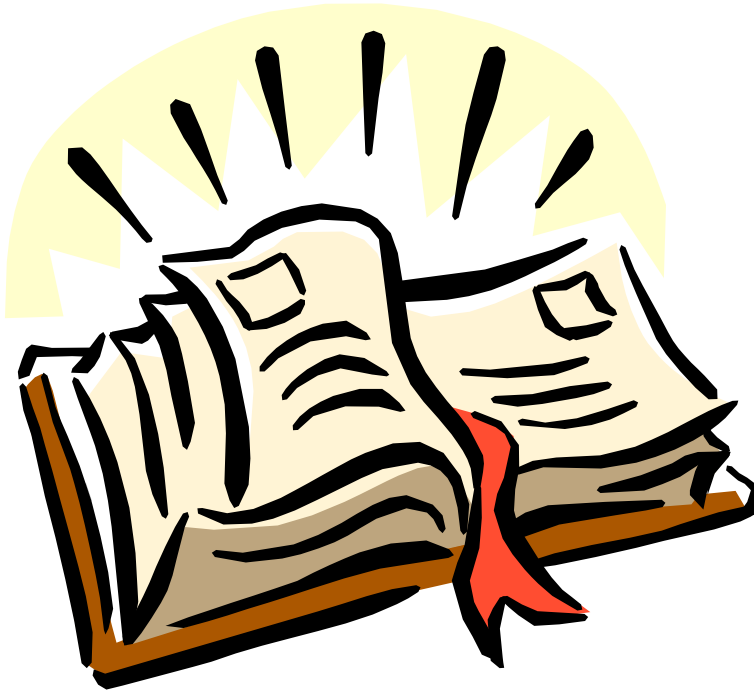


# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: As a Thief in the Night**

**THEME: Jesus wants us to be watching and waiting for His return.**

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 3:10-13**



# 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 end times and how when Jesus returns, He will return as "a thief in the night."** No one knows the day or the hour of Jesus' return. So He tells us that **we need to be watching and waiting for His return.** Also, we should live our lives in the reality of His soon return.

When we look at our world today it is evident that Jesus' return is soon. A major part of what we learned in this lesson is that since we know His return is soon, what kind of Christians should we be? The attitude of watching and waiting should produce holiness in our lives.

The section of Scripture we studied was **2 Peter 3:10-13**. 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

# Back in Noah's Time

**Text: Matthew 24:37** - "But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

**Also read Matthew 24:36-44**

Have you ever heard the term the "last days?" What it means is the period of time just before Jesus returns for His people. Did you know we are now living in the last days? Jesus promised in the Bible that He would return for His people. When He returns, we will forever be with Him. He told us a lot of things about His return, but He didn't tell us the day He would be returning or what time He was going to come. He wants us to be watching and waiting for His return. But what He did tell us was that there would be certain things happening all around us in our world that would tell us that His return was very close.

One of the things that He told us was that the time just before He would come would be a lot like the time just before the great flood when God saved Noah and his family in the ark. What was that time like? We can look in the Bible to find out. First of all, everyone just kept on going about life as if nothing was going to happen. They kept on eating, drinking and getting married with no concern for God or the future. It took Noah 120 years to build the ark, and all during that time Noah preached about the coming flood. But no one would listen; they just laughed at Noah and believed that the world would just go on and on like it always has. So they rejected Noah and God.

People are a lot like that today. God's people have been preaching about Jesus for over 2,000 years. But a lot of people won't listen because they believe that nothing will ever really change and judgment won't really come. Another thing about Noah's time is that the people were very wicked. They did a lot of bad things and disobeyed God. They were mean and violent. The world today is very much like that because many people refuse to believe in Jesus. His Second Coming will come like a thief in the night, a big surprise! But for us who know Jesus, we can watch, wait and get excited because we look around and see that His return is very soon!

- How do we know that we are living in the last days?
- What did Jesus say about the date and the time of His return?
- What are some things that we can do while we are waiting for Jesus' return?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Last Days:** The period of time just before Jesus returns for His people.

# Get Ready, Freddie!

**Text: Matthew 25:13** - "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

**Also read Matthew 25:1-13**

"I can't wait!" Freddie exclaimed to his mom. Freddie was excited because his grandma and grandpa were going to pick up him and his brother Joel for a week-long camping trip. Mom asked the boys, "Now, are you ready to go? Do you have everything you will need? Oh, and don't forget to check the batteries in your flashlights!" Joel went back to his room to check his flashlight, but Freddie got busy doing something else. A while later the doorbell rang and there was Grandma and Grandpa ready to pick up the boys. They got all of their stuff and headed off to go camping. While in the car, Grandpa asked, "Did you boys check the batteries in your flashlights?" They both said that they should be fine.

That night, just after the campfire, Freddie remembered that he left his Bible in the car. So he grabbed his flashlight and went down the hill to the car. He got his Bible and started back up, but he noticed the light on his flashlight was slowly growing dimmer and dimmer and then finally went out. It was terribly scary out there without any light. There sure were a lot of noises in the forest, and they seemed to be louder without a flashlight. Freddie got so scared that he yelled out, "Help!" Just then Grandpa showed up with his flashlight and helped him back to camp. Grandpa said, "I guess your batteries must have been pretty low." Freddie replied, "Yeah, I got busy and didn't check them. I'm sorry." "That's okay" Grandpa said, "I have more back at camp."

Freddie learned a valuable lesson about being ready like the five women in our Bible reading that didn't check their lamps for oil. They knew at some point the Bridegroom would come, like Freddie knew his grandma and grandpa were coming, but they didn't prepare and neither did Freddie. They ended up getting themselves into trouble. In the Bible, oil represents the Holy Spirit. Are we getting ready for Jesus' return? Are we filled with the Holy Spirit and doing what the Lord asks us to do as we watch and wait? Let's get ready!

