



The
ONE
YEAR®

THE ONE YEAR DEVOS FOR GIRLS



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The One Year Devos for Girls

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INTRODUCTION FOR PARENTS

For many years Children's Bible Hour has published *Keys for Kids*, a bimonthly devotional magazine for kids. Parents and children have appreciated their fine ministry over the years, and Tyndale House is proud to present this new collection of stories from *Keys for Kids*.

The One Year Devos for Girls has a full year's worth of stories that girls will find especially interesting. Each story illustrates a Scripture reading for the day, and following each one is a "How about You?" section. This asks girls to apply the story to their lives.

There is also a memory verse for each day, often taken from the Scripture reading. Unless otherwise noted, memory verses are quoted from the *New Living Translation*. Verses marked NIV are from the *New International Version*, while those marked NKJV are from the *New King James Version*. You may want to encourage your girls to memorize each verse as it appears, or you can have them use the Bible translation your family prefers.

Each devotion ends with a key phrase at the bottom of the page. This three-to five-word phrase summarizes the lesson and helps girls know how to respond to it.

The stories in this devotional are geared toward girls between the ages of six and ten. Your daughters can enjoy these stories by themselves as they develop their own daily quiet time. (You can supervise that time as much or as little as you wish.) Or the stories can be used as part of your family devotions. Like stories from the Bible, the stories here speak not only to children but also to adults. They are simple, direct, and concrete. And they speak to everyone in understandable terms, just as Jesus' parables do.

This book contains Scripture indexes of daily readings and of memory verses, as well as a topical index. The Scripture indexes are helpful for locating a story or verse related to a passage that you want to discuss. The topical index is useful for dealing with concerns that arise in any family, such as health, relationships, telling the truth, and trusting God.

We hope you'll use this book every day, but don't feel locked into any one format. Please use any story any time you feel it relates to a special situation in your family.

CRITICISM VERSUS LOVE

(Read Mark 12:28-33)

As the family car swung away from the curb, little Annie waved to Mrs. Shrively, who was climbing her porch steps. Sarah leaned forward and rested her arms on the back of the front seat. “Whew! I’m glad Mrs. Shrively’s gone,” she said. “She was about to drive me crazy.”

Her brother Rob agreed. “And she looks funny, too.”

“And her dresses . . .,” Sarah giggled. “They’re worse than bags. They’re tents!”

“Kids!” Mother’s voice showed her disapproval. “You both know you’re not to talk like that! Mrs. Shrively is a wonderful Christian woman.”

“But she bosses me around all the time,” said Rob, “and then she quotes Scripture to back it up. I wish she’d just leave me alone.”

“She embarrasses me in front of my friends,” complained Sarah.

Dad joined the conversation. “But she is just the kind of person that Jesus would have befriended. He loves everyone, including the Mrs. Shrivelys of the world.”

“And I doubt that Jesus would make fun of her,” answered Sarah.

Dad nodded.

“But it sure will be hard not to make fun of her,” said Rob.

“I’m sure God will help you,” said Mother.

“Let’s all ask God to help us,” suggested Dad. “If we hold up one another in prayer, God will help us to do what is right.” *RG*

**HOW ABOUT YOU?**

Maybe there’s someone you really have trouble liking—someone who dresses differently or acts strangely or just bugs you. Don’t join the kids at school if they pick on one of your classmates. Whenever you’re tempted to be critical or unkind, remember that God made the person you’re criticizing, and God loves that person just as much as he loves you.



**LOVE OTHERS
AS JESUS DOES**

MEMORIZE:

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8

JANUARY

2

SINCERELY WRONG

(Read Isaiah 64:6-8)

Dana and Dan were spending the week with their uncle and aunt, and one day they got into a discussion on how to get to heaven. “The Bible says that only people who admit they’re sinners and accept Jesus will go to heaven,” Uncle Scott told them.

“But we know lots of really good people,” argued Dan. “They go to all different kinds of churches and probably believe all different kinds of things. But they’re all sincere.”

