

Bible

20

Shorts

July 2024

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01-A

289: God's Inspired Word

Bible Story Reference:

2 Peter 1:21 - "or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God."

Salvation Connection:

The Bible is a special book written by people who were inspired by God. This means that every story and instruction comes directly from God. It's God's way of showing us the path to salvation through Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be inspired by the Holy Spirit?
2. How can we trust the stories and lessons in the Bible?
3. Why is it important that the Bible comes from God and not just from people?

290: God's Word Infallible

Bible Story Reference:

Psalm 119:160 - The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.""

Salvation Connection:

Since the Bible is without error, everything it says about Jesus and how to live a good life is absolutely true. This teaches us that we can rely on the Bible for guidance in every part of our lives, knowing it leads us to Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does infallible mean? Why is it important for the Bible to be infallible?
2. Can you think of a time when a Bible verse helped you make the right choice?
3. How does knowing the Bible is without error help you trust in God more?

291: Every Word Matters

Bible Story Reference:

2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right."

Salvation Connection:

God chose every single word in the Bible to teach us about His love and how to live as followers of Christ. This shows us that every part of the Bible is important for understanding and accepting God's salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Scripture is "God-breathed"?
2. How can we use the Bible in our daily lives?
3. Why is it important that every word in the Bible comes from God?

292: The Bible Guides Us

Bible Story Reference:

2 Timothy 3:15-17 - You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Salvation Connection:

The Bible is not just any book—it's a guidebook for living. It shows us the way to believe in Jesus and how to follow His teachings, helping us grow closer to Him every day.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for the Bible to be our "authoritative rule of faith and conduct"?
2. How can following the Bible's teachings make us better followers of Christ?
3. Give an example of how the Bible has guided you or someone you know.

293: The Eternal Word of God*

Bible Story Reference:

How long will the Bible last? *Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear."*

Salvation Connection:

Jesus promises that His words, found in the Bible, will last forever. This means that the promises God makes in the Bible about our salvation and eternal life with Him are forever true and unchanging.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it comforting to know that God's words will never disappear?
2. What are some promises that Jesus makes in the Bible?
3. How can we hold onto God's eternal words in our daily lives?

294: Power of Memorizing*

Bible Story Reference:

Why is it important to memorize Bible verses? *Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

Salvation Connection:

Memorizing Bible verses helps us remember God's words so we can live by them, especially when faced with tough choices. This helps us stay close to God and live lives that please Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is memorizing Bible verses important for our spiritual growth?
2. Can you share a Bible verse you've memorized? How has it helped you?
3. What are some ways you can make memorizing Bible verses a fun activity with friends or family?

01-B

295: Inspired Word of God

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 1:3 - Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Salvation Connection:

The Bible begins with God speaking the universe into existence. These words show us that the Bible is not just any book; it is inspired by God. This divine inspiration is God's way of communicating His plan for salvation and His love for us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean when we say "God said" in the Bible?
2. How does knowing that the Bible is inspired by God change the way we read it?
3. Can you think of a story in the Bible where God's words had a big impact?

296: The Love Chapter

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 13 - This chapter describes what true love looks like and how we should love others.

Salvation Connection:

1 Corinthians 13 teaches us about God's love and how we should love one another. It's a reminder that God's love is patient, kind, and never fails. Understanding this helps us see how Jesus lived and loved, providing us a perfect example to follow.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some qualities of love mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13?
2. How can you show this kind of love in your life?
3. Why is it important to love others the way God loves us?

297: Moses, the Author

Bible Story Reference:

Exodus 2:1-10 - The story of baby Moses being found in the Nile river.

Salvation Connection:

Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Bible, was used by God to deliver His people and share His laws. His writings help us understand the beginnings of God's plan for salvation through His chosen people.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some stories written by Moses that you remember?
2. Why is it important to know about the person who wrote parts of the Bible?
3. How did God use Moses to help His people?

298: The Major Prophets

Bible Story Reference:

Isaiah 6:1-8 - Isaiah's vision of the Lord in His glory.

Salvation Connection:

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, known as the major prophets, spoke God's truth boldly to the people. Their messages guide us to understand God's justice, mercy, and the coming of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the major prophets and why are they called 'major'?
2. Can you remember any specific messages these prophets shared?
3. How do the teachings of these prophets help us understand Jesus better?

299: Gospel Writers

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 1:18-25 - The story of Jesus' birth as told by Matthew.

Salvation Connection:

Matthew and John, both apostles of Jesus, wrote Gospels to tell the story of Jesus' life, teachings, death, and resurrection. Their writings are crucial for understanding how Jesus is the Savior.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some key stories that Matthew and John wrote about Jesus?
2. Why is it special that eyewitnesses like Matthew and John wrote about Jesus?
3. How can their stories help us grow closer to Jesus?

300: What's a Parable

Bible Story Reference:

Luke 15:11-32 - The Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Salvation Connection:

Jesus used parables, like that of the Prodigal Son, to teach us about forgiveness and the love of God. Parables help us understand deep spiritual truths in simple ways, showing us how to live as God's children.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a parable and why did Jesus use them?
2. What does the Parable of the Prodigal Son teach us about God?
3. Can you think of a parable that has taught you something important?

These devotions provide a blend of biblical references and thoughtful questions to help 3rd graders connect with the core themes of the Bible, enhancing their understanding and faith.

02-A

301: Exploring the Old

Bible Story Reference:

Exodus 20:1-17 - The Ten Commandments.

Salvation Connection:

The Old Testament is divided into four major parts: Law, History, Poetry, and Prophets. Each section helps us understand God's plan and His rules, like the Ten Commandments, which show us how to live righteously and point us toward our need for a Savior, Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the four major divisions of the Old Testament and what is included in each?
2. How do the Ten Commandments help us understand what God wants from us?
3. Why is it important to learn about different types of books in the Old Testament?

302: The Wisdom of Solomon

Bible Story Reference:

Proverbs 3:1-6 - Solomon's advice on trusting God.

Salvation Connection:

King Solomon, known for his wisdom, wrote much of Proverbs to share God's wisdom with us. These teachings help guide us in making wise choices that honor God, ultimately pointing us to the ultimate source of wisdom, Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was Solomon and why was he considered wise?
2. What are some wise sayings from Proverbs that you know?
3. How can Solomon's wisdom help us live as followers of Jesus?

303: Jesus, Our High Priest

Bible Story Reference:

Hebrews 7:11-28 - Jesus is described as the perfect high priest.

Salvation Connection:

The Book of Hebrews explains that Jesus is a better mediator between God and us than the Old Testament priests. He offers us a perfect relationship with God because of His sacrifice, not just following rules.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is our High Priest?
2. How is Jesus different from the Old Testament priests?
3. Why is Jesus' role as a mediator important for our relationship with God?

304: Jesus the Messiah

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 2:1-12 - The visit of the wise men, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy.

Salvation Connection:

The Gospel of Matthew shows how Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. This proves that Jesus is the promised Savior, helping us connect the Old Testament promises to the New Testament fulfillment in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a prophecy, and can you think of one that Jesus fulfilled?
2. Why is it important that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies?
3. How does knowing Jesus is the Messiah affect how we live as Christians?

305: Rebuilding and Renewal

Bible Story Reference:

Nehemiah 2:17-18 - Nehemiah motivates the people to rebuild Jerusalem's walls.

Salvation Connection:

Ezra and Nehemiah tell the story of the Jews' return from Babylonian captivity and their rebuilding efforts. These books remind us that God restores His people and helps us rebuild our lives through faith in Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah?
2. How do these stories show God's faithfulness to His people?
3. What does it mean to rebuild and renew our commitment to God?

306: Understanding the Trinity

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 28:19 – "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Salvation Connection:

The Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—shows us the complete nature of God. Understanding this helps us grasp the depth of God's love for us and the comprehensive way He works in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are the three Persons of the Trinity?
2. How do each of the Persons of the Trinity help us in our Christian life?
3. Why is it important to recognize the role of each Person in the Trinity in our daily faith?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders explore complex biblical themes in a kid-friendly way, encouraging them to see the deeper connections between the Bible stories and their significance in understanding salvation through Jesus Christ.

02-B

307: God is Eternal

Bible Story Reference:

Psalms 90:2 - " Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God."

Salvation Connection:

Understanding that God is eternal helps us see how He is the beginning and the end of everything, including our salvation story. God's eternal nature assures us that His promises and love for us will never end.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that God has no beginning and no ending?
2. How does knowing God is eternal help you trust Him more?
3. Can you think of a Bible story that shows God's eternal nature?

308: God is Omnipresent

Bible Story Reference:

Psalms 139:7-10 - " I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!"

Salvation Connection:

God's presence everywhere means that we can never be anywhere away from His love and care. This is comforting, especially when we feel alone or scared, knowing Jesus is always with us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God is everywhere?
2. How does it make you feel to know that God is always with you?
3. Share a time when you felt God's presence in a difficult situation.

309: God is Omnipotent

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Salvation Connection:

God's all-powerful nature is shown in His creation of the world and everything in it. His power is also seen in Jesus, who has the power to save us from our sins and overcome any challenge.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some examples of God's power in the Bible?
2. How can knowing God is all-powerful help us when we feel weak?
3. Why is it important for our Savior to be all-powerful?

310: God is Omniscient

Bible Story Reference:

1 John 3:20 - " Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything."

Salvation Connection:

God's knowledge of everything means He knows us completely and still loves us. He understands our needs, fears, and hopes, and His wisdom in Jesus guides us to live in His love.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God knows everything?
2. How does God knowing everything about you change how you pray or live?
3. Can you share a Bible story where God's knowledge helped someone?

311: God the Father in Creation

Bible Story Reference:

Hebrews 11:3 - " By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen."

Salvation Connection:

God the Father's role in creation shows His power and authority. Just as He created the world, He has the power to create a new heart in us through Jesus, transforming our lives and saving us.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God the Father create the world?
2. What does creation tell us about God's abilities?
3. How does God continue to create and make things new today?

