

For  
Girls  
Like  
YOU!

A Devotional  
For Tweens

WYNTER PITTS



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## **FOR GIRLS LIKE YOU**

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# Welcome

**H**ello to you! Yes, you, sitting right there...the one holding this book!

Guess what? I have some things I want to tell you. I want you to know that every single page of this book is for you!

Yes, it is a devotional and you may think that sounds like a book for your mom or another adult. Well, it's not! This is a devotional for you.

It is special. It is a book about God's heart and your life.

You may not always understand everything you read in the Bible. When I was a little girl I didn't! But I thought that one day the Bible would make total sense to me. When I was all grown up, of course.

I was wrong. God's words, written in the Bible, are for everyone, at every age!

God knows all about friendships. He knows all about beauty, hard work, fear, love, and fun! He knows all about everything because He created it all.

God wants you to know all about Him and how His love will change your life!

So for the next few weeks, every day, can you find a quiet spot and grab a Bible and a pen so we can talk about God and life?

Are you ready to see what God wants you to know? Let's get started!



## The Big Deal with a Little Hamster

**I** am not a fan of mice! I am not talking about the kind that are stuffed with cotton, have big black circles for ears, and live in a magical castle at an amusement park, like Mickey Mouse. I am thinking of the kind that squeak around dark rooms and nibble on your leftover crackers. The creepy little furry ones!

I will admit that just thinking about their dark marble eyes, thin whiskers, pointy noses, big teeth, and long skinny tails totally grosses me out! In fact, I feel the exact same way about hamsters, gerbils, and rats. They all give me chills.

So would you believe me if I told you that I once had a pet hamster?

It is true. You can also believe me when I say I was totally grossed out by him too. So you are probably wondering why I even had one, right?

When I was a little girl, my brother had a lot of animals and pets. Somehow he managed to talk our mother into letting him have everything from baby lizards and hermit crabs to sharks!

But guess what animal he never asked for?

You got it. A hamster.

I did not enjoy having a hamster. I didn't

like feeding him, playing with him, or looking at him. But I wanted to have a pet so bad that I let a creepy furry little creature live in my room! It may seem weird but all I really wanted was to be like my brother—I wanted to fit in.



Please tell me that I am not alone. Have you ever done something just to try to be like someone else?

Maybe you have never owned a hamster, but maybe you talked your mom into letting you buy a certain shirt, watch a certain movie, or hang out with a certain person. Maybe you enjoyed it but maybe you were just doing it to try to fit in.

God knew that wanting to fit in and be like everyone else would be hard, so He talks about it a lot in the Bible!

Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

This just means that we should not try to fit in or be like someone else. We should only want to be like Jesus and do and have what He says is good for us! When you try to be like Jesus, you don’t have to worry about fitting in. You can just be you!

Can you think of a time that you wanted to fit in? What can you do today to try to be more like Christ?

**Dear God,** I am so glad You know what is best for me. Please help me to not try to be like other people. I want to be like You! In Jesus’s name, amen.

# Perfectly Imperfect

**R**aise your hand if you are perfect!

Are you jumping out of your seat, eagerly waving your hand in the air? Or are you keeping it down, shamefully buried in your lap? Or maybe you are a little confused and not really sure what to do.

No matter how you feel, you should know that wanting to be perfect and never getting there is totally normal. Actually, God already knows that you aren't perfect, and you do not need to feel ashamed when you fail.

The Bible says that the only perfect person who will ever live is Jesus. It also says that if you love Jesus you should want to be like Him.

That is a little confusing, right? *How can you be like Jesus when He is perfect...and you're not?* Here is what you need to know: Being perfect is Jesus's job. Your job is to love Him and to love others the way He would want you to! Jesus wants you to be like Him, but He also knows that you cannot do that without His help and His love. When you trust Jesus and let His love come inside of you, He will help you be the best that you can be!

The Bible says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength [and] love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31).

This means that there is no need to stress about getting perfect grades, having perfect hair, or being a perfect friend. It's impossible! It does not mean that you shouldn't try your best. But your biggest job is to focus on how you can love God more in your heart and show that love through how you treat other people. His love takes care of everything else.



Loving God with your whole heart is what makes you want to be like Jesus...just how God wants you! Can you think of a way that you can love Jesus more today? Is there something you can do or someone you can help to show God your love for Him today?

**Dear God,** thank You for Your love and reminding me today that even though I can't be perfect, You love me perfectly. Help me to love You with all of me! Help me to love others like You love them. In Jesus's name, amen.

# Forgiven

**I** went to a very small school and I was friends with everyone in my class. But just like most girls, I definitely had a few BEST friends! One of my best friends was Michell. Michell and I did everything together! We sat next to each other in class, ate lunch together, begged our families for sleepovers, and sometimes we even went along on each other's family vacations!

I will never forget this one family vacation. We were thrilled to be together...until around the middle of our trip. We were at the pool and Michell and I had a huge fight—in front of everyone! It was so embarrassing! But even worse than that, after it was all over my mom separated us. I felt horrible. I missed my friend and I felt guilty for treating her so badly.

After a while, I just could not take it anymore. It just did not feel great to know that I had been so unkind to someone I loved. I knew what I had to do. I finally built up enough courage to find her and ask her to forgive me. After a long pause, she did. I was thrilled to have things back to normal with my best friend! I felt free and happy again because Michell chose to stop being upset because of how I treated her. She chose to love me instead.

You see, the word *forgive* really means that you change your bad feelings and attitude toward someone who upset you or mistreated



you. Do you know that when you confess your sins, God always forgives you? The Bible says that “as far as the east is from the west, so far has [God] removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12).



