

30 **FUN** DEVOTIONS  
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2013

**FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE**

# **BIBLE EXPRESS** **DEVOTIONS**

*For Girls Ages 10-12*



SEPTEMBER 2013



WWW.LIFEWAY.COM

LifeWay | Preteens



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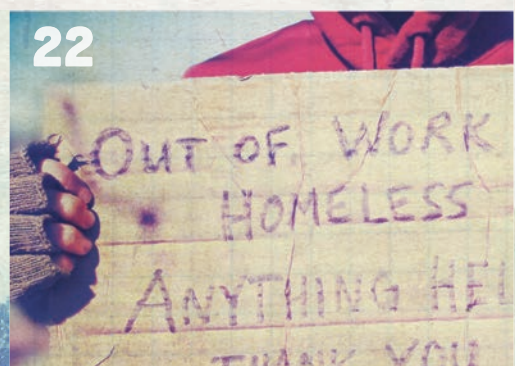
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# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Explore James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24



**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. *James 2:8***



Sunday, September 1

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

Drivers depend on road signs and maps to lead them in the right direction. Having a guide through unfamiliar territory is helpful.

God is ready to be your guide. Trust Him to lead you on the right path. The Bible is His roadmap for you.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

The Egyptians believed in many different gods—a wind god, a sun god ... even a frog god! God's people know that there is only one God who created everything! Choose to follow the one true God!

Ancient Egyptians  
worshiped as many  
as 2,000 gods!





Tuesday, September 3

## USE IT CAREFULLY!

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.

When the Bible says not to misuse God's name, it means you should only use it in a good way. Using God's name when you are surprised or angry is disrespectful to God.

Wednesday, September 4

## SHOWING THE WORLD

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

When athletes compete in the Olympics, they want to represent their respective countries well. Did you know you are God's representative? You must act in a way that honors Him.

Missy Franklin won four gold medals and one bronze in the 2012 London Olympics.



Name some neighbors you will pray for this week.





Thursday, September 5

## HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Wouldn't it be awesome to meet someone who lived a long time ago? You can talk to God, who witnessed everything in history! He has always been alive and will exist forever.

Friday, September 6

## LISTEN UP!

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

Perhaps sometimes you don't feel like listening, but when God is speaking, listen anyway. He will speak to you through His Word and through godly people.







Saturday, September 7

## AN EPIC HERO

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God saved every Israelite from Egypt by making a path through the Red Sea. Scripture says there were more than 500,000 of Pharaoh's fighting men! Who's even greater? God—the hero who loves you!

September 8 is Grandparent's Day. Thank God for your grandparents. If possible, write a grandparent a note of thanks.

Sunday, September 8

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

A lot of people want to be remembered after they die. God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt.

He's just as faithful to His people today ... that's worth remembering!





Monday, September 9

## TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS

*Isaiah 55:8*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways."  
This is the LORD's declaration.

God wants you to understand how  
He thinks; the best way for you  
to understand Him is to read what  
He wrote in the Bible.



Tuesday, September 10

## A REALLY BIG JOB

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Can you imagine what it would be like  
to be the president? You would have  
to make decisions that affect millions  
of people. With power comes huge  
responsibility.

God has power over the whole world,  
and He knows exactly what's best for  
each person!



There have been 44 presidents  
of the United States.



Wednesday, September 11

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

Names are important because they identify who people are. God calls Himself by many names in the Bible. The Truth, Bread of life, Counselor, Deliverer, and Father are just a few. God's name is so great that it has the power to protect people.

Thursday, September 12

## SHOWING GOD TO THE WORLD

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose:  
to show you My power and to make  
My name known in all the earth.

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't instantly bring people to heaven when they become Christians? When you live in a way that honors God, people want to know Him too. Remember God wants to show Himself to the world through you!



September 11 is a day  
of remembrance for the  
lives lost in a terrorist  
attack against the United  
States of America.







Friday, September 13

## GOTTA WANT IT

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

I once gave piano lessons to a girl who did not want to learn and never practiced. It didn't matter that I worked hard to teach her. She didn't want to learn.

When you want to know God more and spend time every day studying His Word, He can teach you great things!

Commit to studying God's Word each day. Choose a time and place and ask God for His help!

Saturday, September 14


## WHAT DO I KNOW?

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

I overheard a little girl in the grocery store tell her mother, "I just want candy for dinner. No carrots, just candy." Children don't know enough to make good decisions for themselves. No matter what your age, turn to God for guidance.





Sunday, September 15

## GIMME, GIMME!

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.

Sometimes people think that God is like a fairy: Just tell Him what you want and He makes sure you get it. As you start thinking like Christ, you will want the same things God wants. Your desires will be His desires too!

September 16  
is Collect Rocks Day.

Monday, September 16

## BRAG ABOUT HIM

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are several reasons you can brag about Jesus!

1. Jesus died on the cross for you.
2. You can be forgiven.
3. You are loved.
4. God's Word, the Bible, is true.
5. Jesus will always be with you.



♡  
You are loved.



Tuesday, September 17

## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Prime minister, king, queen, amir, president—world leaders all have titles.

No leader—regardless of his or her authority—is more powerful or wiser than God. All the nations are under His control.



Wednesday, September 18

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Imagine God talking to creation.

- To the sun: "It is time to rise and shine!"
- To the ocean waves: "You can only come this far."
- To the clouds: "Make it rain today."

What an awesome Creator with awesome power!

List things you can praise God for making and doing.



Thursday, September 19

## GOD IS GREAT

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

Many little kids start their prayers by saying, "God is great, God is good." Nothing will ever change that.

You might not understand why things happen the way they do, but you can know this: God always will be good.

Ask God to reveal His power to you in your daily life. When He does, write examples of it down here, so you can remember it.

Friday, September 20

## WEAK + GOD = POWER

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Think about the word *weak*. When God sees people who feel weak, He finds a way to show His power through them.

The next time you feel unsure, nervous, or worried, remember that God is there, waiting to show you what He can do. Trust Him!





Saturday, September 21

## GOT FEAR?

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

Sheep are easily scared. They have a tendency to wander and scatter. They need shepherds to comfort them.

Do you ever need to be comforted? God loves you. Like a shepherd guides and protects his sheep, He watches over you.



September 21  
is Miniature Golf Day.  
Grab a friend and  
play a round of golf!

Sunday, September 22

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Everyone loves to win. God wants first place in your heart and mind. The competition is tough because there are many people, objects, tasks, and events you might let bump God out of the front-runner spot. God should always be first.







Monday, September 23

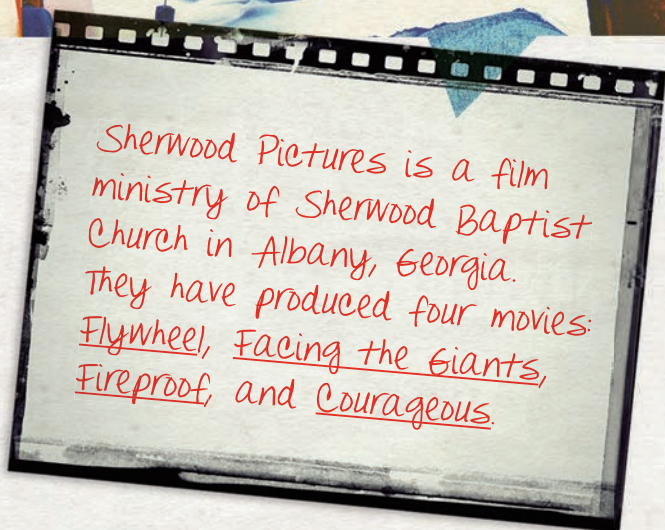
## LEAD YOUR HEART

*Psalms 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me,  
LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

Have you seen the movie *Fireproof*?  
In the movie, Caleb, a firefighter whose  
marriage was in trouble, was told not  
just to follow his heart, but to lead it.

How do you lead your heart? Ask God  
about anything and everything and do  
what He says.



Sherwood Pictures is a film  
ministry of Sherwood Baptist  
Church in Albany, Georgia.  
They have produced four movies:  
Flywheel, Facing the Giants,  
Fireproof, and Courageous.

Tuesday, September 24

## NOW WHAT?

*Proverbs 2:6*

The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding.

God, it's me. I need help. Life is crazy  
right now. You know how I feel, right?  
Will You help me?

God promises to give you wisdom  
when you feel lost and confused. All you  
have to do is ask!





Wednesday, September 25

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

What has God promised you? Grab a concordance (that book with a list of words found in the Bible and the references where to find them) and find out! Search for these words:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| → Comfort | → Instruction  |
| → Grace   | → Salvation    |
| → Mercy   | → Eternal life |

Record your findings from  
Wednesday's devotion.

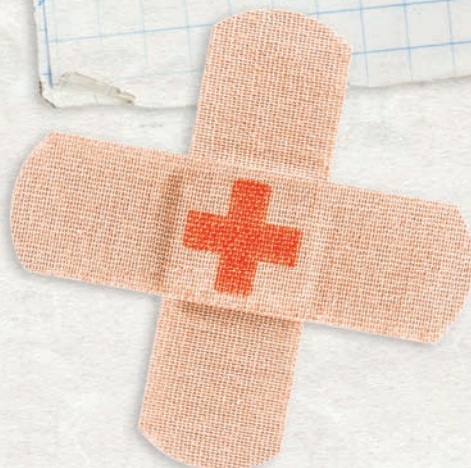
Thursday, September 26

## THE GOD WHO HEALS

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You healed me.

Emily was four when she was told she had scoliosis and would have to wear a back brace for twelve years. Her family and church prayed for her healing. God answered. She didn't need the brace until she was eight.





Friday, September 27

## CAN HARDLY WAIT

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

"I can't wait to grow up, be on my own, make my own choices, eat the food I want, go where I want, and be who I want!"

Have you ever had these thoughts?

Don't grow up too fast. Listen to God's voice all your life.

List promises God has made.

Saturday, September 28

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

People constantly make promises they don't keep. Friends say, "I will be there," then they are not. Parents say, "Yes, we can do that," then they change their minds. God will never break His promises. He never has, and He never will.



Listening to God!



Sunday, September 29

## I NEED YOU, LORD!

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark. She prayed and asked God to help her get to the beach and to keep her alive.

He knows what you are going through. He knows you! He will give you what you need, no matter what situation you are in!



Find out more about Bethany at [www.bethanyhamilton.com](http://www.bethanyhamilton.com). Her story is told in the book and movie Soul Surfer.

Monday, September 30

## AN ACHY HEART

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone gets sad. Maybe a friend moves away, a parent leaves the home, or someone close to you passes away. When these things happen, it feels like your heart will break. God can fix your heart. He is always near, and He cares about you!





Turning From

# TEMPTATION

What tempts you? Make a list of temptations you face.

Write out James 1:2-3 below:

IYOW

Now, write what James 1:2-3 means in your own words:



# WANTED

## PRETEEN BIRTHDAYS!

Send us your birthday and where you are from. Your birthday may appear in a future *Bible Express*. Each month, a name will be drawn from the birthdays to receive a CD.

## PRETEEN PROFILES!

Leaders, nominate a preteen to be featured in our monthly Preteen Profile. Send us the preteen's name, and a few interesting things about the preteen. If your nomination is chosen, you will be contacted for more information.

## IDEAS!

What do you want to see in these pages? If you have an idea or topic you would like to know more about, send us the information! Your idea may be in the next magazine you receive.

The next time you are tempted or tested, think about James 1:2-3. Ask God for help to stand strong against temptation.

Write a prayer, asking God for help in specific situations or with specific things you listed.

## CONTACT INFO

Send in your information, and be sure to label it as a birthday, profile nomination, or an idea. Multiple cards may be mailed in one envelope. Be sure to include your name, address, and age.

### Mail your entry to:

Publishing Team Leader,  
*BIBLE EXPRESS*  
One LifeWay Plaza, MSN 172  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

You may also email the info to [bibleexpress@lifeway.com](mailto:bibleexpress@lifeway.com). Be sure to note in the subject line what you are sending in: *birthday, preteen profile, or idea.*



**HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE  
THE LORD, AND HE WILL  
EXALT YOU.** *James 4:10*





## Explore James 4:10:



Think about what the word *humble* means.



Name some times in your life when it is good to be humble.



Read Matthew 5:1-12. What word appears the most in this passage?



According to this passage in the Bible, who will be blessed?



Pray, asking God for help in being humble. Write your prayer below:



The second is this: Love you neighbor as yourself.

There is no command greater than these. *MARK 12:31*

# SERVING UP Smiles

by Beth Masters

The other day a good friend and I sat down for a snack. This was a really great snack, chocolate lava cake from a new bakery, and we were very excited! As she cut the cake in two pieces, she was very careful to make them even so we both had half of the cake, half the icing, and half the lava. I laughed at how intentional she was about cutting the cake, and then she said “I want you to have as much as I have, if not a little more.”

She and I have both been taught to be fair and give others the “best piece” of whatever we have. This moment made me think about Jesus’ command to love other people like I love myself in Mark 12:31. While I was raised to treat other people with great respect, I’m not sure I always love them like I would want to be loved. Sometimes I can be plain selfish and want the bigger piece of lava cake! Jesus told people to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Some call this the law of love, since this means that Christians need to love other people as if they were themselves. As people we naturally love ourselves, but Jesus wants to turn our focus to loving Him first and then loving others. As the week went by,

God kept teaching me a lesson about loving people.

Where I live there are a lot of homeless people who ask for money and food on the side of the road. I try to keep boxes of granola bars in my car to hand them when I can in order to show them love. But God reminded me that when I really love someone I bake for them ... I bake cookies, brownies, cupcakes, really anything that I think would make them smile. So, wouldn’t that mean that if I was to really love the men and women on the side of the road then I would bake for them too? That means instead of buying a box of granola bars I should bake them granola bars!

Maybe you don’t have homeless people on the side of the road where you live, but I bet you have friends and family you could show love. What would make them smile? Here is the recipe my friend Anna and I used to make yummy-chocolaty granola bars to give away. I hope you have fun making them, giving them away, and seeing someone smile because you loved them! May each of us be found faithful to love people like we want to be loved.



## EASY GRANOLA BARS

### What you need:

9-by-13-inch pan

Non-stick cooking spray

2 cups of quick cooking oats

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup peanut butter  
(or 1 stick softened butter)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of candy covered chocolates,  
raisins, cranberries, or chocolate chips



Easy Granola Bars

### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Spray pan with non-stick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
4. Press evenly into the pan and bake 18 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.
5. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Cut into squares, and cool completely before serving.
6. Store in an air tight container.





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# **BIBLE EXPRESS** **DEVOTIONS**

*For Boys Ages 10-12*



LifeWay | Preteens



**BIBLE EXPRESS** is designed to encourage kids in the 5th and 6th grades (10-12 year olds) to spend time with God each day.

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Bible Express** (ISSN 1068-2775; Item 005075157) is published monthly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2013 LifeWay.

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# THE GOSPEL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

*gospel-noun. good news. the message about Christ, The kingdom of God, and salvation.*



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS



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10



18



22

**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. James 2:8**



Sunday, September 1

## BETTER THAN BREAD CRUMBS

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

In the story of Hansel and Gretel, Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path so the pair could find their way back home.

If you focus on Jesus, you'll always know what to do and where to go.



September 2 is Labor Day.

Labor Day is always on the first Monday of September and signals the end of summer.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

Around the world there are many different religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—just to name a few. People of these religions do not worship the God you know in Christianity. There is only one true God to worship.





???

Do you struggle with saying things  
that aren't pleasing  
to God?

Take a moment and  
ask God for help.

Sign your name here to commit to  
speaking respectfully about God.

~~X~~



Tuesday, September 3

## BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD  
your God, because the LORD will  
not leave anyone unpunished who  
misuses His name.

You probably hear a lot of people  
today using God's name in vain or saying  
"OMG." Using God's name carelessly  
is disrespectful to Him. He deserves better  
than that!

Wednesday, September 4

## WHAT'S IT WORTH?

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.

What do you think about when you see  
a penny, a nickel, a dime, or a quarter?  
One way or another, you think about  
what each coin is worth.

God values you very much! Live your  
life worthy of Him who gives you worth.



September 5 is Cheese Pizza Day.  
Enjoy a piece in honor of your  
great-great-great-grandfather!

Thursday, September 5

## A GOOD MEMORY

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Do you remember the name of your great-great-great-grandfather? No way! God never dies. He has always existed and always will. The God you know is the same God your great-grandfather knew!



Friday, September 6

## PLAYING BY EAR

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

A musician who can “play by ear” has the ability to hit the correct notes simply by listening to the sound of his instrument. When God speaks through the Bible, listen and adjust your life to match what you hear. Play your life by ear!



Electric guitars  
are also used by  
classical composers.



Saturday, September 7

## POWERFUL PROTECTION

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God led His people out of slavery but they seemed trapped between the sea and Egyptian army. God protected them. He parted the water so they could walk through. If you follow God, He will help you safely overcome any challenge in your life.

Write down a few different names for God.  
Spend time praising God through prayer.

Sunday, September 8

## THE NAME OF FAME

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

Have you ever tried to make a name for yourself by doing something great? Maybe you hit a ball farther than your friends or made your classmates laugh until their bellies ached.

God's name is greater than anyone, anytime, anywhere.



Monday, September 9

## GOD MAKES SENSE

*Isaiah 55:8*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways.”

This is the LORD’s declaration.

Why does a huge boat float, yet a tiny,  
little rock sinks? What makes the earth  
orbit perfectly around the sun? Some  
things just don’t make sense!

Having faith in God means trusting  
His words in the Bible—even when you  
don’t understand them.



who are you thankful for?  
Make a list and then tell those on  
the list you are thankful for them!

Tuesday, September 10

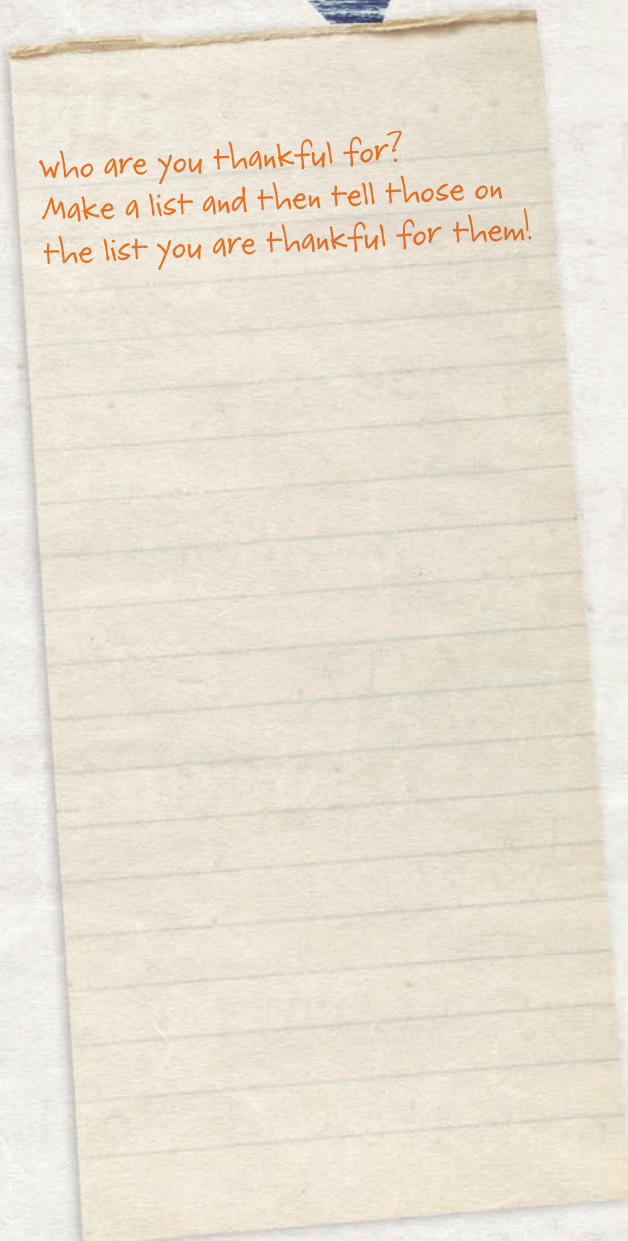
## THANK YOU, LORD!

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Many people think they are in control,  
when they are not. Wisdom, power, talents,  
and the opportunity to succeed only come  
from God.

Take time to thank Him for talents and  
opportunities.







Wednesday, September 11

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

If you were lost in a big city and someone tried to grab you, who would you call for help? The police!

As a follower of Jesus, you won't fit in with a lot of other guys around you. No one can take you away from Jesus. Call on His name anytime there's trouble.



September 11 is the day a terrorist attack happened in the United States of America. Pray for those protecting the rights of your freedom.

Thursday, September 12

## CONTRASTING CHARACTER

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

It's not easy to understand why God allows bad people to be successful, especially when they hurt others. God's character is like a work of art. Brushing pure white paint on white paper is hardly noticeable. But on black paper, the white paint really stands out!





Friday, September 13

## TRUTH BE TOLD

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and  
I will live by Your truth.

In the Bible, God tells you everything you need to know for both this life and the life to come. He tells you that you need Jesus to pay for your sins, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. The Bible also tells how you should live your life right now.

Did you know September is National Library Card Sign-up Month? If you don't have a library card, sign up for one! Check out a book by the author C.S. Lewis.



Be on Jesus' team!

Saturday, September 14

## A REAL BIG SHOT

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the  
earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Your friends may think you're cool when you talk back to your teacher or put down your sister. The only way to be a winner is to be on Jesus' team. He's the most valuable player. The next time you feel like bragging, remember that Jesus is the real big shot.



Sunday, September 15

## SURE SUCCESS

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD,  
and your plans will be achieved.

Do you know anyone who says he's a Christian but doesn't act like it? A real Christian desires to please God in everything. Since God can accomplish anything, He has the power to make sure you succeed in anything you do for Him.



work hard to treat  
the person you like  
the most and the least  
the same this week.  
Ask God for help!

Monday, September 16

## TALKING IT UP

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about  
anything except the cross of our  
LORD Jesus Christ.

Everyone likes to talk about things he does well. When you talk about yourself over and over again, that's called bragging or boasting. The Bible says that the only thing you should boast or brag about is what Jesus did on the cross for you.





Tuesday, September 17

## HOW BIG IS BIG?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Have you ever been inside a palace or mansion? They were often built for kings or rulers of nations to show their wealth and importance. The Bible says that as the King of all kings, God rules over all the nations. Imagine how big God's mansions are!

*Make a list of prayer requests.*

Wednesday, September 18

## TELL ME ONE MORE TIME

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Do you realize how many gadgets are available to remind you of upcoming appointments or special events? In this passage, God reminds Job who He is and what He can do. Sometimes you need to be reminded of what God can do!

*Commit to praying for these specific requests this week.*



Thursday, September 19

## FOR SURE!

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

One time my mom was so busy that she forgot to pick me up from school! I waited for 15 minutes before she finally came! As good as people's intentions may be, they sometimes let you down.

The **LORD** can and will provide what is good for you.

Friday, September 20

## NO WAY!

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

What if someone told you that the ocean is purple or that you could get your driver's license at the age of 11? You would probably respond with a loud, "No way! I don't think so!" Well, believe this: God's grace (undeserved favor) is all you need!



September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Argh, matey! You may not understand Pirate talk, but you can ask God to help you understand the Bible.



Saturday, September 21

## ME, AFRAID? NEVER!

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

What is your worst fear? People live in fear of so many things in life that there is a phobia for just about everything. God is with you no matter where you go or what you face in life. Live without fear today.

Sunday, September 22

## TOP PRIORITY

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.


What would you consider top priority in your life? Making friends? Making lots of money? Living in a big house? While all of these things may be nice to have, they shouldn't be your top priority. Your number one priority should be Jesus and all of His ways.



September 21 is  
International Rabbit Day.







Monday, September 23

## MAKE SOME NOISE!

*Psalm 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD.  
I will obey Your statutes.

Hearing a crowd yelling at the top of their lungs at a sporting event is exciting! Wouldn't it be amazing to hear the same size crowd cheering and yelling for God? The Bible tells you to call out to God with everything you have. Go ahead and make some noise for God!

Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium is reportedly the loudest stadium in all of college football. Loud fans earned the stadium's nickname: Deaf Valley (before the current nickname Death Valley).



Tuesday, September 24

## IN STOCK, READY FOR PICKUP

*Proverbs 2:6*

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever asked your mom and dad for a specific gift from a store only to find out it was out of stock? Wisdom is available from God and is ready for pickup today.





Make a list of promises  
you can make to God.

Wednesday, September 25

## PROMISES, PROMISES

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

Do you always keep your promises?  
Last weekend my dad promised to  
play baseball with me. It rained, so he  
couldn't keep his promise.

God is able to keep His promises  
because of His great power. God keeps  
all His promises.

Thursday, September 26

## DEPENDABLE COVERAGE

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and  
You healed me.

With all of the technology available today,  
you would think there would be dependable  
cell phone coverage everywhere. No matter  
how many times a person tries to get a call  
out, the signal isn't strong enough in some  
places. Aren't you glad that when you  
call out to God for help, He is always there?





Friday, September 27

## DEPEND ON GOD

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You, in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

Many boys tell their parents, "I can't wait to grow up and get out on my own." In your relationship with God, don't try to become independent of Him. The Bible tells you that being dependent on God is a good thing because it brings you peace.



Saturday, September 28

## GOOD TO THE LAST WORD

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

You have probably realized that just because somebody promises you something, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. Every promise ever made by God has been kept. You can count on God keeping His word!

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Be kind to your neighbor today.







Sunday, September 29

## LIVE AND IN PERSON

*1 Peter 5:10*

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Would you rather listen to a musician in concert or on a CD? Being there with a musician makes the experience extra special. Have you ever thought about the fact that God is available to you, live and in person, each day?

September 30  
is National Mud Pack Day.  
A mud pack is good  
to put on a bee sting when  
you need comforting.

Monday, September 30

## GOD OF ALL COMFORT

*Psalms 34:18*

The LORD is near the brokenhearted;  
He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone needs to be comforted when life is difficult. With God, however, there is no need for a teddy bear. He is there for you and will comfort you when you feel discouraged and down.





**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19





## CHECKING IN ON **CHARLIE**

by Bridgette Guest

**WHO:** Charlie is a fifth grader at Athens Intermediate School, in Athens, Alabama. Charlie has one brother, Max, and two sisters, Alice and Lucy. Charlie enjoys numerous sports, such as basketball, baseball, and football. One of Charlie's favorite things to learn is how to improve as an athlete. One day he hopes to play college ball at the University of Tennessee. He said, "I always try to be a good role model on and off the field."

**LIKES:** He loves to eat pizza. His favorite music is Lecrae, and he enjoys math. When asked about his least favorite things, Charlie says they are eating cheese and resting.

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Charlie's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Charlie said, "I love the verse because it gives me the assurance that God is always with me, and will never leave me. In tough situations I do not have to be afraid because the Lord is with me." Charlie explains James 4:10, "It means you need to think of others before yourself, and you will be blessed. Being humble means to treat others how you want to be treated, not necessarily how others treat you."



## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Charlie flew to China with his family to adopt his little sister, Alice. When I asked Charlie about his trip, he explained the Great Wall of China was one of his favorite places they visited. When asked how the adoption affected him, he said, "I was very sad to see the other children we had to leave behind. Each one of them needed a home just like Alice. I think more people should adopt children because there are so many who needs love. If people would adopt a kid or teenager, it would change their lives, as well as the kid's, forever." Charlie's love of adoption, however, does not stop with his sister Alice. When Charlie was 5 years old, his mother allowed him to choose a Compassion International child. They help children in underdeveloped nations receive food, clothing, healthcare, and an education. Charlie traveled to Haiti this past spring to visit Calvin. Charlie got to see first hand what a difference he has made in his life. Charlie is a great example of how God uses any age to impact others and bring God glory.





# CHOOSING YOUR ATTITUDE

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK



It's the last inning and your team is down by a run with a man on third base. You're up at bat and can tie the game. Three pitches later you are called out on strikes.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Throw your bat and complain that the pitch was a ball?
- (B) Encourage your teammate who is batting next?

You worked extremely hard on an English paper. When you get it back, it has a red "C-" at the top.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Tell your teacher how unfair she is?
- (B) Explain that you worked hard on the paper and ask why you didn't get a better grade?

Your parents accuse you of spilling soda on the computer. You try to explain that your brother did it, but they refuse to listen and ground you.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Go to your room and slam the door?
- (B) Wait until your parents calm down and try to explain what happened again?







Check out 1 Peter 2:12 to learn more about a good attitude.

Life is full of difficult situations. You can't do anything to avoid many of these trials, but you can always control how you respond. Sure, it's easier to choose (a) in the situations above, but here are three good reasons to choose (b) instead:

1. A bad attitude never makes things better. When has a bad attitude made a situation better for you? Probably never. Instead, a bad attitude almost always makes things worse. The Bible tells you that doing what is right and being gentle and kind benefits you (Proverbs 15:1).
2. A bad attitude never pleases God. It's easy to have a bad attitude in difficult times because you are angry you didn't get your way or are just confused. Proverbs 3:5 tells us that we should trust in God completely, even during a trial. Sometimes life doesn't seem fair or make sense, but keeping a good attitude shows that you trust God no matter what.

3. A bad attitude never helps others. You will hardly ever go through a difficult time alone. Usually, other people will be involved and they will see how you respond. The Bible tells you that if you have a good attitude during a trial, you will help people see Jesus in you (1 Peter 2:12). Think about it. Jesus had every reason to have a bad attitude when He was arrested and crucified, but He didn't have one. You can keep a good attitude too.

So how can you keep a positive attitude even when life is tough? Here are two quick ways:

- **PRAY.** Ask God to give you patience, peace, and joy. He wants you to have a good attitude and can give you one.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of people who went through trials and difficulties. Be encouraged by the ones who handled them right and learn from the mistakes of the ones who didn't.





