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# DAILY WISDOM for Kids



**365 ENCOURAGING  
DEVOTIONS & PRAYERS**

  
**BARBOUR kidz**  
A Division of Barbour Publishing

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*Our mission is to inspire the world with the life-changing message of the Bible.*



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# INTRODUCTION

*My theme song is God's love.*

PSALM 101:1 MSG

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This wonderful wisdom-filled devotional will encourage your heart with regular reminders of God's love. Each refreshing reading touches on life topics that are important to you—such as faith, forgiveness, friendship, and more. Inspiring prayers and easy-to-understand scripture selections will motivate you to grow up God's way.

Read on. . .and experience God's amazing, unending love for you all 365 days of the year!





DAY 1

## CATCH SOME ZZZZZZS

*When you lie down, you will not be afraid;  
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.*

PROVERBS 3:24 NIV

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Do you ever have trouble sleeping? You toss, you turn. You roll around and get tangled up in the covers. You stare at the clock. You stare at the ceiling. You need to sleep, but you just can't. The truth is, you're worried about *so much stuff*. And your mind won't shut off. You worry that you won't pass your math test. You worry that your friend is still mad at you because of the disagreement you had yesterday. Worry, worry, worry!

Well, guess what? You don't have to worry anymore. You have a promise from the Bible that guarantees restful sleep. Proverbs 3:24 says that you will not be afraid and that your sleep will be sweet. Isn't that good news? No more sleepless nights for you!

So the next time you start the whole tossing and turning routine, say out loud, "I will not be afraid, and my sleep will be sweet." "Sweet dreams" is more than just an expression. It's a promise! Quit worrying and start dreaming!

*God, I give all of my worries to You.  
Thanks for a good night's sleep. Amen.*



DAY 2

## READY TO CATCH YOU

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

PSALM 46:1 NIV

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Sometimes life feels mean, like when the kid on the bus teases and pesters you until you feel like you're going to burst. Or the teacher accuses you of cheating on a test when you really didn't. Or your parents have a heated argument, and it leaves you feeling sick all over.

Life can be unfair and painful and scary. Life can feel lonely too, as if you've fallen into a deep black hole. When you worry that your tomorrows will feel the same as today and nothing will *ever* change, what can you do?

Think of God. Reach out to Him. Run to Him like a child who runs to his or her daddy. God's shoulders are big enough to carry you, and His love is bright enough to fill those dark places with a light that is warm and safe and just right.

*Jesus, please be near me in my scary times  
and in lonely times. Let me feel Your presence,  
know Your love, and feel Your arms around me  
like a warm and cozy comforter. Amen.*



DAY 3

## FOLLOW YOUR CREATOR

*You created every part of me; you put me  
together in my mother's womb.*

PSALM 139:13 GNT

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Did you know that a baby zebra knows its mother by her stripes? When the baby is born, the mother makes sure the baby sees only her stripes first so that the little one will know how to find her if they get separated. The baby identifies with the mother through her stripes and then knows which zebra to follow around.

We have a Creator that we can identify with too. God made each of us unique, but we have the ability to know who He is and to recognize Him if we get lost. We have a special relationship with Him because He made us in His image. He wants us to recognize and follow Him.

Our friends and family know our habits, our likes, and our dislikes. But they can't possibly know the deepest parts of us. Only God knows those things. That's why we can trust Him with everything that concerns us. We can follow Him with confidence because He created us and knows everything we need.

Don't get far away from your Creator. When you get separated from Him by bad choices, all you have to do is look for His stripes! He will be watching for you!

*Dear Father, please help me to follow only  
You. I know You created me and have given me  
signs that point to You. I will follow You because  
You know exactly what I need. Amen.*



## DAY 4

# IT'S NOT ABOUT STUFF

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”*

MATTHEW 7:7–8 ESV

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When you first read these verses, it kind of sounds like everything you want is just a prayer away, doesn't it? But here's the deal: this scripture isn't talking about “stuff”—material things that everyone else is getting. Nope. It's definitely not about that. God *does* promise to take care of *all* our needs, but this verse is about seeking after God and wanting what He wants for you.

It's not wrong to wish for a new bike or a new phone. It becomes wrong when you let your desires consume you so much that you become discontent with all the other blessings in your life. God gives you everything you need to live a great life. So count everything you have as a blessing, and keep seeking after Him.

*Dear God, thank You for all the blessings in my life. Help me not to be consumed with “stuff.” I want to seek after You, and I trust You to take care of all my needs. Amen.*



DAY 5

## GOD'S WORD IS LIGHT

*Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk.*

PSALM 119:105 CEV


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Have you ever tried to walk through your house when it's dark? You bump into furniture and stumble over toys or shoes, don't you? It's even more difficult to walk through someone else's house in the dark. You haven't had time to memorize where things are before you find yourself stumbling through the darkness!