312: The Foundation of Wisdom

Bible Story Reference:

Proverbs 9:10 - " Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment."

Salvation Connection:

The Bible tells us that true wisdom starts with respecting and honoring God. This wisdom is fully revealed in Jesus, who teaches us the best way to live and brings us closer to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to fear or respect God?
2. Why is fearing God considered the beginning of wisdom?
3. How can we grow in wisdom as followers of Jesus?

These devotions are designed to engage 3rd graders with deep theological concepts about God's nature in a way that connects to their everyday experiences, encouraging growth in faith and understanding.

03-A

313: Worshiping Spirit & Truth

Bible Story Reference:

John 4:23-24 But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

Salvation Connection:

Jesus teaches us that true worship comes from our hearts and must be sincere, reflecting our real feelings towards God. This kind of worship connects us to God through Jesus, who is the truth and the way to salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth?
2. How can you show true worship in your daily life?
3. Why is it important that our worship is honest and heartfelt?

314: Jesus Is Always God*

Bible Story Reference:

Jesus has always been God and it is proven in John 1:1 - "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Salvation Connection:

This verse helps us understand that Jesus is not just a part of history; He has always existed with God and is God. Knowing Jesus has always been God reassures us of His power and authority to save us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus has always been God?
2. How does this truth about Jesus make you feel about His teachings?
3. Why is it important to know Jesus is eternal and divine?

315: Jesus, the Son of God

Bible Story Reference:

Luke 1:35 - " The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God."

Salvation Connection:

As the Son of God, Jesus holds divine power and authority. This title confirms His unique relationship with God the Father, and His role in our salvation, making a way for us to be part of God's family.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus' title 'Son of God' tell us about Him?
2. How does knowing Jesus is the Son of God affect our faith?
3. What are some miracles Jesus performed that show He is the Son of God?

316: Jesus, the Son of Man

Bible Story Reference:

Mark 2:10 - " So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said,"

Salvation Connection:

Jesus being called the "Son of Man" emphasizes His humanity and His connection to us. It shows that He understands our struggles and has given us a perfect example of how to live faithfully.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus was called the Son of Man?
2. What does Jesus being human teach us about God's love?
3. Can you think of a story where Jesus shows His understanding of human needs?

317: Jesus Never Changes*

Bible Story Reference:

Quote the verse that says Jesus is always the same.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Salvation Connection:

This verse assures us that Jesus is a constant and unchanging savior. No matter how the world changes, His love and promises remain stable and reliable, providing a solid foundation for our faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is always the same?
2. How does Jesus being unchanging help us trust Him more?
3. Share an experience where knowing Jesus is always the same brought you comfort.

318: Jesus, Creator of All*

Bible Story Reference:

What part did Jesus have in creation? *John 1:3-4 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.*

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' role in creation is profound as it shows His power and authority over the universe. Understanding that Jesus helped create everything helps us see His divinity and His capability to reign over our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus had a part in creation?
2. How does knowing Jesus created everything influence how we see the world?
3. What are some things in creation that remind you of Jesus' power and creativity?

These devotions aim to deepen 3rd graders' understanding of key aspects of Jesus' identity and His teachings, helping them to connect these truths to their daily faith walk.

03-B

319: Prophecies Come True

Bible Story Reference:

Luke 24:44 - "Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' life fulfilled over three hundred prophecies from the Old Testament, demonstrating God's incredible plan and the truth of His word. This shows us how everything in the Bible leads to Jesus and His mission to save us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that a prophecy is fulfilled?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies?
3. How does this help us trust in the Bible and in Jesus?

320: 1st Promise of a Savior

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 3:15 - "And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Salvation Connection:

Right from the start, God promised a Savior who would defeat evil. This promise pointed directly to Jesus, who overcame sin and Satan through His death and resurrection, securing our salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God's promise to Eve tell us about His plan?
2. How did Jesus fulfill this first promise of a Savior?
3. What does this victory mean for us today?

321: Fulfillment of Promise

Bible Story Reference:

John 12:31 - "The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out."

Colossians 2:15 - "In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross."

Salvation Connection:

God's first promise of a Savior was made in the Garden of Eden, indicating that one day, evil would be defeated by the seed of woman. This promise was fulfilled through Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection not only conquered Satan's power but also offered salvation to all humanity, breaking the chains of sin and death.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was God's first promise about a Savior?
2. How did Jesus fulfill this promise?
3. What does Jesus' victory over Satan mean for us today?

322: God's Promises Abraham

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Salvation Connection:

God made a significant promise to Abraham: that through his descendants, all the earth would be blessed. This promise was ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham. Jesus brought salvation to the world, offering blessing and hope to every nation and person who believes in Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the promise God made to Abraham?
2. How was this promise fulfilled through Jesus?
3. What does it mean that all the earth is blessed through Jesus?

323: Promise Fulfilled

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

Salvation Connection:

God's promise to Abraham was a big part of His plan. Through Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, every person on earth can receive the ultimate blessing—salvation and a relationship with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Jesus bless all the people on earth?
2. What does it mean for us that we can be part of Abraham's blessings?
3. How can we share this blessing with others?

324: Jesus, the Incarnation

Bible Story Reference:

John 1:14 - "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

Salvation Connection:

The doctrine of the Incarnation is about God becoming man. Jesus, God the Son, lived among us to show us God's love and to save us, bridging the gap between humanity and divine.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the Incarnation mean for how we understand Jesus?
2. How does knowing Jesus was both God and human help us in our daily lives?
3. What are some ways Jesus showed His love while He was on earth?

These devotions help kids grasp fundamental Christian beliefs through Biblical stories, connecting them directly to Jesus' life and mission, enhancing their understanding of God's overarching salvation plan.

04-A

325: Jesus Came to Give Life*

Bible Story Reference:

According to John's Gospel, why did Jesus come to earth?
John 10:10 "The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus explains that unlike anything or anyone that might hurt us, His purpose on Earth was to bring us life—full and abundant. This life is not just about being happy here on Earth, but about knowing God and living forever with Him in heaven.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Jesus means by a "rich and satisfying life"?
2. How can we experience this life that Jesus offers?
3. What are some things that Jesus gives us which make our lives better?

326: Jesus Seeks and Saves*

Bible Story Reference:

According to Luke's Gospel, why did Jesus come to earth?
Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus came to Earth with a mission to find and rescue those who are lost—meaning all of us who need forgiveness and love. His coming shows God's deep desire to bring everyone back into a close relationship with Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus compares Himself to someone who seeks out lost things?
2. How does knowing Jesus wants to save us make you feel?
3. What can we do to help others know that Jesus wants to save them too?

327: Overcoming Temptation

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 4:4-10 - Jesus uses Scripture to overcome Satan's temptations in the wilderness.

Salvation Connection:

Jesus fought against temptations by using God's Word, showing us the power and importance of Scripture in our lives. By following His example, we can resist temptation and live in a way that pleases God.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Jesus use Scripture to overcome temptation?
2. Why is it important to know Bible verses?
3. What are some ways you can use Scripture when you feel tempted?

328: The Virgin Birth

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 1:23 - "The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'")

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' birth was unique because He was born of a virgin as a sign that He is both God and man. This miraculous event shows us that Jesus is perfect, sinless, and the only one who can save us from our sins.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Jesus' virgin birth important to our faith?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is fully God and fully human?
3. How does knowing Jesus is perfect help us trust Him more?

329-330: The Name of Jesus

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 1:21 - "And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.""

Salvation Connection:

The name "Jesus" means "The Lord is our Savior," which explains exactly who Jesus is and what He came to do. Every time we say His name, we remember that He came to save us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the name "Jesus" mean?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus is called our Savior?
3. How can knowing Jesus' name and its meaning change the way we pray and live?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders understand key aspects of Jesus' mission and identity, encouraging them to deepen their faith and knowledge of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

04-B

331: Understanding "Christ"

Bible Story Reference:

Psalm 2:2 - "The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the Lord and against his anointed one."

Salvation Connection:

The title "Christ" means "The Anointed One of God." It signifies that Jesus was chosen by God to lead, save, and guide His people. As "Christ," Jesus fulfills God's promise to provide a Savior who would bring us back to Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the title "Christ" mean?
2. Why is it important that Jesus is called "The Anointed One"?
3. How can we follow Jesus as our leader and savior in our daily lives?

332: Anointed with Power

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 10:38 - "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

Salvation Connection:

When God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, He equipped Jesus to perform miracles, teach about the Kingdom of God, and ultimately sacrifice His life for us. This anointing shows Jesus' divine authority and mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be anointed with the Holy Spirit and power?
2. How did Jesus use His power to help others?
3. How can we use the example of Jesus to help people around us?

333: The Promised One

Bible Story Reference:

John 1:41 - "Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which means 'Christ')."

Salvation Connection:

The word "Messiah" means the same as "Christ" and refers to the promised deliverer in the Hebrew scriptures. Jesus being the Messiah confirms that He is the one the prophets spoke about, who came to save us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does "Messiah" mean?
2. Why was it significant that Andrew recognized Jesus as the Messiah?
3. How can we share with others that Jesus is the Messiah?

334: Holy Spirit Baptism*

Bible Story Reference:

How did Jesus say His baptism would be different from John's? Acts 1:5 "John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus explained that while John's baptism was with water for repentance, He would baptize with the Holy Spirit for empowering believers. This baptism is essential for living a life that follows Jesus and spreads His message.

Discussion Questions:

1. How is baptism with the Holy Spirit different from John's baptism with water?
2. Why is the Holy Spirit important in our lives?
3. What change does the Holy Spirit bring to those who believe in Jesus?

335: The Good Shepherd

Bible Story Reference:

John 10:11 - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep."

