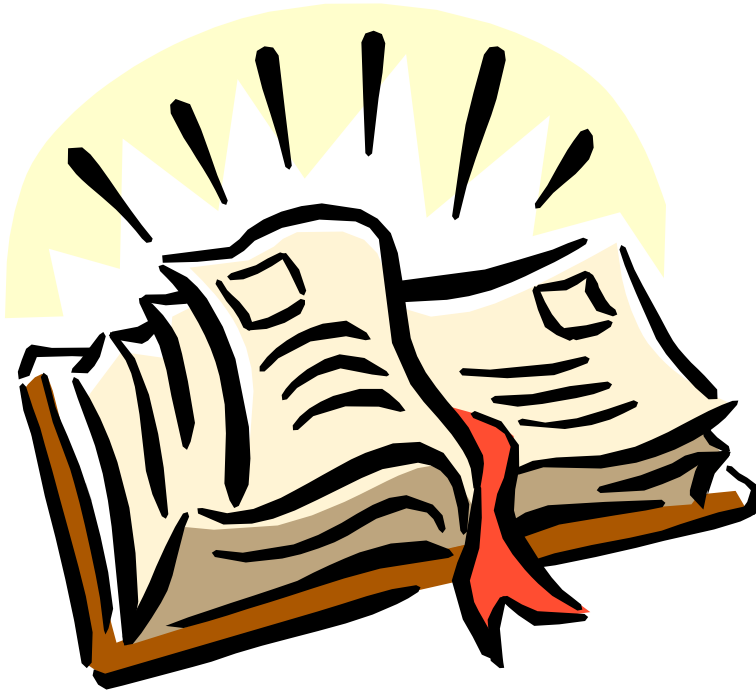


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: I Come Quickly

THEME: Jesus is coming soon!

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 22:6-21

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 soon return of Jesus**. When Jesus left the disciples to return to the Father, He left them a wonderful promise. He told them that He would return for them. We also have the same promise that one day He will return and take us to be with Him forever. He wants us to be watching and waiting for His return.

Since Jesus' time we have been living in what is called the "last days." It is exciting to see that Jesus' return is getting closer and closer. Everything in the Bible points to His soon return. This week we will be very encouraged as we look at what God's word says about Jesus' return.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Revelation 22:6-21**. 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

The Alpha and the Omega

Text: Revelation 22:13 - "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Also read John 1:1-3

In school when we study about the earth, the stars and the universe, we always seem to end up asking the question, "Where did they all come from?" Some people would like you to believe that God didn't create everything, that it all just "magically" appeared by itself. These people believe in something called the "Big Bang." People who believe in the "Big Bang" believe that nothing exploded and made life. Sounds confusing, doesn't it? The reason it is confusing is because they have taken God out of the picture. The Bible teaches us, "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Instead of everything coming from the "Big Bangs," everything came from God.

The Bible declares Jesus to be the Alpha. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet. The New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. It is like Jesus is saying that He is letter "A". In John 1:1 the Bible tells us that Jesus was with God in the beginning of time, and He created all things. Without Jesus nothing would have been created. Isn't it great to know that Jesus is God and powerful enough to create the entire universe? If that is true then He is more than able to take care of us. Jesus is the beginning of all things, including each of us.

Jesus is not only the Alpha but also the Omega. Omega is the last letter in the Greek alphabet. It is kind of like saying Jesus is everything from A to Z. This means that Jesus is eternal. Eternal means forever, without beginning or end. So Jesus is God and was present at creation. He will also be alive forever and is able to give eternal life to those who believe on Him. We can remember that the God we serve is over everything and in control of everything. That is a great thing to remember when it seems like so many things are out of control. Let's remember to put our trust in Jesus, the Alpha and Omega!

- Who created the universe?
- Who is the Alpha and Omega?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Alpha: The first letter in the Greek alphabet.

Omega: The last letter in the Greek alphabet.

Eternity: Forever and ever, with no end.

Day Two

Ready or Not, Here I Come!

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

Hide and Seek is one of the most fun games of all time. How exciting it is when you have hidden yourself in the best spot possible. You are safely tucked away and ready, peeking out to see if the person "it" is anywhere near. But what happens when the person looking for you yells out "Ready or not, here I come!" and you have not yet found your spot? Panic sets in as you scramble to find a good spot. This is what the young ladies without the oil felt like in our story today. They heard the Groom say "ready or not, here I come," and they were not ready. They were scrambling to get some oil for their lamps.

The women without oil in their lamps are just like people without Jesus in their hearts. When Jesus comes back to get His church, He is coming for those who have oil in their lamps, or Jesus in their hearts. When Jesus comes back, we want to have our spot already picked out; we want to be safely tucked away and ready. The Bible teaches us that when we ask Jesus into our hearts and become a Christian, God gives us our spot with Him in heaven. If we do not want to accept His love for us, then we will be like the person who hears the voice calling out "ready or not, here I come," and then realizes that they were not ready.

The Bible tells us in Revelation 22:19 that He will take away their spot in heaven. "...God shall take away his part from the Book of life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this Book." I sure don't want to be panicked or worried about Jesus finding me unprepared. If we have accepted Jesus into our hearts and have trusted in Him, then we have our spot with Him. We have our names written in His book of life. Ready or not, here He comes! Are you ready? Does Jesus live in your heart? **Continued on Day Three...**

- Ready or not, who is coming?
- What happens to the people who are not ready?
- How can we know we are ready?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Watch & Wait: Looking for Jesus' return. Even though we don't know the day or the hour, we should always be looking for His return.

