

A PERSISTENT MOTHER (February 24, American Revolution)

We need to cut off his leg to save his life.” The doctor advised amputation, but Kerenhappuch Norman Turner refused his advice for her son, James. She rode over two hundred miles on horseback from Culpepper, Virginia, to Guilford, North Carolina. as soon as word reached her that her son lay gravely injured. She quickly devised a plan to nurse him to health.

Kerenhappuck placed James Turner Jr. on a bed in a log cabin near the battlefield and suspended a large tub from the rafters. She drilled holes in the tub and constantly poured cool water into the tub, so the water dripped over the wounded leg. Her improvised treatment turned her son’s fever and saved his leg, though he later walked with a slight limp. She also nursed other men wounded at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

In March 15, 1781, British General Lord Charles Cornwallis had marched toward Guilford. Colonial troops,, led by Gen. Nathaniel Greene, hid in the dense Carolina forest to ambush the British. The battled claimed over a quarter of the British soldiers but only 6 percent of the colonial troops. The army forced the British to abandon the Carolinas and became a turning point that led to the surrender at Yorktown some months later. Several Turner brothers and their father, Capt. James Turner, served under General Greene.

In 1902, the town of Guilford erected a statue to Kerenhappuch, born around 1717, the first statue to a woman of the American Revolution. She also served as a spy and courier during the war and easily traveled through enemy lines where no one suspected an old woman of **taking part in the war**. Her example and the valor of the Turner men served as an inspiration to the family. Two descendants became governors of Kentucky, and others served as congressmen, lawyers, and a United States senator.⁸⁸

Prayerful words of Gen. Nathaniel Greene: *“I hope the righteous God who rules the world will bless the armies of America and receive the spirits of those whose lot it is to fall in action into the paradise of God, into whose protection I commend you and myself. Amen.”*

“I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me.” ~Ecclesiastes 9:13



CHRISTMAS IN 1918 (July 22, World War 1)

IN 1918, Christmas preparations began in July before Germany surrendered. The YMCA, the Red Cross, and other organizations carried out a massive campaign to surprise American troops and French people. Newspapers in the States disclosed the details on December 22.

On Christmas day, all fifteen hundred YMCA huts in Europe displayed decorated Christmas trees, held festive caroling and church services, then passed out Christmas boxes to every soldier, about two million men. Volunteers at each hut dressed up as Santas to distribute gifts to French children everywhere. Santas and soldiers gave presents of toys and candy to millions of French children. Each wounded serviceman in hospitals also enjoyed entertainment and woke to finding a bright red stocking hanging at the end of the cot, filled with candy, a pocketknife, and other comforts. Every YMCA location performed a comedy sketch, written especially for the men that drew laughter.

In Montigny, a little French village of six hundred people with gray-stone homes and red-tiled roofs, the people enjoyed a special treat. President and Mrs. Wilson celebrated Christmas there with the 26th Infantry Division. They also visited the army headquarters in Chaumont.

At home the news of peace plus reading about Christmas for the soldiers, marines, and sailors lifted spirits. Christmas Eve began with hymns and carols sung in Madison Square, New York City, and other squares all decorated with Christmas trees. People crowded into churches the next morning, and all denominations heard messages of peace and hope. They applauded men as soldiers of the Prince of peace, and some concluded with singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Festivities after services in New York City included entertaining ten thousand soldiers. The War Camp Community Service distributed ten thousand stockings filled with items to wear and candy as well as theater tickets. Restaurants, theaters, clubs, and families hosted men, provided meals, and gave them gifts.

Communities everywhere reached out to the poor. New York City policemen ran a huge toy drive, checked out anyone applying for gifts for children, and opened all the stations for parties. With Christmas trees decorated with little toys and candies, they distributed gifts to the needy.⁴⁴

Prayer: Lord, bless my community that it might celebrate your birth with generosity and unity.

"All the lands are at rest and at peace; they break into singing." ~Isaiah 14:7

PARENTING THROUGH GRIEF (December 21, Afghanistan)

SHEILA Harriman heard the black sedan crunch over her crushed-stone driveway in Wade, North Carolina, saw two soldiers in full-dress uniforms step out, and knew her husband, Stan, had died. He was the first Afghanistan war casualty, and news reporters quickly stuck microphones in Sheila's face. Bravely, she witnessed in front of her children, "Stanley fought and died for each and every one of us, so why is it so hard to believe that Jesus Christ died for us?"

Behind closed doors, Sheila struggled to help her children, ages three and five, cope with their dad's death. The first few weeks, relatives visited, church members supplied food, and cleaned her home. The children enjoyed the attention. The following weeks, Sheila met the kids' needs but spent her days crying. Finally she thought, "My children don't deserve this. They need a mom who's interested."

