

YM360



7-Day Discipleship Journal For Kids

**A selection of daily devotionals adapted from
12-Month Student Discipleship Journal by Joel Lusz**

Joel Lusz

Day 1



Read Genesis 1:1

What is happening here?

How many gods are mentioned?

What did that God create?

The Truth:

There is only one God and that one God created everything there is.

Take a moment and pray a silent prayer of thankfulness and gratitude to this Creator God.

Day 2



Okay, here's a question. After you read it, write the **FIRST** answer to pop into your brain. Ready? Here it is:

What do you think you will be when you are an adult?

Now read this:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."
—Jeremiah 29:11

The Truth:

God has GREAT plans for you. We can see that in the promises God makes us in Scripture.

Pray for a moment and ask God to help keep you moving forward with him, wherever life takes you.

Day 3



There are **929** chapters in the Old Testament. There are **260** chapters in the New Testament. This gives a total of **1,189** chapters. The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. Psalm 117 is also the very middle chapter of the Bible, chapter 595!

So, let's read Psalm 117, the shortest chapter in the entire Bible.

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.
For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness
of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord.

In this psalm, we can see what we can call God's "lovingkindness." In *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, author Sally Lloyd Jones defines lovingkindness as "God's Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love."¹

Take a second to underline the third line above: "For great is his love toward us."

The Truth:

This is God's love for you. Think about that for a second. God loves you. He has always loved you. He will never stop loving you. Always. Forever. Never stopping.

Take a few moments to pray and thank God for this amazing love he has for you.

¹ Sally Lloyd-Jones, *The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007).

Day 4



Go to your Bible and read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. This is one of my favorite Old Testament verses.

This verse says there is one God, and we are to love this one God with all of our...what?

Answer this in the space below: What do you think this verse is supposed to mean?

The Truth:

These verses are known as the Shema, which are verses that are prayed through every day by faithful Jewish people worldwide. These are awesome verses with a lot to them. Think about what these words mean for a moment. How do we really love God with all our heart? Tough one! With all our mind? How often do we NOT do that? And all our strength. What does that look like?

Pray today and ask God to help you to fulfill the Shema!

Day 5



Do you know what the Golden Rule is? If so, write it here:

Here it is, as found in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 6:31):

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

And here is how the Golden Rule is written in "The Message" translation:

Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior:
Ask yourself what you want people to do
for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!

The Truth:

Have you ever had someone treat you so well it was surprising? Maybe they were incredibly generous, or incredibly kind. When someone goes out of their way to do something for you that you never saw coming, that's love and that's the Golden Rule. Imagine what life would be like if we all did that.

Talk for a minute with God to reflect on living out the Golden Rule. What could you do for someone else today? How have others shown you love lately? Write about it in the space below.

Day 6



Let's start our day off by reading the following:

Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and he will lift you up.
—James 4:10

What do you think it means to be humble?

I think we often find the word “humble” a little confusing. Most people probably think it means to think lower of yourself or even demean yourself to some degree.

I think of “being humble” as “seeing yourself the way God sees you.” How do you think God sees humans? How do you think God sees YOU?

The Truth:

I had a friend who once said this: “If God had a wallet, he would have your picture in it!” In our wallets, we have pictures of people we love and who mean a great deal to us (or at least we used to! Now they're likely on our phones). That's how God feels about you. He's crazy about you. You are someone he cares deeply about.

But that doesn't mean you should become super arrogant or full of yourself. God loves you deeply—but he loves everyone else that much, too! It takes a humble person to accept both of those truths.

Thank God for his amazing love for you!

Day 7



Circle the thing you are most afraid of in each pair:

Spiders or Snakes?
Clowns or Heights?
Needles or Blood?
Public Speaking or Flying?

What do you think it is that causes us to be afraid of certain things, even at times when we're not actually in danger? For example, why is it that you can stand on the edge of your bed and have absolutely no fear that you might fall off—but stand **INSIDE** a twenty-story building and look out of the **CLOSED** window, and you might feel an immense fear of falling? There is something interesting going on in our brains here!

The book of Isaiah addresses our fears. Check this out:

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed,
for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

—Isaiah 41:10

The Truth:

The writer is really clear here: "Do not fear." And what is the reason we don't need to be afraid? Because God promises that he is always with us. He promises to help us and to give us strength. He even alludes to holding us in his hands. When we feel fear, it can be helpful to remember these things. He is with us, he strengthens us, he holds us up. We are never alone.

Take a minute to thank God for always being with you and for being bigger than your fears.