

*Meeting  
with JESUS*





A Daily Bible Reading Plan for Kids

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*Artwork by Scotty Reifsnyder*

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*Meeting with Jesus: A Daily Bible Reading Plan for Kids*

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# MEETING WITH JESUS

How many people have you met in your life? Try to count them. Start with your parents, then your brothers and sisters, your neighbors, your friends. Add up those you know from school, church, vacations and so on. What number are you up to? Are you over a hundred yet?

You will meet even more people as you get older, go to different schools, play different sports, move to different houses, and do different jobs. You are going to meet so many people that eventually you will not be able to count them all or remember them all!

There are probably other people you would love to meet but they probably don't want to meet you. Maybe it's an athlete you admire, or a singer, or a businessperson. You think about them and hope one day to meet them, but they don't know you and therefore don't want to meet you.

But there is one person you must meet more than anyone else. And this person wants to meet with you too. And if you meet him, you will never forget him. His name is Jesus, and I want you to meet him because he is the most awesome person you can ever meet.

## WHERE DO I MEET JESUS?

If you had been alive about two thousand years ago, you could have met Jesus face-to-face in Israel. But after living there for thirty-three years, he died, rose from the dead, and then went back to heaven. That's where he lives now, reigning and ruling over the whole world.

So how do we meet him today? If he is in heaven and we are on earth, we cannot meet him face-to-face. That's where the Bible comes in. God has designed the Bible so that we can meet Jesus as we read it, hear it preached, and discuss it with others. That's why this book will help you to read the Bible, to hear it preached, and to discuss it with others. My hope and prayer is that in doing so you will meet Jesus in and through the Bible, as millions of others have.

## HOW I MET JESUS

To encourage you, let me tell you about how I met Jesus in the Bible. I was born into a Christian family. My parents took me to church and also taught me the Bible at home. However, I did not want to meet Jesus when I was young because I wanted to live my own life without him. Although I went to church, I did not listen very much to the sermons or to my Sunday school teachers. Also, sad to say, I did not read my Bible much.

It's no surprise, then, that I did not meet Jesus. I didn't really want to. I am not proud of that. Indeed, I am ashamed of it and often wish I could live my childhood and teen years all over again.

But Jesus did not give up on me. Even though I did not want to meet him, he wanted to meet me. In my early twenties, my life was not going well. I was trying to live without Jesus and I was very unhappy. After some sad events in my life, I went home to my parents, and they talked to me about how I needed to meet Jesus. My mom gave me a book to help me study the Bible, and I started reading it carefully for the first time. My prayer as I opened my Bible was, "Lord, please show me Jesus."

## **Jesus Lives in the Bible**

Almost immediately I was amazed at how Jesus began to pop out of the pages of the Bible. The book that I had thought was so boring was now alive and exciting. I wasn't reading a lifeless book; I was meeting a living person. Every day I learned more and more about this lovely person, Jesus Christ. As I did so, Jesus became more and more real, clear, and present to me. Soon, he was as real to me as my mom and dad!

As I read my Bible each day and met Jesus in its pages, I was sure I was hearing his voice speaking directly to me in the words I was reading. It then felt normal and natural to start speaking back to him in prayer and talking to him about my life.

## **Jesus Lives in Sermons**

I started listening to my pastor's sermons with new attention. Again, Jesus came alive in the sermons. I was not just listening to my pastor; I was listening to my Jesus, and I was loving him more and more—so much so that I couldn't wait for next Sunday and started listening to recorded sermons from other preachers in my car on weekdays. I sometimes felt as if Jesus were in the passenger seat beside me chatting to me through the sermons.

## **Jesus Lives in Christians**

I couldn't keep all this to myself and started going to homes where I knew other Christians who loved Jesus would meet and talk about him. I listened with amazement as they spoke about Jesus as a living person in their own lives too. I had many questions, and these Christian friends patiently answered them week after week. And as they did so, it was as if Jesus were in the room with us, as one of our friends. We also memorized Scripture verses about Jesus and challenged one another to recite them. Those were such happy, happy times.

## **Jesus Lives Today**

Now, thirty years later, Jesus is more real and precious to me than ever before, and that's why I'm so excited for you to meet him early in life rather than wasting years like I did. I've therefore written this Bible reading plan to help you meet Jesus in Bible reading, in listening to sermons about the Bible, and in discussing the Bible with others.

The Bible reading plan is divided up into small daily portions to make it easy for you to digest. Each reading has a title and a question to help you think about what you are reading. In the course of a year this will take you through the whole life of Christ as found in the Gospel of Luke. I've chosen the readings so that you can follow the life of Christ more or less in the order it happened. I've therefore added some readings from the other Gospels to fill out some of the places that Luke does not cover.

