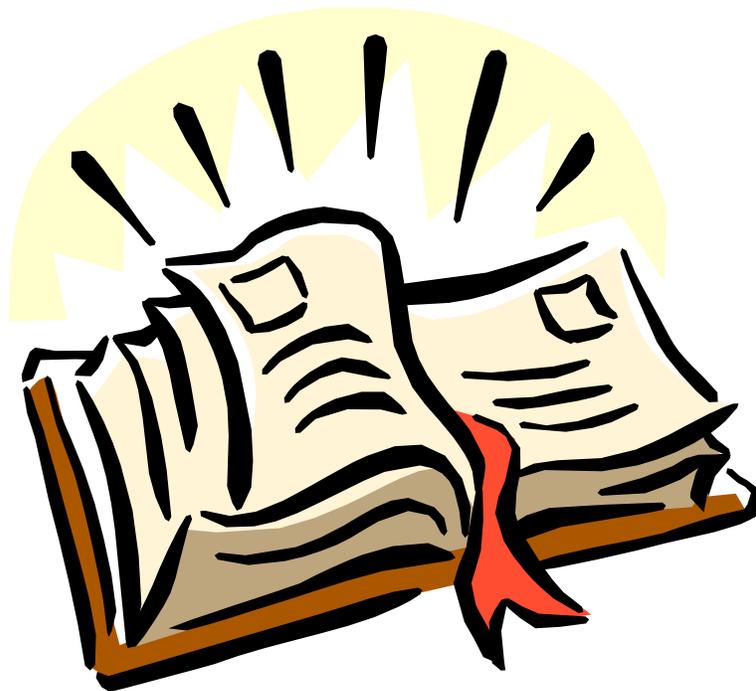


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: The Good Shepherd

THEME: Jesus is the good shepherd.

SCRIPTURE: John 10:1-21

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 Good Shepherd**. The theme was "**Jesus is the Good Shepherd**." The Bible uses the picture of a shepherd and sheep to help us to understand about our relationship with Him. Jesus is called the good shepherd in the Bible. He loves us, protects us and helps us. He even lays down His life for us. What a blessing!

We hope that our children will gain a better understanding of how much Jesus loves us in this picture of a shepherd with his sheep. Thankfully we have a shepherd that is a "good" shepherd and wants our very best. We can rest in the fact that Jesus will watch over us and take care of us.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 10:1-21**. 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!

Laying It Down

Text: John 10:15 – “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

Also read John 10:7-21

Jesus is the only person that ever claimed to be God and proved it! Jesus was the only savior who died and then came back to life again. Jesus' rising up from the dead (resurrection) was the proof that He was who He said He was. Throughout history there have been a lot of people who said that they were the saviors of the world. Unfortunately many people were fooled into believing them. But only one died and then came back from the dead. Buddha is thought to be a savior, Mohammed is thought to be a savior, and so are Confucius, and Joseph Smith. Yet you can visit their graves and see that all of them are still in there. Only Jesus beat death and still lives today.

In our Bible lesson this week we see that Jesus is the good shepherd. He also tells us that He is the door into the sheepfold. Jesus said that there is only one door that people can enter to have eternal life. All other doors lead to destruction (death). The destruction door is wide and there are many ways to get in, but the door to eternal life is narrow and there is only one way to get in. Jesus is the only way to get into eternal life. He is the narrow door. He is the only way because he is the only Savior. The rest of the doors are false doors that really want to rob and steal from you and destroy you.

The reason we can know that Jesus is truly the good shepherd and the right door is that he laid down his life for us and that He had the power to take it back up. In verses 17-18 of our lesson we see that Jesus has the power to defeat death. He can promise us life after death because he has defeated death and is alive today. Would you like to let him be your door to eternal life?

- What did Jesus do differently from everyone else who ever said that they were a savior?
- How does Jesus' rising from the dead prove that He is truly the savior?
- How did Jesus say that we could receive eternal life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Resurrection: The raising back to life of someone who is dead.

The Door

Text: John 10:9 – “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

Also read John 14:1-7

Being a shepherd out in the deserts and mountains of Israel could really be a tough job. Keeping the sheep together in the daytime was tough enough, but at night it could cost you your life. You see; often times the shepherd would be miles away from a good sheep pen as night would be approaching. So they would have to make a pen just to get them through the night.

What the shepherds would do is take sticks, thorn-bushes and brush to make a circular wall. He would make sure to leave an opening so the sheep could get in and out. Then the shepherd would herd the sheep into the makeshift pen. Since there was no gate for the door, he would lay in front of the door making his body the gate of the pen. If the sheep wanted to get out they would have to step over the shepherd. And if a thief or a robber wanted to get in they would also have to get past the shepherd first.

In our Bible reading this week we see Jesus describing himself as the door to the sheepfold. Jesus is the door to the safety of salvation. If you want to be in his sheepfold then you would have to make Him the shepherd of your life. He will not reject anyone who wants to be saved. Jesus is a shepherd who is willing to lay down his life and be the door to the pen. He gave his life to save us. He was willing to die on the cross to save us, and to give us eternal life. There are other sheep pens that have shepherds who are not willing to be the door to the pen. Those shepherds are willing to let the sheep be killed, stolen, and destroyed. They are not willing to die for the sheep. But Jesus came to this world to be our Shepherd and to give us abundant life. Jesus is the only door to salvation. No one can be saved any other way except through Jesus. (John 14:6)

- How was a shepherd in Israel the door to the sheep pen?
- How is this a picture of Jesus?
- Does Jesus protect us from harm?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Door: The way that you enter in. Jesus said that He is the door into the sheepfold. Jesus is the way for us to become a child of God!

