

Adventure BIBLE

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

for Kids

— A 365-DAY GUIDE —

TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

 ZONDERkidz

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Adventure Bible Daily Devotional for Kids
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Introduction

Get ready for a 365-day adventure through God's Word with the *Adventure Bible Daily Devotional for Kids*.

This special devotional will help you grow closer to God, and you are sure to learn more about yourself and the world around you too! Each devotion has a Bible verse for you to think about, a topic that relates to your life, and a prayer or fun do-it-yourself activity.

You will learn all kinds of new things and interesting facts about the Bible, God, and his wonderful creation. From the artwork, biblical truths, and hands-on activities, you will have an adventure like no other. And if you happen to skip a day, don't worry! You can read the devotions any day of the year.

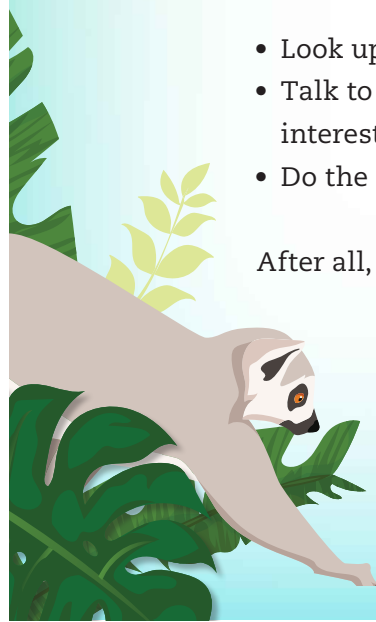
But there's more . . .

From the *Adventure Bible Daily Devotional for Kids*, you can also:

- Look up each day's verse in your Bible to read more
- Talk to your parents about the topics and interesting facts
- Do the action-packed activities with a friend

After all, why keep the adventure to yourself?

So strap on your hiking boots and start the *Adventure Bible Daily Devotional for Kids* today!



DAY 1

Let the Adventure Begin!

See what amazing love the Father has given us! Because of it, we are called children of God. And that's what we really are!

—1 John 3:1

Ready for the best adventure of your life? Is it a boat ride on the ocean? A train ride through the mountains? A camping trip next to a stream? A hike through the jungle? Any of those places would be a blast, but this type of adventure is better than that!

The God of the universe wants a relationship with you. Yes, it's true! He created you, loves you, and calls you his child. Amazing, huh? And guess what? You can choose to love God back. How? By making him the center of your life. If you do that, you will be able to stand strong against any challenge that comes your way. Ready to start an adventure with the God who loves you? Awesome!

Grab a pen and a piece of paper and write a letter to God. Tell him everything you want him to know about you.



DAY 2

Special Gifts

God's gifts of grace come in many forms. Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others. You should use it faithfully.

—1 Peter 4:10

What do you love to do? Shoot hoops? Draw? Play an instrument? Most of the time we do what we enjoy because God has given us a special gift. But here's the thing: You're not supposed to keep that gift only for yourself. Sure, you can play basketball in your front yard. Or draw a pretty picture and hang it on your wall. Or sit inside your house and practice the piano. There's nothing wrong with that! However, God gave you your special gift to serve others.

When you share your gift with others, you are also serving God. Why not join a basketball team? Paint a picture for a friend? Or play the piano for the elderly people in a nursing home? You have the chance to inspire others and make people happy by using your gift. So be a faithful friend and glorify God with your gift!

Get out a piece of paper and draw a straight line down the center. On the left side list all the things you love to do. On the right side write down how you can use your gifts to serve others. Then take a leap of faith and do it!



DAY 3

Faith Not Fear!

Be strong and brave. Don't be afraid of them. Don't be terrified because of them. The LORD your God will go with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you.

—Deuteronomy 31:6

Do you ever get afraid when your teacher calls on you in class? Maybe you're scared to take a spelling test or a math quiz. Or maybe you're afraid of the dark and going to bed sends chills down your spine. Should you hide behind the person in front of you so that your teacher doesn't see you? Pretend to be sick so that you don't have to take a test? Sleep with your light on?

God will be with you when you are afraid. He will never leave you or desert you. It doesn't mean those jittery feelings will automatically go away. In fact, you may always get a bit nervous when speaking in front of the class, taking a test, or turning out the lights when it's time for bed. The difference is that you can be courageous because God is right there beside you.

Dear God, thank you for never leaving me alone. Help me to be strong and brave when I am afraid. Amen.

DAY 4

Friend Sharpener

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

—Proverbs 27:17

What type of pencil would you rather use: a sharp one or an unsharpened one? A sharp one, of course! That's because a sharp tip helps you write and draw better.

Do you have friends who help you be the best you can be? You know—the type of people who encourage you to be more kind, loving, and truthful? A kind person helps you be kinder. A loving person shows you how to be more loving. And a truthful person teaches you how to tell the truth. The Bible verse above talks about this very thing! Not only does iron sharpen iron, but good friends also sharpen each other to be better. Just as a pencil needs a good sharpener, you need good friends who sharpen you to be the best you can be.

