

GOD'S BIG PROMISES

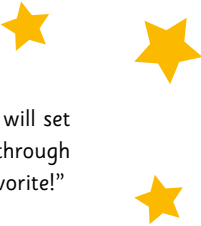
Beginning with God



**92 Bible
Devotions**

**Includes
Stickers**

Family Devotions



“God’s word can be rich and engaging at all ages and stages! *Beginning with God* will set your child’s feet on a path that leads to a love of growing to know and love God through his word. The accessible language and winsome format will make this a family favorite!”

Amy Gannett, Founder, Tiny Theologians and The Bible Study Schoolhouse;
Author, *Fix Your Eyes*

“Family devotionals can be a wild event! Families need biblically rich and practically accessible resources that keep kids engaged. This devotional guide is not too much or too little, but just right for fruitful family devotions in those years of short attention spans. When paired with the *God’s Big Promises Storybook*, you have all you need for years of family devotions.”

Kyle Worley, Lead Pastor, Mosaic Church, Richardson, Texas; Host of *Knowing Faith* podcast; Author, *Home with God*

“*Beginning with God* is a delightful and easy-to-use resource. With fun activities, simple readings, and thoughtful questions just right for kids, your family devotion time can become something everyone looks forward to. This guide is sure to become a beloved part of your family rhythms.”


Joanna Kimbrel, Coordinator of Women’s Initiatives, The Gospel Coalition; Author, *Behold and Believe* and *Jesus Is Better*

“The most important aspect of a Christian household with young children is how and when to introduce our kids to the truths of God. Carl Laferton has provided the most beautiful, accessible, and useful way to meet with God as a young family. This resource is a fantastically biblical path for families to follow in order to do the critical work of building their relationship with God and with one another. And kids are going to LOVE the stickers as much as the illustrations and truths!”

Adam Griffin, Lead Pastor, Eastside Community Church, Dallas; Host of the *Family Discipleship* podcast; Author, *Good News for Parents*

“*Beginning with God* is a must-have companion for families who want to start discipleship at home. The fun-packed, open-and-go guides walk through the basics of Biblical literacy. For busy nights, we appreciate the short lessons and a layered approach that keeps our kids engaged and growing in their understanding of God’s word.”

Elizabeth Santelmann, Bible Teacher; Author; Host of *Sunshine in My Nest* podcast





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With thanks to Jo Boddam-Whetham and Alison Mitchell, who created the original *Beginning With God* concept and notes.

Illustrations by Jennifer Davison | Design and Art Direction by André Parker

ISBN: 9781802543131 | JOB-008133 | Printed in China



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the *Beginning With God* family Bible devotions!

These Bible times are written for you to use with children aged between 2 and about 7. The big aim of them is to introduce young kids to the big story of the Bible, and to a regular time of thinking about what God reveals about himself in the Scriptures and responding to him in prayer. I'm praying that Beginning with God starts your child(ren) off on a lifetime's journey of enjoying hearing from God through his Word!

Here are just a few things you need to know:

- All you'll need is this book and a copy of *God's Big Promises Bible Storybook*.
- They should take around 5-10 minutes, and the "must-do" sections each day (those in black type) require no preparation.
- The sections are the same each day (kids thrive on repetition). The two in the blue text ("Do" and "Retell") are optional. "Do" will sometimes require some prep from you.
- For each Bible time there is a sticker to find on the sheet and stick on the page. This is (a) fun! and (b) a great way to help your child to remember the big theme of the Bible story. You'll notice that some stickers have coloured edges, which link to the Bible storybook and

correspond to the type of promise you'll have seen being made or kept by God in that day's Bible story.

And here are three tips:

1. There is no "right time" of the day to use *Beginning With God* – find the time that works best for your child(ren) and for you. That said, aiming for the same stage of the day each day generally works well.
2. Family life tends to be unpredictable. If you miss a day, or a week, or longer, it's easy to lose heart and stop. Instead, just get restarted!
3. Remember that the Holy Spirit works in unseen ways. It's great to encourage your child(ren) to sit still and focus as much as they're able to. But usually more is going in than you can see at the time, and the Spirit is working in young hearts more than you realize at the time. So ask him to do his work as you think about the Bible story, and trust that he is. You'll be amazed and encouraged at what it turns out kids have remembered, understood, and taken to heart!



GOD'S **BIG** PROMISES

The Old Testament



1. In the Beginning

Do

Gather as many animal soft toys as you have. As you do, encourage your child to name each type of animal.

To start

- *Which animal do you like best?*

Let's find out about how all the animals were first made in our true story from the Bible!

Pray

Dear God, thank you for the Bible. Please help us to know you better and love you more as we hear this true story. Amen.

Read

Pages 16-20 of God's Big Promises Bible Storybook.

Retell

- *Can you remember what happened in the story?*

Ask

- Before there was anything else, who was already there?
- What did God make?
- God made people who could talk with him and be friends with him and take care of the world. What were the first people's names?
- Who made you?

Listen

God's word says in Genesis 1 verse 31, "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (NIV)

Pray

Dear Father God, you made everything – all the stars and all the plants and all the animals. Wow! And you made me! Thank you! Amen.

Sticker Time!

