

Visit Tyndale's exciting Web site at www.cool2read.com

For more information about Karyn Henley, visit www.karynhenley.com

Copyright © 1998, 2004 by Karyn Henley. All rights reserved. Exclusively administered by Child Sensitive Communication, LLC.

For permission to copy excerpts from this book, contact Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 80, Wheaton, Illinois 60189.

Bible story excerpts and weekly Scripture verses are taken from *Day by Day Kid's Bible*, copyright © 1998 by Karyn Henley. All rights reserved. Exclusively administered by Child Sensitive Communication, LLC.

Edited by Betty Free Swanberg

Designed by Jacqueline Noe

First published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., as *God's Story and Me* © 1998 by Karyn Henley. All rights reserved. Exclusively administered by Child Sensitive Communication, LLC.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Henley, Karyn.

[God's story and me]

Day by day devotions / Karyn Henley.

p. cm.

Originally published: God's story and me. c1998.

Includes index.

Summary: Presents daily devotional readings and prayers arranged by weekly themes covering such topics as unending love, forgiveness, patience, and God's promises.

ISBN 0-8423-7485-X

1. Christian children--Prayer-books and devotions--English. 2. Devotional calendars--Juvenile literature.

[1. Prayer books and devotions. 2. Devotional calendars.] I. Title.

BV4870 .H45 2004

242'.62--dc22

2003015509

Printed in the United States of America

10 09 08 07 06 05 04

7 6 5 4 3 2 1



CONTENTS

WEEK 1
NOW AND ALWAYS 1
 I'll never leave you. (*Hebrews 13:5*)

WEEK 2
A KEEPER OF PROMISES 8
 God keeps all his promises. (*Psalms 145:13*)

WEEK 3
KEEP FOLLOWING GOD 16
 Don't get tired of doing good things. (*Galatians 6:9*)

WEEK 4
COMING NEAR TO GOD 23
 Come close to God. Then he will come close to you. (*James 4:8*)

WEEK 5
I'M A LETTER FROM JESUS 31
 Seeing you is like reading a letter from Jesus. This letter wasn't written with ink. It was written with God's living Spirit. (*2 Corinthians 3:3*)

WEEK 6
LOVE IS 39
 Love never fails. (*1 Corinthians 13:8*)

WEEK 7
WITH ALL MY HEART 47
 Love God with all your heart. Love him with all your soul. Love him with all your strength. (*Deuteronomy 6:5*)

WEEK 8
THINKING, THINKING, THINKING 54
 Think about things that are true and good. Think about things that are right and clean. Think about beautiful things. Think about things you can look up to. If anything is the best, think about it. If it's something to cheer for, think about it. (*Philippians 4:8*)

WEEK 9
I FORGIVE YOU 62
 Forgive each other. Forgive like Jesus forgave you. (*Colossians 3:13*)





WEEK 10

TALKING WITH GOD 70

Always pray. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

WEEK 11

A SPECIAL PLACE OF WORSHIP 78

Your body is the Holy Spirit's worship house. The Holy Spirit is in you. (1 Corinthians 6:19)

WEEK 12

GOD GAVE HIMSELF 85

God loved the world very much. He loved it so much that he gave his only Son. (John 3:16)

WEEK 13

WHAT IS GRACE? 92

God's kind love saves you when you believe. (Ephesians 2:8)

WEEK 14

I BELIEVE 99

So say it with your mouth. "Jesus is Lord." Believe that God made him come back to life again. Then you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

WEEK 15

NOTHING CAN TAKE GOD AWAY 106

Nothing in the world can keep God's love from us. (Romans 8:39)

WEEK 16

NEW EVERY DAY 113

If anyone follows Jesus, he has been made new. The old is gone. The new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

WEEK 17

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . LOVE 120

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. . . (Galatians 5:22)

WEEK 18

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . JOY 127

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. Showing joy. . . (Galatians 5:22)

WEEK 19

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . PEACE 135

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. Showing joy. Having peace. . . (Galatians 5:22)





WEEK 20

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . PATIENCE (PAY-SHUNCE) . . . 142

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. Showing joy. Having peace. Waiting quietly. . . . (*Galatians 5:22*)

WEEK 21

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . KINDNESS 150

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. Showing joy. Having peace. Waiting quietly. Being kind. . . . (*Galatians 5:22*)