Think of your best friends. What words would you use to describe them? Caring? Generous? Honest? If all you can come up with are negative words, like angry, mean, and unkind, then it's time to choose different friends.





DAY 5

Everyone Is Different

Christ has accepted you. So accept one another in order to bring praise to God.

—Romans 15:7

Have you ever noticed that everyone has their own likes and dislikes? Your sister may not love playing soccer like you, but she's a great singer. Your friend cheers for your least favorite sports team, but when you hang out, he always makes you laugh. Sometimes it's hard to accept and love people when they are different than you. You might be tempted to get frustrated with them, but doing that only makes the situation worse.

A better choice is to accept your siblings and friends for who God made them to be. Let's be honest—the world would be boring if everyone was alike! By accepting others, you stop expecting them to be just like you. We can be grateful and celebrate that God made everyone one of a kind. It makes the world a much more interesting place!

Dear God, thank you for accepting me for who I am, and for making everyone different. Help me to accept others. Amen.

DAY 6

Lions and Tigers and Beans!

Then God said, “Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals.”

—Genesis 1:26

Many workers care for animals at the zoo. They feed the animals, help them get enough exercise, and make sure their cages are clean. What is your favorite animal? A giraffe? Dolphin? Maybe you love to walk through the aviary and see all the birds with their colorful feathers, or perhaps you enjoy the polar bears and penguins.

Did you know God wants you to care for animals too? Whether or not you have a pet at home, you can care for animals by taking care of the earth around you. Animals need a healthy place to live, and it is our responsibility to help them. By recycling plastic bottles, picking up trash, and walking or riding your bike instead of riding in the car, you are keeping God’s earth clean and protecting his creations.

Talk with your parents about ways your family can care for animals and the earth. Visit an animal shelter or make a bird feeder for your yard. Small changes make a big impact!

DAY 7

Green Thumb

The word of God is alive and active. It is sharper than any sword that has two edges. It cuts deep enough to separate soul from spirit. It can separate bones from joints. It judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart.

—Hebrews 4:12

Do you have a green thumb? That means you have a special skill for growing plants and keeping them alive and healthy. How do you know if something is alive? Are your toys alive? Rocks? Water? No, those things are *nonliving* things. People, animals, and plants are examples of *living* things because they can grow, move, breathe, and do a bunch of other cool things.

The Bible says the Word of God is alive. When you read and listen to what the Bible says, God does something amazing to your heart and mind. He helps you grow, just like someone with a green thumb who keeps things alive. God's Word can change you from the inside out. Wow! Now that's powerful.

Try to keep a plant alive for a couple of weeks by watering it and making sure it gets the right amount of sun. Keep your heart and mind alive by reading the Bible every day too.



DAY 8

Celebrity Trap

Praise the LORD for the glory that belongs to him. Worship the LORD because of his beauty and holiness.

—Psalm 29:2

Do you watch television? Movies? Have a favorite band or singer? Sometimes we admire celebrities so much we want to be just like them—wear the same type of clothes, get the same haircuts, and talk and act like them too. But when you worship celebrities, you make them far more important than they are and compare their lives with yours. The truth is, celebrities are regular people who eat, sleep, and go about their day just like you. Lots of them are nice people, but their fame doesn't mean they're worth more in God's eyes.

But there is someone who is worthy of your worship. JESUS! He not only died for your sins, but he also made you (and the rest of the world), loves you, and has big plans for your life. Show God how much you love him today!

You can worship God in many ways, such as singing, praying, reading the Bible, and helping others.



DAY 9

Audience of One

Am I now trying to get people to think well of me? Or do I want God to think well of me? Am I trying to please people? If I were, I would not be serving Christ.

—Galatians 1:10

Who is the first person you talk to when something good happens in your life? Your friends? Parents? Siblings? What about when you get an A on a test? Or score a goal in soccer? It feels good when people clap for you and give you a high five. But sometimes, we worry too much about other people's opinions. Sometimes, all we care about are those cheers and high fives.

When you only want to please others, it means that what other people think matters more to you than what God thinks. The only audience you need to please is God! Make him number one in your life, because God's love and what he thinks about you is most important.

Dear God, thank you for loving me most. Help me to seek your opinion instead of the opinions of others. Amen.

DAY 10

Share God's Love

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become a child of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

—1 John 4:7-8

When was the last time you told your parents you love them? Last month? Last week? Last night before bed? When was the last time you *showed* your parents you love them? You can show them by doing things like feeding the dog, taking out the trash, or cleaning your room without being asked. But your love for others doesn't have to stop there. You can write a letter to a friend, bring your teacher a thank-you gift, or bake cookies for your neighbor.

God created you and loved you first—that's why you and I get to show love to other people. It makes God so happy when we spread love to our friends, family, and communities! He always wants you to find ways to be loving and kind to the people around you.

Make a list of simple ways you can show God's love to others. Do one every day for a week. Sharing God's love with others will help you understand God's love for you.

DAY 11

Unique YOU!

How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.

—Psalm 139:14

What do you look like? Do you have red hair, black hair, or are you blonde? Do you wear braces? Glasses? Do you have freckles? Are you tall, short, or in between? How would your friends describe you? Funny? Serious? Calm? Gentle? Quiet? Loud?