1 Read Matthew 5:1-12

8 Read Matthew 4:1-11



2



9 Complete the activity on Girls page 19.



3

10 Read Psalm 119:10



4 Identify a problem you are facing this week.

11



5

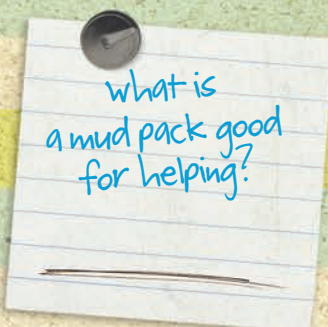


12



6 Read Proverbs 3:5

13



7 Pray and ask God for help specifically with the problem you identified.

14 Pray and ask for help loving others. Thank God for those who love you.



15 Read John 4:1-30

22



29 Do one kind thing for someone who isn't treated nicely by others.

16

Collect Rocks Day

23 Read Mark 10:13-16

30 Read 1 John 4:19 (Boys page 19) and then pray and ask God to help you show love to all people.

17 Show thanks for your friends. Complete the activity on Girls page 21.

24

Can you find God's plan for you?  
HINT:  
Find "The Gospel!"

18

NATIONAL RESPECT DAY

25 Keep mints nearby. Eat one each time you are tempted to say unkind words.

19 Read James 4:10 (Girls page 20).

26 Read John 15:12

On which bill and coin denomination does Abraham Lincoln appear?

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How many times does the word **follow** appear in this month's Bible Express?

20 Pray and ask God to help you love and be nice to someone different from you.

27

CRUSH A CAN DAY.  
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE.

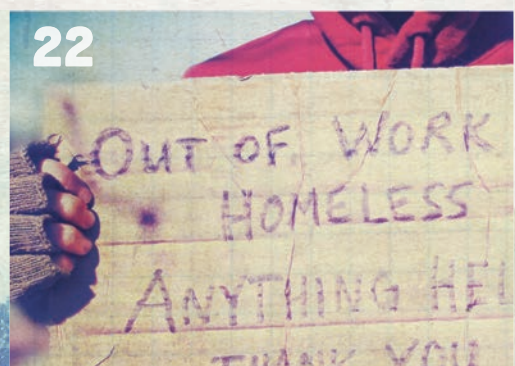
21

28 Pray and ask God to help you use words wisely.



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Explore James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24



**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. *James 2:8***



Sunday, September 1

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

Drivers depend on road signs and maps to lead them in the right direction. Having a guide through unfamiliar territory is helpful.

God is ready to be your guide. Trust Him to lead you on the right path. The Bible is His roadmap for you.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

The Egyptians believed in many different gods—a wind god, a sun god ... even a frog god! God's people know that there is only one God who created everything! Choose to follow the one true God!

Ancient Egyptians  
worshiped as many  
as 2,000 gods!





Tuesday, September 3

## USE IT CAREFULLY!

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.

When the Bible says not to misuse God's name, it means you should only use it in a good way. Using God's name when you are surprised or angry is disrespectful to God.

Wednesday, September 4

## SHOWING THE WORLD

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

When athletes compete in the Olympics, they want to represent their respective countries well. Did you know you are God's representative? You must act in a way that honors Him.

Missy Franklin won four gold medals and one bronze in the 2012 London Olympics.



Name some neighbors you will pray for this week.





Thursday, September 5

## HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Wouldn't it be awesome to meet someone who lived a long time ago? You can talk to God, who witnessed everything in history! He has always been alive and will exist forever.

Friday, September 6

## LISTEN UP!

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

Perhaps sometimes you don't feel like listening, but when God is speaking, listen anyway. He will speak to you through His Word and through godly people.







Saturday, September 7

## AN EPIC HERO

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God saved every Israelite from Egypt by making a path through the Red Sea. Scripture says there were more than 500,000 of Pharaoh's fighting men! Who's even greater? God—the hero who loves you!

September 8 is Grandparent's Day. Thank God for your grandparents. If possible, write a grandparent a note of thanks.

Sunday, September 8

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

A lot of people want to be remembered after they die. God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt.

He's just as faithful to His people today ... that's worth remembering!





Monday, September 9

## TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS

*Isaiah 55:8*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways."  
This is the LORD's declaration.

God wants you to understand how  
He thinks; the best way for you  
to understand Him is to read what  
He wrote in the Bible.



Tuesday, September 10

## A REALLY BIG JOB

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Can you imagine what it would be like  
to be the president? You would have  
to make decisions that affect millions  
of people. With power comes huge  
responsibility.

God has power over the whole world,  
and He knows exactly what's best for  
each person!



There have been 44 presidents  
of the United States.



Wednesday, September 11

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

Names are important because they identify who people are. God calls Himself by many names in the Bible. The Truth, Bread of life, Counselor, Deliverer, and Father are just a few. God's name is so great that it has the power to protect people.

Thursday, September 12

## SHOWING GOD TO THE WORLD

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose:  
to show you My power and to make  
My name known in all the earth.

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't instantly bring people to heaven when they become Christians? When you live in a way that honors God, people want to know Him too. Remember God wants to show Himself to the world through you!



September 11 is a day  
of remembrance for the  
lives lost in a terrorist  
attack against the United  
States of America.







Friday, September 13

## GOTTA WANT IT

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

I once gave piano lessons to a girl who did not want to learn and never practiced. It didn't matter that I worked hard to teach her. She didn't want to learn.

When you want to know God more and spend time every day studying His Word, He can teach you great things!

Commit to studying God's Word each day. Choose a time and place and ask God for His help!

Saturday, September 14


## WHAT DO I KNOW?

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

I overheard a little girl in the grocery store tell her mother, "I just want candy for dinner. No carrots, just candy." Children don't know enough to make good decisions for themselves. No matter what your age, turn to God for guidance.





Sunday, September 15

## GIMME, GIMME!

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.

Sometimes people think that God is like a fairy: Just tell Him what you want and He makes sure you get it. As you start thinking like Christ, you will want the same things God wants. Your desires will be His desires too!

September 16  
is Collect Rocks Day.

Monday, September 16

## BRAG ABOUT HIM

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are several reasons you can brag about Jesus!

1. Jesus died on the cross for you.
2. You can be forgiven.
3. You are loved.
4. God's Word, the Bible, is true.
5. Jesus will always be with you.



♡  
You are loved.



Tuesday, September 17

## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Prime minister, king, queen, amir, president—world leaders all have titles.

No leader—regardless of his or her authority—is more powerful or wiser than God. All the nations are under His control.



Wednesday, September 18

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Imagine God talking to creation.

- To the sun: "It is time to rise and shine!"
- To the ocean waves: "You can only come this far."
- To the clouds: "Make it rain today."

What an awesome Creator with awesome power!

List things you can praise God for making and doing.



Thursday, September 19

## GOD IS GREAT

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

Many little kids start their prayers by saying, "God is great, God is good." Nothing will ever change that.

You might not understand why things happen the way they do, but you can know this: God always will be good.

Ask God to reveal His power to you in your daily life. When He does, write examples of it down here, so you can remember it.

Friday, September 20

## WEAK + GOD = POWER

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Think about the word *weak*. When God sees people who feel weak, He finds a way to show His power through them.

The next time you feel unsure, nervous, or worried, remember that God is there, waiting to show you what He can do. Trust Him!





Saturday, September 21

## GOT FEAR?

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

Sheep are easily scared. They have a tendency to wander and scatter. They need shepherds to comfort them.

Do you ever need to be comforted? God loves you. Like a shepherd guides and protects his sheep, He watches over you.



September 21  
is Miniature Golf Day.  
Grab a friend and  
play a round of golf!

Sunday, September 22

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Everyone loves to win. God wants first place in your heart and mind. The competition is tough because there are many people, objects, tasks, and events you might let bump God out of the front-runner spot. God should always be first.







Monday, September 23

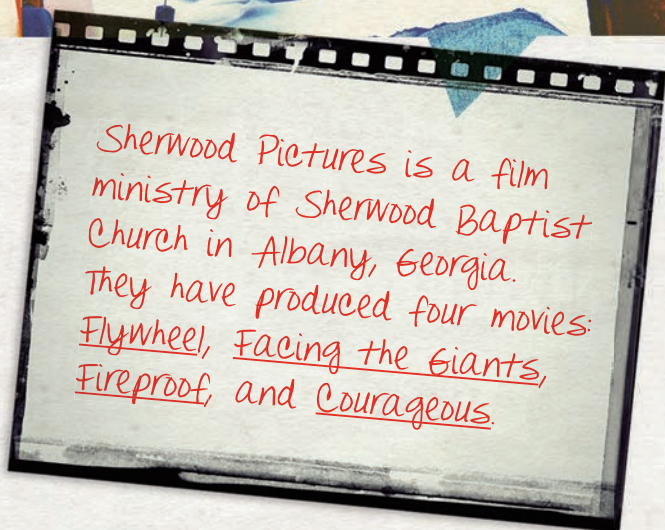
## LEAD YOUR HEART

*Psalms 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me,  
LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

Have you seen the movie *Fireproof*?  
In the movie, Caleb, a firefighter whose  
marriage was in trouble, was told not  
just to follow his heart, but to lead it.

How do you lead your heart? Ask God  
about anything and everything and do  
what He says.



Sherwood Pictures is a film  
ministry of Sherwood Baptist  
Church in Albany, Georgia.  
They have produced four movies:  
Flywheel, Facing the Giants,  
Fireproof, and Courageous.

Tuesday, September 24

## NOW WHAT?

*Proverbs 2:6*

The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding.

God, it's me. I need help. Life is crazy  
right now. You know how I feel, right?  
Will You help me?

God promises to give you wisdom  
when you feel lost and confused. All you  
have to do is ask!





Wednesday, September 25

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

What has God promised you? Grab a concordance (that book with a list of words found in the Bible and the references where to find them) and find out! Search for these words:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| → Comfort | → Instruction  |
| → Grace   | → Salvation    |
| → Mercy   | → Eternal life |

Record your findings from  
Wednesday's devotion.

Thursday, September 26

## THE GOD WHO HEALS

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You healed me.

Emily was four when she was told she had scoliosis and would have to wear a back brace for twelve years. Her family and church prayed for her healing. God answered. She didn't need the brace until she was eight.





Friday, September 27

## CAN HARDLY WAIT

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

"I can't wait to grow up, be on my own, make my own choices, eat the food I want, go where I want, and be who I want!"

Have you ever had these thoughts?

Don't grow up too fast. Listen to God's voice all your life.

List promises God has made.

Saturday, September 28

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.


People constantly make promises they don't keep. Friends say, "I will be there," then they are not. Parents say, "Yes, we can do that," then they change their minds. God will never break His promises. He never has, and He never will.



Listening to God!

IMAGE CREDIT: PEDRO MONTEIRO / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM





Sunday, September 29

## I NEED YOU, LORD!

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark. She prayed and asked God to help her get to the beach and to keep her alive.

He knows what you are going through. He knows you! He will give you what you need, no matter what situation you are in!



Find out more about Bethany at [www.bethanyhamilton.com](http://www.bethanyhamilton.com). Her story is told in the book and movie Soul Surfer.

Monday, September 30

## AN ACHY HEART

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone gets sad. Maybe a friend moves away, a parent leaves the home, or someone close to you passes away. When these things happen, it feels like your heart will break. God can fix your heart. He is always near, and He cares about you!





Turning From

# TEMPTATION

What tempts you? Make a list of temptations you face.

Write out James 1:2-3 below:

IYOW

Now, write what James 1:2-3 means in your own words:



# WANTED

## PRETEEN BIRTHDAYS!

Send us your birthday and where you are from. Your birthday may appear in a future *Bible Express*. Each month, a name will be drawn from the birthdays to receive a CD.

## PRETEEN PROFILES!

Leaders, nominate a preteen to be featured in our monthly Preteen Profile. Send us the preteen's name, and a few interesting things about the preteen. If your nomination is chosen, you will be contacted for more information.

## IDEAS!

What do you want to see in these pages? If you have an idea or topic you would like to know more about, send us the information! Your idea may be in the next magazine you receive.

The next time you are tempted or tested, think about James 1:2-3. Ask God for help to stand strong against temptation.

Write a prayer, asking God for help in specific situations or with specific things you listed.

## CONTACT INFO

Send in your information, and be sure to label it as a birthday, profile nomination, or an idea. Multiple cards may be mailed in one envelope. Be sure to include your name, address, and age.

### Mail your entry to:

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*BIBLE EXPRESS*  
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Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

You may also email the info to [bibleexpress@lifeway.com](mailto:bibleexpress@lifeway.com). Be sure to note in the subject line what you are sending in: *birthday, preteen profile, or idea.*



**HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE  
THE LORD, AND HE WILL  
EXALT YOU.** *James 4:10*





## Explore James 4:10:



Think about what the word *humble* means.



Name some times in your life when it is good to be humble.



Read Matthew 5:1-12. What word appears the most in this passage?



According to this passage in the Bible, who will be blessed?



Pray, asking God for help in being humble. Write your prayer below:



The second is this: Love you neighbor as yourself.

There is no command greater than these. *MARK 12:31*

# SERVING UP Smiles

by Beth Masters

The other day a good friend and I sat down for a snack. This was a really great snack, chocolate lava cake from a new bakery, and we were very excited! As she cut the cake in two pieces, she was very careful to make them even so we both had half of the cake, half the icing, and half the lava. I laughed at how intentional she was about cutting the cake, and then she said “I want you to have as much as I have, if not a little more.”

She and I have both been taught to be fair and give others the “best piece” of whatever we have. This moment made me think about Jesus’ command to love other people like I love myself in Mark 12:31. While I was raised to treat other people with great respect, I’m not sure I always love them like I would want to be loved. Sometimes I can be plain selfish and want the bigger piece of lava cake! Jesus told people to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Some call this the law of love, since this means that Christians need to love other people as if they were themselves. As people we naturally love ourselves, but Jesus wants to turn our focus to loving Him first and then loving others. As the week went by,

God kept teaching me a lesson about loving people.

Where I live there are a lot of homeless people who ask for money and food on the side of the road. I try to keep boxes of granola bars in my car to hand them when I can in order to show them love. But God reminded me that when I really love someone I bake for them ... I bake cookies, brownies, cupcakes, really anything that I think would make them smile. So, wouldn’t that mean that if I was to really love the men and women on the side of the road then I would bake for them too? That means instead of buying a box of granola bars I should bake them granola bars!

Maybe you don’t have homeless people on the side of the road where you live, but I bet you have friends and family you could show love. What would make them smile? Here is the recipe my friend Anna and I used to make yummy-chocolaty granola bars to give away. I hope you have fun making them, giving them away, and seeing someone smile because you loved them! May each of us be found faithful to love people like we want to be loved.



## EASY GRANOLA BARS

### What you need:

9-by-13-inch pan

Non-stick cooking spray

2 cups of quick cooking oats

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup peanut butter  
(or 1 stick softened butter)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of candy covered chocolates,  
raisins, cranberries, or chocolate chips



Easy Granola Bars

### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Spray pan with non-stick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
4. Press evenly into the pan and bake 18 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.
5. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Cut into squares, and cool completely before serving.
6. Store in an air tight container.





**BIBLE EXPRESS** is designed to encourage kids in the 5th and 6th grades (10-12 year olds) to spend time with God each day.

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Bible Express** (ISSN 1068-2775; Item 005075157) is published monthly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2013 LifeWay.

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# THE GOSPEL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

*gospel-noun. good news. the message about Christ, The kingdom of God, and salvation.*



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS



Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Exploring James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22



10



18



22

**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. James 2:8**



Sunday, September 1

## BETTER THAN BREAD CRUMBS

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

In the story of Hansel and Gretel, Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path so the pair could find their way back home.

If you focus on Jesus, you'll always know what to do and where to go.



September 2 is Labor Day.

Labor Day is always on the first Monday of September and signals the end of summer.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

Around the world there are many different religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—just to name a few. People of these religions do not worship the God you know in Christianity. There is only one true God to worship.





???

Do you struggle with saying things  
that aren't pleasing  
to God?

Take a moment and  
ask God for help.

Sign your name here to commit to  
speaking respectfully about God.

~~X~~



Tuesday, September 3

## BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD  
your God, because the LORD will  
not leave anyone unpunished who  
misuses His name.

You probably hear a lot of people  
today using God's name in vain or saying  
"OMG." Using God's name carelessly  
is disrespectful to Him. He deserves better  
than that!

Wednesday, September 4

## WHAT'S IT WORTH?

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.

What do you think about when you see  
a penny, a nickel, a dime, or a quarter?  
One way or another, you think about  
what each coin is worth.

God values you very much! Live your  
life worthy of Him who gives you worth.



September 5 is Cheese Pizza Day.  
Enjoy a piece in honor of your  
great-great-great-grandfather!

Thursday, September 5

## A GOOD MEMORY

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Do you remember the name of your great-great-great-grandfather? No way! God never dies. He has always existed and always will. The God you know is the same God your great-grandfather knew!



Friday, September 6

## PLAYING BY EAR

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

A musician who can “play by ear” has the ability to hit the correct notes simply by listening to the sound of his instrument. When God speaks through the Bible, listen and adjust your life to match what you hear. Play your life by ear!



Electric guitars  
are also used by  
classical composers.



Saturday, September 7

## POWERFUL PROTECTION

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God led His people out of slavery but they seemed trapped between the sea and Egyptian army. God protected them. He parted the water so they could walk through. If you follow God, He will help you safely overcome any challenge in your life.

Write down a few different names for God.  
Spend time praising God through prayer.

Sunday, September 8

## THE NAME OF FAME

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

Have you ever tried to make a name for yourself by doing something great? Maybe you hit a ball farther than your friends or made your classmates laugh until their bellies ached.

God's name is greater than anyone, anytime, anywhere.



Monday, September 9

## GOD MAKES SENSE

*Isaiah 55:8*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways.”  
This is the LORD’s declaration.

Why does a huge boat float, yet a tiny,  
little rock sinks? What makes the earth  
orbit perfectly around the sun? Some  
things just don’t make sense!

Having faith in God means trusting  
His words in the Bible—even when you  
don’t understand them.



who are you thankful for?  
Make a list and then tell those on  
the list you are thankful for them!

Tuesday, September 10

## THANK YOU, LORD!

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Many people think they are in control,  
when they are not. Wisdom, power, talents,  
and the opportunity to succeed only come  
from God.

Take time to thank Him for talents and  
opportunities.





Wednesday, September 11

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

If you were lost in a big city and someone tried to grab you, who would you call for help? The police!

As a follower of Jesus, you won't fit in with a lot of other guys around you. No one can take you away from Jesus. Call on His name anytime there's trouble.



Thursday, September 12

## CONTRASTING CHARACTER

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

It's not easy to understand why God allows bad people to be successful, especially when they hurt others. God's character is like a work of art. Brushing pure white paint on white paper is hardly noticeable. But on black paper, the white paint really stands out!

September 11 is the day a terrorist attack happened in the United States of America. Pray for those protecting the rights of your freedom.





Friday, September 13

## TRUTH BE TOLD

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and  
I will live by Your truth.

In the Bible, God tells you everything you need to know for both this life and the life to come. He tells you that you need Jesus to pay for your sins, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. The Bible also tells how you should live your life right now.

Did you know September is National Library Card Sign-up Month? If you don't have a library card, sign up for one! Check out a book by the author C.S. Lewis.



Be on Jesus' team!

Saturday, September 14

## A REAL BIG SHOT

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the  
earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Your friends may think you're cool when you talk back to your teacher or put down your sister. The only way to be a winner is to be on Jesus' team. He's the most valuable player. The next time you feel like bragging, remember that Jesus is the real big shot.



Sunday, September 15

## SURE SUCCESS

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD,  
and your plans will be achieved.

Do you know anyone who says he's a Christian but doesn't act like it? A real Christian desires to please God in everything. Since God can accomplish anything, He has the power to make sure you succeed in anything you do for Him.



work hard to treat  
the person you like  
the most and the least  
the same this week.  
Ask God for help!

Monday, September 16

## TALKING IT UP

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about  
anything except the cross of our  
LORD Jesus Christ.

Everyone likes to talk about things he does well. When you talk about yourself over and over again, that's called bragging or boasting. The Bible says that the only thing you should boast or brag about is what Jesus did on the cross for you.





Tuesday, September 17

## HOW BIG IS BIG?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Have you ever been inside a palace or mansion? They were often built for kings or rulers of nations to show their wealth and importance. The Bible says that as the King of all kings, God rules over all the nations. Imagine how big God's mansions are!

*Make a list of prayer requests.*

Wednesday, September 18

## TELL ME ONE MORE TIME

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Do you realize how many gadgets are available to remind you of upcoming appointments or special events? In this passage, God reminds Job who He is and what He can do. Sometimes you need to be reminded of what God can do!

*Commit to praying for these specific requests this week.*



Thursday, September 19

## FOR SURE!

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

One time my mom was so busy that she forgot to pick me up from school! I waited for 15 minutes before she finally came! As good as people's intentions may be, they sometimes let you down.

The **LORD** can and will provide what is good for you.

Friday, September 20

## NO WAY!

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

What if someone told you that the ocean is purple or that you could get your driver's license at the age of 11? You would probably respond with a loud, "No way! I don't think so!" Well, believe this: God's grace (undeserved favor) is all you need!



September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Argh, matey! You may not understand Pirate talk, but you can ask God to help you understand the Bible.



Saturday, September 21

## ME, AFRAID? NEVER!

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

What is your worst fear? People live in fear of so many things in life that there is a phobia for just about everything. God is with you no matter where you go or what you face in life. Live without fear today.

Sunday, September 22

## TOP PRIORITY

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.


What would you consider top priority in your life? Making friends? Making lots of money? Living in a big house? While all of these things may be nice to have, they shouldn't be your top priority. Your number one priority should be Jesus and all of His ways.



September 21 is  
International Rabbit Day.







Monday, September 23

## MAKE SOME NOISE!

*Psalm 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD.  
I will obey Your statutes.

Hearing a crowd yelling at the top of their lungs at a sporting event is exciting! Wouldn't it be amazing to hear the same size crowd cheering and yelling for God? The Bible tells you to call out to God with everything you have. Go ahead and make some noise for God!

Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium is reportedly the loudest stadium in all of college football. Loud fans earned the stadium's nickname: Deaf Valley (before the current nickname Death Valley).



Tuesday, September 24

## IN STOCK, READY FOR PICKUP

*Proverbs 2:6*

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever asked your mom and dad for a specific gift from a store only to find out it was out of stock? Wisdom is available from God and is ready for pickup today.





Make a list of promises  
you can make to God.

Wednesday, September 25

## PROMISES, PROMISES

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

Do you always keep your promises?  
Last weekend my dad promised to  
play baseball with me. It rained, so he  
couldn't keep his promise.

God is able to keep His promises  
because of His great power. God keeps  
all His promises.

Thursday, September 26

## DEPENDABLE COVERAGE

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and  
You healed me.

With all of the technology available today,  
you would think there would be dependable  
cell phone coverage everywhere. No matter  
how many times a person tries to get a call  
out, the signal isn't strong enough in some  
places. Aren't you glad that when you  
call out to God for help, He is always there?





Friday, September 27

## DEPEND ON GOD

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You, in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

Many boys tell their parents, "I can't wait to grow up and get out on my own." In your relationship with God, don't try to become independent of Him. The Bible tells you that being dependent on God is a good thing because it brings you peace.



Saturday, September 28

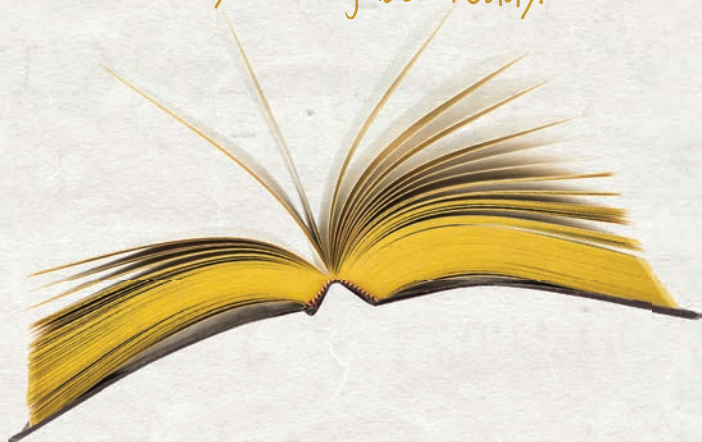
## GOOD TO THE LAST WORD

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

You have probably realized that just because somebody promises you something, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. Every promise ever made by God has been kept. You can count on God keeping His word!

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Be kind to your neighbor today.







Sunday, September 29

## LIVE AND IN PERSON

*1 Peter 5:10*

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Would you rather listen to a musician in concert or on a CD? Being there with a musician makes the experience extra special. Have you ever thought about the fact that God is available to you, live and in person, each day?

September 30  
is National Mud Pack Day.  
A mud pack is good  
to put on a bee sting when  
you need comforting.

Monday, September 30

## GOD OF ALL COMFORT

*Psalms 34:18*

The LORD is near the brokenhearted;  
He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone needs to be comforted when life is difficult. With God, however, there is no need for a teddy bear. He is there for you and will comfort you when you feel discouraged and down.





**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19





## CHECKING IN ON CHARLIE

by Bridgette Guest

**WHO:** Charlie is a fifth grader at Athens Intermediate School, in Athens, Alabama. Charlie has one brother, Max, and two sisters, Alice and Lucy. Charlie enjoys numerous sports, such as basketball, baseball, and football. One of Charlie's favorite things to learn is how to improve as an athlete. One day he hopes to play college ball at the University of Tennessee. He said, "I always try to be a good role model on and off the field."

**LIKES:** He loves to eat pizza. His favorite music is Lecrae, and he enjoys math. When asked about his least favorite things, Charlie says they are eating cheese and resting.

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Charlie's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Charlie said, "I love the verse because it gives me the assurance that God is always with me, and will never leave me. In tough situations I do not have to be afraid because the Lord is with me." Charlie explains James 4:10, "It means you need to think of others before yourself, and you will be blessed. Being humble means to treat others how you want to be treated, not necessarily how others treat you."



## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Charlie flew to China with his family to adopt his little sister, Alice. When I asked Charlie about his trip, he explained the Great Wall of China was one of his favorite places they visited. When asked how the adoption affected him, he said, "I was very sad to see the other children we had to leave behind. Each one of them needed a home just like Alice. I think more people should adopt children because there are so many who needs love. If people would adopt a kid or teenager, it would change their lives, as well as the kid's, forever." Charlie's love of adoption, however, does not stop with his sister Alice. When Charlie was 5 years old, his mother allowed him to choose a Compassion International child. They help children in underdeveloped nations receive food, clothing, healthcare, and an education. Charlie traveled to Haiti this past spring to visit Calvin. Charlie got to see first hand what a difference he has made in his life. Charlie is a great example of how God uses any age to impact others and bring God glory.





# CHOOSING YOUR ATTITUDE

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK



It's the last inning and your team is down by a run with a man on third base. You're up at bat and can tie the game. Three pitches later you are called out on strikes.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Throw your bat and complain that the pitch was a ball?
- (B) Encourage your teammate who is batting next?

You worked extremely hard on an English paper. When you get it back, it has a red "C-" at the top.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Tell your teacher how unfair she is?
- (B) Explain that you worked hard on the paper and ask why you didn't get a better grade?

Your parents accuse you of spilling soda on the computer. You try to explain that your brother did it, but they refuse to listen and ground you.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Go to your room and slam the door?
- (B) Wait until your parents calm down and try to explain what happened again?







Check out 1 Peter 2:12 to learn more about a good attitude.

Life is full of difficult situations. You can't do anything to avoid many of these trials, but you can always control how you respond. Sure, it's easier to choose (a) in the situations above, but here are three good reasons to choose (b) instead:

1. A bad attitude never makes things better. When has a bad attitude made a situation better for you? Probably never. Instead, a bad attitude almost always makes things worse. The Bible tells you that doing what is right and being gentle and kind benefits you (Proverbs 15:1).
2. A bad attitude never pleases God. It's easy to have a bad attitude in difficult times because you are angry you didn't get your way or are just confused. Proverbs 3:5 tells us that we should trust in God completely, even during a trial. Sometimes life doesn't seem fair or make sense, but keeping a good attitude shows that you trust God no matter what.

3. A bad attitude never helps others. You will hardly ever go through a difficult time alone. Usually, other people will be involved and they will see how you respond. The Bible tells you that if you have a good attitude during a trial, you will help people see Jesus in you (1 Peter 2:12). Think about it. Jesus had every reason to have a bad attitude when He was arrested and crucified, but He didn't have one. You can keep a good attitude too.

So how can you keep a positive attitude even when life is tough? Here are two quick ways:

- **PRAY.** Ask God to give you patience, peace, and joy. He wants you to have a good attitude and can give you one.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of people who went through trials and difficulties. Be encouraged by the ones who handled them right and learn from the mistakes of the ones who didn't.





1 Read Matthew 5:1-12

8 Read Matthew 4:1-11



2



9 Complete the activity on Girls page 19.



3

10 Read Psalm 119:10



4 Identify a problem you are facing this week.

11



5

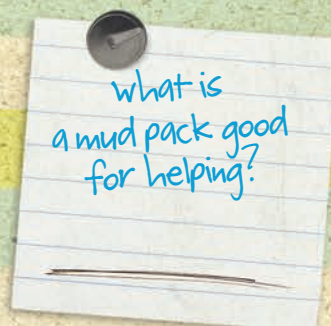


12



6 Read Proverbs 3:5

13



7 Pray and ask God for help specifically with the problem you identified.

14 Pray and ask for help loving others. Thank God for those who love you.



15 Read John 4:1-30

22



29 Do one kind thing for someone who isn't treated nicely by others.

16

Collect Rocks Day

23 Read Mark 10:13-16

30 Read 1 John 4:19 (Boys page 19) and then pray and ask God to help you show love to all people.

17 Show thanks for your friends. Complete the activity on Girls page 21.

24

Can you find God's plan for you?  
HINT:  
Find "The Gospel!"

18

NATIONAL RESPECT DAY

25 Keep mints nearby. Eat one each time you are tempted to say unkind words.

19 Read James 4:10 (Girls page 20).

26 Read John 15:12

On which bill and coin denomination does Abraham Lincoln appear?

How many times does the word **follow** appear in this month's Bible Express?

20 Pray and ask God to help you love and be nice to someone different from you.

27

CRUSH A CAN DAY.  
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE.

