## **B4KIDS EASTER DEVOTIONAL**

# REVIVE



## INTRO

Spring is here and that means Easter is coming! This is the time of year where everything around us is bursting with life and new beginnings. And, because of the death and resurrection of Jeus, we too can be an overflowing well of living water for our families and friends.

Over the next few days we are going to walk through the book of John together. The B4Kids team has written some simple reflections for children that coordinate with the B4Church Easter devotional. Use these reflections as a launching pad into family discussion.

We want to encourage you to come to God's Word each day with a heart ready to receive.

You do not need to know all the answers. Keep it simple. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth. John 16:13 says, "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"

We pray you and your family are blessed and experience Jesus in new ways this Easter season.

## LET'S FAST

During this 21 day devotional, we want to encourage your family to fast! What is fasting? Fasting is simply a sacrifice that we give to God. A sacrifice is not something that you do not enjoy doing, such as the dishes or laundry (we still have to get those done!) A sacrifice is something that you enjoy and instead of keeping it for yourself, you give it to God. Like many people in the Bible, you could give up food, or even give God things such as TV, social media or video games - really anything!

The heart of fasting is to make room for you to hear more from God. God sees your heart, and He cares about why you do things. Fasting is not a "rule" that you have to follow, it is a personal decision to sacrifice something that maybe you really care about in devotion to God.

Here is a quick guide of how to fast:

- · Decide what to fast from.
- Consider fasting for 21 days while you do this daily devotional!
- Use the time you gain because of your fasting to be with God.
  For example, instead of watching TV for 20 minutes, use that time to be with God in your Bible, in prayer and/or in worship.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 1:4

#### **REFLECTION:**

Light shines super bright when things are dark. Jesus is THE light, the best light! He makes dark things bright and sad things happy. This week pray that your friends and family see the light of Jesus when they are sad.

#### PASSAGE:

John 1.4

#### REFLECTION:

In Jesus there is life! This means that when we know Jesus and have a relationship with Him, we have life.

Here's an example: Think about a car. What does a car need in order to work? Gas! Now, think about how silly it would be if you went to the gas station and instead of filling your car with gas, you filled it with soda, or jello, or even... slime! How do you think the car would work? Not well at all. Why? Because the car was designed to run by having gas!

In the same way, you were uniquely designed to have life through the love of Jesus. And through His life, you shine like a light to those around you. Pray today about how Jesus can use you to shine your light to those around you.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 3:36

#### **REFLECTION:**

God has a special job for you to do! He wants you to choose to do that job with a happy heart. When we choose God's plan for our lives we will be happy!

#### PASSAGE:

John 3:36

#### REFLECTION:

Have you ever been invited to a birthday party? My guess is that if you were invited to a party, your invitation was not followed by a list of things you had to do to be able to go to the party, right?

Just like a birthday invitation, but better, Jesus is offering you an invitation to eternal life! Jesus does not tack on a list of rules that you need to do to be invited. Following Jesus is not about obeying a set of rules in order to be invited to Jesus' party; it means accepting Jesus into your heart and loving Him. This week pray about Jesus' invitation to you of eternal life and pray for those that do not yet know Jesus.

## **PASSAGE:**

John 4:14

#### **REFLECTION:**

Have you ever been super thirsty? Did you know that your heart can be thirsty, too? Jesus' love takes away the thirst in our hearts. You can also help a friend's thirsty heart by being loving and encouraging just like Jesus!

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 4.14

#### REFLECTION:

For years Sprite's slogan has been "Quench the Thirst!" In other words, when you are really thirsty, drink Sprite and you will no longer be thirsty! But the truth is that soda does not actually quench your thirst; in reality, it makes you MORE thirsty, hurts your teeth, and is filled with sugar that is not good for your body. Water is not only the healthier choice, but it is the only thing that was designed to quench your thirst!

In John 4:14, Jesus is saying that just like the water we drink everyday is the only thing that quenches our thirst, He is the ONLY thing that quenches our thirst forever. All other things will eventually leave us thirsty. Jesus is the only One that can really satisfy us. Today when you pray, talk to Jesus about how you want Him to be the living water in your life.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 5:21

#### **REFLECTION:**

Did you know that inside your body, there is something called a spirit? When you ask Jesus to live in your heart and be your forever friend your spirit comes alive! Today, throw a dance party celebrating Jesus in you!

#### PASSAGE:

John 5.21

#### REFLECTION:

God is all powerful! In the Bible, you see Jesus raise people from the dead (John 11:1-44) and give them life. But, did you know that everyday Jesus is giving you life? He is the author and creator of life. Jesus is pleased to give you life! Today, pray about what it looks like to have a relationship with the One who gives you life.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 5:26

#### **REFLECTION:**

Jesus is real! He is alive today and wants to be everyone's forever friend. Would you like Jesus to be your forever friend?

#### PASSAGE:

John 5.26

#### REFLECTION:

Jesus does not need an outside source to give Him life. For example, think about a cell phone. A cell phone can not work without being charged. If it is not charged, then the cell phone dies. This is because the cell phone does not have life itself, it needs it from another source (the charger).

