

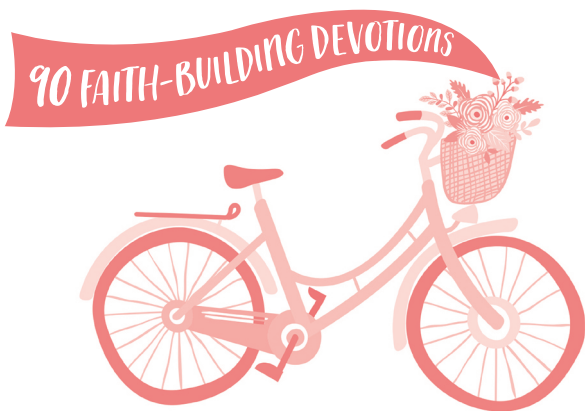
God Hears Her FOR GIRLS

90 FAITH-BUILDING DEVOTIONS



Our Daily Bread

God Hears Her FOR GIRLS



Our Daily Bread
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God Hears Her for Girls: 90 Faith-Building Devotions

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Introduction

This book is for girls like you. Girls with brave hearts. Girls with adventurous spirits. Girls who think big. Most of all? It's for girls who love God with *everything* they've got! That means the God of the universe is their friend and they listen to Him (check out "How Can I Be Friends with God?" page 186, if you want to learn more about having a personal relationship with God).

Before we begin, God wants you to know something really important. It's a message that He'll share with you again and again as you read *God Hears Her for Girls*. You're special to Him. So, whatever you face—and no matter how you feel—you can run to Him. On your best days when your heart is *bursting* with joy. On your worst ones too: those days you just want to hide. No matter if you're incredibly excited or sad, hopeful or scared, He wants to hear *it all*. *Everything* that's on your heart.



God Hears Her for Girls can help you talk to God. As you read each devotion—with its fun story, Bible verse, and discussion question—you can share your thoughts and feelings with the King of the universe. (Maybe even have a journal ready, so you can journal your thoughts to Him too.) Here's the thing: Don't just read the stories. *Listen in* with your heart. Because God has important things to tell you! About His amazing plans for you. About your unique role in His unbreakable, forever kingdom. And about all the gifts He's specially given to you.

So settle in to your comfiest chair. (Maybe wear your coziest pj's too.) Then open up the first day's devotion with excitement, knowing you're about to have a conversation with God.





God Hears Her
FOR GIRLS

1

FOR A WARRIOR LIKE YOU

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:10–11 (NIV)



Hi there, strong warrior! Yes, that's you. Did you know that God is calling you to fight the forces of evil, meaning Satan and his armies? It's true. You have an epic mission, but here's a little secret: you're not carrying out your assignment alone. You couldn't, in fact, do this alone. Not ever. Your King Jesus will win this war, but He's asking you to bravely follow Him into battle.

So, are you ready to suit up? First, put on your protective gear: your belt of truth, your breastplate of righteousness, your helmet of salvation, and your shield of faith. When the arrows from the Enemy start flying at you (often in the form of lies), you can put up your shield of faith. Those arrows will boomerang right off, unable to hurt you. Whoa.

Your deadliest weapon? The sword of the Spirit. You can attack your Enemy with this incredibly powerful sword that is God's words: His words in the Bible and those He shares with you in prayer.

Finally, don't forget your shoes. With good shoes, you can run at top speeds, sharing God's love with everyone you know.

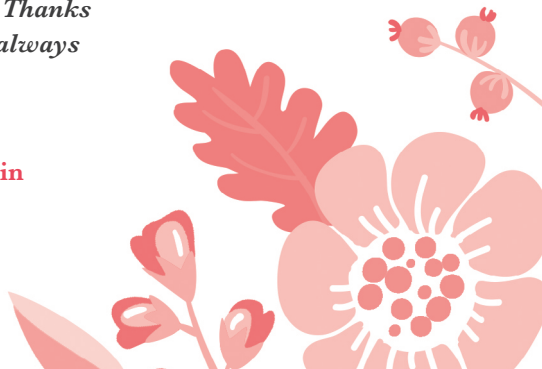
Now that you're dressed, you're ready to do battle.



What's your favorite spiritual weapon? Why?

Jesus, help me suit up and get ready for the fight against the Enemy. Thanks for going before me and always protecting me!

