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Special thanks to Child Evangelism Fellowship President Reese Kauffman, Marshall J. Pennell, Stephen Bates, Dr. A. A. Baker and the CEF worldwide family for their input, prayers, and support.

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ISBN 0-8423-7206-7

Printed in the United States of America

07 06 05 04 03 02
6 5 4 3 2 1

ARE YOU READY FOR AN ADVENTURE?

Getting to know God is a great adventure! Did you know that God wants you to spend time with him each day? He does! Some people call that special time with God a “quiet time” or “devotions.” It’s a time to quietly sit and read and think about God and to talk to him in prayer.

The One Year Book of Real Life Encounters with God has been written to help you in your quiet time. Each devotional will help you to learn more about God, about yourself, and about the world around you. The best part is that there’s a new devotional adventure every day of the year!

Choose a special time each day for your quiet time—maybe when you first wake up in the morning or just before you go to bed at night. Be sure you have this book, a pen or pencil, and your Bible if you have one.

Are you ready to start on your adventure? Here’s a road map to help you!

YOUR FIRST STOP—DEVOTIONAL STATION!

Here’s what to do each day . . . starting with January 1!

- Talk to God. Ask him to help you to understand the things you will be reading during your quiet time.
- Read the Bible memory verse. It’s at the side of the page. If you have a Bible, try to find the verse for yourself. See how quickly you can memorize this verse!
- Read the devotional. Each devotional will answer an important question such as: *Who is God? Does God always answer prayer? Why should I obey God when others don’t?* Take your time reading the devotional and think about what it says.
- Write your answer. Read the question following the devotional and write or draw your answer. This helps you remember what you’ve learned!
- Talk to God again. There’s a prayer starter at the end of each devotional that

can help you, but you can also make up your own prayer. You can pray about other things too. Thank God for all he does for you. Talk to God about problems or ask him to help you or someone you love. God is looking forward to hearing from you!

But that's not all! There are more exciting places to visit on your adventure!

MEMORY ZONE

Special pages scattered throughout *The One Year Book of Real Life Encounters with God* list some great Bible verses for you to read. See how many of these verses you can memorize. Let a friend or family member test you to see if you can say all the verses on a page.

ACTIVITY CENTER

At the end of each month of devotionals in *The One Year Book of Real Life Encounters with God*, you'll find a fun activity page. Fill in the missing words or solve the puzzle, and then write about what you've learned.

Wow! You have a whole year's worth of exciting places to visit in The One Year Book of Real Life Encounters with God! Don't wait another day. Turn to today's date and get started on your daily adventures with God!

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January

1

WHO IS GOD?

The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship.

Psalm 19:1

YOU CAN PRAY:

Dear God, thank you for being a great God! Thank you for creating me. Help me to learn more about you so that I will love you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Have you ever wondered who God is? Some people think that God is an old man who lives in the clouds. Others think that he is someone who causes bad things to happen when we do something wrong. Some people think that the sun and stars are gods because they give us light. Other people say, "There is no God."

The Bible, God's Word, tells us that the one true God is a Spirit. He doesn't have a body like you and me.

That's why we can't see him, but he sees and hears and loves. God is everywhere. God is the Creator. He made the world and everything in it—the mountains, oceans, and animals. God also made you and me. We are his most special creation, and he loves us very much.

Grown-ups and children all need God. All people have something inside telling them there is a God. This book will help you learn about God. You will learn how great and wonderful God is. You will learn how to love him and live closer to him even though you cannot see him. Are you ready for the exciting adventure of getting to know God?

WRITE DOWN WHO YOU THINK GOD IS.



ARE THERE MANY GODS?

January

2

Some people worship many gods, but the Bible tells us that there is only one true living God. The Bible says that God is three Persons, but he is one God. That is something we cannot understand, but we know it is true. The Bible teaches us about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are the three Persons.

God the Father lives in heaven, but he is everywhere. He is holy and without sin. God rules over his Creation. He is in control of all things. He loves everyone.

Jesus is God the Son. He died for our sins and rose again. All people can have their sins forgiven if they trust in Jesus as their personal Savior. After Jesus rose from the dead, he went up into heaven. Now Jesus is with his Father, God.

God the Holy Spirit came to earth after Jesus returned to heaven. He helps people to know that they are sinners. Then he comes to live in the hearts of those who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit also helps us understand God's Word, the Bible.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—they are the Trinity. They are three in one. All agree completely.

**CAN YOU NAME THE THREE PERSONS
OF THE TRINITY?**



The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship.
Psalm 19:1

YOU CAN PRAY:

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank you for the Holy Spirit who lives in the hearts of those who believe in Jesus. In Jesus' name. Amen.

January

3

HOW OLD IS GOD?

The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship.

Psalm 19:1

YOU CAN PRAY:

Dear God, thank you that you will never leave me because you are eternal. Thank you that I can trust you because you will always be there for me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Maybe you think that because God created the world, he must be at least two million years old! Wrong! God is eternal. There never has been a time that he has not existed. There will never be a time when he will stop existing.

Think of a circle. You cannot tell where the circle begins and ends. It is one continuous circle. A circle can remind you that God is eternal. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit always have existed and always will. We have a hard time imagining that.

The Bible says, "You are God, without beginning or end" (Psalm 90:2). How long is that? It is forever. If you have believed in Jesus as your Savior, God has given you eternal life. Will it ever end? No! You are God's child forever! God wants to guide your life. Because he is eternal—he always has been and always will be—he can see what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen. What a guide to have! How great God is!

Will you trust your heavenly Father who is eternal?

You cannot see what will happen in the future, but God sees and wants to direct your life.

HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN TO A FRIEND THAT GOD IS ETERNAL?



HOW POWERFUL IS GOD?

January
4

The 4.5 million-pound spaceship Columbia blasted off with a long fiery tail. Two minutes later, it had reached an altitude of 23 miles. It circled the globe at 17,000 miles per hour. Imagine the power that it took to push that huge rocket through space at that speed!

Did you know God is more powerful than that? The Bible says “his power is great” (Nahum 1:3). He made the heavens and earth. God spoke and it was there! He is almighty. He rules over all nations. God’s power has no limits. He can make anything happen.

The Bible tells about Abraham and Sarah. God promised them that they would have many children, but no children were born. One day, God sent an angel to Abraham when he and Sarah were almost 100 years old. The angel told him that the following year Sarah would have a son. That was impossible! When Sarah laughed, the angel said, “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14). Sure enough, Sarah had a son! Because God is all-powerful, he could make this impossible thing happen. The next time you have a problem, remember that God is very powerful and wants to help you.



The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship.
Psalm 19:1

YOU CAN PRAY:

Dear God, you are the mighty God! Help me to trust you when I have a problem that seems impossible. Help me to remember that you are Ruler over all. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**CAN YOU NAME SOME WAYS THAT GOD
IS POWERFUL?**

January

5

WHY DID GOD

CREATE PEOPLE?

When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:12

YOU CAN PRAY:

Dear God, thank you for creating me. I love you and praise you because you are so great. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Have you ever wondered where all the people on earth came from? God made them all! After God made the beautiful earth, he made one man. He made that man out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. God called that man Adam. Later, God caused Adam to sleep and took a rib from his side to make the first woman. God gave Adam this woman, Eve, to be his wife. Adam and Eve lived in the beautiful garden that God made.

Soon Adam and Eve had many children. When the children grew up, they had children. Soon there were many people on the earth. Today there are so many people it is hard to count them all!

God did not create people because he was lonely. He made us so that we could love him and praise him. The Bible says, "How great is the Lord, and how much we should praise him" (Psalm 48:1). God wants people to praise him because he is great and good.

When you see all that God has made, you can say, "How great God is!" You can praise him when you pray. Tell him that you love him and that you need him. You can never praise God enough.

WRITE DOWN THREE THINGS YOU CAN PRAISE GOD FOR TODAY.



HOW DID SIN ENTER THE WORLD?

January
6

God made everything in the world beautiful and good. But many things in our world are not beautiful and good anymore. There is sickness, sadness, fighting, and killing. Why did things go so wrong?

God placed the very first people, Adam and Eve, in the Garden. He told them they were not to eat the fruit from one certain tree or they would die. God's enemy, Satan, tricked Eve into eating the fruit. Adam ate it too. In choosing to disobey God, they sinned.

God told Adam that they would have to leave the Garden. They would have pain and sickness and their bodies would die. Sin separated Adam and Eve from God, who is holy and perfect.

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, everyone is born sinful and separated from God. The Bible says "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). Sin is thinking, saying, or doing things that break God's laws. It is sin in your heart that causes you to do bad things. You cannot get rid of your sin by yourself. You deserve to be punished for your sin. Only God can forgive you so that you will not be separated from him forever.

WHAT SAD THINGS HAPPENED WHEN ADAM AND EVE SINNED?



When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:12

YOU CAN PRAY:

Dear God, thank you that you love me even though I have sinned. Thank you that you forgive me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

January
7

WHAT DID GOD DO ABOUT SIN?

When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:12

YOU CAN PRAY:

Dear God, thank you for sending your only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for me. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The most wonderful story in all the world is the story of what God did so that we could have our sins forgiven.

After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Savior. You and I know today that the Savior is the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son. He was born into this world as a baby. When he became a man, he gave himself to die on the cross for our sins.

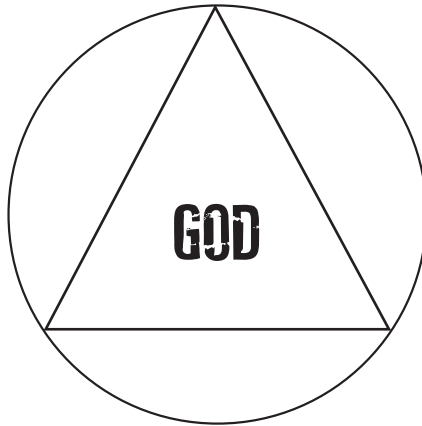
As Jesus died, God placed upon him the sins of the whole world. The Bible says, "God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus did not deserve to die. He had no sin of his own. He was perfect, but he took your place on the cross. If Jesus had not given his precious blood to take your punishment, you could never be forgiven of your sins. Jesus died and was buried. Three days later God brought him back to life. Jesus later returned to heaven where he is alive today. God kept his promise to pay for sin. He sent his own beloved Son to be the Savior of the world.

WRITE DOWN WHY YOU THINK JESUS HAD TO DIE.



THE TRINITY

The Lord is God in three persons.
see if you can fill in the blanks below.



God the
F _____

God the
S _____

God the
H _____ S _____

I show my reverence for God by . . .

THINKING IT OVER!

God the Father

Write the answers to these questions from your devotionals in the blanks.

1. What does it mean that God is eternal?

2. What is sin?

3. How can you be forgiven?

4. What does "God is holy" mean?

5. List two of God's rules for us:

6. How can you know God will keep his promises?

If you need help, you can look back in this month's devotionals. The number in () tells you which devotional to check for each question. 1. (3) 2. (6) 3. (8) 4. (10) 5. (13) 6. (21)