



Family
WORSHIP CENTER

KIDS J.A.M
FORMATION

FORMATION

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting

(January 1 - January 22)

At Family Worship center and J.AM Kids Ministry, we believe Jesus is the most important person and we want to do what he does, say what he says and think like he thinks. Here are some of the important things to Jesus, which means they're important to us.

VISION

To see the fame & deeds of God renewed & known in our time.

MISSION

Practicing the way of Jesus.

PRESENCE OF GOD

We pursue the presence of God through individual & communal spiritual practices.

FORMATION OF PEOPLE

We pursue deep change through transformational discipleship focusing on growth & healing.

UNITY OF THE CHURCH

We pursue the unity of the church family across racial, political, generational & economic divides.

FLOURISHING OF THE CITY

We pursue the spiritual, social & cultural flourishing of our city.



Hi friend!

We are excited to go on this 21-day journey with you by reading our Bibles and thinking about what God wants us to do with what we read.

The Bible is like a love letter from God to us. It tells us what God wants us to know and how he wants us to live. Because God sent Jesus to die on the cross for us and give us a way to live with him forever when we trust in Jesus, we want to make sure we get to know God and His son Jesus and the Holy Spirit as much as we possibly can. When you love someone, you want to know everything there is to know about them.

We hope you'll enjoy this journey so much that it makes you want to read your Bible, pray, and spend time with Jesus every day. The adults in our church are doing a 21 Day journey too, and they'll read the same Bible verses as you every day. We hope you'll talk to an adult in your life about what you're learning so they can be praying for you.

We are cheering for you! Okay, let's get started...



JANUARY 1
TRAINING DAY

SCRIPTURE: *Don't have anything to do with godless stories and silly tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:7-8*

DEVOTIONAL: In today's verses we read what Paul, a very close follower of Jesus, wrote to a younger follower of Jesus named Timothy. Do you know someone who's older than you who loves Jesus a lot? Maybe it's your mom or dad, or grandma or grandpa, or a teacher or a coach.

Write that person's name here: _____

When people love Jesus a lot, they talk about him a lot and that's what Paul did. But he found out there were some people around Timothy who were trying to get him to believe things about Jesus that weren't true. They were spreading rumors and saying silly things and confusing everyone. Have you ever heard a rumor about someone, maybe at school, and you didn't know if it was true or not?

Paul knew the godless stories and silly tales were wrong and he wanted Timothy to know too. He told Timothy that just like it's important to exercise and be really strong physically, it's important to be strong as a Jesus follower and to know what's true so it can help you know what's not true.

Paul said: train yourself to be godly. Write what Paul said here:

Just like training in P.E. class or recess or sports is important to keep your body healthy, spiritual training like reading your bible and praying is important to keep your heart and mind and soul healthy and it helps you live your life well.

JANUARY 2
BREAKFAST

SCRIPTURE: *When you go without eating, do not look gloomy like those who only pretend to be holy. They make their faces look very sad. They want to show people they are fasting. Matthew 6:16*

DEVOTIONAL: Have you ever thought about what the word “breakfast” means? It literally means to break fast. A fast means a time when no food is eaten. Did you know that you fast every night? All night you go without food and then when you get up in the morning and have a big bowl of cereal or a bagel or a donut you break your fast. Breakfast! And you eat lots of other food too before you start fasting again at bedtime. What’s your very favorite food that you eat a lot?

Many of the adults in our church are spending these 21 days praying and reading the Bible when they want to be eating. It’s hard for you to fast that way because you’re still growing and need lots of energy and strength from food. But what if you fasted from a certain kind of food for the rest of these 21 days? Like maybe that favorite food that you wrote down? Or all sweets and candy? Or drinks besides water? Along with that, what if you also fasted from your Xbox, or TV, or movies for the rest of these 21 days?

When we go without something we’re used to having, it helps us realize how much we depend on it. But God wants us to just depend on him. Fasting helps us do that. We replace the time we’d normally spend eating cupcakes or playing video games with reading our Bibles, praying, listening to worship music, or walking outside in God’s creation. And when we do, we’re not sad and gloomy so that everyone knows, but instead, we keep that as a private agreement between us and God. We want to please him, not show everyone else what we’re doing.