Salvation Connection:

In this parable, Jesus explains His deep love for us by comparing Himself to a shepherd who would die to protect his sheep. This demonstrates His ultimate sacrifice on the cross, showing how He protects and saves us from sin.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is our Good Shepherd?
2. How did Jesus show His love for us as the Good Shepherd?
3. How can we follow Jesus, our Shepherd, in everyday life?

336: The Sinless Life of Jesus

Bible Story Reference:

Hebrews 4:14-15 - "So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus living a sinless life is crucial for our salvation. His sinlessness meant that His death could serve as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, rather than a penalty for His own.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to live a sinless life?
2. How does Jesus' sinlessness affect our understanding of His sacrifice?
3. What can we learn from Jesus' example of resisting temptation?

These devotions help kids understand foundational Christian concepts through Jesus' life and teachings, enhancing their spiritual growth and comprehension of their faith.

05-A

337: Resurrection Power

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 1:4 - "and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' resurrection proved He is the Son of God and our Savior. This miracle shows that Jesus has the power over life and death and assures us that we too can have eternal life through Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus' resurrection tell us about who He is?
2. Why is the resurrection important for our faith?
3. How does knowing Jesus rose from the dead affect how you live?

338: Resurrection Importance

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 15:16-17 - " And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. "

Salvation Connection:

The resurrection is central to Christianity because it confirms Jesus' victory over sin and death. If Jesus hadn't risen, our faith and hope in eternal life would be meaningless.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why would our faith be useless without the resurrection?
2. How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope?
3. What can we do to remember and celebrate Jesus' resurrection?

339: Resurrection Witnesses

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 15:6 - " After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. "

Salvation Connection:

More than five hundred people saw Jesus after He was raised from the dead, providing powerful evidence of His resurrection. This shows us that Jesus' resurrection was a real event witnessed by many.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important that so many people saw Jesus after He was resurrected?
2. How does this evidence strengthen our belief in the resurrection?
3. How can you share this story with others to help them believe?

340: Jesus' Forty Days

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 1:3 - " During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. "

Salvation Connection:

After His resurrection, Jesus spent forty days teaching His disciples, preparing them to spread the Gospel and build His Church. This time was crucial for strengthening their understanding and faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Jesus taught His disciples during those forty days?
2. Why did Jesus stay with His disciples for forty days after His resurrection?
3. How can Jesus' teachings during this time help us today?

341: Jesus, Our Intercessor

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 8:34 - " for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. "

Salvation Connection:

Jesus is now in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God and interceding for us. This means He is praying and pleading on our behalf, showing His ongoing care and love for us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is interceding for us?
2. Why is it comforting to know Jesus prays for us?
3. How can we rely on Jesus' intercession in our daily struggles?

342: Jesus, Alpha and Omega*

Bible Story Reference:

What is Jesus' great "I am" saying in the Book of Revelation? *Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."*

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' declaration as the Alpha and Omega shows that He is eternal, sovereign, and central to everything in existence. It reminds us that He is in control from the beginning to the end of time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega?
2. How does this statement about Jesus help us understand His power?
3. How can we find comfort knowing Jesus is the beginning and the end?

These devotions aim to deepen the understanding of fundamental Christian beliefs concerning Jesus' life, death, and ongoing ministry, helping 3rd graders to connect more meaningfully with their faith.

05-B

343: The Creation of Man

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 2:7 - "Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person."

Salvation Connection:

God created man uniquely, giving him life by His own breath. This special creation shows how deeply God cares for us and wants a relationship with us. It also sets the stage for our need for a Savior when humanity fell into sin.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God breathed life into man?
2. How does knowing God created us specially affect how you see yourself and others?
3. How can we show appreciation for the life God has given us?

344: The Creation of Woman

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 2:21-22 - " So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep. While the man slept, the Lord God took out one of the man's ribs and closed up the opening. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib, and he brought her to the man."

Salvation Connection:

God created woman from man to be a companion and helper, highlighting the importance of relationships and community. This teaches us about God's design for partnership and mutual support in life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God create woman from man?
2. How can we follow God's design for supportive relationships?
3. What are some ways we can help and support each other?

345: Created in God's Image

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 1:27 - " So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. "

Salvation Connection:

Being created in the image of God means we have the ability to reason, make choices, and love. This reflects our special role in creation and points to our need for a relationship with God through Jesus, who restores our image when it's marred by sin.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be created in God's image?
2. How should knowing this change the way we treat others?
3. In what ways can we live out being made in God's image every day?

346: God's Provision After Sin

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 3:21 - " And the Lord God made clothing from animal skins for Adam and his wife."

Salvation Connection:

After Adam and Eve sinned, God provided clothing for them, showing His continued care even when they disobeyed. This act foreshadows Jesus providing salvation, covering our sins through His sacrifice.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does God's act of providing clothing symbolize?
2. How does Jesus cover our sins?
3. What can we do when we feel guilty about doing something wrong?

347: Original Sin

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 5:12 - " When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. "

Salvation Connection:

Original sin explains why all humans are born with a tendency to sin, which is why we need a Savior. Jesus came to overcome the power of sin and offer us new life.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is original sin?
2. Why do we need Jesus because of original sin?
3. How can we help others understand the importance of Jesus' sacrifice?

348: Old Testament Priests

Bible Story Reference:

Hebrews 5:1 - " Every high priest is a man chosen to represent other people in their dealings with God. He presents their gifts to God and offers sacrifices for their sins. "

Salvation Connection:

The duties of Old Testament priests were to intercede for the people and offer sacrifices for sins, pointing ahead to Jesus, our ultimate High Priest, who offers a perfect sacrifice once for all.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did the Old Testament priests do for the people?
2. How is Jesus like those priests? How is He different?
3. What does Jesus being our High Priest mean for us today?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders understand foundational biblical stories and concepts, enriching their faith and knowledge of God's plan for humanity through history.

06-A

349: What Sin Is - 1John 3:4

Bible Story Reference:

1 John 3:4 - "Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God."

Salvation Connection:

Sin is described as breaking God's law. It separates us from God, who is holy. Jesus came to forgive our sins, reconnecting us with God and teaching us to live according to His ways.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that sin is breaking God's law?
2. Why is it important for us to follow God's laws?
3. How can we ask God to help us not break His laws?

350: What Sin Is - James 4:17

Bible Story Reference:

James 4:17 - "Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it."

Salvation Connection:

This verse teaches us that not doing the good we know we should do is also sin. Jesus helps us overcome this by giving us the Holy Spirit, who guides and strengthens us to do what is right.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of a time when you knew the right thing to do but didn't do it?
2. How can we make sure we do the good things we know we should do?
3. How does Jesus help us when we struggle to do what's right?

351: All Have Sinned*

Bible Story Reference:

Have all people sinned?

Romans 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Salvation Connection:

This verse tells us that everyone has sinned and needs God's forgiveness. Jesus came to save us by dying for our sins, offering us a new life in Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that everyone has sinned?
2. How does knowing that everyone sins help us understand why we need Jesus?
3. What can we do when we realize we have sinned?

352: Falling Short of God'

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 3:23 - "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Salvation Connection:

Paul explains that we cannot reach God's standard of righteousness on our own. Jesus bridges this gap through His death and resurrection, granting us God's righteousness when we believe in Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why can't we meet God's standard on our own?
2. What does Jesus do to help us meet this standard?
3. How does it feel to know that Jesus makes up for what we lack?

353: God is For Us

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 8:31-32 - "What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?"

Salvation Connection:

This passage reassures us that God is on our side, demonstrated by His ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. Knowing God is for us gives us confidence and hope in any situation.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we know that God is for us?
2. What does it mean for your life that God is on your side?
3. How can this knowledge change how you face challenges?

354: Proof of God's Love*

Bible Story Reference:

Quote the verse of Romans chapter five which tells us the greatest proof of God's love.

Romans 5:8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Salvation Connection:

This verse shows the greatest proof of God's love: Jesus dying for us even when we were sinners. This act of love offers us forgiveness and a relationship with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Romans 5:8 tell us about God's love?
2. How does it feel to know that Jesus died for you?
3. How can we show our gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders understand deep spiritual truths about sin, salvation, and God's love, providing them with foundational knowledge to grow their faith.

06-B

355: Born to the Kingdom*

Bible Story Reference:

Jesus told Nicodemus what was necessary for a person to see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3 "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus taught Nicodemus about the necessity of being born again to enter God's Kingdom. Being born again means accepting Jesus as Savior, which transforms us from the inside out through the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be "born again"?
2. Why is it necessary to be born again to see the Kingdom of God?
3. How can you explain being born again to a friend?

356: Born Again, the Meaning

Bible Story Reference:

2 Corinthians 5:17 - " This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! "

Salvation Connection:

Being born again is not just a phrase—it means we become a new person in Christ. This change is worked by the Holy Spirit and influences how we think, act, and interact with others.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does being a new creation in Christ change how we live?
2. What changes have you noticed in your life since you accepted Jesus?
3. What are some ways you can show your new life in Christ at school or home?

357: Living in Harmony

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 12:16 - " Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! "

Salvation Connection:

Paul's instructions to Christians about getting along with others reflect Jesus' teachings on love and humility. As followers of Christ, we are called to live in peace and respect with everyone.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to live in harmony with others?
2. Why is it important not to be too proud?
3. How can you practice humility at school?

358: God's Will for Salvation

Bible Story Reference:

1 Timothy 2:4 - " who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. "

Salvation Connection:

God's desire is for everyone to be saved, showing His love and openness to all. However, accepting Christ's salvation is a personal choice everyone must make.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God want everyone to be saved?
2. What does it mean to personally choose Christ as Savior?
3. How can you help others learn about God's desire for their salvation?

359: The Unforgivable Sin

Bible Story Reference:

Mark 3:29 - " but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. This is a sin with eternal consequences. "

Salvation Connection:

Jesus speaks of the severity of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit as a grave sin. This teaches us about the holiness of the Holy Spirit and the seriousness of our heart's attitude towards God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit?
2. Why is this sin considered unforgivable?
3. How can we show respect and reverence for God in our lives?

