

SARAH YOUNG

adapted by **TAMA FORTNER**

JESUS ALWAYS

**365 DEVOTIONS
FOR KIDS**





JANUARY

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet
and a light for my path.

—Psalm 119:105 NLT

January 1



The Gift of Today

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

—Psalm 118:24 ESV

Don't waste today worrying about things that happened yesterday. Today is a new day, and *I am doing new things* for you in it. As this new year begins, remember that I'm always with you and always working in your life. Don't let mistakes or failures take away your Joy—your mistakes do not decide who you are! This is the time to make a fresh start. I am an endlessly creative God—just look at this world I've made. Expect Me to do surprising and even amazing things in your life this year.

Today is My gift to you—because it is in today that I come to meet you, My child. Look for Me in *this day that I have made*. Search for all the wonderful details I've carefully prepared just for you. I want you to be filled with My Joy and to *be glad* today.

I have placed signs of My loving Presence all throughout your day—sometimes in surprising places. Do you see them? The smile of a friend, the gift of a small flower blooming in a sidewalk crack, a hug from someone who loves you. Thank Me for every gift you see. Your thankfulness will keep you close to Me and help you find Joy in each day.

READ ON YOUR OWN

Isaiah 43:18–19; Psalm 16:11



January 2

I Am Your Joy!

Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy.

—Philippians 4:4 ICB

I am your Joy! Let those four words light up your life. Because I am always with you, the Joy that comes from being in My Presence is always available to you. All you have to do is love Me and trust Me. Try saying these words out loud: “Jesus, *You* are my Joy.” As you learn to trust Me more and more, the Light of My Joy will shine down on you and inside you—it will light up your heart and soul. Think about all I have done for you and all I have given you. Remembering your blessings this way will help you through hard times.

When you decided to follow Me, I gave you My Spirit to live inside you. He is your Holy Helper, and He has unlimited Power. He can help you find Joy even on your worst day. I have promised that I am *preparing a place* in heaven just for you. And one day *I will come back and take you to be with Me* in heaven. Whenever your day is looking dark, fill it with light by thinking about Me. Take a deep breath and relax as you hear Me whisper, “I love you, and I am your Joy!”

READ ON YOUR OWN

Psalm 21:6; John 14:3

January 3



Be Still with Me

“Be still and know that I am God. I will be praised in all the nations. I will be praised throughout the earth.”

—Psalm 46:10 ICB

Be still and know that I am God. You may have heard those words before, but do you understand them? They simply mean that I want you to take time to sit—still and quiet—with Me. I want you to think about Me. As you do, My Presence grows in your life, while all your troubles shrink and seem less and less important.

When you spend time with Me, My blessings flow into your life like *streams of living water*. So take time, *make* time, to be with Me. Your thoughts can get all tangled up like knots, but when you spend time with Me, I untangle those knots and help you see things as I see them. Remember, *My Word is a lamp to guide your feet and a light for your path*. My words in the Bible will show you the way to go.

It’s so very important to know that *I am God*, and that *I made you and you are Mine*. You are like a *sheep in My pasture*. Sheep don’t always understand what their shepherd is doing for them, but they follow him anyway. In the same way, because you are one of My “sheep,” I want you to trust Me and follow wherever I lead you.

READ ON YOUR OWN

John 7:38; Psalm 119:105 NLT; Psalm 100:3



January 4

The Joy of the Lord

Don't be sad. The joy of the Lord will make you strong.

—Nehemiah 8:10 ICB

Find Joy in Me, because I make you strong. You will need My Joy in your life, especially when you are faced with troubles. Whenever you are struggling through hard times, guard your thoughts and be extra careful of what you say. If you think too much about all the things that are going wrong, you'll only become more upset and discouraged—and you'll feel weaker. As soon as you realize that's happening, stop whatever you are doing. Turn to Me and ask Me to help you.

Take time to praise Me—yes, even when everything seems to be going wrong. Sing songs. Read Bible verses that tell you about My goodness and My Joy.

Remember that your problems are temporary—they will not last. *I* am eternal, and so is your relationship with Me. As you find Joy in Me and in My Love that never fails, you will get stronger. For *the Joy of the Lord will make you strong*—now and forever!

READ ON YOUR OWN

Psalm 66:1–3; Psalm 143:8

January 5



Pour Out Your Heart

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

—Psalm 62:8

When worry bubbles up inside you, let Me *comfort you*. Let Me *bring Joy to your soul*. Come and sit with Me. *Pour out your heart* to Me and tell Me all your troubles. Then sit quietly with Me while I comfort you. I will help you see things as I see them. I will remind you that you are Mine and that I have a wonderful plan for you. Remember that you are on your way to heaven. When you pour out your heart to Me, I will pour My Joy and Peace into your heart, mind, and soul.

Being joyful changes the way you see the world around you. Even though you'll still notice bad things happening, you will also see My goodness shining through—in the way My children love and help each other. The Joy of seeing My goodness will help you face the problems in your own life. And you'll even be able to help others face their problems. You'll be able to comfort them with the same kind of comfort that I give you. Your Joy will spread, "infecting" everyone around you with Joy in *their* souls!

READ ON YOUR OWN

Psalm 94:19; 2 Corinthians 1:3–4