Jesus IS life, just like God is life. Their life is endless; God never needs a charge. He is the One who gives life; God is our charger, our neverending powersource.

Today, instead of running on your own battery or strength, pray that Jesus gives you His life and recharges you, because He is our source of life

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 5:39-40

#### **REFLECTION:**

Pray for your friends and family to see that Jesus is God! He is the only true and living God!

#### PASSAGE:

John 5:39-40

#### REFLECTION:

Reading our Bibles is very important to our walk with Jesus because that is how we discover more about who God is and how He speaks to us. But the Bible is not just a school book, it is the living Word of God! God wants us to read the Bible to learn more about Him because He cares for us.

Tomorrow, when you read the Bible, start off by praying for the Holy Spirit to join you in your reading. Invite Him in! God wants to speak to you through His Word, not just have you read the Bible like a textbook.

## **PASSAGE:**

John 6:27+33

#### **REFLECTION:**

Jesus fills up our empty hearts with His love and friendship. Just like bread fills up our tummies, Jesus fills up our hearts.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 6:27+33

#### REFLECTION:

Did you know that in the Old Testament when the Israelites were hungry and in the desert, God sent bread from Heaven? This bread was called manna. Although this bread kept them full for a while, eventually they were hungry again.

Jesus is our bread that never runs out and sustains us. Whether we are hungry, sad, scared, or feel a different emotion, He is the only one that truly fills our needs forever. Today, as you pray, invite Jesus into what you are struggling with and ask Him to be your strength.

## **PASSAGE:**

John 6:40

#### **REFLECTION:**

God loves you! He will never stop loving you. Even when you make mistakes and have tough days, God's love will never stop.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 6:40

#### REFLECTION:

God's will, or desire, is that everyone who invites Jesus into their heart and believes in Him will have eternal life! How cool is it to know that God wants you to spend eternity, or forever, with Him? Today, pray for those that do not yet know Jesus, asking the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 6:53

#### **REFLECTION:**

Understanding God can be hard, and that's okay! When you talk to God today, ask God to help you know Him in a special way.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 6.53

#### REFLECTION:

Did this passage sound weird to you when you read it? Let's be honest, it is a bit of an odd passage. But remember that Jesus often speaks in metaphors. A metaphor is expressive, comparing two things that are different but have similar qualities.

When we read the Bible, we are consuming, or "taking in" information about who Jesus is. God wants for us to have hearts that are hungry to know who He is. Today, write a prayer to Jesus about how you want to know Him more; ask Him to show you more of who He is.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 6:63

#### **REFLECTION:**

Jesus' words in the Bible are alive and powerful. When you read the Bible, Jesus' words go into your eyes and ears, and then, they travel down into your hearts, where they change you and fill you up with love and joy.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 6.63

#### REFLECTION:

While Jesus walked on this Earth, all of the words that He spoke were filled with the Holy Spirit and life. That is still true today! As we have said before, the Bible is very different from an ordinary textbook you might read in school. It is God breathed (2 Timothy 3:16), which means that when you read it, God will speak to you through it.

Today, pray that God opens your heart and your ears to be able to hear His voice. Tomorrow, before you read your Bible, pray that the Holy Spirit speaks to you.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 6:68

#### **REFLECTION:**

Asking Jesus into your heart is the only way to be God's forever friend and to live with God forever in heaven.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 6.68

#### REFLECTION:

All around you there are words: on social media, in movies, tv shows, words your friends speak, words you read in books, and more. So many words, and yet, none of them compare to God's words.

Although in themselves these other words are not bad, they will not lead you to eternal life. Everything Jesus says points to eternal life; Jesus is the only one who can give us eternal life. We have to prioritize Jesus' words in the Bible over the words we read everyday.

Pray that God gives you a desire to read His Word before you read what the world has to say, and pray for those that do not know who Jesus is.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 8:12

#### **REFLECTION:**

When Jesus lives in your heart, you become a bright light in the dark too, just like Jesus! You can show the light of Jesus inside you by being kind to others, sharing, saying kind things. How can you show the light of Jesus inside your heart to others?

#### PASSAGE:

John 8.12

#### REFLECTION:

Jesus is the light of the World. Can you even imagine a world where there is no light? It is hard to think about. In John 8:12, Jesus is saying that He brings light to any situation that is dark. Jesus wants to be invited into things that feel dark in your life: a fight with a friend, the loneliness you feel from being alone, the fear that you face at nighttime. When Jesus is invited into those situations, He brings light to them! Darkness cannot stay when there is light. Today, talk to God about areas of your life that feel dark and invite His light into those places.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 10:10-11

#### **REFLECTION:**

Shepherds take care of sheep. They feed them and lead them to safe places. Jesus is like a shepherd, taking good care of His children. You can trust Jesus to be a Good Shepherd to you! He will always love you and take good care of you.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 10·10-11