360: Grace to the Humble

Bible Story Reference:

James 4:6 - " And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." "

Salvation Connection:

This scripture reminds us that humility is valued by God and rewarded with His grace. It encourages us to adopt a humble attitude, reflecting Jesus' own humility.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God gives grace to the humble?
2. Can you think of a time when being humble helped you?
3. How can you practice humility this week?

These devotions aim to deepen third graders' understanding of Christian concepts and encourage them to live out their faith authentically and lovingly in their everyday interactions.

07-A

361: The Tax Collector's Prayer

Bible Story Reference:

Luke 18:13 - "But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.'"

Salvation Connection:

This story shows the importance of humility and repentance. The tax collector recognized his sins and asked for God's mercy, which is essential for receiving God's forgiveness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the tax collector's prayer teach us about how to pray?
2. Why do you think the tax collector didn't feel worthy to look up to heaven?
3. How can we show true humility like the tax collector?

362: The Prodigal Son's Return

Bible Story Reference:

Luke 15:21 - "His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'"

Salvation Connection:

This story illustrates God's readiness to forgive us when we come back to Him with a repentant heart. Like the father in the story, God welcomes us with open arms.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did the Prodigal Son realize about his actions?
2. How did the father react when his son returned?
3. What can we learn from the Prodigal Son about forgiveness?

363: Importance, Jesus' Blood

Bible Story Reference:

Hebrews 9:22 - "In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness."

Salvation Connection:

The blood Jesus shed on the cross is crucial for our forgiveness. It cleanses us from our sins, allowing us to have a relationship with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is blood needed for the forgiveness of sins?
2. How does Jesus' sacrifice make you feel about your relationship with God?
3. What are some ways we can thank Jesus for His sacrifice?

364: Vicarious Atonement

Bible Story Reference:

1 Peter 2:24 - " He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. "

Salvation Connection:

Vicarious atonement means Jesus took our punishment for sin on Himself, offering us forgiveness and eternal life. Accepting Jesus as our Savior frees us from the punishment we deserve.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does vicarious atonement mean?
2. How does knowing Jesus took your punishment change how you feel about Him?
3. What are ways we can live for righteousness?

365: The Power of the Gospel*

Bible Story Reference:

In Romans chapter one the Bible tells us the power of the gospel.
Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes.

Salvation Connection:

The Gospel, or Good News about Jesus, has the power to save everyone who believes in Him. It's God's way of bringing us into His family.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the Gospel?
2. Why is the Gospel powerful?
3. How can you share the Gospel with your friends?

366: Saved by Grace*

Bible Story Reference:

In Ephesians chapter two the Bible tells us how we are saved.
Ephesians 2:8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Salvation Connection:

Salvation is a gift from God that we receive through faith. It's not something we can earn or deserve; it's purely given by God's grace.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be saved by grace?
2. How is grace different from earning something?
3. What are some ways you can show gratitude for this gift of salvation?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders understand profound spiritual truths in a relatable way, encouraging them to deepen their relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

07-B

367: The Joy of Adoption

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 8:15-17 - "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

Salvation Connection:

Adoption in terms of salvation means that when we accept Jesus, we become God's children and receive all the rights and blessings of being part of His family, including eternal life.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be adopted by God?
2. How does being God's child change how we live?
3. What are some blessings we receive as God's children?

368: Doing Good with Heart

Bible Story Reference:

Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

Salvation Connection:

Even though our good deeds don't save us, they are a way to show our gratitude and love for God. As His creations, we do good to reflect His love to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why should we do good things if they don't save us?
2. What are some good things you can do to show love for God?
3. How do good deeds help others know about Jesus?

369: Faith, Hope, and Love*

Bible Story Reference:

The three great Christian virtues are found in *1 Corinthians 13:13* *Three things will last forever— faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.*

Salvation Connection:

These three virtues are central to Christian living. They guide how we trust God, how we view our future, and how we treat others, with love being the most important.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do faith, hope, and love mean to you?
2. Why is love considered the greatest virtue?
3. How can you show love to others this week?

370: Believing in God

Bible Story Reference:

Hebrews 11:6 - "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

Salvation Connection:

This verse teaches us that faith in God's existence and His goodness is essential. Believing in God encourages us to seek Him sincerely, knowing He will reward our faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why must we believe that God exists?
2. What are some rewards God gives those who seek Him?
3. How can you show your belief in God to others?

371: Greatest Commandment*

Bible Story Reference:

Jesus told us the first and most important commandment is *Mark 12:30* *"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."*

Salvation Connection:

Jesus highlights the importance of loving God above all else, shaping every part of our life around this central command.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?
2. How can you show God you love Him in different parts of your life?
3. Why is loving God the most important commandment?

372: Loving Your Neighbor*

Bible Story Reference:

Jesus told us the second-most important commandment is *Mark 12:31* *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Salvation Connection:

Loving others is directly connected to our love for God. Jesus teaches us that the way we treat others reflects our relationship with Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is your neighbor according to Jesus?
2. What are ways you can show love to your neighbors?
3. Why is it important to love others as you love yourself?

These devotions are crafted to help 3rd graders understand and apply biblical principles to their daily lives, encouraging a deeper relationship with God and those around them.

08-A

373: Greatest Display of Love*

Bible Story Reference:

Jesus told us the greatest display of love is *John 15:13* "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus teaches that the greatest form of love is self-sacrifice. He demonstrated this when He died on the cross for us, showing the ultimate form of love by giving His life to save ours.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to lay down your life for someone?
2. How did Jesus show this great love?
3. How can we show a similar kind of love in our own lives?

374: Showing Love for Jesus*

Bible Story Reference:

Jesus told us how we may show our love for Him in *John 14:15* "If you love me, obey my commandments."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus connects our love for Him with our obedience to His teachings. By following His commandments, we show our love and commitment to Him, living lives that reflect His love and truth.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of Jesus' commandments that we should follow?
2. Why is obeying Jesus a way to show Him love?
3. What can you do to better follow Jesus' teachings?

375: Proving We Are Disciples*

Bible Story Reference:

Jesus told us that the world to know that we are His disciples in *John 13:35* "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Salvation Connection:

Our love for each other is a powerful witness to the world of our faith in Jesus. It shows that His teachings have transformed our lives, drawing others to His love.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does loving others show that we are followers of Jesus?
2. Can you think of ways to show love to others at school or home?
3. Why is it important that our love be visible to others?

376: Why Love Others*

Bible Story Reference:

The Bible tells why it is necessary Christian love others in *1 John 4:7-8* "Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

Salvation Connection:

This passage teaches that loving others is not optional for Christians; it is essential. Loving others shows that we truly know God, because God is love.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to love others according to these verses?
2. How can we develop a loving attitude towards people who are difficult to love?
3. What does it mean to know God through love?

377: Living Peacefully & Holy*

Bible Story Reference:

The Bible tells us why it is necessary to live a peaceful and holy life in *Hebrews 12:14* "Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord."

Salvation Connection:

This scripture emphasizes the importance of living a life that is both peaceful and holy. Such a life not only pleases God but also leads us closer to seeing Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to live a holy life?
2. Why is it important to make peace with others?
3. How can you work on being more peaceful and holy in your daily life?

378: Careful Thoughts

Bible Story Reference:

Proverbs 4:23 - "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life."

Salvation Connection:

Our thoughts are powerful and can influence our words and actions. Keeping our thoughts pure and positive helps us live in a way that honors God and reflects His love to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why should we be careful about what we think?
2. How can our thoughts affect our actions?
3. What are some ways you can guard your thoughts?

These devotions aim to help 3rd graders understand how living out Christian principles such as love, obedience, and holiness directly impacts their faith and relationships with others.

08-B

379: Keeping Pure

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - " Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

Salvation Connection:

God designed marriage to be pure and joyful, and He calls us to live pure lives, respecting our bodies and minds. Keeping ourselves pure honors God and prepares us for future blessings in life, including marriage.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to keep pure in body and mind?
2. Why is purity important for happiness in marriage?
3. How can you practice purity every day?

380: Being Doers of the Word*

Bible Story Reference:

In the book of James it says what we must do to keep from fooling ourselves. *James 1:22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*

Salvation Connection:

Hearing God's Word is important, but putting it into practice is what truly changes us and pleases God. By acting on God's teachings, we show our love and commitment to Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a doer of the word, not just a listener?
2. Can you think of a Bible verse you can put into practice this week?
3. How does doing what God says help us grow in faith?

381: The Bereans' Example

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 17:11 - " And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. "

Salvation Connection:

The Bereans are praised for their eagerness to learn and verify the truths of Scripture daily. This shows the importance of studying the Bible regularly to understand and follow God's will.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were the Bereans honored by God?
2. How can you be like the Bereans in studying the Bible?
3. Why is it important to check what we hear against the Bible?

382: Thankful Circumstances*

Bible Story Reference:

According to First Thessalonians chapter five, when should a Christian thank God?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Being thankful in every situation helps us trust God and recognize His blessings, even in difficult times. Thankfulness is a key part of living a joyful and faithful Christian life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why should we be thankful in all circumstances?
2. What are some things you are thankful for right now?
3. How can being thankful change the way you feel about tough situations?

383: Seeking God Early

Bible Story Reference:

Ecclesiastes 12:1 - " Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore. "

Salvation Connection:

Seeking God during our youth sets a strong foundation for our whole life. It helps us make wise choices and find true happiness in following God's path.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to seek God in your youth?
2. How can you make time to learn more about God?
3. What are some fun ways to remember God every day?

384: True Wealth, Godliness

Bible Story Reference:

1 Timothy 6:6 - " Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. "

Salvation Connection:

Paul teaches Timothy that true richness comes from living a life pleasing to God, combined with being content with what we have. This spiritual wealth is more valuable than material riches.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is godliness, and why does it bring great wealth?
2. How can you practice being content with what you have?
3. Why is spiritual wealth more important than material wealth?

