

# Jesus Helps Catch Fish

John 21:1-14

## MEMORY VERSE

JOHN 20:30-31

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Construction paper, scissors and markers.

A table, a large sheet, and cut-out fish.

## ATTENTION GRABBER!

### Through Christ I Can...

Play “Simon Says” with a different twist. Instead of saying “Simon Says” and giving a command, say “Through Christ.” This will remind the children that only through Christ can we do anything. As an example, have the leader say:

Through Christ I can touch my head  
Through Christ I can clap three times.  
I can jump on one foot.  
Through Christ I can touch my ears.

If the children copy the leader when he says, “I can” they are out; if they copy Simon when he says “Through Christ” they can continue to play. Continue playing using other commands, on occasion the leader should see if they can throw of the rest of the group by giving a command without saying, “through Christ.”

Explain to the children that today they will learn that **We can do all things through Christ.**

## LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we are going to see where Jesus performs a miracle for His disciples. He has risen from the dead and has only appeared to His disciples a couple of times. Through the miracle that Jesus would perform, Jesus was going to teach His disciples a valuable lesson. We will learn for our lives that **we can do all things through Christ**. We begin our story with Jesus at the Sea of Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee.

### JOHN 21:1-3

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

Simon Peter, Thomas called Didymus, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

Jesus had told the disciples to meet Him in Galilee. While they waited for His appearance, Peter decided to go fishing. The other disciples followed him. It is possible that Peter began to doubt that Jesus was going to come and he returned to what he did before he met Jesus. Peter may have thought that everything was over in the way of a ministry. But Jesus wasn't done using Peter. He certainly had other plans for him.

Peter was a natural born leader. He comes up with the idea that he was going to go back into the fishing business and the rest of the disciples thought that would be a good idea. So they all packed

into a boat and went out fishing. They spend the whole night fishing and the Bible says that they caught nothing.

Have you ever tried to do anything apart from Jesus, in your own strength? So many times it turns out to be a disaster. What the disciples were learning here was very valuable. They couldn't do anything without Jesus. Jesus said in John 15, "without Me you can do nothing." How true that is. We need Jesus' help and blessing upon everything we do for it to go right. It is when we don't include Jesus, or ask Him if a decision we make is OK that we get into trouble. Well the disciples are going to learn that without Jesus we can do nothing, however **we can do all things through Christ.**

#### JOHN 21:4-6

But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."

And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

The disciples had fished all night but had caught nothing. Jesus knew they had a need; they had no food. So Jesus met the need and told them where they could find fish. The disciples tried all night to accomplish things on their own but as soon as they had Jesus' word they had success. We too can try to accomplish things in our own power but we will never know true success until we are doing what Jesus has told us to do. **We can do all things through Christ.**

Something else that is interesting is that they were doing what they knew best, fishing. Peter had spent his entire life fishing before he came to Jesus. So he might have been considered kind of an expert. So do you think that it may have been difficult for him to take instruction from someone when he is an expert? Sometimes our pride gets in the way of things the God wants to do in our lives. But for us to really learn valuable spiritual lessons we find that often they come mixed with humility.

Peter found that there were so many fish that the net couldn't even hold them all. Jesus provided for all of his needs. Jesus was communicating to Peter that he didn't need to go back to fishing as his occupation. He was going to provide for him. As we will see later, God had other plans for Peter's life. God has a plan for our lives as well. We can trust Him to provide everything we need.

#### JOHN 21:7-8

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

John is known as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." And he was the first to recognize Jesus. He got excited and yelled out, "It is the Lord!" Now Peter got even more excited and jumped in the water. Peter seemed to like to jump in the water whenever he saw Jesus. Remember when he jumped in the water when he saw Jesus walking on the water?

