

OUR DAILY BREAD  
FOR

# KIDS<sup>®</sup>

365 Devotions  
from **Genesis** to  
**Revelation**



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**Our Daily Bread**  
Publishing®



To my children, grandchildren, and those still to come—  
may you follow Jesus all the days of your life.  
—C. B.

To the Belsky family—may you grow in the grace and  
knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
—T. M.

To my grandma. Without your faith I would never have  
found mine.  
—A. S.



*Our Daily Bread for Kids: 365 Devotions from Genesis to Revelation*  
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## Introduction

Did you know that the Bible is the best-selling book of all time? More than six billion copies have been sold since the printing press was invented by Johannes Gutenberg in 1440. But the Bible is really a collection of sixty-six smaller books that have been divided into two groups called the Old Testament and the New Testament. It's more than just a collection of exciting stories though. Together, those sixty-six books tell *one* big true story.

*Our Daily Bread for Kids* is not the Bible, but it has 365 devotions to help you learn more about the Bible. As we look at some of the stories and verses from Genesis to Revelation, you will learn how they fit together to tell the story of God's amazing love for you. With one reading for each day of the year, you can have a special time with God every day and grow closer to Him as you learn more about who Jesus is and all He did.

The words *Our Daily Bread* come from the prayer Jesus said when He was teaching His disciples how to pray. In Matthew 6:11, Jesus prayed, "Give us today our daily bread" (NIV). Just as we need to eat food every day for our bodies to be strong, we need "spiritual food" to have strong belief and trust in God. As you read the devotions and open your Bible, ask God to help you understand what He wants you to know so you can be spiritually strong.

You can read the devotions on the following pages by yourself or have a grown-up read them with you. You might want to read this book with your family at mealtime or bedtime. You can start on today's date or at the very beginning of this book on January 1. If you read it in order, you may understand the stories better. We take you from the beginning of the Bible in a book called Genesis and end with the last book of the Bible, which is Revelation. However you use it, our prayer is that you will learn how much God loves you and how Jesus makes a way for you to be a part of God's family.

Are you ready to go on an unforgettable journey through the Bible? Let's get started!

Crystal and Teri



**If you come across words you don't understand, look them up in the glossary at the back of the book.**



## The Beginning

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. There was darkness over the surface of the waves. At that time, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. —Genesis 1:1–2 NIV**

The book of Genesis is the first book of the Bible, and this is where everything begins. We don't know what the earth looked like, but we know it was dark and empty and didn't have any shape. Maybe it looked like a giant blob! No matter what it looked like, God was there, and He did something only He can do. God said, "Let there be light," and just like that, light appeared. Then He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light *day*, and He called the dark *night*.

The next day God divided the water into two places and put a huge space between them. He named the space *sky*. Then God gathered the water together so dry land would appear. He named the dry land *earth* and the water *seas*. Then God created plants and trees on the land that would grow delicious food.

When God looked at His creation, He said, "It is good." But He wasn't finished. He placed two great lights in the sky. The larger light (the sun) ruled the day, and the smaller light (the moon) ruled the night. He also put billions of stars in the sky.

Then God filled the waters with sea animals and created birds to fly in the air. On the last day of creation, God made every kind of animal on the land. But God saved the best for last! He made humans to take care of creation and enjoy everything He had made. God created the world in six days, and on the seventh day He rested.

**EXPLORE MORE:** What did God tell the birds to do in Genesis 1:22?

### TALK TO GOD

Tell God what you like best about His creation.

*Everything God made was good.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our galaxy, the Milky Way, has around 100 to 400 billion stars.



## Jesus Was There

**Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth. —Genesis 1:26 ICB**

The story of creation tells us how our world began. On the sixth day God said, “Let us make human beings in our image and in our likeness.” Did you notice the word *us*? Who was God talking to since there were no people?

There is only one God, but He exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:2 says that God’s Spirit was hovering over the waters. A verse from the New Testament says that Jesus is exactly like God. Jesus is higher than all things. God created everything through His Son (see Colossians 1:15–16).

The Son is Jesus, who is also God. He made the sun, moon, and stars appear in the sky. He made the plants and trees on the land. He created whales to splash their tails and eagles to soar through the sky. He watched tigers race across the land and koala bears climb gum trees. So when God said, “Let us make human beings in our image,” the word *us* refers to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is called the *Trinity*, which means “three in one.”

Because God made people in His “image,” we can know God in a way that’s different from the rest of creation. He created us with a spirit so we can talk to Him and learn about Him from the Bible and from His creation. God created the world by speaking words, but He created a human being by breathing life into him. The first person was made in God’s image, and so are you.