21

28 Pray and ask God to help you use words wisely.



30 **FUN** DEVOTIONS  
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2013  
**FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE**

# **BIBLE EXPRESS** **DEVOTIONS**

*For Girls Ages 10-12*



SEPTEMBER 2013



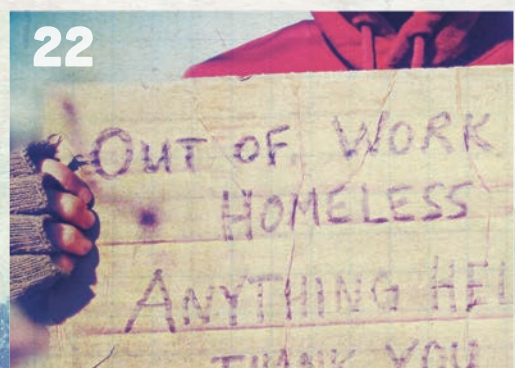
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Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Explore James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24



**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. *James 2:8***



Sunday, September 1

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

Drivers depend on road signs and maps to lead them in the right direction. Having a guide through unfamiliar territory is helpful.

God is ready to be your guide. Trust Him to lead you on the right path. The Bible is His roadmap for you.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

The Egyptians believed in many different gods—a wind god, a sun god ... even a frog god! God's people know that there is only one God who created everything! Choose to follow the one true God!

Ancient Egyptians  
worshiped as many  
as 2,000 gods!





Tuesday, September 3

## USE IT CAREFULLY!

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.

When the Bible says not to misuse God's name, it means you should only use it in a good way. Using God's name when you are surprised or angry is disrespectful to God.

Wednesday, September 4

## SHOWING THE WORLD

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

When athletes compete in the Olympics, they want to represent their respective countries well. Did you know you are God's representative? You must act in a way that honors Him.

Missy Franklin won four gold medals and one bronze in the 2012 London Olympics.



Name some neighbors you will pray for this week.





Thursday, September 5

## HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Wouldn't it be awesome to meet someone who lived a long time ago? You can talk to God, who witnessed everything in history! He has always been alive and will exist forever.

Friday, September 6

## LISTEN UP!

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

Perhaps sometimes you don't feel like listening, but when God is speaking, listen anyway. He will speak to you through His Word and through godly people.







Saturday, September 7

## AN EPIC HERO

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God saved every Israelite from Egypt by making a path through the Red Sea. Scripture says there were more than 500,000 of Pharaoh's fighting men! Who's even greater? God—the hero who loves you!

September 8 is Grandparent's Day. Thank God for your grandparents. If possible, write a grandparent a note of thanks.

Sunday, September 8

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

A lot of people want to be remembered after they die. God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt.

He's just as faithful to His people today ... that's worth remembering!





Monday, September 9

## TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS

*Isaiah 55:8*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways."  
This is the LORD's declaration.

God wants you to understand how  
He thinks; the best way for you  
to understand Him is to read what  
He wrote in the Bible.



Tuesday, September 10

## A REALLY BIG JOB

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Can you imagine what it would be like  
to be the president? You would have  
to make decisions that affect millions  
of people. With power comes huge  
responsibility.

God has power over the whole world,  
and He knows exactly what's best for  
each person!



There have been 44 presidents  
of the United States.



Wednesday, September 11

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

Names are important because they identify who people are. God calls Himself by many names in the Bible. The Truth, Bread of life, Counselor, Deliverer, and Father are just a few. God's name is so great that it has the power to protect people.

Thursday, September 12

## SHOWING GOD TO THE WORLD

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't instantly bring people to heaven when they become Christians? When you live in a way that honors God, people want to know Him too. Remember God wants to show Himself to the world through you!



September 11 is a day of remembrance for the lives lost in a terrorist attack against the United States of America.







Friday, September 13

## GOTTA WANT IT

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

I once gave piano lessons to a girl who did not want to learn and never practiced. It didn't matter that I worked hard to teach her. She didn't want to learn.

When you want to know God more and spend time every day studying His Word, He can teach you great things!

Commit to studying God's Word each day. Choose a time and place and ask God for His help!

Saturday, September 14


## WHAT DO I KNOW?

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

I overheard a little girl in the grocery store tell her mother, "I just want candy for dinner. No carrots, just candy." Children don't know enough to make good decisions for themselves. No matter what your age, turn to God for guidance.





Sunday, September 15

## GIMME, GIMME!

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.

Sometimes people think that God is like a fairy: Just tell Him what you want and He makes sure you get it. As you start thinking like Christ, you will want the same things God wants. Your desires will be His desires too!

September 16  
is Collect Rocks Day.

Monday, September 16

## BRAG ABOUT HIM

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are several reasons you can brag about Jesus!

1. Jesus died on the cross for you.
2. You can be forgiven.
3. You are loved.
4. God's Word, the Bible, is true.
5. Jesus will always be with you.



♡  
You are loved.



Tuesday, September 17

## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Prime minister, king, queen, amir, president—world leaders all have titles.

No leader—regardless of his or her authority—is more powerful or wiser than God. All the nations are under His control.



Wednesday, September 18

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Imagine God talking to creation.

- To the sun: "It is time to rise and shine!"
- To the ocean waves: "You can only come this far."
- To the clouds: "Make it rain today."

What an awesome Creator with awesome power!

List things you can praise God for making and doing.



Thursday, September 19

## GOD IS GREAT

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

Many little kids start their prayers by saying, "God is great, God is good." Nothing will ever change that.

You might not understand why things happen the way they do, but you can know this: God always will be good.

Ask God to reveal His power to you in your daily life. When He does, write examples of it down here, so you can remember it.

Friday, September 20

## WEAK + GOD = POWER

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Think about the word *weak*. When God sees people who feel weak, He finds a way to show His power through them.

The next time you feel unsure, nervous, or worried, remember that God is there, waiting to show you what He can do. Trust Him!





▶ Saturday, September 21

## GOT FEAR?

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

Sheep are easily scared. They have a tendency to wander and scatter. They need shepherds to comfort them.

Do you ever need to be comforted? God loves you. Like a shepherd guides and protects his sheep, He watches over you.



September 21  
is Miniature Golf Day.  
Grab a friend and  
play a round of golf!

▶ Sunday, September 22

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Everyone loves to win. God wants first place in your heart and mind. The competition is tough because there are many people, objects, tasks, and events you might let bump God out of the front-runner spot. God should always be first.







Monday, September 23

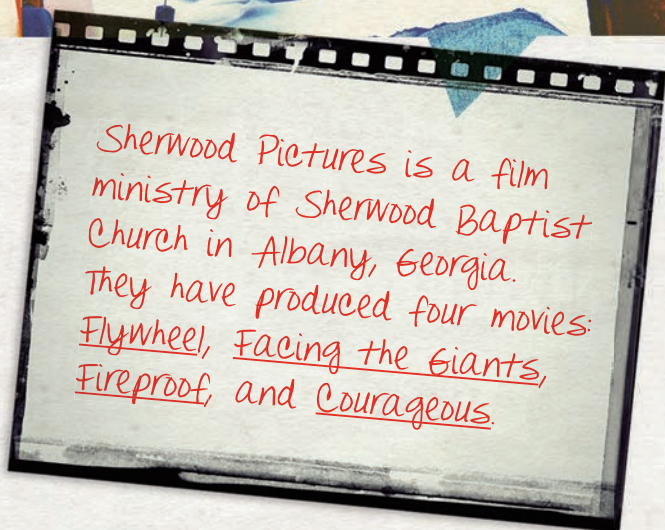
## LEAD YOUR HEART

*Psalms 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me,  
LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

Have you seen the movie *Fireproof*?  
In the movie, Caleb, a firefighter whose  
marriage was in trouble, was told not  
just to follow his heart, but to lead it.

How do you lead your heart? Ask God  
about anything and everything and do  
what He says.



Sherwood Pictures is a film  
ministry of Sherwood Baptist  
Church in Albany, Georgia.  
They have produced four movies:  
Flywheel, Facing the Giants,  
Fireproof, and Courageous.

Tuesday, September 24

## NOW WHAT?

*Proverbs 2:6*

The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding.

God, it's me. I need help. Life is crazy  
right now. You know how I feel, right?  
Will You help me?

God promises to give you wisdom  
when you feel lost and confused. All you  
have to do is ask!





Wednesday, September 25

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

What has God promised you? Grab a concordance (that book with a list of words found in the Bible and the references where to find them) and find out! Search for these words:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| → Comfort | → Instruction  |
| → Grace   | → Salvation    |
| → Mercy   | → Eternal life |

Record your findings from  
Wednesday's devotion.

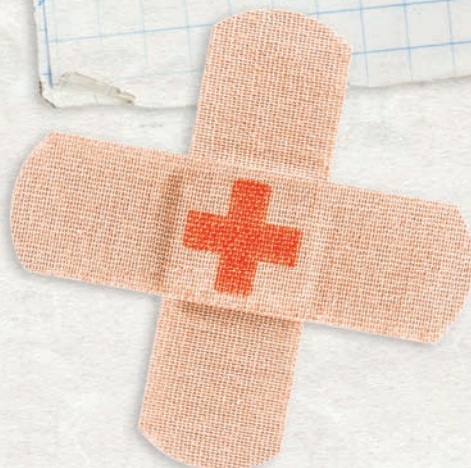
Thursday, September 26

## THE GOD WHO HEALS

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You healed me.

Emily was four when she was told she had scoliosis and would have to wear a back brace for twelve years. Her family and church prayed for her healing. God answered. She didn't need the brace until she was eight.





Friday, September 27

## CAN HARDLY WAIT

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

"I can't wait to grow up, be on my own, make my own choices, eat the food I want, go where I want, and be who I want!"

Have you ever had these thoughts?

Don't grow up too fast. Listen to God's voice all your life.

List promises God has made.

Saturday, September 28

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

People constantly make promises they don't keep. Friends say, "I will be there," then they are not. Parents say, "Yes, we can do that," then they change their minds. God will never break His promises. He never has, and He never will.



Listening to God!

IMAGE CREDIT: PEDRO MONTEIRO / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Sunday, September 29

## I NEED YOU, LORD!

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark. She prayed and asked God to help her get to the beach and to keep her alive.

He knows what you are going through. He knows you! He will give you what you need, no matter what situation you are in!



Find out more about Bethany at [www.bethanyhamilton.com](http://www.bethanyhamilton.com). Her story is told in the book and movie Soul Surfer.

Monday, September 30

## AN ACHY HEART

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone gets sad. Maybe a friend moves away, a parent leaves the home, or someone close to you passes away. When these things happen, it feels like your heart will break. God can fix your heart. He is always near, and He cares about you!





Turning From

# TEMPTATION

What tempts you? Make a list of temptations you face.

Write out James 1:2-3 below:

IYOW

Now, write what James 1:2-3 means in your own words:



# WANTED

## PRETEEN BIRTHDAYS!

Send us your birthday and where you are from. Your birthday may appear in a future *Bible Express*. Each month, a name will be drawn from the birthdays to receive a CD.

## PRETEEN PROFILES!

Leaders, nominate a preteen to be featured in our monthly Preteen Profile. Send us the preteen's name, and a few interesting things about the preteen. If your nomination is chosen, you will be contacted for more information.

## IDEAS!

What do you want to see in these pages? If you have an idea or topic you would like to know more about, send us the information! Your idea may be in the next magazine you receive.

The next time you are tempted or tested, think about James 1:2-3. Ask God for help to stand strong against temptation.

Write a prayer, asking God for help in specific situations or with specific things you listed.

## CONTACT INFO

Send in your information, and be sure to label it as a birthday, profile nomination, or an idea. Multiple cards may be mailed in one envelope. Be sure to include your name, address, and age.

### Mail your entry to:

Publishing Team Leader,  
*BIBLE EXPRESS*  
One LifeWay Plaza, MSN 172  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

You may also email the info to [bibleexpress@lifeway.com](mailto:bibleexpress@lifeway.com). Be sure to note in the subject line what you are sending in: *birthday, preteen profile, or idea.*



**HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE  
THE LORD, AND HE WILL  
EXALT YOU.** *James 4:10*





## Explore James 4:10:



Think about what the word *humble* means.



Name some times in your life when it is good to be humble.



Read Matthew 5:1-12. What word appears the most in this passage?



According to this passage in the Bible, who will be blessed?



Pray, asking God for help in being humble. Write your prayer below:



The second is this: Love you neighbor as yourself.

There is no command greater than these. *MARK 12:31*

# SERVING UP Smiles

by Beth Masters

The other day a good friend and I sat down for a snack. This was a really great snack, chocolate lava cake from a new bakery, and we were very excited! As she cut the cake in two pieces, she was very careful to make them even so we both had half of the cake, half the icing, and half the lava. I laughed at how intentional she was about cutting the cake, and then she said “I want you to have as much as I have, if not a little more.”

She and I have both been taught to be fair and give others the “best piece” of whatever we have. This moment made me think about Jesus’ command to love other people like I love myself in Mark 12:31. While I was raised to treat other people with great respect, I’m not sure I always love them like I would want to be loved. Sometimes I can be plain selfish and want the bigger piece of lava cake! Jesus told people to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Some call this the law of love, since this means that Christians need to love other people as if they were themselves. As people we naturally love ourselves, but Jesus wants to turn our focus to loving Him first and then loving others. As the week went by,

God kept teaching me a lesson about loving people.

Where I live there are a lot of homeless people who ask for money and food on the side of the road. I try to keep boxes of granola bars in my car to hand them when I can in order to show them love. But God reminded me that when I really love someone I bake for them ... I bake cookies, brownies, cupcakes, really anything that I think would make them smile. So, wouldn’t that mean that if I was to really love the men and women on the side of the road then I would bake for them too? That means instead of buying a box of granola bars I should bake them granola bars!

Maybe you don’t have homeless people on the side of the road where you live, but I bet you have friends and family you could show love. What would make them smile? Here is the recipe my friend Anna and I used to make yummy-chocolaty granola bars to give away. I hope you have fun making them, giving them away, and seeing someone smile because you loved them! May each of us be found faithful to love people like we want to be loved.



## EASY GRANOLA BARS

### What you need:

9-by-13-inch pan

Non-stick cooking spray

2 cups of quick cooking oats

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup peanut butter  
(or 1 stick softened butter)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of candy covered chocolates,  
raisins, cranberries, or chocolate chips



Easy Granola Bars

### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Spray pan with non-stick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
4. Press evenly into the pan and bake 18 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.
5. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Cut into squares, and cool completely before serving.
6. Store in an air tight container.





**BIBLE EXPRESS** is designed to encourage kids in the 5th and 6th grades (10-12 year olds) to spend time with God each day.

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Bible Express** (ISSN 1068-2775; Item 005075157) is published monthly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2013 LifeWay.

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# THE GOSPEL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

*gospel-noun. good news. the message about Christ, The kingdom of God, and salvation.*



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS



Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Exploring James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22



10



18



22

**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. James 2:8**



Sunday, September 1

## BETTER THAN BREAD CRUMBS

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

In the story of Hansel and Gretel, Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path so the pair could find their way back home.

If you focus on Jesus, you'll always know what to do and where to go.



September 2 is Labor Day.

Labor Day is always on the first Monday of September and signals the end of summer.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

Around the world there are many different religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—just to name a few. People of these religions do not worship the God you know in Christianity. There is only one true God to worship.





???

Do you struggle with saying things  
that aren't pleasing  
to God?

Take a moment and  
ask God for help.

Sign your name here to commit to  
speaking respectfully about God.

~~X~~



Tuesday, September 3

## BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD  
your God, because the LORD will  
not leave anyone unpunished who  
misuses His name.

You probably hear a lot of people  
today using God's name in vain or saying  
"OMG." Using God's name carelessly  
is disrespectful to Him. He deserves better  
than that!

Wednesday, September 4

## WHAT'S IT WORTH?

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.

What do you think about when you see  
a penny, a nickel, a dime, or a quarter?  
One way or another, you think about  
what each coin is worth.

God values you very much! Live your  
life worthy of Him who gives you worth.



September 5 is Cheese Pizza Day.  
Enjoy a piece in honor of your  
great-great-great-grandfather!

Thursday, September 5

## A GOOD MEMORY

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Do you remember the name of your great-great-great-grandfather? No way! God never dies. He has always existed and always will. The God you know is the same God your great-grandfather knew!



Friday, September 6

## PLAYING BY EAR

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

A musician who can “play by ear” has the ability to hit the correct notes simply by listening to the sound of his instrument. When God speaks through the Bible, listen and adjust your life to match what you hear. Play your life by ear!



Electric guitars  
are also used by  
classical composers.



Saturday, September 7

## POWERFUL PROTECTION

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God led His people out of slavery but they seemed trapped between the sea and Egyptian army. God protected them. He parted the water so they could walk through. If you follow God, He will help you safely overcome any challenge in your life.

Write down a few different names for God.  
Spend time praising God through prayer.

Sunday, September 8

## THE NAME OF FAME

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

Have you ever tried to make a name for yourself by doing something great? Maybe you hit a ball farther than your friends or made your classmates laugh until their bellies ached.

God's name is greater than anyone, anytime, anywhere.



Monday, September 9

## GOD MAKES SENSE

*Isaiah 55:8*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways.”  
This is the LORD’s declaration.

Why does a huge boat float, yet a tiny,  
little rock sinks? What makes the earth  
orbit perfectly around the sun? Some  
things just don’t make sense!

Having faith in God means trusting  
His words in the Bible—even when you  
don’t understand them.



who are you thankful for?  
Make a list and then tell those on  
the list you are thankful for them!

Tuesday, September 10

## THANK YOU, LORD!

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Many people think they are in control,  
when they are not. Wisdom, power, talents,  
and the opportunity to succeed only come  
from God.

Take time to thank Him for talents and  
opportunities.





Wednesday, September 11

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

If you were lost in a big city and someone tried to grab you, who would you call for help? The police!

As a follower of Jesus, you won't fit in with a lot of other guys around you. No one can take you away from Jesus. Call on His name anytime there's trouble.



September 11 is the day a terrorist attack happened in the United States of America. Pray for those protecting the rights of your freedom.

Thursday, September 12

## CONTRASTING CHARACTER

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

It's not easy to understand why God allows bad people to be successful, especially when they hurt others. God's character is like a work of art. Brushing pure white paint on white paper is hardly noticeable. But on black paper, the white paint really stands out!





Friday, September 13

## TRUTH BE TOLD

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and  
I will live by Your truth.

In the Bible, God tells you everything you need to know for both this life and the life to come. He tells you that you need Jesus to pay for your sins, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. The Bible also tells how you should live your life right now.

Did you know September is National Library Card Sign-up Month? If you don't have a library card, sign up for one! Check out a book by the author C.S. Lewis.



Be on Jesus' team!

Saturday, September 14

## A REAL BIG SHOT

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the  
earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Your friends may think you're cool when you talk back to your teacher or put down your sister. The only way to be a winner is to be on Jesus' team. He's the most valuable player. The next time you feel like bragging, remember that Jesus is the real big shot.



Sunday, September 15

## SURE SUCCESS

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD,  
and your plans will be achieved.

Do you know anyone who says he's a Christian but doesn't act like it? A real Christian desires to please God in everything. Since God can accomplish anything, He has the power to make sure you succeed in anything you do for Him.



work hard to treat  
the person you like  
the most and the least  
the same this week.  
Ask God for help!

Monday, September 16

## TALKING IT UP

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about  
anything except the cross of our  
LORD Jesus Christ.

Everyone likes to talk about things he does well. When you talk about yourself over and over again, that's called bragging or boasting. The Bible says that the only thing you should boast or brag about is what Jesus did on the cross for you.





Tuesday, September 17

## HOW BIG IS BIG?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Have you ever been inside a palace or mansion? They were often built for kings or rulers of nations to show their wealth and importance. The Bible says that as the King of all kings, God rules over all the nations. Imagine how big God's mansions are!

*Make a list of prayer requests.*

Wednesday, September 18

## TELL ME ONE MORE TIME

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Do you realize how many gadgets are available to remind you of upcoming appointments or special events? In this passage, God reminds Job who He is and what He can do. Sometimes you need to be reminded of what God can do!

*Commit to praying for these specific requests this week.*



Thursday, September 19

## FOR SURE!

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

One time my mom was so busy that she forgot to pick me up from school! I waited for 15 minutes before she finally came! As good as people's intentions may be, they sometimes let you down.

The **LORD** can and will provide what is good for you.

Friday, September 20

## NO WAY!

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

What if someone told you that the ocean is purple or that you could get your driver's license at the age of 11? You would probably respond with a loud, "No way! I don't think so!" Well, believe this: God's grace (undeserved favor) is all you need!



September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Argh, matey! You may not understand Pirate talk, but you can ask God to help you understand the Bible.



Saturday, September 21

## ME, AFRAID? NEVER!

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

What is your worst fear? People live in fear of so many things in life that there is a phobia for just about everything. God is with you no matter where you go or what you face in life. Live without fear today.

Sunday, September 22

## TOP PRIORITY

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.


What would you consider top priority in your life? Making friends? Making lots of money? Living in a big house? While all of these things may be nice to have, they shouldn't be your top priority. Your number one priority should be Jesus and all of His ways.



September 21 is  
International Rabbit Day.







Monday, September 23

## MAKE SOME NOISE!

*Psalm 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD.  
I will obey Your statutes.

Hearing a crowd yelling at the top of their lungs at a sporting event is exciting! Wouldn't it be amazing to hear the same size crowd cheering and yelling for God? The Bible tells you to call out to God with everything you have. Go ahead and make some noise for God!

Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium is reportedly the loudest stadium in all of college football. Loud fans earned the stadium's nickname: Deaf Valley (before the current nickname Death Valley).



Tuesday, September 24

## IN STOCK, READY FOR PICKUP

*Proverbs 2:6*

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever asked your mom and dad for a specific gift from a store only to find out it was out of stock? Wisdom is available from God and is ready for pickup today.





Make a list of promises  
you can make to God.

Wednesday, September 25

## PROMISES, PROMISES

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

Do you always keep your promises?  
Last weekend my dad promised to  
play baseball with me. It rained, so he  
couldn't keep his promise.

God is able to keep His promises  
because of His great power. God keeps  
all His promises.

Thursday, September 26

## DEPENDABLE COVERAGE

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and  
You healed me.

With all of the technology available today,  
you would think there would be dependable  
cell phone coverage everywhere. No matter  
how many times a person tries to get a call  
out, the signal isn't strong enough in some  
places. Aren't you glad that when you  
call out to God for help, He is always there?





Friday, September 27

## DEPEND ON GOD

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You, in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

Many boys tell their parents, "I can't wait to grow up and get out on my own." In your relationship with God, don't try to become independent of Him. The Bible tells you that being dependent on God is a good thing because it brings you peace.



Saturday, September 28

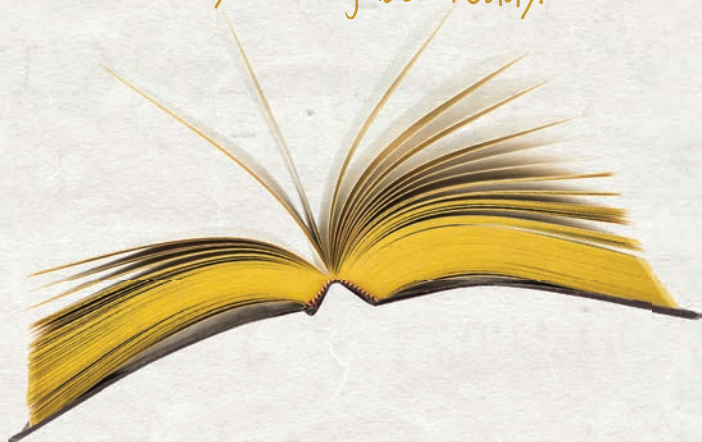
## GOOD TO THE LAST WORD

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

You have probably realized that just because somebody promises you something, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. Every promise ever made by God has been kept. You can count on God keeping His word!

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Be kind to your neighbor today.







Sunday, September 29

## LIVE AND IN PERSON

*1 Peter 5:10*

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Would you rather listen to a musician in concert or on a CD? Being there with a musician makes the experience extra special. Have you ever thought about the fact that God is available to you, live and in person, each day?

September 30  
is National Mud Pack Day.  
A mud pack is good  
to put on a bee sting when  
you need comforting.

Monday, September 30

## GOD OF ALL COMFORT

*Psalms 34:18*

The LORD is near the brokenhearted;  
He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone needs to be comforted when life is difficult. With God, however, there is no need for a teddy bear. He is there for you and will comfort you when you feel discouraged and down.





**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19





## CHECKING IN ON CHARLIE

by Bridgette Guest

**WHO:** Charlie is a fifth grader at Athens Intermediate School, in Athens, Alabama. Charlie has one brother, Max, and two sisters, Alice and Lucy. Charlie enjoys numerous sports, such as basketball, baseball, and football. One of Charlie's favorite things to learn is how to improve as an athlete. One day he hopes to play college ball at the University of Tennessee. He said, "I always try to be a good role model on and off the field."

**LIKES:** He loves to eat pizza. His favorite music is Lecrae, and he enjoys math. When asked about his least favorite things, Charlie says they are eating cheese and resting.

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Charlie's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Charlie said, "I love the verse because it gives me the assurance that God is always with me, and will never leave me. In tough situations I do not have to be afraid because the Lord is with me." Charlie explains James 4:10, "It means you need to think of others before yourself, and you will be blessed. Being humble means to treat others how you want to be treated, not necessarily how others treat you."



## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Charlie flew to China with his family to adopt his little sister, Alice. When I asked Charlie about his trip, he explained the Great Wall of China was one of his favorite places they visited. When asked how the adoption affected him, he said, "I was very sad to see the other children we had to leave behind. Each one of them needed a home just like Alice. I think more people should adopt children because there are so many who needs love. If people would adopt a kid or teenager, it would change their lives, as well as the kid's, forever." Charlie's love of adoption, however, does not stop with his sister Alice. When Charlie was 5 years old, his mother allowed him to choose a Compassion International child. They help children in underdeveloped nations receive food, clothing, healthcare, and an education. Charlie traveled to Haiti this past spring to visit Calvin. Charlie got to see first hand what a difference he has made in his life. Charlie is a great example of how God uses any age to impact others and bring God glory.





# CHOOSING YOUR ATTITUDE

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK



It's the last inning and your team is down by a run with a man on third base. You're up at bat and can tie the game. Three pitches later you are called out on strikes.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Throw your bat and complain that the pitch was a ball?
- (B) Encourage your teammate who is batting next?

You worked extremely hard on an English paper. When you get it back, it has a red "C-" at the top.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Tell your teacher how unfair she is?
- (B) Explain that you worked hard on the paper and ask why you didn't get a better grade?

Your parents accuse you of spilling soda on the computer. You try to explain that your brother did it, but they refuse to listen and ground you.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Go to your room and slam the door?
- (B) Wait until your parents calm down and try to explain what happened again?







Check out 1 Peter 2:12 to learn more about a good attitude.

Life is full of difficult situations. You can't do anything to avoid many of these trials, but you can always control how you respond. Sure, it's easier to choose (a) in the situations above, but here are three good reasons to choose (b) instead:

1. A bad attitude never makes things better. When has a bad attitude made a situation better for you? Probably never. Instead, a bad attitude almost always makes things worse. The Bible tells you that doing what is right and being gentle and kind benefits you (Proverbs 15:1).
2. A bad attitude never pleases God. It's easy to have a bad attitude in difficult times because you are angry you didn't get your way or are just confused. Proverbs 3:5 tells us that we should trust in God completely, even during a trial. Sometimes life doesn't seem fair or make sense, but keeping a good attitude shows that you trust God no matter what.

3. A bad attitude never helps others. You will hardly ever go through a difficult time alone. Usually, other people will be involved and they will see how you respond. The Bible tells you that if you have a good attitude during a trial, you will help people see Jesus in you (1 Peter 2:12). Think about it. Jesus had every reason to have a bad attitude when He was arrested and crucified, but He didn't have one. You can keep a good attitude too.

So how can you keep a positive attitude even when life is tough? Here are two quick ways:

- **PRAY.** Ask God to give you patience, peace, and joy. He wants you to have a good attitude and can give you one.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of people who went through trials and difficulties. Be encouraged by the ones who handled them right and learn from the mistakes of the ones who didn't.





1 Read Matthew 5:1-12

8 Read Matthew 4:1-11



2



9 Complete the activity on Girls page 19.



3

10 Read Psalm 119:10



4 Identify a problem you are facing this week.

11



5

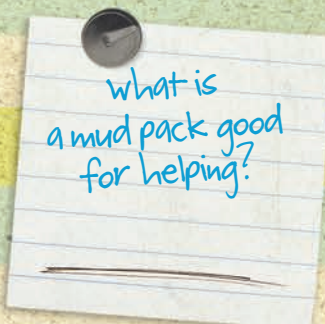


12



6 Read Proverbs 3:5

13



7 Pray and ask God for help specifically with the problem you identified.

14 Pray and ask for help loving others. Thank God for those who love you.



15 Read John 4:1-30

22



29 Do one kind thing for someone who isn't treated nicely by others.

16

Collect Rocks Day

23 Read Mark 10:13-16

30 Read 1 John 4:19 (Boys page 19) and then pray and ask God to help you show love to all people.

17 Show thanks for your friends. Complete the activity on Girls page 21.

24

Can you find God's plan for you?  
HINT:  
Find "The Gospel!"

18

NATIONAL RESPECT DAY

25 Keep mints nearby. Eat one each time you are tempted to say unkind words.

19 Read James 4:10 (Girls page 20).

26 Read John 15:12

On which bill and coin denomination does Abraham Lincoln appear?

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How many times does the word **follow** appear in this month's Bible Express?

20 Pray and ask God to help you love and be nice to someone different from you.

27

CRUSH A CAN DAY.  
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE.

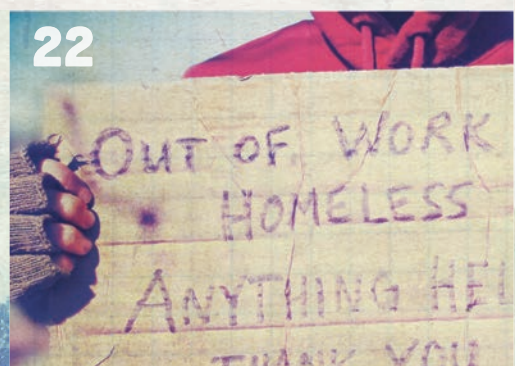
21

28 Pray and ask God to help you use words wisely.



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Explore James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24



**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. *James 2:8***



Sunday, September 1

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

Drivers depend on road signs and maps to lead them in the right direction. Having a guide through unfamiliar territory is helpful.