On Sunday, I haven't given you a Bible reading. That's partly to help you catch up if you missed any days. But it's also to help you focus on meeting Jesus by listening to the sermon you hear in church and by discussing a question about your reading with your dad or mom, or maybe another Christian friend. You can also use Sunday to practice your weekly memory verse.

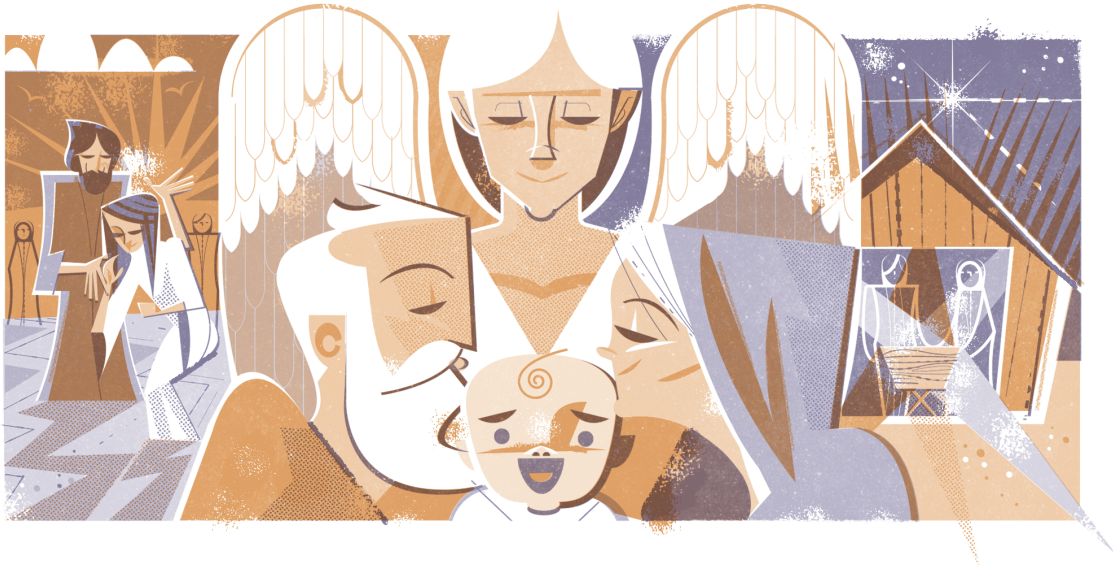
## **Show Me Jesus**

You can fill in the section for prayer points each week with specific prayer needs that you want to remember as you talk to Jesus. But the biggest prayer of all that I want you to keep

praying as you go through this book is “Show me Jesus!” If you do, he will meet with you and come alive in your life in an unforgettable way.

David Murray

PS If you want to find out more about the Bible, you can also use *Exploring the Bible: A Bible Reading Plan for Kids*. It's another one-year daily Bible reading plan that covers the most important chapters in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. You can also view short videos to supplement each week's readings in *Exploring the Bible* and *Meeting Jesus* at <http://headhearhand.org/bibleexplorer>.



## MEETING 1 | JOHN THE BAPTIST IS BORN

We can tell how important a person is by how much effort is made to prepare for his or her arrival. This week, we will read about how God arranged a careful writer, a childless couple, an angel, and a special baby named John to prepare the way for Jesus.



### TALKING TO JESUS: PRAYER POINTS

We are going to be hearing Jesus's voice as we read the Bible, but he wants to hear your voice too. So, each week write down two or three prayer requests and pray for them during the week.



### REMEMBERING JESUS: MEMORY VERSE | LUKE 1:16

To help you remember each week's meeting with Jesus, I've chosen a verse for you to memorize. Try to repeat it out loud a few times a day, and then test yourself to see if you can say it without looking at the verse.



## DAILY MEETINGS

### MONDAY | A Careful Writer



Luke 1:1–4



Who wrote this book about Jesus? (Hint: look at the title of the Gospel.)

Answer:

### TUESDAY | A Childless Couple



Luke 1:5–7



Describe Zechariah (some Bibles call him Zacharias) and Elizabeth (v. 6).

Answer:

### WEDNESDAY | An Awesome Angel



Luke 1:8–12



How did Zechariah react when he saw the angel (v. 12)?

Answer:

## THURSDAY | A Preparer of People



Luke 1:13–17



John prepared people for \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17).

Answer:

## FRIDAY | A Lack of Faith



Luke 1:18–22



Zechariah was unable to speak because he did not believe \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 20).

Answer:

## SATURDAY | A Baby from the Lord



Luke 1:23–25



What did God take away from Elizabeth (v. 25)?

Answer: