

The
JOSHUA CODE
for Kids

I Can Learn the Bible



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Stay *PLUGGED IN* to your Bible!

Each week in Motion we *plug in* to God's power when we read from the Bible as an eGroup and memorize verses from the Bible together. But it's important to not only *plug in* to the Bible in Motion, but at home, too, by reading it and talking about it with your family!

We know when you do that, you get *plugged in* to God's power. He will change your life and help you live a life which honors Him! This month long devotional is for you to continue to plug in to God's Word!

This devotional will get you started and you can continue to be *plugged in* to God's power every day! When you are *plugged in* to the Bible you'll have God's Word in your mind and heart and His power will be with you wherever you go.

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MOTION DEVOTIONAL

UNPLUGGED: THE BIBLE IS SO BIG - I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START.

PLUGGED IN: WE CAN HELP! LET'S START TOGETHER.

Think of some place big ... REALLY BIG. Now think about a theme park. Theme parks are huge and there is so much to do in a theme park. At first it can be overwhelming because there are so many fun and exciting things to do and you don't know where to start. But theme parks provide a map of the park so you can find the things you are looking for.

Devotionals do the same thing for the Bible. Sure, the Bible is BIG, but that's what 's so wonderful about it! It has so many great, true stories and verses which teach us how to live a life that honors God. Devotionals point us to scripture and stories in the Bible and help explain it for us, too! This devotional will help you over the next month as you learn from the power in God's word.



Let's start the devotional now!

Find Colossians 2:6-7 in your Bible. Circle one: Is it in the OLD TESTAMENT or NEW TESTAMENT?



Read Colossians 2:6-7.

These verses in Colossians are a great reminder to stay *plugged in* to the Bible and connected to what God wants for your life. It tells us to continue to live our lives in Him!

According to these verses, how do we continue to live our lives in Christ?

We can live our lives in Christ being rooted and built up in Him. Coming to church and reading and learning from our Bibles helps us to be rooted and built up in Jesus! The Bible shows us how we are rooted in who God created us to be and the hope we have in Jesus. It's a wonderful feeling! When you know these things, you overflow with thankfulness, just like verse 7 says.

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE, NOT WHAT YOU DON'T HAVE

Being thankful is important. Instead of thinking about what we don't have, we should focus on what we do have. I can tell you a few things you have: you have a church and eGroup leaders who care about you and want you to learn about God's promises for your life!



Plug in to the Bible by thinking about how these verses show us how to live.

In each section below write two things you are thankful to have in your life.

CHURCH

SCHOOL

HOME

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WEEK 1

This week read and memorize Genesis 1:1.

DAY 1

YOUR VIEW OF THE WORLD

Have you ever tried on a pair of glasses that did not belong to you? Things look very different, don't they? Like looking through different glasses, every person looks at the world in a certain way. We call this a worldview. The way we see our world affects how we live and the choices we make. So what you believe is very important. Some people think the world happened for no reason—it just appeared out of nowhere in one big poof! Others are not sure how it came to be, and don't really know why they are here. The very first verse in the Bible gives us the correct glasses that fit perfectly, and through which everything looks crystal clear.

DAY 2

Read Genesis 1:1 again.

WHEN?

“In the beginning . . .” This takes us back to the very beginning—before anything was, the beginning of time! Close your eyes and be as quiet as you can for ten seconds. That’s what it was like in the beginning. It was dark and empty.

WHO?

Look at the next word in this verse: “In the beginning, God . . .” It was dark and empty, and God was there. He was in the beginning before time even began! Have you ever wondered where He came from, or how He got there? Even though it’s hard to understand, the Bible tells us He was just always there. In the beginning, there was God.

WHAT?

In the beginning, what did God do? He created the sky and the earth. Wow! So out of darkness and emptiness, He made the whole world! What a wise, creative, amazing God we have.

DAY 3

Recite Genesis 1:1.

PRAY TO JESUS: Dear Jesus, thank You for creating the world we live in. You are so great and You are so amazing. My favorite part of Your creation is _____. Amen.

Now that you understand this verse, you have a worldview! You know how we got here. And when you see a beautiful sunset, you know who painted it. As you begin memorizing your first verse this week, you are putting God's Word in your heart and mind. His Word—the Bible—is there for you, and it will never go away.

Say these words out loud:

God's Word is *for me* and *to me*, it is *in me* and working *through me*, and just like His love, it goes on and on forever!

WEEK 2

This week read and memorize John 3:16.

DAY 1

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

This week's verse is the most famous verse in the Bible. It is sometimes called the gospel, or the good news. God gave His only Son, Jesus, so that those of us who believe in Him could live forever with Him one day in heaven. Now that is good news!

DAY 2

Read John 3:16 again.