JANUARY 3
GET DRESSED

SCRIPTURE: *Don't let your feelings get out of control. Remove from your life all evil desires. Stop always wanting more and more. You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient. Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. And over all these good things put on love. Colossians 3:5, 12-14*

DEVOTIONAL: Have you ever come home after playing outside or after a soccer or baseball game and had really muddy clothes? What would happen if instead of being careful and getting cleaned up, you just walked through the house with your muddy shoes and clothes and plopped down on the couch in the living room? Write what would happen here:

That would be crazy, right? You wouldn't just track mud and dirt all over the house and then plop down on the couch... well, unless you wanted to get in big trouble!

In today's verses, we hear from our friend Paul again and he's writing a letter to some people who follow Jesus in a place called Colossae. He tells them a bunch of things to stop doing. "Stop letting your feelings get out of control! Stop wanting what's bad for you! Stop wanting more and more things!" When Paul says this, it's kind of like he's saying, "Take off your muddy, dirty, smelly clothes and shoes before they mess everything up!" Can you think of a time when your feelings got out of control? Or when you just kept wanting more and more of something? Write about it here:

But Paul doesn't just tell them what to take off, he also tells them what to put on. He tells them to put these things on "as if they were your clothes." So what clean clothes did Paul want them to put on? Mercy. Kindness. Gentleness. Patience. Forgiveness. Love. And we put those clean clothes on because we're God's people and God loves us.

JANUARY 4 TIMEOUT

SCRIPTURE: *It was very early in the morning and still dark. Jesus got up and left the house. He went to a place where he could be alone. There he prayed. Mark 1:35*

DEVOTIONAL: Have you ever been to a basketball or football game and seen one of the coaches call a timeout? A timeout is when all the normal activity stops for a few minutes so the players can drink some water, rest, talk to the coach, and know what to do when the timeout is over.

Did you know that Jesus took timeouts to be with God all the time? This verse says that Jesus got up really early in the morning to be with God. He also prayed to God late at night, after he had healed a lot of people, and even in the middle of crowds with lots of people around. Jesus was always talking to God, his Father. What is your favorite time of day or night?

Sometimes it's hard to be quiet and alone isn't it? If the TV or radio is on or other kids are around or there's a lot of activity then it can be hard to have quiet until we finally get in our beds at night. But time with God is so important because just like the players who need the timeout, we need regular timeouts to read God's Word, pray, rest, and find out what God wants us to do next.

There's not one right way to have a timeout with God. Maybe you'd like to have your timeout when you first get up in the morning or before you go to bed at night. Maybe it's right after school on the back porch or right after dinner during some quiet time in the living room. Talk to your family about when your timeout could happen and ask them to help you stick to it!

JANUARY 5

WATCH OUT

SCRIPTURE: *Watch out for those who try to keep you from staying together. They want to trip you up. They teach you things opposite to what you have learned. Stay away from them. I want you to be wise about what is good. And I want you to have nothing to do with what is evil. Romans 16:17,19*

DEVOTIONAL: What would you do if you went to school tomorrow and your teacher started telling you that the sky was orange instead of blue and the grass was purple instead of green? What if he or she also said that the thing beating in your chest was your water balloon instead of your heart and the red stuff in your veins that keeps you alive and healthy was sweet tea instead of blood? That would be one weird day at school!

You know the right answers to those things and it would be a pretty strange day if your teacher was trying to tell you something different than what you already know is true. But that's exactly what was happening in these verses from today's Bible reading. There were fake teachers trying to convince God's people of things that were not true. In fact they were the opposite of true. So they were warned to WATCH OUT!

When we're told to watch out, it's usually because something unexpected might happen. We might be crossing a busy street or about to step in a huge mud puddle or be close to knocking something over. When was the last time you were told to watch out?

Sometimes being told to watch out can be about something silly like knocking a drink over, but sometimes it can be about something serious or dangerous. In today's verses, Paul was telling God's people to watch out for anyone that was saying something untrue about God. It's a very serious thing to make sure we understand what's true about God and that we WATCH OUT for anything that isn't.

