

25

APRIL
2021

HOSEA 7:10-16

SILLY DOVE

Research has shown that there are some ‘not-so-smart’ birds that have a habit of making beautiful and mournful sounds that actually will attract predators. These senseless birds think the predators are their friends. Eventually, the predators will attack them. Some are clueless as they fly here and there without any sense of direction.

Today’s Bible reading compares Ephraim to a silly dove. They went to Egypt and Assyria for help and thought the two would come to their rescue. But they were totally wrong. Instead of turning to God, they turned to others and hoped they could help them.

May this story become a reminder to us. There are times when we put our hope on someone or something else other than God. Instead of getting us out of trouble, it may eventually bring us down. There is nothing wrong with coming to someone that you can trust for help, but our ultimate hope should be in God alone. His help and rescue give the true salvation.

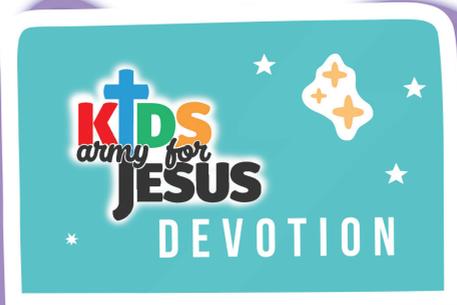
Key verse:

Ephesians 5:17
So don't be foolish with your lives, but learn what the Lord wants you to do.

Prayer

Dear God, give me understanding to know Your will in my life. Amen.





26

APRIL
2021

HOSEA 10:1-4 & 12-13

PLANT A SEED OF GOODNESS

When you want to plant a tomato seed, you plow the soil, put the seed in the soil and water it. It will grow into a tomato tree. In order to produce the best fruit, you have to spend your time putting some fertilizer in the soil. If you just plant the seed without watering it regularly, it will not grow well and eventually, it will die from drought.

Israel is described as a healthy vine destroyed by vanity. After Israel was blessed by God, they took the wealth they received to worship false gods, instead of the One who gave them the blessings. They actually planted wickedness and eventually, reaped evil.

God wants to tell us to always plant goodness anytime and anywhere, at home, school, tuition class, etc. In order to be able to always plant goodness, we need to know the truth and walk in it. We can find the truth by reading the Bible. Just like how the seed needs water daily, we also need to read God's word daily. This way, we will also grow in goodness and we will be ready to plant the seed of goodness wherever we go.

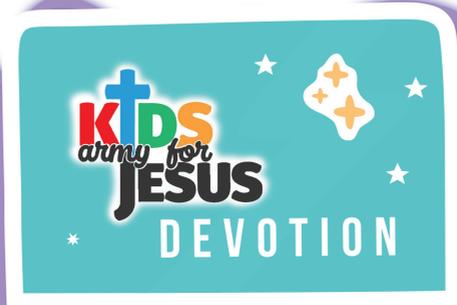
Key verse:

*Hosea 10:12a
If you plant
goodness, you
will harvest
faithful love.*

Prayer

*Dear God, use
me to plant a
seed of goodness
everywhere I go
so that I will reap
love and mercy.
Amen.*





27

APRIL
2021

HOSEA 12:1-6

ARE YOU CHASING THE WIND?

Wind is just moving air and it is invisible. We are unable to see the wind but we certainly can feel it. Wind can't be caught or collected, it's intangible. If you cannot see the wind, there is no way you can catch the wind!

God was telling His people that they were chasing the wind all day long. They wasted their time by finding refuge on their "allies", Egypt and Assyria. They chased after their worldly conducts and forgot about God. All their effort would be meaningless.

Chasing the wins means doing something meaningless. It means no matter how hard you try, how much time you spend or how much energy you put in, eventually you'll come to a point that everything is meaningless.

A life without a relationship with Jesus is like chasing the wind. Only Jesus can give true satisfaction for the effort you are doing, give meaning to your life and fill the emptiness of your heart.

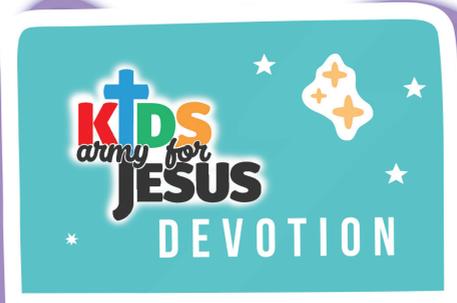
Key verse:

*Ecclesiastes 1:14
I have seen
all the things
that are done
under the sun;
all of them are
meaningless,
chasing after the
wind.*

Prayer

*Dear God, I
want to have a
meaningful life by
staying close to
You. Amen.*





28

APRIL
2021

HOSEA 14

REPENTANCE BRINGS BLESSINGS

When you realize that you have done something bad to your best friend, in order to restore the friendship you will have to admit your mistake, make sincere apologies, ask for forgiveness and rebuild the relationship with your best friend.

