

A six-book series of easy-to-use picture devotional books that connects Bible themes and verses to teach Christian values to children ages 4 on up.

Each spread presents a Bible verse with a little explanation of the verse and how to practically apply the Christian value or moral lesson introduced. Children are encouraged to explore the lesson with a complementary action, discussion question, or activity.

A wonderful Bible-based book sure to win the hearts of children and parents alike.



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www.auroraproduction.com

ISBN 978-3-03730-641-3



9 783037 306413

A-EN-BC-DV-048-H

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BIBLE DEVOTIONALS

Katuscia Giusti

• Sabine Rich

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MINUTE

5-MINUTE BIBLE DEVOTIONALS



FEED MY
LAMBS



Acknowledgments

The Bible verses in the *5-Minute Bible Devotionals* series were selected from the following Bible versions:

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Author: Katuscia Giusti

Illustrations: Sabine Rich

Design: Chris Martin

ISBN: 978-3-03730-641-3

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FEED MY LAMBS

5-MINUTE BIBLE DEVOTIONALS

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

In this book you will find:

15 devotionals for preschool-aged children

Each devotional based on a **Bible scripture**

An **activity** for each devotional

Topics in this book:

God / Jesus

Following Jesus

Obedience

Forgiveness

LOVE IS ALL AROUND US

God is love.


—1 John 4:8 KJV

Love is a wonderful thing, and that is because love comes from God, because God is love. When we receive love, we are experiencing a little bit of God.

God made love to be a special part of our world. Love is something that we all need. We know love through the hugs and kisses we get from our parents, from the loving care of family and friends, and in the ways that others think of us and speak to us. There are so many ways we can see and feel love all around us.

If we look at the beautiful world around us, we can catch a little view of God's love for us, too. He created everything, and through His creation we can appreciate His love.

When love has a leading part in our lives, everything is better. The love we live and show to others is a reflection of God in our lives.



Stand up and get ready to hop. Hop once, then thank God for His love for you. Hop again and tell someone in your family how much you love him or her. Then hop and tell God about your love for Him. Hop again and say something loving to one of your family. Do this until you have said something loving to each person in your family.

WHEREVER WE ARE, GOD IS


God is Spirit.

—John 4:24 NIV

Take a deep breath. Air is all around us. Our bodies need air to breathe to stay alive. When we look, we cannot see the air, but we know that it is there, because we feel its benefits to our bodies when we breathe. We can think of God as the air around us. God is everywhere! We cannot see Him, just as we cannot see the air we breathe, but we can know that He is there. We can feel His goodness in our lives!

Even though we can't see God or touch Him, His presence is always near us. We don't have to be anywhere special to see or feel God's love. We can know His love for us in our hearts.

No matter where we are, we can know God is there too. His Spirit can be a part of our lives, in the ways we act and in the things we say.



Close your eyes and take deep breaths of air, and as you do, think about God and how marvelous He is. Think of His power. Think of His love. Isn't God wonderful?

A BEAUTIFUL WORLD

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

—Genesis 1:1 NIV

Collect a couple of leaves, flowers, twigs, and other small plants you can find in your garden. Glue them on to a paper as a reminder of all the wonderful things God created.

There is much beauty in the natural world around us. Think of the magnificent trees, the beautiful flowers, the tiny ants, the soaring birds, the colorful fish, and the many other wonders in our world. God made it all! And He also created us.

Not only did God make our wonderful world, but He made it so that everything would follow a special plan. Think of how a bird will lay an egg and it will hatch into a little chick that cannot fly. That chick will grow and gain strength, till one day it is able to fly. Can you think of other amazing plans that God has built into His creation?

We can thank God for all that He has created. We can think about the things in nature that we like and tell God how happy we are that He made them a part of this beautiful world we live in.



ONLY JESUS

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

—John 14:6 NIV

God is the creator of the whole universe, and sometimes we may think that He is a little too important for us. God doesn't want us to feel that way, because He wants us to get to know His love and care for us. That is why He sent Jesus to earth. Through Jesus we can understand God better.