Peter loved Jesus very much and couldn't wait to be able to spend time with Him. The others followed in the boat bringing the fish with them. **We can do all things through Christ.**

JOHN 21:9-11

Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

While in the boat, the disciples could not draw in the net it was so heavy, but when Jesus commanded Peter to bring the fish he was able to drag it to land by himself. When Jesus tells us to do something, He gives us the power to do it, even though it may seem impossible. **We can do all things through Christ.**

## **So-o-o-o-o-o-o Many Fish**

Have your class cut out as many fish shapes from construction paper as they can in an allotted time (2 - 3 minutes) Have the fish all be the same size to be fair. When they are done, have them count up as many as they've cut. Compare the number with the number of fish in today's story.

Let the children take home a few fish each to be used as book marks to remind them of today's lesson. They may want to write on each fish: **We can do all things through Christ.**

JOHN 21:12-14

Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" - knowing that it was the Lord.

Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

Jesus showed His acceptance of the disciples, despite their lack of faith, by asking them to eat with Him. This showed that they were still a part of Him and His ministry. The disciples realized their mistake in doubting that Jesus would come and did not ask Him who He was. This was the third time the disciples saw Jesus alive after He was buried and came back to life.

Isn't it wonderful to still see the servant's heart of Jesus? He served the disciples breakfast. He cooked it and ministered to them. Jesus had risen from the dead. He is God in the flesh. If anyone could demand being served it is certainly Jesus, yet He has the humble heart of a servant. How we can learn from His example!

We need to trust God's word and know that what He says is going to happen will. We also need to be confident that when Jesus tells us to do something, He will equip us to do it. **We can do all things through Christ.**

## All Things Through Christ

Turn your classroom table upside down or make an outline on the floor with masking tape for a boat. Pretend that it is in the Sea of Galilee. Have your children crowd onto the boat and cast a net, you can use a sheet or a large towel, on one side of the "boat." Have them cast the net on the other side and add all of the fish that they made in the "So Many Fish" activity.

Retell the story as the children act it out.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in the Lord completely and to always include the Lord in everything they do. If there is any child who has not responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.



# JESUS HELPS CATCH FISH

(JOHN 21:1-14)



"And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes."

**JOHN 21:6**

# JESUS HELPS CATCH FISH

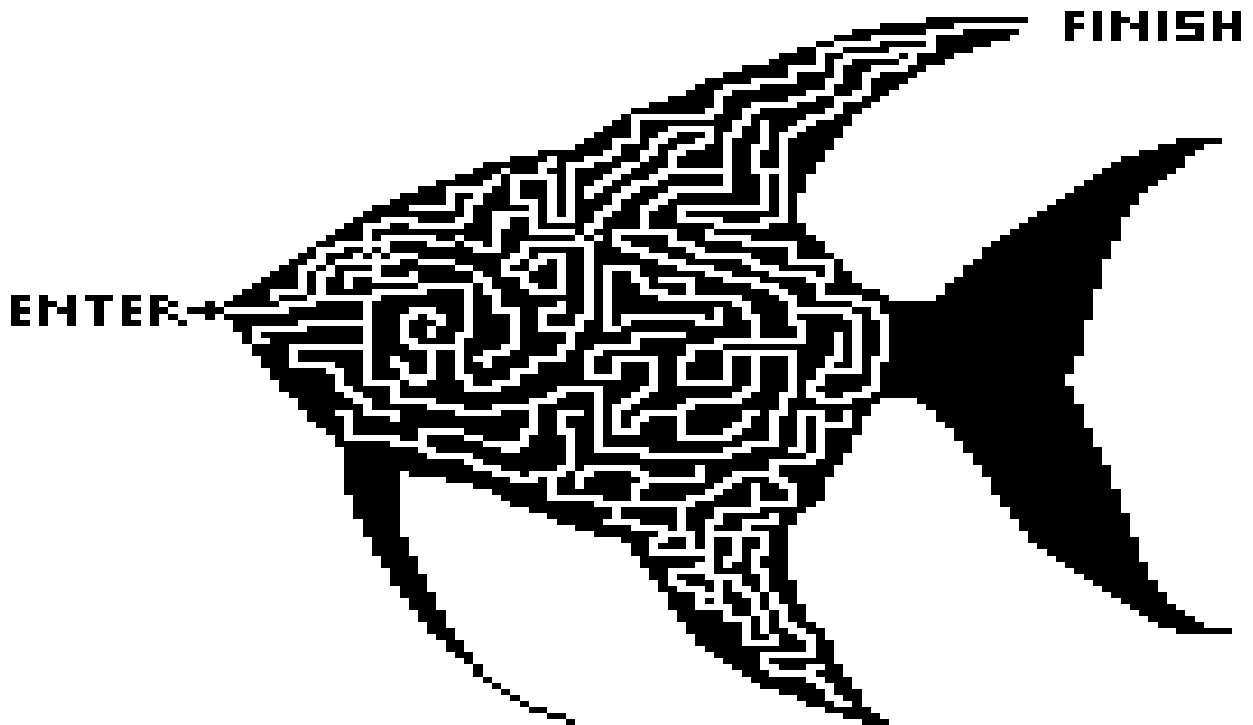
(JOHN 21:1-14)