These devotions are designed to guide 3rd graders in applying biblical truths to their everyday lives, encouraging a deeper relationship with God and a better understanding of His will for them.

09-A

385: The Golden Rule*

Bible Story Reference:

Jesus tells us the Golden Rule in *Matthew 7:12* "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus teaches us the Golden Rule, which is all about treating others the way we want to be treated. This simple rule guides us to live out God's love in our daily interactions and shows the heart of what Jesus taught about loving others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways you can practice the Golden Rule at school or at home?
2. Why is it important to treat others as you want to be treated?
3. Can you think of a time when someone treated you with kindness? How did that make you feel?

386: Living for Christ*

Bible Story Reference:

In Philippians the Bible expresses what the Christian's attitude should be toward both life and death in *Philippians 1:21* *For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.*

Salvation Connection:

Paul explains that our entire lives should be focused on Jesus, and even in death, we gain because we go to be with Him forever. This perspective helps us prioritize our faith above all and find true meaning in life through serving Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that "to live is Christ"?
2. How can we show in our daily lives that we are living for Christ?
3. Why is dying considered "gain" for Christians?

387: A Gentle Answer*

Bible Story Reference:

There is a rule we find in Proverbs for avoiding trouble with others in *Proverbs 15:1* *A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.*

Salvation Connection:

Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs teaches us about the power of our words. By choosing gentle words, we can avoid conflicts and reflect God's peace and grace to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can a gentle answer prevent a fight?
2. Think of a time when you could use a gentle answer instead of a harsh word.
3. Why do you think God wants us to use gentle words?

388: Respecting Authority

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 13:1 - " Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. "

Salvation Connection:

Paul teaches us to respect and obey those in authority like teachers and police officers because their authority is given by God. This obedience is part of living a godly life and showing respect for the order God has established.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to obey our teachers and police officers?
2. How does obeying authorities show respect to God?
3. What are some ways you can show respect to your school teachers?

389: Honoring Church Leaders

Bible Story Reference:

Hebrews 13:17 - "Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God."

Salvation Connection:

This verse reminds us that church leaders like Sunday School teachers and pastors are responsible for helping us grow spiritually. By respecting and obeying them, we benefit from their guidance and make their job a joy.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do your Sunday School teachers or pastors help you?
2. Why should we obey our church leaders?
3. What can you do to make your church leader's job easier and more joyful?

390: What is Intercession?

Bible Story Reference:

1 Timothy 2:1 - " I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them."

Salvation Connection:

Intercession means praying for others, which is a powerful way we can support and care for people around us. By interceding, we act on God's command to love and serve others, reflecting His love.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to intercede for someone?
2. Who can you pray for today?
3. Why is it important to pray for others, not just ourselves?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders learn and apply key Christian principles, fostering a life of faith, respect, and loving kindness.

09-B

391: Our Heavenly Intercessors

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 8:34 - " Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us."

Salvation Connection:

Christians have powerful support through Jesus and the Holy Spirit who intercede for us. This means they pray and plead to God on our behalf, helping us to follow God’s will and receive His blessings.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus and the Holy Spirit intercede for us?
2. How does knowing you have such powerful help make you feel?
3. What are some ways you can rely more on Jesus and the Holy Spirit in your prayers?

392: Our Prayer Weakness

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 8:26 - " And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words."

Salvation Connection:

Even when we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit helps us by praying for us. This shows God’s deep understanding and care for our needs, guiding us even in prayer.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some reasons we might not know what to pray for?
2. How does the Holy Spirit help us when we can’t find the words to pray?
3. Can you think of a time when you felt helped in prayer?

393: Choosing a Partner

Bible Story Reference:

2 Corinthians 6:14 - " Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?"

Salvation Connection:

God advises Christians to marry fellow believers to ensure that both partners share the same values and direction in life, which is centered on following Christ. This helps in building a strong, God-honoring relationship.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God want Christians to marry other Christians?
2. How can sharing the same faith help a family?
3. What qualities would you look for in a friend who shares your faith?

394: Temptation is Not Sin

Bible Story Reference:

James 1:14-15 - " Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."

Salvation Connection:

Being tempted is not a sin, but giving in to temptation is. Jesus was tempted but did not sin. We can look to Him for the strength to resist temptation and make right choices.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between being tempted and sinning?
2. How can we resist giving in to temptations?
3. What are some ways Jesus showed us how to handle temptation?

395: Common Temptations

Bible Story Reference:

1 John 2:16 - " For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world."

Salvation Connection:

John describes common temptations that we all face. Understanding these can help us be more aware and ready to resist them with God’s help, living a life that pleases Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the three common temptations mentioned?
2. Which of these temptations do you think is hardest to resist?
3. How can you ask God to help you overcome these temptations?

396: Sources of Temptation

Bible Story Reference:

James 1:14 - " Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away."

Salvation Connection:

Temptations come from three main sources: the devil, the world, and our own desires. Recognizing where temptations come from helps us to be vigilant and seek God’s strength to overcome them.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the three main sources of temptation?
2. How can we guard ourselves against these sources?
3. What tools does God give us to fight temptation?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders understand complex spiritual concepts in a clear and applicable way, fostering spiritual growth and resilience against challenges.

10-A

397: The Holy Spirit in Creation

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 1:2 - "The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters."

Salvation Connection:

The Holy Spirit played an essential role in creation, showing His power and presence right from the beginning. This teaches us about the unity and purpose of the Trinity in everything that exists.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit was "hovering over the waters"?
2. How does knowing the Holy Spirit was involved in creation affect how you see the world?
3. What are some other ways the Holy Spirit works in the world today?

398: Holy Spirit Convicts

Bible Story Reference:

John 16:8-11 - "And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus explained that the Holy Spirit would come to show the world the truth about sin, righteousness, and judgment. This helps us understand our need for a Savior and guides us to live righteously.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the three things the Holy Spirit convicts the world of?
2. Why is it important for the Holy Spirit to show us these things?
3. How can understanding sin, righteousness, and judgment help us grow closer to God?

399: Why the Spirit Convicts

Bible Story Reference:

John 16:9 - "The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me."

Salvation Connection:

The Holy Spirit's role is to make clear the reality of sin, primarily how it relates to rejecting Jesus. This conviction is meant to lead us to faith in Christ for forgiveness and salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does the Holy Spirit convict the world of sin?
2. How does belief in Jesus change our understanding of sin?
3. What can you do when you feel convicted about something wrong?

400: Holy Spirit Glorifies Jesus

Bible Story Reference:

John 16:14 - "He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me."

Salvation Connection:

The Holy Spirit's primary role is to glorify Jesus, helping us to know and understand Christ more deeply. Through the Spirit, we see Jesus' work and character more clearly.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the Holy Spirit glorify Jesus?
2. What are some things about Jesus that the Holy Spirit has shown you?
3. How can you help others see Jesus more clearly?

401: Signs of a Spirit-Filled Life

Bible Story Reference:

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. There is no law against these things!"

Salvation Connection:

Living a life filled with the Holy Spirit produces visible changes, such as joy, peace, and a desire to share the gospel. These evidences show that we are living in alignment with God's will.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some signs of a Spirit-filled life?
2. How can you tell if someone is living by the Spirit?
3. What spiritual fruit would you like to see more of in your life?

402: Spirit Guides into Truth

Bible Story Reference:

John 16:13 - "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."

Salvation Connection:

The Holy Spirit acts as our guide into all truth, especially the truths of God's Word and His plans for our lives. This guidance is crucial for living a life that pleases God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be guided into truth by the Holy Spirit?
2. How does the Holy Spirit help us understand the Bible?
3. What truth do you need guidance on today?

These devotions help 3rd graders understand the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives, encouraging them to rely on His power and presence as they grow in faith.

10-B

403: Spirit's Role in Salvation

Bible Story Reference:

Titus 3:5 - " he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit."

Salvation Connection:

The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in our salvation by making us aware of our sins and leading us to repentance. He then works in us to make us new creations in Christ, enabling us to live a life that pleases God.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the Holy Spirit help us become new people?
2. What changes might you see in someone who has been made new by the Holy Spirit?
3. Why is the Holy Spirit's role in salvation important for us?

404: Spirit in Every Christian

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 8:9" But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)"

Salvation Connection:

Every Christian has the Holy Spirit living in them from the moment they believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit's presence is a sign of belonging to Christ and plays a vital role in guiding, comforting, and empowering us to live as God wants.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit lives in you?
2. How can you know the Holy Spirit is in your life?
3. What difference does the Holy Spirit make in your daily actions?

405: Our Inheritance from God

Bible Story Reference:

Ephesians 1:13-14 - " And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him."

Salvation Connection:

The Holy Spirit is like a promise from God that He will fulfill His word to us. The Spirit is our guarantee that we will receive all the blessings God has promised, including eternal life with Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is a guarantee of our inheritance?
2. How does the Holy Spirit act as a seal in a believer's life?
3. What are some of the blessings we are promised as part of our inheritance in God?

406: Jesus Needs to Depart

Bible Story Reference:

John 16:7 - " But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus explained that His return to heaven was necessary for the Holy Spirit to come and be with us. The Holy Spirit, or the Advocate, is essential for guiding us in truth and empowering us to live out our faith effectively.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus say it was better for Him to go away?
2. Who is the Advocate and what does He do for us?
3. How can we rely on the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives?

407: God's Work By His Spirit*

Bible Story Reference:

In Zechariah the Bible tells how we do God's work in *Zechariah 4:6* "It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord."

Salvation Connection:

This verse reminds us that our efforts alone are not enough to accomplish God's work. It is through God's Spirit that we have the power and guidance to do what He calls us to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this verse tell us about how to approach tasks that seem too big for us?
2. Can you think of a time when you needed God's Spirit to help you?
3. How can we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives?

408: First Baptism in the Spirit

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 2:1-4 - " On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."