WEEK 22

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . GOODNESS 158

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. Showing joy. Having peace. Waiting quietly. Being kind. Being good. . . . (*Galatians 5:22*)

WEEK 23

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . FAITHFULNESS 166

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. Showing joy. Having peace. Waiting quietly. Being kind. Being good. Keeping promises. . . . (*Galatians 5:22*)

WEEK 24

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . GENTLENESS 174

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. Showing joy. Having peace. Waiting quietly. Being kind. Being good. Keeping promises. Treating people with care. . . . (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

WEEK 25

THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IS . . . SELF-CONTROL 181

You can be like a good tree growing good fruit. Loving. Showing joy. Having peace. Waiting quietly. Being kind. Being good. Keeping promises. Treating people with care. Having control of yourself. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

WEEK 26

FUN AND GAMES 188

A happy heart can make you feel well. (*Proverbs 17:22*)

WEEK 27

FRIENDS 195

Being around wise people makes you wise. Being around fools hurts you. (*Proverbs 13:20*)

WEEK 28

OBEYING 202

Children, obey your mother and father. (*Ephesians 6:1*)





WEEK 29

HAPPY WHERE I AM 210

Do everything without fussing and fighting. (*Philippians 2:14*)

WEEK 30

TELLING THE TRUTH 217

Tell the truth to each other. (*Ephesians 4:25*)

WEEK 31

ANGER! 225

“Don’t sin when you’re angry.” Get rid of your anger before the sun sets. (*Ephesians 4:26*)

WEEK 32

YOU CAN GO FIRST 233

Don’t do anything because you feel you’re better than others. Instead, look at other people as being better than you. (*Philippians 2:3*)

WEEK 33

I HOPE IN GOD 240

God is the God of hope. Trust in him. Then he can fill you with joy and peace. Hope can flow in and out of you by the power of God’s Spirit. (*Romans 15:13*)

WEEK 34

YOU CAN DO IT! 248

Let’s think about how to help each other love. Let’s think about how to help each other do good. (*Hebrews 10:24*)

WEEK 35

SAYING NO TO WRONG 255

God won’t let a sin come to your mind unless he knows you can say no to it. . . . God gives you a way to say no. (*1 Corinthians 10:13-14*)

WEEK 36

FEELING GOOD ABOUT MYSELF 262

My help comes from God. He made heaven and earth. (*Psalms 121:2*)

WEEK 37

IMPORTANT PEOPLE 270

Show people that they’re important. Love God’s people. Treat God as the most important one. Say good things about the king. (*1 Peter 2:17*)





WEEK 38
A CHEERFUL LOOK 278
 Looking happy gives people joy. (*Proverbs 15:30*)

WEEK 39
EVEN A CHILD 285
 Even children show what they're like by how they act. You can tell they are good if what they do is right. (*Proverbs 20:11*)

WEEK 40
SOMEONE GREATER 293
 I am what I am because of God's kind love. (*1 Corinthians 15:10*)

WEEK 41
OUT OF MY MOUTH 301
 Saying the right things makes everyone happy. A word said at the right time is good. (*Proverbs 15:23*)

WEEK 42
LISTEN! 308
 People should be in a hurry to listen. They shouldn't be in such a hurry to talk. (*James 1:19*)

WEEK 43
HARVEST TIME 316
 A farmer will get the kind of plant he planted. It's the same with you. (*Galatians 6:7*)

WEEK 44
I WILL NOT BE AFRAID 323
 God is with me. I will not be afraid. (*Psalms 118:6*)

WEEK 45
SIN FOOLS PEOPLE 331
 Help each other want to do what's right every day. Don't let sin's lies make your hearts hard so you don't care about God. (*Hebrews 3:13*)

WEEK 46
I CAN SERVE! 338
 [Jesus said,] "Even I didn't come to earth to be served. I came to serve." (*Mark 10:45*)





WEEK 47

GIVING THANKS 346

We should thank God. We should worship him and tell how great he is. (*Hebrews 12:28*)

WEEK 48

A CHEERFUL GIVER 354

People should give because they want to, not because they have to. God loves people who are happy to give. (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)

WEEK 49

IS IT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE? 362

God said, "... People only see what others look like. I see what's in their hearts."
(*1 Samuel 16:7*)