WHY DID GOD DO THIS?

The first part of the verse tells us exactly why God gave His Son. “For God loved the world so much . . .” He did it because He loves us! Do you know how deep the ocean is? Do you know how wide it is from the east to the west? (It would be like starting to walk one way and never stopping!) That is how much God loves you. And do you know the best part about His love? It never ends. No matter what you do or where you go, God will never stop loving you. God loves the world so much.

WHAT DID GOD DO?

The second phrase in this verse tells us what God did. “He gave His only Son.” That means that God has one Son, and He let Him die on a cross—for you and for me, to save us from our sins. You would have to love someone a whole lot to give up your own son, right? And Jesus, God’s Son, chose to follow and obey His Father and died on a cross.

DAY 3

Recite John 3:16.

WHO DID HE DO THIS FOR?

The next part of this verse says, “Whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.” That means that if you believe in God, and if you believe that Jesus died for you, God has promised you life forever in heaven! He did this for you. God loves you so much that He gave His only Son, and if you believe in Him, you will never be lost and you will have eternal life! And that is the gospel.

Dear God, thank You for loving me. Thank You for giving Your only Son for me and for Your promise of heaven. I believe in You! Amen.

Let’s say it together:

God’s Word is *for me* and *to me*, it is *in me* and working *through me*, and just like His love, it goes on and on forever!

WEEK 3

This week read and memorize Ephesians 2:8-9.

DAY 1

SIN AND GRACE

We have learned that God loves us and sent His Son to die for us. We have also learned that if we believe in Him, He will forgive our sins and give us the promise of heaven. This week's verse is about how we can receive God's gift of grace—even though we don't deserve it.

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 again.

A THING CALLED SIN

The Bible tells us that we all have sin in our lives (Romans 3:23). Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever stolen anything? Have you ever said something that was unkind? Maybe you have not done something, even though you knew you should have. These are all sins. When we do these things, we often feel sad inside. And because we sin and God is perfect, we can't ever be good enough to get to heaven on our own. Our sin actually separates us from God. Because of that sin, we deserve to be punished.

YOUR PUNISHMENT

Here comes some good news: Have you ever heard of the word grace? Grace is getting something that you don't deserve. It would be like going to the principal's office after getting in big trouble. But instead of being punished, the principal gives you a big hug and says, "I'm going to be punished in your place." The principal *saved* you from your punishment and gave you grace. Even though we sin, God saves us from our punishment (being separated from God). Then, He gives us a gift of grace—forgiveness of sins and a home in heaven with God.

DAY 3

Recite Ephesians 2:8-9.

IT'S FREE!

God's gift is just that—a free gift. You don't have to be perfect, but you do have to have faith and accept this amazing gift He offers you. Have you ever told God that you believe in Him and want to take His free gift of grace? If you want to, you can tell Jesus right now:

Dear Jesus, I know I sin against You. Please forgive me for my sins and be in control of my life from now on. I believe in You. Thank You for coming into my life, forgiving my sins, and giving me a home in heaven! Please help me follow You the rest of my life. Amen.

Wow! See how God's Word is working in you? If you have received God's gift today, you have begun a wonderful journey with your very best Friend. Now you can talk with other Christians about being baptized and following Jesus' example in all you do.

Let's say it loud!

God's Word is *for me* and *to me*, it is *in me* and working *through me*, and just like His love, it goes on and on forever!

WEEK 4

This week read and memorize Psalm 23:1.

DAY 1

YOU HAVE A SHEPHERD

You have probably heard the story of David and Goliath. Do you know what David's job was as a young boy? He was a shepherd in the fields of Bethlehem. What do you think a shepherd is supposed to do? If you said, "Stay near his sheep, make sure they don't wander off, and protect them from wolves and other predators," then you were right! A shepherd takes good care of his sheep and protects them day and night.

DAY 2

Read Psalm 23:1 again.

HOW IS THE LORD OUR SHEPHERD?

In Psalm 23, David calls God his shepherd. What do you think he means by that? He means that the Lord is always with us, He will keep us from getting lost, and He will protect us.

Do you think a shepherd walks behind or in front of his sheep? He walks in front! He leads them and shows them where they need to go. Just like a shepherd, Jesus leads the way for us.

Let's look at each of the words in the verse and think about what they tell us:

The Lord—There is only *one* Lord.

Is—This means He *is* my shepherd—right now!

My—He's mine! He cares about *me* and watches over *me*.

Shepherd—He keeps me close to Him and *protects* me.

DAY 3

Recite Psalm 23:1.

WHAT DOES THE SHEPHERD GIVE US?