Salvation Connection:

The baptism in the Holy Spirit first occurred on the Day of Pentecost, marking a significant moment in the life of the early Church. This event empowered the believers to spread the gospel with boldness and perform God's work effectively.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened on the Day of Pentecost?
2. Why was the baptism in the Holy Spirit important for the early Church?
3. How does the Holy Spirit empower us today to share the gospel?

These devotions help 3rd graders understand the profound role of the Holy Spirit in their lives, encouraging them to rely on His power and presence as they grow in faith.

11-A

409: The Day of Pentecost*

Bible Story Reference:

In the Book of Acts chapter two it describes the disciples of Jesus receiving the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in *Acts 2:4* *And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.*

Salvation Connection:

The disciples received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, which empowered them to speak in other languages and boldly share God's message. This event shows how the Holy Spirit empowers us to do things that glorify God and spread His word.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened to the disciples on the Day of Pentecost?
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak in different languages?
3. How can the Holy Spirit help us share God's message today?

410: Praying for the Holy Spirit

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 1:14 - " They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus."

Salvation Connection:

Before the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they were praying together. This teaches us the importance of prayer in preparing our hearts to receive God's gifts and guidance.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the disciples doing when the Holy Spirit came?
2. How does prayer help us connect with God?
3. Can you think of a time when you prayed for something important?

411: Peter's Call at Pentecost*

Bible Story Reference:

Peter tell the people at Pentecost what to do in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in *Acts 2:38* *"Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

Salvation Connection:

Peter's message at Pentecost shows us the steps to salvation—repentance and baptism in Jesus' name, followed by receiving the Holy Spirit. This sequence outlines the path to a transformed life in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Peter tell the people to do at Pentecost?
2. Why is it important to repent and be baptized?
3. What does it mean to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

412: Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 19:2 - " Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them. "No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Salvation Connection:

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a distinct experience from salvation. While salvation involves accepting Jesus as Savior and being forgiven of sins, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is an empowering experience that occurs after one has become a believer.

413: Purpose of Spirit Baptism

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Salvation Connection:

The baptism in the Holy Spirit equips believers with deeper knowledge of Christ, understanding of God's Word, and power to witness. This special empowerment helps Christians fulfill their mission to spread the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some purposes of the Holy Spirit's baptism?
2. How can the Holy Spirit help you understand the Bible better?
3. Why is it important to have power to witness?

414: Speaking in Tongues

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 2:4 - " And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. "

Salvation Connection:

Speaking in tongues was the initial physical evidence that the disciples had received the Holy Spirit. This sign shows a supernatural aspect of God's work in us, enabling us to do things beyond our natural abilities.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is speaking in tongues, and why did it happen to the disciples?
2. How does the Holy Spirit give us abilities?
3. What are some ways we can use God's gifts to help others?

These devotions aim to deepen understanding of the Holy Spirit's powerful role in a believer's life, encouraging young students to seek and appreciate His work in their lives.

11-B

415: Tongues as Evidence

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 2:4 - " And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. "

Salvation Connection:

In the New Testament, speaking in tongues often accompanied the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This sign was a physical demonstration that believers had received the Holy Spirit, marking a deepening of their spiritual lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened to the disciples when they received the Holy Spirit?
2. Why do you think speaking in tongues is considered a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence?
3. How can we see the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today?

416: What is the Church?

Bible Story Reference:

Colossians 1:18 - " Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. "

Salvation Connection:

The Church is not just a building; it's a community of believers who follow Jesus Christ. As members of this body, we support each other in faith and share God's love with the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes someone a part of the Church?
2. How is the Church like a body?
3. What are some ways you can be an active part of your church community?

417: The Kingdom of God

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 14:17 - " For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. "

Salvation Connection:

God's kingdom is built on living righteously, having peace, and finding joy through the Holy Spirit. These qualities reflect the heart of God and how He wants us to live.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the three aspects of God's kingdom mentioned here?
2. How can you live out these qualities in your daily life?
3. What does it mean to have joy in the Holy Spirit?

418: Head of the Church

Bible Story Reference:

Ephesians 4:15 - "Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. "

Salvation Connection:

As the head of the Church, Jesus guides and directs all believers. Our role is to stay connected to Him, allowing His teachings to influence every part of our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for Jesus to be the head of the Church?
2. How does Jesus lead and guide us today?
3. What are some ways you can stay connected to Jesus?

419: Foundation of the Church

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 3:11 - " For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. "

Salvation Connection:

Jesus is the foundation upon which the Church is built. Everything we believe and practice should be based on His life and teachings.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Jesus described as the foundation of the Church?
2. How does having a strong foundation affect a building?
3. What can you do to build your life on Jesus?

420: God's Plan for Our Lives

Bible Story Reference:

Jeremiah 1:5 - " I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born, I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations. "

Salvation Connection:

This verse shows that God has a plan for each of our lives, even before we are born. He knows us completely and has special tasks for us to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God knew us before we were born?
2. How does it feel to know that God has a plan for your life?
3. What are some ways you can discover God's plan for you?

These devotions help 3rd graders understand important concepts about their faith and relationship with God, guiding them to live lives that are rooted in Christ and His teachings.

12-A

421: The Church Described

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 12:5 - "so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."

Salvation Connection:

The Bible uses three figures of speech to help us understand what the Church is like: a body that functions together, a building that stands strong, and a bride that waits lovingly for Christ. These images teach us about unity, strength, and love within the Church.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think it means that the Church is like a body?
2. How is the Church like a building?
3. Why do you think the Church is described as a bride?

422: Who Builds the Church?

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 16:18 - "Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus is the builder of the Church. He brings people together, giving them strength and purpose. Under His care, the Church grows and thrives, overcoming all challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus build the Church?
2. Why is it important that Jesus is the one who builds the Church?
3. What can you do to help build up your church community?

423: Power of United Prayer*

Bible Story Reference:

The Bible tells us there is power in united prayer in *Matthew 18:19* "If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you."

Salvation Connection:

This verse highlights the incredible power of praying together in agreement. When we unite in prayer, God promises to listen and respond, showing the importance of community and unity in faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to agree in prayer with someone?
2. Why is united prayer so powerful?
3. Can you think of something you can pray about together with a friend or family member?

424 Mission of the Church*

Bible Story Reference:

The Bible tells us the mission of the Church in *Mark 16:15* "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

Salvation Connection:

The main mission of the Church is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to everyone. This mission drives all the activities and purposes of the Church, aiming to share the love and salvation of Jesus with the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the Good News that the Church should share?
2. Why is it important to tell others about Jesus?
3. How can you be part of this mission in your own life?

425: A House of Prayer

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 21:13 - "He said to them, 'The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!'"

Salvation Connection:

Jesus emphasized that God's house, or the Church, should primarily be a place for prayer. This teaches us that prayer should be central in our lives and our church activities.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for the church to be a house of prayer?
2. How can you make prayer a bigger part of your life?
3. What are some things you would like to pray about for your church?

426: The Role of Ministers

Bible Story Reference:

Ephesians 4:11-13 - "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. "

Salvation Connection:

God gives ministers to the Church to help believers grow in faith and prepare them to serve others. These leaders are vital in guiding and nurturing the Church to fulfill its mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What roles do ministers have in the Church?
2. How have church leaders helped you grow in your faith?
3. What are some ways you can support your church leaders?

These devotions help 3rd graders understand the foundational aspects of the Church and encourage them to participate actively in their faith community.

12-B

427: Called to Serve

Bible Story Reference:

1 Timothy 1:12 - "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him,"

Salvation Connection:

Being called to the ministry means feeling a deep, spiritual urging to serve God in a specific way. This calling is a special gift that God gives to those He chooses to lead and serve in various roles within the Church.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to have a calling to the ministry?
2. How do people know if they are called to serve God?
3. What are some ways you can serve God even as a kid?

428: Supporting the Church

Bible Story Reference:

Malachi 3:10 - "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"

Salvation Connection:

The Bible teaches that supporting the church through tithes and offerings is crucial. It allows the church to function and serve the community, demonstrating trust and obedience to God's provision.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are tithes and offerings?
2. Why is it important to give to the church?
3. How does giving help the church and others?

429: The Importance of Tithing

Bible Story Reference:

Malachi 3:10 - "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"

Salvation Connection:

Tithing, or giving one-tenth of one's income to God, is a practice established in the Old Testament as a way to support the work of the temple and its ministers. For Christians today, tithing supports the church's ministries and operations, helping to spread the message of God's love and care for the world.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a tithe, and why is it important to give it?
2. How does tithing help the church and others?
3. What are some ways you can practice giving, even as a kid?

430: The Practice of Tithing

Bible Story Reference:

Genesis 14:18-20 - "And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. Melchizedek blessed Abram ... Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered."

Salvation Connection:

Abraham's act of giving a tenth of his possessions to Melchizedek is the first example of tithing in the Bible. It shows his gratitude and recognition of God's blessings and sovereignty.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was the first person to give a tithe and to whom?
2. What can we learn from Abraham's example of tithing?
3. How can you show thankfulness to God for His blessings?

431: The Meaning of Offerings

Bible Story Reference:

Malachi 3:8 - "Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! 'But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' 'You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me.'"

Salvation Connection:

Offerings are gifts given to God beyond the tithe. They are acts of worship that express our love, devotion, and thanks to God, helping support the church's mission and outreach.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the difference between tithes and offerings?
2. Why do you think God values offerings?
3. What are some ways you can give offerings to God?

432: Sunday Worship

Bible Story Reference:

Colossians 2:16-17 - "So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality."

Salvation Connection:

Christians traditionally worship on Sunday, the day Jesus rose from the dead, as a celebration of His resurrection. It symbolizes new life in Christ and the fulfillment of the Sabbath rest in Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do Christians worship on Sunday?
2. What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us?
3. How can you honor Jesus on Sundays and every day?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders understand the foundational aspects of Christian living, including giving, serving, and worshiping, fostering a deep and practical faith.

13-A

433: Ordinances of the Church

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 28:19-20 - "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."