WEEK 50

PUTTING GOD FIRST 370

Put God first in your life. Then he will make sure you have everything you need.
(*Matthew 6:33*)

WEEK 51

WISE THINKING 378

Nothing you want can be better than being wise. (*Proverbs 8:11*)

WEEK 52

GOD'S PLANS 386

God will do what he planned for me. (*Psalms 138:8*)

INDEX OF BIBLE STORIES 395

INDEX OF WEEKLY THEME VERSES 403






Week 1
NOW AND ALWAYS

I'll never leave you. Hebrews 13:5

Some Things You'll Learn This Week

- *God is with you now.*
 - *God will always be with you.*
 - *God cares for you and watches over you wherever you go.*
- 



Monday

Read "From Children's Mouths," page 200 in the *Day by Day Kid's Bible*. Or read this part of the story:

*Lord, our Lord, your name is great all over the earth!
I see the sky that you made with your hands.
I see the moon and stars that you put up there.
Then I wonder why you even think about people.
I wonder why you care about us.
But you made us only a little lower than the beings from heaven.
You made us important to you.
You put people in charge of everything you made.*

Psalms 8:1, 3-6



WATCH THE DEEP, dark night sky. Look at the tiny pinpoints of winking light. Wonder at the stars and the moon and the planets. Do they make you feel small? King David felt small when he looked at the night sky. That's why he told God, "I see the moon and stars that you put up there. Then I wonder why you even think about people."

But God does think about people. God loved David and took care of him. God loves you and takes care of you, too. You may sometimes feel very

small. You may feel that you're not important. But you are important to God. He says, "I'll never leave you."

What important job does David say that God gave people to do? What are some ways people do this job? How do you help with this job?

Dear Father God, you are so great. Thank you for seeing me and hearing me. Thank you for caring about me. Help me to know that you are always near.



Tuesday

Read "A Ladder up to Heaven," page 25 in the *Day by Day Kid's Bible*. Or read this part of the story:

Jacob left his home and began his trip to Laban's. The sun went down before he got there. So Jacob stopped to rest. He took a stone and used it as a pillow. He lay down for the night.

That night Jacob had a dream. He saw a ladder that went all the way up to heaven. God's angels were going up and down the ladder.

God stood at the top of the ladder. God said, "I am the Lord."

God also said, "I'll be with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. I won't leave you. I will keep all my promises to you." *Genesis 28:5-13, 15*



LAUGHING AND PLAYING with friends can be fun. Being with your family can be fun too. But when no one is around, it's easy to get lonely and sad. Jacob felt lonely until God showed him that he wasn't really alone.

When do you feel lonely? What do you do to help yourself feel better? Are you really alone? What can you do to remind yourself that you are never alone?

God told Jacob, "I'll be with you. I will watch over you everywhere you go. I won't leave you." Jacob was not alone, and you are not alone. God will be with you. He will watch over you everywhere you go. He won't leave you.

Dear God, thank you for being with me. Thank you for watching over me everywhere I go. Help me to remember that I'm never alone.



Wednesday

Read "Hiding on the Roof," page 95 in the *Day by Day Kid's Bible*. Or read this part of the story:

God told Joshua, ". . . Now get ready to go across the Jordan River. You'll go into the land that I'm giving my people. I'll give you the land you walk on. This is what I promised to Moses. Nobody will be able to come against you all your life. I will never leave you. I will never forget about you.

"So be strong. Be very brave. Be careful to obey the laws Moses gave you. Think about the laws day and night. Then you'll do what they say. You'll do a good job in whatever you do." *Joshua 1:1-3, 5-8*



PICKING UP TOYS can be a hard job. Washing dishes can be a hard job. Even saying you're sorry can be a hard job. It's not as hard if someone helps. But did you ever have to do a hard job all by yourself? Joshua had a hard job to do. He had to lead God's people into a new land. They had to fight for their land.

But Joshua did not have to do his hard job all by himself. God was with him. God told him, "I will never leave you. I will never forget about you."

What hard jobs do you have to do? How can you do those jobs? Will you have to do them by yourself? God will never leave you. He will never forget about you.

Dear Father God, thank you for helping me do hard jobs. Help me remember that you will never leave me or forget me.



Thursday

Read "Afraid in the Desert," page 283 in the *Day by Day Kid's Bible*. Or read this part of the story:

"Go stand on the mountain," said God. "I'm going to pass by."

A strong wind blew. It was so strong, it broke rocks. But God was not in the wind.

The earth began to shake. But God was not in the shaking earth.

A fire came. But God was not in the fire.

Then Elijah heard a soft, quiet voice.

Elijah pulled his coat over his face. He stood at the opening to the cave.

Then God spoke. "Why are you here, Elijah?"

"I've worked hard for you, God," said Elijah. "But your people have turned away from you. They tore your altars down. They killed your prophets. I'm the only prophet left. Now they're trying to kill me."

"Go back," said God. "Make Jehu king of Israel. Make Elisha the next prophet after you."

Then God said, "I have saved 7,000 people for myself in Israel."
1 Kings 19:11-16, 18



GOD'S SOFT, QUIET voice told Elijah that he wasn't alone. Did you ever feel like Elijah? Did you ever think you were the only one choosing to do what's right? How did that make you feel?

Elijah thought he was the only one who followed God. He felt scared. So he ran away and hid. But he found out that he was not alone. God was there. God had saved lots of other people who followed him too.

When have you felt as if you were the only one? What made you feel that way? What can you do about it? How can you remember that God is with you?

God was with Elijah. God is with you, too. He said, "I'll never leave you."

Dear Father God, sometimes I feel alone. Sometimes I think no one else feels the way I do. Help me to remember that you are with me no matter what.



Friday

Read "A Chariot and Horses of Fire," page 294 in the *Day by Day Kid's Bible*. Or read this part of the story:

All of a sudden, horses of fire appeared. They pulled a chariot of fire. It went between Elijah and Elisha. Then a wind came, turning around and around. It took Elijah up to heaven.

Elisha saw it. He cried, "My father! Israel's horses and chariots!"

Elisha didn't see Elijah anymore. He tore his own coat apart. Then he picked up Elijah's coat. It had fallen from Elijah.

Elisha walked back to the Jordan River. He hit the water with Elijah's coat. He said, "Where is Elijah's God?"

The water moved apart for him. Elisha walked across on the dry ground. *2 Kings 2:11-14*



HORSES OF FIRE pulling a fast chariot must have surprised Elisha. How would you have felt? Maybe Elisha stood there with his eyes wide and his mouth open! Then the wind rushed past, and his friend was gone. Elisha was all alone.

But do you think Elisha was really alone? He hit the river with his friend's coat. He asked, "Where is Elijah's God?" Where was Elijah's God? Elijah's God was Elisha's God. Elijah's God is your God too. God was with Elijah and Elisha. God is with you, too.






You may sometimes feel very small. You may sometimes feel alone. You may think you have a hard job to do all by yourself. But God says, "I'll never leave you." You are never alone.

Dear God, thank you for being with me all the time. Thank you for going with me everywhere. Thank you for helping me and taking care of me. Help me to always remember that I am never alone. Help me to remember that you will never leave me.



SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO THIS WEEK



-  **Look at old pictures of you and your family.** Talk about some of the good times and hard times you've had together. Think about how God has been with you all the time.
-  **Make moon cookies.** Use a roll of sugar-cookie dough from the food store. Put a spoon of dough on some waxed paper. Pat it flat into a circle. This makes a full moon. Cut the circle in half to make half moons. Shape them into C shapes for fingernail moons. (Or make star cookies with star-shaped cookie cutters.) Bake them the way it says on the cookie package. Think about the moon and stars David saw in the sky. (See Monday's reading.)
-  **Get a big rock** and clean it. Write today's date on it with paint or a marker that won't come off. Jacob stood up the rock he slept on. Set your rock in a place where you can see it often. It will help you remember that God has been your helper, just as he was Jacob's helper. (See Tuesday's reading.)
-  **Play "Hide-and-Seek."** Think about how Elijah hid. Was he all alone? (See Thursday's reading.)
-  **Play "Turning Wind"** outdoors or in a big room with nothing to bump into. One person is the wind. He carefully holds another person's arm. He swings that person around and then lets go. The other person falls away and has to freeze still wherever he lands. Think about the wind that took Elijah to heaven. (See Friday's reading.)



INDEX OF BIBLE STORIES

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 2 Adam's Helper Week 46	338
Genesis 3 The Snake's Trick Week 45	331
Genesis 4 The First Children Week 31	229
Genesis 8;19 A World under Water Week 2	8
Genesis 11 The Tower Week 40	293
Genesis 12 Abram's Travels Begin Week 28	206
Genesis 13 Lot Chooses His Land Week 45	332
Genesis 16 Sarai Tries to Get a Son Week 20	147
Genesis 17 A New Name Week 2	9
Genesis 18; 21 Abraham's Visitors; Two Sons Week 38	281
Genesis 20 Abraham Lies Again Week 30	220
Genesis 24 Looking for a Wife Week 48	356
Genesis 25 Twins Week 50	371
Genesis 27 Jacob Tricks Isaac Week 30	221
Genesis 28 A Ladder up to Heaven Week 1	2
Genesis 29 Jacob in the Land of the East Week 32	235
Genesis 29 Working for a Wife Week 20	144
Genesis 29; 30 Lots of Babies Week 24	175
Genesis 33 Meeting Esau Week 9	63
Genesis 37; 39 The Dreamer; At the Captain's House Week 23	166
Genesis 40 Two Strange Dreams Week 23	168
Genesis 41 The King's Dreams Week 51	382
Genesis 42 Visitors from Canaan; The Test Week 25	182
Genesis 43 No More Wheat; Dinner at Joseph's House Week 49	362
Genesis 45 A Silver Cup; Telling the Secret Week 24	174
Genesis 50 A Trip to the Cave Week 34	249
Exodus 2 The Princess and the Basket Week 39	285
Exodus 3; 4 Fire!; The Snake Week 36	262
Exodus 8 Snakes and Blood; Frogs, Bugs, and Flies Week 3	19
Exodus 10 Locusts and Darkness Week 20	145
Exodus 12 Getting Ready for God to Pass Over Week 12	85
Exodus 14; 15 Chased by the Army! Week 18	127
Exodus 15; 16 Making a Fuss for Food Week 29	211
Exodus 17 Water from a Rock Week 46	339
Exodus 18 Jethro's Good Idea Week 46	340
Exodus 20 Ten Rules Week 28	203
Exodus 22 Rules for Treating People Right Week 37	271
Exodus 32 The Gold Calf Week 30	222
Exodus 33 Moses Sees God's Back Week 4	27
Leviticus 19 Rules for Treating People Right Week 37	271
Leviticus 23 Rules about Worship Week 26	188
Numbers 11 Piles of Quail Week 29	214
Numbers 13; 14 A Look into the New Land; Scared of the People Week 34	248
Numbers 20 Finding More Water Week 31	226
Numbers 22; 23 An Angel and a Donkey; From These Mountains of Rock Week 41	303



INDEX OF WEEKLY THEME VERSES

OLD TESTAMENT

Deuteronomy 6:5 Week 7	47
1 Samuel 16:7 Week 49	362
Psalms 118:6 Week 44	323
Psalms 121:2 Week 36	262
Psalms 138:8 Week 52	386
Psalms 145:13 Week 2	8
Proverbs 8:11 Week 51	378
Proverbs 13:20 Week 27	195
Proverbs 15:23 Week 41	301
Proverbs 15:30 Week 38	278
Proverbs 17:22 Week 26	188
Proverbs 20:11 Week 39	285

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 6:33 Week 50	370
Mark 10:45 Week 46	338
John 3:16 Week 12	85
Romans 8:39 Week 15	106
Romans 10:9 Week 14	99
Romans 15:13 Week 33	240
1 Corinthians 6:19 Week 11	78
1 Corinthians 10:13-14 Week 35	255
1 Corinthians 13:8 Week 6	39
1 Corinthians 15:10 Week 40	293
2 Corinthians 3:3 Week 5	31
2 Corinthians 5:17 Week 16	113
2 Corinthians 9:7 Week 48	354
Galatians 5:22 Weeks 17-23	120-166
Galatians 5:22-23 Weeks 24-25	174-181
Galatians 6:7 Week 43	316
Galatians 6:9 Week 3	16
Ephesians 2:8 Week 13	92
Ephesians 4:25 Week 30	217
Ephesians 4:26 Week 31	225
Ephesians 6:1 Week 28	202
Philippians 2:3 Week 32	233
Philippians 2:14 Week 29	210
Philippians 4:8 Week 8	54
Colossians 3:13 Week 9	62
1 Thessalonians 5:17 Week 10	70