“Yeah,” agreed Dana. “How can anybody say they’re not going to heaven?”

That night, Dana heard a groaning sound coming from Dan’s room. She went to investigate. “O-o-oh,” moaned Dan, “my stomach! What can I do?”

“You ate too much tonight,” scolded Dana. “But I saw some pink stuff in the medicine cabinet—stuff like we use at home. That should make you feel better. It’s on the top shelf in a white bottle.”

Dan headed for the bathroom and took the medicine. Then he tried to sleep again but soon gave up. He called his sister. “If anything, that medicine made me worse,” he told her.

“Did you take the pink stuff?” Dana asked.

“Pink stuff?” Dan groaned. “I thought you said the white stuff in the pink bottle!”

Quickly, Dana called Aunt Sue and explained what had happened. Aunt Sue checked, and she saw that what Dan had believed to be something that would help his stomach was actually hand lotion. “I don’t think it will hurt you,” she said, “but we’ll check with the doctor to make sure.” She headed for the telephone and soon found out what to do.

“It really is silly to think it doesn’t matter what you believe as long as you’re sincere about it, isn’t it?” Dan said when Uncle Scott talked with him. “I sure was sincere when I took that stuff last night. Now I know what you meant about people being sincere but still being wrong and missing the way to heaven.”

Uncle Scott nodded. “I’m glad you realize that now,” he said. “It was bad enough to be wrong about the medicine, but it’s much worse to be wrong about the way to heaven. Jesus is the one and only way.” *HCT*



HOW ABOUT YOU?

Do you think it doesn’t matter so much what religion you follow? Do you believe everyone who sincerely does his best will go to heaven? That isn’t true. Did you notice what God says about your good works, sincere though you may be? He compares them to filthy rags! Quit doing things your own way and come to Jesus.

MEMORIZE:

“All our righteous acts are like filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:6, NIV

**YOU CAN BE SINCERE—
BUT WRONG**

THE GREATEST MIRACLE

(Read Romans 6:4-11)

Greg's eyes lit up as he listened to Aunt Karen on the phone. "Thank you for praying for Maria," she said. "The infection in her eye has completely cleared up."

"That's really a miracle!" exclaimed Greg as he thought back over the past months. His little cousin had been taking various medications to clear up an eye infection, but the doctor thought he'd have to send Maria to an eye specialist for possible surgery. Greg and his family had been praying every day that God would heal Maria's eye.

"Tonya!" called Greg. "Guess what? Aunt Karen says that Maria's eye is better!"

"Really? Oh, great!" cheered Tonya. "Mom, come and hear about our miracle!"

Mother hurried into the room to see what all the commotion was about. "What happened?" she asked. Tonya and Greg told her about their Aunt Karen's call. "Isn't that neat!" exclaimed Tonya. Then she added thoughtfully, "God answered our prayers, didn't he? I wish he'd do a miracle in my life, too."

Mother smiled. "Actually, he has," she said. "As a matter of fact, God has performed a wonderful miracle in each of your lives."

"I can't remember him healing me," protested Tonya.

"What miracle are you talking about, Mom?" Greg wanted to know.

"I'm talking about the day that each of you received Jesus as Savior," Mother explained. "He healed you on the inside by changing you from children who wanted to do wrong into children who want to do right. That is really the greatest miracle of all." *DLR*



HOW ABOUT YOU?

Has Jesus done a miracle in your life? Would you like him to? Many people today are looking for miracles to prove that God's power is real, but they fail to recognize the greatest miracle of all—a changed life. If you've experienced this miracle, thank God for demonstrating his saving power in your life. If you haven't yet experienced this, talk with a trusted friend or adult.