Salvation Connection:

The Church practices two special ceremonies: water baptism and Communion. These ordinances help us remember Jesus' sacrifice and our commitment to live as His followers.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the two ordinances of the Church?
2. Why do you think these ceremonies are important for Christians?
3. How do these practices help us remember what Jesus did for us?

434: Meaning of Baptism

Bible Story Reference:

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."

Salvation Connection:

Water baptism symbolizes the transformation that happens when someone becomes a Christian: the old life of sin is gone, and a new life in Christ begins. It's like telling the world you belong to Jesus now.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does water baptism represent?
2. Why do you think baptism is done by being fully immersed in water?
3. How does baptism help us show others our faith in Jesus?

435: Who Should Be Baptized?

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 2:41 "Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all."

Salvation Connection:

Anyone who believes in Jesus and decides to follow Him should be baptized. It's a step of obedience, showing publicly that you have accepted Jesus as your Savior.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who should be baptized according to the Bible?
2. What does choosing to be baptized say about a person's faith?
3. Can you think of reasons why someone would want to be baptized?

436: The Method of Baptism

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 8:38 - "He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him."

Salvation Connection:

The Bible shows us that baptism is done by immersion, meaning the whole person is submerged in water. This method beautifully illustrates being buried with Christ and rising again to a new life.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is immersion the method used for baptism?
2. How does being fully submerged symbolize a new life?
3. What might you feel as you watch someone being baptized?

437: Baptism in the Trinity

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 28:19 - "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Salvation Connection:

Christians are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, showing that we belong to God completely. It reflects our belief in the Trinity and commitment to living by God's truth.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to be baptized in the name of the Trinity?
2. What does each part of the Trinity mean to you?
3. How can understanding the Trinity affect your daily life?

438: Communion Symbols

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 11:24-25 - "and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'" In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it."

Salvation Connection:

In Communion, the bread represents Jesus' body, and the cup represents His blood, which He shed for us on the cross. This ceremony helps us remember Jesus' sacrifice and renew our commitment to Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the bread and cup represent in Communion?
 2. Why do you think it's important to remember Jesus' sacrifice?
 3. How does taking Communion make you feel about Jesus?
- These devotions are crafted to help young students grasp foundational Christian practices and their deep meanings, encouraging a thoughtful and committed approach to their faith.

13-B

439: Meaning of Communion*

Bible Story Reference:

In First Corinthians Paul explains the purpose of the Lord's Supper. *1 Corinthians 11:26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.*

Salvation Connection:

Communion is more than just eating bread and drinking juice; it's a profound act of remembering Jesus' sacrifice and proclaiming His death and resurrection. Each time we participate, we are sharing the story of how Jesus saved us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are we announcing when we take Communion?
2. Why do you think it's important to remember Jesus' death?
3. How does taking Communion help us look forward to Jesus' return?

440: Self-Examine, Communion

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 11:28 - "That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup."

Salvation Connection:

Before participating in Communion, we are encouraged to reflect on our lives and confess any sins. This self-examination ensures we honor the significance of the ceremony and receive it with a pure heart.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to examine yourself?
2. Why is it important to be honest with yourself before taking Communion?
3. How can we prepare our hearts for Communion?

441: The Origin of Death

Bible Story Reference:

Romans 5:12 - "When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned."

Salvation Connection:

Death entered the world because of Adam's sin, impacting all of humanity. Understanding this helps us appreciate the eternal life Jesus offers through His victory over sin and death.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did sin and death enter the world?
2. What impact does Jesus' life and resurrection have on death?
3. What does eternal life mean to you?

442: Jesus' Healing Power

Bible Story Reference:

Isaiah 53:4-5 - "But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed"

Salvation Connection:

Isaiah's prophecy that Jesus would heal our sicknesses was fulfilled through His miracles. These healings were signs of Jesus' divine power and His compassion for us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Isaiah predict about Jesus' power to heal?
2. How did Jesus heal people during His time on earth?
3. How can Jesus' healing power be seen in our lives today?

443: Purpose of Jesus' Miracles

Bible Story Reference:

Acts 2:22 - "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' miracles were not just displays of power but also signs that He was the Messiah, approved and sent by God. These miracles helped people believe in His divine mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the purpose of Jesus' miracles?
2. Can you name a miracle of Jesus and what it teaches us about God?
3. Why do you think miracles helped people believe in Jesus?

444: Lessons from Job

Bible Story Reference:

Book of Job (Summary)

Salvation Connection:

The story of Job teaches us that suffering is not always a result of personal sin. Job's faithfulness through trials exemplifies how we can trust God in difficult times, knowing He has a greater plan.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Job's story about misfortune and faith?
2. How did Job react to his hardships?
3. What does Job's story teach us about God's character?

These devotions are designed to help 3rd graders understand deep biblical truths and apply them to their lives, encouraging growth in faith and understanding of God's Word.

14-A

445: Prayer and Healing

Bible Story Reference:

James 5:14-16 - "Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. "

Salvation Connection:

James teaches us that when we are sick, we should seek prayer and anointing from church leaders. This act of faith demonstrates our trust in God's power to heal and comfort us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does James say to do if we are sick?
2. Why is it important to ask for prayer and anointing?
3. How can prayer help us when we're not feeling well?

446: The Blessed Hope

Bible Story Reference:

Titus 2:13 - "while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed."

Salvation Connection:

The return of Jesus Christ is the Christian's blessed hope. This promise gives us joy and anticipation as we look forward to being with Him forever.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the Christian's Blessed Hope?
2. Why is Jesus' return considered a hopeful event?
3. How does this hope affect how we live today?

447: Rapture Understood

Bible Story Reference:

1 Thessalonians 4:16 - "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves."

Salvation Connection:

The Rapture is a future event when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven. It is a moment of great joy and victory for those who have faith in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the Rapture?
2. Who will be taken in the Rapture?
3. How does knowing about the Rapture influence your thoughts about the future?

448: The Timing of the Rapture

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 24:36 - "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows."

Salvation Connection:

Only God knows when the Rapture will happen. This mystery encourages us to live in readiness and faithfulness, always prepared for Jesus' return.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the timing of the Rapture a secret?
2. How should we live knowing that the Rapture could happen at any time?
3. What does being ready for Jesus' return look like in your daily life?

449: Ready for Jesus' Return

Bible Story Reference:

1 Thessalonians 5:4 - "But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief."

Salvation Connection:

Christians are called to live in the light, fully aware and prepared for Jesus' return. Living in God's truth keeps us ready and vigilant.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why shouldn't Jesus' return surprise Christians?
2. What does it mean to live in the light?
3. How can you prepare yourself every day for Jesus' coming?

450: Events After the Rapture

Bible Story Reference:

2 Corinthians 5:10 - "For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body."

Salvation Connection:

After the Rapture, believers will experience significant events in heaven: the judgment and the wedding feast. These events remind us of the reward and celebration that await those who are faithful to Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What two major events happen in heaven after the Rapture?
2. What is the judgment of Christians about?
3. What might the wedding feast of the Lamb be like?

These devotions help 3rd graders explore profound biblical concepts in an accessible way, encouraging them to grow in faith and understanding of God's plan.

14-B

451: The Tribulation Explained

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 24:21 - "For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again."

Salvation Connection:

The Great Tribulation is a time of unprecedented trouble predicted in the Bible, occurring before Christ's return. It serves as a reminder of the importance of faith and perseverance in difficult times.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the Great Tribulation?
2. Why do you think this time will be so challenging?
3. How can we prepare ourselves to stay faithful to God during hard times?

452: The Antichrist

Bible Story Reference:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 - "Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God."

Salvation Connection:

The Antichrist is a figure who will seek to deceive many during the Great Tribulation, demanding worship as if he were God. This teaches us the importance of knowing and staying true to the real God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the Antichrist according to the Bible?
2. Why is it dangerous to follow someone who claims to be God?
3. How can we ensure we are following the true God?

453: The Millennium

Bible Story Reference:

Revelation 20:4 - "Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years."

Salvation Connection:

The Millennium is a future period when Jesus will rule the earth, bringing peace and justice. This hope encourages Christians to look forward to a time of restoration and perfect governance under Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the Millennium?
2. What will Jesus do during the Millennium?
3. How does the promise of Jesus' rule give us hope today?

454: Satan's Imprisonment

Bible Story Reference:

Revelation 20:1-3 - "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years."

Salvation Connection:

During the Millennium, Satan will be bound, preventing him from deceiving the nations. This symbolizes the ultimate victory of good over evil and God's control over all creation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What will happen to Satan during the Millennium?
2. Why is it important that Satan is bound?
3. How does knowing that evil will be restrained help us trust in God's plan?

455: The Final Victory

Bible Story Reference:

Revelation 20:7-10 - "When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore."

Salvation Connection:

After the Millennium, Satan will be defeated completely by Jesus, ensuring peace and righteousness forever. This final victory shows that God's plan for the world is perfect and unstoppable.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happens at the end of the Millennium?
2. How does Jesus finally defeat Satan?
3. What does this final victory mean for believers?

456: Death and Judgment

Bible Story Reference:

Hebrews 9:27 - "And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment,"

Salvation Connection:

The Bible teaches that everyone will experience death and then judgment. This universal truth encourages us to live righteously and seek forgiveness through Jesus to prepare for eternal life with Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the two appointments everyone will face?
2. Why is it important to be prepared for judgment?
3. How can we live today knowing we will face judgment in the future?

These devotions help 3rd graders grasp significant biblical prophecies and doctrines, encouraging them to think about their own faith and the future promises God has made to believers.

15-A

457: The Joy of Heaven

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 25:34 - "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.'"

Salvation Connection:

Heaven is described as a wonderful place prepared by God for those who love Him and accept Jesus as their Savior. It is a place of eternal joy and peace, where we will live forever with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think heaven will be like?
2. Why is heaven described as a place of eternal joy?
3. How can we ensure we will go to heaven?