- What happened to Freddie because he wasn't ready?
- What are some things that you can do to make sure you are ready for Jesus' return?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Bridegroom:** Jesus; we as Christians are the bride and He is the groom.  
Are we ready for Him to return?

Day Three

# I Want to Be Like Dad!

**Text: 1 Peter 1:16-** "because it is written, 'be holy, for I am holy.'"

**Also read 1 Peter 1:13-19**

Joel was thinking all day long about how he was going to dress up like his dad. It was "Dress As Your Parents" night at Calvary Kids' Bible Club and he wanted his outfit to be just right. Maybe he could put on some of his dad's work clothes or maybe one of his old suits or maybe he could wear his old High School football uniform. Whatever he was going to wear, he wanted it to be perfect down to the last detail. He would need glasses like his dad and maybe even a few gray hairs to make the outfit complete. He was going to see how many people he could trick into thinking that he was actually his dad.

One of the things that we should be doing as Christians while we are waiting for the Lord to return is to become more like Him. We should want to imitate Him. Like Joel wanted to look just like his dad, we should want to look like and be just like Jesus. In our lesson on Sunday we learned about how this world is going to pass away and we should learn more and more how to live our lives for Jesus. There is nothing in this world more important to live for than Jesus. Because this world is going to pass away we need to live even more for Jesus. We need to learn to be holy, just like God is holy. We should desire to become more and more like God in everything we say and do.

Whenever we say we want to be like our Heavenly Father, what does that mean? As we learn about who God is and what He is like, we find out that He is loving, kind, merciful, patient, holy and very excited about spending time with us. So if we want to imitate Him, what should we do? We should be loving, kind, merciful, patient and holy just like Him. How do we do that? By spending time with Him and by being filled with the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to become more and more like Him each day. Let's learn to be just like our Heavenly Father!

- Have you ever dressed up like one of your parents?
- When you think of "holy," what does that mean to you?
- What are some ways that you can become more like your Heavenly Father?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Holy:** Set apart for a special purpose, set apart from the world.

# What's the Profit?

**Text: Matthew 16:26** - "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

**Also read Matthew 16:24-27**

What would you do if you got a coupon in the mail from Toys-R-Us and that coupon said that you could come to the store and have whatever you wanted? You could pick out anything and keep coming back for the rest of your life to get any toy that you wanted. It sounds pretty exciting doesn't it? Until you read the fine print at the bottom. The fine print is that tiny writing down at the bottom of coupons or contracts that explains all of the rules. You see there is only one catch to cashing in this coupon. The fine print says that if you use this coupon then you can't believe in Jesus anymore for the rest of your life. What would you do with this coupon?

Of course there aren't really any coupons like this, but it helps us to understand a little bit about being a Christian in this world. As you grow older, there will be times that it may seem like the Christian life is a little bit hard. You might even be tempted to give in to the world in order to have it easier, but Jesus said, "What would it profit if you gained the entire world, and lost your own soul?" There is nothing in this life more important than our relationship with Jesus. Even if you could have all of the money or power this world has to offer it is not worth giving up your relationship with Jesus.

As we wait for the Lord's return, we have to remember this life is very short. When you are a child it seems like life will go on forever. But as you grow up you find out that time goes by very fast. But when Jesus returns for us, we will live forever with Him. So when we compare our short lives with eternity we see that our lives are like a vapor or puff of smoke (James 4:14). You see it one moment, and the next it is gone. That is why it is so important to live our lives not for the here and now, but for eternity. Someone once said, "Only one life will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last."

- What is more important to you - having everything you want or knowing Jesus?
- If an average person lives about 70 years, how do you think this compares with eternity?
- Knowing that you will live forever with Jesus, how does this help you in serving Him?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Profit:** Good thing or benefit.

Day Five

## So Much Better

**Text: Revelation 21:1a** - "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

**Also read Revelation 21:1-7**

Katie's birthday finally arrived! Of course she had only been waiting all year long since her last birthday. The time had come to open presents. Mom told her to close her eyes and don't peek while dad sneaked outside to bring in her gift. When she opened her eyes she saw a brand new bicycle. Was she ever excited! Her old bike was falling apart and was just too small. This new bike was just perfect. "Thank you so much for my new bike mom and dad," Katie said. Mom and dad replied, "You're welcome, we hope you enjoy it for a long time to come."

Katie's mom and dad enjoyed blessing her. In the same way our Heavenly Father wants to bless us. Katie responded by being thankful that her old bike was replaced with a new one. In the book of John, Jesus told us that when He left to go to home, the Father would prepare a special place for us. He also said that He was going to return for us so that we can be with Him. He is still preparing that place right now. In our Bible reading we see that there will be a brand new heaven and a brand new earth the Lord will give us to enjoy. It is truly amazing how much He loves us!

Now think for a moment how it took only six days for the Lord to create the heavens and the earth that we see now. Now imagine how wonderful the place that the Lord is preparing for us will be since He has been working on it for 2,000 years! There are a lot of beautiful places all over this planet for us to see, but it is still hard to imagine what God has in store for us. Let's thank the Lord today for how wonderful He is to us!

- Think about a time you received something brand new. What was that like?
- Read Revelation 21:4; what do you think about this promise?
- How should we live today knowing that everything will one day be replaced with a new heaven and a new earth?

### Kid's Prayer Time



This week when you pray you can thank the Lord for all His promises about His return. How He is preparing a wonderful place for us and will come back for us so that we can forever be with Him. Ask Him to help you to keep your eyes on heaven and live for Him.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade (paraphrased)

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night...both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

Third Grade and Above

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

**2 Peter 3:10**