JANUARY 6
WAIT FOR IT

SCRIPTURE: *With all my heart I wait for the Lord to help me. I put my hope in his word. I wait for the Lord to help me. I want his help more than night watchmen want the morning to come. Psalm 130:5-6*

DEVOTIONAL: Have you ever found out about a fun trip or vacation you were going to get to go on, but it seemed like it took forever before it was finally time to go? Or what about the long car ride to get to somewhere fun? It's so tempting to keep saying, "How much longer?" or "Are we there yet?" And maybe you're waiting to get older so you can do something that only older kids or teenagers do. Sometimes it's really hard to wait. What's it hard for you to wait for?

Our verse today talks about watchmen. Did you know that a watchman was someone whose whole job was to be up on the wall of a city and watch the horizon for the very first hint of sunrise? It was the watchman's job to spend the whole night waiting for the morning. Do you think it was hard for him to wait all night long? Probably so!

But did you know that waiting is built into our lives by God because he loves us? Waiting actually helps us grow up and become mature and more like Jesus. When we are waiting on something, it's really important how we wait. Instead of being impatient and asking the same questions over and over, we can ask God to help us wait well. When we wait for God, we put our hope in him, not in the thing we're waiting for. And we can wait for the Lord even more than those watchmen waited for the sunrise.

JANUARY 7

HOLD ON

SCRIPTURE: *You will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy. Your faith will be tested. You know that when this happens it will produce in you the strength to continue. And you must allow this strength to finish its work. Then you will be all you should be. You will have everything you need. James 1:2-4*

DEVOTIONAL: Hey, it's day 7! We've made it a whole week! We are so glad you're on this trip with us and hope you're looking forward to using this journal every day. Today's verses start out talking about the fact that we'll face all kinds of trouble. That's not very encouraging, but it's true. Sometimes trouble looks like not making the team we tried out for or getting the part we auditioned for. Sometimes trouble looks like a relative getting very sick or having to move away from friends and live in another city. But the bible says trouble will come. What is the last trouble you had to face?

The Bible says we should think of trouble as pure joy. What?? Pure joy? Trouble doesn't feel like pure joy at all. So why should we think of it that way? Because trouble means that our faith is being tested and we are finding out how good God is and if we can trust him. When we realize that God is good and can be trusted no matter what, then we find strength to continue going.

The only way we will have everything we need to live life well is if we have some troubles. That seems strange, right? But if everything was perfect and always went our way, then we wouldn't be as ready for everything we have to face in life.

JANUARY 8
PRESS PAUSE

SCRIPTURE: *Then Jesus said to them, “The Sabbath day was made for man. Man was not made for the Sabbath day.” Mark 2:27*

DEVOTIONAL: Have you ever been playing a game or watching a TV show and needed to go get something, or answer the door, or run to the bathroom? What do you do if that happens? You pick up the remote and press the pause button, right? You want to finish what you’re doing and it’s important, but you also need to pause it to do something more important. What’s your favorite fun thing to do?

In today’s verse from Mark 2, we see Jesus having a conversation about Sabbath and talking about the fact that God made the Sabbath for people to enjoy. Do you know what Sabbath is? It’s taking time once every seven days not to do any work and to instead spend time on purpose enjoying God and all he has provided for you. It’s taking a big pause. Sabbath means enjoying family, food, the creation God made and the friends he has given you. It can even mean taking a nap! And as you enjoy those things, remember God and thank him for giving you such good gifts. We worship God by resting from working and following God’s example.

When God made the world, the Bible says he worked for six days and rested on the seventh day. God didn’t rest because he was tired... God NEVER gets tired! But he rested to give us an example to follow and to help us who do get tired to remember that things don’t depend on us and we’re not in charge of holding the world together. That’s God’s job!