You can read about the war against our Enemy in Ephesians 6:10–18.



2

GOD'S UNBREAKABLE KINGDOM

Put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you.

Matthew 6:33 (NIV)



Have you ever watched *Frozen I* or *II*, in which spunky princesses Anna and Elsa, along with everyone's favorite snowman sidekick—Olaf—take us on adventures as they learn to rule their kingdom?

Except in movies with singing snowmen, we don't often hear the word *kingdom*. The moment you accept Jesus into your heart, though, you belong to a new one. Yes, really. In this kingdom, you answer to a higher power than your school principal, the president, or—even—your parents. (It's hard to believe.) You see, Jesus is



your King. He's mightier than any government, king, or queen on Earth or in the entire universe (including spiritual kingdoms too!). One day, the Bible says, all leaders—including your principal—will bow down to your King of Kings. Whoa.

Wait, there's more! Did you know that your King is a rule-breaker? It's true. The rules in His kingdom are flipped upside down, topsy-turvy even. In his kingdom, leaders don't get special treatment. Nope. They're the first to serve! In his kingdom, you love your enemies, not just your friends. Here, you put others—not yourself—first.

The most incredible news? In God's kingdom, you get to live forever, with the King who loves you with everything He's got.



What's the most awesome thing about God's kingdom?

Jesus, thanks for Your unbreakable, unshakeable, upside-down kingdom. I love that I get to live forever with You as my King.

You can read about God's unbreakable kingdom in Mark 10:13–16.


3

KING'S DAUGHTER

**The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty
Warrior who saves. He will take great
delight in you; in his love he will . . . rejoice
over you with singing.**

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)





How do you describe yourself? Maybe you talk about your *personality*, how you're funny, shy, or spunky. Or, about the *things you do*, like playing piano or soccer. Or about *what you love*, like a favorite song or show. These are *great* ways to describe who you are.

Your Creator has some very important things to share with you about your identity too: First, you just so happen to be the daughter of the King of the universe. (That means you're royal.) You are also *beloved*, a fancy—even old-fashioned—word with a big meaning: Your heavenly Father is crazy about you. He loves your brave heart, your curious mind, your energy. He treasures your smile and your strength. Everything about you makes your Father's heart burst with joy.

He even sings lullabies over you in heaven (Zephaniah 3:17)!

Sometimes people will try to tear you down. Be brave enough to tune in to your Father, who will remind you of who you really are: a beloved, royal daughter of the King.



How do you describe yourself?

Jesus, sometimes it's easy to forget who I really am. Help me remember that I'm treasured and loved by You.

You can read how God sings over you in heaven in Zephaniah 3:14–17.



4

THE WEAVER KING

The LORD says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them.”

Psalm 91:14–15



There’s a legend about a king who wanted the most beautiful wall hangings in his palace. To everyone’s surprise, the king hired kids for the job.

On the day of the children’s arrival, the king revealed a secret to them, “Before I became emperor, I was a weaver.

“If you ever need help, you can always come to me.”

The following weeks and months, the girls and boys worked non-stop, but their silk kept tangling, their fabric ruined by the holes at the center of their designs. None of their tapestries were worthy of a king’s palace.



Except for one girl's. One tiny girl kept mysteriously churning out masterpieces of gold and red thread, full of images of tigers and unicorns, almost as if by magic.

Dumbfounded, they finally asked her the secret to her success.

She smiled and said simply, "Every morning, I go to the emperor and ask him for help."

The king had offered to help—and only one of them had taken him up on his offer.

The King of the universe gives you the very same offer. No matter the time or place, God promises to be available to you. (Helping His kids is one of His favorite things.)

Remember your King's door is wide open.



What do you need help with right now? Talk to your King about it.

Jesus, You're pretty busy, but You promise that Your door is wide open—that I can go to you at any time. That blows my mind!

You can read about God's awesome help in Psalm 91:11–16.

5

MAKE MY BROWN EYES BLUE

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well

Psalm 139:13–14 (NIV)



Amy Carmichael was born with *gorgeous* brown eyes. But Carmichael, who later became a famous missionary in India, wanted blue eyes. She even prayed for God to change her eye color from brown to blue!

