

JESUS STORYBOOK DEVOTIONAL TIPS!

- 1 Take your time and enjoy reading the story. Especially if you have younger kids, make it fun!
- 2 Questions are provided by age range, but feel free to use any that are helpful.
- 3 Some answers are provided, but there may be other answers that work as well.
- 4 Remember, it's okay to say, "What a great question, but I don't know that answer" and remind kids that you are learning about Jesus too!

SUNDAY APRIL 24

- 1 READ "THE GOOD SHEPHERD. DAVID THE SHEPHERD KING" IN THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE FROM PSALM 23 & 51, 2 SAMUEL 7.
- 2 ASK THESE QUESTIONS

PRE-SCHOOL

What was David's job before he was a king? (*Shepherd*) What does a shepherd do? (*Takes care of sheep*) God is like a shepherd too. Who are His sheep? (*We are. He takes care of us.*)

KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE

When David grew up, he became a king. But in this story, we read about two other jobs he had first. What are they? (*Shepherd and songwriter*) David made some big mistakes in his life. What did he do when he made mistakes? (*He asked God to give him a new heart and make him clean inside.*) David was so thankful that God forgave him, so he wrote a lot of songs about God. What is your favorite part about David's song in this story?

4TH-5TH GRADE

David was not a perfect person, but God still made him a great king. Why do you think God still allowed David to be a king after all his mistakes? (*Because David prayed that God would give him a new heart and make him clean inside.*) How does David describe God in the song he wrote?

M12 / H12

What are some hard things you're walking through in life right now? How is God guiding you through them?

SUNDAY MAY 1

- 1 READ "A LITTLE SERVANT GIRL AND THE PROUD GENERAL. THE LITTLE GIRL AND NAAMAN" IN THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE FROM 2 KINGS 5.
- 2 ASK THESE QUESTIONS

PRE-SCHOOL

Was Naaman a good king? (*No. He killed the little girl's family.*) What was wrong with Naaman? (*He was very sick and his skin was icky.*) Even though Naaman was not a good king, what did God do? (*He healed him.*)

KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE

In this story, we read that there were two things that were wrong with Naaman. What were those two things? (*Naaman had leprosy and his heart was proud. Naaman didn't believe he needed God.*) Naaman needed help or he would die from leprosy. Who wanted to help Naaman? (*A little slave girl*) The little girl told Naaman to go to Elisha. What strange thing did Elisha tell Naaman to do so he could be healed? (*Wash in a slimy, stinky river.*) How did washing in the river heal both Naaman's skin and his heart? (*His skin was smooth like a baby, and God healed his prideful heart.*)

4TH-5TH GRADE

What was special about the little slave girl in this story? (*Her family was from Israel – the home of God's people. Naaman was her enemy. He killed her family and made her a slave. But she loved and forgave Naaman.*) The little girl is a great example for us to learn to forgive those who hurt us. Naaman had leprosy. What does this story say it means to have leprosy of the heart? How did God heal Naaman? (*He healed his body and his heart.*)

M12 / H12

Naaman's pride delayed his obedience. Where has God ever asked you to do something that felt embarrassing in the moment? Did that feeling slow you down in saying YES to what God was asking you to do? (*Encourage your student that this feeling is normal sometimes when God's desire for us feels different than what is normal to culture. Also, encourage your student in knowing that saying YES to God always leads to the best.*)

SUNDAY MAY 8

- 1 READ "OPERATION 'NO MORE TEARS!' THE RESCUER WILL COME" IN THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE FROM ISAIAH 9, 11, 40, 50, 53, 55, 60.
- 2 ASK THESE QUESTIONS

PRE-SCHOOL

Isaiah's name means "God to the rescue". Do you know what your name means? (The website mykairos.org has a long list of names with their meaning) What was Isaiah's job? (To listen to God and tell people what He said.)

KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE

God used Isaiah to write a long letter to His people. What did God say He would send to help people find their way back to God? (*He would send a shepherd who will become a King*) The King God would send isn't like a normal king. What did Isaiah say the King would be like? (*He would be a servant, heal the world, hero, rescuer, will die but come back to life, etc.*)

4TH-5TH GRADE

Do you think it was easy for Isaiah to read God's letter to the people over and over? (*No*) Why not? (*They wouldn't believe what God said.*) That may sound silly because God knows everything! We should believe someone who knows everything! But do you ever have a hard time believing what God says? (*This is a great opportunity to share how sometimes even grown-ups struggle to believe what God says. Pray together to ask God to help us believe all His promises that are found in the Bible.*)

M12 / H12

Isaiah wrote these words 700 years before Jesus would fulfill them on the cross. Look Isaiah 53 in The Message Paraphrase and share a couple of the prophecies that stick out to you. Where do you see Jesus in Isaiah 53? (Pick out the statements in Isaiah that reveal that Jesus would die for us on the cross). No one listened to Isaiah when he shared this Good News with his people. Where do you struggle to believe this Good News?

