



Christian Perspective

Holiday Devotional/ Bible Study Samples

- *The God We Praise* (Thanksgiving)
- *Jesus: The Promised One* (Christmas)
- *Jesus--The Life-Giver* (Easter)

The God We Praise



A 21-Day Thanksgiving devotional focusing on the attributes of God

Devotional Begins: First Friday in November

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN E-BOOK: Text and pictures shown were taken from physical version of the devotional; the e-book version is basically the same as the printed version, except the child's craft has been modified to work in an e-book format. The e-book includes instructions on how to print and make a child's book to go with the devotional. Every day, children color one page in their book that reinforces the day's lesson. All the instructions and pages to print are included--the only things you need are paper, scissors, glue, a hole punch, ribbon (or string/yarn), and crayons/markers.

Day 4: The God Who...Sees

The Bible tells us God not only made us and offers us His holiness, but He also sees and watches over us.

From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. Psalm 33:13-15

God sees what is happening to us, not just sometimes, but *all* the time. He is watching over us even during struggles we don't understand. Today, we are going to read about a maidservant named Hagar who discovered God is the God who sees.

The Bible tells us Hagar ran away because her mistress had mistreated her. She fled to the desert and sat down near a stream.

While she sat there, God spoke with her and told her to go back to her mistress. He promised to take care of her and to make her descendants "too numerous to count" (Genesis 16:10).

After God finished speaking, Hagar,

Gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." Genesis 16:13

God saw all that happened to Hagar. He saw her mistress mistreat her, and He saw her while she sat in the desert. He even saw her future and knew what would one day happen to her.

God is the God who sees us. His eyes are everywhere, keeping watch over everyone.

The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. Proverbs 15:3

Think About: God knows all about everything happening to you right now. He knows all about your struggles. They have not surprised Him.

Today, praise God by choosing to believe Him. He sees you and knows what is best for you.

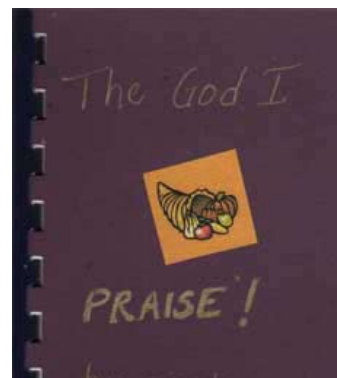
Prayer: Dear God, thank you for watching over me. Thank you that you know all about my struggles and my circumstances. Forgive me for worrying or thinking you didn't know. Amen.

Book ✉: Today, you have an **eye sticker** to put in your book to remind you that God sees everything. You may want to draw a picture of yourself under the eye as a reminder that God sees you.

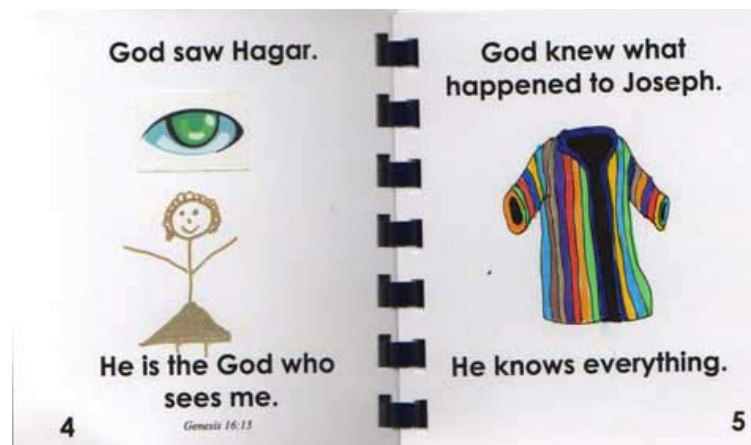
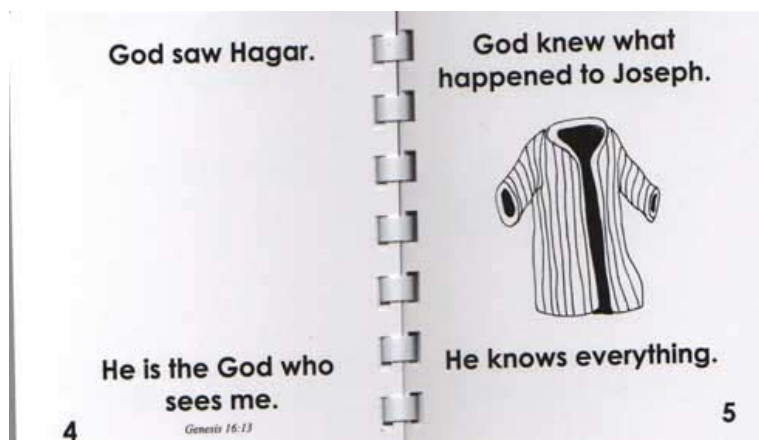
Activity Suggestions:

- Look at the incredible way God designed the human eye. The God who created light and vision can certainly see everything (Psalm 94:9).
- Play the "I Spy" game. In this game, one person picks one object in the room he can see and others try to guess the object he chose. The person who "sees the object" can be asked yes/no questions by those who are guessing. For example, the guessers could ask "Is the object green?" or "Is the object large?"

The God We Praise



Front cover of book, shown undecorated and decorated.



Day 4: Children color page 4 of book and place the eye sticker in book.
Day 5: Children color page 5 of book.

Jesus: The Promised One



A 24-day Christmas devotional tracing God's plan of redemption from the very beginning

Devotional Begins: December 1

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN E-BOOK: Text and pictures shown were taken from physical version of the devotional; the e-book version is basically the same as the printed version, except the child's craft has been modified to work in an e-book format. The e-book includes instructions on how to print and make a child's book to go with the devotional. Every day, children color one page in their book that reinforces the day's lesson. All the instructions and pages to print are included--the only things you need are paper, scissors, glue, a hole punch, ribbon (or string/yarn), and crayons/markers.

December 14: God saw Judah's heart ☒

Remember how God lovingly gave the Israelites the Law so they would understand their need for the Promised One? Well, the Israelites forgot His message of love to them. Their hearts became proud. God had something to show the Israelites before they would be ready to receive the Promised One. Let's see what God showed the Israelites and ask God to make us ready to receive the Promised One this Christmas.

Not long after King David died, the Israelites started to forget God and His message to them.

Israel split into two kingdoms. Each kingdom forgot God in a different way.

The Northern Kingdom, called Israel, openly forgot God and followed other idols. They even allowed other kings besides David's descendents to rule them.

But the Southern Kingdom, called Judah, did not think they had forgotten God or His message. In fact, they thought they were very righteous. They looked like they were following all God's laws. They were proud of being David's descendents. They brought sacrifices, fasted, and prayed.

But God saw Judah's heart. He sent prophets to warn them that, although they were doing everything they thought He had commanded, they weren't obeying God's message to them.

"The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?" says the LORD. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you,

this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—I cannot bear your evil assemblies. Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of them."

Isaiah 1:11-14

"For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings."

Hosea 6:6

The scripture says that Judah's offerings were meaningless. Judah's offerings no longer reminded them of their sin or their need for the Promised One.

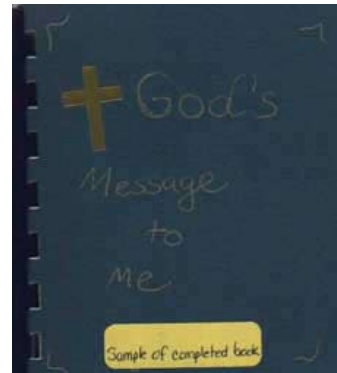
Because God loved them so much, He sent many prophets, like a man named Isaiah, to warn Judah. God warned them to acknowledge their sin and trust in Him again. He wanted their hearts to be humble and ready to receive His Promised One. But the people didn't listen. They were proud of all they were doing.

Think About: God saw Judah's prideful heart and God sees your heart. Is your heart humble and ready to receive Jesus this Christmas?

Prayer: Lord, please change my proud heart. Help me to realize how much I need you this Christmas. Amen.