Here's the amazing thing: When she arrived in India, Carmichael discovered most everyone had dark eyes—just like her! Because



she had dark eyes, Amy was accepted more quickly into her new community.

God designed Amy Carmichael—and all of us—purposely. Our God is a Master Artist. When God created you, He lovingly mixed together his rainbow of hues to create the exact color of your gorgeous eyes. He selected the texture—straight, wavy, or curly—of your hair. He thoughtfully built out your curious mind, giving you amazing talents and brilliant abilities too. Nothing escaped you Creator’s attention when He lovingly crafted you.

You are your Creator’s masterpiece.



What do you like about yourself?

Jesus, You created me beautifully and specially—I am Your masterpiece!

You can read how God created you uniquely in Psalm 139:13–18.

6

WALKING IN GOD'S DIRT

One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Mark 1:16–18



School was different in Jesus's time. You'd move out of your parents' house and move in with your teacher (called the "rabbi").

You'd also follow your teacher around—literally. There's a funny saying about this; it's something like, Students walk around in their rabbi's dirt. That's because students walked behind their teachers so closely that the dirt their teachers kicked up would settle on them!

You may be asking, What's the point of all of this? As a student—a *disciple*—you didn't want to just memorize facts. Nope. You wanted to become *exactly* like your teacher. That's why the disciples left everything—including their families—to follow Jesus.

Jesus calls us to be His disciples too. So, listen to Him and obey what He says. By following in Jesus's footsteps, you can walk in "God's dirt"—becoming just like your Rabbi.



What do you think about school in Jesus's time?

Jesus, help me walk in Your dirt—listening to what You say and loving others as You do. I want to become just like You! Please show me how.

You can read about Jesus choosing the disciples in Mark 1:16–20.





7

REALLY, REALLY HUNGRY ... AND TEMPTED

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Matthew 4:4



Have you ever been so hungry that you could’ve eaten a mountain of fries, eight slices of pizza, and maybe even a slice of ice cream cake too?

When we’re hungry, we’d do almost anything to fill our bellies.

Today’s Bible story tells us Jesus was really, really hungry too. He had been fasting forty days. (Fasting is whenever you take a break from meals, or, even worse—chocolate—to focus on your friendship with God.) Satan decided that forty days into Jesus’s fast was



the *perfect* time to offer Jesus a temptation in the form of freshly baked bread. Pretty rotten, right?

The next time you're tempted, remember this: Jesus knows *exactly* what you're going through. How it feels to be tempted when you're struggling or just really, really hungry. Even at one of His toughest moments ever, Jesus told the Enemy, "No thanks."

Because Jesus already defeated Satan, He'll give you His amazing power to say "No!" to temptation too.



Have you ever been tempted when you were really, really hungry, . . . or tired, . . . or alone?

Jesus, you know what it's like to be tempted. Help me to do the right thing whenever I'm tempted.

You can read about the time Jesus was really hungry . . . and tempted in Matthew 4:1–11.

8

LIKE A CHAMPION

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV)



Have you ever watched Simone Biles compete at the Olympics? The incredibly talented gymnast has won more medals than any other American gymnast. To go for the gold, Biles doesn't just show up at the Olympics without practicing and expect to win. No way! She practices at least six hours a day. Imagine how many handsprings, round-offs, and vaults that is in a year: wow.

In the same way Biles gets ready for the Olympics, you're to train your heart and mind like a champion. You see, God wants you to build up your spiritual muscles. How? As an Olympic athlete is physically strong, God can make your heart and mind strong. If you ask Him for help, He'll give you the strength to make good choices, and the amazing power to say no to things that aren't good for you. So, listen to Him when you pray. Do the right things. And read God's Word, the Bible. The Bible says there's even a prize for God's very own champions—"a crown that will last forever" (1 Corinthians 9:25).

With Jesus's help, you'll grow a courageous heart.



How can you build your spiritual muscles this week?

Jesus, help me to build up my spiritual muscles and grow powerful in You!

You can read about becoming a champion in 1 Corinthians 9:24–27.





9

GOD'S GREATEST TREASURE

Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:19–20



In the ancient kingdom of Dacia, gold was everywhere. Emperors greedily tried to get ahold of all that gold. Especially jealous were they of King Decebalus, the ruler of Dacia. Being a ruler in a kingdom full of gold made the king a very rich man.