She got involved, attended activities, and tucked them in bed again. But she couldn't fill every need. Her son crawled under her bed, wrapped himself around the center pole, and screamed for his dad. Sheila couldn't fix it or kiss away the hurt.

She quickly found Christian counselors. But for months until he turned five, Chris asked when his dad would return. Sheila hugged Chris through his hurt and responded to questions. She told him it's natural to miss his dad and cry. She explained he's in heaven with Jesus.

Sheila reminds her children often how much their dad loved them. On his birthday, they light a candle on a cupcake and celebrate Stan's life.

The children's memories of their father are kept alive with Sheila's stories and with the help of a memory book about Stan. Though they can no longer see, touch, or hear their dad, the memory book shows them that he really lived and he really loved them. Stan's memory book became an illustration for the kids that the Bible is similar in that it shows us that Jesus also really lived on earth and loves us very much, as well. We can't see God, but we can have faith that what the Bible says about Him is true.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen my faith in you even though I can't see You.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." ~Hebrews 11:1

January 1



God Made Me Special!

Royal Words

How you [Lord] made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.

PSALM 139:14

Princess Thoughts

Wow! God made you special! He chose to make your hair curly or straight. He picked the color of your eyes and the color of your skin. He chose the shape of your nose. He even chose how tall you will grow!

A Prayer for the King

Dear Father God, thank you for making me special and choosing my eyes, hair, and skin.

Princess in Action

Look in a mirror and see how God chose to make you. What color are your eyes? Do you have curly or straight hair? What color is your hair? God loves how you look. Tell someone else today that God made him or her special too.



Excerpt from *My Princess Devotions* by Karen Whiting

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January 2



Made with Love

Royal Words

You [Lord] created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together.

PSALM 139:13

Princess Thoughts

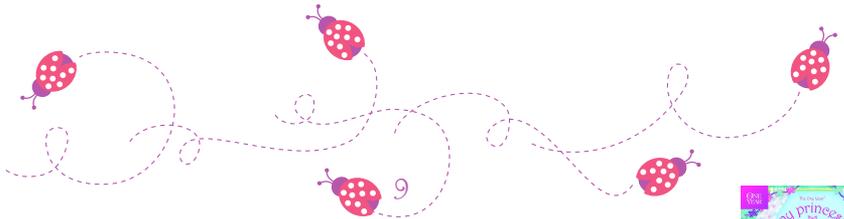
God made every single part of you, from your head to your feet. He took time to make you just the way he wanted you to look. And God loves how you look!

A Prayer for the King

God, thanks for taking time to make me, from the top of my head to the tips of my toes.

Princess in Action

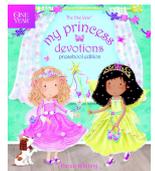
Put a puzzle together, one piece at a time. Look at the puzzle when you have finished. It looks great! Talk with your mom or dad about how God had fun putting you together. You look great!



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Sticky toes

Little lizards wiggle between rocks, slip inside houses, and squirm into tiny spots. The Bible calls them “small but unusually wise” and mentions that

they even live in palaces (Proverbs 30:24, 28). A gecko is one smart lizard. It’s the only lizard that can make more than a hissing sound. It can chirp, bark, and click. Geckos have excellent eyesight and can see well in the dark. That’s good, since they like to be active at night.

Geckos can stick most anywhere. Scientists study these amazing animals to learn more about glue and suction. The Namib Desert gecko has webbed feet to walk on sand and burrow in sand dunes. Most geckos have hair-like projections on their feet that act like tiny suction cups so they can scale glass windows and run upside down across ceilings. They use their tails to store food and balance themselves. Plus, they can grow a new tail if they lose one escaping from an enemy.

The stickiness of geckos amazes scientists. They have sticky toe pads, but not like sticky tape. The secret is in the geometry, or shape, of their feet. Ridges cover the toes with tiny triangle-shaped hairs called setae. The endings of the setae create something called a Van der Waals force, yet detach in milliseconds. Amazingly, dirt doesn’t stick to the geckos’ toes—although they can stick to nearly every kind of material whether it is wet or dry. Scientists copied some of God’s amazing design to make a new dry adhesive with flexible tangled ends. Take time to watch an animal. You may learn something new about God and his world.

Weird Facts: Amazing Geckos

- Gecko eyes don’t open and close.
- Scientists think there are more than 2,000 types of geckos.
- Geckos live on every continent except Antarctica.
- Geckos eat insects and worms. Larger types eat other animals, like birds and mice.
- If a gecko sheds its tail, it may return to eat it since food is stored in the tail.
- Geckos have a hard time sticking to Teflon.
- Gecko toes bend in the opposite direction as human toes.