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NATHANAEL

NOTHING  
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SEA OF TIBERIAS  
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SONS OF ZEBEDEE



# JESUS HELPS CATCH FISH

## (JOHN 21:1-14)

### MEMORY VERSE:

*"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." JOHN 20:30-31*

### FILL IN THE BLANK:

1. "Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going \_\_\_\_\_.' They said to him, 'We are going with you also.' They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing." **JOHN 21:3**

### TRUE OR FALSE:

2. "But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus." **JOHN 21:4**

**TRUE OR FALSE**

3. "Then Jesus said to them, 'Children, have you any food?' They answered Him, 'No.' " **JOHN 21:5**

**TRUE OR FALSE**

### FILL IN THE BLANK:

4. "And He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of fish." **JOHN 21:6**

### TRUE OR FALSE:

5. "Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread." **JOHN 21:9**

**TRUE OR FALSE**

### FILL IN THE BLANKS:

6. "Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not \_\_\_\_\_." **JOHN 21:11**

7. "Jesus then came and took the \_\_\_\_\_ and gave it to them, and likewise the \_\_\_\_\_." **JOHN 21:13**

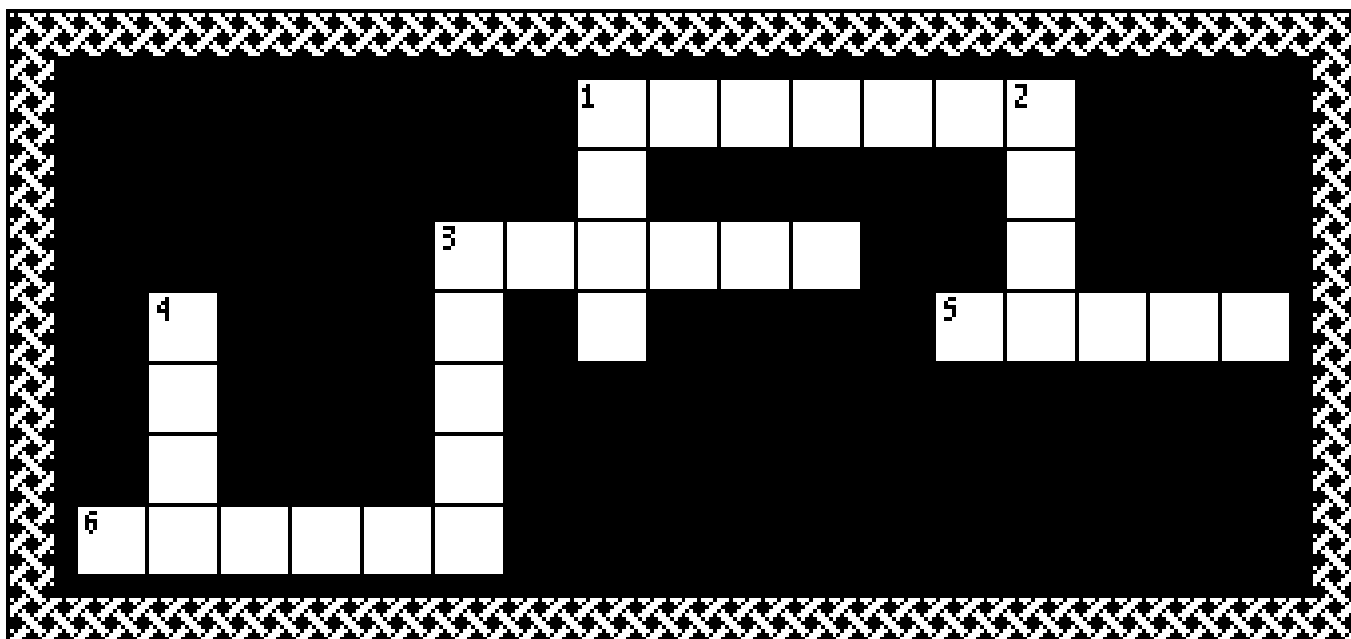
### TRUE OR FALSE:

8. This is now the tenth time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. **JOHN 21:14**

**TRUE OR FALSE**

# JESUS HELPS CATCH FISH

## (JOHN 21:1-14)



- 1 ACROSS "Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going \_\_\_\_.' They said to him, 'We are going with you also.' They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing." **JOHN 21:3**
- 5 ACROSS "But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was \_\_\_\_." **JOHN 21:4**
- 1 DOWN "Then Jesus said to them, 'Children, have you any \_\_\_\_?' They answered Him, 'No.' " **JOHN 21:5**
- 4 DOWN "And He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of \_\_\_\_." **JOHN 21:6**
- 3 DOWN "Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and \_\_\_\_." **JOHN 21:9**
- 3 ACROSS "Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not \_\_\_\_." **JOHN 21:11**
- 2 DOWN "Jesus then came and took the bread and \_\_\_\_ it to them, and likewise the fish." **JOHN 21:13**
- 6 ACROSS "This is now the third time Jesus \_\_\_\_ Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead." **JOHN 21:14**

# JESUS HELPS CATCH FISH

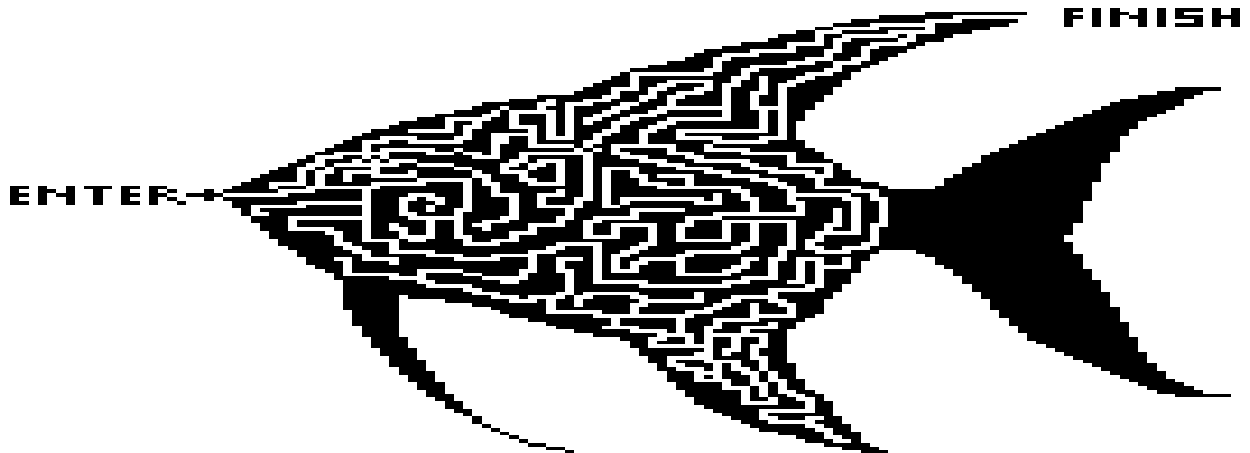
## (JOHN 21:1-14)