Book: Put your heart sticker in your book. Try to cover the heart. You may be able to hide it from everyone around you, but you can never hide it from God. God sees everything. (Hebrews 4:13)

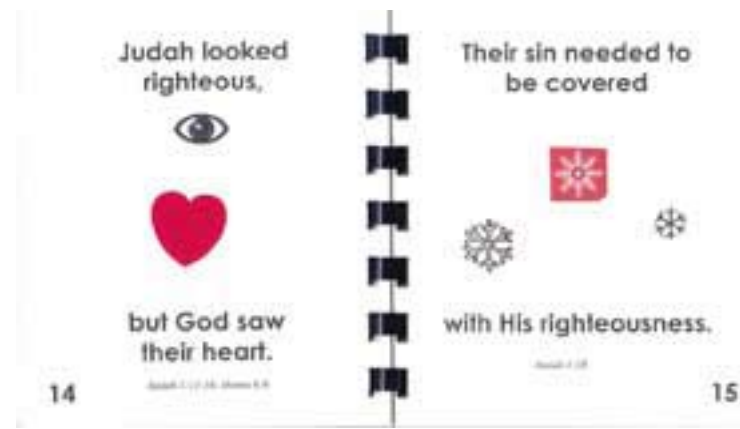
Jesus: The Promised One



Front cover of book, shown undecorated and decorated.



Envelope Ring



Day 14: Children put a heart sticker on page 14. Other days children color. Kit includes a special gold pen to use.

Jesus--The Life-Giver



*A week-long Easter devotional focusing on
new life in Christ*

Devotional Begins: Palm Sunday

***Comes as an e-book with instructions for
making a flower garden!***

Palm Sunday: We Need Life

Do you know what today is? It's Palm Sunday, the beginning of Easter week! In just one week we will be celebrating one of the most important events in all history—Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

To prepare our hearts for Easter, we're going to take this week to look at what Jesus did for us by His life, death, and resurrection. We'll discover that the events of that first Easter week were all part of God's plan to bring us life. While He was on earth, Jesus once said,

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. *John 10:10b*

Jesus came to bring us spiritual life. God knew that we,

...were dead in trespasses and sins.

Ephesians 2:1b

This means that our hearts and spirits—the inside parts of us—are dead, or closed off, from God and His righteousness. Ever since Adam sinned back in the Garden of Eden, man has been born in rebellion against God. It is as though our souls are dead to God and His ways.

Think of a dead man for a moment. Can he help himself or make himself better? Of course not! A dead man cannot do anything at all. He is hopeless and helpless.

Likewise, the Bible teaches us that apart from God we are,

...without hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:12b NIV

Have you ever tried to make yourself good? If you have, you know that you cannot succeed. Although you might try your hardest, you simply *cannot* make yourself good. The Bible says it's just as impossible for us to do good as it is for someone to change his color skin.

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

Jeremiah 13:23NIV

Even when we do something that appears good, we do it with the wrong motives and in our own strength. Our hearts are dead—they are separated from God. On our own, we are completely hopeless.

But there's good news! Easter is all about how Jesus came and brought us life. Because of the events of Easter week, we can have new life.

Think About:

So often we forget that we are hopeless and helpless on our own. We try to make ourselves better and grow discouraged when we fail.

But our sin doesn't surprise God. He knows that on our own we are and always will be hopeless. That's why He sent Jesus to bring us life.

When you see your sin today, instead of trying to fix or hide it, run to God, ask for forgiveness, and thank Him for sending Jesus to bring you life.

Prayer:

Dear God, I'm overwhelmed sometimes when I look at the evilness of my own heart. Thank you that my sin doesn't surprise you—that you sent Jesus to bring me life. Please help me to remember this and to depend on you instead of myself. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Garden: Flower: Snowflake center; **Square:** Black

Note: If you have not already done so, read the "Flower Garden Instructions" section at the beginning of your devotional and follow the instructions.

It's time to start adding flowers to your flower garden! Use the black square today to remind you of sin. Just like you cannot make that black square white, so we cannot make our hearts acceptable in God's sight.

The little snowflake in the center of your flower is to remind you that, although we cannot change ourselves, God had a plan to bring us life—to make it so that we could be clean and righteous in His sight.

On the back of your square, you may wish to draw or write something that will remind you how much you need Jesus to bring you life.



Christian Perspective

These Devotionals Are Designed to Help You...

- **Make Bible time fun for your children**
- **Teach your children how the Old and New Testament fit together**
- **Witness to friends and family**
- **Help your children understand the whole gospel message**
- **Get in the habit of coming before the Word of God together as a family**
- **Keep focused on the meaning of the holiday**
- **Meditate on God's Word throughout your day**

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