God is ready to be your guide. Trust Him to lead you on the right path. The Bible is His roadmap for you.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

The Egyptians believed in many different gods—a wind god, a sun god ... even a frog god! God's people know that there is only one God who created everything! Choose to follow the one true God!

Ancient Egyptians  
worshiped as many  
as 2,000 gods!





Tuesday, September 3

## USE IT CAREFULLY!

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.

When the Bible says not to misuse God's name, it means you should only use it in a good way. Using God's name when you are surprised or angry is disrespectful to God.

Wednesday, September 4

## SHOWING THE WORLD

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

When athletes compete in the Olympics, they want to represent their respective countries well. Did you know you are God's representative? You must act in a way that honors Him.

Missy Franklin won four gold medals and one bronze in the 2012 London Olympics.



Name some neighbors you will pray for this week.





Thursday, September 5

## HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Wouldn't it be awesome to meet someone who lived a long time ago? You can talk to God, who witnessed everything in history! He has always been alive and will exist forever.

Friday, September 6

## LISTEN UP!

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

Perhaps sometimes you don't feel like listening, but when God is speaking, listen anyway. He will speak to you through His Word and through godly people.







Saturday, September 7

## AN EPIC HERO

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God saved every Israelite from Egypt by making a path through the Red Sea. Scripture says there were more than 500,000 of Pharaoh's fighting men! Who's even greater? God—the hero who loves you!

September 8 is Grandparent's Day. Thank God for your grandparents. If possible, write a grandparent a note of thanks.

Sunday, September 8

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

A lot of people want to be remembered after they die. God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt.

He's just as faithful to His people today ... that's worth remembering!





Monday, September 9

## TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS

*Isaiah 55:8*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways."  
This is the LORD's declaration.

God wants you to understand how  
He thinks; the best way for you  
to understand Him is to read what  
He wrote in the Bible.



Tuesday, September 10

## A REALLY BIG JOB

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Can you imagine what it would be like  
to be the president? You would have  
to make decisions that affect millions  
of people. With power comes huge  
responsibility.

God has power over the whole world,  
and He knows exactly what's best for  
each person!



There have been 44 presidents  
of the United States.



Wednesday, September 11

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

Names are important because they identify who people are. God calls Himself by many names in the Bible. The Truth, Bread of life, Counselor, Deliverer, and Father are just a few. God's name is so great that it has the power to protect people.

Thursday, September 12

## SHOWING GOD TO THE WORLD

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose:  
to show you My power and to make  
My name known in all the earth.

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't instantly bring people to heaven when they become Christians? When you live in a way that honors God, people want to know Him too. Remember God wants to show Himself to the world through you!



September 11 is a day  
of remembrance for the  
lives lost in a terrorist  
attack against the United  
States of America.







Friday, September 13

## GOTTA WANT IT

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

I once gave piano lessons to a girl who did not want to learn and never practiced. It didn't matter that I worked hard to teach her. She didn't want to learn.

When you want to know God more and spend time every day studying His Word, He can teach you great things!

Commit to studying God's Word each day. Choose a time and place and ask God for His help!

Saturday, September 14


## WHAT DO I KNOW?

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

I overheard a little girl in the grocery store tell her mother, "I just want candy for dinner. No carrots, just candy." Children don't know enough to make good decisions for themselves. No matter what your age, turn to God for guidance.





Sunday, September 15

## GIMME, GIMME!

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.

Sometimes people think that God is like a fairy: Just tell Him what you want and He makes sure you get it. As you start thinking like Christ, you will want the same things God wants. Your desires will be His desires too!

September 16  
is Collect Rocks Day.

Monday, September 16

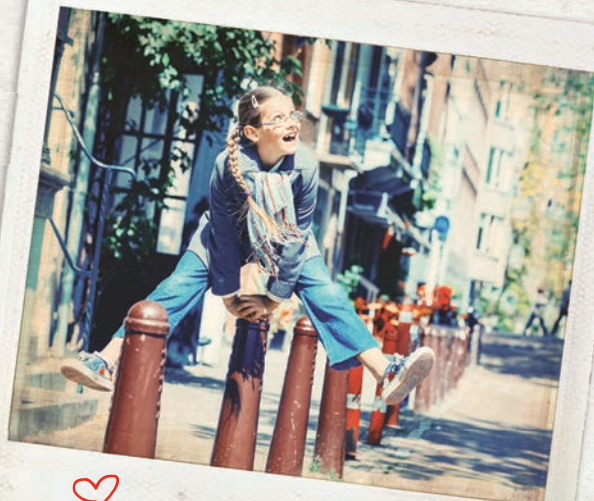
## BRAG ABOUT HIM

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are several reasons you can brag about Jesus!

1. Jesus died on the cross for you.
2. You can be forgiven.
3. You are loved.
4. God's Word, the Bible, is true.
5. Jesus will always be with you.



♡  
You are loved.



Tuesday, September 17

## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Prime minister, king, queen, amir, president—world leaders all have titles.

No leader—regardless of his or her authority—is more powerful or wiser than God. All the nations are under His control.



Wednesday, September 18

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Imagine God talking to creation.

- To the sun: "It is time to rise and shine!"
- To the ocean waves: "You can only come this far."
- To the clouds: "Make it rain today."

What an awesome Creator with awesome power!

List things you can praise God for making and doing.



Thursday, September 19

## GOD IS GREAT

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

Many little kids start their prayers by saying, "God is great, God is good." Nothing will ever change that.

You might not understand why things happen the way they do, but you can know this: God always will be good.

Ask God to reveal His power to you in your daily life. When He does, write examples of it down here, so you can remember it.

Friday, September 20

## WEAK + GOD = POWER

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Think about the word *weak*. When God sees people who feel weak, He finds a way to show His power through them.

The next time you feel unsure, nervous, or worried, remember that God is there, waiting to show you what He can do. Trust Him!





Saturday, September 21

## GOT FEAR?

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

Sheep are easily scared. They have a tendency to wander and scatter. They need shepherds to comfort them.

Do you ever need to be comforted? God loves you. Like a shepherd guides and protects his sheep, He watches over you.



September 21  
is Miniature Golf Day.  
Grab a friend and  
play a round of golf!

Sunday, September 22

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Everyone loves to win. God wants first place in your heart and mind. The competition is tough because there are many people, objects, tasks, and events you might let bump God out of the front-runner spot. God should always be first.







Monday, September 23

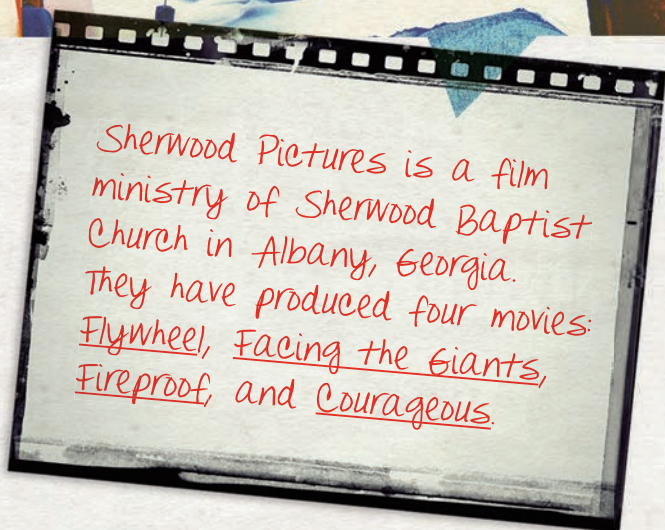
## LEAD YOUR HEART

*Psalms 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me,  
LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

Have you seen the movie *Fireproof*?  
In the movie, Caleb, a firefighter whose  
marriage was in trouble, was told not  
just to follow his heart, but to lead it.

How do you lead your heart? Ask God  
about anything and everything and do  
what He says.



Sherwood Pictures is a film  
ministry of Sherwood Baptist  
Church in Albany, Georgia.  
They have produced four movies:  
Flywheel, Facing the Giants,  
Fireproof, and Courageous.

Tuesday, September 24

## NOW WHAT?

*Proverbs 2:6*

The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding.

God, it's me. I need help. Life is crazy  
right now. You know how I feel, right?  
Will You help me?

God promises to give you wisdom  
when you feel lost and confused. All you  
have to do is ask!





Wednesday, September 25

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

What has God promised you? Grab a concordance (that book with a list of words found in the Bible and the references where to find them) and find out! Search for these words:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| → Comfort | → Instruction  |
| → Grace   | → Salvation    |
| → Mercy   | → Eternal life |

Record your findings from  
Wednesday's devotion.

Thursday, September 26

## THE GOD WHO HEALS

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You healed me.

Emily was four when she was told she had scoliosis and would have to wear a back brace for twelve years. Her family and church prayed for her healing. God answered. She didn't need the brace until she was eight.





Friday, September 27

## CAN HARDLY WAIT

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

"I can't wait to grow up, be on my own, make my own choices, eat the food I want, go where I want, and be who I want!"

Have you ever had these thoughts?

Don't grow up too fast. Listen to God's voice all your life.

Saturday, September 28

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

Joshua 21:45

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.


People constantly make promises they don't keep. Friends say, "I will be there," then they are not. Parents say, "Yes, we can do that," then they change their minds. God will never break His promises. He never has, and He never will.

List promises God has made.



Listening to God!





Sunday, September 29

## I NEED YOU, LORD!

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark. She prayed and asked God to help her get to the beach and to keep her alive.

He knows what you are going through. He knows you! He will give you what you need, no matter what situation you are in!



Find out more about Bethany at [www.bethanyhamilton.com](http://www.bethanyhamilton.com). Her story is told in the book and movie Soul Surfer.

Monday, September 30

## AN ACHY HEART

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone gets sad. Maybe a friend moves away, a parent leaves the home, or someone close to you passes away. When these things happen, it feels like your heart will break. God can fix your heart. He is always near, and He cares about you!





Turning From

# TEMPTATION

What tempts you? Make a list of temptations you face.

Write out James 1:2-3 below:

IYOW

Now, write what James 1:2-3 means in your own words:



# WANTED

## PRETEEN BIRTHDAYS!

Send us your birthday and where you are from. Your birthday may appear in a future *Bible Express*. Each month, a name will be drawn from the birthdays to receive a CD.

## PRETEEN PROFILES!

Leaders, nominate a preteen to be featured in our monthly Preteen Profile. Send us the preteen's name, and a few interesting things about the preteen. If your nomination is chosen, you will be contacted for more information.

## IDEAS!

What do you want to see in these pages? If you have an idea or topic you would like to know more about, send us the information! Your idea may be in the next magazine you receive.

The next time you are tempted or tested, think about James 1:2-3. Ask God for help to stand strong against temptation.

Write a prayer, asking God for help in specific situations or with specific things you listed.

## CONTACT INFO

Send in your information, and be sure to label it as a birthday, profile nomination, or an idea. Multiple cards may be mailed in one envelope. Be sure to include your name, address, and age.

### Mail your entry to:

Publishing Team Leader,  
*BIBLE EXPRESS*  
One LifeWay Plaza, MSN 172  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

You may also email the info to [bibleexpress@lifeway.com](mailto:bibleexpress@lifeway.com). Be sure to note in the subject line what you are sending in: *birthday, preteen profile, or idea.*



**HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE  
THE LORD, AND HE WILL  
EXALT YOU.** *James 4:10*





## Explore James 4:10:



Think about what the word *humble* means.



Name some times in your life when it is good to be humble.



Read Matthew 5:1-12. What word appears the most in this passage?



According to this passage in the Bible, who will be blessed?



Pray, asking God for help in being humble. Write your prayer below:



The second is this: Love you neighbor as yourself.

There is no command greater than these. *MARK 12:31*

# SERVING UP Smiles

by Beth Masters

The other day a good friend and I sat down for a snack. This was a really great snack, chocolate lava cake from a new bakery, and we were very excited! As she cut the cake in two pieces, she was very careful to make them even so we both had half of the cake, half the icing, and half the lava. I laughed at how intentional she was about cutting the cake, and then she said “I want you to have as much as I have, if not a little more.”

She and I have both been taught to be fair and give others the “best piece” of whatever we have. This moment made me think about Jesus’ command to love other people like I love myself in Mark 12:31. While I was raised to treat other people with great respect, I’m not sure I always love them like I would want to be loved. Sometimes I can be plain selfish and want the bigger piece of lava cake! Jesus told people to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Some call this the law of love, since this means that Christians need to love other people as if they were themselves. As people we naturally love ourselves, but Jesus wants to turn our focus to loving Him first and then loving others. As the week went by,

God kept teaching me a lesson about loving people.

Where I live there are a lot of homeless people who ask for money and food on the side of the road. I try to keep boxes of granola bars in my car to hand them when I can in order to show them love. But God reminded me that when I really love someone I bake for them ... I bake cookies, brownies, cupcakes, really anything that I think would make them smile. So, wouldn’t that mean that if I was to really love the men and women on the side of the road then I would bake for them too? That means instead of buying a box of granola bars I should bake them granola bars!

Maybe you don’t have homeless people on the side of the road where you live, but I bet you have friends and family you could show love. What would make them smile? Here is the recipe my friend Anna and I used to make yummy-chocolaty granola bars to give away. I hope you have fun making them, giving them away, and seeing someone smile because you loved them! May each of us be found faithful to love people like we want to be loved.



## EASY GRANOLA BARS

### What you need:

9-by-13-inch pan

Non-stick cooking spray

2 cups of quick cooking oats

½ cup brown sugar

½ cup honey

½ cup peanut butter  
(or 1 stick softened butter)

½ cup of candy covered chocolates,  
raisins, cranberries, or chocolate chips



Easy Granola Bars

### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Spray pan with non-stick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
4. Press evenly into the pan and bake 18 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.
5. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Cut into squares, and cool completely before serving.
6. Store in an air tight container.





**BIBLE EXPRESS** is designed to encourage kids in the 5th and 6th grades (10-12 year olds) to spend time with God each day.

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Bible Express** (ISSN 1068-2775; Item 005075157) is published monthly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2013 LifeWay.

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# THE GOSPEL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

*gospel-noun. good news. the message about Christ, The kingdom of God, and salvation.*



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS



Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Exploring James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22



10



18



22

**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. James 2:8**



Sunday, September 1

## BETTER THAN BREAD CRUMBS

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

In the story of Hansel and Gretel, Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path so the pair could find their way back home.

If you focus on Jesus, you'll always know what to do and where to go.



September 2 is Labor Day.

Labor Day is always on the first Monday of September and signals the end of summer.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

Around the world there are many different religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—just to name a few. People of these religions do not worship the God you know in Christianity. There is only one true God to worship.





???

Do you struggle with saying things  
that aren't pleasing  
to God?

Take a moment and  
ask God for help.

Sign your name here to commit to  
speaking respectfully about God.

~~X~~



Tuesday, September 3

## BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD  
your God, because the LORD will  
not leave anyone unpunished who  
misuses His name.

You probably hear a lot of people  
today using God's name in vain or saying  
"OMG." Using God's name carelessly  
is disrespectful to Him. He deserves better  
than that!

Wednesday, September 4

## WHAT'S IT WORTH?

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.

What do you think about when you see  
a penny, a nickel, a dime, or a quarter?  
One way or another, you think about  
what each coin is worth.

God values you very much! Live your  
life worthy of Him who gives you worth.



September 5 is Cheese Pizza Day.  
Enjoy a piece in honor of your  
great-great-great-grandfather!

Thursday, September 5

## A GOOD MEMORY

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Do you remember the name of your great-great-great-grandfather? No way! God never dies. He has always existed and always will. The God you know is the same God your great-grandfather knew!



Friday, September 6

## PLAYING BY EAR

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

A musician who can “play by ear” has the ability to hit the correct notes simply by listening to the sound of his instrument. When God speaks through the Bible, listen and adjust your life to match what you hear. Play your life by ear!



Electric guitars  
are also used by  
classical composers.



Saturday, September 7

## POWERFUL PROTECTION

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God led His people out of slavery but they seemed trapped between the sea and Egyptian army. God protected them. He parted the water so they could walk through. If you follow God, He will help you safely overcome any challenge in your life.

Write down a few different names for God.  
Spend time praising God through prayer.

Sunday, September 8

## THE NAME OF FAME

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

Have you ever tried to make a name for yourself by doing something great? Maybe you hit a ball farther than your friends or made your classmates laugh until their bellies ached.

God's name is greater than anyone, anytime, anywhere.



Monday, September 9

## GOD MAKES SENSE

*Isaiah 55:8*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways.”

This is the LORD’s declaration.

Why does a huge boat float, yet a tiny,  
little rock sinks? What makes the earth  
orbit perfectly around the sun? Some  
things just don’t make sense!

Having faith in God means trusting  
His words in the Bible—even when you  
don’t understand them.



who are you thankful for?  
Make a list and then tell those on  
the list you are thankful for them!

Tuesday, September 10

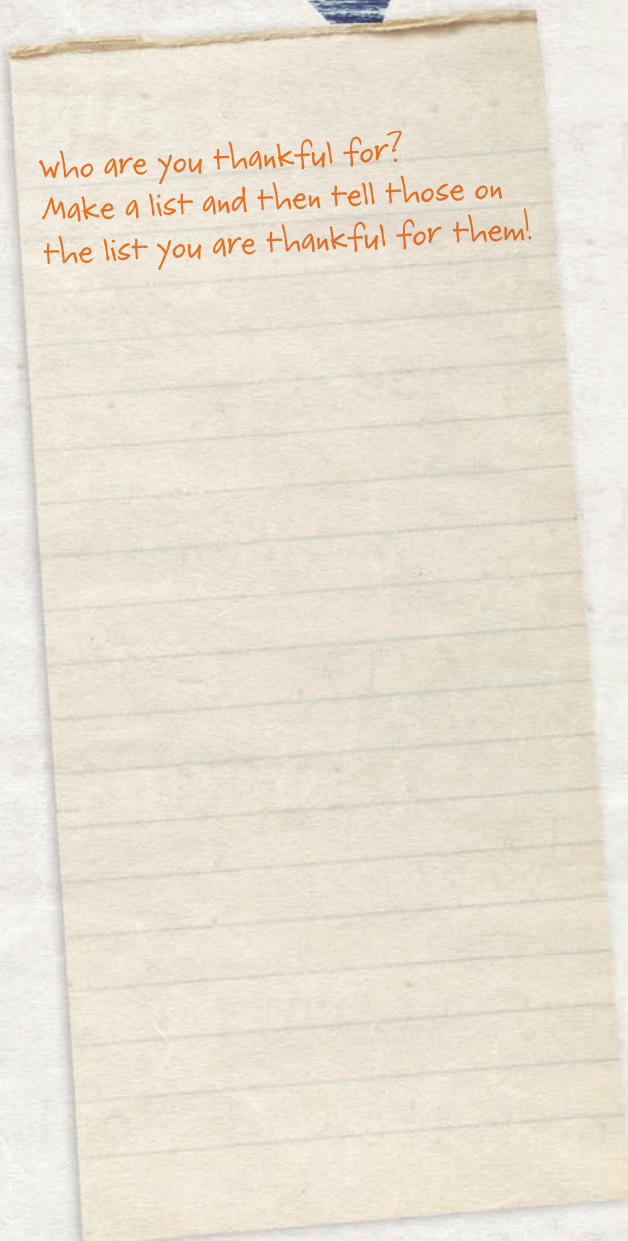
## THANK YOU, LORD!

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Many people think they are in control,  
when they are not. Wisdom, power, talents,  
and the opportunity to succeed only come  
from God.

Take time to thank Him for talents and  
opportunities.







Wednesday, September 11

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

If you were lost in a big city and someone tried to grab you, who would you call for help? The police!

As a follower of Jesus, you won't fit in with a lot of other guys around you. No one can take you away from Jesus. Call on His name anytime there's trouble.



September 11 is the day a terrorist attack happened in the United States of America. Pray for those protecting the rights of your freedom.

Thursday, September 12

## CONTRASTING CHARACTER

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

It's not easy to understand why God allows bad people to be successful, especially when they hurt others. God's character is like a work of art. Brushing pure white paint on white paper is hardly noticeable. But on black paper, the white paint really stands out!





Friday, September 13

## TRUTH BE TOLD

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and  
I will live by Your truth.

In the Bible, God tells you everything you need to know for both this life and the life to come. He tells you that you need Jesus to pay for your sins, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. The Bible also tells how you should live your life right now.

Did you know September is National Library Card Sign-up Month? If you don't have a library card, sign up for one! Check out a book by the author C.S. Lewis.



Be on Jesus' team!

Saturday, September 14

## A REAL BIG SHOT

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the  
earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Your friends may think you're cool when you talk back to your teacher or put down your sister. The only way to be a winner is to be on Jesus' team. He's the most valuable player. The next time you feel like bragging, remember that Jesus is the real big shot.



Sunday, September 15

## SURE SUCCESS

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD,  
and your plans will be achieved.

Do you know anyone who says he's a Christian but doesn't act like it? A real Christian desires to please God in everything. Since God can accomplish anything, He has the power to make sure you succeed in anything you do for Him.



work hard to treat  
the person you like  
the most and the least  
the same this week.  
Ask God for help!

Monday, September 16

## TALKING IT UP

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about  
anything except the cross of our  
LORD Jesus Christ.

Everyone likes to talk about things he does well. When you talk about yourself over and over again, that's called bragging or boasting. The Bible says that the only thing you should boast or brag about is what Jesus did on the cross for you.





Tuesday, September 17

## HOW BIG IS BIG?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Have you ever been inside a palace or mansion? They were often built for kings or rulers of nations to show their wealth and importance. The Bible says that as the King of all kings, God rules over all the nations. Imagine how big God's mansions are!

*Make a list of prayer requests.*

Wednesday, September 18

## TELL ME ONE MORE TIME

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Do you realize how many gadgets are available to remind you of upcoming appointments or special events? In this passage, God reminds Job who He is and what He can do. Sometimes you need to be reminded of what God can do!

*Commit to praying for these specific requests this week.*



Thursday, September 19

## FOR SURE!

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

One time my mom was so busy that she forgot to pick me up from school! I waited for 15 minutes before she finally came! As good as people's intentions may be, they sometimes let you down.

The **LORD** can and will provide what is good for you.

Friday, September 20

## NO WAY!

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

What if someone told you that the ocean is purple or that you could get your driver's license at the age of 11? You would probably respond with a loud, "No way! I don't think so!" Well, believe this: God's grace (undeserved favor) is all you need!



September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Argh, matey! You may not understand Pirate talk, but you can ask God to help you understand the Bible.



Saturday, September 21

## ME, AFRAID? NEVER!

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

What is your worst fear? People live in fear of so many things in life that there is a phobia for just about everything. God is with you no matter where you go or what you face in life. Live without fear today.

Sunday, September 22

## TOP PRIORITY

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.


What would you consider top priority in your life? Making friends? Making lots of money? Living in a big house? While all of these things may be nice to have, they shouldn't be your top priority. Your number one priority should be Jesus and all of His ways.



September 21 is  
International Rabbit Day.







Monday, September 23

## MAKE SOME NOISE!

*Psalm 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD.  
I will obey Your statutes.

Hearing a crowd yelling at the top of their lungs at a sporting event is exciting! Wouldn't it be amazing to hear the same size crowd cheering and yelling for God? The Bible tells you to call out to God with everything you have. Go ahead and make some noise for God!

Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium is reportedly the loudest stadium in all of college football. Loud fans earned the stadium's nickname: Deaf Valley (before the current nickname Death Valley).



Tuesday, September 24

## IN STOCK, READY FOR PICKUP

*Proverbs 2:6*

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever asked your mom and dad for a specific gift from a store only to find out it was out of stock? Wisdom is available from God and is ready for pickup today.





Make a list of promises  
you can make to God.

Wednesday, September 25

## PROMISES, PROMISES

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

Do you always keep your promises?  
Last weekend my dad promised to  
play baseball with me. It rained, so he  
couldn't keep his promise.

God is able to keep His promises  
because of His great power. God keeps  
all His promises.

Thursday, September 26

## DEPENDABLE COVERAGE

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and  
You healed me.

With all of the technology available today,  
you would think there would be dependable  
cell phone coverage everywhere. No matter  
how many times a person tries to get a call  
out, the signal isn't strong enough in some  
places. Aren't you glad that when you  
call out to God for help, He is always there?





Friday, September 27

## DEPEND ON GOD

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You, in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

Many boys tell their parents, "I can't wait to grow up and get out on my own." In your relationship with God, don't try to become independent of Him. The Bible tells you that being dependent on God is a good thing because it brings you peace.



Saturday, September 28

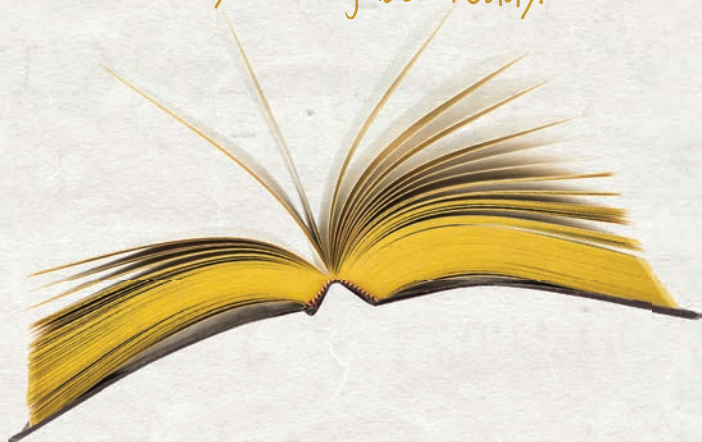
## GOOD TO THE LAST WORD

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

You have probably realized that just because somebody promises you something, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. Every promise ever made by God has been kept. You can count on God keeping His word!

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Be kind to your neighbor today.







Sunday, September 29

## LIVE AND IN PERSON

*1 Peter 5:10*

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Would you rather listen to a musician in concert or on a CD? Being there with a musician makes the experience extra special. Have you ever thought about the fact that God is available to you, live and in person, each day?

September 30  
is National Mud Pack Day.  
A mud pack is good  
to put on a bee sting when  
you need comforting.

Monday, September 30

## GOD OF ALL COMFORT

*Psalms 34:18*

The LORD is near the brokenhearted;  
He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone needs to be comforted when life is difficult. With God, however, there is no need for a teddy bear. He is there for you and will comfort you when you feel discouraged and down.





**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19





## CHECKING IN ON CHARLIE

by Bridgette Guest

**WHO:** Charlie is a fifth grader at Athens Intermediate School, in Athens, Alabama. Charlie has one brother, Max, and two sisters, Alice and Lucy. Charlie enjoys numerous sports, such as basketball, baseball, and football. One of Charlie's favorite things to learn is how to improve as an athlete. One day he hopes to play college ball at the University of Tennessee. He said, "I always try to be a good role model on and off the field."

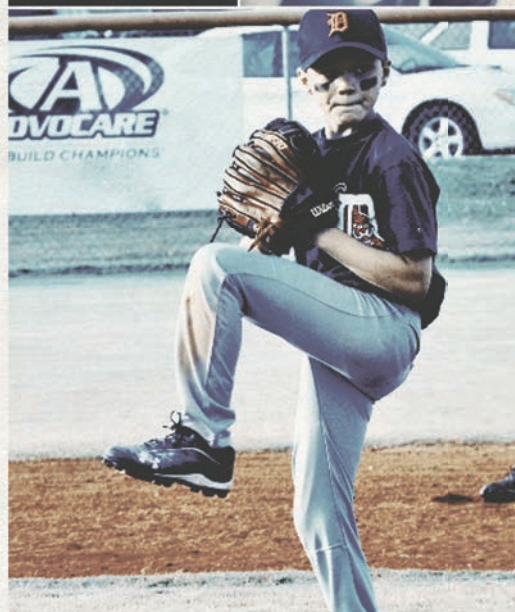
**LIKES:** He loves to eat pizza. His favorite music is Lecrae, and he enjoys math. When asked about his least favorite things, Charlie says they are eating cheese and resting.

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Charlie's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Charlie said, "I love the verse because it gives me the assurance that God is always with me, and will never leave me. In tough situations I do not have to be afraid because the Lord is with me." Charlie explains James 4:10, "It means you need to think of others before yourself, and you will be blessed. Being humble means to treat others how you want to be treated, not necessarily how others treat you."



## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Charlie flew to China with his family to adopt his little sister, Alice. When I asked Charlie about his trip, he explained the Great Wall of China was one of his favorite places they visited. When asked how the adoption affected him, he said, "I was very sad to see the other children we had to leave behind. Each one of them needed a home just like Alice. I think more people should adopt children because there are so many who needs love. If people would adopt a kid or teenager, it would change their lives, as well as the kid's, forever." Charlie's love of adoption, however, does not stop with his sister Alice. When Charlie was 5 years old, his mother allowed him to choose a Compassion International child. They help children in underdeveloped nations receive food, clothing, healthcare, and an education. Charlie traveled to Haiti this past spring to visit Calvin. Charlie got to see first hand what a difference he has made in his life. Charlie is a great example of how God uses any age to impact others and bring God glory.





# CHOOSING YOUR ATTITUDE

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK



It's the last inning and your team is down by a run with a man on third base. You're up at bat and can tie the game. Three pitches later you are called out on strikes.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Throw your bat and complain that the pitch was a ball?
- (B) Encourage your teammate who is batting next?

You worked extremely hard on an English paper. When you get it back, it has a red "C-" at the top.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Tell your teacher how unfair she is?
- (B) Explain that you worked hard on the paper and ask why you didn't get a better grade?

Your parents accuse you of spilling soda on the computer. You try to explain that your brother did it, but they refuse to listen and ground you.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Go to your room and slam the door?
- (B) Wait until your parents calm down and try to explain what happened again?







Check out 1 Peter 2:12 to learn more about a good attitude.

Life is full of difficult situations. You can't do anything to avoid many of these trials, but you can always control how you respond. Sure, it's easier to choose (a) in the situations above, but here are three good reasons to choose (b) instead:

1. A bad attitude never makes things better. When has a bad attitude made a situation better for you? Probably never. Instead, a bad attitude almost always makes things worse. The Bible tells you that doing what is right and being gentle and kind benefits you (Proverbs 15:1).
2. A bad attitude never pleases God. It's easy to have a bad attitude in difficult times because you are angry you didn't get your way or are just confused. Proverbs 3:5 tells us that we should trust in God completely, even during a trial. Sometimes life doesn't seem fair or make sense, but keeping a good attitude shows that you trust God no matter what.