The word *transgressions* means *sin*, and this verse simply means that when we sin or do something wrong, God will forgive us. When we go to Him and admit that we haven't been perfect, He takes away all of our shame and feelings of guilt!

God's forgiveness is forever. If you and your friend were standing on a line and you walked to the left and your friend walked to the right, you would continue to get further and further apart. When God forgives us, that is what happens with us and our sin. God forgets our sin and pushes it to the left and we continue to walk right, toward Him. If you ever get discouraged and think that God is upset at you, if you have asked Him for forgiveness, you can trust that this scripture is for you and you are forgiven!

Today, think about the many times that God has forgiven you. How does it make you feel?

**Dear God,** I am grateful that You do not let the things I do wrong push me away from You, but instead, You forgive me when I ask and bring me closer to You. Help me to believe that I am forgiven regardless of how bad a mistake I make. Thank You for forgiveness! In Jesus's name, amen.

## Here and There

**D**o you know that God is everywhere? He is not just with the adults in church on Sunday mornings or at the kitchen table when you say your grace before dinner. Yes, He is there during those times, but there is so much more to God's presence than we sometimes realize.

Does it surprise you to know that God is with you at school while you hang out with your friends and while you are sitting in your classroom? God is even right there with you when you are home, alone in your room, reading a book, or watching TV. The best part is, at the same time that He is with you, He is everywhere else...around the entire world.

The Bible tells us that God is *omnipresent*. That big word simply means that God is present everywhere—all of the time. God sees all, knows all, and is always with His children.

Can you think of a time that you were afraid but felt safer when you found out that someone else was in the room with you?

Or have you ever changed your actions or attitude because you realized someone was watching you and you only wanted them to see you on your best behavior?

Maybe simply being around a certain person makes you happy or makes you feel silly or excited?

Let God be that person! When you know that God is with you, you should feel safer, behave better, and smile more! He is always ready to help, protect, comfort, and celebrate with you. He is even with you when you choose to ignore Him. And when needed, He is also there to correct and to teach you. Your job is to accept His love and to see Him in your life every day, everywhere.



Today, will you choose to acknowledge God's presence in every situation? He is always there, waiting and ready to be noticed.

**Dear God,** thank You for being with me! Help me to remember that You love to take care of me because I am Your special creation! I will not be afraid because You promise to protect me. I am not lonely because You are with me. I do not have to worry because You care for me! In Jesus's name, amen.

## Being Me and Being You

**D**o you know that there are over 7 billion people in this world and that God created every one of them? A number that big is probably hard to imagine, but think about how long it would take you to count that high.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5...forever!

Now, think about how each number from 0 to 1 billion is completely different from the number before it. This is how God created each of us. Of all the people God created, there is no one else exactly like you!

Seriously...how totally awesome and amazing is that! Just think about it—God did not make you just like somebody else but He took His time, focused on every little detail, and made you unique. Everything about you was done on purpose.

If you have ever tried to be like someone else...well, you are not alone. I think at one point in life, everyone has been tempted to laugh just like their BFF, dress like the girl on a certain television show, or dance just like their big sister! You may have even wanted to be able to sing, play a certain sport, or write like someone else.

While admiring others for their unique gifts is not all bad, it's important to know that you were created by God to be you! And when He created you, He had special things that He made you to do. No one else can do them like you.

First Corinthians 12:4-6 says, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.”



All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the Spirit of God. He decides who gets what and when.

We all have special talents and things we enjoy. And do you know what? God knows what they are...even if we don't! So don't stress about it if you can't think of anything right now. Just pray and ask God to help you figure it out! And while you are waiting, don't be afraid to try new things. Have fun and enjoy what He has given you today!

**Dear God,** thank You for making me! Help me to know that You made me different from other people on purpose. My skills, gifts, and talents are all very special and unique! Thank You! In Jesus's name, amen.

## It Is Not Normal

**A** miracle is an unusual and wonderful event that cannot be explained by normal activity. Science does not create miracles, and neither do magicians. Miracles are performed by God, and the Bible is full of wonderful examples!

Miracles help us to see God's love for us and His power. In the Bible, God amazed people with events that no one else could explain.

For example, in John 11 the Bible tells the story of a man named Lazarus. Lazarus was sick and his sisters sent for Jesus to come and heal him. But by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already died. Many, including Lazarus's sisters, thought that Jesus had failed them by letting him die. However, when Jesus arrived He went to the tomb and called out his name. Instantly Lazarus came alive again! This showed God's power even over death. That was definitely a miracle.

Matthew 14 describes another miracle. One day 5,000 people gathered to listen and learn from Jesus and His disciples. After being there a long time, the people began to get hungry. All that was available to eat was five loaves of bread and two fish. There is no way that this small amount of food would feed 5,000 people. But God did it! He turned two fish and five loaves into a feast

large enough to feed everyone. The Bible says the food never stopped coming!

Amazing, right?

Do you know that Jesus still performs miracles today?

What unusual and wonderful events have happened or are happening to you or around you? Sometimes we get so used to good things happening around us that we forget to see it as an unusual act or a miracle from God!

Look for a miracle today. Not just for yourself but for a friend, family member, or even a stranger! Wait for God to surprise you with something unusual and great. Something that only He can do!



**Dear God,** thank You for reminding me that You can do anything. Help me to not limit You to what I can explain, and help me to see Your unusual and wonderful miracles each and every day! In Jesus's name, amen.