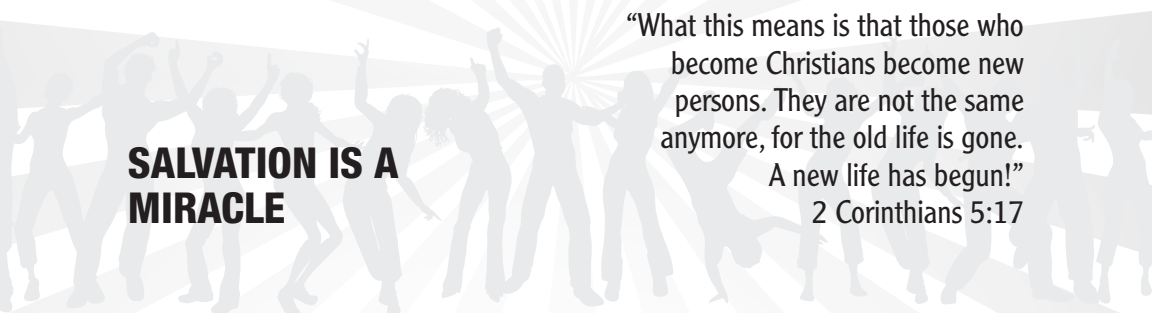
MEMORIZE:

"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone.

A new life has begun!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

**SALVATION IS A
MIRACLE**



JANUARY

4

A SACRIFICIAL GIFT

(Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-9)

“I wonder if that missionary will get the money he needs to go to the mission field,” said Russ after the service one Sunday. “Too bad Mr. Gaylord wasn’t there. He always manages to miss the sermons on giving. I bet he’s never given a sacrificial gift in all his life!” Russ was referring to a rich old man who lived not far from their home and who attended their church.

Connie agreed. “Remember how the missionary spoke about ‘giving till it hurts?’” she asked. “I’ll bet just the thought of giving hurts Mr. Gaylord.” Both children laughed.

“Now, wait a minute, you two,” protested Mother. “Have either of you ever given a sacrificial gift?”

Connie was surprised. “But it’s different with us!” she exclaimed. “We’ve got nothing to sacrifice or we would.”

“Sure we would!” agreed Russ. “If I have anything the Lord wants, I’ll give it.”

“Be careful,” warned Mother. “If you make a promise to the Lord, he expects you to keep it.”

That afternoon the children were playing with their dog, Taffy, when Mr. Gaylord came by. To their surprise, he offered to buy Taffy for ten dollars. “No way!” said Russ.

“Not enough money, eh?” grunted Mr. Gaylord. “Well, all right—I’ll give you \$25 for him, and that’s my final offer.”

Again the children shook their heads. “We wouldn’t sacrifice Taffy for any . . . ,” began Connie. She stopped, startled. The word “sacrifice” reminded her of their earlier conversation. Russ and Connie looked at each other. They knew what they needed to do. With tears in their eyes, they sold Taffy to a very surprised Mr. Gaylord.

Later Mr. Gaylord talked with their mother and learned why they had sold Taffy. “That dog meant all the world to those children,” he exclaimed when he had heard the story, “yet they were willing to give him up for the Lord!” He shook his head in amazement. “This is the most powerful sermon I’ve ever had preached to me,” he added. “If they can give \$25, I can give a thousand. And from now on, I’m going to start giving the way those children have taught me to give.” *HCT*



HOW ABOUT YOU?

Sometimes God asks us to give sacrificially. Ask him what he would have you do, and then do it. After all he has done for you, no sacrifice is too great to make for him!

MEMORIZE:

“God loves the person who gives cheerfully.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

KEEP GROWING

(Read 1 Peter 2:1-3)

“Did I really wear this?” asked Michelle. She held up the tiny, knitted bonnet.

Mother smiled. “Yes,” she said. “Isn’t it amazing how little we are at first and how much we grow?” She picked up a pair of baby shoes. “You wore these when you were about a year old and had just started walking.” Mother rubbed the soft leather. “Before long, you were running everywhere and were ready for a larger pair of shoes.”

Michelle grinned, and they continued to dig through the box of memories. Michelle picked up a small scrapbook and opened it. “You wrote in this, Mom. It says, ‘Michelle’s drawings from ages three to six.’” She examined the pages. “At least my drawings got better each year,” she said.

“Yes, they did,” agreed Mother. “The bigger you grew, the more you learned about how to draw houses, trees, and people.” She picked up a sheet of paper.