Just like trying to walk through a dark house, many people are stumbling through life. They have not discovered the truths of God's Word. In the Psalms, we read that the Bible is a lamp to light the way for us. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we can rely on God's Word to guide us. Even in unfamiliar places or at difficult crossroads, you don't have to be afraid or confused.

If you had a flashlight in your hand when you were trying to find your way through a dark home, would you switch it on and use it? Of course! Likewise, allow God's Word to light the paths you travel in life. As you spend time reading the Bible, it will provide light for your journey.

*God, thank You for the light You have provided through  
Your holy Word. Teach me as I read my Bible. Amen.*



DAY 6

## CLUELESS

*“The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God stands forever.”*

ISAIAH 40:8 NKJV

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Everywhere you go, people are encouraging and instructing you to read the Bible. Don't they realize how much you already have to read for school? You hear God's Word in Sunday school and church. So what's the big deal?

When God inspired the authors of the Bible to write, He knew there were three things every person should understand. First, as our Creator, He wanted us to realize how we were created from His love. Second, He wanted us to have something to turn to when we weren't sure what to do about certain situations in our lives: *How are we supposed to treat others? What is the true meaning of love? How do we know right from wrong?* Finally, He needed to show us Jesus came, He died on the cross, He rose again, and He will come back for us someday.

Without the Bible, we would be clueless. We wouldn't have the confidence to make good decisions. We wouldn't feel God's love and blessings because we wouldn't be able to recognize what they are. We wouldn't pray for help if we couldn't read about the amazing ways He has helped others. The bottom line? . . . God's Word gives us the answers we need.

*God, I promise to read Your book as often as I can. Amen.*



DAY 7

## WHAT GOD WANTS

*He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*

MICAH 6:8 NKJV

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It's fun to dream about what God may have in store for us ten years from now. What will we look like? What will we do for a career? Will we get married, and if so, who will we marry?

Even though some of the details may not be clear yet, we already know what God wants us to do every day for the rest of our lives: He wants us to do the right thing.

We may not know what career path to take, but we know God wants us to be kind to others—even when they're not kind to us. We may not know if we'll get married—but we know God wants us to be honest, no matter what. Starting at this very moment, and every moment for the rest of our lives, God wants us to show compassion and mercy. He wants us to stand up for what is right and good. And He wants us to love Him with all our hearts.

*Dear Father, thank You for showing me what You want me to do. Help me to always do the right thing. Amen.*



DAY 8

## JEHOVAH JIREH— YOUR PROVIDER

*I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.*

PSALM 37:25 NIV


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The Bible is full of promises. One of them is that if you remain in Jesus and His words remain in you, you can ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you (John 15:7). You don't have to worry about what you're going to eat or wear because God knows you need these things, and He will provide them (Matthew 6:31–32).

But that doesn't mean God is some kind of magic genie who gives you everything you want. The promise to meet your needs and give you the things you want comes with a condition. The condition is that you seek after God and His righteousness first, and then all these other things will be given to you (Matthew 6:33).

Putting God first will satisfy you in every way. And that's a promise the world can't make or keep.

*Dear God, thank You for being my provider. Give me a heart that follows after You so that I won't become focused on the things of this world. Instead, I want to be focused on You. I trust You to provide the things I need. Please let the things I want be the things YOU want for me too. Amen.*



DAY 9

## QUIET TIME WITH GOD

*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

PSALM 46:10 NKJV

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When you go to God in prayer, do you ever wonder if He hears? Do you wonder exactly what it is He wants *you* to hear *from* Him? Do you sometimes rush through your prayers so you can focus your attention on something else? Try sitting quietly in your room while you pray. Don't answer your cell phone, don't turn on the TV, and stay off the computer. Just concentrate on you and God. Pray; pour your heart out to Him. And when you say "amen," don't rush away. Be still and listen. You just might be surprised at how God makes His presence known to you. The Creator wants you to be still and fully know that He is God, and He will guide you through every step of every day.

*Dear God, please help me know that You are always with me, that You have answers for me if I will only listen for them. Please help me to be patient and listen for Your guidance instead of rushing off to do what I want to do. Amen.*



## DAY 10

# I'VE GOT THE JOY!

*When anxiety was great within me,  
your consolation brought me joy.*

PSALM 94:19 NIV


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Some days really stink, and you have a hard time finding the joy in them. But our God is so amazing—He’s given us His never-ending fountain of joy. It’s there, every day, ready for us to dip into. Just like He is always there, ready for us to cast our burdens on Him.

