



**Faith-Filled Activities
for Families!**

**365
DEVOTIONS
FOR KIDS**



**JENNIFER
HOOKS**



Group

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Hands-On Bible: 365 Devotions for Kids

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All Things New



If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

JEREMIAH 29:13



WHO DOESN'T GET EXCITED about the beginning of a brand-new year? It's like a fresh start, a new chance at everything. It's why people make New Year's resolutions, like setting a goal to work out or save money. Maybe you want to get better grades, learn a new sport, make some new friends, stop being scared of the dark, or get to know God better. The start of a new year is a good time to think about the things we want to achieve and improve.

As you think about a fresh start, remember that God is for you. He wants you to succeed and be happy (though sometimes his definitions of success and happiness are different from the world's). He gives you new chances, too. No matter what you've done—maybe you haven't tried hard enough in school or you haven't been the best friend you could be—he'll give you a new chance, a do-over, every single day. He loves you deeply—no matter what.

This year, why not make a fresh start at getting to know God better? It's easy to do—you can learn more about God by reading the Bible and talking to adults who know a lot about him, like your pastor or a parent. You can also get to know God better by doing a devotion from this book and spending time praying to God every day.



Use a washable marker to color the fingerprint on your thumb or forefinger. Then press it into the space at the bottom of this page as a reminder that today is a fresh start for you to do whatever you put your mind to. It's also a reminder that God loves you, made you, and is for you. He even designed your fingerprints!

★ PRAY

★ *Dear God,*

★ *Thank you for giving me a fresh start every single day. Thank you for creating me, loving me, and giving me your Word so I can learn more about you. Amen.*



Psalm 63:1; 1 Corinthians 2:10





Come, Follow Me



"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

A **NEW BEGINNING** requires an adventurous spirit. Do you like adventures? Do you dream of going to new places and seeing new things? Adventures can be a lot of fun, and they can be life changing, too.

God invites us to join his adventure—and it's unlike anything else in the world. He invites us to follow him and discover what part we play in his amazing story. Imagine it: we all have an important role that God planned even before we were born.

When we read the Bible and spend time talking to God, we get to know him better and better. The deeper we dive into the Bible, exploring God's Word and learning more about what he says to his people, the more we get to discover who God is and how he knows and loves each of us. We just have to be willing to join his adventure. We have to be willing to drop what we're doing and follow him. God will show us what he wants us to do and help us along the way. And we can have faith that we're joining the single most amazing adventure in the entire universe.



DO

Play one of your favorite songs, an upbeat one that makes you feel happy inside. Close your eyes and listen to it all the way through. Afterward, ask yourself, *What is it about this song that makes me feel good—and why?*

God has great plans for you. Imagine the way this song makes you feel times a bazillion—that's how God feels about you. His plans are grand and amazing. Why wouldn't we want to join his incredible adventure?

★ PRAY

★ *Dear God,*

★ *Thank you for inviting me on your adventure. Thank you for having a plan for my life. Help me trust you completely, and please strengthen my faith. Amen.*



READ

Psalm 138:8; Psalm 139:16

A Fresh Start with God

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We can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

ROMANS 5:11

GOD TELLS US WE'RE made in his image, and when we decide to follow Jesus, we're born again. We get a brand-new life, thanks to God!

Starting a new year is a smaller brand-new start. God makes us new, refreshes us, and prepares us for what's coming. Facing a new year is exciting. You'll likely return to school soon, return to sports practices, and rejoin what's happening in the regular world. These are all good things. But all that newness can also make us feel a bit intimidated or nervous.

When we have God, we can be confident in all things. We can feel able, determined, and excited about what's to come. Knowing we have new life in God makes any challenge or new experience that much easier and more fun.

God's got your back. He won't let you down, and he's got big plans for you. Take heart and know that it's the start of a new year and a new you. You're going to be awesome!



Clasp your hands together in front of you. Notice which thumb is on the top as you look down. What do you notice about how this feels? Now switch the positions of your clasped hands so your other thumb is on top. What do you notice about how this position feels? How is this similar to what it can feel like to face new things?

★ PRAY

★ *Dear God,*

★ *Thank you for giving me a fresh start this year and every day. Please help me face the upcoming challenges and experiences with confidence. I know you have my back. Thank you for that! Amen.*



Mark 8:34-35; Romans 5:3-4



You're Covered!



Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.

DEUTERONOMY 8:18

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT: God's got the power. He created the heavens and the earth. He created humans and all the animals. And he created you. He knew all along about the things you'd worry about, the fears you'd face, the decisions you'd make. And he loves you without fail, no matter what's happening in your life. That means when you face something you're not sure about, you can rely on God's power. He's got you covered. God's power is strong enough to overcome anything, and he invites us to lean on him when we need to. But God wants us to remember to rely on *him* for power, to talk to *him* about all the things we need his help with. God wants us to remember that he's our power source.



DO

Think of a family member or a friend you can call or message. Ask that person to share one thing he or she is facing that could use God's help. Then share your own request. Offer to pray with that person for God's help and power in both situations.

★ PRAY

★ *Dear God,*

★ *Wow! It's amazing to think that you—the Creator of everything—knew me before I was born and knew all the things I'd need your help with. Thank you for covering me with your power and for helping me get through challenges by relying on your strength. Amen.*



READ

2 Samuel 22:3-4; Matthew 6:26-30

Have Courage



Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

ISAIAH 41:10



THINK ABOUT THE LAST TIME you really wanted to do something, but you were afraid. Fear may have stopped you, but God doesn't want us to be afraid. He tells us in the Bible not to fear. He says he'll lend us his strength and help us when we need it. Starting something new, doing a new activity, making new friends, trying a new sport, or even tasting a new food can make you nervous. It might make you a little afraid. But God says, "Don't be afraid!" You see, when we rely on God's strength like he tells us to do, we get to hand the worries and fears we have over to him. He takes those negative things from us, and in return, he gives us courage. We don't have to worry when God has our backs. We can try new things, talk to new friends, and say, "I'm in" when it comes to a new sport.

God wants us to live every day with courage, unafraid.



Take a piece of paper and write *FEAR* in block letters across the top of it. Then take a moment to think of one thing that starts with each letter of the word *fear* that you've been afraid of or worried about. For instance, F might be "football practice," and E might be "eating alone in the cafeteria." Write the words vertically down the page. (You can also use the letters in a different place in your words, like a crossword puzzle.) Then put your hand on the page and pray.

★ PRAY

★ *Dear God,*

★ *Thank you for giving me courage. Thank you for taking over my worries and fears when I give them to you so I can be brave and try new things. Thank you for helping build up my courage for the things on this page. Please stay with me as I face them. Amen.*



Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9



Kick Fear to the Curb

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[The righteous] do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the LORD to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly.

PSALM 112:7-8

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FEARLESS? It goes beyond being confident or even brave. Being fearless means you are without fear. This verse from Psalm 112 is a great way to think about being without fear when we are with God: we are confident and fearless and can face our enemies triumphantly. God gives us the confidence to know we don't have to live in fear—whether it's in fear of the dark or in fear of an upcoming move or in fear of a test. God is telling us that we don't have to even let fear enter our minds. Because of our faith in God, there's no need for us to let fear take over our thoughts or hearts. Because of God, we will be triumphant.

★ DO

Hold up one hand, fingers spread. Using your other hand, tap out the five syllable sounds to the words “I am not afraid” one finger at a time. Do this five times fast. Then, whenever you face a situation, remember this exercise. You can silently “count the fearless five” on your fingers and remember that with God, you have no need to fear.

★ PRAY

★ *Dear God,*

★ *Thank you for giving me triumph over fear through your power. Thank you for knowing the things I worry about and the situations that make me feel afraid. Help me remember that with your help I am not afraid. Amen.*

★ READ

Deuteronomy 31:8; Mark 6:49-51

Seek Jesus



Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

JOHN 8:12



LIFE GETS BUSY. Homework. Sports. Friends. Chores. School. It's so easy for every day to become about checking things off a list and falling into bed to make it to the next day. It's good to take care of all those things. But what do they matter if we forget about Jesus? How does our life experience change when we take our focus off Jesus? How much bigger are our problems when we try to handle them without his help? How different is life when our approach is focused on getting through the day rather than keeping our eyes on him?

There are lots of reasons it's important to stay focused on Jesus every day. Whether it's the volleyball tournament you're about to play, the test you're facing, the friendship problem you can't figure out, or just a regular old day, Jesus wants us to make focusing on him a daily habit so that we get closer and closer to him.



DO

Go outside and find something in nature—a flower, a leaf, a stone. Bring that item inside with you. Study it closely. What's something remarkable about that item—something that makes you think of Jesus? Perhaps it's the beautiful way the flower is designed, or the genius way the veins in the leaf transport nourishment to the rest of the tree. Maybe it's the way the rock is solid and steadfast. Let that item remind you that Jesus is in the everyday, and he can be the center of our focus, leading us, helping us, protecting us—every day.

★ PRAY

★ *Dear God,*

★ *Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to light my path. Thank you for guiding and loving me. Help me remember to keep my focus on Jesus in everything I do. I want to remember that Jesus is in the everyday—and I want to keep him at the center of my life. Amen.*



READ

Luke 7:20-23; Luke 9:23

