

Beyond Basics

Devotional Guide

Summer 2009



Every Day with Jesus

Numerous Scriptures promise success to one who reads and meditates on the Word of God. A better world begins with Christian families training the next generation to love, honor and obey the commands of God in the Bible.

You will do what you can during extended session, but the crux of the matter is, it's up to parents in daily home training to make a difference in the way children view spiritual matters.

Every Day with Jesus weekly devotional guide is for parents who want and need help with this most important aspect of parenting. Brief Scripture passages and corresponding thoughts will not take much time in busy schedules. Yet, the impact in children's lives when parents maintain a family devotional time can only be measured in eternal values.

The devotionals center around the Bible lesson theme of each *Beyond Basics* session. Children learn that the Bible addresses everyday life issues.

You will determine to a large degree whether or not parents use this resource. Invest preparation time to have a folder ready for each family every Sunday morning. Pray for families with children attending extended session. Be alert to ministry needs they have and find ways to minister to those needs during the week.

How To Use the Devotionals

Permission is given by the publisher to copy these devotionals.

Copy the letter to parents for every family of children enrolled plus extras for visitors and new members you will have this summer. Keep them in a file folder for easy access week to week.

Each week, remove the devotional guide for the coming week. Copy the page front-to-back as printed. Make copies for each family plus one or two for visitors.

Lay the page with Monday's, Tuesday's and Wednesday's devotionals facing up. Fold the guide evenly in thirds, right side first. The left edge should meet the fold on the right side with Sunday's devotional on the front.

Place the master copy at the back of the devotionals, so the next week's devotional is in front for quicker access.

If you have a church secretary, ask her help to copy the material for you during the week. Even better, request copies for all of the guides, folded with rubber bands to keep each week's devotional guide separate. Then they will be ready all quarter. People who don't teach may be willing to help with folding if you don't have a folding machine to do them automatically.

WRITTEN BY:

Lena Case
Revised by: Karry Irizarry

EDITOR IN CHIEF:

Larry E. Clements
larryclements@abaptist.org

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Wayne Sewell
wsewell@abaptist.org

PRODUCTION EDITOR:

Sally McInvale

ADULT EDITOR:

Jim Jones

CHILDREN'S EDITOR:

Libby Gill

ILLUSTRATOR:

Connie Spears

GRAPHIC ARTISTS:

Shawn Blase, Jeff Allen,
Greg Hiltnerbrand, Ashley Carozza

LAYOUT DESIGNERS:

Bonita McKnight, Kyle Elkins,
Cindy Butler

CONTENT EDITORS:

Terry McKellar, Carolyn Burks,
Deby Turrentine

PRINT PRODUCTION:

Charles Easley

COVER DESIGN:

Jeff Allen

Copyright © 2009

Volume 7, No. 4

Baptist Sunday School Committee
4605 N. State Line Ave.
Texarkana, TX 75503-2928
www.abaptist.org
1-800-264-2482



God's Word at Your House

We like to think children are carefree and happy all the time. The truth is that even young children may have anxieties that hamper emotional development.

You want to give your child the best you can afford in clothes, housing, toys and educational tools. But the most important aspect of his development is spiritual. The value of giving him a solid foundation in this area far exceeds that of physical stuff you may provide.

That's why we encourage you to have a time for Bible reading and prayer in your family schedule each day. It doesn't take long, and the time invested brings eternal benefits.

Children have greater emotional stability when their spirits have fed on God's precious Word. They are too young to read the Bible for themselves. They have to be read to if they are to get spiritual nourishment through the week.

If you aren't already sold on the value of this family time of Bible reading and prayer, please try it this summer. A weekly devotional guide will give you a suggested Scripture to read and related thoughts written for a young child's understanding. An idea for prayer focus is included. The guide fits neatly in your Bible so it's handy for daily use.

A big plus is that the devotionals connect to the Bible lesson themes of Sunday School and extended session.

We believe your child will look forward to this special time with you. God will bless your family as you honor Him by teaching your child to love, obey and trust His Word.

No Matter What

Read Jeremiah 29:11; 42:6.

God had a special plan for you before you were born. He thinks good thoughts about you. He knows where He wants you to go. He knows what He wants you to do with your life.

Trusting Him and obeying His rules is the way to have a good life. No matter what it is, "we will obey the voice of the LORD our God." He will bless us as we obey Him.

I will read some commands God wants us to obey. When I pause, you say, "We will obey the voice of the LORD our God." I'll help you with it. (*Practice once or twice.*)

Galatians 5:13, "By love serve one another." (*Help everyone say the response in unison.*)

James 5:16, "Pray one for another." (*Pause for response.*)

Ephesians 4:32, "Be . . . kind one to another." (*Lead response.*)

Isaiah 28:14, "Hear the word of the LORD." (*Response.*)

Galatians 6:10, "Do good unto all." (*Respond.*)

2 Timothy 2:15, "Study . . . the word of truth." (*Respond.*)

1 Corinthians 10:31, "Do all to the glory of God." (*Respond.*)

Luke 6:37, "Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." (*Respond.*)

Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents." (*Respond.*)

1 John 4:7, "Love one another." (*Respond.*)

These are things we can do, aren't they? God would not give us a rule we can't do. We can be sure He gave every command in the Bible for our good. "We will obey."

(*Pray for family members to have spiritual strength to do what He says.*)

God Rules

Read Acts 5:29, 32.

Jewish religious leaders told Peter and other apostles to stop preaching about Jesus. Did they quit telling others the good news about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection? No. And they didn't. They kept preaching the gospel message.

The leaders became angry. They put Peter and other apostles in prison. That night, an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out. "Go to the Temple and tell people all about the good life in Jesus," the angel said.

The next morning, the apostles did. The officers who had arrested them reminded the apostles of their command not to preach again. That is when Peter told them the verse we read.

"We ought to obey God rather than men."

When anybody tells us to do something God says is wrong, what should we do? (*Obey God rather than men.*)

When someone tells us to stop doing something God says to do, what should we do? (*Obey God and keep doing right.*)

We have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us do God's will. The power of the Holy Spirit helps us obey, love and serve God.

We are blessed to have God's Word to read. We can learn what God says to do. We please God when we hear His Word and do what He says.

(*Lead family members to pray for help to obey Him.*)

Whole Heart Obedience

Read Psalm 119:9-12, 16.

Do you ever do wrong things? We all do. Sin makes our hearts feel guilty. God wants us to feel close to Him. Sin separates us from that sweet friendship.

These verses tell us how to get clean from the dirtiness of sin. "By taking heed . . . according to thy word" we can have cleansing for our lives. By paying attention, listening with our hearts, doing what God's Word says and asking Him to forgive us, we stay clean from sin. By carefully reading the directions God gives, we will have a clear map for daily life.

We need to walk a straight line for the Lord. *Let me not wander from thy commandments* means "help me not go away from your rules." We don't want to miss the road signs God gives.

Memorizing Bible verses is good insurance against sin. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Know God's Word so well that you remember Bible verses when the devil tries to get you to do wrong.

I pray that you will let God's Word train you in His ways of wise living. Think about what God says to you in the Bible. As you grow, ask God to help you grow like Him on the inside.

Find joy in God's Word. Remember His commands. Do what He says.

(*Make prayer a personal talk with God.*)