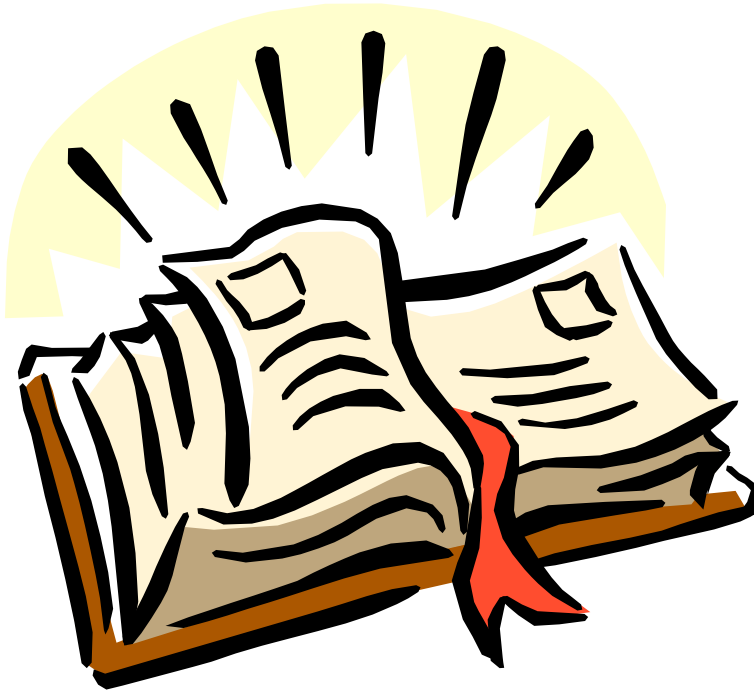


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Paul's Ministry in Rome

THEME: It is important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 28:17-31



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! This 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 we learned about Paul's Ministry in Rome. The theme was "It's important to share the truth of Jesus, even if people don't believe." Paul had such a heart for the Jewish people to come to Jesus. Paul was a Jew and he wanted to see his fellow Jews saved and in heaven with him. But they refused to believe. Yet Paul just kept on sharing.

What should we do when we know someone who refuses to believe in Jesus? Maybe it is someone who is very close to you. We can learn from Paul's example. This week we will be looking at how we can share the truth of Jesus even when those we care about don't believe in Jesus.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Acts 28:17-31**. 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!

The Hope of Israel

Text: Acts 28:20 - "For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain."
Also read Acts 28:17-20; Acts 13:32-39 and Genesis 3:15

Paul has been beaten, jailed, shipwrecked, bitten by a snake, and taken to Rome in chains. But even though he experienced all of these things, we meet him this week in Rome with a renewed energy to share the gospel again with the Jewish religious leaders. You may remember in our devotions several weeks ago, Paul had been arrested in the temple in Jerusalem. The Jews wanted to kill him and now we find him a couple of years later still in prison and now in Rome, the capital of the world at that time. This week we see that the rough times in Paul's life and the unbelief of his own people have not stopped the fire inside his heart to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with his people.

When Paul arrives in Rome he invites the leaders of the Jewish people to come and hear what he has to say. When Paul says that he wants to talk about the "hope of Israel", it would mean something very special to a Jewish man who had studied the Bible. In Genesis 3:15, there is a curse made on Satan and a promise to all mankind for the future. There was a promise of one who would come that would defeat Satan. All through Israel's history the Jewish people have been looking with great hope for the one who would fulfill this promise. The promise was about Jesus, but the Jewish leaders wouldn't believe. Paul still shares with them, even though they refuse to believe in Jesus.

Paul loves his fellow Jews so much he is willing to be bound and face death in order to bring the good news of Jesus to them. He wouldn't give up on them. Maybe you know of someone who you have told about Jesus, but it just seems like they don't want to listen or believe in Him. Don't give up! Keep praying and sharing as often as you can. Another great way to share Jesus with others is just to live for Him for others to see the good things He is doing in our lives. Let's never give up sharing the Lord with others!

- With all that Paul has gone through, why do you think he still wants to share the gospel?
- Have you shared your faith with someone who doesn't know Jesus? What happened?
- What should we do if people don't believe when we share about Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Unbelief: Doubt. The religious Jews had doubt that Jesus is the Messiah.

We Desire to Hear

Text: Acts 28:22 - "but we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere."

Also read Acts 28:21-22; 2 Tim 4:1-8

Ronnie had not been a Christian for very long when some of his buddies came up to him, asking him about what was so special about Jesus. Because Ronnie had been spending a lot of time reading his Bible, he was ready to answer his friends about what made Jesus so special. One of his friends said that Ronnie had become afraid to do anything for himself so he had to rely on God to do things for him. The old Ronnie would have defended himself by being angry and saying harsh words back, but because he knew the Lord now, Ronnie was ready to answer back with a gentle loving spirit.

But not all of his friends were convinced that Jesus was really the Way to live their lives now. It just didn't seem cool to them to be a Christian. Some of the kids turned their backs on Ronnie and walked away when he told them about Jesus, but that didn't stop Ronnie from telling everyone he met all about his best friend, Jesus. Ronnie just began to pray for his friends that didn't believe, because he knew that Jesus could still change their hearts and save them.

The apostle Paul and Ronnie had a lot in common. They both wanted to share their faith with people that they cared about. They wanted them to know who Jesus is and accept Him as Lord and Savior. But there are some people who want to hang on to their old ways and never change. Not everyone that we share Jesus with will believe in Him. They might even laugh at us or think we are strange, but God still wants us to share with them. Many people thought Jesus was "strange" but He had the words of life. He kept sharing and loving people even when they didn't believe. Let's be like Ronnie in our story today and tell others about Jesus, even when they don't want to believe.