David says something else very important: “I have everything I need.” God wants us to ask Him for things we need and to trust Him as our Shepherd to take care of us. Sometimes we want things other people have, and we don’t feel happy until we get what we want. But Jesus wants us to be content. That means being happy and thankful for what we *do* have, not only thinking about what we *don’t* have.

Do you trust Jesus to be your Shepherd, to watch over you and give you everything you need? If so, tell Him!

Dear Lord, thank You for being my Shepherd and leading me. Sometimes I want _____, but I trust You, and I know You give me everything I need. I promise to follow You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Don’t forget . . .

God’s Word is *for me* and *to me*, it is *in me* and working *through me*, and just like His love, it goes on and on forever!

WEEK 5

This week read and memorize Romans 8:28.

DAY 1

THE GOOD AND THE BAD, TOGETHER

Have you ever eaten a fluffy, warm biscuit, fresh from the oven? Yum! A lot of ingredients were put into that biscuit to make it taste so good. But if you were to take a bite of the flour, just by itself, it would taste awful. Or if you licked only the baking soda off of the spoon, you might gag! Once you add all of the ingredients together, though, you get a wonderful result—a warm, delicious biscuit.

DAY 2

Read Romans 8:28 again.

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN

Like those yucky ingredients, some things in life “taste” bad to us or make us very sad. Maybe we get hurt, or we lose someone or something we love. This week’s verse teaches us that even though these things may make us sad, God can use them, along with other things in our lives, to make something good. God may choose to teach you a lesson through your sadness, or He may use you one day to help someone else who is feeling sad, just like you did. Either way, God promises us that even when bad things happen, He can actually turn them into good things and use them for a reason in our lives.

DAY 3

Recite Romans 8:28.

A WONDERFUL PROMISE

Did you notice the first two words of this verse? It says, “We know.” We, as children of God, can know that God will work everything in our lives for good. And does it say *some* things? No, it says *everything*! The last part of the verse shows us that this promise is only for those of us who love God and are part of His family.

Romans 8:28 can bring you a lot of comfort now and throughout the rest of your life. What are some bad things that have happened to you? Can you think of a way God has used some of those things for good?

Dear Lord, thank You for working out everything in my life for good. I love You and I believe that You only want the best for me. Please help me when I am feeling sad about _____ . Help me remember that You can make bad things into good things, even when I don't understand. In Jesus' name, amen.

This time, start with a whisper, then get louder and louder until your neighbors can hear you!

God's Word is *for me* and *to me*, it is *in me* and working *through me*, and just like His love, it goes on and on forever!

WEEK 6

This week read and memorize Matthew 5:6.

DAY 1

THIRSTY FOR DOING RIGHT

One day Jesus was teaching on a mountainside. He told all of the people listening that even if you do the right thing on the outside, it doesn't please God unless you also have the right attitude on the inside. This part of His lesson is called "The Beatitudes." Jesus teaches that we need to be who He wants us to be before we do what we think we are supposed to do. For example, if your teacher tells you to finish your math worksheet and you finish it while stomping your feet, saying unkind words, and having a bad attitude inside your heart, is Jesus pleased? No! It's not just the math worksheet He cares about—it's the attitude of your heart.



DAY 2

Read Matthew 5:6 again.

WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS?

When our hearts have a good attitude, we will want to do the right thing; that's called righteousness. It's a big word that means doing the right thing because we want to honor God, follow His laws, and live a life that pleases Him. This week's verse says that wanting to do the right thing will make us happy and blessed.

DAY 3

Recite Matthew 5:6.

ARE YOU THIRSTY?

What is your very favorite thing to drink? Talk about that with your family. Now, imagine playing outside on a very hot day and then running inside. You see a big, tall glass of your favorite drink sitting on the counter. Think about how thirsty you would be for that drink! That is how Jesus wants us to *thirst* after doing the right thing.

Now, this verse does not tell us that we have to be perfect all the time (because God's love for us never depends on how good we are, right?). It means that if we hunger and thirst for what's right— if we really, truly want to do right—He will help us.

Dear Lord, help me remember that You care not only about what I do for You but also about what is inside my heart. Please give me a hunger and a thirst to be righteous and to do the right thing. And thank You, Jesus. Amen.

Can you say this by heart?

God's Word is *for me* and *to me*, it is *in me* and working *through me*, and just like His love, it goes on and on forever!

WEEK 7

This week read and memorize Isaiah 53:6.

DAY 1

LOST SHEEP

Do you remember Psalm 23:1? Recite it! Just like that verse, our verse for this week compares us to sheep. You should know a few things about sheep:

1. SHEEP ARE NOT THAT SMART.

What animals do you see doing tricks at the circus? Elephants? Monkeys? Lions? Do you ever see sheep? Not usually, because most sheep are not smart enough to learn tricks. Well, like sheep, sometimes we don't act very smart either. We choose to go our own way instead of choosing to follow God's plan for us. Have you ever gotten into trouble and thought to yourself, Why did I do *that*? You did that because you made a not-so-smart choice and went your own way instead of God's way.