Find the sticker of some of the animals that God made when he made everything.



2. In the Garden



Do

Have a look in your kitchen and find all the fruits and vegetables you have.

To start

- Can you think of any good rules that we have in this family, to make sure that things go well and everyone is happy?

Let's listen to some good rules that God gave the first people in today's true story from the Bible!

Pray

Dear God, thank you for the Bible. Please help us to know you better and love you more as we hear this true story. Amen.

Read

Pages 21-24 of God's Big Promises Bible Storybook.

Retell

- Can you remember what happened in the story?

Ask

- What was the garden where Adam and Eve lived full of?
- Could Adam and Eve eat from the Special Tree that meant they could stay alive forever?
- The second Special Tree was for anyone who thought they should be in charge. What rule did God make about that tree?
- Who is in charge of this world? Who gets to set the rules for how we live in this world?

Listen

God's word says in Genesis 2 verses 16-17, "The Lord God commanded [the man], 'You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree which gives the knowledge of good and evil.'"

Pray

Dear Father God, thank you that you give us good things to enjoy in your world, and that you give us good rules because you are in charge. Amen.

Sticker Time!

Find the sticker of the tree that God made a rule about and told Adam and Eve not to eat from it.





3. The Snake and the Tree

Do

Help your child draw an amazing garden. What trees would it have? Who would be in it?

To start

- Do you ever do anything that you know is wrong?

Let's listen to how the very first people decided to do a wrong thing in today's true story from the Bible.

Pray

Dear God, thank you for the Bible. Please help us to know you better and love you more as we hear this true story. Amen.

Read

Pages 25-28 of God's Big Promises Bible Storybook.

Retell

- Can you remember what happened in the story?

Ask

- Who told Eve that she should eat the fruit God had told her not to eat?
- Did Eve decide that she wanted to be in charge instead of God?
- How did Adam and Eve feel after they disobeyed God and ate the fruit?
- Is disobeying God ever a good idea?

Listen

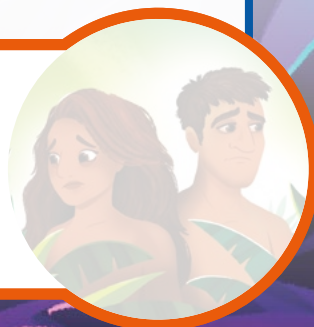
God's word says in Genesis 3 verse 6, "[The woman] took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband ... and he ate it."

Pray

Dear Father God, sorry for the times we don't obey you because we want to be in charge instead of you. Thank you that you always love us, even when we disobey you. Amen.

Sticker Time!

Find the sticker of Adam and Eve looking sad after they disobeyed God.



4. Out of the Garden



Do

Play a brief game of hide and seek.

To start

Yesterday we saw that the people chose to disobey God.

- What do you think God will do next?

Let's find out as we read today's true story from the Bible.

Pray

Dear God, thank you for the Bible. Please help us to know you better and love you more as we hear this true story. Amen.

Read

Pages 29-32 of God's Big Promises Bible Storybook.

Retell

- Can you remember what happened in the story?

Ask

- Who did the people try to hide from? Did it work?

- God had made a promise. Anyone who ate from the tree he had told them not to eat from would not be able to enjoy life with him forever. Did he keep his promise?
- What huge promise did God make? You may need to reread the paragraph at the top of page 32.
- God promised that he would send someone to get rid of the snake and put everything right again. Can you show me on your face how you feel about that?

Listen

God's word says in Genesis 3 verse 23, "The Lord God banished [the people] from the garden." (NIV)

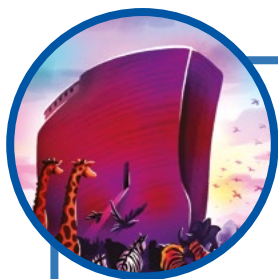
Pray

Dear God, we are sorry that we sin by not loving and obeying you. Thank you that you sent Jesus to put everything right again. Amen.

Sticker Time!

God promised to send someone who would get rid of the snake – a rescuer! Find the sticker of the snake with a line through it, and an orange circle around it to remind you of God's promise.





5. Noah Builds an Ark

Do

Fill a sink with water and ask your child to find a boat that will float in it.

To start

- What would we need to do to build a boat for our family to live in?

Let's find out why God told a man to build a huge boat in today's true story from the Bible!

Pray

Dear God, thank you for the Bible. Please help us to know you better and love you more as we hear this true story. Amen.

Read

Pages 33-38 of God's Big Promises Bible Storybook.

Retell

- Can you remember what happened in the story?

Ask

- How did God feel when people did not want to live with him in charge?
- Why did God tell Noah to build a huge boat?
- What did Noah do when God told him to build the boat?
- Do you know where we can find out what God has promised us, and what God tells us to do?

Listen

God's word says in Genesis 6 verses 13 and 14, "God said to Noah 'I am going to put an end to all people ... so make yourself an ark of cypress wood'." (NIV)

Pray

Dear God, thank you that you promised to rescue Noah when you sent the flood. Please help me to believe your promises and do as you say, just as Noah did. Amen.

Sticker Time!

God promised to rescue Noah from the flood. Find the sticker of Noah. It will have an orange circle around it, because God made a rescue promise.