3. A bad attitude never helps others. You will hardly ever go through a difficult time alone. Usually, other people will be involved and they will see how you respond. The Bible tells you that if you have a good attitude during a trial, you will help people see Jesus in you (1 Peter 2:12). Think about it. Jesus had every reason to have a bad attitude when He was arrested and crucified, but He didn't have one. You can keep a good attitude too.

So how can you keep a positive attitude even when life is tough? Here are two quick ways:

- **PRAY.** Ask God to give you patience, peace, and joy. He wants you to have a good attitude and can give you one.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of people who went through trials and difficulties. Be encouraged by the ones who handled them right and learn from the mistakes of the ones who didn't.





1 Read Matthew 5:1-12

8 Read Matthew 4:1-11



2



9 Complete the activity on Girls page 19.



3

10 Read Psalm 119:10



4 Identify a problem you are facing this week.

11



5

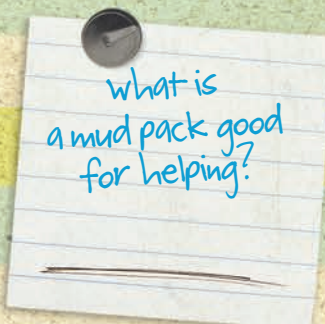


12



6 Read Proverbs 3:5

13



7 Pray and ask God for help specifically with the problem you identified.

14 Pray and ask for help loving others. Thank God for those who love you.



15 Read John 4:1-30

22



29 Do one kind thing for someone who isn't treated nicely by others.

16

Collect Rocks Day

23 Read Mark 10:13-16

30 Read 1 John 4:19 (Boys page 19) and then pray and ask God to help you show love to all people.

17

Show thanks for your friends. Complete the activity on Girls page 21.

24

Can you find God's plan for you?  
HINT:  
Find "The Gospel!"

18

NATIONAL RESPECT DAY

25 Keep mints nearby. Eat one each time you are tempted to say unkind words.

On which bill and coin denomination does Abraham Lincoln appear?

19

Read James 4:10 (Girls page 20).

26 Read John 15:12

How many times does the word **follow** appear in this month's Bible Express?

20

Pray and ask God to help you love and be nice to someone different from you.

27

CRUSH A CAN DAY.  
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE.

21

28 Pray and ask God to help you use words wisely.



30 **FUN** DEVOTIONS  
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2013  
**FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE**

# **BIBLE EXPRESS** **DEVOTIONS**

*For Girls Ages 10-12*



SEPTEMBER 2013



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SEPTEMBER 2013



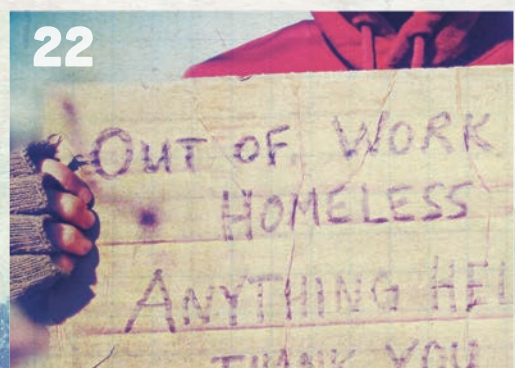
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Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Explore James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24



**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. *James 2:8***



Sunday, September 1

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

Drivers depend on road signs and maps to lead them in the right direction. Having a guide through unfamiliar territory is helpful.

God is ready to be your guide. Trust Him to lead you on the right path. The Bible is His roadmap for you.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

The Egyptians believed in many different gods—a wind god, a sun god ... even a frog god! God's people know that there is only one God who created everything! Choose to follow the one true God!

Ancient Egyptians  
worshiped as many  
as 2,000 gods!





Tuesday, September 3

## USE IT CAREFULLY!

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.

When the Bible says not to misuse God's name, it means you should only use it in a good way. Using God's name when you are surprised or angry is disrespectful to God.

Wednesday, September 4

## SHOWING THE WORLD

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

When athletes compete in the Olympics, they want to represent their respective countries well. Did you know you are God's representative? You must act in a way that honors Him.

Missy Franklin won four gold medals and one bronze in the 2012 London Olympics.



Name some neighbors you will pray for this week.





Thursday, September 5

## HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Wouldn't it be awesome to meet someone who lived a long time ago? You can talk to God, who witnessed everything in history! He has always been alive and will exist forever.

Friday, September 6

## LISTEN UP!

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

Perhaps sometimes you don't feel like listening, but when God is speaking, listen anyway. He will speak to you through His Word and through godly people.







Saturday, September 7

## AN EPIC HERO

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God saved every Israelite from Egypt by making a path through the Red Sea. Scripture says there were more than 500,000 of Pharaoh's fighting men! Who's even greater? God—the hero who loves you!

September 8 is Grandparent's Day. Thank God for your grandparents. If possible, write a grandparent a note of thanks.

Sunday, September 8

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

A lot of people want to be remembered after they die. God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt.

He's just as faithful to His people today ... that's worth remembering!





Monday, September 9

## TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS

*Isaiah 55:8*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways."  
This is the LORD's declaration.

God wants you to understand how  
He thinks; the best way for you  
to understand Him is to read what  
He wrote in the Bible.



Tuesday, September 10

## A REALLY BIG JOB

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Can you imagine what it would be like  
to be the president? You would have  
to make decisions that affect millions  
of people. With power comes huge  
responsibility.

God has power over the whole world,  
and He knows exactly what's best for  
each person!



There have been 44 presidents  
of the United States.



Wednesday, September 11

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

Names are important because they identify who people are. God calls Himself by many names in the Bible. The Truth, Bread of life, Counselor, Deliverer, and Father are just a few. God's name is so great that it has the power to protect people.

Thursday, September 12

## SHOWING GOD TO THE WORLD

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't instantly bring people to heaven when they become Christians? When you live in a way that honors God, people want to know Him too. Remember God wants to show Himself to the world through you!

September 11 is a day of remembrance for the lives lost in a terrorist attack against the United States of America.







Friday, September 13

## GOTTA WANT IT

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

I once gave piano lessons to a girl who did not want to learn and never practiced. It didn't matter that I worked hard to teach her. She didn't want to learn.

When you want to know God more and spend time every day studying His Word, He can teach you great things!

Commit to studying God's Word each day. Choose a time and place and ask God for His help!

Saturday, September 14


## WHAT DO I KNOW?

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

I overheard a little girl in the grocery store tell her mother, "I just want candy for dinner. No carrots, just candy." Children don't know enough to make good decisions for themselves. No matter what your age, turn to God for guidance.





Sunday, September 15

## GIMME, GIMME!

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.

Sometimes people think that God is like a fairy: Just tell Him what you want and He makes sure you get it. As you start thinking like Christ, you will want the same things God wants. Your desires will be His desires too!

September 16  
is Collect Rocks Day.

Monday, September 16

## BRAG ABOUT HIM

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are several reasons you can brag about Jesus!

1. Jesus died on the cross for you.
2. You can be forgiven.
3. You are loved.
4. God's Word, the Bible, is true.
5. Jesus will always be with you.



♡  
You are loved.



Tuesday, September 17

## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Prime minister, king, queen, amir, president—world leaders all have titles.

No leader—regardless of his or her authority—is more powerful or wiser than God. All the nations are under His control.



Wednesday, September 18

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Imagine God talking to creation.

- To the sun: "It is time to rise and shine!"
- To the ocean waves: "You can only come this far."
- To the clouds: "Make it rain today."

What an awesome Creator with awesome power!

List things you can praise God for making and doing.



Thursday, September 19

## GOD IS GREAT

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

Many little kids start their prayers by saying, "God is great, God is good." Nothing will ever change that.

You might not understand why things happen the way they do, but you can know this: God always will be good.

Ask God to reveal His power to you in your daily life. When He does, write examples of it down here, so you can remember it.

Friday, September 20

## WEAK + GOD = POWER

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Think about the word *weak*. When God sees people who feel weak, He finds a way to show His power through them.

The next time you feel unsure, nervous, or worried, remember that God is there, waiting to show you what He can do. Trust Him!





Saturday, September 21

## GOT FEAR?

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

Sheep are easily scared. They have a tendency to wander and scatter. They need shepherds to comfort them.

Do you ever need to be comforted? God loves you. Like a shepherd guides and protects his sheep, He watches over you.



September 21  
is Miniature Golf Day.  
Grab a friend and  
play a round of golf!

Sunday, September 22

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Everyone loves to win. God wants first place in your heart and mind. The competition is tough because there are many people, objects, tasks, and events you might let bump God out of the front-runner spot. God should always be first.







Monday, September 23

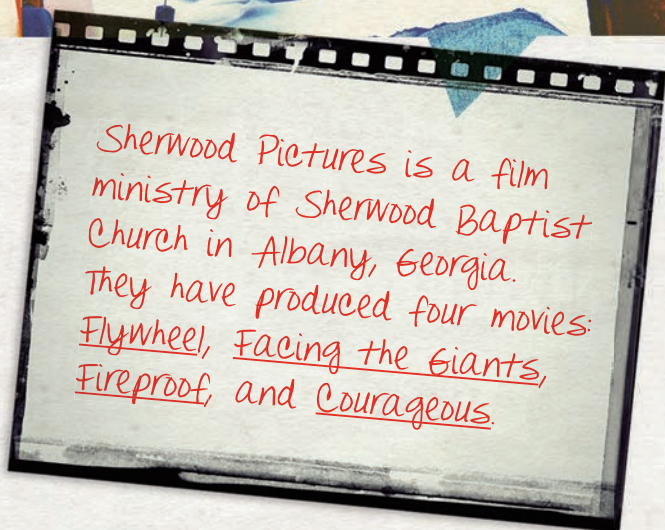
## LEAD YOUR HEART

*Psalms 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me,  
LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

Have you seen the movie *Fireproof*?  
In the movie, Caleb, a firefighter whose  
marriage was in trouble, was told not  
just to follow his heart, but to lead it.

How do you lead your heart? Ask God  
about anything and everything and do  
what He says.



Sherwood Pictures is a film  
ministry of Sherwood Baptist  
Church in Albany, Georgia.  
They have produced four movies:  
Flywheel, Facing the Giants,  
Fireproof, and Courageous.

Tuesday, September 24

## NOW WHAT?

*Proverbs 2:6*

The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding.

God, it's me. I need help. Life is crazy  
right now. You know how I feel, right?  
Will You help me?

God promises to give you wisdom  
when you feel lost and confused. All you  
have to do is ask!





Wednesday, September 25

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

What has God promised you? Grab a concordance (that book with a list of words found in the Bible and the references where to find them) and find out! Search for these words:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| → Comfort | → Instruction  |
| → Grace   | → Salvation    |
| → Mercy   | → Eternal life |

Record your findings from  
Wednesday's devotion.

Thursday, September 26

## THE GOD WHO HEALS

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You healed me.

Emily was four when she was told she had scoliosis and would have to wear a back brace for twelve years. Her family and church prayed for her healing. God answered. She didn't need the brace until she was eight.





Friday, September 27

## CAN HARDLY WAIT

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

"I can't wait to grow up, be on my own, make my own choices, eat the food I want, go where I want, and be who I want!"

Have you ever had these thoughts?

Don't grow up too fast. Listen to God's voice all your life.

Saturday, September 28

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

Joshua 21:45

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.


People constantly make promises they don't keep. Friends say, "I will be there," then they are not. Parents say, "Yes, we can do that," then they change their minds. God will never break His promises. He never has, and He never will.

List promises God has made.



Listening to God!





Sunday, September 29

## I NEED YOU, LORD!

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark. She prayed and asked God to help her get to the beach and to keep her alive.

He knows what you are going through. He knows you! He will give you what you need, no matter what situation you are in!



Find out more about Bethany at [www.bethanyhamilton.com](http://www.bethanyhamilton.com). Her story is told in the book and movie Soul Surfer.

Monday, September 30

## AN ACHY HEART

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone gets sad. Maybe a friend moves away, a parent leaves the home, or someone close to you passes away. When these things happen, it feels like your heart will break. God can fix your heart. He is always near, and He cares about you!





Turning From

# TEMPTATION

What tempts you? Make a list of temptations you face.

Write out James 1:2-3 below:

IYOW

Now, write what James 1:2-3 means in your own words:



# WANTED

## PRETEEN BIRTHDAYS!

Send us your birthday and where you are from. Your birthday may appear in a future *Bible Express*. Each month, a name will be drawn from the birthdays to receive a CD.

## PRETEEN PROFILES!

Leaders, nominate a preteen to be featured in our monthly Preteen Profile. Send us the preteen's name, and a few interesting things about the preteen. If your nomination is chosen, you will be contacted for more information.

## IDEAS!

What do you want to see in these pages? If you have an idea or topic you would like to know more about, send us the information! Your idea may be in the next magazine you receive.

The next time you are tempted or tested, think about James 1:2-3. Ask God for help to stand strong against temptation.

Write a prayer, asking God for help in specific situations or with specific things you listed.

## CONTACT INFO

Send in your information, and be sure to label it as a birthday, profile nomination, or an idea. Multiple cards may be mailed in one envelope. Be sure to include your name, address, and age.

### Mail your entry to:

Publishing Team Leader,  
*BIBLE EXPRESS*  
One LifeWay Plaza, MSN 172  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

You may also email the info to [bibleexpress@lifeway.com](mailto:bibleexpress@lifeway.com). Be sure to note in the subject line what you are sending in: *birthday, preteen profile, or idea.*



**HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE  
THE LORD, AND HE WILL  
EXALT YOU.** *James 4:10*





## Explore James 4:10:



Think about what the word *humble* means.



Name some times in your life when it is good to be humble.



Read Matthew 5:1-12. What word appears the most in this passage?



According to this passage in the Bible, who will be blessed?



Pray, asking God for help in being humble. Write your prayer below:



The second is this: Love you neighbor as yourself.

There is no command greater than these. *MARK 12:31*

# SERVING UP Smiles

by Beth Masters

The other day a good friend and I sat down for a snack. This was a really great snack, chocolate lava cake from a new bakery, and we were very excited! As she cut the cake in two pieces, she was very careful to make them even so we both had half of the cake, half the icing, and half the lava. I laughed at how intentional she was about cutting the cake, and then she said “I want you to have as much as I have, if not a little more.”

She and I have both been taught to be fair and give others the “best piece” of whatever we have. This moment made me think about Jesus’ command to love other people like I love myself in Mark 12:31. While I was raised to treat other people with great respect, I’m not sure I always love them like I would want to be loved. Sometimes I can be plain selfish and want the bigger piece of lava cake! Jesus told people to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Some call this the law of love, since this means that Christians need to love other people as if they were themselves. As people we naturally love ourselves, but Jesus wants to turn our focus to loving Him first and then loving others. As the week went by,

God kept teaching me a lesson about loving people.

Where I live there are a lot of homeless people who ask for money and food on the side of the road. I try to keep boxes of granola bars in my car to hand them when I can in order to show them love. But God reminded me that when I really love someone I bake for them ... I bake cookies, brownies, cupcakes, really anything that I think would make them smile. So, wouldn’t that mean that if I was to really love the men and women on the side of the road then I would bake for them too? That means instead of buying a box of granola bars I should bake them granola bars!

Maybe you don’t have homeless people on the side of the road where you live, but I bet you have friends and family you could show love. What would make them smile? Here is the recipe my friend Anna and I used to make yummy-chocolaty granola bars to give away. I hope you have fun making them, giving them away, and seeing someone smile because you loved them! May each of us be found faithful to love people like we want to be loved.



## EASY GRANOLA BARS

### What you need:

9-by-13-inch pan

Non-stick cooking spray

2 cups of quick cooking oats

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup peanut butter  
(or 1 stick softened butter)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of candy covered chocolates,  
raisins, cranberries, or chocolate chips



Easy Granola Bars

### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Spray pan with non-stick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
4. Press evenly into the pan and bake 18 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.
5. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Cut into squares, and cool completely before serving.
6. Store in an air tight container.





**BIBLE EXPRESS** is designed to encourage kids in the 5th and 6th grades (10-12 year olds) to spend time with God each day.

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Bible Express** (ISSN 1068-2775; Item 005075157) is published monthly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2013 LifeWay.

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# THE GOSPEL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

*gospel-noun. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.*



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS



Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Exploring James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22



10



18



22

**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. James 2:8**



Sunday, September 1

## BETTER THAN BREAD CRUMBS

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

In the story of Hansel and Gretel, Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path so the pair could find their way back home.

If you focus on Jesus, you'll always know what to do and where to go.



September 2 is Labor Day.

Labor Day is always on the first Monday of September and signals the end of summer.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

Around the world there are many different religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—just to name a few. People of these religions do not worship the God you know in Christianity. There is only one true God to worship.





???

Do you struggle with saying things  
that aren't pleasing  
to God?

Take a moment and  
ask God for help.

Sign your name here to commit to  
speaking respectfully about God.

X



Tuesday, September 3

## BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD  
your God, because the LORD will  
not leave anyone unpunished who  
misuses His name.

You probably hear a lot of people  
today using God's name in vain or saying  
"OMG." Using God's name carelessly  
is disrespectful to Him. He deserves better  
than that!

Wednesday, September 4

## WHAT'S IT WORTH?

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.

What do you think about when you see  
a penny, a nickel, a dime, or a quarter?  
One way or another, you think about  
what each coin is worth.

God values you very much! Live your  
life worthy of Him who gives you worth.



September 5 is Cheese Pizza Day.  
Enjoy a piece in honor of your  
great-great-great-grandfather!

Thursday, September 5

## A GOOD MEMORY

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Do you remember the name of your great-great-great-grandfather? No way! God never dies. He has always existed and always will. The God you know is the same God your great-grandfather knew!



Friday, September 6

## PLAYING BY EAR

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

A musician who can “play by ear” has the ability to hit the correct notes simply by listening to the sound of his instrument. When God speaks through the Bible, listen and adjust your life to match what you hear. Play your life by ear!



Electric guitars  
are also used by  
classical composers.



Saturday, September 7

## POWERFUL PROTECTION

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God led His people out of slavery but they seemed trapped between the sea and Egyptian army. God protected them. He parted the water so they could walk through. If you follow God, He will help you safely overcome any challenge in your life.

Write down a few different names for God.  
Spend time praising God through prayer.

Sunday, September 8

## THE NAME OF FAME

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

Have you ever tried to make a name for yourself by doing something great? Maybe you hit a ball farther than your friends or made your classmates laugh until their bellies ached.

God's name is greater than anyone, anytime, anywhere.



Monday, September 9

## GOD MAKES SENSE

*Isaiah 55:8*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways.”  
This is the LORD’s declaration.

Why does a huge boat float, yet a tiny,  
little rock sinks? What makes the earth  
orbit perfectly around the sun? Some  
things just don’t make sense!

Having faith in God means trusting  
His words in the Bible—even when you  
don’t understand them.



who are you thankful for?  
Make a list and then tell those on  
the list you are thankful for them!

Tuesday, September 10

## THANK YOU, LORD!

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Many people think they are in control,  
when they are not. Wisdom, power, talents,  
and the opportunity to succeed only come  
from God.

Take time to thank Him for talents and  
opportunities.





Wednesday, September 11

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

If you were lost in a big city and someone tried to grab you, who would you call for help? The police!

As a follower of Jesus, you won't fit in with a lot of other guys around you. No one can take you away from Jesus. Call on His name anytime there's trouble.



September 11 is the day a terrorist attack happened in the United States of America. Pray for those protecting the rights of your freedom.

Thursday, September 12

## CONTRASTING CHARACTER

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

It's not easy to understand why God allows bad people to be successful, especially when they hurt others. God's character is like a work of art. Brushing pure white paint on white paper is hardly noticeable. But on black paper, the white paint really stands out!





Friday, September 13

## TRUTH BE TOLD

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and  
I will live by Your truth.

In the Bible, God tells you everything you need to know for both this life and the life to come. He tells you that you need Jesus to pay for your sins, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. The Bible also tells how you should live your life right now.

Did you know September is National Library Card Sign-up Month? If you don't have a library card, sign up for one! Check out a book by the author C.S. Lewis.



Be on Jesus' team!

Saturday, September 14

## A REAL BIG SHOT

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the  
earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Your friends may think you're cool when you talk back to your teacher or put down your sister. The only way to be a winner is to be on Jesus' team. He's the most valuable player. The next time you feel like bragging, remember that Jesus is the real big shot.



Sunday, September 15

## SURE SUCCESS

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD,  
and your plans will be achieved.

Do you know anyone who says he's a Christian but doesn't act like it? A real Christian desires to please God in everything. Since God can accomplish anything, He has the power to make sure you succeed in anything you do for Him.



work hard to treat  
the person you like  
the most and the least  
the same this week.  
Ask God for help!

Monday, September 16

## TALKING IT UP

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about  
anything except the cross of our  
LORD Jesus Christ.

Everyone likes to talk about things he does well. When you talk about yourself over and over again, that's called bragging or boasting. The Bible says that the only thing you should boast or brag about is what Jesus did on the cross for you.





Tuesday, September 17

## HOW BIG IS BIG?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Have you ever been inside a palace or mansion? They were often built for kings or rulers of nations to show their wealth and importance. The Bible says that as the King of all kings, God rules over all the nations. Imagine how big God's mansions are!

*Make a list of prayer requests.*

Wednesday, September 18

## TELL ME ONE MORE TIME

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Do you realize how many gadgets are available to remind you of upcoming appointments or special events? In this passage, God reminds Job who He is and what He can do. Sometimes you need to be reminded of what God can do!

*Commit to praying for these specific requests this week.*



Thursday, September 19

## FOR SURE!

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

One time my mom was so busy that she forgot to pick me up from school! I waited for 15 minutes before she finally came! As good as people's intentions may be, they sometimes let you down.

The **LORD** can and will provide what is good for you.

Friday, September 20

## NO WAY!

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

What if someone told you that the ocean is purple or that you could get your driver's license at the age of 11? You would probably respond with a loud, "No way! I don't think so!" Well, believe this: God's grace (undeserved favor) is all you need!



September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Argh, matey! You may not understand Pirate talk, but you can ask God to help you understand the Bible.



Saturday, September 21

## ME, AFRAID? NEVER!

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

What is your worst fear? People live in fear of so many things in life that there is a phobia for just about everything. God is with you no matter where you go or what you face in life. Live without fear today.

Sunday, September 22

## TOP PRIORITY

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

What would you consider top priority in your life? Making friends? Making lots of money? Living in a big house? While all of these things may be nice to have, they shouldn't be your top priority. Your number one priority should be Jesus and all of His ways.



September 21 is  
International Rabbit Day.





Monday, September 23

## MAKE SOME NOISE!

*Psalm 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD.  
I will obey Your statutes.

Hearing a crowd yelling at the top of their lungs at a sporting event is exciting! Wouldn't it be amazing to hear the same size crowd cheering and yelling for God? The Bible tells you to call out to God with everything you have. Go ahead and make some noise for God!

Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium is reportedly the loudest stadium in all of college football. Loud fans earned the stadium's nickname: Deaf Valley (before the current nickname Death Valley).



Tuesday, September 24

## IN STOCK, READY FOR PICKUP

*Proverbs 2:6*

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever asked your mom and dad for a specific gift from a store only to find out it was out of stock? Wisdom is available from God and is ready for pickup today.





Make a list of promises  
you can make to God.

Wednesday, September 25

## PROMISES, PROMISES

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

Do you always keep your promises?  
Last weekend my dad promised to  
play baseball with me. It rained, so he  
couldn't keep his promise.

God is able to keep His promises  
because of His great power. God keeps  
all His promises.

Thursday, September 26

## DEPENDABLE COVERAGE

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and  
You healed me.

With all of the technology available today,  
you would think there would be dependable  
cell phone coverage everywhere. No matter  
how many times a person tries to get a call  
out, the signal isn't strong enough in some  
places. Aren't you glad that when you  
call out to God for help, He is always there?





Friday, September 27

## DEPEND ON GOD

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You, in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

Many boys tell their parents, "I can't wait to grow up and get out on my own." In your relationship with God, don't try to become independent of Him. The Bible tells you that being dependent on God is a good thing because it brings you peace.



Saturday, September 28

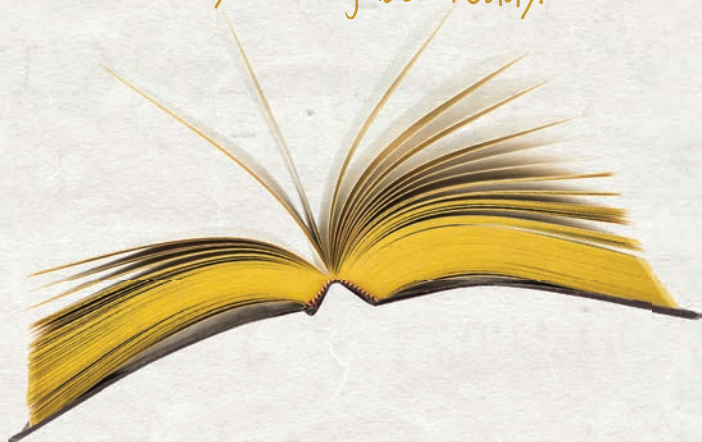
## GOOD TO THE LAST WORD

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

You have probably realized that just because somebody promises you something, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. Every promise ever made by God has been kept. You can count on God keeping His word!

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Be kind to your neighbor today.







Sunday, September 29

## LIVE AND IN PERSON

*1 Peter 5:10*

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Would you rather listen to a musician in concert or on a CD? Being there with a musician makes the experience extra special. Have you ever thought about the fact that God is available to you, live and in person, each day?

September 30  
is National Mud Pack Day.  
A mud pack is good  
to put on a bee sting when  
you need comforting.

Monday, September 30

## GOD OF ALL COMFORT

*Psalms 34:18*

The LORD is near the brokenhearted;  
He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone needs to be comforted when life is difficult. With God, however, there is no need for a teddy bear. He is there for you and will comfort you when you feel discouraged and down.





**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19





## CHECKING IN ON CHARLIE

by Bridgette Guest

**WHO:** Charlie is a fifth grader at Athens Intermediate School, in Athens, Alabama. Charlie has one brother, Max, and two sisters, Alice and Lucy. Charlie enjoys numerous sports, such as basketball, baseball, and football. One of Charlie's favorite things to learn is how to improve as an athlete. One day he hopes to play college ball at the University of Tennessee. He said, "I always try to be a good role model on and off the field."

**LIKES:** He loves to eat pizza. His favorite music is Lecrae, and he enjoys math. When asked about his least favorite things, Charlie says they are eating cheese and resting.

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Charlie's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Charlie said, "I love the verse because it gives me the assurance that God is always with me, and will never leave me. In tough situations I do not have to be afraid because the Lord is with me." Charlie explains James 4:10, "It means you need to think of others before yourself, and you will be blessed. Being humble means to treat others how you want to be treated, not necessarily how others treat you."



## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Charlie flew to China with his family to adopt his little sister, Alice. When I asked Charlie about his trip, he explained the Great Wall of China was one of his favorite places they visited. When asked how the adoption affected him, he said, "I was very sad to see the other children we had to leave behind. Each one of them needed a home just like Alice. I think more people should adopt children because there are so many who needs love. If people would adopt a kid or teenager, it would change their lives, as well as the kid's, forever." Charlie's love of adoption, however, does not stop with his sister Alice. When Charlie was 5 years old, his mother allowed him to choose a Compassion International child. They help children in underdeveloped nations receive food, clothing, healthcare, and an education. Charlie traveled to Haiti this past spring to visit Calvin. Charlie got to see first hand what a difference he has made in his life. Charlie is a great example of how God uses any age to impact others and bring God glory.





# CHOOSING YOUR ATTITUDE

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK



It's the last inning and your team is down by a run with a man on third base. You're up at bat and can tie the game. Three pitches later you are called out on strikes.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Throw your bat and complain that the pitch was a ball?
- (B) Encourage your teammate who is batting next?

You worked extremely hard on an English paper. When you get it back, it has a red "C-" at the top.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Tell your teacher how unfair she is?
- (B) Explain that you worked hard on the paper and ask why you didn't get a better grade?

Your parents accuse you of spilling soda on the computer. You try to explain that your brother did it, but they refuse to listen and ground you.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Go to your room and slam the door?
- (B) Wait until your parents calm down and try to explain what happened again?







Check out 1 Peter 2:12 to learn more about a good attitude.

Life is full of difficult situations. You can't do anything to avoid many of these trials, but you can always control how you respond. Sure, it's easier to choose (a) in the situations above, but here are three good reasons to choose (b) instead:

1. A bad attitude never makes things better. When has a bad attitude made a situation better for you? Probably never. Instead, a bad attitude almost always makes things worse. The Bible tells you that doing what is right and being gentle and kind benefits you (Proverbs 15:1).
2. A bad attitude never pleases God. It's easy to have a bad attitude in difficult times because you are angry you didn't get your way or are just confused. Proverbs 3:5 tells us that we should trust in God completely, even during a trial. Sometimes life doesn't seem fair or make sense, but keeping a good attitude shows that you trust God no matter what.

3. A bad attitude never helps others. You will hardly ever go through a difficult time alone. Usually, other people will be involved and they will see how you respond. The Bible tells you that if you have a good attitude during a trial, you will help people see Jesus in you (1 Peter 2:12). Think about it. Jesus had every reason to have a bad attitude when He was arrested and crucified, but He didn't have one. You can keep a good attitude too.

So how can you keep a positive attitude even when life is tough? Here are two quick ways:

- **PRAY.** Ask God to give you patience, peace, and joy. He wants you to have a good attitude and can give you one.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of people who went through trials and difficulties. Be encouraged by the ones who handled them right and learn from the mistakes of the ones who didn't.





1 Read Matthew 5:1-12

8 Read Matthew 4:1-11



2



9 Complete the activity on Girls page 19.



3

10 Read Psalm 119:10



4 Identify a problem you are facing this week.

11



5

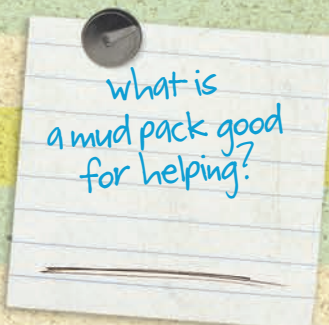


12



6 Read Proverbs 3:5

13



7 Pray and ask God for help specifically with the problem you identified.

14 Pray and ask for help loving others. Thank God for those who love you.



15 Read John 4:1-30

22



29 Do one kind thing for someone who isn't treated nicely by others.

16

Collect Rocks Day

23 Read Mark 10:13-16

30 Read 1 John 4:19 (Boys page 19) and then pray and ask God to help you show love to all people.

17 Show thanks for your friends. Complete the activity on Girls page 21.

24

Can you find God's plan for you?  
HINT:  
Find "The Gospel!"

