

Devotional for Kids in Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

Introduction

This guide is created to help parents and children walk through some of the questions and next steps for children who have said yes to Christ as their Savior, or who are in that place of discovering *Who Is Jesus?*

Over the next 8 weeks we hope that you will take your children on a journey to discover why they have chosen to accept Jesus as savior and what are some next steps to discover about Salvation, Baptism, the Bible, Prayer, the Church and other very important topics.

You can use this information as a guide or even a weekly devotional to help your children dig a little deeper into their faith and also begin to challenge them to make it their own.

- Our prayer is that your children will have a deeper understanding of who God is and what He has done for them, and who they are in Christ.
- We want children to take ownership of their faith and then begin to take steps to walk it out by using some of the methods that you will read about throughout the next 8 weeks.











What Is Salvation?

The word we use to talk about how Jesus saves us is called salvation. This is a fancy word that means we have been saved by God. How did God save us? Well, He sent Jesus! He's the coolest person we can ever know. Jesus is AMAZING! He is the Son of God! He is POWERFUL. He can HEAL SICKNESS and He even brought people BACK FROM THE DEAD! Do you know why Jesus can do all that cool stuff? Because He's God! But the most AMAZING thing that Jesus did for us is He saved us. He did this by dying on a cross to pay for our sins. See, only Jesus could pay the price for us because only Jesus lived a perfect life. He saves us from our sins to make us right with God. Because of that, we get to be in a relationship with God where He helps us to live out the plan He has for our lives and we get to live in heaven with Him FOREVER. Isn't that awesome? If you haven't put your trust in Jesus yet, you can do it right now! It's easy. Just tell Jesus you know that you have sinned, sin means we have disobeyed God, and that you are sorry. Tell Him that you put all your trust in Him, you believe that He rose from the grave, and invite Him to be Lord and Savior of your life.

If you haven't put your trust in Jesus yet, do it today! It's as easy as ABC. Click this link for the <u>ABC's of Salvation</u>.

Romans 3:22 "We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are."



- What is the problem we all have? Who came to fix the problem?
- 2. What do we have to do to be saved from our sins?
- 3. Read 1 John 1:9. To confess means to admit we're sinners. Who do we need to tell that we're sinners? What does God do with our sins?







What Is Baptism?

"Baptism". Maybe you've heard that word before or seen it happen in church but you're not quite sure what it means. Well, today we'll talk about it so you can understand what it is, why we do it, what it represents, and then you can decide if you're ready to be baptized! When a person is baptized, they are dunked in water by a pastor or someone who taught them about Jesus. They don't do this because they like getting wet with their clothes on, they do it to be obedient to Jesus. Jesus tells us that when we put our trust in Him, we should get baptized. When we trust in Jesus, we're saying "sorry" for our sins, we're inviting Jesus to live in our hearts, and then living our lives to honor Him. Baptism is the symbol for this heart change. When we're dunked in the water, we're saying "See ya!" to our sins and when we come out of the water we're saying we're going to live a new life in Jesus. It's our way of announcing to our friends and family that we belong to Jesus! That's what baptism is all about. If you're ready to be baptized, talk to your parents about it today.

Romans 6:4 "For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."

Sign up for Baptism



- 1. Who told us that we should get baptized?
- 2. What does baptism mean? Have you been baptized yet?
- Read 1 Peter 3:21. How does being baptized clean us? Who makes us "clean"?
- 4. What is the number one reason you should be baptized in water?







How Do I Pray?

Did you know that praying is how we talk to God? It's true and that's why it's important to learn how to do it well! Think about that for a second. Some people might think the coolest person they could ever talk to is the President or a famous athlete. Even though that would be cool, having the ability to talk to the God of the universe is the coolest thing ever! So, let's learn how to pray the right way. Let's think of it with the letters **P-A-L**. Do you know what that spells? Pal! Think of prayer like talking to your pal, God. P stands for praise. When you pray, start with thanking God for all that He's done in your life. The A means ask. Spend time asking God for help. He wants to hear your prayer requests. The **L** is for listen. We should take time to listen to God. God always has an answer for us. It may not always be what we asked for, but He knows what's best. Our job is to listen and obey. Another great way to hear from God is reading the Bible and doing what it says. Remember, the Bible is full of God's truth that tells us how to live. So, remember how cool it is to pray to God and pray like a PAL!

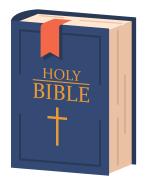
1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Never stop praying."



- How often do you talk to your friends and how do you communicate? (eg. phone, in person, through a video game)
- 2. Why should we spend time thanking God? What are some things you're thankful for in your life?
- 3. Read Psalm 32:8. Who will guide us through life? Why can we trust that God knows what's best for us?









Why Read and Study the Bible?

Maybe you look at the Bible as just an old book that only adults read. But did you know that the Bible is for you, too? It is and here's why. God gave us the Bible as our instruction book for life. Think about your lego sets. In order to build the structure correctly, you have to follow all the steps in the instructions, right? Otherwise you might end up with something different than the picture on the box. Well, that's how it works with us, too. God created us so He knows how we should be put together and how we should work. So, the Bible just tells us what to do. The most important thing the Bible teaches us is how we can be saved. Remember, we're all broken from sin and Jesus came to die for our sins to heal us! The Bible also tells us how we are supposed to act. God created us to be obedient, kind, forgiving and to always tell the truth. And, it warns us about danger and the things we shouldn't do, like lie or steal. The Bible is our instruction book for life so let's read it and obey it!

