

The One Year<sup>®</sup>  
Mother  
Daughter  
Devo



Dannah Gresh  
with Janet Mylin



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois

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*For my sweet niece Rebecca,  
who I pray will love God's voice as much as I do.*

*—Aunt Dannah*

*For my mom, Rachel, and my mother-in-law, Fran—  
I love how you love God.*

*—Janet*

Hi, Moms and Daughters!

I love devos!

Since my mom gave me my first daily devotion book when I was in elementary school, I have loved opening up the Bible every day to hear the special things God wants to tell me.

I hope you'll love it too. Whether you're a well-practiced daily student of the Bible or this is the first time you've given it a try, my greatest prayer is that this will be fun for you. If you like it, you'll want more, and daily Bible reading will become a lifelong practice.

My dear friend Janet Mylin helped me write these for you. We worked really hard to make this book unlike any other daily devotion you've ever used. Our answer was to put some fun and unique elements together to help you study the Bible.

***Bible Blast:*** The Bible Blast at the beginning of each devotion is optional. If you really want to dig in deep, open your own Bible and read the Bible Blast Scripture offered just under the date and title of the day's devo. It'll be referenced in the devotion that day and will give you a little extra meat to chew on, but the reading is not necessary. Mom, you might want to use this if you have an older daughter. It's great for building the discipline of opening your own Bible each day.

***Language Lab:*** The Language Lab devotions are easy-to-swallow theology lessons for both of you. You'll learn what big and important words in the Christian faith mean and how God wants you to apply them in your life. You'll find one or two each month.

***Amazing Animals:*** What girl doesn't love animals? Each month includes one or two Amazing Animals devos. On those days, you'll meet some pretty amazing creatures and dig into the Bible to see what they can teach us about God.

***Kickin' Kraft:*** If you love crafts, you'll love these devos. (And if you don't, relax! They're easy and optional.) A couple of times a month, a craft project made from everyday items that you'll find around your house will provide a simple object lesson or reminder to go along with your devotion.

***Meditation Moments:*** It's great that you're doing devotions. I'm so proud of you. Since I also want you to be able to have devotions without my help, we'll take some time to practice meditating on God's Word. Meditation is what I do when I write a devotion for you. I study a Bible verse and then let God guide my thoughts about it through prayer. Meditation is easy, and it's a great habit to form if you love reading your Bible.

So what are we waiting for? Let's dig in!

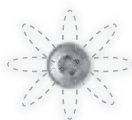
Dannah

# Can You See Where You Are Going?

**Bible Blast:** Read Genesis 12:1-7

*Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.*

PSALM 119:105



I have *the* best dog in the world. She is a huge chocolate Labradoodle named Stormie. She brings me my newspaper every morning and cuddles on my feet when I'm writing books. She's my constant companion. As wonderful as she is, Stormie has one fault: she's a scaredy-cat! Once, my husband, Bob, took her on a survival camping trip. Stormie was scared silly! She whimpered and whined into the wee hours of the morning. Realizing he wasn't going to get any rest, my husband finally stood up and said, "Let's go home, Stormie." Eager to leave, she tore off in the direction of the car. Bob ran after her, jumping over branches and avoiding holes by using his flashlight. Suddenly, Stormie stopped and stood dead still! Bob knew something was wrong. Ever so carefully, he moved the light toward the spot where Stormie was staring. Imagine his shock to find a porcupine hanging on the side of a tree and staring right back at him! He slowly moved toward Stormie, and together they walked *around* the danger.

The Bible is like a flashlight for you and me. It shows us the way to walk in a world that's full of darkness. The Bible is the light to show us where to walk so we won't stumble into things that could hurt us—like that porcupine!

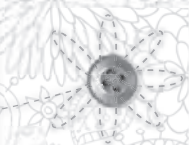
When Abram obeyed God and headed out to the Promised Land, he didn't know where it was. He had to listen to God's voice. He didn't even know he'd gotten to a place where he could see the land until God told him he was there. Pretty cool to have God's voice as your guide, huh? Well, you can have it too! Just read your Bible, and you'll hear God telling you what to do from day to day.

On this first day of the year, make a promise to *use* the Bible together—as mom and daughter—to guide you in every decision you make.

January 1



**Girl Gab:** Mom, share a time when you had a difficult decision to make and the Bible was a "light for your path," giving you a clear answer. Daughter, talk to your mom about a situation at school or in your family that is difficult for you right now. Pray about that situation together and start looking for direction from God in the pages of your Bible.



2 January



**Girl Gab:** Mom, can you remember a time when you told a lie that made things difficult for you? Share that with your daughter. Daughter, tell your mom about a time when you lied and how it made you feel. Pray together and thank God for his forgiveness and make a decision to tell the truth!