18

NATIONAL RESPECT DAY

25 Keep mints nearby. Eat one each time you are tempted to say unkind words.

19 Read James 4:10 (Girls page 20).

26 Read John 15:12

On which bill and coin denomination does Abraham Lincoln appear?

How many times does the word **follow** appear in this month's Bible Express?

20 Pray and ask God to help you love and be nice to someone different from you.

27

CRUSH A CAN DAY.  
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE.

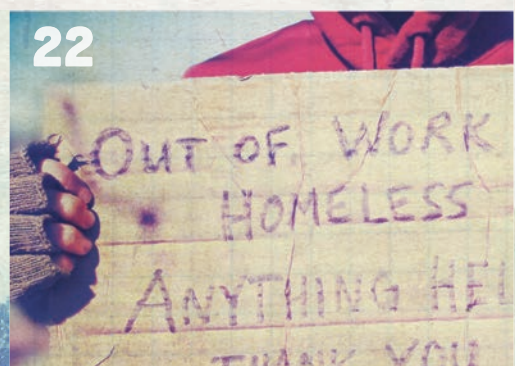
21

28 Pray and ask God to help you use words wisely.



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Explore James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24



**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. *James 2:8***



Sunday, September 1

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

Drivers depend on road signs and maps to lead them in the right direction. Having a guide through unfamiliar territory is helpful.

God is ready to be your guide. Trust Him to lead you on the right path. The Bible is His roadmap for you.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

The Egyptians believed in many different gods—a wind god, a sun god ... even a frog god! God's people know that there is only one God who created everything! Choose to follow the one true God!

Ancient Egyptians  
worshiped as many  
as 2,000 gods!





Tuesday, September 3

## USE IT CAREFULLY!

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.

When the Bible says not to misuse God's name, it means you should only use it in a good way. Using God's name when you are surprised or angry is disrespectful to God.

Wednesday, September 4

## SHOWING THE WORLD

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

When athletes compete in the Olympics, they want to represent their respective countries well. Did you know you are God's representative? You must act in a way that honors Him.

Missy Franklin won four gold medals and one bronze in the 2012 London Olympics.



Name some neighbors you will pray for this week.





Thursday, September 5

## HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Wouldn't it be awesome to meet someone who lived a long time ago? You can talk to God, who witnessed everything in history! He has always been alive and will exist forever.

Friday, September 6

## LISTEN UP!

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

Perhaps sometimes you don't feel like listening, but when God is speaking, listen anyway. He will speak to you through His Word and through godly people.







Saturday, September 7

## AN EPIC HERO

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God saved every Israelite from Egypt by making a path through the Red Sea. Scripture says there were more than 500,000 of Pharaoh's fighting men! Who's even greater? God—the hero who loves you!

September 8 is Grandparent's Day. Thank God for your grandparents. If possible, write a grandparent a note of thanks.

Sunday, September 8

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

A lot of people want to be remembered after they die. God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt.

He's just as faithful to His people today ... that's worth remembering!





Monday, September 9

## TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS

*Isaiah 55:8*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways."  
This is the LORD's declaration.

God wants you to understand how  
He thinks; the best way for you  
to understand Him is to read what  
He wrote in the Bible.



Tuesday, September 10

## A REALLY BIG JOB

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Can you imagine what it would be like  
to be the president? You would have  
to make decisions that affect millions  
of people. With power comes huge  
responsibility.

God has power over the whole world,  
and He knows exactly what's best for  
each person!



There have been 44 presidents  
of the United States.



Wednesday, September 11

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

Names are important because they identify who people are. God calls Himself by many names in the Bible. The Truth, Bread of life, Counselor, Deliverer, and Father are just a few. God's name is so great that it has the power to protect people.

Thursday, September 12

## SHOWING GOD TO THE WORLD

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose:  
to show you My power and to make  
My name known in all the earth.

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't instantly bring people to heaven when they become Christians? When you live in a way that honors God, people want to know Him too. Remember God wants to show Himself to the world through you!



September 11 is a day  
of remembrance for the  
lives lost in a terrorist  
attack against the United  
States of America.







Friday, September 13

## GOTTA WANT IT

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

I once gave piano lessons to a girl who did not want to learn and never practiced. It didn't matter that I worked hard to teach her. She didn't want to learn.

When you want to know God more and spend time every day studying His Word, He can teach you great things!

Commit to studying God's Word each day. Choose a time and place and ask God for His help!

Saturday, September 14


## WHAT DO I KNOW?

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

I overheard a little girl in the grocery store tell her mother, "I just want candy for dinner. No carrots, just candy." Children don't know enough to make good decisions for themselves. No matter what your age, turn to God for guidance.





Sunday, September 15

## GIMME, GIMME!

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.

Sometimes people think that God is like a fairy: Just tell Him what you want and He makes sure you get it. As you start thinking like Christ, you will want the same things God wants. Your desires will be His desires too!

September 16  
is Collect Rocks Day.

Monday, September 16

## BRAG ABOUT HIM

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are several reasons you can brag about Jesus!

1. Jesus died on the cross for you.
2. You can be forgiven.
3. You are loved.
4. God's Word, the Bible, is true.
5. Jesus will always be with you.



♡  
You are loved.



Tuesday, September 17

## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Prime minister, king, queen, amir, president—world leaders all have titles.

No leader—regardless of his or her authority—is more powerful or wiser than God. All the nations are under His control.



Wednesday, September 18

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Imagine God talking to creation.

- To the sun: "It is time to rise and shine!"
- To the ocean waves: "You can only come this far."
- To the clouds: "Make it rain today."

What an awesome Creator with awesome power!

List things you can praise God for making and doing.



Thursday, September 19

## GOD IS GREAT

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

Many little kids start their prayers by saying, "God is great, God is good." Nothing will ever change that.

You might not understand why things happen the way they do, but you can know this: God always will be good.

Ask God to reveal His power to you in your daily life. When He does, write examples of it down here, so you can remember it.

Friday, September 20

## WEAK + GOD = POWER

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Think about the word *weak*. When God sees people who feel weak, He finds a way to show His power through them.

The next time you feel unsure, nervous, or worried, remember that God is there, waiting to show you what He can do. Trust Him!





Saturday, September 21

## GOT FEAR?

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

Sheep are easily scared. They have a tendency to wander and scatter. They need shepherds to comfort them.

Do you ever need to be comforted? God loves you. Like a shepherd guides and protects his sheep, He watches over you.



September 21  
is Miniature Golf Day.  
Grab a friend and  
play a round of golf!

Sunday, September 22

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Everyone loves to win. God wants first place in your heart and mind. The competition is tough because there are many people, objects, tasks, and events you might let bump God out of the front-runner spot. God should always be first.







Monday, September 23

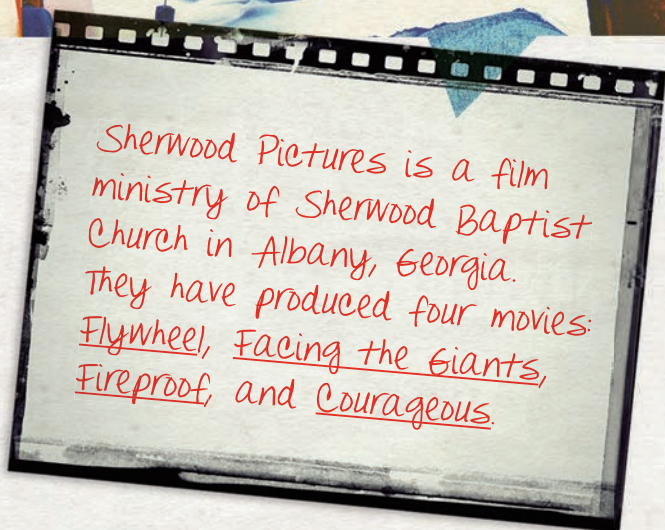
## LEAD YOUR HEART

*Psalms 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me,  
LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

Have you seen the movie *Fireproof*?  
In the movie, Caleb, a firefighter whose  
marriage was in trouble, was told not  
just to follow his heart, but to lead it.

How do you lead your heart? Ask God  
about anything and everything and do  
what He says.



Sherwood Pictures is a film  
ministry of Sherwood Baptist  
Church in Albany, Georgia.  
They have produced four movies:  
Flywheel, Facing the Giants,  
Fireproof, and Courageous.

Tuesday, September 24

## NOW WHAT?

*Proverbs 2:6*

The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding.

God, it's me. I need help. Life is crazy  
right now. You know how I feel, right?  
Will You help me?

God promises to give you wisdom  
when you feel lost and confused. All you  
have to do is ask!





Wednesday, September 25

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

What has God promised you? Grab a concordance (that book with a list of words found in the Bible and the references where to find them) and find out! Search for these words:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| → Comfort | → Instruction  |
| → Grace   | → Salvation    |
| → Mercy   | → Eternal life |

Record your findings from  
Wednesday's devotion.

Thursday, September 26

## THE GOD WHO HEALS

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You healed me.

Emily was four when she was told she had scoliosis and would have to wear a back brace for twelve years. Her family and church prayed for her healing. God answered. She didn't need the brace until she was eight.





Friday, September 27

## CAN HARDLY WAIT

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

"I can't wait to grow up, be on my own, make my own choices, eat the food I want, go where I want, and be who I want!"

Have you ever had these thoughts?

Don't grow up too fast. Listen to God's voice all your life.

Saturday, September 28

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

Joshua 21:45

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

People constantly make promises they don't keep. Friends say, "I will be there," then they are not. Parents say, "Yes, we can do that," then they change their minds. God will never break His promises. He never has, and He never will.

List promises God has made.



Listening to God!



Sunday, September 29

## I NEED YOU, LORD!

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark. She prayed and asked God to help her get to the beach and to keep her alive.

He knows what you are going through. He knows you! He will give you what you need, no matter what situation you are in!



Find out more about Bethany at [www.bethanyhamilton.com](http://www.bethanyhamilton.com). Her story is told in the book and movie Soul Surfer.

Monday, September 30

## AN ACHY HEART

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone gets sad. Maybe a friend moves away, a parent leaves the home, or someone close to you passes away. When these things happen, it feels like your heart will break. God can fix your heart. He is always near, and He cares about you!





Turning From

# TEMPTATION

What tempts you? Make a list of temptations you face.

Write out James 1:2-3 below:

IYOW

Now, write what James 1:2-3 means in your own words:



# WANTED

## PRETEEN BIRTHDAYS!

Send us your birthday and where you are from. Your birthday may appear in a future *Bible Express*. Each month, a name will be drawn from the birthdays to receive a CD.

## PRETEEN PROFILES!

Leaders, nominate a preteen to be featured in our monthly Preteen Profile. Send us the preteen's name, and a few interesting things about the preteen. If your nomination is chosen, you will be contacted for more information.

## IDEAS!

What do you want to see in these pages? If you have an idea or topic you would like to know more about, send us the information! Your idea may be in the next magazine you receive.

The next time you are tempted or tested, think about James 1:2-3. Ask God for help to stand strong against temptation.

Write a prayer, asking God for help in specific situations or with specific things you listed.

## CONTACT INFO

Send in your information, and be sure to label it as a birthday, profile nomination, or an idea. Multiple cards may be mailed in one envelope. Be sure to include your name, address, and age.

### Mail your entry to:

Publishing Team Leader,  
*BIBLE EXPRESS*  
One LifeWay Plaza, MSN 172  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

You may also email the info to [bibleexpress@lifeway.com](mailto:bibleexpress@lifeway.com). Be sure to note in the subject line what you are sending in: *birthday, preteen profile, or idea.*



**HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE  
THE LORD, AND HE WILL  
EXALT YOU.** *James 4:10*





## Explore James 4:10:



Think about what the word *humble* means.



Name some times in your life when it is good to be humble.



Read Matthew 5:1-12. What word appears the most in this passage?



According to this passage in the Bible, who will be blessed?



Pray, asking God for help in being humble. Write your prayer below:



The second is this: Love you neighbor as yourself.

There is no command greater than these. *MARK 12:31*

# SERVING UP Smiles

by Beth Masters

The other day a good friend and I sat down for a snack. This was a really great snack, chocolate lava cake from a new bakery, and we were very excited! As she cut the cake in two pieces, she was very careful to make them even so we both had half of the cake, half the icing, and half the lava. I laughed at how intentional she was about cutting the cake, and then she said “I want you to have as much as I have, if not a little more.”

She and I have both been taught to be fair and give others the “best piece” of whatever we have. This moment made me think about Jesus’ command to love other people like I love myself in Mark 12:31. While I was raised to treat other people with great respect, I’m not sure I always love them like I would want to be loved. Sometimes I can be plain selfish and want the bigger piece of lava cake! Jesus told people to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Some call this the law of love, since this means that Christians need to love other people as if they were themselves. As people we naturally love ourselves, but Jesus wants to turn our focus to loving Him first and then loving others. As the week went by,

God kept teaching me a lesson about loving people.

Where I live there are a lot of homeless people who ask for money and food on the side of the road. I try to keep boxes of granola bars in my car to hand them when I can in order to show them love. But God reminded me that when I really love someone I bake for them ... I bake cookies, brownies, cupcakes, really anything that I think would make them smile. So, wouldn’t that mean that if I was to really love the men and women on the side of the road then I would bake for them too? That means instead of buying a box of granola bars I should bake them granola bars!

Maybe you don’t have homeless people on the side of the road where you live, but I bet you have friends and family you could show love. What would make them smile? Here is the recipe my friend Anna and I used to make yummy-chocolaty granola bars to give away. I hope you have fun making them, giving them away, and seeing someone smile because you loved them! May each of us be found faithful to love people like we want to be loved.



## EASY GRANOLA BARS

### What you need:

9-by-13-inch pan

Non-stick cooking spray

2 cups of quick cooking oats

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup peanut butter  
(or 1 stick softened butter)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of candy covered chocolates,  
raisins, cranberries, or chocolate chips



Easy Granola Bars

### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Spray pan with non-stick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
4. Press evenly into the pan and bake 18 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.
5. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Cut into squares, and cool completely before serving.
6. Store in an air tight container.





**BIBLE EXPRESS** is designed to encourage kids in the 5th and 6th grades (10-12 year olds) to spend time with God each day.

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Bible Express** (ISSN 1068-2775; Item 005075157) is published monthly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2013 LifeWay.

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# THE GOSPEL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

*gospel-noun. good news. the message about Christ, The kingdom of God, and salvation.*



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS



Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Exploring James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22



10



18



22

**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. James 2:8**



Sunday, September 1

## BETTER THAN BREAD CRUMBS

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

In the story of Hansel and Gretel, Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path so the pair could find their way back home.

If you focus on Jesus, you'll always know what to do and where to go.



September 2 is Labor Day.

Labor Day is always on the first Monday of September and signals the end of summer.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

Around the world there are many different religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—just to name a few. People of these religions do not worship the God you know in Christianity. There is only one true God to worship.





???

Do you struggle with saying things  
that aren't pleasing  
to God?

Take a moment and  
ask God for help.

Sign your name here to commit to  
speaking respectfully about God.

~~X~~



Tuesday, September 3

## BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD  
your God, because the LORD will  
not leave anyone unpunished who  
misuses His name.

You probably hear a lot of people  
today using God's name in vain or saying  
"OMG." Using God's name carelessly  
is disrespectful to Him. He deserves better  
than that!

Wednesday, September 4

## WHAT'S IT WORTH?

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.

What do you think about when you see  
a penny, a nickel, a dime, or a quarter?  
One way or another, you think about  
what each coin is worth.

God values you very much! Live your  
life worthy of Him who gives you worth.



September 5 is Cheese Pizza Day.  
Enjoy a piece in honor of your  
great-great-great-grandfather!

Thursday, September 5

## A GOOD MEMORY

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Do you remember the name of your great-great-great-grandfather? No way! God never dies. He has always existed and always will. The God you know is the same God your great-grandfather knew!



Friday, September 6

## PLAYING BY EAR

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

A musician who can “play by ear” has the ability to hit the correct notes simply by listening to the sound of his instrument. When God speaks through the Bible, listen and adjust your life to match what you hear. Play your life by ear!



Electric guitars  
are also used by  
classical composers.



Saturday, September 7

## POWERFUL PROTECTION

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God led His people out of slavery but they seemed trapped between the sea and Egyptian army. God protected them. He parted the water so they could walk through. If you follow God, He will help you safely overcome any challenge in your life.

Write down a few different names for God.  
Spend time praising God through prayer.

Sunday, September 8

## THE NAME OF FAME

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

Have you ever tried to make a name for yourself by doing something great? Maybe you hit a ball farther than your friends or made your classmates laugh until their bellies ached.

God's name is greater than anyone, anytime, anywhere.



Monday, September 9

## GOD MAKES SENSE

*Isaiah 55:8*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways.”  
This is the LORD’s declaration.

Why does a huge boat float, yet a tiny,  
little rock sinks? What makes the earth  
orbit perfectly around the sun? Some  
things just don’t make sense!

Having faith in God means trusting  
His words in the Bible—even when you  
don’t understand them.



who are you thankful for?  
Make a list and then tell those on  
the list you are thankful for them!

Tuesday, September 10

## THANK YOU, LORD!

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Many people think they are in control,  
when they are not. Wisdom, power, talents,  
and the opportunity to succeed only come  
from God.

Take time to thank Him for talents and  
opportunities.





Wednesday, September 11

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

If you were lost in a big city and someone tried to grab you, who would you call for help? The police!

As a follower of Jesus, you won't fit in with a lot of other guys around you. No one can take you away from Jesus. Call on His name anytime there's trouble.



September 11 is the day a terrorist attack happened in the United States of America. Pray for those protecting the rights of your freedom.

Thursday, September 12

## CONTRASTING CHARACTER

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

It's not easy to understand why God allows bad people to be successful, especially when they hurt others. God's character is like a work of art. Brushing pure white paint on white paper is hardly noticeable. But on black paper, the white paint really stands out!





Friday, September 13

## TRUTH BE TOLD

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and  
I will live by Your truth.

In the Bible, God tells you everything you need to know for both this life and the life to come. He tells you that you need Jesus to pay for your sins, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. The Bible also tells how you should live your life right now.

Did you know September is National Library Card Sign-up Month? If you don't have a library card, sign up for one! Check out a book by the author C.S. Lewis.



Be on Jesus' team!

Saturday, September 14

## A REAL BIG SHOT

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the  
earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Your friends may think you're cool when you talk back to your teacher or put down your sister. The only way to be a winner is to be on Jesus' team. He's the most valuable player. The next time you feel like bragging, remember that Jesus is the real big shot.



Sunday, September 15

## SURE SUCCESS

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD,  
and your plans will be achieved.

Do you know anyone who says he's a Christian but doesn't act like it? A real Christian desires to please God in everything. Since God can accomplish anything, He has the power to make sure you succeed in anything you do for Him.



work hard to treat  
the person you like  
the most and the least  
the same this week.  
Ask God for help!

Monday, September 16

## TALKING IT UP

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about  
anything except the cross of our  
LORD Jesus Christ.

Everyone likes to talk about things he does well. When you talk about yourself over and over again, that's called bragging or boasting. The Bible says that the only thing you should boast or brag about is what Jesus did on the cross for you.





Tuesday, September 17

## HOW BIG IS BIG?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Have you ever been inside a palace or mansion? They were often built for kings or rulers of nations to show their wealth and importance. The Bible says that as the King of all kings, God rules over all the nations. Imagine how big God's mansions are!

*Make a list of prayer requests.*

Wednesday, September 18

## TELL ME ONE MORE TIME

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Do you realize how many gadgets are available to remind you of upcoming appointments or special events? In this passage, God reminds Job who He is and what He can do. Sometimes you need to be reminded of what God can do!

*Commit to praying for these specific requests this week.*



Thursday, September 19

## FOR SURE!

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

One time my mom was so busy that she forgot to pick me up from school! I waited for 15 minutes before she finally came! As good as people's intentions may be, they sometimes let you down.

The **LORD** can and will provide what is good for you.

Friday, September 20

## NO WAY!

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

What if someone told you that the ocean is purple or that you could get your driver's license at the age of 11? You would probably respond with a loud, "No way! I don't think so!" Well, believe this: God's grace (undeserved favor) is all you need!



September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Argh, matey! You may not understand Pirate talk, but you can ask God to help you understand the Bible.



Saturday, September 21

## ME, AFRAID? NEVER!

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

What is your worst fear? People live in fear of so many things in life that there is a phobia for just about everything. God is with you no matter where you go or what you face in life. Live without fear today.

Sunday, September 22

## TOP PRIORITY

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.


What would you consider top priority in your life? Making friends? Making lots of money? Living in a big house? While all of these things may be nice to have, they shouldn't be your top priority. Your number one priority should be Jesus and all of His ways.



September 21 is  
International Rabbit Day.







Monday, September 23

## MAKE SOME NOISE!

*Psalm 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD.  
I will obey Your statutes.

Hearing a crowd yelling at the top of their lungs at a sporting event is exciting! Wouldn't it be amazing to hear the same size crowd cheering and yelling for God? The Bible tells you to call out to God with everything you have. Go ahead and make some noise for God!

Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium is reportedly the loudest stadium in all of college football. Loud fans earned the stadium's nickname: Deaf Valley (before the current nickname Death Valley).



Tuesday, September 24

## IN STOCK, READY FOR PICKUP

*Proverbs 2:6*

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever asked your mom and dad for a specific gift from a store only to find out it was out of stock? Wisdom is available from God and is ready for pickup today.





Make a list of promises  
you can make to God.

Wednesday, September 25

## PROMISES, PROMISES

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

Do you always keep your promises?  
Last weekend my dad promised to  
play baseball with me. It rained, so he  
couldn't keep his promise.

God is able to keep His promises  
because of His great power. God keeps  
all His promises.

Thursday, September 26

## DEPENDABLE COVERAGE

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and  
You healed me.

With all of the technology available today,  
you would think there would be dependable  
cell phone coverage everywhere. No matter  
how many times a person tries to get a call  
out, the signal isn't strong enough in some  
places. Aren't you glad that when you  
call out to God for help, He is always there?





Friday, September 27

## DEPEND ON GOD

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You, in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

Many boys tell their parents, "I can't wait to grow up and get out on my own." In your relationship with God, don't try to become independent of Him. The Bible tells you that being dependent on God is a good thing because it brings you peace.



Saturday, September 28

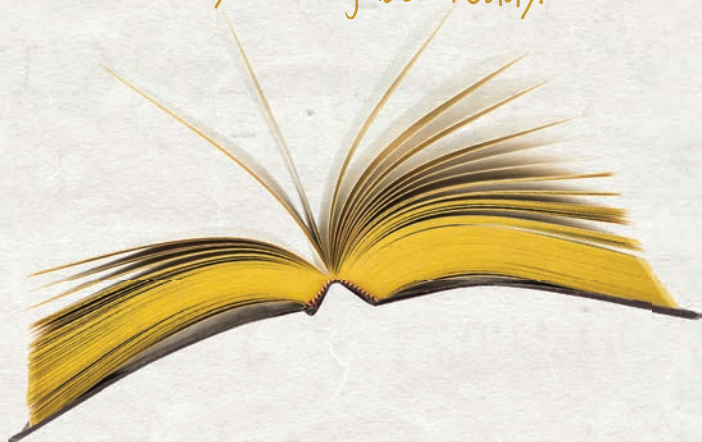
## GOOD TO THE LAST WORD

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

You have probably realized that just because somebody promises you something, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. Every promise ever made by God has been kept. You can count on God keeping His word!

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Be kind to your neighbor today.







Sunday, September 29

## LIVE AND IN PERSON

*1 Peter 5:10*

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Would you rather listen to a musician in concert or on a CD? Being there with a musician makes the experience extra special. Have you ever thought about the fact that God is available to you, live and in person, each day?

September 30  
is National Mud Pack Day.  
A mud pack is good  
to put on a bee sting when  
you need comforting.

Monday, September 30

## GOD OF ALL COMFORT

*Psalms 34:18*

The LORD is near the brokenhearted;  
He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone needs to be comforted when life is difficult. With God, however, there is no need for a teddy bear. He is there for you and will comfort you when you feel discouraged and down.





**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19





## CHECKING IN ON CHARLIE

by Bridgette Guest

**WHO:** Charlie is a fifth grader at Athens Intermediate School, in Athens, Alabama. Charlie has one brother, Max, and two sisters, Alice and Lucy. Charlie enjoys numerous sports, such as basketball, baseball, and football. One of Charlie's favorite things to learn is how to improve as an athlete. One day he hopes to play college ball at the University of Tennessee. He said, "I always try to be a good role model on and off the field."

**LIKES:** He loves to eat pizza. His favorite music is Lecrae, and he enjoys math. When asked about his least favorite things, Charlie says they are eating cheese and resting.

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Charlie's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Charlie said, "I love the verse because it gives me the assurance that God is always with me, and will never leave me. In tough situations I do not have to be afraid because the Lord is with me." Charlie explains James 4:10, "It means you need to think of others before yourself, and you will be blessed. Being humble means to treat others how you want to be treated, not necessarily how others treat you."



## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Charlie flew to China with his family to adopt his little sister, Alice. When I asked Charlie about his trip, he explained the Great Wall of China was one of his favorite places they visited. When asked how the adoption affected him, he said, "I was very sad to see the other children we had to leave behind. Each one of them needed a home just like Alice. I think more people should adopt children because there are so many who needs love. If people would adopt a kid or teenager, it would change their lives, as well as the kid's, forever." Charlie's love of adoption, however, does not stop with his sister Alice. When Charlie was 5 years old, his mother allowed him to choose a Compassion International child. They help children in underdeveloped nations receive food, clothing, healthcare, and an education. Charlie traveled to Haiti this past spring to visit Calvin. Charlie got to see first hand what a difference he has made in his life. Charlie is a great example of how God uses any age to impact others and bring God glory.





# CHOOSING YOUR ATTITUDE

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK



It's the last inning and your team is down by a run with a man on third base. You're up at bat and can tie the game. Three pitches later you are called out on strikes.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Throw your bat and complain that the pitch was a ball?
- (B) Encourage your teammate who is batting next?

You worked extremely hard on an English paper. When you get it back, it has a red "C-" at the top.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Tell your teacher how unfair she is?
- (B) Explain that you worked hard on the paper and ask why you didn't get a better grade?

Your parents accuse you of spilling soda on the computer. You try to explain that your brother did it, but they refuse to listen and ground you.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Go to your room and slam the door?
- (B) Wait until your parents calm down and try to explain what happened again?







Check out 1 Peter 2:12 to learn more about a good attitude.

Life is full of difficult situations. You can't do anything to avoid many of these trials, but you can always control how you respond. Sure, it's easier to choose (a) in the situations above, but here are three good reasons to choose (b) instead:

1. A bad attitude never makes things better. When has a bad attitude made a situation better for you? Probably never. Instead, a bad attitude almost always makes things worse. The Bible tells you that doing what is right and being gentle and kind benefits you (Proverbs 15:1).
2. A bad attitude never pleases God. It's easy to have a bad attitude in difficult times because you are angry you didn't get your way or are just confused. Proverbs 3:5 tells us that we should trust in God completely, even during a trial. Sometimes life doesn't seem fair or make sense, but keeping a good attitude shows that you trust God no matter what.

3. A bad attitude never helps others. You will hardly ever go through a difficult time alone. Usually, other people will be involved and they will see how you respond. The Bible tells you that if you have a good attitude during a trial, you will help people see Jesus in you (1 Peter 2:12). Think about it. Jesus had every reason to have a bad attitude when He was arrested and crucified, but He didn't have one. You can keep a good attitude too.

So how can you keep a positive attitude even when life is tough? Here are two quick ways:

- **PRAY.** Ask God to give you patience, peace, and joy. He wants you to have a good attitude and can give you one.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of people who went through trials and difficulties. Be encouraged by the ones who handled them right and learn from the mistakes of the ones who didn't.





1 Read Matthew 5:1-12

8 Read Matthew 4:1-11



2



9 Complete the activity on Girls page 19.



3

10 Read Psalm 119:10



4 Identify a problem you are facing this week.

11



5

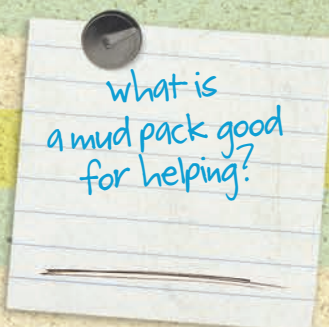


12



6 Read Proverbs 3:5

13



7 Pray and ask God for help specifically with the problem you identified.

14 Pray and ask for help loving others. Thank God for those who love you.



15 Read John 4:1-30

22



29 Do one kind thing for someone who isn't treated nicely by others.

16

Collect Rocks Day

23 Read Mark 10:13-16

30 Read 1 John 4:19 (Boys page 19) and then pray and ask God to help you show love to all people.

17 Show thanks for your friends. Complete the activity on Girls page 21.

24

Can you find God's plan for you?  
HINT:  
Find "The Gospel!"

18

NATIONAL RESPECT DAY

25 Keep mints nearby. Eat one each time you are tempted to say unkind words.

19 Read James 4:10 (Girls page 20).

26 Read John 15:12

On which bill and coin denomination does Abraham Lincoln appear?

How many times does the word **follow** appear in this month's Bible Express?

20 Pray and ask God to help you love and be nice to someone different from you.

27

CRUSH A CAN DAY.  
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE.

21

28 Pray and ask God to help you use words wisely.



30 **FUN** DEVOTIONS  
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2013  
**FOLLOW JESUS' EXAMPLE**

# **BIBLE EXPRESS** **DEVOTIONS**

*For Girls Ages 10-12*



SEPTEMBER 2013



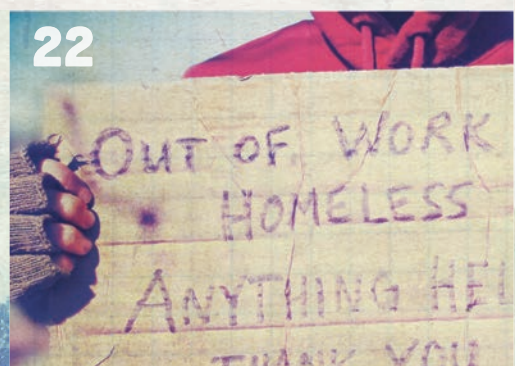
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Explore James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
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Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24



**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. *James 2:8***



Sunday, September 1

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

Drivers depend on road signs and maps to lead them in the right direction. Having a guide through unfamiliar territory is helpful.