“Look. Here’s a list of questions you asked when you were in second grade.”

“Really? That was the year I asked Jesus into my heart,” said Michelle. She looked at the list. “Listen to these, Mom. ‘Are clouds made out of cotton candy?’ ‘Is God in all places?’ ‘Why did Jesus have to die?’”

“All good questions,” said Mother. “Do you know the answers now?”

“Sure,” said Michelle. “I’ve learned a lot since then.”

Mother nodded. “Good,” she said. “You grew physically and mentally, and you grew spiritually, too. That’s as it should be.”

Michelle smiled. “We grow physically and mentally by eating food and studying, and we grow spiritually through things like Bible reading and church, right?” she asked.

“Those things certainly help,” agreed Mother. “And don’t forget that we must not only read but obey God’s Word.”

Michelle held up the scrapbook. “It’s like these drawings,” she said. “The more I grew, the better I drew. And the more I . . . ah . . .” She laughed. “Oops! I can’t think of a rhyme to tell how I grew spiritually.” *SLA*



HOW ABOUT YOU?

You don’t wear the same clothes you wore a few years ago, do you? You’re able to solve harder problems and do better at sports, right? Have you also grown spiritually? Do you know more about Jesus? Memorizing Bible verses, faithful attendance in church and Sunday school, and studying God’s Word will help you grow spiritually.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

MEMORIZE:
“But grow in the special favor and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

JANUARY

6

TWICE ADOPTED

(Read Galatians 4:4-7)

Brenda, the adopted daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Marsh, never got tired of hearing the story about when her parents took her home from the adoption agency. “It happened when you were only six weeks old,” her father told her one evening when she begged to hear the story again. “Since the ride home was a long one, they sent a bottle along with us so we could feed you on the way home. But you kept falling asleep when you were supposed to be drinking your bottle.”

Brenda giggled. “So you kept blowing the horn to try to keep me awake, right?”

“Right,” said Dad. “And I’ll never forget when the agency first called me at work and told me they had a baby for us. I was so excited, I forgot to ask if it was a boy or a girl.” Everyone laughed as the family recalled the happy event.

“What does the word *adopt* mean?” asked Brenda.

“I looked it up once,” said Mother. “The dictionary says it means to voluntarily take a child of other parents as one’s own child.” Mother gave Brenda a hug. “We gladly took you as our own. We’re so thankful the Lord brought you to us.”

“You know, Brenda,” added Dad, “the same thing is true of our relationship to God. The Bible tells us that when we trust the Lord Jesus Christ, God accepts us as his own children. We’re adopted into the family of God.”

“Then I’ve been adopted twice,” said Brenda happily. “I was adopted into your family when I was a baby, and I was adopted into God’s family when I became a Christian. Now I belong to you, and I belong to God. I like being adopted!” *CVm*



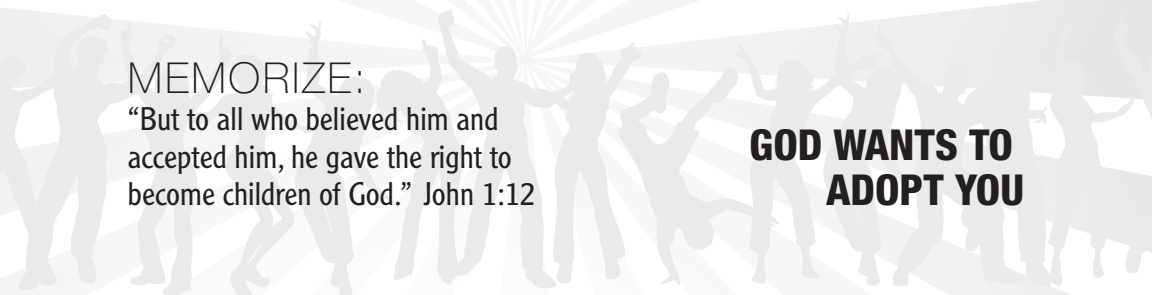
HOW ABOUT YOU?

