

1ST QUARTER 2024

Junior

JANUARY



OLD TESTAMENT
LIVING
WITH PURPOSE

FOR AGES 10-12



Juniors Devotional

1ST QUARTER 2024

JANUARY

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 1

Note to Parents

Welcome to the Junior Devotional!

This devotional magazine is designed to help your child develop the habit of spending time in the Bible each day. Each week's devotions are written to encourage individual application and response to the verses read that day. The magazine includes age-appropriate jokes, crafts, stories, and other activities to engage your child as well as his or her friends and family members. Some features are even designed to be interactive for the whole family. It is our prayer that you and your child will enjoy exploring the Bible and growing together in the Lord.

Don't forget . . . help your child learn the verses suggested on the weekly pages. Consider learning them together.

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GROWING TOGETHER
SDA Church Curriculum

www.growingtogether.church

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God Created Everything

MONDAY

Read Genesis 1:1-19

In just four days, God created the universe, made the oceans, put the sun in the sky, and filled the earth with plants. What are some of your favorite parts of God's creation?

What are some words you would use to describe God's creation?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There is nothing in the universe that God did not create.



TUESDAY

Read Genesis 1:20-25

What did God create on days five and six?

What do the thousands of varieties of animals around the world tell you about God?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God is a creative artist. Every creature, from the smallest butterfly to the largest elephant, is God's work of art.

WEDNESDAY

Read Genesis 1:26-31

We are made in the image of God, which means we are different from the rest of creation. We are able to think, love, create, and live in ways that reflect God. Think of three ways in which you want to be like God.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God made me. God loves me and values me more than any other part of creation.

THURSDAY

Read Genesis 2:1-3;
Exodus 20:8-11

In what ways can you rest this Sabbath? (Think outside the box!)

Resting can include thinking less about school and daily life and spending more time focusing on God instead. How might resting help you serve God better?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God designed me in such a way that I need a Sabbath every week so my mind, body and heart can rest.

FRIDAY

Read Psalm 8

Just thinking about the moon and stars made the psalmist want to praise God. What makes you want to praise God?

Open a journal and write verses 1 and 9 as a prayer to God.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY *God is always worthy of my praise.*

CHECK IT OUT

Have you ever stopped to wonder just how the world works?

How water turns to ice when it gets cold . . .

How caterpillars sprout wings and turn into butterflies . . .

How billions of people live on the earth, and yet every single one of them looks different . . .

The world is too detailed and extraordinary to have been an accident. Someone smart, inventive, and all-around incredible must have created it. Our God is nothing short of amazing. God deserves our praise!

For every letter in the phrase INCREDIBLE GOD, write something God created that starts with that letter (icicles, comets, roadrunners, etc.).

I
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JUNIORS CHALLENGE

Every time you think about these things, praise God for being a God of wonder!



God Created People

MONDAY

Read Genesis 2:4-9

God personally breathed life into humankind. God didn't do this for any other part of creation. God also planted trees to make sure Adam was well fed. What does that tell you about how much God values us?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

As a human, I am special among all God's creation.



TUESDAY

Read Genesis 2:18-25

What did God do when God realized it wasn't good for Adam to be alone?

Think about the people who are most important to you.
Why are you thankful to have them as loved ones?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God cares about me and wants me to have meaningful relationships with others—relationships that will help me grow closer to God.

WEDNESDAY

Read Genesis 2:15;
Colossians 3:23-24

God gave Adam the first job ever.
What was it?

Think about the work you do on most days (for teachers, parents, etc.). What would it look like to do those jobs as if God was the One Who asked you to do them?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I give glory to God when I work hard and try my best.

THURSDAY

Read Psalm 100

Why do you think the fact that God made us should cause us to give God praise?

What is one way you can worship and thank God today?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I am not an accident. I am a special creation of God, and I can worship God with gladness.

FRIDAY

Read Psalm 139:1-14

Unscramble the words.

God knows . . .

When I down and when I get . My thoughts before
I them. I go. The I will say.
I S T P U
H I K N T E E H R W D O R S W

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I praise You because You made me in an amazing and wonderful way (Psalm 139:14, ICB).

CHECK IT OUT

Did You Know?

A rhinoceros beetle

can lift or pull items that are 285 times its body weight.

If you could do that, you could pick up a school bus!



Crocodiles

can go without food for up to two years.

Imagine going two years without birthday cake, pizza, or Taco Bell!

Starfish

can regenerate limbs.

Imagine losing an arm or leg and then watching it grow back!

Animals can do tons of things we humans can't do, but humans have a special ability.

When God made people, God gave us—and only us—the ability to have a relationship with Jesus. That's right! You were specially made by God to think, speak, and be creative. Why? So you could enjoy God's presence . . . and so God could enjoy yours.

JUNIORS CHALLENGE

Remember that God gave us relationships so we could help each other grow closer to Jesus. Be the kind of friend (and son or daughter) who helps encourage the people in your life.