Day Three

Give Me Oil in My Lamp!

Text: Matthew 25:4 - "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."

Also read Matthew 25:1-13

Continued from Day Two... Have you ever played with your favorite toy, excited to push its' buttons or pull the levers and realize the batteries were missing? Or maybe they were dead? You can have the most incredible toy, but without its' batteries it isn't able to do a thing. It just sits there, lifeless. This is the same problem with the lamps in our Bible story. There were ten perfectly useful lamps that could light the way for the women to follow the groom to the wedding. But without the oil in the lamp, they were useless; they could not produce the light that they were made to produce.

The oil in the lamps represents the Holy Spirit of God. The Bible teaches us that God's Holy Spirit will come into our lives and light them up with the presence of God, then we can see the way to follow Jesus who is like the bridegroom in our story. The Holy Spirit will also be a light through us to shine like a lamp and give the light of God's love to the people around us. We can be a light to a dark world. We can also ask the Holy Spirit to fill up our lamps every day so our spiritual batteries will be charged to the max. Just like your favorite toy always does better with freshly charged batteries, so will we do better with a fresh filling of the Spirit of God (Ephesians 5:18).

Now let's talk about the five lamps that had no oil in them. Why didn't all the women fill their lamps before they went out to meet the bridegroom? Because five of them didn't think they would need it. You know, there are some people in this world that do not think they need God; they think they can make it on their own without Him. But as the Bible tells us, they did not make it to the wedding without the oil in their lamps and the same will happen to anyone who does not receive the Holy Spirit of God by being saved. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father but by me (John 14:6)."

- What does the oil represent?
- Why didn't the other five women bring oil for their lamps?
- Why is it important to keep our lamps full each day?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Oil: A picture or illustration of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 25:1-13).

Eternal Reward

Text: Revelation 22:12 - "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

Also read 2 Corinthians 5:9-11; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Have you ever won an award? I can remember winning a medal in track and field when I was in Junior High. It was the first and last medal I have ever won in track, but I still remember the feeling of doing my best and being rewarded for it. As nice as it was to win that medal, I have no idea where it is today. It was just an earthly reward. But the Bible teaches us that Jesus has rewards He will give out to us as Christians. The greatest reward He will give out is eternal life with Him forever in heaven. Do you know how you can win this reward? Well, all you have to do is accept His sacrifice for you on the cross and He will give you eternal life. The greatest reward in the world is really a free gift from God.

Jesus will give out other rewards in heaven too. He will reward us for the things we have done in His name. This is a time for all believers in Jesus to receive their rewards for what they have done in this life. Jesus will take everything we have done and putting it to the test. The test will be with fire. Only those things which remain after passing through the fire will be rewarded. Some things we do for the wrong reasons, these are called wood, hay and stubble. They will be burned. But the gold, silver and precious stones will remain because they are done out of a sincere heart. The fire will only make them better.

It is like in the story of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory when the geese that laid the golden eggs would have their eggs roll over the gold tester. If they were pure, they would be saved, but if they were bad, they would be dumped down the chute. Jesus will do the same with our works. The ones that were done with a pure motive for God will be saved, and the ones that we did so people could see us or like us will be dumped. Then He will hand out our rewards. Let's all do our best to please the Lord!

- What is the greatest reward in the world?
- How can you get it?
- How will Jesus judge our works?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Rewards: Special things that God will do for those who are faithful.

Works: Doing things that are good because we love the Lord.

Day Five

Jesus is Coming! Jesus is Coming!

Text: Revelation 22:20 - "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.' Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

Also read Revelation 22:7,12,17

Have you ever heard about a family who had their father leave to go to war or to travel far away to work for a long time? Have you ever had someone you loved leave for a while? Maybe even for a long period of time? Perhaps you knew they would be back, but you just didn't know exactly when. Can you imagine what it would be like to be waiting for the person you love to return from their long trip? If you can understand what that would feel like, then you can understand what the Bible teaches us about Jesus' return.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is coming back from his time away in heaven. And when He comes back, He is going to gather up (rapture) all of us who love Him and are waiting for Him. He is going to take us to heaven to live with Him forever. We do not know exactly when He will return, but we are waiting for Him.

The Bible teaches us that when Jesus left the earth, He told us He was going to prepare a place for us (John 14:2,3). He said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

So Jesus has promised us that He will come back to get us. We should be waiting for Him with great anticipation and joy. And while we are waiting we can tell everyone we meet that Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming for anyone who loves Him and has responded to His love. He died on the cross for our sins to be forgiven. If you accept Him and His sacrifice for you, then He is coming for you!

- Where did Jesus go?
- Will He come back?
- When He comes back what will happen to us?

Kid's Prayer Time



We have a lot that we can praise the Lord for. As we pray we can look forward to Jesus' soon return. And like John, we can say, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' If anyone hears let him also say, 'Come!' And let the thirsty come and those who desire can drink freely of the water of life."

Third Grade and Above

"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

Revelation 22:17