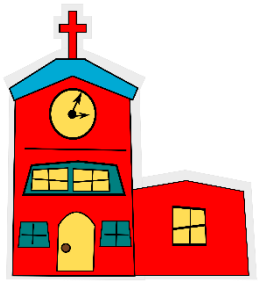

Joyfully Go to School with Jesus

Take home devotion, scripture, and prayers for families.

Provided by: Rev. Teresa Peters

Faith in Real Life

Going back to school can be a stressful time of the year for families. The long summer days and topsy turvy routines are coming to an end. Parents are trying to install new routines and set new priorities. As ministry leaders we are aware that often God, Faith, the Church, and families' relationship with Christ are not always at the top of their priority list. Part of our role as ministry leaders is to equip families and give them tools to use to help nurture their relationship with Christ and the church.

The following is one way to do this.

Joyfully Go to School with Jesus

Items needed:

- *A reusable lunch bag for each family unit*
- *A printer*
- *White 8 ½ x 11 paper*
- *Colored Card stock*
- *Scissors or a paper cutter*

Directions:

- Print out one Devotion paper for each family unit on the ordinary paper.
- Print out the 15 scripture verses on one color card stock for each family.
- Print out the 15 prayers on a different color card stock for each family.
- Cut out the 15 scriptures and 15 prayers.
- Put the devotion, the 15 scripture cards and the 15 prayer cards in each lunch bag.
- If you would like you can put a letter "J" or a sticker with your church name and the words "Joyfully Go to School with Jesus" on the front.

Joyfully Go to School with Jesus

Isaiah 30:21 - "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

Parents:
We know that going back to school can raise a mixture of emotions in in our children, excitement, anxiousness, nervousness, and even sadness that summer is over. No matter which emotions your kids are displaying, it's so helpful for parents to steer their child's focus on one thing…Jesus, knowing that He is with them everywhere they go.

I remember what the night before school was like in my house when my kids were little. It was crazy and chaotic. The long summer days and topsy turvy routines was coming to an end. It was time for a fresh start and a whole new routine.

I encourage you to start a new routine this year. The day before school begins is a great time to start by doing this devotion with your child(ren). Then each morning, before school, read one of scripture cards and one of the prayer cards together with your child(ren), that you will find in the lunch bag, so they can **Joyfully Go to School with Jesus.**

Devotion:
So, tomorrow you go back to school. Going back to school can be scary, or exciting or a bit of both, you are learning new things and becoming familiar with new ideas. There will be new students in your class, you will have a new teacher, and the material will be more challenging than the year before. You will have to make choices. Choices about how to respond to a teacher, how to answer questions on an assignment or test, who to play with or hangout with, choices about all sorts of things.

The great thing is you don't have to do it alone.

Isaiah 30:21 says,
"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

God is with you. God wants us to lean on Him and listen for His voice directing us in all that we do. God wants us to become all that He created us to be. He wants us to follow His lead. Know this, there will be stumbling blocks that will try and get us to go off track. Sometimes we won't know which way to turn, left or right, we may not know the answer on an assignment or who to play with on the playground. The wonderful thing is that God knows those stumbling blocks and He is with us to guide us around, over or through them.

God speaks to us in different ways. He speaks to us through the Scriptures, the Bible. He speaks to us through prayer, both the silent and out loud type. God also speaks to us through people, fellow followers of Christ.

Always expect that God will speak to you. When you know and expect to hear Him, He will guide you. Whenever you have to make decisions or choices, ask God for His wisdom and remember His promise in Isaiah 30:21 to show you the way to go.

Prayer:
Dear God, thank-you that we get to go back to school knowing that You will be with us each day to guide us and lead us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A Resource for Holy Families - from the family devotional website: www.holyfamilytime.com Sola Publishing © 2022 (permission is given to print and reproduce this sheet for local in-home use)

Scripture Cards	**“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.” - Isaiah 30:21**
“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” – Colossians 3:12	**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” -Matthew 22:37**
“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” – Luke 6:31	**“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” – Ephesians 4:9**
“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9	**“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” – 1 Peter 5:7**

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:19	**“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” – Colossians 3:23**
“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” – 2 Timothy 13:16-17	**“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” – Galatians 5:22-23**
“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” – 1 Peter 5:6	**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” – Proverbs 3:5-6**
“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” – 1 Timothy 4:12	**“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” – Matthew 19:14**

Prayer Cards	**Dear Lord, thank-you for my family, my school, my friends, and my teachers. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**
Gracious God, please protect me today as I go to school, keep and those around me safe I pray. In the strong name of Jesus Christ, Amen.	**Dear Lord, You are the maker of everything including me. I thank-you for all the gifts you have given me, including the blessing of school. Always help me to remember this. Amen.**
O God, you who make things new, enlighten the thoughts of my mind, strengthen the cells of my body, and cause praise to surge in my heart so that I might truly experience this life you have given me. Amen.	**O Lord, you promise to be with me always, be with me this day as I begin my school day. Keep me in health and keep me from harm. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**
Heavenly Father, please help me do all that I can to listen well and understand. Help me to be cooperate with the teacher and those around me throughout the day. In the strong name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.	**O, Jesus. Please be with me as I start our day at school today. Make this day joyful and bless my friends, teachers, and parents who care for me. In Jesus, I pray. Amen.**

O, Lord Jesus. I pray for a heart that loves you. Give me the strength to love others more than I love myself. I thank you for this day. I thank you for another opportunity. Amen.	Dear Jesus, Give me protection in this world and shield me from any unkind thoughts, actions, and remarks. Keep away bullies and those who might harm me I pray for courage to accept all my responsibilities today. In Jesus, I believe. Amen.
Dear Lord, I pray for Your guidance and protection upon me. Help me keep the evil away. Protect my mind from evil thoughts and guide me to find the truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.	Dear Father, thank you for this opportunity to learn and for guiding me through the day. I ask you to protect me from all enemies who seek to destroy my faith in you. Forgive my sins and help me to be a witness for You. Amen.
Heavenly Father, may your Holy Spirit help me seek wisdom and let me help others find their way to you. In the strong name of Jesus Christ, Amen.	O God, be with me today at school and fill my heart with joy as I find my passion. In Jesus, I believe. Amen.
Father God, please be with me today in everything I will face. Help me to learn well at school. I pray that I would be a good friend to those around me today. Amen	Gracious God, I thank-you for everything You have done for me. I thank-you for my family and my friends. I thank-you that you love me so much that You sent Your Son Jesus for me. In His name I pray, Amen.