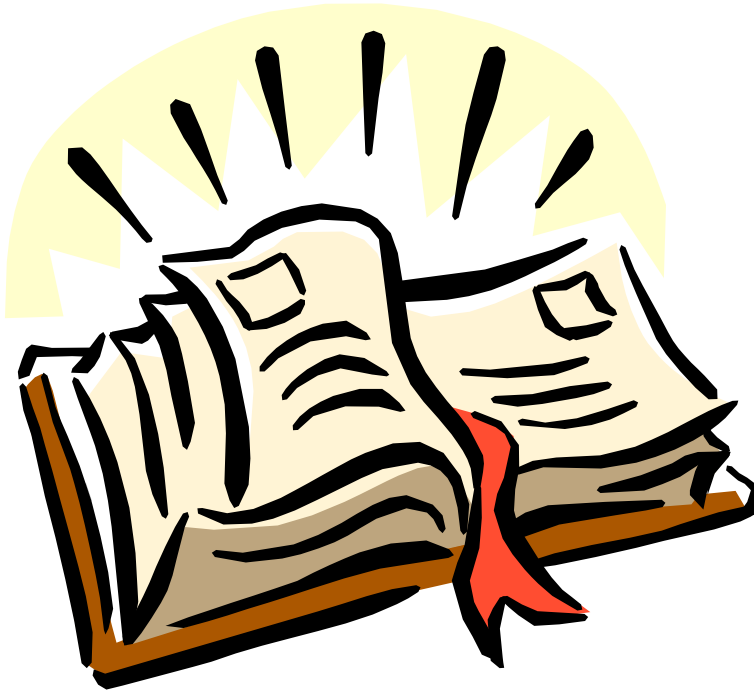


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

**LESSON TITLE: A New Heaven and a
New Earth**

**THEME: God is preparing a special place
for us.**

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:1-27



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 New Heavens and New Earth** that God is preparing for us. There is a wonderful description of it in the book of Revelation. It is exciting to just get a glimpse into what God has in store for His people. Our theme was **God is preparing a special place for us**. Before Jesus left to return to the Father, He promised that He would prepare a special place for us.

We find that not only is the place that God is preparing very beautiful, but there will also be no death, sorrow or pain. That is going to be exciting! It's hard for any of us to grasp what heaven will be like but we can certainly look forward to it by faith. God gives us the wonderful hope of spending eternity with Him, and His promises are SURE!

The section of scripture that we studied was **Revelation 21:1-27**. 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

A New Heaven and New Earth

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

Also read 2 Peter 3:11-13

Joel was very upset! His brand new bike had been stolen from his front yard! He forgot to put it in the garage when he went into his house after riding it and left it sitting out on the driveway. It wasn't left out for very long time, but long enough for someone to come and take it. Joel just couldn't understand how someone could be so mean to come and take something that wasn't theirs. He came into the living room with a very sad face and asked his mom, "Why do people have to be so mean and bad?"

Joel's mom was also upset over what had happened to Joel's bike. She had called the Police to make a report and now she wanted to help Joel feel better. "Unfortunately there are people who refuse to serve the Lord and don't care about hurting other people or their things. But it won't always be like that!" Mom said. "What do you mean Mom?" Joel responded. "Well, the Bible tells us that one day there will be a new heaven and a new earth where Jesus will be in charge. And when this time comes it is going to be a very different place. A place where righteousness will dwell," Mom said.

"What does that mean?" Joel asked. "It means that people will do 'right' things all of the time. There won't be any more stealing, crime or even sin. God will remove all of that forever," Mom said with excitement in her voice. Joel's eyes began to get wide and he said, "You mean that I won't have to worry about my bike ever being stolen?" "That's right!" Mom said, "But until that time let's pray and ask the Lord to help you to get your bike back, and then we'll make sure to keep it in the garage." "Sounds good!" said Joel.

- Have you ever had anything that has been stolen? How did it make you feel?
- Why did Joel look forward to a new heaven and new earth?
- What kinds of things do you look forward to in the new heaven and new earth?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



New heaven and new earth: A place promised by God for all of His people to dwell in for all of eternity.

Righteousness: Doing "right" things.

The Holy City

Text: Revelation 21:2 - "Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Also read Revelation 21:9-27

Have you ever traveled with your family to a large city? I remember going with my family for the first time to San Francisco when I was a young child. We went to the downtown area and walked around. I was absolutely amazed at all of the skyscrapers. "How could these buildings be so tall?" "How did people build them?" I thought to myself. There's one building in San Francisco called the TransAmerica building. It is shaped like a giant pyramid and is pretty interesting to look at. But as fascinating as these buildings are to look at and as beautiful as the most beautiful cities in all the world could ever be, they can't begin to compare to the city that God is preparing for His people - New Jerusalem!

First of all, New Jerusalem has the glory of God for its' light. It is going to be beautiful because of God's presence. We also see that there will be twelve gates and twelve foundations, which represent the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles. We also get an idea of its' size. It is shaped as a square and it is 1,377 miles long, wide and high. That is huge!!! To get an idea, the city would almost cover half of the United States!

Then we get to see the beauty of the city. The city is going to be pure gold, and the walls and the gates will be adorned with all kinds of beautiful gems. The streets will be pure gold. We can try to imagine what it will be like, but it is hard to completely imagine. Just think, God is preparing this city for His people. That is you and I if we believe in Jesus. Wow! It's amazing what God has in store for us! Let's praise Him today!