**TALK TO GOD**  
Thank God for making you in His image.

**EXPLORE MORE:** Read Genesis 2:7 to find out how God created the first person.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The cheetah is the fastest animal on land and can run up to 70 miles (113 kilometers) per hour.

*Jesus is my creator.*

# As Seasons Change

He made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down. —Psalm 104:19 NIV

When God put the sun, moon, and stars in the sky and made the planets start turning, that was the beginning of days, months, and seasons. As the whole solar system revolves and rotates, temperatures change, and our days get longer or shorter.

In places like Japan and Canada, the four seasons bring a wide variety of weather. Summer months can be warm and sunny when kids go for hikes and splash in the water. After summer comes autumn, when trees are full of colorful leaves that eventually fall to the ground. Winter can be cold and snowy with icicles and blizzards.

And when spring follows winter, the rainy days make flowers pop out of the ground.

## TALK TO GOD

Tell God which season you like best.

In some parts of the world, it's cold most of the year, and in other areas it's always hot. In places like Argentina and Australia, winter begins in June, and summer begins on the first day of December. But no matter where you live or what your seasons are like, summer, autumn, winter, and spring always follow the same order and each season follows God's plan.

Psalm 102:27 says that God will never change. As we go from one season to the next, remember that even though seasons change, God's love for you never changes. He loves you every hour and every day of the year. What God wants us to do never changes either. God wants us to love Him with all our hearts, and to show His love to others every day.

**EXPLORE MORE:** What does Genesis 8:22 tell us about seasons?



God loves me all year long.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Snowflakes can fall at about 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) per hour.

# Adam and Eve in the Garden

The Lord God gave the man a command. He said, “You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die.” —Genesis 2:16–17 NIV

God named the first man Adam, and he was different from the rest of God’s creation. Unlike the animals, Adam could talk to God, and God talked to Adam. God made Adam perfect in every way. But it wasn’t good for him to be alone, so God created the first woman, Eve. God placed them in a beautiful garden called Eden. The garden had rivers, trees, and animals. God wanted Adam and Eve to take care of the garden and enjoy it. He told them to eat the delicious fruit from all the trees—except for one. But one day, Adam and Eve ate fruit from that tree. For the first time, they disobeyed God—the Bible calls that sin—and that changed everything. Now they had to work hard for their food, and they would experience sickness, pain, and death.

Adam and Eve were sorry they didn’t listen to God. But God still loved them even though He had to discipline them. God knew that all people would sin, so He made a way for their sins to be forgiven. As time went on, God asked people to bring their best lamb or goat as an offering, or sacrifice, to Him. This would make things right between them and God for a while. But it was something they needed to do over and over again, because they kept on sinning. They would need a lot of lambs or goats!

Today we still disobey God, but we don’t have to bring God sacrifices anymore. God loves us so much that He gave His son for our sin instead of lambs and goats. When Jesus died on the cross, He gave His life for us and paid for all our sins. His sacrifice was enough to last forever! Jesus’s sacrifice is all we need to be right with God, and believing in Him as our Savior gives us eternal life.



## TALK TO GOD

Ask God to help you do what is right, and thank Him for making things right through Jesus.

**EXPLORE MORE:** Read Genesis 3:21 to find out what God made for Adam and Eve after they sinned.

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the English language, the name Adam means “man.”

It comes from the Hebrew name Adamah which means “land” or “red earth.”

*Jesus makes things right.*



## Noah Builds an Ark

**Noah had faith. So he built an ark to save his family. He built it because of his great respect for God. God had warned him about things that could not yet be seen. . . . Because of his faith he was considered right with God. —Hebrews 11:7 NIV**

The story of Noah's ark is a well-known story from the book of Genesis. You may have heard it at church or read it in one of your Bible storybooks. Perhaps you drew a picture of the ark with giraffe heads peeking out of the windows. God told a man named Noah to build a huge ark for him and his family. God also told Noah to take two of every animal and bring them into the ark. That's why the ark had to be big!

This story takes place many years after God created the world. The people had turned away from God and didn't listen to Him anymore. Genesis 6:6 says that God was sorry He put people on the earth. He decided to wash everything away in a flood except for Noah and his family, because Noah loved and obeyed God.

Noah believed what God said even though he didn't understand everything. Noah built the ark just like God told him to. When Noah finished the ark, he and his family went inside. The pairs of animals went into the ark too. Then God closed the door. The rain poured down and flooded the earth. The ark kept Noah and his family and the animals safe because Noah had faith in God.

### TALK TO GOD

Ask God to give you faith to believe in Him.

Do you know how Jesus is like the ark? Jesus can keep us safe too. When bad things happen in the world, we can trust in Jesus to help us. Jesus protects us from danger just like God protected Noah from the flood. It takes faith to believe because, like Noah, we don't always understand everything in our world. The next time you hear the story of Noah and the ark, remember that God keeps us safe. We can be like Noah and trust and obey God.

