



THIRTY-ONE DAILY READINGS TO HELP YOU  
BE GOSPEL-SATURATED ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

# gospel

MEDITATIONS

*for*

# Kids

CHRIS & LORI ANDERSON

JOE & HANNAH TYRPAK

BOB & SARAH ROBERTS

gospel  
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kids



## Dedication

*For those who teach children faithfully at The Wilds Christian Camp,  
Tri-County Bible Church, Killian Hill Baptist Church,  
and Killian Hill Christian School*

## Acknowledgements

Many people contributed to this devotional in addition to its authors. Abby Huffstutler, thank you for your exceptional skill in editing. Thanks, Paul Keew, for your constant work to make Church Works Media better. Jared Miller, thank you for your beautiful and timely work of both cover design and initial typesetting. Jude and Gwen, thanks for sharing with us your wonderful drawings! Tori and Vera, thanks for sharing with us your beautiful handwriting! Whenever we hold this little book, we will always remember God's sweet gift of teamwork.

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# Introduction

To my fellow parents and teachers:

The four Gospels abound with evidence of Jesus' love for children. He healed kids. He raised them from the dead. He held them and blessed them. He gave grave warnings to those who would harm them. He used them as examples of humility and faith. The children's song is right: "Jesus loves the little children of the world."

Now, our goal with this little book is to help *children* love *Jesus*—to trust Him as their Savior, worship Him as their King, and serve Him as their Lord. But first they need to know Who He is and what He has done. They need the gospel!

The authors of this little book have devoted their lives to teaching children the gospel. All of us are parents, and leading our children to Christ is our greatest calling in life. We also have the privilege of teaching children—Joe and I as pastors, "Big Bob" as the author of the Kids4Truth curriculum and as a larger-than-life camp speaker (literally!), and our wives as classroom teachers, piano teachers, Sunday School teachers, and moms. It's our joy to help other parents and teachers share the gospel with children. We encourage you to make serious work of teaching children—and to make it *fun*! We're praying that children will treasure the time you spend with them in this book.

Reaching children with the gospel is an urgent ministry. Two of my favorite preachers used memorable pictures to highlight the gospel opportunities that childhood provides. C. H. Spurgeon wrote, "No ground is more prepared for the good seed than that which as yet has not been trodden down as the highway, nor has been overgrown with thorns." His contemporary, J. C. Ryle, taught the same principle with another illustration from nature: "A boy may bend an oak when it is a sapling, but a hundred men cannot root it up when it is a full-grown tree."

Children are teachable. They're open to the truth. But Scripture teaches that they're also *sinner*s in desperate need of the Savior. Our prayer is that the Lord will use this little book to give them a profound understanding of Jesus Christ, God's Son and our Savior. Jesus calls for children to be brought to Him (Matthew 19:14). May He bless your efforts to help them along the way!

For the glory of the Shepherd and the good of His smallest sheep,

—CHRIS ANDERSON, EDITOR

# Jesus Is God, the Creator

READ JOHN 1:1-3

*“All things were created through him and for him.”* COLOSSIANS 1:16

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“Once upon a time. . .” That’s how fairy tales begin.

“It was a dark and stormy night. . .” That’s how scary stories begin.

“In the beginning. . .” That’s how the Bible—the most important book in the world—begins. And the Bible is true! The book of Genesis tells us how the world began: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The Bible says that everything that exists was made by God. God said, “Let there be light, and there was light.” God made whales, and wolves, and wildebeests! God made mountains, and the moon, and the Milky Way! God made *everything*—including you!

Did you know that there’s another book in the Bible that starts with “In the beginning”—just like Genesis? The Gospel of John, which tells us all about the Lord Jesus, begins this way:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

One of Jesus’ names is “the Word.” The Bible teaches that Jesus is God, the One Who created everything. So it was Jesus Who said, “Let there be” in Genesis 1. It was Jesus Who made the beautiful things we see, the microscopic things we cannot see, and the enormous stars that are too far away to see. Jesus is AMAZING! He is God. He is good. He made you, and He loves you more than you will ever know!

—CHRIS & LORI

# Jesus Is God and Man

READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

*“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* MATTHEW 1:21

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Jesus was born just like you and me: Jesus’ mother Mary got pregnant, Jesus grew inside her for nine months, and then Jesus was born. He had a birthday. We still celebrate it, don’t we?