- Tell about a time that you visited a large city. What stood out the most to you?
- As you read the description of New Jerusalem what is the most amazing thing to you?
- Spend some time today thinking about what God is preparing for us and in your family take a few minutes to praise and worship Him.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



New Jerusalem: A special city that God will create as part of the new heaven and new earth.

Day Three

No More Tears

Text: Isaiah 25:8 - "He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken."

Also read Revelation 21:4

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away - Revelation 21:4." Dad put his Bible down after reading the verse and looked at his family and just smiled, "What great promises we have in the Lord. We can rejoice today because the Lord will one day remove every tear and take away all of the sorrow, pain and death." The family was having breakfast together and Dad wanted to encourage them from the Bible, especially on this day. It was going to be difficult today because Dad's father and the children's grandfather had passed away. In a few hours the family would be going to his funeral. Even though it was difficult, the family knew that Grandpa was in a much better place with Jesus.

Grandpa had been a Christian for a long time. He always loved to tell Bible stories to the children every time that he could. He was going to be missed very much. But Dad encouraged the family. "We will get to see Grandpa again in heaven one day soon. Jesus is making a new heaven and new earth for all of His people. We will get to join grandpa there. We can be filled with joy today because we know that grandpa is with Jesus."

Has something ever happened in your life that has made you sad? This same promise is for any of us who are Christians. If we have trusted in Jesus, then the Holy Spirit lives inside of us. The Holy Spirit will help us to have peace and joy, even when times are difficult for us. But we also know that one day God will take away every tear. God loves us all very much and we can rejoice in the Lord for His great promises!

- How does it make you feel to know that God will one day get rid of death, sorrow and pain?
- How did the dad in this story encourage his family?
- Do you know of someone who is going through a difficult time? How can you encourage them with God's Word?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Encourage: To inspire someone to have hope or to service.

Everything is Brand New

Text: Revelation 21:5 - "Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write for these words are true and faithful.'"

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:17

At the Six Flags Marine World amusement park in Northern California they have a special place called the Butterfly House. When you walk in there are butterflies everywhere. There are red ones and blue ones, multi-colored ones, big ones and small ones, striped ones and even butterflies with polka dots. They are all very beautiful. There is also an exhibit that explains the process of how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. A butterfly did not start out as a butterfly; they began as a caterpillar. The caterpillar will spend most of its time eating. Then one day it begins to wrap itself up in a cocoon.

The caterpillar will stay in the cocoon for a long time. You might even think that the caterpillar has died. But finally something will begin to move and out of the cocoon will come a beautiful butterfly. The caterpillar has disappeared and only a butterfly remains. It is brand new! This is kind of what it is like when we come to Jesus. The Bible describes it as a "new birth."

Before we come to Jesus we are kind of like that caterpillar. We aren't a lot to look at. But when we come to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us of our sins and to come into our hearts and lives, He changes us into something very beautiful. Like the butterfly we are a brand new creation. Our old life has passed away and everything is brand new. If you are a Christian then you know that God has already done this for you. If you have never asked Jesus into your heart, He would like to make all things new for you.

- How does a caterpillar changing into a butterfly picture our "new birth" in Jesus?
- What does it mean to you to be a brand new creation?
- What does your favorite butterfly look like? Do the activity below.

Kid's Activity



Get a blank sheet of paper and some markers or crayons. Draw a picture of a butterfly (ask Mom or Dad for help if you need to). Decorate the wings however you would like. Next, write "Behold, I make all things new" Revelation 21:5 just under your picture.

Day Five

Fountain of Living Water

Text: Revelation 21:6 - "And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.'"

Also read John 7:37-39

Think about summer time. It's a really hot day and you have been playing out in the hot sun for a while. Your throat is really dry and all you can think about is getting a drink of ice cold water. Even a soda or Kool Aid doesn't sound good right now, only a tall glass of ice water! Did you know that our bodies can go several days or even weeks without food, but we can only go a few days without water? We have to have water to be able to survive. If we don't have water we will die.

The Bible talks about how we also have a spiritual thirst. Before we become Christians we are thirsting for something in our lives. The only thing that can take care of that thirst is "spiritual water." The water of life that Jesus freely provides. Jesus said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." Jesus meets our every need including our spiritual thirst.

But the real exciting thing is that Jesus doesn't just provide a couple of drops of water to get us by. He gives us "rivers of living water." There is plenty of water to go around for everyone. Then as other people who are not Christians and are thirsty come around us, they will see all of the water coming out of our hearts. They will want to have their thirst quenched and come to Jesus. All we have to do is just point them to Jesus. So, if you are thirsty today, just turn to Jesus and let Him give you rivers of living water. If you are a Christian, let the rivers of living water flow out of your life and let others see Jesus in you so that they can find Jesus and get some living water also.

- What is living water?
- Have you received the living water that Jesus provides?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week we learned about the new heaven and new earth that God is preparing for His people. We can be thankful for what God is preparing for us and ask Him to help us to reach out to others with the good news of Jesus and to continue to trust Him for all things. His promises are true and faithful.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.'"

Third Grade and Above

"And He said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.' "

REVELATION 21:6