Jesus came to earth to bring us God's gift of salvation. He came to forgive us for our sins. He came to show us God's love, so that we could know Him better.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the way to God. It is through Jesus that we can understand God's love and receive His wonderful gift of salvation. While there have been many good men on earth who have helped other people, only Jesus can lead us to God. Only Jesus can bring us eternal life in God. Jesus is God's Son.



Sing this little rhyme to the tune “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know”:

Jesus is the way to God,
Yes, I know that this is so.
He now lives within my heart
And His ways I want to know.

Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.

A HELPING HAND

Without Me you can do nothing.

—John 15:5 NKJV

When we have Jesus in our lives He helps us to be better people, to live in the way that shows His love to others. It can be difficult to show love and be kind like Jesus when He was on earth, and sometimes we make mistakes or we hurt others.

The wonderful news is that Jesus has promised to help us learn to be a good reflection of Him to others. And the best way we can learn from Jesus is by taking time with Jesus. We can learn about the things He wants to teach us in the Bible, and look for ways to show our love to God and other people through our daily actions and words.

Whenever we need to learn qualities of kindness, obedience, truthfulness, and courtesy, we can always know that Jesus will be there to help. It may take time for us to make habits of these qualities, and we may have to try many times before we succeed, but with Jesus' help, we will learn. We can then praise Jesus for teaching us to be more like Him!



Draw and color a picture of Jesus helping you to learn something new. When your picture is done, ask your mommy or daddy to write "With Jesus' help I can do all He asks me to do" on your picture. Now put it up somewhere to remind yourself to ask for Jesus' help when you need it.

LIGHT, LIGHT, LIGHT!

I am the light of the
world.

—John 8:12 NKJV

Aren't sunny days wonderful? When it is sunny and warm we can play at the park, swim in the pool, enjoy the beach, and so much more. The sun brings warmth to the earth, which not only makes us happy, but it helps the plants and trees to grow too.

Jesus is like the sun. He brings warmth and light to the world. People who don't know Jesus are like people who have never seen the sun or felt its warmth. Jesus wants everyone to see and enjoy the light that He gives.

Jesus wants us to reflect onto others the light and warmth that He brings to our hearts. We can do this by being kind to others and telling them of Jesus' love. That way many others can feel the warmth and light of the sunshine of Jesus' love on their hearts and lives.

Learn the following finger
play activity:
Light, light, light, light, light,
light, light, light;

*(Clench your fists; each time you
say the word "light" flick them open.)*

It's so good!

(Make a thumbs-up.)

But if you walk in darkness

(Cover your eyes with your hands.)

You don't know where to go.

*(Shake your head with your eyes
still covered.)*

(Repeat first two lines.)



OUR GOOD SHEPHERD

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

—John 10:14 NIV


Have you ever seen a shepherd with his flock of sheep? It's the shepherd's job to make sure that the sheep are well cared for—that they have food to eat, water to drink, and a safe place to stay at night.

A good shepherd knows each of his sheep. He protects them from anything that would cause them harm. The sheep stay close to their shepherd, because they know he'll take good care of them.

Jesus is like our shepherd, and we're like His sheep.

He is a good shepherd who lovingly cares for us. He makes sure we have what we need.

It's important that we stay close to Jesus, so that we can learn from Him and be safe. Jesus loves us very much. He knows each one of us in a special way.

A colorful illustration of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe with a red sash. He holds a long wooden staff and a small white lamb. He is surrounded by two children: a girl in a purple dress kneeling and hugging a lamb, and a boy in a green shirt standing next to him. Several other sheep are grazing in a green field under a blue sky with white clouds.

Pretend that you're a little sheep,
and your mommy or daddy is the
shepherd. When the "shepherd"
calls you and tells you to do
something, quickly obey.

A PART OF GOD'S VINE

I am the vine, you are the
branches. He who abides in Me,
and I in him, bears much fruit.