#### REFLECTION:

Jesus is our shepherd. A shepherd protects their flock and takes care of them. But Jesus went above and beyond that when He died on the cross. He showed us that because He loves us so much, He was willing to give up His own life so that we could have eternal life with Him. His great sacrifice was the ultimate display of love. Today, thank Jesus for His sacrifice on the cross.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 10:17

#### **REFLECTION:**

Jesus loves you so much that He died for you. But Jesus did not stay dead. He came to life again, and because He rose from the dead, He has power over death and sickness. How cool! Thank Jesus for His amazing power today.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 10.17

#### REFLECTION:

Jesus wanted us to spend forever with Him, which could only be done by making a sacrifice. Jesus took our sin, our mistakes, and our bad choices upon Himself, and was nailed to the cross. By dying for us, and then, three days later, being raised from the dead, He showed His power over sin and death. Jesus teaches us that all who believe can have eternal life with Him!

Today, pray for your friends that do not know the wonderful sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 10:28

#### **REFLECTION:**

You can trust that Jesus will always take care of you; He will never stop loving you.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 10.28

#### REFLECTION:

Jesus promises us eternal life in Him, which means that if we know Jesus and have accepted Him into our life, we are promised life with Him forever! He also promises that no one will snatch us out of His hand. This shows us that God holds onto us, that we are not alone, and that if we continue to follow Jesus, the promise of eternal life cannot be stolen by anyone. It is assured and promised in Jesus! Pray for all of the people who need to know that they are safe in Jesus, and that He keeps His promises.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 11:25

#### **REFLECTION:**

When we have Jesus in our hearts we are forever friends. Even when our bodies die, our spirits stay alive with God forever and ever in heaven! Because of this we do not have to be scared of dying.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 11.25

#### REFLECTION:

Our earthly bodies will someday pass away. As hard and as scary as this can be to think about, we have so much hope in Jesus. When we put our trust and belief in Him, we go on to have eternal life, which means, forever! Today, pray that God fills you with hope that only comes from Him. Pray also, for those that do not yet know Jesus, that God will speak to them and show them His love.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 12:25

#### **REFLECTION:**

The only thing that matters in life is doing the special job that God created for you to do. When we choose Jesus, God gives us blessings, or good things, to enjoy and life will go on forever in heaven.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 12.25

#### REFLECTION:

There are so many fun and wonderful things that this life has: sports, movies, books, art, technology, food, and more! These things are not necessarily bad, but Jesus is saying that our number one desire should be Him. Those things that seem to bring us entertainment and fun, do not even compare to the everlasting joy we experience in Jesus! God does not want you to live a miserable life, quite the opposite! He wants you to have life to the fullest, which can only come through Jesus, not the things of this world.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 14:6

#### **REFLECTION:**

Jesus wants to be your best friend! He wants to spend time with you everyday. He loves you. What do you want to know about Jesus today?

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 14.6

#### REFLECTION:

We have touched on the word *invitation* several times, but let's come back to it once more. Jesus has invited us to the Father, and our invitation is through Jesus. Accepting this invitation means that we know Him, invite Him into our heart, and stay in relationship with Him. It is that simple! Our way to the Father, to eternal life, is through having a personal relationship with Jesus.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 15:13

#### **REFLECTION:**

Jesus' love for you is SO BIG. It is bigger than anything you can imagine. Jesus loved you so much that He died for you on the cross. He died so that you could have life with Him. Whoa, that is crazy wonderful love! Praise Jesus for His love for you today.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 15.13

#### REFLECTION:

Jesus loves you so much. He does not just tell you that He loves you, He shows you. He showed us how much He loves us by dying on the cross for our sins and by wanting a relationship with us everyday. Jesus shows us what real love is! Thank Jesus for His love for you today, and ask Him to help you love others like Him.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 17:3

#### **REFLECTION:**

Do you have a hard time understanding the Bible and Jesus? You are not alone! The Bible can be hard for both little kids and grown-ups to understand, that is why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live inside us. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the things that are hard for us; the Holy Spirit is always with us, there to bring us comfort, help, and show us the way.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 17:3

#### REFLECTION:

How to have eternal life: know God, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom He sent. Jesus does not want us to wait until Heaven to enjoy eternal life. We actually get to begin eternal life once we have accepted God into our hearts. How cool is that?! Jesus does not give us a long set of rules for getting eternal life; He just says the most important two things are to know God the Father and Himself. Today, thank God for your access to eternal life. Thank Him for His desire to know and love you, and ask Him to show you more of who He is.

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 20:31

#### **REFLECTION:**

The Bible shows us who Jesus is and how He wants us to live. The Bible also has the power to change our lives. What are you going to read about Jesus today?

#### **PASSAGE:**

John 20.31

#### REFLECTION:

Like any book that you read in school, there is a point, pr purpose, to the book. A book about frogs would be an informative book that would teach you about frogs. A book about outer space would teach you about outer space. In the same way, the Bible is a book with a purpose: to teach us about God's love for the world. John tells us in this verse the reason he wrote the book of John was so that you may believe in Jesus Christ, and that by believing you can have life. Pray today that God, the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), gives you hope, trust, and faith in Jesus Christ.