458: Keeping Pure

Bible Story Reference:

1 John 3:2-3 - "Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure."

Salvation Connection:

Those who look forward to the return of Jesus strive to live pure lives. This purity is a reflection of our hope and faith in Jesus and His promises, showing our readiness for His coming.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to keep yourself pure?
2. How does hoping for Jesus' return help us live better lives?
3. What are some ways you can purify yourself in your daily actions?

459: Who Will Be in Heaven?

Bible Story Reference:

Revelation 21:27 - "Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

Salvation Connection:

Heaven is promised to those who accept Jesus as their Savior and have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. It's a place where only those forgiven and cleansed by Jesus can enter.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to have your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?
2. How can someone ensure their name is there?
3. What might it feel like to meet Jesus in heaven?

460: What Heaven Lacks

Bible Story Reference:

Revelation 21:4 - "He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

Salvation Connection:

In heaven, all the pains and sorrows of this world will be absent. It will be a place free from suffering, where God Himself will comfort us and where joy will be everlasting.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things that won't be found in heaven?
2. Why won't these things exist in heaven?
3. How does knowing this change how you view difficulties in life?

461: The Last Enemy

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 15:26 - "And the last enemy to be destroyed is death."

Salvation Connection:

Death is often feared, but for Christians, it is the last enemy that Jesus will destroy. This victory means eternal life for all who believe in Him, freeing us from the fear of death and promising an everlasting joy.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is death called an enemy?
2. How does Jesus destroy this enemy?
3. What does the destruction of death mean for us?

462: Understanding Hell

Bible Story Reference:

Mark 9:43-48 - "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands."

Salvation Connection:

Hell is described as a place of eternal punishment and fire, reserved for those who reject God and His offer of salvation. Understanding hell underscores the importance of choosing to follow Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is hell like according to the Bible?
2. Why is it important to choose Jesus and follow Him?
3. How can knowing about hell influence how we live and share our faith with others?

These devotions aim to teach young students significant biblical truths about heaven, hell, and living a life that aligns with God's will, encouraging them to reflect on eternal matters and the importance of their choices.

15-B

463: The Purpose of Hell

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 25:41 - "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.'"

Salvation Connection:

Hell was originally prepared for the devil and his demons as a place of punishment. This teaches us about the seriousness of rebellion against God and the consequences of evil.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was hell originally prepared for?
2. Why is it important to understand the purpose of hell?
3. How does knowing the purpose of hell influence how we live?

464: The Lake of Fire?

Bible Story Reference:

Revelation 20:15 - "And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire."

Salvation Connection:

The lake of fire is the eternal destiny for those who reject Jesus Christ and do not have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. It underscores the importance of accepting Jesus as Savior.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happens to those whose names are not in the Book of Life?
2. How can someone ensure their name is in the Book of Life?
3. Why is it crucial to accept Jesus as Savior?

465: The Origin of the Devil

Bible Story Reference:

Isaiah 14:12-15 - "How you are fallen from heaven,
O shining star, son of the morning!
You have been thrown down to the earth,
you who destroyed the nations of the world."

Salvation Connection:

The devil was originally an angel who was punished for trying to exalt himself above God. This story teaches about the dangers of pride and disobedience.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where did the devil come from?
2. What can we learn from the devil's fall?
3. How can we guard against pride in our own lives?

466: The Devil's Limited Power

Bible Story Reference:

Colossians 1:16 - "For through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him."

Salvation Connection:

Though the devil has some power, he is not as powerful as God. Jesus' death and resurrection defeated him, giving us hope and protection under God's authority.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why isn't the devil as powerful as God?
2. What does Jesus' victory over the devil mean for us?
3. How can we rely on God's power in our lives?

467: Evil Powers Protection

Bible Story Reference:

1 John 4:4 - "But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world."

Salvation Connection:

Christians are protected from evil powers because the Holy Spirit within us is greater than any spirit in the world. This assures us of God's constant protection and victory over evil.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why can't evil powers control a Christian?
2. How does the Holy Spirit protect us from evil?
3. What are some ways you can rely on the Holy Spirit daily?

468: Avoiding Occult Practices

Bible Story Reference:

Isaiah 47:12-15 - "Now use your magical charms!
Use the spells you have worked at all these years!
Maybe they will do you some good.
Maybe they can make someone afraid of you."

Salvation Connection:

The Bible warns against engaging in occult practices, as they are against God's will and open doors to evil. Christians are to live by the truth of Scripture and avoid any form of spiritual darkness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are occult practices, and why should Christians avoid them?
2. How can following Scripture help us steer clear of harmful practices?
3. What should you do if you're unsure whether something is acceptable for Christians?

These devotions help 3rd graders understand the spiritual realm and the protection and authority they have through Jesus Christ, encouraging them to live faithfully and safely under God's guidance.

16-A

469: Christian's Hope at Death

Bible Story Reference:

2 Corinthians 5:8 - "Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord."

Salvation Connection:

For Christians, death is not the end but a transition to being with the Lord. This hope provides comfort and assurance that our relationship with God continues beyond our earthly life.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happens to a Christian's soul and spirit at death?
2. Why is it comforting to know that we will be with the Lord after we die?
3. How can this knowledge help you when you think about losing loved ones or even your own life?

470: Conscious After Death

Bible Story Reference:

Luke 16:19-31 - " There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores...."

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man teaches that both the righteous and the wicked are conscious after death. It emphasizes the reality of heaven and hell and the importance of how we live our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man teach us about life after death?
2. Why is it important to understand that our actions on earth have eternal consequences?
3. How should this story influence the way we treat others?

471: Job's Confession of Faith

Bible Story Reference:

Job 19:25-26 - " "But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God!"

Salvation Connection:

Job's strong declaration of faith in eternal life and resurrection shows his deep trust in God's justice and power, even in the face of suffering and death.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Job believe about life after death?
2. How can Job's faith inspire us during difficult times?
3. What does it mean to you that you will see God after you die?

472: Universal Resurrection

Bible Story Reference:

John 5:28-29 - " Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.

Salvation Connection:

Jesus teaches that everyone will be resurrected after death—the righteous to eternal life and the wicked to eternal punishment. This belief in the resurrection motivates us to live righteously.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who will be resurrected according to Jesus?
2. What happens to the righteous and the wicked?
3. How does the promise of resurrection influence how you live your life?

473: The Resurrection Chapter

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 15 - Known as the "resurrection chapter," it provides deep insights into the significance of resurrection for Christians.

Salvation Connection:

Paul elaborates on the resurrection, emphasizing its centrality in Christian faith. The resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our hope for our own resurrection.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is 1 Corinthians 15 called "resurrection chapter"?
2. What are some key points Paul makes about the resurrection?
3. How does Christ's resurrection impact your faith?

474: Resurrection Explained

Bible Story Reference:

1 Corinthians 15:36-44 - "When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed..."

Salvation Connection:

Paul uses the analogy of a seed sprouting into a new plant to explain how Christians will be resurrected. This illustration helps us understand the transformation from our earthly bodies to glorified ones.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Paul explain the resurrection using the example of a seed?
2. What does this analogy teach us about our new bodies in heaven?
3. Why is the resurrection important to your faith?

These devotions help 3rd graders grasp the concept of life after death and the Christian hope of resurrection, providing them with a foundation to appreciate and live out their faith with confidence.

16-B

475: Promise of Christ's Return

Bible Story Reference:

Numerous references throughout the New Testament

Salvation Connection:

The New Testament mentions Jesus' second coming over three hundred times, emphasizing its certainty and importance. This promise encourages believers to live in hopeful anticipation and readiness.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the Bible emphasizes Jesus' second coming so much?
2. How does knowing Jesus will come back affect how we live our lives today?
3. What are some ways you can prepare for Jesus' return?

476: Resurrection and Rapture

Bible Story Reference:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

Salvation Connection:

At the rapture, Christians who have passed away will be resurrected, and together with living believers, will meet Jesus in the air. This event fills Christians with hope for eternal life with Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happens to Christians who have died at the rapture?
2. How does the promise of resurrection give you hope?
3. What does it mean to meet Jesus in the air?

477: The Days of Noah and Lot

Bible Story Reference:

Luke 17:26-28 - "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day ... And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot.

Salvation Connection:

Jesus compared the time of His return to the days of Noah and Lot—periods marked by widespread indifference to God's warnings. This comparison warns us to be spiritually vigilant and not caught unaware.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the days of Noah and Lot like?
2. Why does Jesus compare His return to those times?
3. How can we avoid being indifferent to God's messages today?

478: The Revelation of Christ

Bible Story Reference:

Revelation 20:4-6 - They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Salvation Connection:

The "revelation" of Christ refers to His visible return to earth to reign for a thousand years. This event is a key aspect of Christian eschatology, highlighting Jesus' ultimate authority and victory.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the revelation of Christ mean?
2. Why is Christ's reign for a thousand years significant?
3. How does the promise of Jesus' kingdom on earth inspire you?

479: 2 Parts of the 2nd Coming

Bible Story Reference:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:8

Salvation Connection:

The second coming of Christ comprises two major events: the Rapture and His glorious revelation. Understanding both helps Christians grasp the full scope of what God has planned for the end times.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the two parts of the second coming of Christ?
2. How are the Rapture and Christ's revelation different?
3. Why is it important to understand both events?

480: Be Prepared, His Return

Bible Story Reference:

Matthew 25:1-13 - "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

Salvation Connection:

The parable of the Five Wise and Five Foolish Bridesmaids teaches us to be prepared for Jesus' return, which could happen at any time. This story encourages us to live faithfully and be ready at all times.

Discussion Questions:

1. What lesson does the parable of the bridesmaids teach us?
2. How can we be like the wise bridesmaids?
3. What does it mean to keep your lamp filled with oil, spiritually speaking?

These devotions help 3rd graders understand complex theological concepts related to Jesus' second coming and encourage practical, faithful living as they anticipate His return.