—John 15:5 NKJV

Jesus once told His disciples that He was like a vine and those who follow Him were like the branches connected to the vine. Jesus explained that, just as the branches must be a part of the vine for them to bear plenty of fruit in the right season, we too must stay connected to Jesus if we want to be healthy spiritually and have happy and full lives.

Jesus gives our spirits life. He fills our hearts and spirits with happiness and goodness. We abide in Jesus by studying God's Word, the Bible, and by doing the things God has told us to do in His Word.

As we live according to Jesus' example, our lives are spiritually healthy, and we are happy. People can see proof that Jesus is a part of our lives when we stay close to Him, because our actions will show love, kindness, and the fruits of God's Spirit.

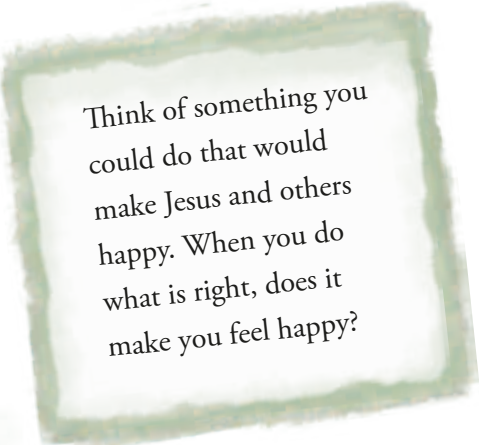


Draw a vine with a strong, sturdy trunk and many branches on the vine. Write “Jesus” on the trunk of the vine. (Or you can draw Jesus’ face on the trunk instead.) On the many branches write your name and the names of others who love Jesus. Now fill the vine with lots of leaves, blossoms, and grapes. As you color your picture, talk about ways to stay connected to Jesus throughout your day.

HAPPY ACTIONS

If you know what is the right thing to do, you'll be happy if you do it.

—John 13:17, *paraphrased*



Think of something you could do that would make Jesus and others happy. When you do what is right, does it make you feel happy?

There are times when our parents ask us to do something and we may not want to obey, because we want to do something else. Sometimes it can be difficult to choose to do the right thing.

Jesus wants us to do what is right, because when we do what is right, it makes Jesus happy, and it also makes us happy in the end. We can know our actions are right when we do those things that make Jesus and others happy.

For example, when we are thoughtful and considerate of others, that is doing the right thing. When we follow through on our parents' instructions, that is the right thing to do. When we obey God's Word we are doing the right thing.

Jesus blesses obedience. This is why we feel happy when we do the right thing.



RUN THE RACE

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus.

—Hebrews 12:1–2, *paraphrased*

Have you ever watched a race? At first the runners have plenty of energy and run easily, but toward the end of the race, they may seem tired and go slower. But they keep running until they cross the finish line and the race is finished.

Sometimes we face challenges in life that can be similar to a race. At first they may not seem so difficult, but then after a little while we may get tired of trying and feel like quitting. But if we keep trying, even when it is difficult, then we will succeed and reach our goals.

The Bible tells us that we can look to Jesus when we need patience and perseverance to keep trying even when something is hard to do. Jesus can give us patience and grace to face whatever challenge is before us. All we have to do is ask Him for His help, and He will be there to help.



FINISH LINE

Think about something that you're having difficulty learning. Now pretend that you are running a race. (Make sure you have a finish line!) As you are running, talk to Jesus and ask Him to help you with whatever it is that you are trying to learn. When you reach the finish line, praise Jesus for helping you to run the race.

LOOK UP!

Set your heart and mind on things
above, not on earthly things.

—Colossians 3:2, *paraphrased*

There are many things around us that we may want or feel that we need, and sometimes it can be easy to think that those are the most important things in our lives. The Bible calls these “earthly things”—things of this world.

We need to remember that the things of this earth are only for a time, and the things of heaven, of God’s Spirit, and of God’s Word are the only things that can last forever. God’s Word tells us that we should set our hearts and minds on the things above rather than all the distractions and things around us that we may want.