Thank God for making amazing lizards. Ask him to help you learn from animals.

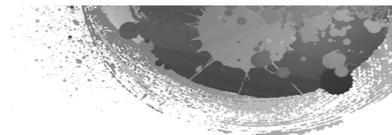
Life’s Guidebook Says

Lizards— they are easy to catch, but they are found even in kings’ palaces.

Proverbs 30:28

Moon Prints

If you track mud or snow across the kitchen floor, your mom probably makes you clean it up.



When astronaut Jim Irwin saw his footprints in the dust on the moon, he knew they would possibly remain forever. No air or wind exists on the moon to blow the prints away. They stay unless more dust covers them or a meteorite crashes on top of them. Jim was one of just 12 people to ever walk on the lunar surface. But he almost didn't make it back to earth.

Jim and David Scott landed the lunar module on the edge of a crater, which caused the module to tilt. The control center in Houston realized the module had a water leak and told the astronauts to investigate. When they fixed the leak, they realized the tilt of the craft had kept the water from hitting electrical circuits and short-circuiting the wires. Burnt wires could have prevented the lunar module from lifting off and left them stranded on the moon.

Long before Jim's moon walk, he understood that God controlled everything. Jim never expected to be an astronaut. He applied a month before he reached the age limit of 36. But God let him soar into space, walk on the moon, and then come back to earth to tell others about him. God placed you on the earth and gave you responsibilities as well. One of those is helping care for the earth . . . and anywhere else you might walk in the universe.

Experiment

Meteorites form craters when they hit the moon. They usually burn up when they enter the earth's atmosphere but leave tiny particles in the air. Catch some meteorite dust when it rains.

Stuff You Need

- Container
- Coffee filter or fine fabric
- Strong magnet

Try It

1. When it rains, place the container under a drain spout and collect water.
2. Pour the water through the filter. Remove leaves, bugs, and other debris. Look for fine black particles. Let the particles dry.
3. Test the black particles with a magnet. If they are magnetic, they could be tiny particles from meteorites that contain a lot of iron.

Ask God to help you be responsible and trust him to give you great opportunities in life.

Life's Guidebook Says

You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority.
Psalm 8:6



March 18

Powerful Drone Force

Buzz! Zap! Modern-day drone airplanes whirl through the sky and strike enemy forces with unexpected power.

When God’s people went into the Promised Land, there was nothing like today’s high-tech drone strike force. Instead God used actual drones to win battles for his people. Male bees and hornets are called drones, and God used these tiny dive-bombers to attack the enemy. Swarms of hornets charged from the sky and stung the Israelites’ enemies (Joshua 24:12, NIV).

While God provided firepower from the air, Joshua led his people from the ground. Joshua wasn’t your typical leader; he was born a slave and then helped Moses for 40 years. Also, the Israelites had no time to build weapons. God gave them unusual weapons like a swarm of hornets or horns whose blasts could break down walls. Not normal battle strategies, but God’s way showed the people their victories were not due to their own strength or weapons.

God’s first words to Joshua were, “Be strong and courageous” (Deuteronomy 31:23). He told Joshua to obey his commands. God promised to be with Joshua wherever he went. That great pep talk let Joshua know he could count on God’s help. Joshua led the army and won many battles as he relied on God’s strength.

Liftoff List

Strength is more than muscle power. For example, it takes strength of character to keep trying to learn something, even when people tease. Strength is more than having the most powerful weapon. It’s having a strong faith in a mighty God. Check off these passages as you read them.

___ Noah worked 100 years to build the ark in a place without water. That’s strong perseverance, especially when neighbors would have thought he was strange. (Genesis 5:32; 6:10-14; 7:6)

___ Food from angels gave the prophet Elijah strength for 40 days. (1 Kings 19:7-8)

___ Waiting on God can bring strength. (Isaiah 40:31)

___ The Holy Spirit gives people inner strength. (Ephesians 3:16)

___ Don’t let sin rule your mind. Have a strong mind controlled by God’s Spirit. (Romans 8:6)

___ I’m strong because God is with me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Ask God for inner strength and a strong faith.

Life’s Guidebook Says

[God said,] *“This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* Joshua 1:9



The One Year Devotions for Active Boys is a great interactive resource that combines Christian devotions with brain-teasers, puzzles, wacky laughs, experiments, awesome activities, and self-assessment lists. Many of the devotions are great for girls too.