2. SHEEP DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY ARE GOING.

Sheep often get lost because they have no idea where to go unless they follow the shepherd. Once they get lost, they end up wandering around. We are like this too. If we are not following God, we will be totally lost. Can you think of some ways you can be sure to follow God's direction for you?

3. SHEEP HAVE NO WAY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

Many animals have ways to defend themselves from enemies; think about dogs, cats, porcupines, bees, and skunks. But what about sheep? They don't have any way to protect themselves—no sharp teeth or claws, no quills or stingers, not even a stinky smell! We can't protect ourselves from our enemy either. We need Jesus, our Shepherd, to protect us.

DAY 2

Read Isaiah 53:6 again.

Just like sheep, we sometimes do not make smart choices, we don't know where we are going, and we have no way to defend ourselves. But "the Lord has put on him the punishment for all of the evil we have done." This means that Jesus took our punishment and died for us, and now He is guiding and protecting us.

DAY 3

Recite Isaiah 53:6.

Dear Jesus, I know sometimes I do not make good choices, and I choose to go my way instead of Your way. Please forgive me. Thank You for taking my sin so that I can have You as my Shepherd forever. Amen.

Let God's Word work through you this week!

God's Word is *for me* and *to me*, it is *in me* and working *through me*, and just like His love, it goes on and on forever!

WEEK 8

This week read and memorize Matthew 7:7.

DAY 1

KNOCK, KNOCK!

Because you are hiding God's Word in your heart every week and learning these verses, you know that God speaks to you through the Bible. But how do you speak to Him? That's right—you pray! Think about it for a second. You . . . *you* can talk to the God of the universe. You can talk to the Maker of heaven and earth, the One who made you, the Great I Am. Wow! That is a very cool thought!

WHEN WE ASK

Our verse this week tells us how to pray and how to keep praying until we hear from God. It compares prayer to knocking on God's door—and He always answers. God wants you to talk to Him. He wants you to tell Him how you are feeling and to ask Him for help! When you ask God for things and He gives them to you, you will always remember that He heard your prayer and answered you.

DAY 2

Read Matthew 7:7 again.

WHEN HE ANSWERS

Do you think this verse is saying that you will get anything you ask for? Well, not exactly. God wants us to pray with His plan for us in mind. That means He wants us to ask for the things He wants for us. When you were a little two-year-old, if you asked your parents for a knife from the kitchen, do you think they would give it to you? Of course not! That would not have been what was best for you. It could have actually harmed you. Just like that, sometimes we ask for things that are not God's best for us, and when that is the case, He won't give them to us. However, if we ask for something that is part of His plan for us, we will always receive it!

Sometimes we have to ask God for something for a very long time before He gives it to us. He does not always answer us right away, but He does always answer. Do you know someone who is sick? Do you know someone who needs to know Jesus? God wants you to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking on His door as long as it takes for Him to answer.

DAY 3

Recite Matthew 7:7.

Talk about something you want to ask God for, and then pray about it.

Dear God, I want to ask You to _____.
Please hear my prayer and answer me. I love You and trust You to do what is best for me. In Jesus' name, amen.

You are doing great! Let's hear it:

God's Word is *for me* and *to me*, it is *in me* and working *through me*, and just like His love, it goes on and on forever!



YOU DID IT!

Congratulations on completing the *The Joshua Code For Kids* devotional! There is power to staying **plugged in** to God's Word. The Bible is our connection to God's power, the power to change our lives! His power is available to us all day, every day when we seek Him and His Word.

Continue to stay **plugged in** to God and your Bible by...

COMING TO MOTION EACH WEEKEND

Get plugged in to your Bible at church. Each weekend in Motion we learn about God and to live a life which honors Him. In Motion, you'll have an eGroup of friends as you study the Bible with a community of believers.

USING DEVOTIONALS TO READ THE BIBLE

Devotionals are a great way to stay connected to God's power in His Word. Use The YouVersion Bible App to find other great devotionals. Visit www.youversion.com/apps for more information.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 7:2 (NIRV) says, “Obey my commands and you will live. Guard my teachings as you would guard your own eyes.” To guard the teachings in the Bible and obey the commands in it, we need to know what the Bible says! Knowing scripture helps us make decisions, share Jesus with others, comforts us, and helps remind us of the life Jesus wants us to live.

Make learning the Motion Bible verse each series a priority. Challenge your friends and family to learn it with you, too!

Some other verses to look up in your Bible and learn:

- Psalm 107:1
- 1 John 4:19
- 1 Timothy 4:12
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Matthew 7:12



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