Have you been adopted into God’s family? He wants you to be a part of his family. But first, you need to accept Jesus as your Savior. If you have questions, ask a trusted friend or adult.

MEMORIZE:

“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

**GOD WANTS TO
ADOPT YOU**



JANUARY
7

HANDLE WITH CARE

(Read Luke 12:16-21)

Crash! The sound of shattering glass echoed through the house. Both Randy and his mother ran into the kitchen. “Oh, Jennifer, you didn’t!” Mother exclaimed when they saw the little girl looking in dismay at pieces of a crystal vase scattered all over the floor. “I told you not to touch that! You’ve broken my new vase!”

“I didn’t mean to,” Jennifer sobbed. “I just wanted to hold it.”

Mother nodded. “I see that,” she said. “Right now I want you to go wait in your room before you get cut on this glass. I’ll be there to talk to you in a minute, but first I need to get this picked up. Randy, would you get out the vacuum for me, please?”

As they worked, Randy shook his head. “Jennifer should have known better than to pick up the vase,” he said. “But since she did pick it up, she should have hung on tight!”

“That’s true,” agreed Mother. She looked thoughtful. “I can’t help but think of something else that we all are holding in our hands—something people often let slip away,” she added. Randy looked at his empty hands in bewilderment. “Our souls are in our hands,” continued Mother. “The soul is the most valuable thing we possess, yet people play with it so carelessly. Many are like the rich fool Jesus talked about—interested only in having enough to eat, having a good time, and being popular. Remember, Son, you need to handle your soul with care.” *BJW*



HOW ABOUT YOU?

Are you being careless with your soul? It’s that special something inside your body that will live forever. It’s worth more than the whole world! Your soul is in your care. It’s up to you to decide if your soul will go to heaven. To find out more, ask a trusted friend or adult.

YOUR SOUL IS VALUABLE

MEMORIZE:

“And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process?” Mark 8:36

JANUARY

8

MORE THAN MILK

(Read Hebrews 5:12-14)

“Lindy, have you memorized your Bible verse for church?” asked Mom.

“Yeah, but church isn’t fun anymore,” grumbled Lindy.

“Why not?” asked Mom, spooning mashed carrot into baby Robyn’s mouth.

“Things are just different,” replied Lindy. “Now we have to read right from the Bible and memorize verses and . . .” She paused as baby Robyn made a gagging sound. “What’s the matter, Robyn?” asked Lindy as she tapped a spoon on the high chair, trying to distract her baby sister.

“She’s so used to milk and cereal and juices that she’s finding it a bit difficult to handle lumps,” explained Mom.

“Poor Robyn,” said Lindy sympathetically. She turned to her mother. “Why not just let her have milk then?”

“Because she’s no longer a tiny baby,” said Mom. “Robyn has to get used to taking solid food if she’s to grow and be healthy.”

“Oh,” said Lindy. She stroked her sister’s cheek. “Eat up, Robyn. You’ve got to get big and strong soon so you can play with me!”

Mom again held the spoon to the baby’s mouth. “You’re having the same kind of trouble as Robyn,” she observed.

“Me!” exclaimed Lindy indignantly. “I have no problem swallowing my food!”

“Not your physical food,” agreed Mom, “but how about your spiritual food? When you were a baby in the faith, you were fed ‘milk’—cute little songs, simple Bible stories, fun-to-do drawings and handwork. Now that you’re growing up, milk alone isn’t enough, and you need solid food—things like more difficult Bible verses to study and memorize.” *MTF*



HOW ABOUT YOU?

Are you having trouble with the “lumps” in your spiritual diet? Do you feel like the Bible is too hard to understand, like church lasts too long, or like it’s more fun to play than to learn Bible verses? Remember, God wants you to grow up on the inside and the outside.

MEMORIZE:

“Brothers, stop thinking like children.

In regard to evil be infants, but
in your thinking be adults.”