Jokes like the following can be used to add smiles and brighten days:

- Q.** Why did the missionary cross the ocean? **A.** To get to the other tide.
- Q.** What did the Red Sea do as God parted it? **A.** It gave a big wave.
- Q.** What did the dirt say to the rain? **A.** “Thanks to you, my name is mud!”
- Q.** What do you call a complaining lawn? **A.** Crab grass.
- Q.** What was the taxi driver’s problem? **A.** He drove his customers away.
- Q.** What lives in a hive and always complains? **A.** Grumble bees.
- Q.** Which animal complains the most? **A.** The whineoceros.

Do science experiments such as checking for a tree’s heartbeat & you’ll hear the sap running (p245).

Enjoy some awesome fun, like making slushies in a bag (p 265).

Solve plexers— word picture puzzles to solve that can be posted.

How did Jesus travel?

Answer: Walked on water

walked H2O

Learn weird- but true facts, such as these about weather:

- There are as many types of fog as clouds
- The average snowflake falls at 1.7 meters per second
- The fastest winds recorded were in a tornado funnel at 300 miles per hours
- The US has 100,000 thunder storms a year
- Small whirlwinds can form over the water and can hiss and bubble
- Colored lights flash above clouds, such as blue jets and red sprites that pilots have seen

Quiz

How Green Are You?

Take this quiz now to test your knowledge about going green. Choose the correct meaning for each “going green” word or phrase below.

1. Recycle
 - a . Take another bicycle ride
 - b . A new life cycle
 - c . To use again
2. Forest sustainability
 - a . A tough grass or tree stain that won't wash out
 - b . Process that helps trees in the woods last
 - c . How long you can camp in the woods
3. Environment
 - a . Everything around you living or not
 - b . Living things around you
 - c . A sweet-tasting candy
4. Hydroponic
 - a . A new way to learn to read
 - b . Tool for hearing under water
 - c . Growing plants in water and nutrients, without soil
5. Acid rain
 - a . Music from a rock band
 - b . A chemistry experiment that smells bad
 - c . Rain that contains bad chemicals
6. Climate
 - a . To go up a mountain
 - b . Usual weather in a region
 - c . Bad weather
7. Endangered
 - a . At risk of becoming extinct
 - b . In an unsafe place
 - c . Mom's threats when you don't obey
8. Compost
 - a . common post for a fence
 - b . Mix of decayed plants and natural materials that enrich soil



9. Ozone layer
 - a . Upper atmosphere
 - b . Little people who lived in the land of Oz
 - c . How much money is owed
10. Pollinators
 - a. People who survey the public to find out people’s opinions or how they’ll vote
 - b. Insect or creature that moves pollen from male to female plants
 - c. Medicine for people allergic to bees and pollen
11. Biofuel
 - a. Energy source made from living plants
 - b. Purchasing gas
 - c. Powering something with your own energy, such as pedaling a bicycle
12. Hybrids
 - a. Something powered in more than one way, such as with gas and with electricity
 - b. Waving at birds
 - c. Measuring how high birds fly
13. Biodegradable
 - a . A grade in biology or science
 - b . Capable of being broken down (decomposed) naturally
 - c . A science degree
14. E-waste
 - a . Everyday garbage
 - b . Discarded electronics, such as computers or cell phones
 - c . Energy waste
15. Conservation
 - a . Talking to people
 - b . Careful use of resources
 - c . Space in hotels
16. Pollution
 - a . When bees gather nectar from flowers
 - b . Man-made waste in air, water, or soil
 - c . A tug of war
17. Polystyrene
 - a . A loud siren
 - b . A new style of clothes
 - c . Tough plastic material used in making packaging





18. Ecological footprint
- a. Tracks animals make
 - b. Tracks made by a group of people
 - c. Average amount of air, soil, and water a person uses
19. Water cycle
- a. How much water is used in one day
 - b. A paddleboat you pedal in the water
 - c. Continuous movement of water (evaporation, condensation, precipitation)
20. Oxygen cycle
- a. How much air you breathe in and out
 - b. The exchange of oxygen people and animals breathe in and carbon dioxide they breathe out with oxygen trees give off and carbon dioxide trees absorb.
 - c. A new type of bike with a motor that uses air 61

Scoring

Check the answer key and give yourself one point for each question you answered correctly, then add up your score.



Answer Key 1 . C ; 2 . B ; 3 . A ; 4 . C ; 5 . C ; 6 . B ; 7 . A ; 8 . B ; 9 . B ; 10 . C ; 11 . C ; 12 . C ; 13 . B ; 14 . B ; 15 . A ; 16 . B ; 17 . A ; 18 . A ; 19 . B ; 20 . B

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