The Hireling

Text: John 10:12 - "But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them."

Also read Acts 20:27-32

There used to be a cartoon on television that was about a sheep dog that would always be sitting on a hill watching the sheep. There was a coyote that would always be trying to outsmart the dog to get to the sheep. Of course he never got away with it. But in one episode the coyote tried a brilliant new strategy. He dressed up like a sheep dog and carried his lunch pail up to the real sheep dog and said he was relieving him of his duty for the day. It worked!!! Well, almost. When the coyote went down the hill to get a sheep the sheep dog was waiting for him, dressed up as a sheep. And when the coyote grabbed the sheep to eat him, the dog conked him on the head and then took off his disguise. A true sheep dog would never attack the sheep, and he would never let anyone harm the sheep.

In our Bible reading today we learn about a person who is called a hireling. A hireling is a person like a coyote in a sheep dog's clothing. They do not love the sheep. A hireling may not harm the sheep himself, but he would never be willing to risk his life to save the sheep.

A sheep dog is like a shepherd; he watches over the sheep. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who watches over his sheep like the sheep dog in the cartoon did. Jesus is not a hireling because he is willing to and did, give his life for his sheep. Jesus would never let anyone harm His sheep. It is important to remember that there are always coyotes out there that are willing to dress up like a sheep dog and try to get us to follow them. But we should never follow anyone other than Jesus. If he is our sheep dog then we can trust him to conk the coyotes on the head when they try to harm us.

- In the cartoon what did the coyote do to try to get at the sheep?
- Does a hireling care as much as the shepherd?
- How does Jesus protect us as our Good Shepherd?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Hireling: Somebody who works for another for wages.

A Good Shepherd

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

Also read Isaiah 40:11

I once had the privilege of meeting a real life shepherd in Israel. It was not quite what I had imagined it would be. He smelled very bad. He wore an old suit and had holes in his shoes. He looked incredibly lonely. It was not anything like the somewhat glamorous, respectable profession I had pictured. I was impressed with how dedicated he had to be in order to be a good shepherd. This shepherd was with his sheep night and day.

As we look at our passage of scripture we see what it is to be a good shepherd. A good shepherd knows his sheep. He knows them by name and they know his voice because he is always talking to them. He is with them day and night. He never leaves them alone. A good shepherd is so dedicated and committed to his sheep that he would lay down his life for them.

Jesus is our good shepherd. He knows us so well that He knows how many hairs are on our head. (Matthew 10:30) He always prays to the Father for us. (Hebrews 7:25) Yes, He knows you and I well. The question is whether you and I know Him. He wants us to know Him like the sheep know their shepherd. So we need to listen to His voice. We can hear His voice by reading the Bible and by praying.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He gave His life for the whole world (John 3:16). The Bible teaches us that there is no greater love than this, that one would lay down his life for a friend (John 15:13). Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross to save us. That is why He is the Good Shepherd. Are you glad to be one of His sheep?

- Have you ever met a real shepherd?
- In what ways is Jesus a "good shepherd?"
- We can be at peace and be secure knowing that Jesus is our good shepherd.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Good Shepherd: A shepherd who takes very good care of his flock, even to the point of laying down their life.

Day Five

The Sheep

Text: John 10:4 - "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

Also read Psalm 23

When you think about sheep, what do you think of? Do you think about them jumping over your bed at night as you count them while you're trying to fall asleep? Do you think of them running together in a flock on a hillside with a sheep dog lapping at their heels? Or maybe you picture them being fleeced of their wool? Probably the favorite picture is the sheep grazing and the shepherd sitting under a tree keeping watch over them. The Bible uses sheep as a picture of us, so let's take a look at some reasons why.

The sheep and the shepherd are a good picture of people and God. As sheep need a shepherd so do we as people, need God. Why do sheep need a shepherd? There are several reasons why, let's look at a few. First, sheep are not known for being very smart. They do not always think they need the shepherd. So they wander off on their own, only to get lost. They, like us, are lost without the shepherd! Secondly the sheep are not known for being very tough. They are easy prey for other animals because do not have anything to fight back with. They do not have sharp teeth or claws, and they can not run very fast. They like us are just an easy meal for the enemy without the shepherd. Finally, sheep are followers. They are easily herded and led by anyone who acts like a shepherd. They can even be fooled at times by a false shepherd who wants to destroy them. They like us are easily led in the wrong direction unless they keep listening to the good shepherd's voice.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. If we wander from Him we are lost. Without His protection we are easy prey for Satan. Finally we must let Him be our guide because He is the only one we can trust with our lives.

- What do you think of when you think of sheep?
- Why does the Bible compare people to sheep?
- How can we know if someone is a false shepherd?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week let's thank the Lord for being our Good Shepherd, for laying down His life for us, being the door to the sheepfold for us, and protecting us from the enemy who wants to destroy us. What a wonderful savior we have!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

"I am the good shepherd."

Third Grade and Above

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own."

John 10:14