These verses are about God teaching the Israelites how their repentance can bring blessing to their life. God taught them to confess and acknowledge their sins and humbly and sincerely ask for God's forgiveness.

It is also applicable to us. Saying sorry may look simple but sometimes our pride and ego stop us from doing it. God wants us to humble ourselves and sincerely admit our sins.

We can come and confess our sins to God anytime in our prayer. Ask God to help you to be quick to apologize to others too. This way we will surely live with abundant peace.

Key verse:

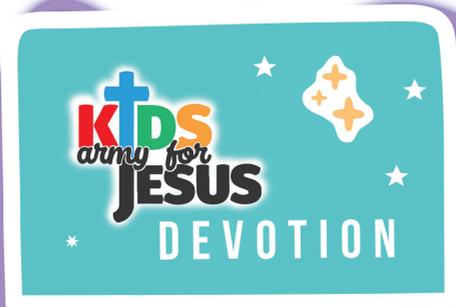
Hosea 14:2

Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips."

Prayer

Dear God, I want to apologize for all my wrongdoings. Thank You for always forgiving me and welcoming me with open arms. Amen.





29

APRIL
2021

JOEL 2:21-27

BE FULL OF JOY

Joel was one of the Minor Prophets in the Bible. The Minor Prophets are not called minor because they are unimportant but because of the size of their books.

Joel wrote only three chapters in his book. In today's reading, he actually reminded God's people to always rejoice, be happy, and full of joy. According to Joel, there are many reasons to be full of joy all the time.

Be full of joy because God has done many great things in the past and He is still doing these great things in the present and in the future. God has stored so much goodness and mercy for our future!

Be full of joy because God always prepares His blessings out of every circumstance. Romans 8:28 says in everything God works for the good of those who love Him. So, God can still bring out something good out of a bad situation.

Lastly, be full of joy because we will never be ashamed as God is always with us and for us. There is Someone who will always defend and protect you from evil.

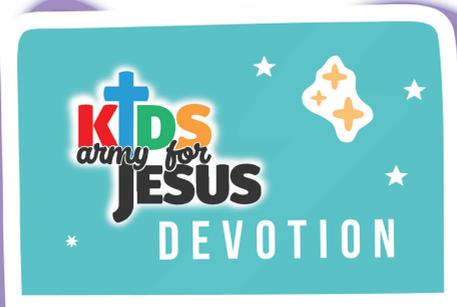
Key verse:

*Joel 2:21
Land, don't be afraid. Be happy and full of joy. The Lord will do great things.*

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for always being so kind and faithful to me. Help me to always be full of joy and to share this good news to others too. Amen.





30

APRIL
2021

AMOS 1:1-2

THE ROARING LION

Research shows that lions, whose main job is to defend his pride, are very protective of their home. They use their loud roar to warn off anything that might threaten their family. They also use their roar to communicate with one another. A lion's roar is loud enough to be heard from 5 miles away.

In the Bible, God is compared to a roaring lion. God is so protective of His beloved children. He always wants to make sure that His children are protected. One of the ways to protect His children is by warning them to stop living in sins. God uses His roar to frighten our enemies away and also to bring us back onto the right path whenever we go astray.

God is also mighty and magnificent. He will show His strength and fierce wrath against His enemy in due time. Let's praise Him for His mighty power and strength.

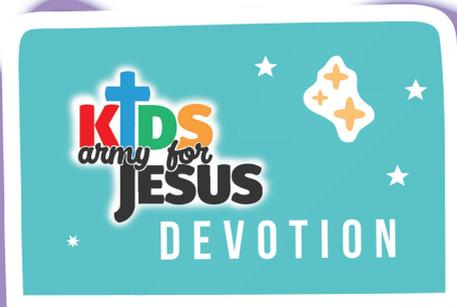
Key verse:

*Hosea 11:10a
I will call for My
people like a
lion calling for
its young.*

Prayer

*Dear God, give
me a heart to
always listen to
Your loving roar
and to always
turn to You as
my God and
Saviour. Amen.*





01

MAY
2021

AMOS 3:1-7

YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE!

If you are the eldest child and you have a younger brother or sister, your parents will often remind you to watch over and take care of them. You are chosen for this special task because your parents have trust and faith in you.

Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus was chosen to carry our sins and burden. He was chosen to take the cross to set us free from eternal pain and death. God Himself said this about Jesus: "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

We are also chosen by God to be His dear children. We are so special in His eyes that He has chosen us. We are chosen to love God by obeying His commandments, to love others just like we love ourselves, to enjoy His blessings with a grateful heart, to remain in Him and to understand there is always a consequence for every sin we commit.

Key verse:

*Amos 3:2a
There are many families on earth, but you are the only family I chose to know in a special way.*

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for choosing me to be Your children through Jesus. Thank You for making me so special. I love You. Amen.