SUNDAY MAY 15

- 1 READ "DANIEL AND THE SCARY SLEEPOVER. DANIEL & THE LION'S DEN" IN THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE FROM DANIEL 6.
- 2 ASK THESE QUESTIONS

PRE-SCHOOL

What was Daniel's job working for King Darius? (*He was King Darius' most important helper*) Do you like being a helper? The other helpers didn't like Daniel, so they tried to get him in trouble. When he got caught praying to God, what did the king have to do? (*Throw Daniel in with the lions*)

KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE

The other helpers didn't like Daniel, so they tried to get him in trouble. What did the other helpers do? (*They tricked the king to make a law that everyone had to pray only to the king*) What happened when Daniel was thrown in with the lions? (*God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths*) What is something we can learn about God from this story?

4TH-5TH GRADE

The other helpers didn't like Daniel. They spied on Daniel to find things wrong, but Daniel was a good helper and prayed every day. Yet something bad still happened to him! Is that fair? Do you know anyone else who was very good but bad things happened to them? (*There are multiple answers. But the best example is Jesus. He never ever sinned but He suffered and died on a cross.*) Even when we obey God, sometimes bad things still happen. From Daniel's story, what can we see that God will do when bad things happen? (*He will find a way to rescue us. Sometimes we still have to go through hard times, but He will keep us safe.*)

M12 / H12

People tried to use Daniel's faith against him. Share a time where your faith has cost you publicly. How could God be inviting you to be more public with your faith?

SUNDAY MAY 22

- 1 READ "GOD'S MESSENGER. JONAH AND THE BIG FISH" IN THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE FROM JONAH 1-4, HEBREWS 1:1-2.
- 2 ASK THESE QUESTIONS

PRE-SCHOOL

Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh and tell people God loved them? (*The people in Nineveh were Jonah's enemies and they were doing bad things*) Jonah tried to run away from God by sailing away on a boat. What happened to Jonah when the storm came? (*The sailors had to throw Jonah in the water and God sent a big fish to rescue Jonah*) What did Jonah do inside the fish? (*He prayed.*)

KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE

Jonah didn't like the people of Nineveh. They were Jonah's worst enemies. Why did God want Jonah to go to Nineveh? (*Because even though they were bad, God still loved them.*) Jonah tried to run away from God. Was that a good idea? (*No. God will always come and find us because God loves us.*) When the storm came and the sailors threw Jonah overboard, God sent a big fish to rescue him. Can you imagine what Jonah was thinking about inside the fish? (*It was scary and smelly. He was probably wishing he had listened to God.*)

4TH-5TH GRADE

God loved the people of Nineveh even though they did bad things. Is it ever difficult for you to love someone who does bad things? What were some lessons you think Jonah learned in this story? (*You can't run from God. God loves all people and wants to rescue them. God will forgive us when we make mistakes, etc.*) Who is the other Messenger that God sent? (*God's own son, Jesus.*) Jesus brought a very important message to some other people that did bad things. Who are those people? (*Us*)

M12 / H12

Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh because he didn't think the people deserved God's love. Who are some people in your life that you have a hard time showing love to? What is one simple thing you could do to show love to them this week?

SUNDAY MAY 29

- 1 READ "GET READY! GOD'S PEOPLE RETURN FROM BEING SLAVES" IN THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE FROM NEH. 8-10, MAL. 1, 3, 4, EZRA 7.
- 2 ASK THESE QUESTIONS

PRE-SCHOOL

Why did God's people feel sad when Ezra read the book of rules? (*Because they saw they were not living the way they should.*) What did Ezra tell God's people to do when they were sad? (*God wanted them to be happy. He wanted them to have a party because God was going to send a Rescuer.*)

KINDERGARTEN-3RD GRADE

God sent Ezra and Nehemiah to read the rules to God's people after they came home from being slaves. When God's people felt sad about not following the rules, what did the people think God would do? (*God's people thought God would punish them for not following the rules.*) Ezra gave God's people good news about God's plan for them. What did we read about God's plan in this story? (*God wants us to be happy. He will rescue us over and over. He loves us with always and forever love. He forgives, etc.*)

4TH-5TH GRADE

In the Old Testament, we have read many stories of God's people breaking the rules and when they realize it, God's people feel sad. Even when people keep breaking rules, what does God always do? (*God forgives His people and finds a way to rescue them.*) What are some of your favorite ways that God shows His love for us?

M12 / H12

Share about a time when you heard a sermon or a Bible truth that made you feel bad about something that was a part of your life or behavior. Do you remember what was said and why it made you feel that way? Though God doesn't want to lead us to feel bad, He does bring conviction into our lives when we are living apart from His ways. The law helps to show us where we fall short. God's plan wasn't to punish us but to send The Rescuer.



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