God is ready to be your guide. Trust Him to lead you on the right path. The Bible is His roadmap for you.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

The Egyptians believed in many different gods—a wind god, a sun god ... even a frog god! God's people know that there is only one God who created everything! Choose to follow the one true God!

Ancient Egyptians  
worshiped as many  
as 2,000 gods!





Tuesday, September 3

## USE IT CAREFULLY!

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.

When the Bible says not to misuse God's name, it means you should only use it in a good way. Using God's name when you are surprised or angry is disrespectful to God.

Wednesday, September 4

## SHOWING THE WORLD

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

When athletes compete in the Olympics, they want to represent their respective countries well. Did you know you are God's representative? You must act in a way that honors Him.

Missy Franklin won four gold medals and one bronze in the 2012 London Olympics.



Name some neighbors you will pray for this week.





Thursday, September 5

## HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Wouldn't it be awesome to meet someone who lived a long time ago? You can talk to God, who witnessed everything in history! He has always been alive and will exist forever.

Friday, September 6

## LISTEN UP!

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

Perhaps sometimes you don't feel like listening, but when God is speaking, listen anyway. He will speak to you through His Word and through godly people.







Saturday, September 7

## AN EPIC HERO

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God saved every Israelite from Egypt by making a path through the Red Sea. Scripture says there were more than 500,000 of Pharaoh's fighting men! Who's even greater? God—the hero who loves you!

September 8 is Grandparent's Day. Thank God for your grandparents. If possible, write a grandparent a note of thanks.

Sunday, September 8

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

A lot of people want to be remembered after they die. God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt.

He's just as faithful to His people today ... that's worth remembering!





Monday, September 9

## TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS

*Isaiah 55:8*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways."  
This is the LORD's declaration.

God wants you to understand how  
He thinks; the best way for you  
to understand Him is to read what  
He wrote in the Bible.



Tuesday, September 10

## A REALLY BIG JOB

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Can you imagine what it would be like  
to be the president? You would have  
to make decisions that affect millions  
of people. With power comes huge  
responsibility.

God has power over the whole world,  
and He knows exactly what's best for  
each person!



There have been 44 presidents  
of the United States.



Wednesday, September 11

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

Names are important because they identify who people are. God calls Himself by many names in the Bible. The Truth, Bread of life, Counselor, Deliverer, and Father are just a few. God's name is so great that it has the power to protect people.

Thursday, September 12

## SHOWING GOD TO THE WORLD

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose:  
to show you My power and to make  
My name known in all the earth.

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't instantly bring people to heaven when they become Christians? When you live in a way that honors God, people want to know Him too. Remember God wants to show Himself to the world through you!



September 11 is a day  
of remembrance for the  
lives lost in a terrorist  
attack against the United  
States of America.







Friday, September 13

## GOTTA WANT IT

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

I once gave piano lessons to a girl who did not want to learn and never practiced. It didn't matter that I worked hard to teach her. She didn't want to learn.

When you want to know God more and spend time every day studying His Word, He can teach you great things!

Commit to studying God's Word each day. Choose a time and place and ask God for His help!

Saturday, September 14


## WHAT DO I KNOW?

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

I overheard a little girl in the grocery store tell her mother, "I just want candy for dinner. No carrots, just candy." Children don't know enough to make good decisions for themselves. No matter what your age, turn to God for guidance.





Sunday, September 15

## GIMME, GIMME!

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.

Sometimes people think that God is like a fairy: Just tell Him what you want and He makes sure you get it. As you start thinking like Christ, you will want the same things God wants. Your desires will be His desires too!

September 16  
is Collect Rocks Day.

Monday, September 16

## BRAG ABOUT HIM

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are several reasons you can brag about Jesus!

1. Jesus died on the cross for you.
2. You can be forgiven.
3. You are loved.
4. God's Word, the Bible, is true.
5. Jesus will always be with you.



♡  
You are loved.



Tuesday, September 17

## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Prime minister, king, queen, amir, president—world leaders all have titles.

No leader—regardless of his or her authority—is more powerful or wiser than God. All the nations are under His control.



Wednesday, September 18

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Imagine God talking to creation.

- To the sun: "It is time to rise and shine!"
- To the ocean waves: "You can only come this far."
- To the clouds: "Make it rain today."

What an awesome Creator with awesome power!

List things you can praise God for making and doing.



Thursday, September 19

## GOD IS GREAT

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

Many little kids start their prayers by saying, "God is great, God is good." Nothing will ever change that.

You might not understand why things happen the way they do, but you can know this: God always will be good.

Ask God to reveal His power to you in your daily life. When He does, write examples of it down here, so you can remember it.

Friday, September 20

## WEAK + GOD = POWER

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Think about the word *weak*. When God sees people who feel weak, He finds a way to show His power through them.

The next time you feel unsure, nervous, or worried, remember that God is there, waiting to show you what He can do. Trust Him!





Saturday, September 21

## GOT FEAR?

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

Sheep are easily scared. They have a tendency to wander and scatter. They need shepherds to comfort them.

Do you ever need to be comforted? God loves you. Like a shepherd guides and protects his sheep, He watches over you.



September 21  
is Miniature Golf Day.  
Grab a friend and  
play a round of golf!

Sunday, September 22

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Everyone loves to win. God wants first place in your heart and mind. The competition is tough because there are many people, objects, tasks, and events you might let bump God out of the front-runner spot. God should always be first.







Monday, September 23

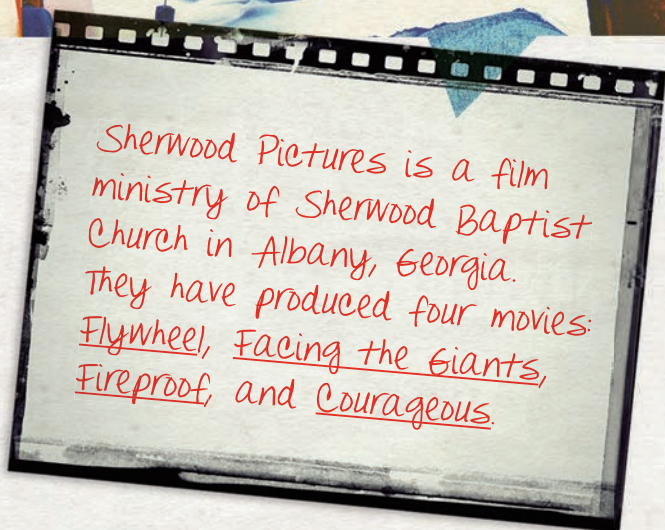
## LEAD YOUR HEART

*Psalms 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me,  
LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

Have you seen the movie *Fireproof*?  
In the movie, Caleb, a firefighter whose  
marriage was in trouble, was told not  
just to follow his heart, but to lead it.

How do you lead your heart? Ask God  
about anything and everything and do  
what He says.



Sherwood Pictures is a film  
ministry of Sherwood Baptist  
Church in Albany, Georgia.  
They have produced four movies:  
Flywheel, Facing the Giants,  
Fireproof, and Courageous.

Tuesday, September 24

## NOW WHAT?

*Proverbs 2:6*

The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding.

God, it's me. I need help. Life is crazy  
right now. You know how I feel, right?  
Will You help me?

God promises to give you wisdom  
when you feel lost and confused. All you  
have to do is ask!





Wednesday, September 25

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

What has God promised you? Grab a concordance (that book with a list of words found in the Bible and the references where to find them) and find out! Search for these words:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| → Comfort | → Instruction  |
| → Grace   | → Salvation    |
| → Mercy   | → Eternal life |

Record your findings from  
Wednesday's devotion.

Thursday, September 26

## THE GOD WHO HEALS

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You healed me.

Emily was four when she was told she had scoliosis and would have to wear a back brace for twelve years. Her family and church prayed for her healing. God answered. She didn't need the brace until she was eight.





Friday, September 27

## CAN HARDLY WAIT

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

"I can't wait to grow up, be on my own, make my own choices, eat the food I want, go where I want, and be who I want!"

Have you ever had these thoughts?

Don't grow up too fast. Listen to God's voice all your life.

Saturday, September 28

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

Joshua 21:45

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

People constantly make promises they don't keep. Friends say, "I will be there," then they are not. Parents say, "Yes, we can do that," then they change their minds. God will never break His promises. He never has, and He never will.

List promises God has made.



Listening to God!



Sunday, September 29

## I NEED YOU, LORD!

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark. She prayed and asked God to help her get to the beach and to keep her alive.

He knows what you are going through. He knows you! He will give you what you need, no matter what situation you are in!



Find out more about Bethany at [www.bethanyhamilton.com](http://www.bethanyhamilton.com). Her story is told in the book and movie Soul Surfer.

Monday, September 30

## AN ACHY HEART

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone gets sad. Maybe a friend moves away, a parent leaves the home, or someone close to you passes away. When these things happen, it feels like your heart will break. God can fix your heart. He is always near, and He cares about you!





Turning From

# TEMPTATION

What tempts you? Make a list of temptations you face.

Write out James 1:2-3 below:

IYOW

Now, write what James 1:2-3 means in your own words:



# WANTED

## PRETEEN BIRTHDAYS!

Send us your birthday and where you are from. Your birthday may appear in a future *Bible Express*. Each month, a name will be drawn from the birthdays to receive a CD.

## PRETEEN PROFILES!

Leaders, nominate a preteen to be featured in our monthly Preteen Profile. Send us the preteen's name, and a few interesting things about the preteen. If your nomination is chosen, you will be contacted for more information.

## IDEAS!

What do you want to see in these pages? If you have an idea or topic you would like to know more about, send us the information! Your idea may be in the next magazine you receive.

The next time you are tempted or tested, think about James 1:2-3. Ask God for help to stand strong against temptation.

Write a prayer, asking God for help in specific situations or with specific things you listed.

## CONTACT INFO

Send in your information, and be sure to label it as a birthday, profile nomination, or an idea. Multiple cards may be mailed in one envelope. Be sure to include your name, address, and age.

### Mail your entry to:

Publishing Team Leader,  
*BIBLE EXPRESS*  
One LifeWay Plaza, MSN 172  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

You may also email the info to [bibleexpress@lifeway.com](mailto:bibleexpress@lifeway.com). Be sure to note in the subject line what you are sending in: *birthday, preteen profile, or idea.*



**HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE  
THE LORD, AND HE WILL  
EXALT YOU.** *James 4:10*





## Explore James 4:10:



Think about what the word *humble* means.



Name some times in your life when it is good to be humble.



Read Matthew 5:1-12. What word appears the most in this passage?



According to this passage in the Bible, who will be blessed?



Pray, asking God for help in being humble. Write your prayer below:



The second is this: Love you neighbor as yourself.

There is no command greater than these. *MARK 12:31*

# SERVING UP Smiles

by Beth Masters

The other day a good friend and I sat down for a snack. This was a really great snack, chocolate lava cake from a new bakery, and we were very excited! As she cut the cake in two pieces, she was very careful to make them even so we both had half of the cake, half the icing, and half the lava. I laughed at how intentional she was about cutting the cake, and then she said “I want you to have as much as I have, if not a little more.”

She and I have both been taught to be fair and give others the “best piece” of whatever we have. This moment made me think about Jesus’ command to love other people like I love myself in Mark 12:31. While I was raised to treat other people with great respect, I’m not sure I always love them like I would want to be loved. Sometimes I can be plain selfish and want the bigger piece of lava cake! Jesus told people to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Some call this the law of love, since this means that Christians need to love other people as if they were themselves. As people we naturally love ourselves, but Jesus wants to turn our focus to loving Him first and then loving others. As the week went by,

God kept teaching me a lesson about loving people.

Where I live there are a lot of homeless people who ask for money and food on the side of the road. I try to keep boxes of granola bars in my car to hand them when I can in order to show them love. But God reminded me that when I really love someone I bake for them ... I bake cookies, brownies, cupcakes, really anything that I think would make them smile. So, wouldn’t that mean that if I was to really love the men and women on the side of the road then I would bake for them too? That means instead of buying a box of granola bars I should bake them granola bars!

Maybe you don’t have homeless people on the side of the road where you live, but I bet you have friends and family you could show love. What would make them smile? Here is the recipe my friend Anna and I used to make yummy-chocolaty granola bars to give away. I hope you have fun making them, giving them away, and seeing someone smile because you loved them! May each of us be found faithful to love people like we want to be loved.



## EASY GRANOLA BARS

### What you need:

9-by-13-inch pan

Non-stick cooking spray

2 cups of quick cooking oats

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup peanut butter  
(or 1 stick softened butter)

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup of candy covered chocolates,  
raisins, cranberries, or chocolate chips



Easy Granola Bars

### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Spray pan with non-stick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
4. Press evenly into the pan and bake 18 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.
5. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Cut into squares, and cool completely before serving.
6. Store in an air tight container.





**BIBLE EXPRESS** is designed to encourage kids in the 5th and 6th grades (10-12 year olds) to spend time with God each day.

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Bible Express** (ISSN 1068-2775; Item 005075157) is published monthly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2013 LifeWay.

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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit [www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](http://www.lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

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# THE GOSPEL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

*gospel-noun. good news. the message about Christ, The kingdom of God, and salvation.*



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS



Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Exploring James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22



10



18



22

**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. James 2:8**



Sunday, September 1

## BETTER THAN BREAD CRUMBS

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

In the story of Hansel and Gretel, Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path so the pair could find their way back home.

If you focus on Jesus, you'll always know what to do and where to go.



September 2 is Labor Day.

Labor Day is always on the first Monday of September and signals the end of summer.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

Around the world there are many different religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—just to name a few. People of these religions do not worship the God you know in Christianity. There is only one true God to worship.





???

Do you struggle with saying things  
that aren't pleasing  
to God?

Take a moment and  
ask God for help.

Sign your name here to commit to  
speaking respectfully about God.

~~X~~



Tuesday, September 3

## BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD  
your God, because the LORD will  
not leave anyone unpunished who  
misuses His name.

You probably hear a lot of people  
today using God's name in vain or saying  
"OMG." Using God's name carelessly  
is disrespectful to Him. He deserves better  
than that!

Wednesday, September 4

## WHAT'S IT WORTH?

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.

What do you think about when you see  
a penny, a nickel, a dime, or a quarter?  
One way or another, you think about  
what each coin is worth.

God values you very much! Live your  
life worthy of Him who gives you worth.



September 5 is Cheese Pizza Day.  
Enjoy a piece in honor of your  
great-great-great-grandfather!

Thursday, September 5

## A GOOD MEMORY

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Do you remember the name of your great-great-great-grandfather? No way! God never dies. He has always existed and always will. The God you know is the same God your great-grandfather knew!



Friday, September 6

## PLAYING BY EAR

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

A musician who can “play by ear” has the ability to hit the correct notes simply by listening to the sound of his instrument. When God speaks through the Bible, listen and adjust your life to match what you hear. Play your life by ear!



Electric guitars  
are also used by  
classical composers.



Saturday, September 7

## POWERFUL PROTECTION

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God led His people out of slavery but they seemed trapped between the sea and Egyptian army. God protected them. He parted the water so they could walk through. If you follow God, He will help you safely overcome any challenge in your life.

Write down a few different names for God.  
Spend time praising God through prayer.

Sunday, September 8

## THE NAME OF FAME

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

Have you ever tried to make a name for yourself by doing something great? Maybe you hit a ball farther than your friends or made your classmates laugh until their bellies ached.

God's name is greater than anyone, anytime, anywhere.



Monday, September 9

## GOD MAKES SENSE

*Isaiah 55:8*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways.”  
This is the LORD’s declaration.

Why does a huge boat float, yet a tiny,  
little rock sinks? What makes the earth  
orbit perfectly around the sun? Some  
things just don’t make sense!

Having faith in God means trusting  
His words in the Bible—even when you  
don’t understand them.



who are you thankful for?  
Make a list and then tell those on  
the list you are thankful for them!

Tuesday, September 10

## THANK YOU, LORD!

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Many people think they are in control,  
when they are not. Wisdom, power, talents,  
and the opportunity to succeed only come  
from God.

Take time to thank Him for talents and  
opportunities.





Wednesday, September 11

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

If you were lost in a big city and someone tried to grab you, who would you call for help? The police!

As a follower of Jesus, you won't fit in with a lot of other guys around you. No one can take you away from Jesus. Call on His name anytime there's trouble.



September 11 is the day a terrorist attack happened in the United States of America. Pray for those protecting the rights of your freedom.

Thursday, September 12

## CONTRASTING CHARACTER

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

It's not easy to understand why God allows bad people to be successful, especially when they hurt others. God's character is like a work of art. Brushing pure white paint on white paper is hardly noticeable. But on black paper, the white paint really stands out!





Friday, September 13

## TRUTH BE TOLD

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and  
I will live by Your truth.

In the Bible, God tells you everything you need to know for both this life and the life to come. He tells you that you need Jesus to pay for your sins, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. The Bible also tells how you should live your life right now.

Did you know September is National Library Card Sign-up Month? If you don't have a library card, sign up for one! Check out a book by the author C.S. Lewis.



Be on Jesus' team!

Saturday, September 14

## A REAL BIG SHOT

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the  
earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Your friends may think you're cool when you talk back to your teacher or put down your sister. The only way to be a winner is to be on Jesus' team. He's the most valuable player. The next time you feel like bragging, remember that Jesus is the real big shot.



Sunday, September 15

## SURE SUCCESS

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD,  
and your plans will be achieved.

Do you know anyone who says he's a Christian but doesn't act like it? A real Christian desires to please God in everything. Since God can accomplish anything, He has the power to make sure you succeed in anything you do for Him.



work hard to treat  
the person you like  
the most and the least  
the same this week.  
Ask God for help!

Monday, September 16

## TALKING IT UP

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about  
anything except the cross of our  
LORD Jesus Christ.

Everyone likes to talk about things he does well. When you talk about yourself over and over again, that's called bragging or boasting. The Bible says that the only thing you should boast or brag about is what Jesus did on the cross for you.





Tuesday, September 17

## HOW BIG IS BIG?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Have you ever been inside a palace or mansion? They were often built for kings or rulers of nations to show their wealth and importance. The Bible says that as the King of all kings, God rules over all the nations. Imagine how big God's mansions are!

*Make a list of prayer requests.*

Wednesday, September 18

## TELL ME ONE MORE TIME

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Do you realize how many gadgets are available to remind you of upcoming appointments or special events? In this passage, God reminds Job who He is and what He can do. Sometimes you need to be reminded of what God can do!

*Commit to praying for these specific requests this week.*



Thursday, September 19

## FOR SURE!

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

One time my mom was so busy that she forgot to pick me up from school! I waited for 15 minutes before she finally came! As good as people's intentions may be, they sometimes let you down.

The **LORD** can and will provide what is good for you.

Friday, September 20

## NO WAY!

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

What if someone told you that the ocean is purple or that you could get your driver's license at the age of 11? You would probably respond with a loud, "No way! I don't think so!" Well, believe this: God's grace (undeserved favor) is all you need!



September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Argh, matey! You may not understand Pirate talk, but you can ask God to help you understand the Bible.



Saturday, September 21

## ME, AFRAID? NEVER!

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

What is your worst fear? People live in fear of so many things in life that there is a phobia for just about everything. God is with you no matter where you go or what you face in life. Live without fear today.

Sunday, September 22

## TOP PRIORITY

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.


What would you consider top priority in your life? Making friends? Making lots of money? Living in a big house? While all of these things may be nice to have, they shouldn't be your top priority. Your number one priority should be Jesus and all of His ways.



September 21 is  
International Rabbit Day.







Monday, September 23

## MAKE SOME NOISE!

*Psalm 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD.  
I will obey Your statutes.

Hearing a crowd yelling at the top of their lungs at a sporting event is exciting! Wouldn't it be amazing to hear the same size crowd cheering and yelling for God? The Bible tells you to call out to God with everything you have. Go ahead and make some noise for God!

Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium is reportedly the loudest stadium in all of college football. Loud fans earned the stadium's nickname: Deaf Valley (before the current nickname Death Valley).



Tuesday, September 24

## IN STOCK, READY FOR PICKUP

*Proverbs 2:6*

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever asked your mom and dad for a specific gift from a store only to find out it was out of stock? Wisdom is available from God and is ready for pickup today.





Make a list of promises  
you can make to God.

Wednesday, September 25

## PROMISES, PROMISES

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

Do you always keep your promises?  
Last weekend my dad promised to  
play baseball with me. It rained, so he  
couldn't keep his promise.

God is able to keep His promises  
because of His great power. God keeps  
all His promises.

Thursday, September 26

## DEPENDABLE COVERAGE

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and  
You healed me.

With all of the technology available today,  
you would think there would be dependable  
cell phone coverage everywhere. No matter  
how many times a person tries to get a call  
out, the signal isn't strong enough in some  
places. Aren't you glad that when you  
call out to God for help, He is always there?





Friday, September 27

## DEPEND ON GOD

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You, in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

Many boys tell their parents, "I can't wait to grow up and get out on my own." In your relationship with God, don't try to become independent of Him. The Bible tells you that being dependent on God is a good thing because it brings you peace.



Saturday, September 28

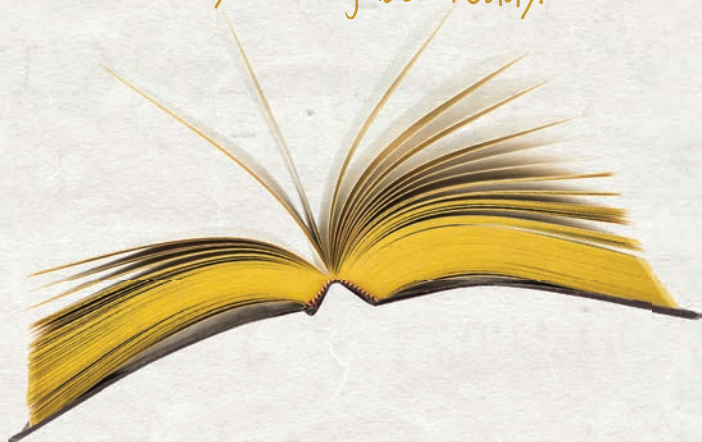
## GOOD TO THE LAST WORD

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

You have probably realized that just because somebody promises you something, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. Every promise ever made by God has been kept. You can count on God keeping His word!

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Be kind to your neighbor today.







Sunday, September 29

## LIVE AND IN PERSON

*1 Peter 5:10*

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Would you rather listen to a musician in concert or on a CD? Being there with a musician makes the experience extra special. Have you ever thought about the fact that God is available to you, live and in person, each day?

September 30  
is National Mud Pack Day.  
A mud pack is good  
to put on a bee sting when  
you need comforting.

Monday, September 30

## GOD OF ALL COMFORT

*Psalms 34:18*

The LORD is near the brokenhearted;  
He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone needs to be comforted when life is difficult. With God, however, there is no need for a teddy bear. He is there for you and will comfort you when you feel discouraged and down.





**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19





## CHECKING IN ON CHARLIE

by Bridgette Guest

**WHO:** Charlie is a fifth grader at Athens Intermediate School, in Athens, Alabama. Charlie has one brother, Max, and two sisters, Alice and Lucy. Charlie enjoys numerous sports, such as basketball, baseball, and football. One of Charlie's favorite things to learn is how to improve as an athlete. One day he hopes to play college ball at the University of Tennessee. He said, "I always try to be a good role model on and off the field."

**LIKES:** He loves to eat pizza. His favorite music is Lecrae, and he enjoys math. When asked about his least favorite things, Charlie says they are eating cheese and resting.

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Charlie's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Charlie said, "I love the verse because it gives me the assurance that God is always with me, and will never leave me. In tough situations I do not have to be afraid because the Lord is with me." Charlie explains James 4:10, "It means you need to think of others before yourself, and you will be blessed. Being humble means to treat others how you want to be treated, not necessarily how others treat you."



## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Charlie flew to China with his family to adopt his little sister, Alice. When I asked Charlie about his trip, he explained the Great Wall of China was one of his favorite places they visited. When asked how the adoption affected him, he said, "I was very sad to see the other children we had to leave behind. Each one of them needed a home just like Alice. I think more people should adopt children because there are so many who needs love. If people would adopt a kid or teenager, it would change their lives, as well as the kid's, forever." Charlie's love of adoption, however, does not stop with his sister Alice. When Charlie was 5 years old, his mother allowed him to choose a Compassion International child. They help children in underdeveloped nations receive food, clothing, healthcare, and an education. Charlie traveled to Haiti this past spring to visit Calvin. Charlie got to see first hand what a difference he has made in his life. Charlie is a great example of how God uses any age to impact others and bring God glory.





# CHOOSING YOUR ATTITUDE

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK



It's the last inning and your team is down by a run with a man on third base. You're up at bat and can tie the game. Three pitches later you are called out on strikes.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Throw your bat and complain that the pitch was a ball?
- (B) Encourage your teammate who is batting next?

You worked extremely hard on an English paper. When you get it back, it has a red "C-" at the top.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Tell your teacher how unfair she is?
- (B) Explain that you worked hard on the paper and ask why you didn't get a better grade?

Your parents accuse you of spilling soda on the computer. You try to explain that your brother did it, but they refuse to listen and ground you.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Go to your room and slam the door?
- (B) Wait until your parents calm down and try to explain what happened again?







Check out 1 Peter 2:12 to learn more about a good attitude.

Life is full of difficult situations. You can't do anything to avoid many of these trials, but you can always control how you respond. Sure, it's easier to choose (a) in the situations above, but here are three good reasons to choose (b) instead:

1. A bad attitude never makes things better. When has a bad attitude made a situation better for you? Probably never. Instead, a bad attitude almost always makes things worse. The Bible tells you that doing what is right and being gentle and kind benefits you (Proverbs 15:1).
2. A bad attitude never pleases God. It's easy to have a bad attitude in difficult times because you are angry you didn't get your way or are just confused. Proverbs 3:5 tells us that we should trust in God completely, even during a trial. Sometimes life doesn't seem fair or make sense, but keeping a good attitude shows that you trust God no matter what.

3. A bad attitude never helps others. You will hardly ever go through a difficult time alone. Usually, other people will be involved and they will see how you respond. The Bible tells you that if you have a good attitude during a trial, you will help people see Jesus in you (1 Peter 2:12). Think about it. Jesus had every reason to have a bad attitude when He was arrested and crucified, but He didn't have one. You can keep a good attitude too.

So how can you keep a positive attitude even when life is tough? Here are two quick ways:

- **PRAY.** Ask God to give you patience, peace, and joy. He wants you to have a good attitude and can give you one.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of people who went through trials and difficulties. Be encouraged by the ones who handled them right and learn from the mistakes of the ones who didn't.





1 Read Matthew 5:1-12

8 Read Matthew 4:1-11



2



9 Complete the activity on Girls page 19.



3

10 Read Psalm 119:10



4 Identify a problem you are facing this week.

11



5

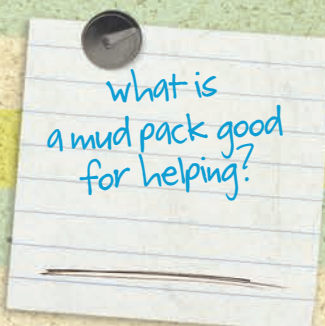


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6 Read Proverbs 3:5

13



7 Pray and ask God for help specifically with the problem you identified.

14 Pray and ask for help loving others. Thank God for those who love you.



15 Read John 4:1-30

22



29 Do one kind thing for someone who isn't treated nicely by others.

16

Collect Rocks Day

23 Read Mark 10:13-16

30 Read 1 John 4:19 (Boys page 19) and then pray and ask God to help you show love to all people.

17

Show thanks for your friends. Complete the activity on Girls page 21.

24

Can you find God's plan for you?  
HINT:  
Find "The Gospel!"

18

NATIONAL RESPECT DAY

25 Keep mints nearby. Eat one each time you are tempted to say unkind words.

On which bill and coin denomination does Abraham Lincoln appear?

19

Read James 4:10 (Girls page 20).

26 Read John 15:12

How many times does the word **follow** appear in this month's Bible Express?

20

Pray and ask God to help you love and be nice to someone different from you.

27

CRUSH A CAN DAY.  
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE.

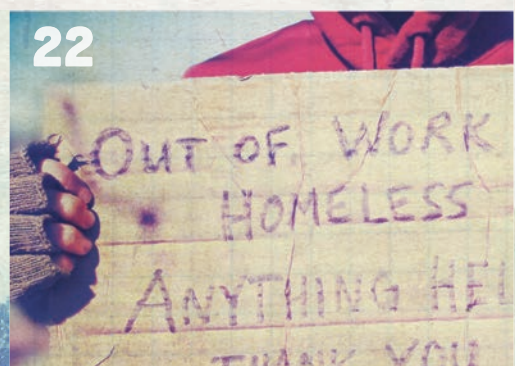
21

28 Pray and ask God to help you use words wisely.



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotions for Girls .....	GIRLS 3-17
Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Explore James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22
Checking In On Charlie .....	BOYS 20
Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24



**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. *James 2:8***



Sunday, September 1

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

Drivers depend on road signs and maps to lead them in the right direction. Having a guide through unfamiliar territory is helpful.

God is ready to be your guide. Trust Him to lead you on the right path. The Bible is His roadmap for you.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

The Egyptians believed in many different gods—a wind god, a sun god ... even a frog god! God's people know that there is only one God who created everything! Choose to follow the one true God!

Ancient Egyptians  
worshiped as many  
as 2,000 gods!





Tuesday, September 3

## USE IT CAREFULLY!

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses His name.

When the Bible says not to misuse God's name, it means you should only use it in a good way. Using God's name when you are surprised or angry is disrespectful to God.

Wednesday, September 4

## SHOWING THE WORLD

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

When athletes compete in the Olympics, they want to represent their respective countries well. Did you know you are God's representative? You must act in a way that honors Him.

Missy Franklin won four gold medals and one bronze in the 2012 London Olympics.



Name some neighbors you will pray for this week.





Thursday, September 5

## HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Wouldn't it be awesome to meet someone who lived a long time ago? You can talk to God, who witnessed everything in history! He has always been alive and will exist forever.

