

DAY

289

ISAIAH 17:1-10

DON'T TAKE GOD FOR GRANTED

Have you ever felt forgotten by someone? How did you feel about it?

Damascus was the capital of Syria. God warned that Damascus would be a forsaken and desolated city because the people had forgotten the Lord. These verses are reminders to the Israelites and God's children to not forget about God.

Do not forget God in any situation of your life. He is the source of your life, breath and blessings. Just like how you feel when you are forgotten by your friend, God also feels sad when you do not remember Him.

Let it be a reminder for us not to take God for granted. While we are basking in the sunshine of God's love and blessings, we must never take God for granted. In the abundance of His blessings, we must not forget that He is the source of all of them.

Key verse:

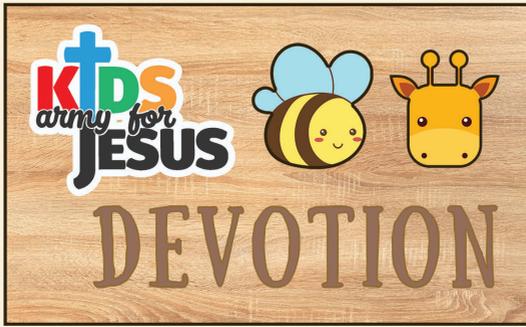
*Deuteronomy
8:11a*

*Be careful that
you do not
forget the LORD
your God...*

Prayer

*Dear God, forgive
me for taking
You for granted
sometimes.
Let me always
remember You in
any circumstance
and may the
Holy Spirit fill my
heart with peace.
Amen.*





DAY

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ISAIAH 18

GOD IS A FAIR REFEREE

There is always a fair referee in a soccer or basketball game. He is expected to monitor the game quietly and attentively and to intervene when needed. He will stop the game if there is a fault. He is also the timekeeper and keeps the record of the match. He will punish the players who break the rules. He is responsible to come with appropriate action at the right time.

Isaiah tells us that God always observes what people do and with His justice and might, He will intervene and act at the right time. And just like the sunshine and rain that come at the appropriate time, God will come to judge the earth at the right time. He is like a Referee in our life.

He is observing and monitoring all your activities quietly from the moment you wake up in the morning till the moment you go to sleep at night. He will provide all of your needs. He will defend you from your enemies. He will keep you safe and sound from any danger.

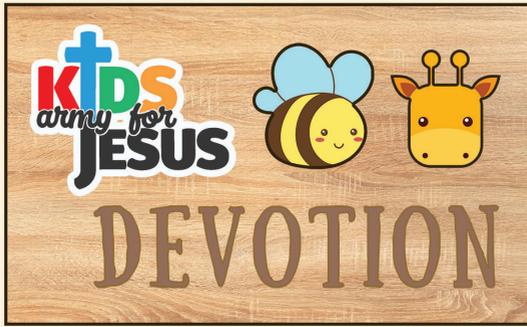
Key verse:

*Isaiah 18:4
The Lord said,
"I will be in the
place prepared
for me. I will
quietly watch
these things
happen: On a
beautiful summer
day, at noon,
people will be
resting.*

Prayer

*Dear God, thank
You for the
assurance that
You will intervene
at the right time
for all the things
that are going to
happen in
my life.
Amen.*





DAY

291

ISAIAH 20

PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD

God instructed Isaiah to walk around for three years without his sandals and sackcloth (an outer garment worn to show mourning or repentance). Can you imagine walking here and there without any proper clothes and footwear for three years? Isaiah must have been a laughing stock, feeling embarrassed and painful.

God had a purpose for this. It was to show Judah what would happen if they depended on other nations, namely Egypt and Ethiopia, for help, rather than on God.

According to the Bible, Assyria eventually attacked and won over Egypt and Ethiopia. The Egyptian and Ethiopian were taken away without clothes and sandals. They ended up being in the state like what Isaiah had demonstrated.

Sometimes we rely on our own strength or on other people. God wants you to rely fully on Him. Every day when you wake up, you have to decide that this day you will trust and depend on God no matter what.

Key verse:

*Jeremiah 17:5
Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.*

Prayer

Dear God, I want to fully rely on You rather than on my own strength or on other people. Your power is greater than anything else. Amen





ISAIAH 22:1-14

DO NOT REFUSE TO LISTEN TO GOD

One day, you were in a rush to go to school. You chose to walk through the short but rocky path to reach school. However, because you were running, you stumbled on one of the rocks and fell down. You ended up having a bleeding knee and a torn school bag. After this incident, will you run again on that rocky path? Obviously, you've learnt your lesson and you will walk more carefully in the future.

These verses actually recorded how the Israelites tried to protect themselves from the enemies. They did all they could to defend themselves. They built ditches around the city, fortified it with walls, and some even ran away in fear.