But the way that Jesus’ birth happened was very unusual. Very! In fact, the way that His mother got pregnant was a miracle. A miracle is something only God can do. Here’s the miracle: Jesus’ mother got pregnant even though she was not married to a man and even though she had never acted like she was married to a man. That’s the miracle!

God worked a miracle in the body of Jesus’ mother: God the Father sent God the Spirit to work a miracle, and Mary became pregnant with God the Son. At first, Mary’s fiancé Joseph did not believe it was a miracle. He thought that Mary must have acted like she was married to another man and that she was lying about what happened. In fact, Joseph was planning to tell Mary he wasn’t going to marry her. But Mary wasn’t lying. God sent a messenger to Joseph to tell him that God had worked a miracle in Mary—that Mary was pregnant with the Boy Who would grow up to rescue the world from sin and death!

So Jesus was fully human—born just like you and me. But Jesus’ birth was also different from anyone else’s. He was born in a way that shows that He is fully God. Jesus is God-become-human. And the Savior had to be both God and human to be able to bring humans who need God’s forgiveness back into a right relationship with God. That’s exactly why Joseph named this miraculously born Boy *Jesus*. The name Jesus means, “This is God, come to save us from our sins.”

—JOE & HANNAH

# Jesus Is Equal with the Father and the Spirit

READ MATTHEW 3:13-17

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”* 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

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Today you get to learn one of the toughest lessons in the Bible—a lesson which makes even old men and women scratch their heads in wonder! But you’re smart, and the Bible can be understood even by children, with God’s help. Ready? Concentrate!

The Bible teaches that there is only one God. Not many. Just one. There are many *false* religions with *make-believe* gods, but there is only one *true* God: the God of the Bible.

Here’s the hard part: The one true God exists as *three persons*: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All of Them are eternal, powerful, holy, and equal. The word we use to describe this truth is *Trinity*. It shows us that God exists as three persons (*Tri*), but still only as one God (*Unity*). God is a Tri-Unity—a *Trinity*. One in three. Three in one. (Like we said, this lesson is tough. But you’re doing great!)

In the verses you read today we get to see the Father, the Son, and the Spirit all together, all in the same place at the same time, but Each described separately. Read them again and notice what’s happening:

- **God the Son** (Jesus) was in the water, being baptized.
- **God the Father** made an announcement from heaven.
- **God the Spirit** came down from heaven in the form of a dove.

All three also appear together in 2 Corinthians 13:14, the verse at the top of this page. See if you can spot all three of Them in that verse. Are there three Gods? Nope. Just one. But that one God exists in three persons: *Father, Son, and Spirit!*

—CHRIS & LORI

# Jesus Is the Hero of the Whole Bible

READ JOHN 5:39

*“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” LUKE 24:27*

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Do you have a favorite superhero? Someone awesome? Powerful? Fast? Amazing?! Many times the title of a book or movie about a superhero is simply their name: like *Superman* or *Spiderman*. A hero’s name is a great title because that is WHO the movie or book is all about.

If the Bible had the title of its Hero, it would simply be called *Jesus!* This would be a great title because Jesus is the ultimate Hero, and the whole Bible is all about Him. The Old Testament looks ahead to His arrival here on Earth. And the New Testament is all about His most marvelous rescue . . . because rescuing is what heroes do. There’s never been a rescue as great as Jesus’ rescue of you and me! His rescue lasts forever and ever—and He didn’t knock down a bunch of buildings and destroy cities while He was rescuing us!

In the Bible verse at the top of the page, Jesus Himself helped His friends understand that the Bible is all about Him. When Jesus began explaining the things about Himself from “Moses and all the Prophets,” He was talking about the very first books of the Bible, including Genesis. Perhaps He described how He died like the lambs that were sacrificed. Maybe He listed some of the great-great-great-grandparents that came in King David’s family before Him. He probably described the predictions of His birth and how He would be raised from the dead!

So from the very first chapter of the Bible we can be looking for Jesus, the Hero of the whole Bible. If you read the Bible and miss Jesus, then you’ve missed the best part!