JANUARY 9
THE LAW OF THE LORD

SCRIPTURE: *The law of the Lord is perfect. It gives us new strength. The laws of the Lord can be trusted. They make childish people wise. The rules of the Lord are right. They give joy to our hearts. The commands of the Lord shine brightly. They give light to our minds. Psalm 19:7-8*

DEVOTIONAL: The Bible is like a letter to us from God. It's like a light showing us which step to take next. It's like a map that shows us where to go. It's like a mirror that shows us what we look like. It's like a sword that divides true things from untrue things. There is nothing better you can do for your heart than hide God's Word in it. Our challenge to you is to pick up your Bible, and read some of it every day. It can be as few as 10 minutes or as many minutes as you want.

Maybe start with the book of Matthew in the New Testament and read about the life of Jesus, or start at the beginning and read about God's creation in the book of Genesis. No matter how you start reading, just start! A lot of the New Testament was written by the guy we've already read about a few times... Paul! If you want to know more about who God is, then read His Word. Today's verses say that the law of the Lord, which is the Bible, is perfect. It gives us new strength. It's true and right. It makes us joyful!

Write down the new things God will show you as you read the Bible and pray. This will give you a way to look back and see all God has taught you and how far God has brought you. And it's okay if you don't love to journal. Maybe you could use the computer or a notes app on your phone or even a voice recording to keep a journal of all God has done.

But It's not enough to just read about God and write it in your journal. It's important to actually live out what you're learning. A life of faith is a life best lived with other people who have made a commitment to faith also. Kind of like being a good teammate is important on your baseball or soccer or volleyball team, it's important to be a good teammate in faith. Tell someone else what God is teaching you and listen to what they're learning about Him too. Everyone needs encouragement and to know someone understands. Sometimes it can feel lonely to follow Jesus and you need to know that others around you are following him too.

JANUARY 10

LOOK UP

SCRIPTURE: *Look up toward the sky. Who created everything you see? The Lord causes the stars to come out at night one by one. He calls out each one of them by name. His power and strength are great. So none of the stars is missing. Don't you know who made everything? Haven't you heard about him? The Lord is the God who lives forever. He created everything on earth. He won't become worn out or get tired. No one will ever know how great his understanding is. Isaiah 40:26,28*

DEVOTIONAL: When was the last time you went outside and looked up at all the stars in the night sky? Our verses today tell us God knows every single star by name. We know some names of stars and galaxies too and you've probably heard a lot of them in science class. Can you name a few galaxies, stars, or planets?

If God knows every single star by name and created everything you see, do you know that he also knows your name and created every single part of you? Right now, God is causing your heart to beat, your eyes to focus as you read this, and your lungs to inhale and exhale. He's causing your brain to work and understand what you're reading and he's causing blood to run through every vein in your body. Every single cell you have (and there are about 30 trillion!) is doing what it's supposed to right now because God told it to. He's the God who lives forever and created everything.

Not a single thing can knock our God off his throne. He doesn't need to look anything up because he knows all the answers. He knows the name of every star, every animal, every human, and every sea creature. He counts the hairs on every head. He does not play catch up. God's power decides where the oceans start and stop and He writes every one of our days in His book before they even happen. This is the God we trust.

JANUARY 11 EVERY
GOOD THING

SCRIPTURE: *The lions may grow weak and hungry. But those who look to the Lord have every good thing they need. Psalm 34:10*

DEVOTIONAL: When you look to the Lord, you'll have every good thing you need. If it's good for you, you will have it from the Lord. Sometimes just because something is good for us, that doesn't necessarily mean we want it. Kale and carrots and broccoli are good for us, but we don't necessarily like them. But even though this verse says we'll have every good thing we need, we can still convince ourselves that we don't have enough. We think if we just had this or owned that, it would be enough. But that's never true. Sometimes we get exactly what we want, maybe for Christmas or a birthday, and then months later, we don't love it as much as we did and we think we need something else. Have you ever wanted something so bad and you got it and then you eventually stopped playing with it or it wasn't as interesting to you anymore?

We were never intended to be satisfied with things. Jesus is the only Person who can satisfy us. This Bible verse talks about the fact that young lions have to hunt for their food and if they find it, they'll be satisfied and no longer hungry. But if they don't find what they're hunting for, they will stay hungry and become increasingly more dangerous until that need for food is met. If it doesn't ever get met, the lion will grow weaker and weaker.