What are the things of heaven? They are the things that will never break, rust, or get lost—our love and faith in God, our love for others and kindness toward them, and the things we do to help others find Jesus. When love is what we live for through our obedience to God and His Word and love for others, we are keeping our mind and hearts on things above. Our actions will then be guided by love and God’s Spirit living in us.

What are some of the things that you do in your day that show your love for God and others?

THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Children, obey your parents in
the Lord, for this is right.

—Ephesians 6:1 NIV

Jesus gave mommies and daddies an important job. Can you guess what job that is? That's right! It is taking care of special boys and girls—their children.

Our parents are our teachers. There are many things that our parents know that we still have to learn. So it's important that we are good listeners and do what they tell us to do. When we are respectful and obedient, this makes our parents' job much easier. It also helps us to learn things more quickly.

Sometimes we may not want to do what our mommy or daddy asks us to, but we can remember that our parents are teaching us important lessons through their instructions. We may not always understand why we need to do something our parents ask of us, but the right thing is to obey.



Talk about some of the things your parents ask you to do. Can you guess what your parents are trying to teach you through them?

ALL ABOUT LOVE

If you love Me,
keep My commandments.

—John 14:15 NKJV

Can you think of some ways that you can express your love for God? Choose one thing you can do right now to tell God of your love for Him.

Jesus once told His disciples that the most important commandment, or rule, is to love God with all our hearts. How can you show God your love for Him? When we take time with God by reading His Word and listening to His voice, we are showing Him our love. And when we tell God about the things we are thankful for and when we notice the things He does for us, we are showing Him our love. As we make God a part of our lives and learn more about Him, He can fill our days with good things.

The second most important commandment, Jesus said, is to love others as much as we love ourselves. That means that the things we do and say to others should be things that we would want others to do or say to us. This means that we should be thoughtful of others, kind in our words, gentle in our actions, and pleasant in our behavior.

Jesus said that if we love Him, then we should do our best to keep these two commandments and make them a part of our lives.



AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS

If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

—Matthew 6:14 NIV

Has a friend ever done something to you that hurt you or made you feel sad? Maybe a friend broke your favorite toy, or your sister said something that made you feel sad, or your brother accidentally hurt you when you were playing together. Forgiving others is not easy, even when the other person is sorry for what he or she did. Forgiveness is showing love even when it is difficult.

When we make a mistake, we feel bad for what we did, and we want to be forgiven. Our parents may have to correct us for our wrong actions, but they still love us and forgive us for what we did. We, too, should forgive others when they do something wrong to us.

Jesus has so much love for us, and He is always ready to forgive us when we make mistakes. When we forgive others, we make ourselves open for God's forgiveness.

Talk about a time when you did something wrong and you were forgiven. Did it make you happy when you apologized and were forgiven? Can you think of something you forgave someone else for? How did it make you feel?