The First Sin



MONDAY

Read Genesis 2:16-17;
3:1-3

Satan is sly and deceptive. Write Satan's question to Eve about God's instructions.

Now, write what God *really* instructed.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Devil will try to get me to question God, but I can choose to listen to God instead.

TUESDAY

Read Genesis 3:4-13

When God pointed out their sin, who did Adam blame, and who did Eve blame?

What do you think we should do instead of blaming other people for our bad choices?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The choice whether or not to obey God is mine alone.

Family Theme:

How Things Went Wrong

Application Verse:

Colossians 1:16

WEDNESDAY

Read Genesis 3:14-19

After Adam sinned, what changed about the ground that he worked every day?

When was the last time you faced a consequence and then wished you could take back what you had done?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

All sin has consequences and hurts my relationship with God.

THURSDAY

Read Psalm 51:1-10

**MERCIFUL, GUILT, CLEAN,
WASH, SNOW, HEART**

After sinning and facing the consequences, David wrote this psalm as a prayer to God.

God, be _____ to me. Wash away all my _____ and make me _____ again. _____ me, and I will be whiter than _____. Create in me a clean (pure) _____.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God knows about my sin and loves me anyway. I can be open and honest with God and ask for help and forgiveness.

FRIDAY

Read 1 John 1:5-10

Why can't we fool God by claiming to be without sin?

What is God willing to do if we confess our sins?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If I honestly confess my sins to God, I will receive forgiveness.



CHECK IT OUT

"It was perfect until you ruined it!"

Corey said that to his sister when she knocked over his science project. Emma screamed it when her best friend squirted ketchup on her new shirt. Brayden whiningly said it to his mom when she topped off his ice cream sundae with peanuts. Maybe we have that thought when we think about Adam and Eve bringing sin into the perfect world God created.

Because of Adam and Eve's choice to eat the fruit, we all are born with sin in our hearts. But God doesn't yell or throw a fit when we make mistakes. Instead, God offers us forgiveness. Now, that's love!

Read 1 John 1:9, and then write a prayer, thanking God for this promise.

JUNIORS CHALLENGE

Are you holding a grudge against someone who wronged you . . . or maybe just someone you don't like? Show the same forgiveness God has shown you, and demonstrate love to that person this week.

The First Death

MONDAY

Read Genesis 4:1-7

What did God say is always waiting at the door?

- | | |
|---------|--------------|
| A. Food | C. Love |
| B. Sin | D. Offerings |

What did God tell Cain to do about sin?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| A. Welcome it | C. Ignore it |
| B. Love it | D. Rule over it |

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I need to get ahold of God's grace to help me with sin before sin gets ahold of me.



TUESDAY Read Genesis 4:8-15

When God asked where Abel was, how did Cain answer?

Cain didn't seem to be sorry for what he had done.
What do you think the opposite of Cain's attitude looks like?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It is better to be sorry for sin than to pretend it didn't happen.

Family Theme:

Embracing Grace in a
Wounded World

Application Verse:

Colossians 1:16

WEDNESDAY

Read Genesis 4:17-19,
23-26

Although evil and sin were now part of the world, what did people begin to do around the time Seth's son was born?

Take time to pray right now. Thank God that we can still have a relationship with Jesus even with all the bad in the world.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The world is full of bad things, but God's love for me will never change. God wants to have a relationship with me.



THURSDAY

Read Proverbs 28:13-14

**CONFESSES / FEARS / HEART /
HIDES / MERCY / PROSPER**

Whoever _____ his sins
will not _____,
but whoever

_____ his
sins will find _____. The
one who _____ the Lord is
blessed (happy), but the one who
hardens his _____ will face
trouble.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*God will always show
me mercy if I confess
my sins to Him.*

FRIDAY

Read 1 John 3:11-18

Complete this thought from 1 John 3:17: Suppose a believer is rich enough to have all that he needs. He sees his brother in Christ who is poor and does not have what he needs. What if the believer does not help the poor brother? Then. . ."

Does someone need your prayers? A friend to talk to? A helping hand? Write down one need you can help meet today.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I can show God's love by helping someone in need.

CHECK IT OUT

Search for the five hidden beetles.



The word **hidden** isn't really in God's vocabulary.
God doesn't have to "search." God sees and knows everything!

God really wants to have a close relationship with us, but our sins can get in the way. If you were trying to hug someone but there was a big wall in the way, wouldn't you notice? Jesus wants to take that wall down, and did it by giving His life to pay for our sins.

Trying to ignore our sins just separates us from God even more. The best option is to be honest and confess. When we do that, God loves us enough to forgive us and forget we even sinned in the first place!



JUNIORS CHALLENGE

*Talk to Jesus about an area in which you have trouble obeying Him.
Be honest, and ask Him to help you obey in the future.*

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