King Decebalus wanted to keep it that way—so he came up with a sneaky plan: Next to his palace was a river, and the king forced the river to change direction. (Kings did anything they wanted back then!) Then, sneakily, he unlocked his trove of gold from the palace and carried it to the now dry riverbed. There, he buried his



treasure. Then, the king made the river flow *just* as it did before. Hiding his big secret.

Only after the king died was the secret revealed: that piles of gold lay hidden at the bottom of the river! Whoa.

This is a story about a king obsessed with keeping his treasure all to himself.

Unlike this king, our King—our heavenly Father—gives freely of His treasures. His greatest treasure? His only Son. The Son He loved with all His might: “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

A generous Gift-Giver, God gave up His most precious Treasure—Jesus—to give us the gift of life forever with Him. Have you accepted His free gift?



Have you chosen to love God with your whole heart? You can make that decision right now!

Jesus, You are God’s greatest Treasure. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and came back to life again! I’m sorry for my sins. Please come into my heart and life, and be my King and my Friend. I want to live forever with You. In Jesus’s name, amen.

You can read about treasure in Matthew 6:19–21.


10

STINKY FEET

So [Jesus] got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

John 13:4–5





Have you ever been running around in your tennis shoes all day? If you have, then you know what happens to feet after they've been outside for a long time—they stink.

Jesus's disciples had a day like that, a long day of walking everywhere. Guess what? They had smelly feet too. The unexpected thing, though? Jesus volunteered to wash their feet (and He knew just how stinky their feet would be).

Just as we would have, the disciple Peter protested.

“No,” he cried out to Jesus, “you will never ever wash my feet!” (John 13:8). You see, Peter knew Jesus was a king. And kings don't wash stinky feet. But Peter missed something important. Jesus rules an upside-down kingdom. A kingdom in which important people forget special privileges. Instead, they're the first to serve.

So, will you follow Jesus's example? In God's kingdom, we're called to humbly serve, even if the job is a little bit stinky.



How can you serve those around you today?

Jesus, I can't believe You washed stinky feet! Help me follow Your example by serving others, even when the work isn't glamorous.

You can read the story of Jesus washing stinky feet in John 13:1-17.



APPENDIX

How Can I Be Friends with God?

Let's begin with the most amazing truth of all time: The God of the universe loves you. In fact, God has *always* loved you (even before you existed!). And God will never stop loving you.

The heartbreaking thing, though? Because of the sin in our hearts, we run away from God. Sin is anything that keeps us from God (and many times, it involves making poor choices, disobeying, or not doing what's right). God *hates* being apart from us, the kids He created.

God created a rescue plan so that we could be close to Him: sending His Son Jesus to Earth to show us just how much He loved us. Jesus took away our sins by dying on a cross and coming back to life again. He made it possible for us to be friends with God—living forever with Him (John 3:16).

If you'd like to have a personal relationship with Jesus, you can ask God into your heart and life right now!



*Dear God, I want to be near to You.
Thank you for sending Your Son Jesus
to die on the cross for my sins. I'm
sorry for my sins. Please come into
my heart and life; I want to love and
follow You with my whole heart.*

In Jesus's name, amen.



Welcome to God's big family. Now go celebrate, maybe inviting your friends and family to join in the fun—they'll likely be excited about your decision to follow Jesus too! Then, connect with a church where you can find friendship as you grow in your faith.

Finally, don't forget: God loves you. God has always loved you. And God will never stop loving you (Romans 8:38–39).



GOD HEARS *You!*

God Hears Her for Girls is the devotional for girls just like you—for girls loved by a strong and mighty God. You'll read fun, true-to-life stories that share how God equips you with the power and the courage to be a mighty girl for Him.

Did you know that even though He's the creator of the whole universe and keeps it all going, God listens when *you* speak? It's true! With Bible verses for each day, you'll discover that God is always there to help you, no matter what. Because He hears you—and is bigger and stronger than anything you'll ever face—you can run to God in prayer. He'll help you live bravely for Him.



From **Our Daily Bread Ministries**, this devotional is part of the God Hears Her series designed to bring comfort and encouragement to women every day. Which now includes little women too! Each product is designed to speak to her heart, lift her up, and remind her that God is bigger than the trials she faces. Go to godhearsher.org to learn more about the God Hears Her line of products.



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