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Just a minute.

Before you turn another page,
READ THIS.

Devotions can be an I-can-hardly-wait time of day. One-A-Day Pocket Stories will help you get excited about studying the Bible. Read it alone or with your family.

Here's how to use it.

1. Riddle

Some are tricky.
Some are sticky.
So don't be picky.
Just enjoy them all.

A riddle or question begins each devotional. The answers can be found in the Scripture or story. So keep reading.

2. Key Verse

A verse a day
Keeps the devil away.

Read it. Memorize it. Store it in your heart for the future.

The verses are quoted from the *New King James Version* of the Bible. It has the same meaning as the *King James Version*, but it uses modern English, which is easier to understand.

3. Scripture Reading

Read it carefully.
Read it prayerfully.

When you finish this book, you will have read all the major stories in Genesis through Deuteronomy. And you will have studied the first two thousand years of time.

Wow! That's a lot of days to cram into one book and one brain!

4. Story

Ever feel fear curl up your toes?
Ever hate your big, ugly nose?
Ever lose your best friend to another?
Ever fuss with your sister or brother?

Then you'll enjoy meeting the kids in these stories who are just like you.

5. The Reason

The Bible makes sense.
Read it with confidence.
Consider the evidence,
Or pay the consequence.

At the end of each story is a short paragraph connecting the Bible story with life today. Think or talk about the questions. They will help you relate God's Word to right here, right now.

6. The Rhyme

Then wrap up devotion time
With a simple little rhyme.



A Colorful Variety

God placed it everywhere,
 Sea, earth, and sky.
 It makes life beautiful.
 What did God make and why?

Key Verse:

But if you show partiality, you commit sin (James 2:9).

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 1:1-13

"A boy just my age moved in next door," five-year-old Kevin announced.

Denise threw her notebook on the coffee table. "I hope they have a girl my age."

"They do." Kevin nibbled on an apple. "She's twelve, just like you, and her name is Jennifer. Michael doesn't have a bicycle or even a skateboard, but I told him not to worry, he could ride mine."

As Denise peeled an orange she said, "I guess I should go over and introduce myself."

Mrs. Wright smiled. "A good idea. You can take them a loaf of homemade bread."

Later as Denise stepped out the door carrying the warm bread, the door of the adjoining apartment opened. Denise gasped and tried not to stare.

The girl facing her smiled. "Hello. You must be Denise. I'm Jennifer. Your little brother has told my little brother all about you. I hope my little brother didn't tell your little brother too much about me," she laughed.

Denise tried to erase the surprise from her face. "No, he didn't tell me much at all." She thought, *He didn't tell me enough. Wait until I get my hands on that brat!*

"Won't you come in?" Jennifer invited.

"Ahhh . . . ahhh . . . no, thank you, not this time. My mother has dinner ready. She just sent me over with this bread." She thrust the bread into Jennifer's arms and fled.

As Denise entered the kitchen she snarled, "Why didn't you tell me, you little mutt?"

Kevin's eyes widened. "Tell you what?"

"Tell me about her . . . about them!" Denise ground her teeth.

Mrs. Wright took her place at the table. "What about them, Denise?"

Denise dropped into her chair. "What . . . what color. . . ."

"Oh, that," Kevin interrupted. "What difference does that make?"

"But they're the only people in this complex who are . . . who aren't like us," Denise argued.

Mrs. Wright shook her head. "No. Everyone in this complex is different. No two people are alike."

After saying grace, Mrs. Wright passed the food. "Look at the food, Denise. Isn't it pretty? Look at the green peas. . . ."

"Peas! Yuck!" Kevin interrupted.

Mrs. Wright continued, ". . . the deep red tomatoes, the yellow squash, the white potatoes. Vegetables are different colors, flowers are different colors. . . ."

"And people are different colors," Kevin added. "It makes the world beautiful. I think Michael's neat. I like white people." Kevin grinned, "Mom, if I clean up my plate, can I have a piece of chocolate cake?"

The Reason:

(Riddle answer: color)

God added beauty to His creation by giving us color and variety. Don't allow prejudices to keep you from making friends with someone simply because they are different. We are all different. Thank the Lord!

- Look around you. How many colors can you see?
- Close your eyes. Try to imagine what the world would look like without color.
- Make a new friend this week by reaching out to someone who is different.

Roses are red.
Violets are blue.
I'm glad I'm different,
And you are too.