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JULY 2021

ACTS 2:42-47

COOL

You might have ever heard the term 'cell group'. A cell group is a small group of people who meets up regularly to study the Bible. In many places now, this meeting is done online. Other than for studying the Bible, this group is also intended for a fellowship.

Each Church might have a different name for their cell group. Our Church calls it COOL, which stands for Community of Love. Acts 2 records the practice of a cell group by Jesus' disciples and the other believers.

"The believers spent their time listening to the teaching of the apostles. They shared everything with each other. They ate together and prayed together."

So, in a cell group, we can study the Bible together and share our story and experience in order to strengthen and encourage one another. Moreover, we can also pray for one another and have a fellowship together, like playing games or having a chit chat.

Being part of a cell group is fun! It is part of God's plan and design for us, that will help us grow stronger in Him.

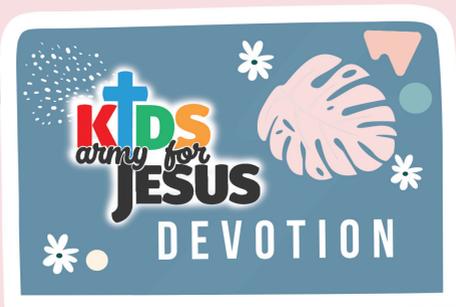
Key verse:

*Acts 2:42
The believers spent their time listening to the teaching of the apostles. They shared everything with each other. They ate together and prayed together.*

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your wonderful design of a cell group. Help my friends and me to keep growing stronger together in You. Amen.





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ACTS 3:1-10

IN JESUS' NAME

Peter and John were walking into the temple to pray. At the gate of the temple, there was a lame man who was there daily to beg from the people. When he saw Peter and John, he asked them for money. However, Peter told him that he could not give him any money, but he had something more valuable than money! It was the name of Jesus, the name that would give him healing and salvation.

Peter proved that Jesus' name had the power to heal. When the beggar was healed, he was able to work and earn money by himself. It was much better than just depending on people's kindness to give him money day after day.

This is how God works in our lives as well. Anything that you ask in Jesus' name that is according to His will, no matter how big or small it is, it will be given unto you. God's gift is way better than what you ask for. God always gives us something that is more than what we could think of.

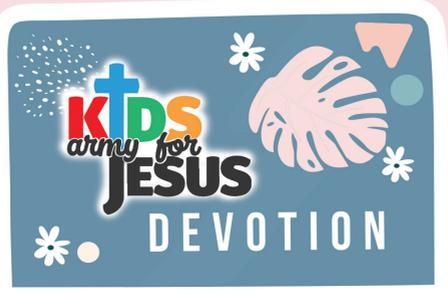
Key verse:

*Acts 4:12
Jesus is the only one who can save people. His name is the only power in the world that has been given to save anyone.*

Prayer

Dear Jesus, I acknowledge there is power in Your name that heals the sick, opens the closed door and turns the impossible to possible. Amen.





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ACTS 5:12-16

MIRACLES, SIGNS AND WONDERS

A miracle is an event that takes place in the most unbelievable and almost impossible way. One example of a miracle is when Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-11). Jesus also performed miracles by healing so many sick people so that they all recovered from their illnesses.

A sign is a mark by which persons or things are made known. God gave signs to confirm His word here on earth. One example is the rainbow that appears in the sky after the rain. Each time you see a rainbow, you can remember that it's a sign from God, reminding us of His promises.

A wonder is a marvellous demonstration of God's power. A wonder can also be described as God's supernatural power breaking into the world we are living in, doing what is impossible to be explained by natural physical laws. One example of a wonder is when Moses parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites could walk through it on dry land. Another example is when Joshua stopped the sun during a battle.

God uses miracles, signs and wonders to prove that He is the all-powerful God in the past, in the present and forevermore.

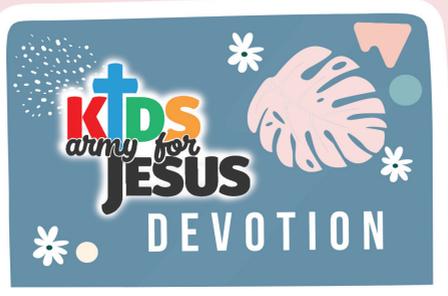
Key verse:

*Acts 5:12a
The apostles were given the power to do many miraculous signs and wonders among the people.*

Prayer

Dear God, You are the all-powerful God. I praise You for Your miracles, signs and wonders. There is none like You. Amen.





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ACTS 7:51-56

A LESSON FROM STEPHEN: BE BOLD AND NEVER HESITATES

Stephen was one of the seven people who were appointed by the apostles for the ministry (Acts 6:1-6). He was well-respected and had a very good reputation.

He was filled with the Holy spirit. He performed great wonders and signs among the people. He always gave wise answers to all questions given to him. He was bold and full of faith testifying about Jesus. He never hesitated to share about Jesus' kingdom. Because of this, many of the Jews didn't like him.

The end of Stephen's life might seem to be so sorrowful as he was stoned to death. However, while he was being persecuted, he said that he saw Jesus in Heaven, standing at the right hand of God.

Stephen was bold and he did not hesitate to share about his faith. It encourages us to stand up for our faith in Jesus, to be faithful to Him and to be sure that God will always be with us in every situation.

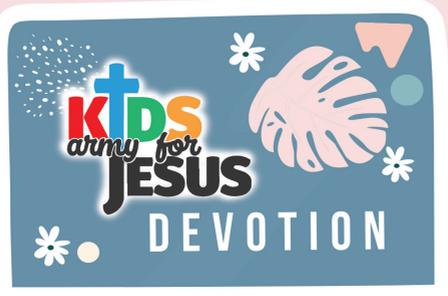
Key verse:

*Acts 7:56
I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.*

Prayer

Dear God, fill me up with Your Holy Spirit so that I can always be bold and without hesitation to faithfully do Your word in my life. Amen.





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ACTS 9:1-15

THE CHOSEN INSTRUMENT

Saul used to hate Jesus. He even bullied Jesus' followers and disciples. However, one day God gave him a sign and miracle that made Saul believe in Jesus. God had transformed Saul's life. God saved Saul and had chosen him to do a special work for His kingdom. God said Saul is His chosen instrument.

Being the chosen instrument of God means setting a good example of how to live. It means we think, speak and act like Jesus. We must have a close relationship with God. We not only read the Bible but also live according to the Bible.

Being the chosen instrument of God means being given a heart of a servant to sincerely serve others. We can start by showing sincere care to others and then we willingly help others who are in need. We must be ready to be a blessing to others.

You and I are God's chosen instruments too. The main job of God's chosen instrument is to proclaim Jesus' name in this world!

Key verse:

*Acts 9:15
This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.*

Prayer

*Dear God,
thank You for choosing me to be Your chosen instrument to proclaim Your name to the people around me. Give me courage & wisdom to do this. Amen.*





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ACTS 11:22-24

LIFE LESSON FROM BARNABAS: AN ENCOURAGER

Words can be a powerful means for influencing people and affecting their feelings and thoughts. Words have the power to encourage or discourage others.

Barnabas was an encourager. An encourager is someone who strengthens or helps others to keep moving forward. Barnabas used his words to encourage the believers to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

It is not difficult to be an encourager. We can encourage others by highlighting the positive side in every situation, by giving praise to whom it is due and by giving advice when needed.

An encourager makes people feel hopeful when they have failed.

An encourager motivates people to keep going when they feel like giving up.

The Bible says that Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Through him, a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

If we have the characters of an encourager like Barnabas, we can be a blessing to many people and bring more people to Jesus. May God help us all to be an encourager.

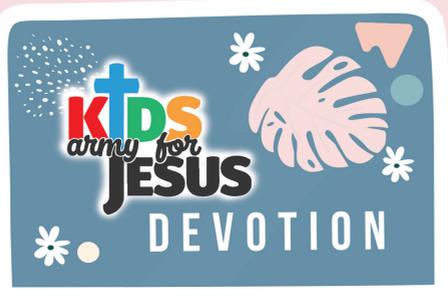
Key verse:

*Acts 4:36
... whom the apostles called Barnabas which means "son of encouragement".*

Prayer

Dear God, give me a heart to always encourage people and not to discourage them. Give me wisdom to always motivate people not to de-motivate. Amen.





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ACTS 12:5-11

THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON: PRAYER

When Peter was in prison, the believers prayed constantly every day. The believers did not have the power to get Peter out of prison or to defend Peter from King Herod. Thus, the only weapon they had to help Peter was praying in unity.

What happened next was amazing. God sent an angel to help Peter out of the prison and pass by the prison guards without being caught. Peter walked on and arrived at Mary's house safely.

The Bible teaches us to always pray without ceasing. A prayer is very powerful, especially when it is done in unity. We can pray anytime, day and night. Let praying become an important part of our daily lives.

We also need to pray for others, not only for our own well-being or list of requests. We should pray for those who are facing a hard situation, just like the believers who prayed for Peter who was in prison. Always believe that there is power in prayer.

Key verse:
Ephesians 6:18
Pray in the Spirit at all times. Pray with all kinds of prayers, and ask for everything you need.

Prayer
Dear God, thank You for the powerful weapon that I can use in any situation, so that I can live victoriously, witnessing the wonderful work of Your hands. Amen.