But we don't have to be like the young lions. When we seek God, we will be satisfied. We won't come up empty. No game or pair of shoes or experience will fill us up for good. When we feel tempted to think we don't have what we need, we can run to God and ask Him to fill us up and help us be satisfied. When you look to the Lord, you will have every good thing you need.

JANUARY 12
YOUR WORD IS TRUTH

SCRIPTURE: *Use the truth to make them holy. Your word is truth. John 17:17*

DEVOTIONAL: Today our verse comes out of a prayer that Jesus prayed to God on the night he was arrested. Before Judas came and pointed him out to those who wanted to take him, Jesus spent time praying to God. He prayed for himself, he also prayed for his disciples, and then he prayed for all of us who would believe in Jesus because of the message that would spread throughout the whole world. Isn't it cool to think about the fact that Jesus prayed for you that night?

Jesus prayed that we would be made holy. That means being made more like Jesus. When we trust Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit starts helping us to be holy. One of the ways that happens is through the true things written in the Bible. This is why it's so important that we read it. It helps us to know what's true and what's not. It helps us to recognize a lie when we hear it. God's word, the Bible, helps us make our way through life.

If we want to know how to be more like Jesus and what's true, we need to know everything there is to know about him and that's found in our Bibles. The more we know about Jesus, the more we'll know how good He is and be able to see good things that can come out of bad. There is nothing that has happened or will happen in your life that God can't use for good. In fact, even the darkest, saddest, or scariest times are chances for God to do good. We know this is true because the Bible tells us that's who God is.

JANUARY 13

WISE UP

SCRIPTURE: *To start being wise you must first get wisdom. No matter what it costs, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7*

DEVOTIONAL: Our verse today tells us that it's important to get wisdom. Wisdom is knowing what needs to be done and doing it. Over in the New Testament of your Bible, Jesus tells a story about two men, one who was wise and one who was foolish, which is the opposite of being wise.

So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash. Matthew 7:24-27

All of us have sand and rock moments in our lives. We have sand (foolish) moments when we do not live out the things God has told us in the Bible. When we're unkind to others, disobedient, or when we do things we know we shouldn't. Rock (wise) moments come when we hear what God says and we do it. Take a few moments and recall some sand moments and rock moments over the past few weeks, or even over the past day:

SAND: _____

ROCK: _____

Rock moments come when we practice wisdom. When we find out what God says and then we do it, that's wisdom. That's what it looks like to build our house upon the rock. When we aren't being wise, the Bible says we're instead being foolish. We are building our houses on the sand. Nothing built on sand can last very long. When your life is built on Jesus, it will stand.

JANUARY 14
BE ENCOURAGED

SCRIPTURE: *Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe in me also. There are many rooms in my Father's house. If this were not true, would I have told you that I am going there? Would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you there? If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am. John 14:1-3*

DEVOTIONAL: In today's verses, Jesus is talking to His disciples and tells them He's going away and won't be with them anymore. He knows how sad they'll be and how much their hearts will break when they see him die on the cross. It will be the worst day ever. But later in the Bible, in John 16:33 Jesus gives the disciples really good news to remember when bad news comes. "In this world you will have trouble, but be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."

Jesus told the disciples He was going to prepare a place for them. He would not be gone forever and the sadness wouldn't last forever either. He tells them good is coming so they will have peace while they're waiting. Jesus doesn't hide that they'll have trouble, but He knows they can have peace in the trouble. Jesus was going to heaven to get it ready for us. He is making sure we'll have a place to be with him forever. What do you think the place Jesus is preparing in heaven might look like?

When things get hard here, like trouble with friends, sickness, difficulty in school, or loss of someone we love, Jesus reminds us that we can be encouraged. One day, Jesus will make everything right and there will be no more sadness, no more crying, and no more being afraid. When Jesus tells us to be encouraged, he means it!