- Why did Ronnie want to tell his friends about Jesus?
- What did Ronnie do when some of his friends didn't believe in Jesus?
- Who can you pray for this week who doesn't know Jesus?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Courage: Strength to stand up for your belief in front of opposition.

Day Three

They Don't Believe! Now What?

Text: Acts 28:24 - "And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved."

Read Acts 28:23-24; Romans 8:35-39

Some people come so close to believing in Jesus, but they just won't. It is really sad, especially when they are very close to us. Some of us might have aunts or uncles or cousins or grandparents that don't know Jesus. Maybe they have heard about Him many times, but still won't believe. What do we do when that happens? What would Jesus want us to do?

One thing that is very important is that salvation is God's plan, not ours. He thought of salvation, provides the way of salvation (through Jesus) and helps people to understand their need for salvation. It really isn't up to us to convince others to believe in Jesus. Our job is to just share with them what Jesus has done for us. One of the things that the Holy Spirit does is **convict** people of sin. Convict really means to convince or help to understand. He helps people that don't know Jesus understand that they need Him. We have to remember that it is God doing the work, not us. If it were up to us then no one could be saved. So when we do what Jesus wants us to do we can trust in Him to work in the hearts of those we love.

So what should we do? We need to be like Jesus as much as we can. We should continue to tell them about Jesus, but there are other things we can do as well. We can pray for them continually. That is one of the most important things that we can do. We can love them and do good things for them, like Jesus would. We can also allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives so that we are always an example of Jesus. We never know when the Lord is going to work in someone's heart. Sometimes people come to Him early in life and others late. Our job is to do what Jesus wants us to do and leave the rest to Him.

- Have you ever shared Jesus with someone who did not believe? What happened?
- Name some ways to be prepared to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- What can separate you from God's love?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Convict: to convince or to persuade. It is what the Holy Spirit does in our lives before we know Jesus to help us to understand that we need Him.

Get Saved Now!

Text: Acts 28:28-29 - "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles and they will hear it! And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a great dispute among themselves."

Also read Acts 28:25-31; Acts 10:44-48; Isaiah 42:1-9

Have you ever heard the story about the man who was stuck on the roof of his house in a great flood? The waters keep rising and if something doesn't happen soon he may lose his life. So he cries out to God for help. A few minutes later a boat comes by and the person in the boat yells out, "Get in my boat!" The man just replies, "No, thank you, I'm waiting for God to save me." A few minutes later a rescue worker from a dry part of ground throws out a rope and yells out, "Grab on to the rope!" The man just replies, "No thank you, I'm waiting for God to save me." Just a few more minutes later a helicopter flies over and lets down a ladder and the rescue worker yells out, "Grab on to the ladder!" The man just replies, "No, thank you, I'm waiting for God to save me."

Well the waters rise and eventually the man drowns in the water. When He stands before the Lord he asks, "why didn't you save me?" The Lord replies, "I tried to save you. I sent a boat and you refused. Then I sent a rope and you wouldn't take it. I even sent a helicopter and you said no." Then the man realized that God had tried to save him all along.

This must have been how Paul felt when he tried to explain the gospel to the Jewish people. They knew that God would save them through the coming of the promised Messiah. All through their history God promised to send a deliverer to remove their sins. Now Jesus has come to save them and they won't receive Him. They are waiting for another. God sent His son Jesus to give salvation to all that would receive Him. He has provided everything we need to be saved. Don't wait for another way to be saved! Ask Jesus in your heart today.

- What did the man in this story have to do in order to be saved?
- What must we do to be saved?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Messiah: A Hebrew word meaning "anointed one". It refers to the Savior that the Old Testament prophets predicted would be born of a virgin in Bethlehem. It is referring to Jesus.

Day Five

The Way, the Truth, the Life

Text: Psalm 18:30 - "The LORD redeems the soul of His servants and none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned."

Also read Psalm 18:28-36; and John 14:1-21

Paul was a great man in many respects. Before he came to know the Lord he was Saul, a man who was intelligent and diligent, following a way he thought to be true. He spent a great deal of his God-given talents persecuting Christians in the mistaken belief that he was right and was following the right way. But Jesus still loved Paul and wanted to see him saved. He had a purpose for his life and wanted Paul to follow Him.

We have studied the life of Paul in the Book of Acts and have seen how that in the beginning he held the coats of those who stoned the first Christian martyr, Stephen (Acts 7). We have also read about when Saul was on a journey to Damascus to persecute all of the Christians there that Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven. Saul obeyed Jesus and became a Christian, the very thing he had spent his life trying to stamp out with so much hate and violence (Acts 9). And we saw how Jesus changed Saul into a very different man by the name of Paul. He became one of the greatest men in Christian history to influence the world for Jesus - the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus changes people, there is no doubt about it. Not only did he turn Saul into Paul, but He can change each one of us. He gives everyone a reason for hope because He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Do you know someone who is a Saul? Maybe you think they would never come to Jesus. Maybe it is someone you love very much. There were many who never would have believed that Saul could become a Christian., but he did. We need to still share the love of Jesus with others, even when they don't believe.

- What is something that you have learned from the life of Paul?
- Should we ever give up on someone because they don't believe in Jesus?

Kid's Prayer Time



Today there are thousands of Christians who will suffer and die because they share the Hope and Truth of Jesus with others. Spend time today and every day to pray for our brothers and sisters who suffer for the love of Jesus so that others may live with Him forever. Ask the Lord what you can do to share Jesus with others who don't know Him yet.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"God has sent His
salvation to the Gentiles
and they will listen."**

Third Grade and Above

**"Therefore let it be
known to you that the
salvation of God has been
sent to the Gentiles, and
they will hear it."**

Acts 28:28