—BOB & SARAH



# Jesus Is God's Promised Rescuer, the Messiah

READ GENESIS 3:15

*"The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."* 1 JOHN 4:14

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Was there ever a time in your life when you needed to be saved from something—like almost drowning or getting hit by a car? Or maybe you know a friend who needed to be rescued from danger? The person who saves another from harm or death could be called a “rescuer.”

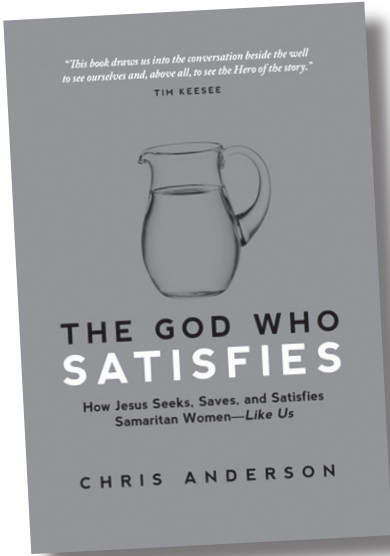
The more serious the danger, the more extraordinary the rescue is. We can say that Jesus is the greatest Rescuer ever because He rescues people from the greatest danger ever. And He paid the greatest price ever: His own life!

But sometimes Jesus is called *Messiah*. That's a strange word! It describes almost the same idea: the Messiah is the one Person chosen by God to be the Savior (someone who saves) or the Rescuer. The Old Testament first promises the coming of this Rescuer in the very first book of the Bible. God had a plan to rescue sinners like us from the very beginning! In Genesis 3:15 God promises a Deliverer Who would be born of a woman and Who would crush the head of the serpent (Satan). From the very first book of God's Word, the Bible shines with a gospel hope that the Messiah will defeat Satan and rescue His people from their sins.

And how desperately we need to be rescued! Because of the curse of sin, we are born with an attitude that fights against God and always wants our own way. Because of our sin, we can never reach God on our own, so God came to us. God promised that the Rescuer would come, and He did!

—BOB & SARAH

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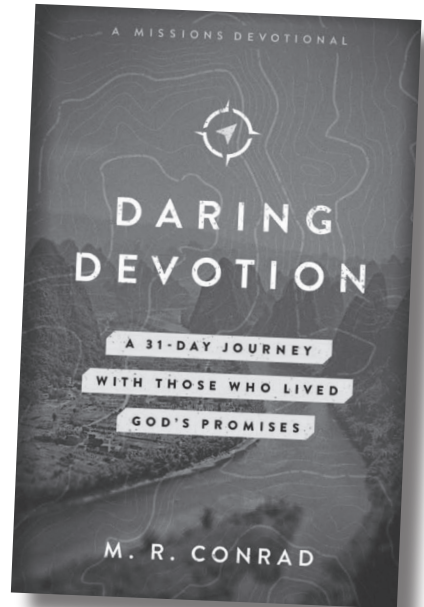
“In this little book, a gifted poet transitions to prose. I have known Chris Anderson for over two decades, first as a student and then as a fellow laborer in the work of the Kingdom. This book’s focus on the Samaritan woman is full of Christ and the glorious gospel of grace. Written in an easy-to-read, popular style full of real-life illustrations, the book effectively links helpful background facts and precisely-stated theological truths to experiential application. It is a book that can be used for evangelism as well as for warming the believer’s heart to renewed gratitude for what Christ has abundantly supplied.”

—**Michael P. V. Barrett**, dean and professor at  
Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary  
and author of *Complete in Him*

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“Here is a book I would love to put into the hands of young adults in my church so that they see that men and women who have left their mark on the mission field were like us in every way, except in their devotion to the God Who called them. We need to get rid of our lackluster Christianity in order to fulfill our individual callings, too. This book might be a brief 31-day journey, but M. R. Conrad has packed it with spiritual dynamite. Read it prayerfully. It might change your life—forever!”

—**Conrad Mbewe**, pastor of Kabwata Baptist Church and Founding Chancellor of the African Christian University in Lusaka, Zambia



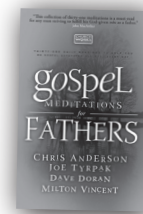
## OTHER TITLES IN THIS SERIES



### Gospel Meditations for Women

“Wrestling with guilt and frustration, far too many Christian women are living below the privileges of their spiritual inheritance. The solution is not found in any strengthened resolve of duty, but rather in having souls settled in the blessed liberty of Christ through the sweet enjoyment of the gospel. A union of sound doctrine and practical teaching, *Gospel Meditations for Women* beautifully highlights those unbinding messages of grace that so powerfully ignite joyful passion for Christ and holy living. What an invaluable resource!”