JANUARY 15

WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE: *Give praise to the Lord. Make his name known. Tell the nations what he has done. Sing to him. Sing praise to him. Tell about all the wonderful things he has done. Honor him, because his name is holy. Let the hearts of those who trust in the Lord be glad. 1 Chronicles 16:8-10*

DEVOTIONAL: What or who do you worship the most? Have you ever thought about it? Today's verses describe one big worship service God's people had. But worship isn't just about singing songs, it's about what (or who) you think about the most. What are some of your favorite things?

From games to toys and videos to phones, we all have things we love. But are they our focus? Do we spend our time thinking about things and how to get more things and how to spend more time with the things we've already got? What would it look like for you to love God as much as you love your things? What would it look like for you to love God more than you love your things? The thing that's most important to God is how we love, not what we have.

It's not wrong to love things. Things are some of the blessings that God gives us in this life. Things are fun, things are useful, and things can be helpful. But if our focus in life is our things, we'll find that soon, our life feels empty. Things can't comfort us when we're sad or pray for us when we're sick. God didn't ask us to love things, He asked us to love him and to love the people around us. When we worship God, it means He's the most important to us and everything else is second.

JANUARY 16

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE: *Lord, hear my prayer. Listen to my cry for help. Don't turn your face away from me when I'm in trouble. Pay attention to me. When I call out for help, answer me quickly. Psalm 102:1-2*

DEVOTIONAL: When we pray, we're simply having a conversation with God. The Bible says that God hears our prayers and responds to them. Isn't that amazing? The God that put the stars in the sky and the whales in the oceans, who knows the name of every person on earth, and created every flower and tree that you see... that same God hears your prayers as clearly as if you called Him on the phone. What are three things on your mind right now that you want to be sure to pray for?

Did you know there's no perfect way you have to pray? You pray by talking to God anywhere and anytime. You can write your prayers, sing your prayers, whisper your prayers, and shout your prayers. The more you read your Bible and pray, the more comfortable you will be and the more truth you'll know.

God wants you to pray when you're afraid, when you're excited, when you're nervous, when you need to know the right thing to do, before a test, when you're sad, when you're in trouble, to tell Him how good He is, and to thank Him for the wonderful ways He cares for you and your family. Prayer is the way we connect to the God of the universe, and we remember that He loves us and loves when we pray to Him.

JANUARY 17
EVERY STEP

SCRIPTURE: *But he knows every step I take. When he has tested me, I'll come out as pure as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps. I've stayed on his path without turning away. I haven't disobeyed his commands. I've treasured his words more than my daily bread. Job 23:10-12*

DEVOTIONAL: In today's Bible verses, we read the words of a man named Job. Job was a really rich, really successful, really honest man who loved God very much. Job had seven sons and three daughters. Ten children! He also had 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 pairs of oxen, and 500 donkeys. The Bible says that he was the most important man in the place where he lived. Do you have brothers and sisters and pets? How many of each do you have?

One day, Satan came to talk to God. He asked Satan, "What have you been doing?" Satan said to God, "I've been traveling all around the earth, from one end of it to the other." Then, the Lord said, "Have you thought about my servant Job? There isn't anyone on earth like him. He is honest. He does what is right. He has respect for God and avoids evil." Satan told God that Job only did those things because God had blessed him so much. Satan said Job wouldn't act that way if everything was taken away from him. So God told Satan he could take everything away from Job, even his family. And that's what Satan did.

But guess what? Job did not lose his faith in God even when those bad things happened. Our verses today show us what Job did. He told his friends that God knew every one of his steps and that even though he was being tested, he trusted God. When bad things happen, do you trust God like Job did? God was testing Job and he passed the test of faith.

JANUARY 18
ALL ACCESS

SCRIPTURE: *At one time you were far away from God. But now you belong to Christ Jesus. He spilled his blood for you. This has brought you near to God. Ephesians 2:13*

DEVOTIONAL: Have you ever seen a sign that says “NO ACCESS” on a door at a hospital or airport? Those kinds of doors are everywhere and they tell us plainly that everyone can’t go through that door. It’s only for employees or for people who have special passes. You can’t just walk through doors you aren’t supposed to because you don’t have the right clearance or training or credentials.

That’s kind of what it’s like for a person before they know Jesus as their Savior. Before knowing Jesus, it’s like there’s a NO ACCESS sign and we are separated from Him. But Jesus becomes your Savior when you trust in His death on the cross to pay for your sins and you live your life to please Him from then on. Once you trust Jesus as your Savior, you get ALL ACCESS to Him. We don’t have to wait outside until we have special training. Believing in Jesus is our ALL ACCESS pass.

We are children of the King! We get to talk to Him any time we want and we don’t have to wait for someone to give us permission. When we come to God for help, or when we’re sad, or in worship, or with excitement, we can ask for what we need because we’re His children. We ask our Father because we have full access. Jesus paid for our sins on the cross and now we can be near!

JANUARY 19

ASK GOD

SCRIPTURE: *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. James 1:5*

DEVOTIONAL: A lot of the time, the right thing to do or say is really clear. You know you should be kind, go to bed when your parents ask you, and turn in your homework on time. But sometimes the right answer isn't as clear. Should you go over to that friend's house? Should you audition for the play? Should you join the team? Should you ask your teacher to move your seat? Should you volunteer? Should you tell someone what your friend said? What do you need wisdom for today?

Today's verse says that when we need wisdom, we should ask God for it. Remember, wisdom is knowing the right thing to do and doing it. When the right thing isn't always clear, then we need wisdom. And we can ask God. The Bible says that when we ask God, he'll give us the wisdom we're asking for. God doesn't hide from us when we are asking Him for wisdom. He loves to give it to us.

Did you know one of the ways God gives you wisdom is through the wise adults in your life? He puts people around you who are a little older and have lived longer who can help you when you need wisdom. You can ask God and also the wise people around you and they can help you start to recognize what wisdom looks like. If you need wisdom, ASK!

JANUARY 20
ON PURPOSE

SCRIPTURE: *The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me. Psalm 138:8*

DEVOTIONAL: Did you know that God has a very special purpose for your life? He created you on purpose and for a purpose. God has plans for you that you can't even imagine today. He loves you and thinks you're special and that's why there's no one exactly like you in the whole world.

Do you have an idea of what your very special purpose on the earth is? Sometimes even when we're young, we have dreams about what our lives will be like when we're older. It's great if you already kind of know what you'd like to do for God in the world, and it's okay if you don't. You have time to figure it out! No matter what you end up doing as you get older, you can start living out your God-given purpose right now. And here's what Jesus says it is:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Mark 12:30-31

This is your purpose right now on the earth. Love God and love people. That's a pretty great purpose. And as you grow and start realizing that you want to be a doctor, or an accountant, or a baseball player, or a dancer, or a teacher, you can do all of those things while loving God and loving people. When God created you, it was with a special purpose in mind. He knows all the ways He made your mind to work and how you'll use your gifts and talents for good in the world. He will fulfill his purpose for you!

JANUARY 21
A GODLY LIFE

SCRIPTURE: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. 2 Peter 1:3*

DEVOTIONAL: We've made it to the end of our 21-day journey together! It's hard to believe it's been three weeks, but as we close these days together we get lots of encouragement from today's verse. *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.* Not because we spent 21 days reading our Bibles, or fasting from things, or because we've earned it, but because we believe in Jesus. Our faith in Jesus gives us everything we need.

We've heard about wisdom and how to ask God for it. We've talked about the importance of spending one day out of every seven resting and enjoying God during Sabbath. We've learned about prayer and that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere and how He loves to hear our prayers and answer them. We know we can trust God even when bad things happen and that we don't have to be like young lions who get weak and hungry because we can trust God and He'll give us everything that's good for us.

Hopefully you have gotten into a habit of reading your Bible and praying each day. Spending time with God is always the best way to spend time! Don't let this be the end of that. Instead, keep reading your Bible each day. Ask for a devotional book that you can keep using to help you learn all you can about Jesus and get the truth of the Bible deep in your heart. Remember, there's nothing better you can do for your heart than hide God's Word in it.