God made you special. There is no one else like you in the entire world. No one looks exactly like you (unless you have an identical twin, but even then there are differences!). No one has your personality, and no one thinks the way you do. You are special, and God designed you for a purpose!

Draw and color a picture of yourself. Write “God Made Me Unique” on the top and hang it on your wall.



DAY 12

Respecting God and Others

The LORD takes delight in those who have respect for him. They put their hope in his faithful love.

—Psalm 147:11

Have you ever wanted to laugh when someone falls down? Have you ever judged someone because they look different than you? Have you ever wanted to say a bad word to fit in or get attention? Respect is a big word and important to understand. Respect means you care about other people's feelings. Respect means you think good things about a person no matter how they look. Respect means you care about yourself too.

Did you know you can also show God respect? Yes, you can! You can talk to God and thank him for everything he's given you. You can listen to your parents without grumbling or complaining. And you can read your Bible and tell others about it. All these things show respect for God!

Dear God, thank you for your love. Help me show respect—to you and others. Amen.



DAY 13

Plan B!

In their hearts human beings plan their lives. But the LORD decides where their steps will take them.

—Proverbs 16:9

Each day is a new adventure. Maybe today is an extra-special day, one that you have been planning for weeks or months. Maybe you are having your best friend over to your house for a sleepover. Maybe you are getting a new puppy. Or maybe you have your suitcase packed and are going on vacation!

It's good to make plans, but sometimes your day doesn't go as planned. Sometimes friends get sick and can't come over. Sometimes puppies need another week to grow before you can take them home. Sometimes you have to wait in the airport a long time before your plane leaves. No matter what, remember God is in control. He decides what is best and always has a better plan. The best part is that you can trust him to guide your steps each day!

Dear God, thank you for each new day. Help me to trust in you. Guide my steps today. Amen.

DAY 14

Praise God!

So the people said, “LORD, may your glorious name be praised. May it be lifted high above every other name that is blessed and praised.”

—Nehemiah 9:5

Do you have a good singing voice? Maybe you’ve been singing for as long as you can remember, or maybe you don’t remember the last time you hummed a tune. Maybe the only time you sing is in the shower or in front of your bedroom mirror. Many people are shy when it comes to singing in a large group of people, and others sing really loud.

Did you know God doesn’t care if you sing like a professional or sound like a croaking frog? No matter what, it makes God happy when you sing and worship him. And guess what? It will make your heart happy too. By singing praise songs to God, you show him that you are thankful for all he has given you. So turn on the radio to a good Christian station and sing along!

The next time you hear your favorite Christian song or sing hymns at church, praise God with your voice!



DAY 15

What-If Game

**Turn your worries over to the Lord.
He will keep you going. He will
never let godly people be shaken.**

—Psalm 55:22

Do you play the what-if game? You know, when you ask . . .

What if the neighbor's dog bites me?

What if the dentist finds a cavity?

What if a spider crawls on my pillow at night while I sleep?

Eeek!

It's easy to worry about situations like these, but there's a reason the Bible tells you to pray and give your worries to God. He cares about every what-if question you have. When you pray, God calms you and gives you peace when you are tempted to worry. He also watches over you and gently reminds you that he's in control. Truth is, most of the things you worry about will never happen, but it's good to know God cares and will listen.

Dear God, thank you for being in control of my life. Help me to trust you instead of playing the what-if game. Amen.

DAY 16

Adopted? YES!

So he decided long ago to adopt us. He adopted us as his children with all the rights children have. He did it because of what Jesus Christ has done. It pleased God to do it.

—Ephesians 1:5

Are you adopted? How awesome that someone chose you to be their very own! If you're not adopted, do you know someone who is? Most likely you do. Maybe you don't really know what adoption means and it sounds unfamiliar to you. You don't need to be scared to talk about it. Adoption is a wonderful process where parents raise children as part of their families, even if they aren't related by blood.

Did you know God adopted you into his family? If you believe in Jesus and what he did on the cross, you are a child in God's family. God loves you so much, and he always will!

Unscramble the letters: He DPEAOTD us! Hint: It pleased God to do it!



DAY 17

Build Each Other Up

So encourage one another with the hope you have. Build each other up. In fact, that's what you are doing.

—1 Thessalonians 5:11

Do you have a friend who is going through a hard time? Maybe your friend got a bad grade on a test. Maybe their parents are fighting. Or maybe they didn't make the team. Life can be difficult sometimes. When tough stuff happens in your friend's life, what do you do? Hope it blows over soon and ignore them until it does? Or do you listen and offer encouragement? Building up your friends, especially during difficult times, will give them the confidence they need to get through it. And when it's your turn to have a bad day, because everyone does, your friend will hopefully be there for you too.

Jesus encouraged people, and he tells us to build up others as well. You demonstrate God's love when you speak kind words. And guess what? When you encourage others, you build up yourself too.

Spend some time with your friend or even bring them a small gift, like cookies or some other treat. It shows them how much you care.