Isn’t it awesome to think that the God of the universe loves you? That He knows everything about you? He knows that life here on earth isn’t easy. He understands the trials and hardships you go through—even homework! And He’s longing for you to reach out and grab onto His joy, which cannot be taken away. *No matter what.*

So next time you find unhappiness knocking at your door and the blues threatening to overtake you—remind yourself that you have access to the heavenly Father’s joy, anytime, anywhere. Grab onto it and sing it out, “I’ve got the joy. . .”

*God, thank You for being with me each and every day. Thank You for Your joy. Help me to grab on to it every day and sing praise to You because Your joy is overflowing in my life. And as it overflows out of me, help me to be Your light to those around me. Amen.*



DAY 11

## JUST WAIT!

*Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is.*

AMOS 5:14 NIV

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Before you go too far, listen to this: the Bible tells us that if we seek good and not evil, the Lord God himself will be with us! Don't you want to live each day knowing that God loves you and He is watching over you? Then think twice before you try to bend the rules even just a little.

There will be a lot of temptations around each corner as you get older. It will probably even get more and more difficult to "be good." Just remember to seek good, not evil, and seek the Lord with all of your heart! God promises to always be with you (Hebrews 13:5), He promises to provide a way of escape from temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13), and He promises to protect you from the evil one (2 Thessalonians 3:3). With the promises of God in your heart, He makes it a whole lot easier to "be good."

*God, sometimes I get so tired of listening to everyone tell me to behave. . .to be good. Please remind me of the importance to stop and think before I do something I'll regret. Thank You for Your love and guidance. Amen.*



DAY 12

## WHAT PRAYER SHOULD SOUND LIKE

*“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”*

LUKE 18:13 NIV


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Does the screeching sound of fingernails on a chalkboard send shivers up your spine? Oddly enough, God is set on edge by something way more serious—a prayer that tells God how much you don’t need Him. Then what should a kid’s prayer sound like?

One day at the temple, Jesus told the story about the man who tried to impress God with his own good deeds. Jesus explained to the crowd that such a prayer does not make a hit with God. Another man, Jesus said, simply begged God to show kindness to him, a sinner. God gladly listens to that prayer.

As God’s child, ask Him to step in and give you His goodness. Now, that’s a prayer that’ll sound much better than fingernails on the chalkboard.

*Lord, thank You for reminders in Your Word on how to pray.  
Help me to spend daily time in meaningful conversation  
with You. Help me to speak to You. . . and to listen. Amen.*



DAY 13

## JUST DO IT!

*But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*

JAMES 1:22 NLT

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The old Nike commercial slogan “Just Do It” is a great reminder for Christians. We read God’s Word. . .we hear it at church. . .we sing about the scriptures in songs—but none of it means a thing if we don’t do what it says!

“Actions speak louder than words” is a true and common phrase used to help people understand the idea of letting your beliefs or words show through your actions. Founding Father and inventor Benjamin Franklin is credited with the phrase “Well done is better than well said.” It’s wonderful to hide God’s Word in your heart, but if it isn’t changing you. . .if you aren’t actively doing something about it. . .your faith won’t seem very important.

Ask God to use His Word to help you grow and change and take action. *Just do it!*

*God, please help me to talk less and do more.  
I want to hide Your Word in my heart, but I also  
want to go into the world and use that to make  
a difference in other people’s lives. Amen.*



DAY 14

## WAITING WITH HOPE

*Blessed are all who wait for him!*

ISAIAH 30:18 NIV

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Have you ever had to wait for something that you really wanted? Waiting for God to give you what you want can be really hard. But if you have hope, waiting can feel exciting because you know something great is coming.

It's like a happy-faced dog who knows his master is coming home, so he stays by the door, ready to pounce when he arrives. It's like a freckle-faced boy who waits for Christmas and counts down the days until December 25.

If God has promised you something, and you believe that He keeps His promises, you will have hope. You will have hope because you know that something good is going to happen—in God's time, in God's way. When you trust Him, the tough part of waiting can be easier. Because when you wait with hope, it means you believe that God is working in ways you can't see. And you dream about the great things that will happen when your wait is over.

*Lord Jesus, sometimes it's really hard to wait for what I want. But please help me to trust You and wait for Your plans for my life with hope. Help me to believe that You are working in ways that I can't see, and this is why I can be hopeful. I trust You. Amen.*



DAY 15

## BLESS THE LORD!

*Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD.*

PSALM 150:6 KJV

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If you're breathing, you should be praising! God's in His heaven, and all is right with the world.