Friday, September 6

## LISTEN UP!

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

Perhaps sometimes you don't feel like listening, but when God is speaking, listen anyway. He will speak to you through His Word and through godly people.







Saturday, September 7

## AN EPIC HERO

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God saved every Israelite from Egypt by making a path through the Red Sea. Scripture says there were more than 500,000 of Pharaoh's fighting men! Who's even greater? God—the hero who loves you!

September 8 is Grandparent's Day. Thank God for your grandparents. If possible, write a grandparent a note of thanks.

Sunday, September 8

## WE WILL NEVER FORGET

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

A lot of people want to be remembered after they die. God was faithful to His people, the Israelites. He rescued them from Egypt.

He's just as faithful to His people today ... that's worth remembering!





Monday, September 9

## TELL ME YOUR THOUGHTS

*Isaiah 55:8*

"My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways."  
This is the LORD's declaration.

God wants you to understand how  
He thinks; the best way for you  
to understand Him is to read what  
He wrote in the Bible.



Tuesday, September 10

## A REALLY BIG JOB

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Can you imagine what it would be like  
to be the president? You would have  
to make decisions that affect millions  
of people. With power comes huge  
responsibility.

God has power over the whole world,  
and He knows exactly what's best for  
each person!



There have been 44 presidents  
of the United States.



Wednesday, September 11

## WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

Names are important because they identify who people are. God calls Himself by many names in the Bible. The Truth, Bread of life, Counselor, Deliverer, and Father are just a few. God's name is so great that it has the power to protect people.

Thursday, September 12

## SHOWING GOD TO THE WORLD

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose:  
to show you My power and to make  
My name known in all the earth.

Have you ever wondered why God doesn't instantly bring people to heaven when they become Christians? When you live in a way that honors God, people want to know Him too. Remember God wants to show Himself to the world through you!



September 11 is a day  
of remembrance for the  
lives lost in a terrorist  
attack against the United  
States of America.







Friday, September 13

## GOTTA WANT IT

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and I will live by Your truth.

I once gave piano lessons to a girl who did not want to learn and never practiced. It didn't matter that I worked hard to teach her. She didn't want to learn.

When you want to know God more and spend time every day studying His Word, He can teach you great things!

Commit to studying God's Word each day. Choose a time and place and ask God for His help!

Saturday, September 14


## WHAT DO I KNOW?

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

I overheard a little girl in the grocery store tell her mother, "I just want candy for dinner. No carrots, just candy." Children don't know enough to make good decisions for themselves. No matter what your age, turn to God for guidance.





Sunday, September 15

## GIMME, GIMME!

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be achieved.

Sometimes people think that God is like a fairy: Just tell Him what you want and He makes sure you get it. As you start thinking like Christ, you will want the same things God wants. Your desires will be His desires too!

September 16  
is Collect Rocks Day.

Monday, September 16

## BRAG ABOUT HIM

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are several reasons you can brag about Jesus!

1. Jesus died on the cross for you.
2. You can be forgiven.
3. You are loved.
4. God's Word, the Bible, is true.
5. Jesus will always be with you.



♡  
You are loved.



Tuesday, September 17

## WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Prime minister, king, queen, amir, president—world leaders all have titles.

No leader—regardless of his or her authority—is more powerful or wiser than God. All the nations are under His control.



Wednesday, September 18

## GOD IS IN CONTROL

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Imagine God talking to creation.

- To the sun: "It is time to rise and shine!"
- To the ocean waves: "You can only come this far."
- To the clouds: "Make it rain today."

What an awesome Creator with awesome power!

List things you can praise God for making and doing.



Thursday, September 19

## GOD IS GREAT

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

Many little kids start their prayers by saying, "God is great, God is good." Nothing will ever change that.

You might not understand why things happen the way they do, but you can know this: God always will be good.

Ask God to reveal His power to you in your daily life. When He does, write examples of it down here, so you can remember it.

Friday, September 20

## WEAK + GOD = POWER

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

Think about the word *weak*. When God sees people who feel weak, He finds a way to show His power through them.

The next time you feel unsure, nervous, or worried, remember that God is there, waiting to show you what He can do. Trust Him!





Saturday, September 21

## GOT FEAR?

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley, I fear no danger, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

Sheep are easily scared. They have a tendency to wander and scatter. They need shepherds to comfort them.

Do you ever need to be comforted? God loves you. Like a shepherd guides and protects his sheep, He watches over you.



September 21  
is Miniature Golf Day.  
Grab a friend and  
play a round of golf!

Sunday, September 22

## AND THE WINNER IS ...

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Everyone loves to win. God wants first place in your heart and mind. The competition is tough because there are many people, objects, tasks, and events you might let bump God out of the front-runner spot. God should always be first.







Monday, September 23

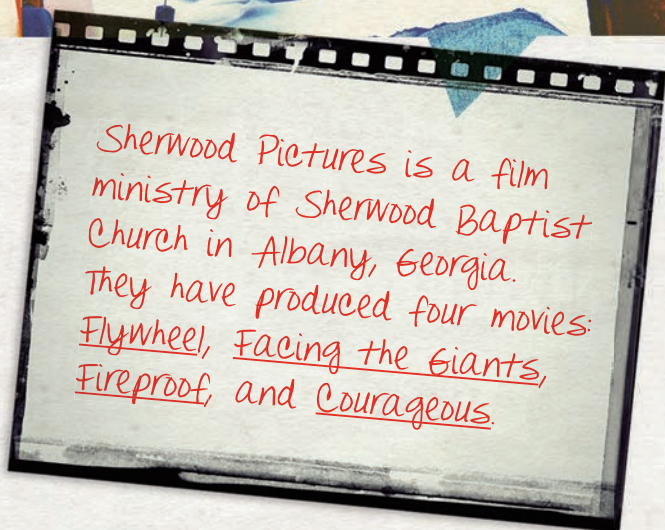
## LEAD YOUR HEART

*Psalms 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me,  
LORD. I will obey Your statutes.

Have you seen the movie *Fireproof*?  
In the movie, Caleb, a firefighter whose  
marriage was in trouble, was told not  
just to follow his heart, but to lead it.

How do you lead your heart? Ask God  
about anything and everything and do  
what He says.



Sherwood Pictures is a film  
ministry of Sherwood Baptist  
Church in Albany, Georgia.  
They have produced four movies:  
Flywheel, Facing the Giants,  
Fireproof, and Courageous.

Tuesday, September 24

## NOW WHAT?

*Proverbs 2:6*

The LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth  
come knowledge and understanding.

God, it's me. I need help. Life is crazy  
right now. You know how I feel, right?  
Will You help me?

God promises to give you wisdom  
when you feel lost and confused. All you  
have to do is ask!





Wednesday, September 25

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

What has God promised you? Grab a concordance (that book with a list of words found in the Bible and the references where to find them) and find out! Search for these words:

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| → Comfort | → Instruction  |
| → Grace   | → Salvation    |
| → Mercy   | → Eternal life |

Record your findings from  
Wednesday's devotion.

Thursday, September 26

## THE GOD WHO HEALS

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help,  
and You healed me.

Emily was four when she was told she had scoliosis and would have to wear a back brace for twelve years. Her family and church prayed for her healing. God answered. She didn't need the brace until she was eight.





Friday, September 27

## CAN HARDLY WAIT

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

"I can't wait to grow up, be on my own, make my own choices, eat the food I want, go where I want, and be who I want!"

Have you ever had these thoughts?

Don't grow up too fast. Listen to God's voice all your life.

Saturday, September 28

## A PROMISE IS A PROMISE

Joshua 21:45

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

People constantly make promises they don't keep. Friends say, "I will be there," then they are not. Parents say, "Yes, we can do that," then they change their minds. God will never break His promises. He never has, and He never will.

List promises God has made.



Listening to God!



Sunday, September 29

## I NEED YOU, LORD!

1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Surfer Bethany Hamilton was attacked by a 14-foot tiger shark. She prayed and asked God to help her get to the beach and to keep her alive.

He knows what you are going through. He knows you! He will give you what you need, no matter what situation you are in!



Find out more about Bethany at [www.bethanyhamilton.com](http://www.bethanyhamilton.com). Her story is told in the book and movie Soul Surfer.

Monday, September 30

## AN ACHY HEART

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is near the brokenhearted; He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone gets sad. Maybe a friend moves away, a parent leaves the home, or someone close to you passes away. When these things happen, it feels like your heart will break. God can fix your heart. He is always near, and He cares about you!





Turning From

# TEMPTATION

What tempts you? Make a list of temptations you face.

Write out James 1:2-3 below:

IYOW

Now, write what James 1:2-3 means in your own words:



# WANTED

## PRETEEN BIRTHDAYS!

Send us your birthday and where you are from. Your birthday may appear in a future *Bible Express*. Each month, a name will be drawn from the birthdays to receive a CD.

## PRETEEN PROFILES!

Leaders, nominate a preteen to be featured in our monthly Preteen Profile. Send us the preteen's name, and a few interesting things about the preteen. If your nomination is chosen, you will be contacted for more information.

## IDEAS!

What do you want to see in these pages? If you have an idea or topic you would like to know more about, send us the information! Your idea may be in the next magazine you receive.

The next time you are tempted or tested, think about James 1:2-3. Ask God for help to stand strong against temptation.

Write a prayer, asking God for help in specific situations or with specific things you listed.

## CONTACT INFO

Send in your information, and be sure to label it as a birthday, profile nomination, or an idea. Multiple cards may be mailed in one envelope. Be sure to include your name, address, and age.

### Mail your entry to:

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*BIBLE EXPRESS*  
One LifeWay Plaza, MSN 172  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

You may also email the info to [bibleexpress@lifeway.com](mailto:bibleexpress@lifeway.com). Be sure to note in the subject line what you are sending in: *birthday, preteen profile, or idea.*



**HUMBLE YOURSELVES BEFORE  
THE LORD, AND HE WILL  
EXALT YOU.** *James 4:10*





## Explore James 4:10:



Think about what the word *humble* means.



Name some times in your life when it is good to be humble.



Read Matthew 5:1-12. What word appears the most in this passage?



According to this passage in the Bible, who will be blessed?



Pray, asking God for help in being humble. Write your prayer below:



The second is this: Love you neighbor as yourself.

There is no command greater than these. *MARK 12:31*

# SERVING UP Smiles

by Beth Masters

The other day a good friend and I sat down for a snack. This was a really great snack, chocolate lava cake from a new bakery, and we were very excited! As she cut the cake in two pieces, she was very careful to make them even so we both had half of the cake, half the icing, and half the lava. I laughed at how intentional she was about cutting the cake, and then she said “I want you to have as much as I have, if not a little more.”

She and I have both been taught to be fair and give others the “best piece” of whatever we have. This moment made me think about Jesus’ command to love other people like I love myself in Mark 12:31. While I was raised to treat other people with great respect, I’m not sure I always love them like I would want to be loved. Sometimes I can be plain selfish and want the bigger piece of lava cake! Jesus told people to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Some call this the law of love, since this means that Christians need to love other people as if they were themselves. As people we naturally love ourselves, but Jesus wants to turn our focus to loving Him first and then loving others. As the week went by,

God kept teaching me a lesson about loving people.

Where I live there are a lot of homeless people who ask for money and food on the side of the road. I try to keep boxes of granola bars in my car to hand them when I can in order to show them love. But God reminded me that when I really love someone I bake for them ... I bake cookies, brownies, cupcakes, really anything that I think would make them smile. So, wouldn’t that mean that if I was to really love the men and women on the side of the road then I would bake for them too? That means instead of buying a box of granola bars I should bake them granola bars!

Maybe you don’t have homeless people on the side of the road where you live, but I bet you have friends and family you could show love. What would make them smile? Here is the recipe my friend Anna and I used to make yummy-chocolaty granola bars to give away. I hope you have fun making them, giving them away, and seeing someone smile because you loved them! May each of us be found faithful to love people like we want to be loved.



## EASY GRANOLA BARS

### What you need:

9-by-13-inch pan

Non-stick cooking spray

2 cups of quick cooking oats

½ cup brown sugar

½ cup honey

½ cup peanut butter  
(or 1 stick softened butter)

½ cup of candy covered chocolates,  
raisins, cranberries, or chocolate chips



Easy Granola Bars

### What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Spray pan with non-stick spray.
3. Mix all ingredients in a bowl.
4. Press evenly into the pan and bake 18 minutes or until the edges are golden brown.
5. Cool 5 minutes in the pan. Cut into squares, and cool completely before serving.
6. Store in an air tight container.





**BIBLE EXPRESS** is designed to encourage kids in the 5th and 6th grades (10-12 year olds) to spend time with God each day.

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 1  
SEPTEMBER 2013

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Bible Express** (ISSN 1068-2775; Item 005075157) is published monthly by LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, Thom S. Rainer, President. © 2013 LifeWay.

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# THE GOSPEL GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

*gospel-noun. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.*



The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13



# BIBLE EXPRESS DEVOTIONS



Daily Devotions for Boys .....	BOYS 4-18
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Choosing Your Attitude .....	BOYS 22
Calendar .....	BOYS 24
Turning from Temptation .....	GIRLS 18
Exploring James 4:10 .....	GIRLS 21
Serving Up Smiles .....	GIRLS 22



10



18



22

**INDEED, IF YOU KEEP THE ROYAL LAW PRESCRIBED  
IN THE SCRIPTURE, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,  
YOU ARE DOING WELL. James 2:8**



Sunday, September 1

## BETTER THAN BREAD CRUMBS

*Proverbs 3:6*

Think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths.

In the story of Hansel and Gretel, Hansel dropped bread crumbs along the path so the pair could find their way back home.

If you focus on Jesus, you'll always know what to do and where to go.



September 2 is Labor Day.

Labor Day is always on the first Monday of September and signals the end of summer.

Monday, September 2

## THE ONE AND ONLY

*Jeremiah 10:10*

Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and eternal King.

Around the world there are many different religions: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—just to name a few. People of these religions do not worship the God you know in Christianity. There is only one true God to worship.





???

Do you struggle with saying things  
that aren't pleasing  
to God?

Take a moment and  
ask God for help.

Sign your name here to commit to  
speaking respectfully about God.

~~X~~



Tuesday, September 3

## BE CAREFUL LITTLE TONGUE

*Exodus 20:7*

Do not misuse the name of the LORD  
your God, because the LORD will  
not leave anyone unpunished who  
misuses His name.

You probably hear a lot of people  
today using God's name in vain or saying  
"OMG." Using God's name carelessly  
is disrespectful to Him. He deserves better  
than that!

Wednesday, September 4

## WHAT'S IT WORTH?

*1 Thessalonians 2:12*

Walk worthy of God, who calls you into  
His own kingdom and glory.

What do you think about when you see  
a penny, a nickel, a dime, or a quarter?  
One way or another, you think about  
what each coin is worth.

God values you very much! Live your  
life worthy of Him who gives you worth.



September 5 is Cheese Pizza Day.  
Enjoy a piece in honor of your  
great-great-great-grandfather!

Thursday, September 5

## A GOOD MEMORY

*Exodus 3:15*

Yahweh, the God of your fathers ... has sent me to you. This is My name forever.

Do you remember the name of your great-great-great-grandfather? No way! God never dies. He has always existed and always will. The God you know is the same God your great-grandfather knew!



Friday, September 6

## PLAYING BY EAR

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

A musician who can “play by ear” has the ability to hit the correct notes simply by listening to the sound of his instrument. When God speaks through the Bible, listen and adjust your life to match what you hear. Play your life by ear!



Electric guitars  
are also used by  
classical composers.



Saturday, September 7

## POWERFUL PROTECTION

*Exodus 14:21*

The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that night and turned the sea into dry land.

God led His people out of slavery but they seemed trapped between the sea and Egyptian army. God protected them. He parted the water so they could walk through. If you follow God, He will help you safely overcome any challenge in your life.

Write down a few different names for God.  
Spend time praising God through prayer.

Sunday, September 8

## THE NAME OF FAME

*Nehemiah 9:10*

You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

Have you ever tried to make a name for yourself by doing something great? Maybe you hit a ball farther than your friends or made your classmates laugh until their bellies ached.

God's name is greater than anyone, anytime, anywhere.



Monday, September 9

## GOD MAKES SENSE

*Isaiah 55:8*

“My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not My ways.”  
This is the LORD’s declaration.

Why does a huge boat float, yet a tiny,  
little rock sinks? What makes the earth  
orbit perfectly around the sun? Some  
things just don’t make sense!

Having faith in God means trusting  
His words in the Bible—even when you  
don’t understand them.



who are you thankful for?  
Make a list and then tell those on  
the list you are thankful for them!

Tuesday, September 10

## THANK YOU, LORD!

*Daniel 2:21*

He changes the times and seasons;  
He removes kings and establishes kings.  
He gives wisdom to the wise and  
knowledge to those who have  
understanding.

Many people think they are in control,  
when they are not. Wisdom, power, talents,  
and the opportunity to succeed only come  
from God.

Take time to thank Him for talents and  
opportunities.





Wednesday, September 11

## WHO YA GONNA CALL?

*John 17:11*

Holy Father, protect them by Your name.

If you were lost in a big city and someone tried to grab you, who would you call for help? The police!

As a follower of Jesus, you won't fit in with a lot of other guys around you. No one can take you away from Jesus. Call on His name anytime there's trouble.



September 11 is the day a terrorist attack happened in the United States of America. Pray for those protecting the rights of your freedom.

Thursday, September 12

## CONTRASTING CHARACTER

*Exodus 9:16*

I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

It's not easy to understand why God allows bad people to be successful, especially when they hurt others. God's character is like a work of art. Brushing pure white paint on white paper is hardly noticeable. But on black paper, the white paint really stands out!





Friday, September 13

## TRUTH BE TOLD

*Psalm 86:11*

Teach me Your way, Yahweh, and  
I will live by Your truth.

In the Bible, God tells you everything you need to know for both this life and the life to come. He tells you that you need Jesus to pay for your sins, and that by believing in Him you can have eternal life. The Bible also tells how you should live your life right now.

Did you know September is National Library Card Sign-up Month? If you don't have a library card, sign up for one! Check out a book by the author C.S. Lewis.



Be on Jesus' team!

Saturday, September 14

## A REAL BIG SHOT

*Job 38:4*

Where were you when I established the  
earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Your friends may think you're cool when you talk back to your teacher or put down your sister. The only way to be a winner is to be on Jesus' team. He's the most valuable player. The next time you feel like bragging, remember that Jesus is the real big shot.



Sunday, September 15

## SURE SUCCESS

*Proverbs 16:3*

Commit your activities to the LORD,  
and your plans will be achieved.

Do you know anyone who says he's a Christian but doesn't act like it? A real Christian desires to please God in everything. Since God can accomplish anything, He has the power to make sure you succeed in anything you do for Him.



work hard to treat  
the person you like  
the most and the least  
the same this week.  
Ask God for help!

Monday, September 16

## TALKING IT UP

*Galatians 6:14*

As for me, I will never boast about  
anything except the cross of our  
LORD Jesus Christ.

Everyone likes to talk about things he does well. When you talk about yourself over and over again, that's called bragging or boasting. The Bible says that the only thing you should boast or brag about is what Jesus did on the cross for you.





Tuesday, September 17

## HOW BIG IS BIG?

*Psalm 22:28*

Kingship belongs to the LORD; He rules over the nations.

Have you ever been inside a palace or mansion? They were often built for kings or rulers of nations to show their wealth and importance. The Bible says that as the King of all kings, God rules over all the nations. Imagine how big God's mansions are!

*Make a list of prayer requests.*

Wednesday, September 18

## TELL ME ONE MORE TIME

*Job 38:12-13*

Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place, so it may seize the edges of the earth?

Do you realize how many gadgets are available to remind you of upcoming appointments or special events? In this passage, God reminds Job who He is and what He can do. Sometimes you need to be reminded of what God can do!

*Commit to praying for these specific requests this week.*



Thursday, September 19

## FOR SURE!

*Psalm 85:12*

The LORD will provide what is good.

One time my mom was so busy that she forgot to pick me up from school! I waited for 15 minutes before she finally came! As good as people's intentions may be, they sometimes let you down.

The **LORD** can and will provide what is good for you.

Friday, September 20

## NO WAY!

*2 Corinthians 12:9*

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.

What if someone told you that the ocean is purple or that you could get your driver's license at the age of 11? You would probably respond with a loud, "No way! I don't think so!" Well, believe this: God's grace (undeserved favor) is all you need!



September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day. Argh, matey! You may not understand Pirate talk, but you can ask God to help you understand the Bible.



Saturday, September 21

## ME, AFRAID? NEVER!

*Psalm 23:4*

Even when I go through the darkest valley,  
I fear no danger, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

What is your worst fear? People live in fear of so many things in life that there is a phobia for just about everything. God is with you no matter where you go or what you face in life. Live without fear today.

Sunday, September 22

## TOP PRIORITY

*Matthew 6:33*

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.


What would you consider top priority in your life? Making friends? Making lots of money? Living in a big house? While all of these things may be nice to have, they shouldn't be your top priority. Your number one priority should be Jesus and all of His ways.



September 21 is  
International Rabbit Day.







Monday, September 23

## MAKE SOME NOISE!

*Psalm 119:145*

I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD.  
I will obey Your statutes.

Hearing a crowd yelling at the top of their lungs at a sporting event is exciting! Wouldn't it be amazing to hear the same size crowd cheering and yelling for God? The Bible tells you to call out to God with everything you have. Go ahead and make some noise for God!

Louisiana State University's Tiger Stadium is reportedly the loudest stadium in all of college football. Loud fans earned the stadium's nickname: Deaf Valley (before the current nickname Death Valley).



Tuesday, September 24

## IN STOCK, READY FOR PICKUP

*Proverbs 2:6*

For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Have you ever asked your mom and dad for a specific gift from a store only to find out it was out of stock? Wisdom is available from God and is ready for pickup today.





Make a list of promises  
you can make to God.

Wednesday, September 25

## PROMISES, PROMISES

*1 Kings 8:24*

You have kept what You promised to  
Your servant ... You fulfilled Your promise  
by Your power.

Do you always keep your promises?  
Last weekend my dad promised to  
play baseball with me. It rained, so he  
couldn't keep his promise.

God is able to keep His promises  
because of His great power. God keeps  
all His promises.

Thursday, September 26

## DEPENDABLE COVERAGE

*Psalms 30:2*

LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and  
You healed me.

With all of the technology available today,  
you would think there would be dependable  
cell phone coverage everywhere. No matter  
how many times a person tries to get a call  
out, the signal isn't strong enough in some  
places. Aren't you glad that when you  
call out to God for help, He is always there?





Friday, September 27

## DEPEND ON GOD

*Isaiah 26:3*

You will keep the mind that is dependent on You, in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.

Many boys tell their parents, "I can't wait to grow up and get out on my own." In your relationship with God, don't try to become independent of Him. The Bible tells you that being dependent on God is a good thing because it brings you peace.



Saturday, September 28

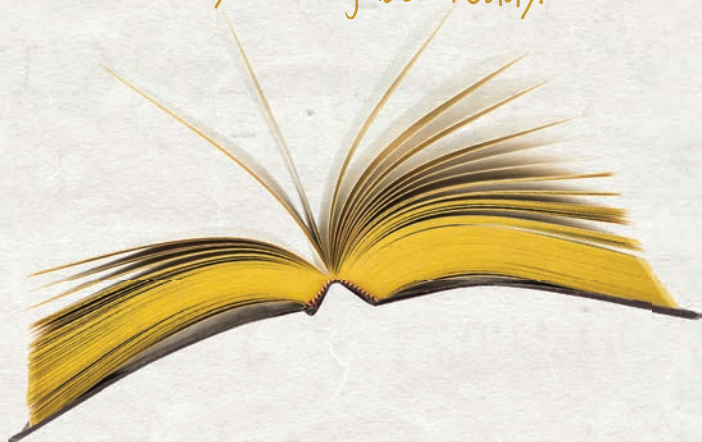
## GOOD TO THE LAST WORD

*Joshua 21:45*

None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

You have probably realized that just because somebody promises you something, it doesn't necessarily mean it's going to happen. Every promise ever made by God has been kept. You can count on God keeping His word!

September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. Be kind to your neighbor today.







Sunday, September 29

## LIVE AND IN PERSON

*1 Peter 5:10*

The God of all grace ... will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.

Would you rather listen to a musician in concert or on a CD? Being there with a musician makes the experience extra special. Have you ever thought about the fact that God is available to you, live and in person, each day?

September 30  
is National Mud Pack Day.  
A mud pack is good  
to put on a bee sting when  
you need comforting.

Monday, September 30

## GOD OF ALL COMFORT

*Psalms 34:18*

The LORD is near the brokenhearted;  
He saves those crushed in spirit.

Everyone needs to be comforted when life is difficult. With God, however, there is no need for a teddy bear. He is there for you and will comfort you when you feel discouraged and down.





**WE LOVE BECAUSE HE  
FIRST LOVED US.** 1 John 4:19





## CHECKING IN ON CHARLIE

by Bridgette Guest

**WHO:** Charlie is a fifth grader at Athens Intermediate School, in Athens, Alabama. Charlie has one brother, Max, and two sisters, Alice and Lucy. Charlie enjoys numerous sports, such as basketball, baseball, and football. One of Charlie's favorite things to learn is how to improve as an athlete. One day he hopes to play college ball at the University of Tennessee. He said, "I always try to be a good role model on and off the field."

**LIKES:** He loves to eat pizza. His favorite music is Lecrae, and he enjoys math. When asked about his least favorite things, Charlie says they are eating cheese and resting.

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Charlie's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you." Charlie said, "I love the verse because it gives me the assurance that God is always with me, and will never leave me. In tough situations I do not have to be afraid because the Lord is with me." Charlie explains James 4:10, "It means you need to think of others before yourself, and you will be blessed. Being humble means to treat others how you want to be treated, not necessarily how others treat you."



## A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Charlie flew to China with his family to adopt his little sister, Alice. When I asked Charlie about his trip, he explained the Great Wall of China was one of his favorite places they visited. When asked how the adoption affected him, he said, "I was very sad to see the other children we had to leave behind. Each one of them needed a home just like Alice. I think more people should adopt children because there are so many who needs love. If people would adopt a kid or teenager, it would change their lives, as well as the kid's, forever." Charlie's love of adoption, however, does not stop with his sister Alice. When Charlie was 5 years old, his mother allowed him to choose a Compassion International child. They help children in underdeveloped nations receive food, clothing, healthcare, and an education. Charlie traveled to Haiti this past spring to visit Calvin. Charlie got to see first hand what a difference he has made in his life. Charlie is a great example of how God uses any age to impact others and bring God glory.





# CHOOSING YOUR ATTITUDE

BY BRIAN DEMBOWCZYK



It's the last inning and your team is down by a run with a man on third base. You're up at bat and can tie the game. Three pitches later you are called out on strikes.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Throw your bat and complain that the pitch was a ball?
- (B) Encourage your teammate who is batting next?

You worked extremely hard on an English paper. When you get it back, it has a red "C-" at the top.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Tell your teacher how unfair she is?
- (B) Explain that you worked hard on the paper and ask why you didn't get a better grade?

Your parents accuse you of spilling soda on the computer. You try to explain that your brother did it, but they refuse to listen and ground you.

**DO YOU:**

- (A) Go to your room and slam the door?
- (B) Wait until your parents calm down and try to explain what happened again?







Check out 1 Peter 2:12 to learn more about a good attitude.

Life is full of difficult situations. You can't do anything to avoid many of these trials, but you can always control how you respond. Sure, it's easier to choose (a) in the situations above, but here are three good reasons to choose (b) instead:

1. A bad attitude never makes things better. When has a bad attitude made a situation better for you? Probably never. Instead, a bad attitude almost always makes things worse. The Bible tells you that doing what is right and being gentle and kind benefits you (Proverbs 15:1).
2. A bad attitude never pleases God. It's easy to have a bad attitude in difficult times because you are angry you didn't get your way or are just confused. Proverbs 3:5 tells us that we should trust in God completely, even during a trial. Sometimes life doesn't seem fair or make sense, but keeping a good attitude shows that you trust God no matter what.

3. A bad attitude never helps others. You will hardly ever go through a difficult time alone. Usually, other people will be involved and they will see how you respond. The Bible tells you that if you have a good attitude during a trial, you will help people see Jesus in you (1 Peter 2:12). Think about it. Jesus had every reason to have a bad attitude when He was arrested and crucified, but He didn't have one. You can keep a good attitude too.

So how can you keep a positive attitude even when life is tough? Here are two quick ways:

- **PRAY.** Ask God to give you patience, peace, and joy. He wants you to have a good attitude and can give you one.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of people who went through trials and difficulties. Be encouraged by the ones who handled them right and learn from the mistakes of the ones who didn't.





1 Read Matthew 5:1-12

8 Read Matthew 4:1-11



2



9 Complete the activity on Girls page 19.



3

10 Read Psalm 119:10



4 Identify a problem you are facing this week.

11



5

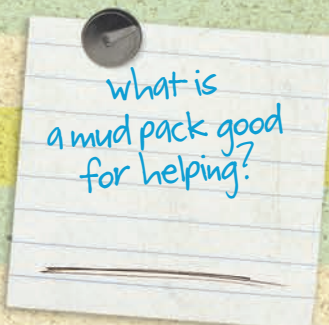


12



6 Read Proverbs 3:5

13



7 Pray and ask God for help specifically with the problem you identified.

14 Pray and ask for help loving others. Thank God for those who love you.



15 Read John 4:1-30

22



29 Do one kind thing for someone who isn't treated nicely by others.

16

Collect Rocks Day

23 Read Mark 10:13-16

30 Read 1 John 4:19 (Boys page 19) and then pray and ask God to help you show love to all people.

17 Show thanks for your friends. Complete the activity on Girls page 21.

24

Can you find God's plan for you?  
HINT:  
Find "The Gospel!"

On which bill and coin denomination does Abraham Lincoln appear?

18

NATIONAL RESPECT DAY

25 Keep mints nearby. Eat one each time you are tempted to say unkind words.

How many times does the word **follow** appear in this month's Bible Express?

19 Read James 4:10 (Girls page 20).

26 Read John 15:12

20 Pray and ask God to help you love and be nice to someone different from you.

27

CRUSH A CAN DAY.  
REMEMBER TO RECYCLE.

21

28 Pray and ask God to help you use words wisely.