Psalm 119:103 "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth"

2 Timothy 3:16b "It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."



- Have you (or maybe a parent) ever tried to cook something without using a recipe? How did it turn out?
- 2. What does the Bible say about Jesus?
- 3. What are some other things the Bible tells us we should and shouldn't do?
- 4. What are your favorite stories from the Bible?
- 5. Read Psalm 119:103-105. How does the Bible help us to live for God?







First Communion Registration



What Is Communion?

Communion is a very important tradition for Christians. Jesus introduced this idea to the disciples right before He went to the cross. They were all sitting down for a meal when Jesus told them a story. He used food and drink from the table to teach the lesson. Jesus picked up some bread and broke it into smaller pieces and said, "This is my body that will be broken for you." Then He picked up the drink and said, "This is my blood that will be spilled for you." Now, the disciples were confused. Why was Jesus talking about being broken and his blood being spilled? They were just enjoying a meal together. But Jesus was warning them about what was to come. Jesus was going to be arrested, put in jail, beaten and put on a cross to die. Jesus wanted the disciples to understand why that was happening. It had to happen so Jesus could pay for our sins. He was choosing to do this for us. Communion simply represents what Jesus did for us. So, at church, we use bread or crackers to remind us that his body was broken for us and we drink juice to remember that his blood paid for our sins. We do this to remember his sacrifice for us!

Luke 22:19b "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."



- Share some of your favorite family traditions. Do your friends think some of them are weird?
- 2. What do people do when they take communion? What does each item represent?
- 3. Why does Jesus want us to take communion?
- Can anyone take communion? Yes, anyone who
 has given their heart and life to Jesus and wants to
 remember what Jesus did for them at the cross.
 (1 Cor 11:23-26)
- 5. Read John 3:16-17. Why did Jesus come? What does it mean that we can have eternal life?









The Fruit of The Spirit

When we think about fruit, we think about watermelon, apples and bananas. But we're going to talk about different fruits - the fruit God wants to grow in our lives. You've probably heard of them before - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and selfcontrol. This is the fruit that should be displayed in a follower of Jesus. And guess what? When we put our trust in Jesus, He gives us the Holy Spirit who comes and lives in our hearts and helps us to produce this good fruit in our lives. Here's a helpful way to think about it. Think about an apple tree. The trunk is in the ground and brings the food and water to the branches. The branches then grow the apples that we later pick and eat! The Holy Spirit is like the trunk. He lives in our hearts, feeding us with God's love and Truth. We are the branches. As we're filled with God's love and truth, we'll act and talk in ways that are honoring to God-these are the fruits! And, when people see the fruits of love, kindness and patience in our lives, they'll know we belong to Jesus!

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."



- If you could grow any type of food in your yard, what would you grow?
- 2. Name the fruits of the Spirit. Which one do you need to grow more in your life?
- 3. Who helps us to grow the fruits in our hearts? How do The Fruits help us in life?
- 4. Read Matthew 7:16-20. What is Jesus saying about fruit and actions in this passage?









Armor of God

Have you ever thought about how cool it would be to try on real armor? We're going to learn about a special uniform we get to wear as Christians. It's not like a football uniform and it doesn't come with a police badge. It's really not clothes at all. We're talking about God's armor. The Bible says that when we trust in Jesus, we have the strength to fight against sinful things which are things that don't honor God. This special armor helps us to do that. We get the Belt of Truth that helps us to know right and wrong. The Breastplate of Righteousness protects our hearts and reminds us that we belong to God. The Shoes of Peace helps us to be brave in sharing the love of Jesus with others. The Shield of Faith helps us to fight off the attacks of the enemy and reminds us that we have Jesus on our side. The Helmet of Salvation reminds us that Jesus has forgiven us and we have the hope of heaven some day. The Sword of Truth is our weapon, not to hurt people, but to fight off sin. The Truth is God's word, the Bible, and it tells us how to live. So kids, remember your special uniform and be sure to put it on everyday.

Ephesians 6:10 "Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power."



- In your opinion, what sports team has the coolest uniforms? Why do you think certain jobs like police officers or doctors need to wear a uniform?
- 2. How does the shield of faith help us in life?
- 3. What book is our sword?
- 4. Read Philippians 1:27. What do you think it means to be a citizen of heaven? How can God's armor help us with that?







Why Church?

Why is going to church important? Have you ever wondered why you go to church? Well, in today's lesson you'll discover three reasons why you go to church. Here's the first reason. Church is where you learn about Jesus. Unless you go to a Christian school, you won't hear your teachers talk about Jesus in your school. So, we need to go to church to hear about Jesus and all He's done for us. The second reason is that going to church allows us to connect to other Christian kids. Our Christian friends help us to honor God and encourage us to do things like read our Bibles and pray. And, the third reason is that the church allows us to use the gifts God has given us to help others. So, if you're a great singer, you can help with the worship time at church. If you're super friendly, you can help to greet the new kids who come to your class. Going to church is important!

Hebrews 10:24 "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works."



- 1. What's your favorite thing to do at church? Why?
- 2. Why is it important to connect to Jesus?
- 3. How can your Christian friends help you in life?
- 4. Read Philippians 2:1-2. How can you be loving toward your friends at church? How can you serve your teachers at church? How should you treat the new kids that come into your class?