Sure, there are problems, sorrows, and big disappointments in life, but everything doesn't have to be perfect for you to praise God. Think of your blessings. Count them, if you can. When the God of the universe is supplying your needs, it's hard to keep track of them all!

Take a deep breath. Feel your chest rise as your lungs expand with air. Then throw your head back and sing to the Lord. Praise Him for life and strength, food and shelter. Praise Him for liberty. For friends and family. Thank God for the birds, trees, sunshine, and clouds. Thank Him for blessing you with talents and for giving you a bright, healthy mind. Thank Him for keeping His promise of providing everything you need. And most of all, thank Him for sending a Savior to die for your sins so that you can have eternal life.

With all that is within you, bless His holy name!

*Lord, thank You for loving me and supplying  
all of my needs. Thank You for showering me  
with more blessings than I could ever count.  
You are worthy of all my praise. Amen.*



DAY 16

## EVERY DAY'S A HOLIDAY

*“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be added to you.”*


MATTHEW 6:33 ESV

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Did you ever tear open a big Christmas present and then groan inside? Maybe you got a sinking feeling when you saw the gift because it wasn't what you wanted or it was the wrong brand. You had high hopes, but now you'll have to make do with what you received—which, in your opinion, is a not-so-wonderful gift.

The good news is that you're receiving wonderful gifts and blessings from your Father in heaven all the time. Prayers are being answered and mercies given every day. And God knows exactly what to give you because He knows what you need better than anyone else. You won't be forced to just “make do” with an off-brand gift. What God has to give is the best quality, and it won't ever break or go out of style. And His gifts are free and totally undeserved. You can celebrate God's good gifts all year round!

*God, thank You for showering me with gifts, even when I don't deserve them. On days when I feel like nothing is going my way, help me to remember all the things You've given me and all the ways You take care of me. Amen.*



DAY 17

## GOD KNOWS MY THOUGHTS

*You know when I am resting or when I am working,  
and from heaven you discover my thoughts.*

PSALM 139:2 CEV


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God knows everything. He sees everything. He even knows your thoughts. God is with you when you're at home or school. He is there when you're playing in the neighborhood or enjoying His creation at the park or lake. If you travel across the world to a foreign land where a different language is spoken, God is right there with you as well!

You have a heavenly Father who knows your name. The Bible says that before you were born, He saw you in your mother's womb. He created you and watched as you developed. He is watching still. He even knows the number of hairs on your head!

Nothing brings God greater joy than when one of His children chooses to spend time with Him. Talk to God throughout your day today. Understand that He is constantly with you. You can whisper a prayer to Him at any time. You can even say a prayer inside your mind. No matter how you pray, He hears!

*Thank You, Lord, for always being present.  
You know me and You love me no matter  
where I am or what I am doing. Amen.*



DAY 18

## PLANT SEEDS OF JOY

*Clap your hands for joy, all peoples!  
Praise God with loud songs!*

PSALM 47:1 GNT

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Joy is contagious. You feel a certain pleasure when you're around joy-filled people, don't you? It's hard to stay in a bad mood when everyone else is happy.


Praising God is a good way to capture joy in your heart. His Word tells us to clap our hands and sing songs. It's a solid plan to get you going on the path to joy.

The Bible also tells us that joy is a fruit of the Spirit. To get fruit, you must first plant a seed. You can't get a pumpkin from planting an apple seed. And you can't get the fruit of joy from planting seeds of anger or resentment. God wants to give you all the joy you can handle.

God loves to hear our praises, and He sends us joy when we show Him our love and gratitude. When you are filled with this fruit, others will see and want what you have. Think of what a better world it would be if we all shared this kind of joy.

Try praising God today and get a delicious taste of joy!

*Heavenly Father, I want to have more joy in  
my life and be able to share it with others.  
Thank You for giving me the fruit of joy. I will praise  
You even when things aren't going well. Amen.*



DAY 19

## LIVING IN CHRIST

*The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

1 JOHN 3:24 NIV

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Living in Christ isn't as hard as you might think. All you have to do is believe in Jesus, love others, and obey His commands. When you do that, you will feel Him living inside of you. Wow! What a great feeling!

Some days you may end up doing things *your* way instead of *Jesus'* way, and He knows that. What Christ wants is for you to try every day to do the things He wants you to do. And He will help you. Just ask Him. Before you know it, you'll be growing in Him and finding it easier to do things His way.

You'll know it's working when you feel His Spirit deep inside of you and when you become more like Jesus, your king, each day.

*God, thank You for showing me the best plan  
for my life. . .to live in YOU! Amen.*