## A Tall-Icy-Glass-of-Red-Kool-Aid Story

**Bible Blast:** Read Genesis 12:10-20

*Don't lie to each other. COLOSSIANS 3:9*

Do you know what it's like for a fib to grow out of control? I do. It all started one hot summer afternoon when I was a kid. I needed to use the typewriter in my dad's office. (What's a typewriter? Ask your mom!) I just couldn't stand how hot it was, so I broke the "no food allowed" rule. I made myself a nice tall, icy glass of red Kool-Aid and placed it next to the typewriter. Big mistake. You see, typewriters have this thing called a "return." It's a big clunky piece of metal that "returns" to a starting position when you finish a line of writing. Well, when I hit the "return" button, that thing returned right into my tall, icy glass of red Kool-Aid. I scrubbed and scrubbed and tried my best to hide any trace of the tragedy, but my dad *knew*. (Parents have a sixth sense!) I was so afraid that the punishment would be more than I could stand. When he asked who had spilled Kool-Aid in his office, I said I didn't know. He just smiled knowingly. And then the fib started growing. Oh, it never really came up again. But in my heart that lie was like an inflating balloon just waiting to burst. I'd wake up in the morning and think about it. I'd pour a glass of Kool-Aid and remember. I'd hear my dad coming home from work, and I just knew that this terrible lie stood between us. Finally, I couldn't stand it. I told my dad the truth. He just smiled and said, "Yeah, I knew it was you, but you were doing such a good job punishing yourself that I felt no need to help!" Then he forgave me.

In the Bible, we learn that Abram lied. Why? Because he was afraid! And it caused a lot of trouble. Many people got sick. Abram almost lost his wife to Pharaoh, and Abram and Sarai had to leave Egypt. Lying makes life difficult. That's why God doesn't want you and me to lie. Lying also proves that we've lost faith in God's ability to work things out for us.

Got a tall-icy-glass-of-red-Kool-Aid story in your life? Get rid of the guilt. Confess it today. I'm sure your mom will forgive you just like my dad forgave me.

## Language Lab: What Does “Hallelujah” Mean?

**Bible Blast:** Read Revelation 19:1-8

*I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”*

REVELATION 19:6-7 (NIV)



Have you ever been on a roller coaster? Do you remember going slowly up, up, up the first big hill as your heart started beating faster and butterflies swirled around in your stomach? When you finally began plunging down going super fast, you probably screamed something like “Wa-Hoooooooo!”

*Hallelujah* is like “Wa-Hoooooooo!” But you use *hallelujah* to express your excitement and love for God. You can think of it as a special word reserved just for telling your Creator how awesome he is.

*Hallelujah* means “to be bright, to shine.” It has to do with radiance. The word *radiant* always makes me think of *Charlotte’s Web* when Charlotte weaves that word into her web for everyone to see. Wilbur the pig was definitely clean after his milk bath, but I don’t think he actually glowed! When we praise God, it doesn’t just please him; it changes us. It causes our lives to be radiant. Matthew 5:14 says that you are the light of the world. How can you give off light?

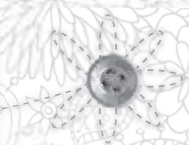
Light is something that helps people see clearly in a dark place. Some lights even give off warmth. When you live a life of *hallelujah*—a life of praising the Lord—other people will see that you’re different. They may even ask why you’re not complaining all the time like everyone else. When you tell them about the hope of Jesus, that’s being a light! People who don’t know Jesus are living in darkness because they haven’t seen the truth. When they begin to see him for who he really is, they begin to walk in light.

So the next time you sing, “Hallelujah,” tell others to put on their sunglasses. You might be radiating!

January 3



**Girl Gab:** Do you know someone who lives a “Hallelujah Life”—a life that glows with praising God in every circumstance? Come up with a creative way to encourage that person today! Listen to or sing a song with the word *hallelujah* in it.



4 January



**Girl Gab:** Mom, get on the Internet with your daughter and look up both of your names. Just Google “meaning of names,” and you’ll find lots of Web sites to choose from. Write your names and their meanings on a piece of paper, and put it on your fridge! Daughter, pray for your mom! Ask God to give her confidence to walk in the power of her name. Sometimes moms need you to do the praying!

## God’s Secret Name for You

**Bible Blast:** Read Genesis 17:1-15

*I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it. REVELATION 2:17*

Names are pretty cool, and they have a lot of meaning. If your name is *Emily*—the number one girl’s name in the United States for the past decade—it means “revival” or “rebirth.” Is your name *Brianna*? That means “noble, strong, and pure.” I like that one a lot and encourage you to live up to your name. *Alexis* is a favorite of mine because I gave it to my own daughter. It’s from ancient Greece and means “defender.” Any girl named *Alexis* should be a defender of God’s truth. I also love the name *Natalie*. It comes from Italy, where the saying “Buon Natale” means “Merry Christmas.” So every time someone says, “Natalie,” they are mentioning the birth of our Savior!

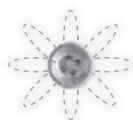
When Abram was ninety years old, he still wasn’t a dad. Whoa! Had God forgotten him? No way! In fact, God appeared to remind Abram of the promise that he would be the father of many. And then God did something really cool. He gave Abram a new name: *Abraham*. His first name—Abram—meant “high father.” What a funny thing that this childless man carried a name about being a dad. (Maybe that’s one reason he wanted to be one so badly.) God changed it to Abraham. Bible scholars say that the new name is hard to understand. Stumped as they are, scholars conclude that the new name means “father of a multitude” and that God made the name by taking the *h* in God’s own Hebrew name, Yahweh, and placing it into Abram’s name. See that? AbraHam. God did that with Sarai, too, when he changed her name to *Sarah*, which means “princess.” Wow! From that day on they’d be saying God’s name when they said their own names!

Do you know that God has a special name for you, too? The book of Revelation tells us that one day, you’ll be given that new name on a white stone. I wonder what yours will be. How very much God loves us to be so personal with us!

# Amazing Animals: Jessica the Hippo

**Bible Blast:** Read 2 Corinthians 11:12-15

*I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve. 2 CORINTHIANS 11:14-15*



It's a sunny, warm day, and you're lying on a blanket in your backyard reading a good book. Curled up next to you is your cute, snuggly pet . . . hippo.

Not what you were thinking? Well, for Tonie in South Africa that's exactly how life is. In the year 2000, a newborn baby hippo washed up on Tonie's lawn. He adopted the lost animal and named her "Jessica." Today Jessica—weighing almost a ton—fits right in with the pet dogs. She loves coffee and sweet potatoes, and she will even wander inside looking for a snack.

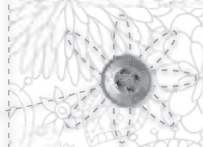
Hippos seem so gentle and adorable. Other than its size, a hippo would be the perfect pet. Right? *Wrong!* Did you know that in Africa, hippos kill more humans than any other wild animal? This is a great mystery because hippopotami are herbivores, plant eaters.

Sometimes the things in life that appear to be harmless are the most dangerous things around. Like, if you get a book from the library, you may not pick the one with the creepy dude on the cover because you know that book will have some seriously evil stuff inside. Instead you pick a book that has a happy boy and girl on the cover. As you read that story, you find yourself thinking that you *need* a boyfriend to be happy or cool, when you know the Bible says true joy is found in the Lord, not in boy-craziness (see Nehemiah 8:10). So even though some things seem harmless, they're putting wrong ideas in our heads. We really need something called "discernment" from God when we're making choices. Discernment is the ability to know what's good and what's evil.

January 5



**Girl Gab:** Mom, you can find some great footage of Jessica the Hippo online. After you watch a clip of this amiable beast, talk with your daughter about some things that appear to be good on the outside but aren't good on the inside. This is a great time to discuss why you don't allow her to indulge in certain TV shows, movies, books, music, or friendships. Daughter, ask God to give you discernment so you can make godly choices every day.



# Wacky Appendix

This is not an appendix, as in a wacky blind-ended tube in the human anatomy. This is an appendix, as in a wacky collection of fun stuff moms and daughters can do together. As I was writing this devo book, I realized that sometimes I mentioned things that I wanted you to be able to do or explore together. So here's all that fun stuff in one great spot, plus some other great ideas. On a rainy day or during a school break, you might want to just pick up this Wacky Appendix and have some wacky mother/daughter time. Be sure to start with the cake!

## Radical Recipes to Try

### Janet's Chocolate Cake with Peanut Butter Filling

#### The Cake

2 c sugar  
1¾ c flour  
¾ c Hershey's cocoa powder, unsweetened  
1½ tsp baking soda  
1½ tsp baking powder  
1 tsp salt  
2 eggs  
½ c milk  
½ c sour cream  
½ c vegetable oil  
2 tsp vanilla  
1 c boiling water

Grease and flour two 9-inch round pans. Combine dry ingredients in the mixing bowl. Add eggs, milk, sour cream, oil, and vanilla. Beat on medium speed for two minutes. Stir in the boiling water. The batter will be extra runny. Pour it into two pans. Bake at 350° F for 30-35 minutes. Cool ten minutes before you remove the cakes from the pan to cool completely on wire racks.

#### The Peanut Butter Filling

¼ c butter, softened  
½ c smooth peanut butter  
About 1½ c powdered sugar (until it is the thickness of a peanut butter egg)  
A tablespoon or two of milk (keep it thick)

Beat the butter until it's smooth. Add peanut butter and blend well. Add most of the powdered sugar, and then a little milk. Just work it until it is the consistency of a peanut butter egg and you have the taste that you want. After the cake is completely cooled, use all of this mixture between the two layers. It's a lot. You'll love it.

### The Chocolate Frosting

½ c butter  
2/3 c Hershey's cocoa powder, unsweetened  
3 c powdered sugar  
1/3 c milk  
1 tsp vanilla

Melt butter. Put it in the mixing bowl and stir in the cocoa. Alternately add powdered sugar and milk, beating on medium speed until frosting is a good spreading consistency. Add more milk, as needed. Stir in vanilla. After you fill the cake with peanut butter filling, have fun icing it with this rich chocolate icing.

Refrigerate the cake. It's yummier when it's just a little cool, with a tall glass of cold milk.

### Missionary Sherri's Warm Mango Muffins with Whipped Topping

#### Mango Muffins

1 large ripe mango, diced small  
2 c all-purpose flour  
½ c sugar  
1 tbs baking powder  
½ tsp salt  
1 c buttermilk  
¼ c vegetable oil  
2 large eggs, beaten  
1 tsp almond extract

Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large mixing bowl. Combine milk, oil, eggs, and almond extract in a medium bowl; whisk until smooth. Add the milk mixture to the flour mixture; stir just until moistened. Stir the chopped mango gently into the batter. Divide the batter evenly into twelve prepared muffin cups.

Bake at 400° F until golden, about 20-25 minutes. Remove the mango muffins from the cups and place on a wire rack to cool slightly. Eat them while they are warm with both butter and freshly whipped cream.

## Whipped Cream

1 c whipping cream  
2 tbs powdered sugar  
1 tsp vanilla

Add ingredients together in a cooled glass bowl. Whip on high until the liquid firms to create peaks. Dollop on top of a warm muffin just before you bite into it!

## Anna Marie's Sassy Southern Sweet Tea

\*Since this recipe involves using the stove, definitely get your mom's help!

Fill a medium saucepan  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with cold water.

Add 8 tea bags.

On medium heat, bring to a boil.

Once it hits a rolling boil, turn it off and remove the pan from the burner.

Put 2 cups of white sugar into a gallon-sized pitcher.

Add the hot tea. (Don't add the tea bags, though!)

Stir until the sugar is dissolved.

Add enough cold water to fill the pitcher.

Stick it in the fridge to get it nice and cold.

Enjoy!

## Luscious Lemonade

6 lemons

6 cups cold water

1 cup sugar

Using a juicer or your bare hands, squeeze all the juice out of the lemons. You should get about a cup of juice. Remove any seeds. You can use lemon juice from a bottle, but using fresh lemons makes the lemonade taste extra refreshing.

Put the lemon juice, water, and sugar in a pitcher, and mix it really well.

Pour it over ice in a glass and enjoy!

## Movie to Rent

### *Faith like Potatoes*

This captivating and heart-wrenching South African production is a story of one man's struggle for a better life for himself and his family. Angus Buchan is a Scottish farmer living

in Zambia when the area's constant political turmoil finally leads him to believe he must settle in a new country if he ever hopes to be truly prosperous. But, after settling into the agriculturally fruitful KwaZulu Midlands, the Buchan family come to realize that starting a new life isn't necessarily going to be easy. Angus starts on a downward spiral of despair from which only a momentous restoration of faith can save him. Told partially in the Zulu language, *Faith like Potatoes* is a remarkably life-affirming film.

## Fun Stuff to Do

### Bloomin' Butterflies

You can buy kits that enable you to watch the wonder of metamorphosis together. Some places to shop include

[www.carolina.com](http://www.carolina.com)

[www.sciencekit.com](http://www.sciencekit.com)

[www.nature-gifts.com](http://www.nature-gifts.com)

### Super-Secret Handshake

Use high-fives, pinky links, and fist bumps to create the coolest handshake in the world just for you and your mom to do together!

### Language Laughs

Have you ever wanted to learn another language? It's much easier to do when someone else in your house does too. Get a beginner's language workbook and start going through it with your mom. You might want to check up on each other's progress once a week. You could even teach your dog to obey commands in that language!

### Topsy-Turvy Holidays

Plan to celebrate a holiday in the wrong month! That's right! Why not put up some Christmas decorations in the heat of the summer and celebrate Jesus' birth again? Or you could have an Easter egg hunt in the snow!

### Mixed-Up Mealtime

Plan a meal that's totally flipped around! Eat your meal in this order: dessert, main course, salad. How cool to eat dessert first!

## Loopy Latch-Hooks

Latch-hooking is a really cool, totally retro type of craft that's super easy to do. See if you can find a funky latch-hook kit at the craft store, and buy an extra hook to go with it so you and your mom each have one. (See if you can find a kit that's on clearance!) You and your mom can work on it together or take turns until it's done.