**EXPLORE MORE:** Can you guess how old Noah was when the flood was over? Read Genesis 8:13 for the answer.

*God keeps me safe.*



### DID YOU KNOW?

Some people think there were as many as 30,000 animals on the ark.

# God's Colorful Promise

**“This is my promise to you: All life on the earth was destroyed by the flood. But that will never happen again. A flood will never again destroy all life on the earth.” —Genesis 9:11 ERV**

It must have been exciting for Noah and his family to finally come out of the ark after being inside for more than a year with all those animals. The animals were probably happy too! The lions and zebras could run across the dry land. Donkeys had room to kick their legs. Birds could fly from one tree to another, and giraffes could find fresh leaves to nibble on.

Noah was thankful that God kept his family safe during the flood. To thank God and to honor Him, Noah gave an offering. When the offering was burned, it smelled good. God was pleased with the sweet smell of the sacrifice. Then God made a promise to Noah, to all the animals, and to every living thing on earth. God promised that He would never send a great flood to destroy the earth again.

**TALK TO GOD**  
Thank God for rainbows.

Then God did something awesome!

God wanted to give Noah a sign that would be a reminder of His promise. So God stretched a beautiful rainbow of colors across the sky—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Can you imagine how amazing it was for Noah and his family to see the very first rainbow? From then on, whenever they saw a rainbow, they could remember God's wonderful promise. They didn't have to worry about a flood destroying the earth again.

The promise God made to Noah and his family is also for us. Every time you see a rainbow in the sky, you can remember how God kept Noah safe in the ark. The rainbow is a reminder to us that God will never send another flood to destroy the whole earth. And God always keeps His promises.

**EXPLORE MORE:** What does Genesis 9:18–19 tell us about Noah's three sons?



## DID YOU KNOW?

In a double rainbow, the second one is less bright, and the colors are reversed.

*The rainbow is a sign of God's promise.*



## Many More Promises

**We can trust God to do what he promised. —Hebrews 10:23 ERV**

God's promise to Noah is great. There are even more promises in the Bible that help us understand how much God loves us and cares about us. No one knows exactly how many promises there are, but some people have counted more than three thousand!

In Isaiah 41:10 God says, "Don't worry. I am with you. Don't be afraid or scared because I am your God. I will help you. I will make you strong. I will hold you with my steady hand." There's more than one promise packed into that verse, but knowing God's always with us means we are never alone.

Did you know God promises to be your counselor? In Psalm 32:8 He says, "I will teach you and guide you. I will show you how to live." When you talk to God and read His Word, you can ask God to help you make good decisions. God promises to help you.

**TALK TO GOD**  
Thank God for one of His special promises to you.

In 1 Peter 5:7 it says: "Give all your worries to God. He cares about you." Everyone faces problems now and then—at home, at school, and even when you're playing sports. You may feel like there's no one who cares or is willing to listen. Well, guess

what? God cares and He promises to listen!

Another great promise is God's promise to forgive our sins. In 1 John 1:9 it says, "If we confess our sins, God will forgive us. We can trust God to forgive us. He always does what is right. He will make us clean from all the wrong things we have done."

Those are only a few of God's promises, but you can read more in the Bible—about 3,000 more!

**EXPLORE MORE:** What does God promise in John 3:16?

*God gives me thousands of promises.*



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Promise is a popular girl's name. It means "keeping one's word."

# The Tower That Didn't Get Finished

“Come on! Let’s build a city for ourselves. Let’s build a tower that reaches to the sky.” —Genesis 11:4 NIV

After the flood, Noah’s sons had more children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Many people lived on the earth, and they all settled in a land called Babylon. One day someone said, “Let’s build a city and a tower to reach into the sky. Then we can all live in one place and be famous!” Everyone thought that was a good idea.

At this time, the people all spoke the same language, so they worked together to build their big city and mighty tower. But that is not what God wanted them to do. When Noah’s family came out of the ark, God told them to fill the earth. By building the city and tower, they were not listening to God. They were trying to stay in one place and be famous.

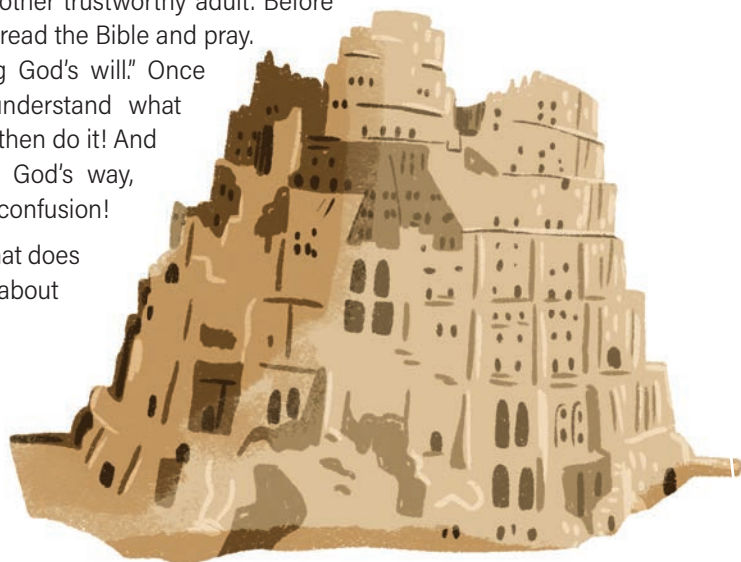
**TALK TO GOD**  
Ask God to help you understand His ways.

When God saw what they were doing, He did not like it. They were not obeying God. So God mixed up their language, which made them very confused. “What did you say? I don’t understand you,” one of the workers said. With different languages it was hard for them to work together, so they stopped building the city and the tower. The land was now called Babel and the people were confused. They ended up spreading out all over the world instead of staying in one place.

God always knows what’s best, and the best thing we can do is obey Him. If you don’t know what God wants you to do, ask Him to show you. You can also talk to your parents or another trustworthy adult. Before you make your plans, read the Bible and pray.

That’s called “seeking God’s will.” Once you are sure you understand what God wants you to do, then do it! And when you do things God’s way, you can avoid a lot of confusion!

**EXPLORE MORE:** What does Isaiah 55:8–9 tell us about God’s ways?



## DID YOU KNOW?

The word *babel* means “a confused noise made by a number of voices.”

*God’s ways are best.*



## A Big Surprise

**“Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.” —Genesis 18:14 NIV**

Abraham was one of Noah’s distant relatives who loved God very much. One day he was sitting under a tree when he saw three visitors walking toward him. He bowed to greet them and offered to get water to wash their feet. In those days people wore sandals and walked along dusty roads so their feet were often dirty. Abraham told his wife, Sarah, to bake some bread, and he told his servant to prepare some meat for the visitors to eat.

As Abraham talked with the men, they had some surprising news! They told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a baby the following year. Sarah was listening, and when she heard the news, she laughed because she was way too old to have a baby.

Many years before, God had promised Abraham that his family would become a great nation. Abraham didn’t see how that could happen since he and Sarah didn’t have any children and he and Sarah were old. But God kept His promise, and Sarah had a baby boy one year later. Abraham named him Isaac, which means laughter. The huge family God promised to give Abraham would come through Isaac.

**TALK TO GOD**  
Thank God that He can do impossible things.

When things seem impossible to us, we need to remember that God can do anything. He is not limited like we are.

When He says something is going to happen, it will. The Bible is filled with God’s words and promises, and we can believe they are true.

Almost two thousand years after Isaac was born, another baby boy was born who was also promised by God. He is one of Abraham’s distant relatives, a descendant, and His name is Jesus.

**EXPLORE MORE:** What does Psalm 127:3–4 say about children?

*God can do things that are impossible for us.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

In Abraham’s day, sandals were made from leather or wood. People used leather straps to tie them to their feet.



## More Than We Can Imagine

God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us. —Ephesians 3:20 NIV

We know that God can do amazing things because He created the world and everything in it. He put the sun, moon, and stars in the sky. He keeps the planets in space as they revolve around the sun, creating seasons and years. He keeps the earth spinning, so we have both day and night. God puts glowing rainbows in the sky and paints orange and pink sunsets. He puts on a nighttime show with the Northern Lights when swirls of blue and green light dance across the sky. He makes rain fall from the clouds and tells the wind which way to blow. There is no way we can count all the things that God can do.

**TALK TO GOD**  
Ask God to help you with a problem you have.

We can read in the Bible about what God has done in the past, and God is still doing amazing things today. Every snowflake that falls has its own design. The animals find food and water that God provides for them. And every newborn baby is a gift from God.

God does amazing things for you too. He wants to help you with whatever you need. If you are struggling with a math problem, you can ask God to help you figure it out. God may send just the right person to show you how to work out that problem. If a friend gets upset with you, ask God to show you ways that you can get along better. If a loved one is sick, you can ask God to make that person well.

God always listens when you talk to Him, but sometimes we have to wait to see how God will answer our prayers. Just remember that God can do anything, and sometimes He does more than we can imagine or even think about!

**EXPLORE MORE:** What does Psalm 147:4-5 tell us about God?

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Northern Lights are also known as Aurora Borealis. The giant swirls of green, red, purple, or blue are most visible to people living in the far north.

*God can do more than I can imagine.*