

The ONE
YEAR®

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Devotions for Girls

STARRING

WOMEN

OF THE

BIBLE

KATRINA CASSEL

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The One Year Devotions for Girls Starring Women of the Bible

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thinking it through

Maybe being you doesn't seem all that exciting. "What's special about me?" you might be asking. Lots. God has created you in his own image (Genesis 1:26-27). God created you to be unique and amazing (Psalm 139:14). God has a special plan for you (Jeremiah 29:11). And God calls *you* by name (Isaiah 43:1).

Choose one truth above to think about today. Write down the Scripture verse and tape it to your mirror or locker to give yourself confidence throughout the day.

Eve: Created in God's Image

God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

GENESIS 1:27

Eve: the first woman. Made in the image of God. Many times people overlook how special she was as one of God's first creations, and they remember her failure instead. People remember that Eve listened to the serpent, ate the forbidden fruit, and gave some to Adam to eat. They remember that Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden and their lives got harder. But Eve was more than just the one who ate the fruit. Eve was the first woman, created by God in his own image.

What exactly does it mean that Eve was created in God's image? It means she was a reflection of God's glory. She had the ability to love, to be faithful, to show kindness, and to do many of the other things God does. It doesn't mean she physically resembled God, although God did design her and create her in a way that he said was very good (Genesis 1:31).

Eve was the second human created, but she wasn't second best or a second-class citizen. In fact, God designed her in a way that was unique and individual. Of course, since there were no other women and there was only Adam for Eve to compare herself to, Eve didn't play the comparison game. There were no fashion magazines filled with thin models to make Eve feel fat or outdated. There were no TV shows to make her feel her life wasn't as good as someone else's. And because she hadn't yet eaten the forbidden fruit and she saw only good, it probably wouldn't have occurred to her that she could be anything other than the way she was.

Eve was exactly as God wanted her to be. He designed her and created her in a marvelous way. Just like Eve, you are a one-of-a-kind girl created in God's image, an individual with unique looks and personality. And that's something worth celebrating.



thinking it through

You have your own unique personality. It's the one God created just for you. That doesn't mean you can't strive to be a better person, but don't try to change who God made you to be. Ask God to show you the ways he has made you—and other people—unique and special, in his image.

Eve: One of a Kind

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

PSALM 139:13-14

We don't know much about Eve other than that she was the first woman, created in God's image and part of his amazing plan. We don't know if she was outgoing or quiet, musical, artistic, or logical. But we can be assured that she had her own unique looks, personality, and abilities. Those are things God gives to each of his wonderful creations. Things he gave you.

There is no one on earth who has your same combination of looks, personality, talents, and abilities. You have been individually designed and specially made by God. Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (NIV). God already knows his plan for you and created you to be just who you need to be in order to live out that plan. So determine now that you will go ahead and be what God created you to be—the talented, still growing, still maturing young woman that you are.

In these changing years, it may be especially hard to know who you really are and who God made you to be. One minute you feel happy; the next minute you feel blue. Today your best friend promises to be your friend for life, but by the end of the week she's found a new girl to be her best friend. Life is constantly changing around you—and you might be changing too—but it's important to remember that God made you the way you are and he can help you shine just the way he created you.



Eve: Set Apart for God

I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.

JEREMIAH 1:5

God had a special plan for Eve. She was the first woman and the first mother. When God created Adam and Eve, he told them to have children and to fill the earth with people all created in his image.

In today's verse, God tells Jeremiah that he set him apart to be a prophet before Jeremiah was ever born. "Of course," you say, "being a prophet is important, but I'm just me. I'm not going to be a prophet. Or the mother of all living people like Eve."

Jeremiah 1:5 is as true for you as it was for Jeremiah—minus the prophet part, of course. Fill your own name in the verse: "_____, I knew you before I formed you. . . . Before you were born I set you apart." The end of the verse is different for each of us. Maybe it says, "I set you apart to teach people or to be a leader." Perhaps it says, "I set you apart to show the world how great I am through music, art, or dance." You don't know yet what you'll do in your adult life, but be assured, God has something special for you—then and now. The things you are learning now will be a part of what God has for you later.

Take a look at the things you know how to do, enjoy doing, and do well. Are you using them every day to serve God and help others? If not, today's the day to start.

thinking it through

Think of one way to serve God today. It may be as easy as cooking supper with your mom or helping a friend with her math homework. Ask God to show you other ways you can use your abilities and interests to help others this week.



thinking it through

What talents has God given you? Remember, no one talent is greater or lesser than others. The important thing is that you take what God has given you and use it for him and those around you. Can you think of a way you are using these talents in your life right now? Thank God for making your talents part of his plan for you.

Eve: Your Own Special Talents

“I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD.

“They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

JEREMIAH 29:11

Certainly Eve didn't realize how important her role was as first woman and first mother. After all, she had never known anything different. But she was important. God gave her all she needed to fulfill his plan for her.

And God has given you all you need to fulfill the wonderful plan he has for you. God has equipped you with your personality and talents to help you become what he wants you to be.

Just as there are many different personalities, there is a variety of talents. Maybe you have an eye for art and you can see patterns others miss or capture images with your camera or paints. You might have a way with words. Whether it's writing poetry or solving a word puzzle, your word power leads the way. Or you might have good coordination. Sports and physical activities come easily for you. Movement feels natural. Maybe God has given you an ear for music or a flair for the dramatic. Whether you are composing or performing, your creativity shines through. Do you enjoy meeting new people and making sure everyone around you is having a good time? Maybe you use your “people skills” to get people organized and motivated to work. Or maybe you enjoy studying science or figuring out new gadgets. You might have a knack for technology. Maybe you enjoy baking cookies or redecorating your room or doing other “domestic” activities. Whatever talents you have, know that God has created you to use them for him, others, and yourself.

Eve: Be Who God Created You to Be

Now, O Jacob, listen to the LORD who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.”

ISAIAH 43:1

Can you imagine what it was like for Adam and Eve to walk and talk with God in the Garden of Eden? What would it be like to have God call you by name? Well, God does call you by name, just not usually aloud like he did with Adam and Eve. He knows your name, he knows your likes and dislikes, and he knows your strengths and weaknesses.

God knows all those things about you because he created you. Sometimes when girls don't like who God made them to be, they try to make themselves into someone else. They may cover up their true selves by trying to be the class clown and being disruptive for attention or by making themselves the beauty queen in order to hide their true feelings. They may fall in with the wrong crowd. There are lots of wrong ways to deal with bad feelings about yourself—some are more obvious, like smoking, drinking alcohol, or doing drugs. But others can be more subtle, like letting thoughts about food take over your mind or hanging out with friends who aren't good influences or getting too involved with guys.

The better thing is to accept who God made you to be. Then practice the talents you do have so you can become even better at the things God has made you to do. Take another look at yesterday's Thinking It Through. Which talents did you think of? If you couldn't think of one, keep trying. God blessed you with talents, strengths, and abilities. Ask a parent or Sunday school teacher to help you identify your strong areas. Then use those abilities for God.



thinking it through

When you use your talents to help someone else, you are reflecting God's love to him or her, and that is part of being created in God's image. Get together with a friend or family member, and brainstorm three ways you might use the talents you've been given. Then choose one idea off your list, and take the next step to make that happen. Thank God that he made you and that he knows everything about you.

January 6



thinking it through

Can you think of anything you are doing because someone else thinks you should, or to get someone to like you better? Ask God for courage to do the things you're gifted at and interested in—whether or not your friends are doing them.

When God created you, he called you good. Write down three of your personality traits or physical features that you like. Then write down one thing you've been tempted to wish you could change. Thank God for *all* of them!

Eve: Your Own Story

God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! And evening passed and morning came, marking the sixth day.

GENESIS 1:31

God finished his work of creation by forming Adam and Eve. Then he looked around and declared everything good. Not okay or average, but *good*. And you are part of that creation! You are created in God's image just as Eve was. The only difference is that Eve started out as an adult and didn't have to go through braces or giving an oral report, or even dealing with siblings' first dates.

Do you ever feel like God made a mistake when he created you? Do you ever wonder, *Where is my flawless face or perfect skin? Where is my head for math or my bubbly personality?* The cool thing is that God gave each person just what she needs to do what he plans for her. God doesn't have a second set of not-as-good plans for those who have disabilities, are from broken homes, or have other challenges.

Why did God allow some people to be born with difficulties while others seem to breeze through life? Only he knows. Have you read or seen any of the Chronicles of Narnia books or movies? In one of the books, *The Horse and His Boy*, Aslan (the lion, who's a little bit like Jesus in the world of Narnia), tells the character Shasta, "Child . . . I am telling you your story, not hers. No one is told any story but their own." You can only live the plan God has for you. Take a look at who God created you to be, and then be the best you that you can be.



Eve: Partnership with God

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:9, NIV

The greatest privilege Eve had was getting to spend time with God in the Garden. Genesis 3:8 says that the husband and wife heard God walking in the Garden “when the cool evening breezes were blowing.” That was when God spent time walking and talking with Adam and Eve.

Sometimes I wish I could physically walk with God. I’d like to ask him why some things happened in my life that were hurtful or made no sense to me. I’d like to ask for his opinion on some decisions I need to make. It would be great to have him tell me specifically what he wants me to do in coming years. Adam and Eve were truly blessed to have the opportunity to meet personally with God in the Garden.

Do you have some things you’d like to talk over with God? The Bible says God has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. What exactly does it mean to have fellowship with God? The biblical (Greek) word for fellowship is *koinonia*, which means a living, loving, shared relationship with another person. This means you can talk with God just like you talk with your friends.

But fellowship with God is only through Jesus. There is no other way to be close to God, to talk to God, or to listen to God than through Jesus. Jesus says in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

God wants to partner with you because he loves you. You can know God is with you each step of your journey and that he cares about you more than anyone else does. God cares about your victories and your defeats, your sad times and happy times. Whatever matters to you matters to God.

thinking it through

Choose one of the following ways to fellowship with God today:

- Talk to God on your way to school or as you get ready for class.
- Write a letter to God telling him about the best or worst part of your day.
- Read a chapter from the book of Psalms in the Bible aloud at bedtime.

If you want to fellowship with God but have never thought about starting a relationship with Jesus before, talk to God about it. Then tell a parent or an adult from church so that person can help you know where to begin.