

DEVOTIONAL MAGAZINE SAMPLE

Forward

Sep • Oct • Nov 2020

Volume 17 Issue 1

High School students have their own magazine, providing 13 weeks of daily devotions, articles, columns, and fun ideas—all leading to spiritual growth.



Feature Article:
"There Has to Be More": An Interview with Justin Jackson

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Three Months of Devotions:
"Beginnings"
13 Week Study through
Genesis, John, and more.

Features:
Gender Identity
18 and Pregnant
#neverthirstagain



The Family Theme applies to every age group—elementary through adult.

Week One:

September 5 - 11, 2020

Theme:

God Created Everything

Study Text: Genesis 1:1–2:3

The Saturday-Sunday devotion focuses on preparing for the weekly Bible study.

Saturday - Sunday

Read Genesis 1:1–2:3

Suppose you filled a piñata with tiny pieces of candy. Now suppose you shattered that piñata and watched the candy pieces fly in a hundred different directions, each one landing in a predetermined location to form the words, *Happy Birthday*. Not a single piece missed its mark. That seems pretty ludicrous, doesn't it?

Sadly, many people accept a similar theory to explain the origin of the universe: the Big Bang Theory. God's Word, though, paints a far more creative, purposeful picture of the origin of everything we see. According to Genesis, our Lord turned on the lights, not with the flip of a switch, but with the echo of a powerful word. He simply said, "Let it be." And it was.

Meditate

In what ways do you reflect the attributes of the Creator, the One who created you in His image?

Demonstrate

Memorize Genesis 1:1 and say it often throughout the week.

Monday

Read Genesis 9:1–17

According to the National Geographic Society, the cheetah can go from 0 miles per hour to 60 in only three seconds. The only way I move 60 miles per hour is behind the steering wheel of my Chevy. I also learned from National Geographic that female cheetahs give birth to three cubs at a time. In the human realm, twins are a rarity; triplets are almost impossible to imagine.

Cheetahs might seem superior to humans in speed and reproduction, but God didn't task them with filling the earth with a multitude of Chesters. He chose *people* to fill it because only humans were created with souls and the ability to follow the One who created them. Noah received marching orders to reproduce and to share with a new generation the promise of life through God. God values humankind.

Meditate

What can you do to encourage your friends and family to come to faith in God?

Demonstrate

Write Matthew 5:16 on a sticky note and put it on your bathroom mirror as a reminder of God's purpose for you

Tuesday

Read Exodus 20:8–11

Sometimes you have to work really hard on Sunday. I first discovered this truth as a senior in high school, overwhelmed by a looming research paper, yet dutifully sitting in church in my dress and uncomfortable shoes. Even with all of my diligence and devotion to godly matters, thoughts of my assignment still crept in. Before I knew it I was making mental outlines and considering killer statistics that backed up my points. Suddenly, Sunday wasn't holy.

The words of Exodus 20:8 don't simply mean that we should remember the Sabbath day like we would remember to brush our teeth or remember to show up for school on Monday. We are to *earnestly* remember the Sabbath day, to set it apart as holy. Make it a point to make Jesus the point of your Sunday.

Meditate

What does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy? What does this commandment permit or forbid?

Demonstrate

Don't beat yourself up spiritually when you fail to achieve perfect focus on Christ on a given Sunday. When you get distracted, take a deep breath and refocus your thoughts on Him.

The Bible is held in highest esteem as teens read Scripture and devotional thoughts that extend the big ideas from the week's study.