1 Corinthians 14:20, NIV

GROW IN THE LORD

IT'S A FACT

(Read 1 John 5:9-13)

Sherri sat in her science class, nibbling the end of her pencil, but her mind was still on the message she had heard in church the day before. It was about how all have sinned and need Jesus as Savior. Sherri sighed. *I know I'm a sinner, and I have asked Jesus to forgive me*, she thought. *I know the Bible says he will, but I wonder if I should ask him to forgive me again. I really don't feel like I'm a Christian.* Actually, Sherri often didn't feel like she was a Christian, so several times before, she had confessed her sin and told Jesus she trusted him to forgive her.

Suddenly Sherri's thoughts were interrupted as she heard her teacher, Mr. Shanks, saying, "Did you know you're spinning right now? Like a top, the earth spins on its axis, making a complete rotation every 24 hours. The axis is an imaginary line that connects the North Pole and the South Pole. The earth also travels around the sun at an average speed of 66,600 miles an hour. It takes 365 days to make the 595 million-mile circuit. Those are the facts. So even though we don't feel it, we're not only moving, we're spinning!"

Wow! thought Sherri. She was impressed. Suddenly another thought struck her. *Even though I don't feel like I'm spinning, scientists say that I am. And even though I don't feel like I'm a Christian, the Bible says I am! And the Bible is more accurate than science.*

That evening Dad finished family devotions by asking Sherri to read several verses from 1 John (see today's Scripture). After reading the verses, Sherri smiled and told her family what she had learned about the earth in science class. "I believe what the scientists say about the earth moving and spinning, and I believe what God says about salvation," she told them. "It's a fact that the earth is spinning even though I can't feel it, and it's also a fact that I've accepted Jesus as my Savior—so I'm a Christian even though I might not always feel like I am. It doesn't depend on my feelings at all." NAT



HOW ABOUT YOU?

Do you know you have eternal life? You can be sure of it. The Bible says you have eternal life if you've trusted in Jesus Christ to be your Savior. Rely on the fact of God's Word, not on your feelings.

BELIEVE GOD'S WORD

MEMORIZE:

"So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son does not have life." 1 John 5:12

JANUARY 10

NO EXCUSE

(Read Romans 3:19-23)

“Come on, Shannon!” Nicole urged her older sister. “You can make the light.”

Shannon grinned. “OK. Hang on!” With a burst of speed, they went through the traffic light just after it turned red.

Shannon groaned as she noticed a police car in the rearview mirror. Nicole turned, and she saw it, too. She felt guilty as she remembered how she had urged Shannon to go through the changing light. They pulled to the side of the road in response to the flashing police signal, and the officer approached their car. Soon the policeman was driving away, leaving the girls staring at the traffic ticket Shannon held in her hand.

When the girls’ parents learned about the ticket, Shannon made excuses. “I don’t see why that policeman couldn’t have just overlooked it,” she said. “If the light was red, it had only just turned! Besides, all I did is go through that one little red light when no cars were coming anyway! It’s not like I robbed a bank or murdered somebody.”

Mom shook her head. “It was foolish and dangerous and wrong to go through a changing light,” she said. “You broke the law, and now you have to pay.”

“That’s right,” agreed Dad as he looked at the ticket. “Your excuses remind me of people who think they aren’t bad enough to miss heaven. They think they don’t need to be saved from their sins. But everyone who is honest has to admit he’s done at least one wrong thing. So he’s a lawbreaker, and the fine must be paid.” Dad handed the ticket back to Shannon. “You’ll have to pay this fine yourself—but, thank God, Jesus already has paid the fine for your sins.” *PR*



HOW ABOUT YOU?

Do you think you can get into heaven just because you haven’t done very many wrong things? Have you ever told one lie? Disobeyed just once? Had a bad thought? Done just one wrong thing? Then God says you’re guilty—you’ve broken his law. Only Jesus could pay the “fine.” He did this on the cross. Talk to a trusted friend or adult if you have more questions about what having a relationship with Jesus means.

MEMORIZE:

“And the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as the person who has broken all of God’s laws.” James 2:10

**ONE WRONG
BRINGS GUILT**

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