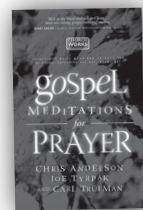
—*Holly Stratton*



### Gospel Meditations for Fathers

“This collection of thirty-one meditations is a must-read for any man striving to fulfill his God-given role as a father. Since each reading is both biblical and practical, it equips the reader to lead family members to greater love to Christ and to God’s Word. As parents to four and grandparents to fifteen, Patricia and I recommend this as a fresh resource.”

—*John MacArthur*



### Gospel Meditations for Prayer

“Brief and biblical, these meditations are full of sharp edges. They lead us to pray as cross-bearing disciples of Christ. Yet Anderson, Tyrrapak, and Trueman comfort us with Christ’s perfect grace for fallen people. So *Gospel Meditations for Prayer* is an encouraging book, but one designed to stretch you.”

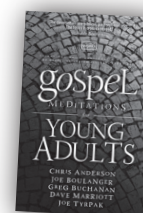
—*Joel Beeke*



### Gospel Meditations for the Hurting

“These meditations are Word-centered prescriptions that blow away the meaningless Christian platitudes often used to mask unanswerable pain. Until that day when Christ Himself wipes away all tears from our eyes, the Scriptures provide strength, help, and hope in this broken world. Let this book guide you to Christ, the only sure and lasting Refuge.”

—*Tim Keese*

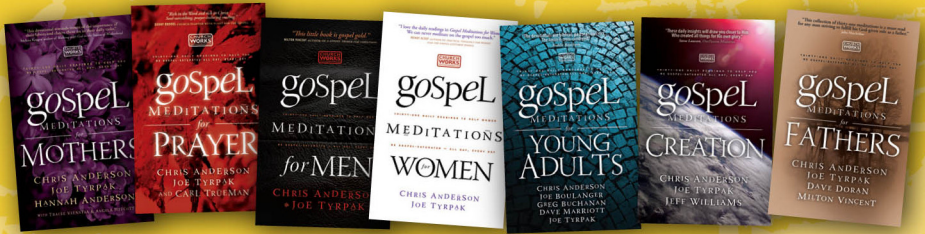


### Gospel Meditations for Young Adults

“*Gospel Meditations for Young Adults* is a breath of fresh air for young Christians and for all of us who are raising, discipling, mentoring, or just concerned about them and their spiritual growth and wellbeing. The devotionals are biblical, pastoral, succinct, readable, relevant, and relatable. More importantly, the focus is cross-centered and theological without being forced or trite. This would be a great tool to use in parenting, personal discipleship, group study, or even pastoral counseling.”

—*Voddie Baucham*

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### About the Authors

**CHRIS & LORI ANDERSON** recently celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary. They have teamed together in the churches Chris has pastored (Tri-County Bible Church in Madison, Ohio, and Killian Hill Baptist Church in Lilburn, Georgia), and in the raising of their four daughters. They've now added a beloved son-in-law to the family. Lori is an elementary teacher who was *made* to work with children. Chris is the author of multiple hymns and books, including *The God Who Satisfies* and *Panosian*.

**JOE & HANNAH TYRPAK** have been married since 2005. They have four children whom they are seeking to raise in Jesus' nurture. For over fifteen years, Joe and Hannah have served together at Tri-County Bible Church in Madison, Ohio—the first seven of those years with Chris and Lori. Hannah loves to play and teach piano. Joe has produced several modern psalms along with a documentary and devotional on the subject of his doctoral thesis: David Brainerd.

**BOB & SARAH ROBERTS** have served in several different ministry capacities both individually and as a married couple over the past twenty years. Bob especially enjoys the opportunity to share big truths about God in relatable ways to children. He's been able to do this through pastoral ministry in local churches, summer camp ministry, and the creation of the Kids4Truth curriculum. Sarah prefers behind-the-scenes ministry through graphic design and creating devotional resources for women and children. Bob and Sarah adopted their daughter while they were living in Hong Kong.

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