

KIMBERLY BLACKADAR

A 7-Day Devotional for Kids

LOVE

Examining Love through God's Word

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Dear Parents,

I have two teenagers, but when they were younger, we attempted daily devotionals, long ones, spanning 365 days. We might have lasted a few weeks, sometimes longer, but we often felt defeated for not sticking to the routine. Okay, I felt defeated. They didn't seem to harness any guilt over the 300-and-something, unread pages in the book.

Sometimes we would cycle back to a devotional—and wouldn't you know it—we would often hit the same passages. It was like we had yearly trends for when we were more “devoted” to devotionals. There might be a research project somewhere in there, but I probably don't need to analyze statistical data to understand the pattern and develop a strategy.

We needed a shorter devotional book—something that lasted a month, or maybe a week. Unfortunately, what we needed wouldn't be substantial enough for a book. It would be more like a booklet, something you wouldn't find in a bookstore, but something you could find online.

I developed this 7-day devotional for children, from preschool to elementary age, so your family can set short-term goals and achieve them. This devotional will be part of a series of online resources for families, and this verse will remain at the heart of this and future studies:

*I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
PSALM 119:11*

Thank you for downloading this resource. May this seven-day study help to strengthen the faith of your children and show them the value of spending time in God's Word.

In Christ,

Kimberly



HOW DO WE USE THIS BOOK?

When I was a teacher, I would write lesson plans, filled with classroom activities and objectives that only occurred in my mind. Any plan is like that. It's just a proposal, and reality often strays from the plan. Here's a list of suggestions that you can tweak to fit the reality of your life:

- ✓ Before you begin, decide if you want to print a copy of this book or read it online. If you don't print the whole book, then print the two resources in the back: "My Daily Bible Verses: Love" and "Verse Cards: Love." If you have multiple children, you may want to print individualized pages, depending on their age and ability to share. I suggest printing the verse cards on card stock and assembling them on a 1-inch, loose-leaf ring.
- ✓ In the morning, read the devotional aloud to the children. Discuss the devotional and the verse briefly.
- ✓ If you read the verse several times, it has a better chance of being filed away in their long-term memory. For younger children, have them memorize the bolded part of each verse. Try reading it by emphasizing certain words. Sing it. Make up gestures to go along with it. Have your children read it out loud. After three or more repetitions, each person, from oldest to youngest, should recite the verse from memory. (Yep, that puts the pressure on the parents first!)
- ✓ As you go about your day, ask your child(ren) to repeat the verse. If a child behaves contrary to the verse, ask, "What does our verse say today?"
- ✓ In the evening, read the verse a final time, and ask your child(ren): "Did the Bible verse speak to you? Can you think of a time when God's Word changed your actions?"
- ✓ As a final step, collect prayer requests. Keep a record of them on "My Daily Bible Verses: Love" As the week goes on, discuss the prayers from previous nights, and praise God for any answered prayers.
- ✓ If you liked this style of study, you can also select your own verses and commit them to memory. Use the blank version of "My Daily Bible Verses."

DAY 1

THE WHOLE WORLD

Sometimes people say, “I wouldn’t give up chocolate, or pizza, or ice cream for the whole wide world!” Well, “giving up something for the world” is just a saying, but God *did* give up His “one and only Son” for the world. It was not for the physical world—not the continents and the oceans. He gave up His Son for the people of the world. Since Jesus, God’s only Son, came to this world and died for us, we can have eternal life. Through our faith, we can join Jesus in Heaven someday. God loves all of us, every single person in this world. That is why God sent His Son. Just like Jesus, we are one of God’s children. God loves you—because you mean the world to Him!



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Your one and only Son to be with us. May we continue to learn about You and Your amazing love for every person in this world. AMEN.

DAY 2

A NEW DAY

Today is a new day! There is something wonderful about the morning and how it gives us a chance to start over again. If yesterday had been a bad day, then today brings hope of something better. Every morning we have a chance to connect with God. We can read His word in the Bible. We can talk to Him in prayer. We can even ask Him to show us the way—to guide our words and to lead us through tough choices. By making God part of our morning routine, like eating breakfast and brushing our teeth, we will have a great start to our day. With God’s word on our heart, He can guide what we say and what we do. Start your day off with some time with God!



Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust
in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.

PSALM 134:8

*Dear God, thank You for this morning and the start of a new day. Thank You
for the Bible, where we can learn about Your “unfailing love.” May You guide
our words and actions today. AMEN.*

DAY 3

A DAILY REMINDER

In my house, 1Corinthians 13:4-5 hangs on the wall in the bathroom. Since the bathroom is the first place we go in the morning and often the last place we go before bed at night, this verse serves as helpful reminder for each day. Often spoken at weddings, this verse defines what love is and what love is not. Love is patient and kind. Love is *not* envious, boastful, prideful, dishonoring, self-seeking, easily angered, or a record of wrongs. If we go about our day, being patient and kind with our words and actions, then we are demonstrating God's definition of love. However, you don't need 1Corinthians 13:4-5 on your wall in order for the verse to guide you. You can commit it to memory, hide it in your heart, and allow the words to direct your choices.



⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

Dear God, thank You for the beautiful words of 1Corinthians. Help us to be patient and kind with our words and our actions. AMEN.

DAY 4

BROTHERS & SISTERS

Brothers and sisters fight—over a toy, the front seat, or who gets to go first. If you don't have a sibling, you may have had arguments with your cousins or your friends. Even though we have fights with people we love, it does not mean that we stop loving them. It just means that we need to come up with a better way to solve problems. When the Bible mentions "brother or sister," God is not only talking about our siblings in our family but about our brothers and sisters in Christ, our fellow Christians. If we are believers, then God calls us to love our brothers and sisters, those who are in our family and those who live around the world. We can show our Christian faith by how we love our brothers and sisters.



⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.

1 JOHN 2:9-10

Dear God, thank You for siblings, cousins, and friends. Sometimes we might fight, but help us to show them forgiveness, kindness, and love. AMEN.

DAY 5

SERVE OTHERS

When our family participated in an outreach project for a couple from our church, my children, 5 and 8 at the time, experienced the joy of serving. On that day, teams of volunteers divided into three groups to complete the following jobs: construction, yard work, and cleaning. My daughter and I were part of the cleaning team while my husband and son worked outdoors. As we cleaned, we enjoyed many conversations. We learned so much about the couple and their exciting life as we tidied up their home. When other members from our church brought lunch, all the volunteers and the couple joined together for a huge meal and fellowship. Serving is a wonderful way to show God's love to others, and children, like you, can play an important part!



God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

HEBREWS 6:10

Dear God, help us to show Your love through acts of service. May we reach out to others in our family, our neighborhood, our church, our community, and beyond. AMEN.

DAY 6

FOREVER FRIEND

Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night from a bad dream, and you could not fall back asleep? Sometimes I wake up during the night, but it is not from a bad dream anymore. I wake up because my pesky cat wants a friend. She meows until I pet her, and then I have a difficult time falling back asleep. In the middle of the night, the house is so quiet. When I feel lonely or scared, I can fill the emptiness by praying to God. He's there when everybody else, except my cat, is sleeping. I can talk to Him through prayer, and He listens to my fears, my hopes, and my questions. By talking to Him, I don't feel alone anymore. God is our best friend because He is always there for us—no matter what time it is!



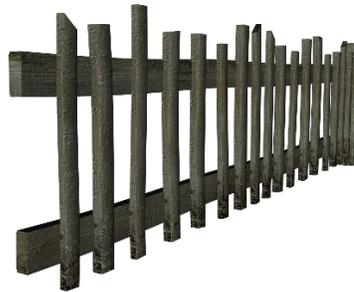
Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.
PSALM 136:26

Dear God, thank You for always being there, for quieting my fears at night and for guiding me through the day. May I always remember to call on You when I'm afraid or when I need a friend. AMEN.

DAY 7

GOOD FENCES

When I was a child, I lived in a neighborhood with a maze of fences, dividing all the lots. The fences kept dogs in and trespassers out. One day a little boy peered over the top of the high, wooden fence behind us. He could not have been much more than five, and only his head, full of wavy, blonde hair, appeared as he called out, “Hey, hot dog face!” My brother and I were twice his age and not offended by his name calling. It rather amused us. We did not retaliate with a name; instead, we just said hello. Over the weeks, we met his family, and eventually, we were jumping on his trampoline. We knew how to be good neighbors, and name calling was not going to win us any friends. The words of Mark 12:30-31 come from Jesus. He calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and by neighbor, Jesus means every person in the world. That might seem challenging at times, especially when someone is calling you a name, and that name happens to be worse than “hot dog face.” Try to love people, despite how they treat you. Your love may transform someone else’s heart.



³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

MARK 12:30-31

Dear God, thank You for the neighbors around us. Help us to be kind and courteous to them. May we show Your love through our words and actions. AMEN.

MY DAILY BIBLE VERSES: LOVE

Let the **morning** bring me **word** of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life. – Psalm 134:8

#	Word of God	Evening Prayer
1	For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)	
2	Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. (Psalm 134:8)	
3	⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)	
4	⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. (1 John 2:9-10)	
5	God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. (Hebrews 6:10)	
6	Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 136:26)	
7	³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)	

May my **prayer** be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the **evening** sacrifice.
– Psalm 141:2

<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. (Psalm 134:8)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. (1 John 2:9-10)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. (Hebrews 6:10)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 136:26)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Verse Cards</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">LOVE</p>

MY DAILY BIBLE VERSES

Let the **morning** bring me **word** of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life. – Psalm 134:8

*In the morning, read the verse, and pray that the words will guide your words and actions.
In the evening, reread the verse, write down some prayer concerns, and then pray.*

Day	Word of God	Evening Prayer
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

May my **prayer** be set before you like incense;
may the lifting up of my hands be like the **evening** sacrifice.
– Psalm 141:2

Thank you for completing
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