But through it all, they refused to turn to GOD! They had experienced and witnessed God's help countless times yet they still hadn't learnt their lesson. Only when they were badly defeated did they start to turn back to God.

Don't be like the Israelites in this story. Do not ever refuse to listen to God. Learn your lesson well, and once. We don't have to be knocked down by hard lessons for many times first before we remember God, right?

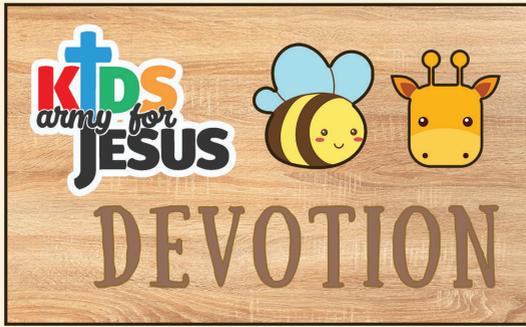
Key verse:

*Hebrews 12:25a
So be careful
and do not
refuse to listen
when God
speaks.*

Prayer

*Dear God, soften
my heart to
always listen to
You. I always
want to put You
first in everything
I do. Amen.*





DAY

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ISAIAH 25:1-5

THE GREATNESS OF GOD!

When we know someone well enough, we can see the great things that he has done, and then we give him a sincere praise based on what we know about that person.

In these verses, we can see that Isaiah had a deep relationship with God. Isaiah knew who God was and what great things He had done, so that he could praise God from the bottom of his heart. He lifted God high by acknowledging God's work in his life. He even recognised God's power - whatever God says about the future is true and will definitely happen. Isaiah acknowledged that God is the protection of the helpless, the distressed, and the needy.

Like Isaiah, we must realise that God that we worship and serve is worthy of our praise. We must also thank Him for His constant protection. We must not only praise Him in great times but also trust and praise Him in difficult times.

Key verse:

*Isaiah 25:1a
Lord, you are my God. I honor You and praise You. You have done amazing things.*

Prayer

Dear God, I come to You in praise for the greatness You have done, You are doing and You are going to do in my life and my future. Amen.





ISAIAH 26:7-10

PLEASING GOD WITH OUR HONESTY

Being honest is when you speak the truth and act truthfully. Honesty is one of the attributes of God as God never lies.

There are times when telling the truth is not easy. We have to understand that sometimes people will be angry with us when we are telling what we are supposed to tell them. However, God's approval matters more. Telling a lie may seem easier but there is a price to pay. It leads to another lie to cover up the first lie. Then it will destroy your relationship with others and ultimately destroy you.

Whenever you are tempted to be dishonest, the Holy Spirit in you will remind you to stay truthful. Honesty should always be accompanied by gentleness. An honest person is motivated by love. God's standard requires that we always choose honesty.

Honesty pleases the heart of God. May honesty become your character since you are young. Let's grow in honesty.

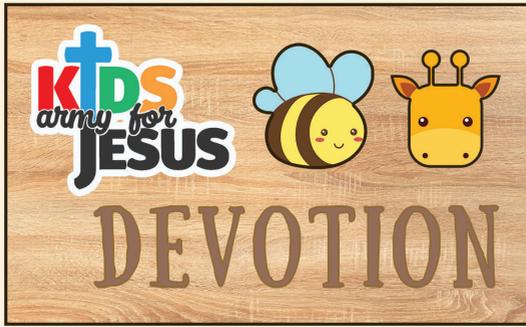
Key verse:

*Isaiah 26:7a
Honesty is
the path good
people follow.
They follow
the path that
is straight and
true.*

Prayer

*Dear God, You
are the Father
of Truth. Give
me strength and
courage to always
tell the truth. May
my words and
actions always be
truthful. Amen.*





DAY

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ISAIAH 28:9-13

I LOVE YOUR WORDS, GOD!

Have you seen your little brother or sister keep jumping up and down on the sofa and at the same time, your parents kept reminding them to stop jumping because they could fall down and bump their heads? However, they ignored your parents' warning and advice. Eventually, they really fell down and got injured.

These verses were like the above scenario. Isaiah had been reminding the priests and prophets. However, they complained that Isaiah's messages were useless and they ridiculed him as if he were a baby who could only babble with repeated phrases (Verse 10). In the end, God punished them for their scornful behaviour and sins. God imitated their mockery in His reply to them (Verse 13).

God's word and message might not always be pleasing to your ears BUT the value of God's word is priceless and it is given for your own good. His word is pure and truthful. May this become a warning to us not to make fun or mock on God's word and message.

Key verse:

*Psalm 119:140
I love Your
word. Time and
again it has
been proven
true.*

Prayer

*Dear God, oh
how I love Your
word. It gives
me strength and
hope. Thank You
God. Amen.*