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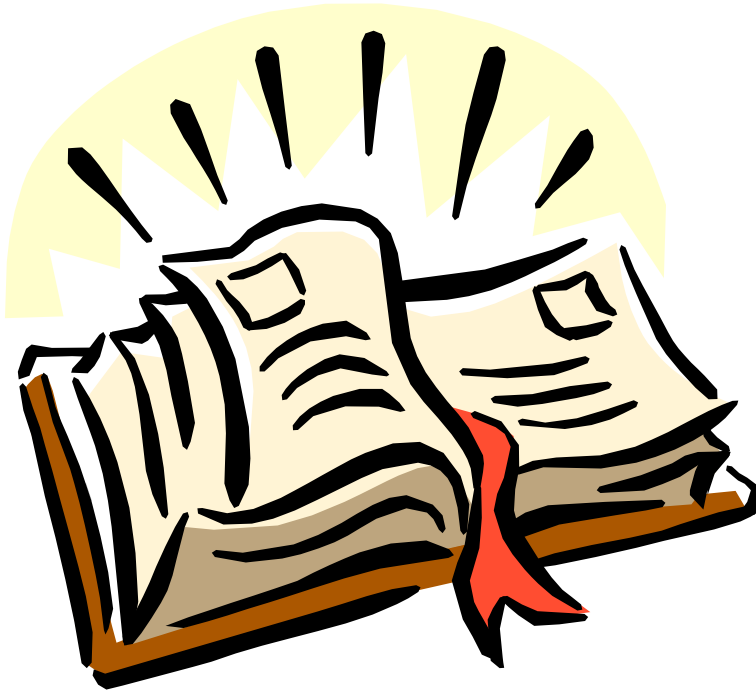
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 SIMON PETER  
 SONS OF ZEBEDEE



# Bible Time for Kids!



**CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:**

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**LESSON TITLE: Jesus Helps Catch Fish**

**THEME: We can do all things through  
Christ!**

**SCRIPTURE: John 21:1-14**



# 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 **Jesus Helping Catch Fish**. The theme was "**We can do all things through Christ.**" The disciples weren't sure about their future. They had decided to go back to fishing. But God had other plans for them. Little did they know that they would be used to turn the world upside down for Jesus.

God wants us to turn our world upside down for Him. We can do anything He calls us to through His strength. God has great plans for each of our lives and we need to listen to Him and follow Him with all of our hearts. We will find that we can do all things through Jesus.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 21:1-14**. 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

# Growing Up In Jesus

**Text: John 21:5** - "Then Jesus said to them, 'Children, have you any food?' they answered Him, 'No.' "

**Also Read John 21:1-14**

In our reading today we see that Jesus asks His disciples a question. He asks, "Children have you any food?" We see here that Jesus is concerned about every area of His disciple's lives. He also cares about every area of our lives. After Jesus died the disciples had decided to go back to fishing. They followed Jesus for three years and now it seemed like the ministry was done so they went back to what they knew. But Jesus wasn't done with them. He had wonderful plans for their lives and Jesus was going to show them how He planned to take care of them as they followed Him.

Jesus' death on the cross would change the lives of His disciples forever, one way or the other. For one disciple, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, the cross meant his own judgment for what he had done. For another disciple, Peter, the death of Jesus brought him face-to-face with his own pride and sin. For another disciple, John, Jesus' death meant the added responsibility of taking care of Mary, Jesus' mother. All of their lives would change forever.

In our Bible verses today, Jesus calls His disciples "children." In a few short weeks, these men, hand chosen by Jesus would begin to turn the world upside for Jesus. They would perform miracles in His name and thousands of people would be saved. Jesus was going to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit. The disciples still had much to learn about the power of the true and living God and they were not going to do that by catching fish alone. Jesus was about to make them fishers of men in such a way that they couldn't even imagine. Jesus calls them children because He knew they would soon grow up spiritually and be the very first to go and tell the world about Jesus. Jesus also wants us to turn the world upside down for Him. The disciples may not have understood everything that God would do in their lives, but God did some great and amazing things. Truly we can do great things through Jesus in our lives today!

- Why did the disciples go back to fishing?
- Do you think the disciples knew that Jesus was going to meet them on the shore with breakfast?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Children:** People who have not yet matured fully.



# Sharing and Caring

**Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:15** - "See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all."

**Also Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24**

Annie loved Jesus very much. She always shared with her friends about Him and anyone else who would listen, except for Kelli. Kelli was a girl at school who would not listen when Annie was talking about Jesus and Kelli would make fun of her no matter how nice Annie was. Kelli didn't let Annie finish any of her stories. She was rude and tried to make Annie forget what she was saying. After a while Annie found it was very hard to be nice to Kelli at all, but she knew the Lord desired her to love everyone, even Kelli. The Lord desires to make us perfect in Him, blameless.

One night after dinner Annie was reading the Bible and she read a verse that made her think about Kelli. Annie somehow knew in her heart that God wanted her to pray for Kelli right then. Annie got on her knees and began praying for the girl who had been mean to her for so long. Annie prayed for Kelli a long time, asking God to help her and to change her heart. The next day, she was surprised when she found out that Kelli had been in an accident on her bike and was in the hospital. Annie believed God wanted her to visit Kelli and pray with her. Annie was afraid of Kelli making fun of her again and telling her to leave, but she felt the Lord really wanted her to go and so she trusted God. She cut some roses from her garden for Kelli and took her Bible.

Kelli was so surprised that Annie came, but inside her heart glad that she did. Annie told her about the prayers the night before. Kelli said a car had hit her bike that night and the doctors were very surprised that only her arm was broken. Annie told Kelli how much God loved her and wanted her to have a relationship with Him. The two girls ended up becoming great friends and Kelli gave her heart to Jesus. As they grew up, they told everyone about the miracle God did for Kelli and for their relationship. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

- Why would Annie pray for her enemy?
- Why did Kelli and Annie become friends?
- Can you think of someone you could pray for right now?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Blameless:** Not causing hurt. Being without fault in a matter.

# His Strength Not to Sin

**Text: Galatians 2:20** - "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

**Also read Galatians 2:20-21 and 3:26-27**

Susan was visiting her favorite aunt when the worst possible thing happened. Sometimes Susan was a little clumsy and would drop things. She never meant to break anything, it just kind of happened. Her aunt had a favorite glass dish that she was never supposed to touch. Susan had only meant to look at it for a few minutes, but it slipped out of her hands and shattered into millions of pieces. For a minute, Susan wanted to clean up the glass and never say anything. But she knew this was wrong. She knew that Jesus saw what had happened even if her aunt didn't. Susan cleaned up the glass and prayed for strength to tell her aunt about the dish. She knew Jesus lived in her heart and He would give her courage to do the right thing. As she prayed, God gave her strength and comforted her heart by helping her to remember what Jesus said, "I will never leave you, or forsake you."

When Susan told her aunt what happened, she expected to be punished. She was not supposed to touch other people's belongings without permission. But her aunt wrapped her arms around her niece and thanked her for being honest. Her aunt said it took great courage to be so honest. Susan told her aunt that Jesus was the one who gave her the strength to tell her what happened.

Sometimes things happen to us that might cause us to hide from the truth. When we are Christians we should remember that we have a great, awesome God, who loves us and lives inside of us. No matter what we are tempted by, we can always ask Jesus to give us the strength and courage not to sin. It is always best to do the right thing and trust God, no matter how hard that may be. We can do all things through Christ.

- Can you think of something Jesus has given you strength for?
- Tell about a time when Jesus delivered you from sin.
- What should you do when you are tempted?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Temptation:** Something that draws us into sinning.

# He is Able to Deliver

**Text:** 1 Samuel 24:15 - "Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand."

**Also Read** 1 Samuel 24:1-22

David had been running from King Saul for a long time. He was tired of running, but kept on hiding. The king wasn't faithful to God and was filled with pride. The Lord wanted David to be king over the children of Israel and not Saul. King Saul tried to find David before he became king so he could try to kill him. He wanted to try to keep David from being on the throne. Saul had many soldiers with him looking for David.

David loved the Lord very much and did not want to fight with King Saul. One time David had the chance to sneak up on King Saul and kill him. Saul was resting inside of a cave. David was hiding back in the cave. David crept up to him, but chose not to hurt the king. David wanted to show the king he loved God's will more than anything. David also kept his soldiers from hurting the king. Instead, David took a piece of King Saul's robe. After Saul left, David appeared to him from the top of a mountain. He showed King Saul he could have hurt him if he wanted to. David loved God more than the power of being a king. David taught Saul a valuable lesson about what is important to God and later David became the king just as God had said.

Through Jesus Christ, we have the ability to choose God's will over our own will (what we want to do). The Bible also tells us we do not have to be mean back to someone who has treated us in a wrong way. We have the power, through the Spirit of Christ, to do good to those who treat us well and those who don't. We also have the power to wait on God to take care of things for us. We have a great and awesome God who promises to help us. It is when we take things into our own hands and jump ahead of God that we get into trouble. Let's learn to wait on Him. We can do all things through Christ.

- Did David get out of God's will or did he get out of God's way?
- Who gives us the ability to do good to our enemies?
- Tell about a time when you had to choose between your way and God's way. What happened?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Revenge:** To cause injury or hurt to someone after they caused you hurt.

**Judge:** To make a decision as to who is right or wrong. God is our Judge.

# Jesus Can Change Lives

**Text: Acts 4:13** - "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus."

**Also Read Acts 4:13-31**

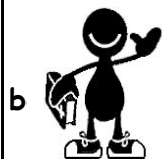
Today we read about two very strong, bold men who are brave and ready to tell anyone about Jesus. Not only that, but they are standing up for the Lord in front of some very powerful and religious leaders in Jerusalem. They are even speaking to the same high priest who had ordered Jesus to be crucified.

They were not always so bold and brave though. Remember when Jesus was taken to the cross? Who was it who ran away? Who was it who denied knowing the Lord Jesus? But these are two very different men with changed lives. The Lord has worked greatly in these men's lives. He has made them to be the leaders of His church. They were given power through the Holy Spirit and they gave Him all the glory. They were not afraid to speak the name of Jesus and heal a lame man in front of thousands of religious people. They were arrested and might have been killed as Jesus was, but they had prayed and asked God to give them boldness. The difference is that Jesus has given them strength through the Holy Spirit. We can also have that same power in our lives through the Spirit.

This week we learned different ways which the Lord helps us to do all things. We can grow in our faith and belief by waiting on the Lord. We can pray for our enemies and even make peace with someone in the name of Jesus. We can overcome the temptation to sin and be delivered from bad situations by our awesome God and Savior. And we can grow spiritually and become strong mature children of the Lord through the Holy Spirit. We are created to praise God and to do His will in our lives. Truly we can do all things through Christ.

- Do you speak boldly in the name of Jesus, sharing Him with others?
- Think about some ways you want to grow spiritually. Talk to your parents about it.

## Kid's Prayer Time



Spend time in prayer considering what Jesus can help you with in your life. Ask Jesus to show you new areas where you can grow and be in your faith of Him. Spend time daily reading God's Word and listen for His answers. The Lord loves you very much.