CLEAN HEARTS

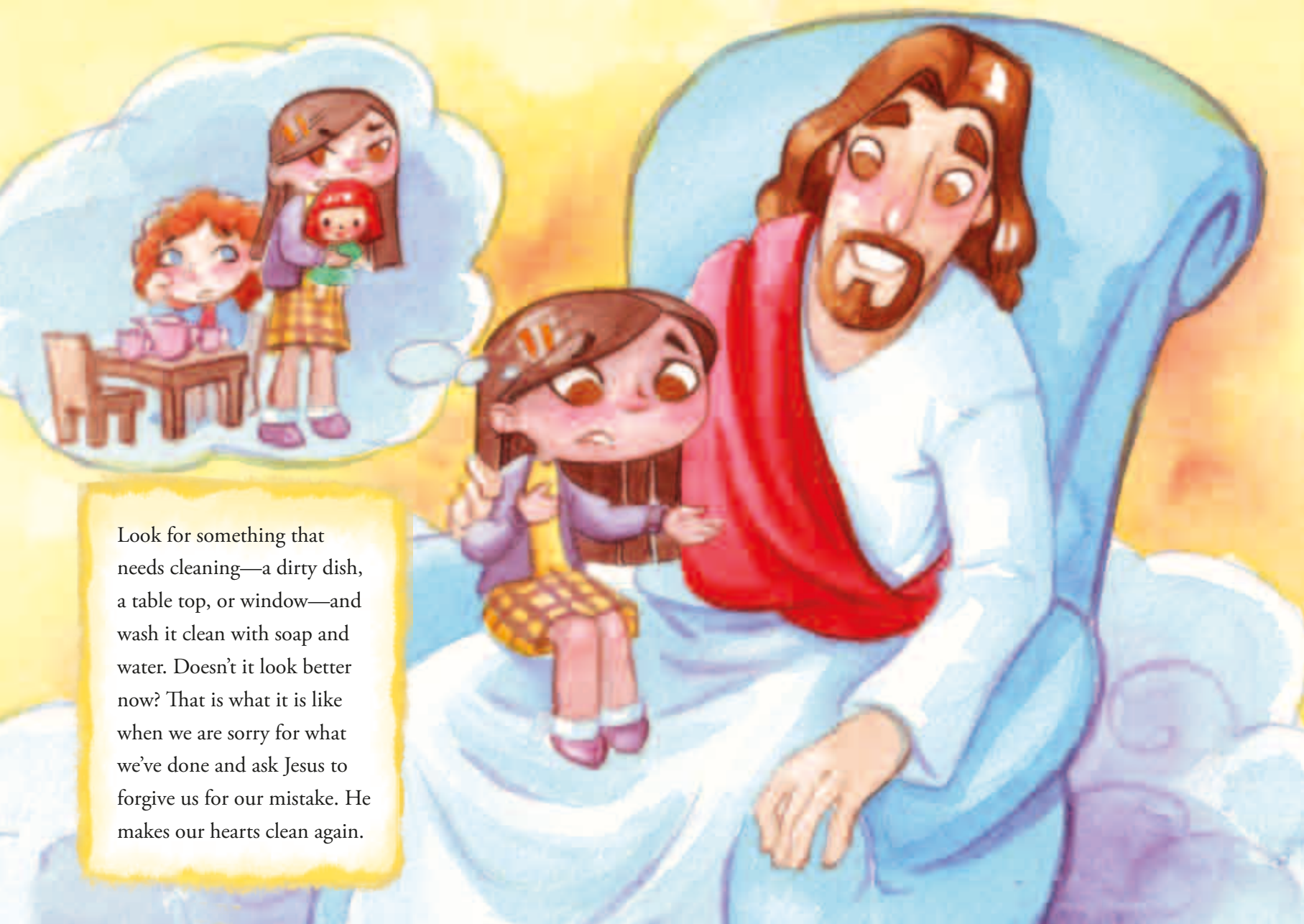
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and to make our hearts clean.

—1 John 1:9, *paraphrased*

There are times when we do something wrong, and we don't want other people to know about what we did. Maybe we broke something or told a lie, and we feel bad in our hearts about something that happened, but we are worried about what might happen if we admit it.

When we hide our sins, it makes us feel bad. Having a sin hidden in our heart is like having a dirty heart, and that makes us sad. Jesus wants us to “confess our sins.” That means being truthful to others when we've done something wrong, and asking for forgiveness.

When we are truthful about our mistakes, Jesus forgives us and makes us happy again. Then we can try again to do better next time.



Look for something that needs cleaning—a dirty dish, a table top, or window—and wash it clean with soap and water. Doesn't it look better now? That is what it is like when we are sorry for what we've done and ask Jesus to forgive us for our mistake. He makes our hearts clean again.

A WORD TO THE PARENT

“Do you love Me?” Jesus asked Peter.
“Lord, You know all things,” Peter answered. “You know that I love You.”
“Then feed My sheep,” Jesus said. “And take care of My little ones.”

—Based on John 21:15–17.

5-Minute Bible Devotionals is a collection of Christian and character-building books written for children ages four on up. Each devotional is built on a Bible verse, and explains to a child in simple terms what the principles of that verse mean and how it applies to daily living.

I wrote these books to provide opportunities for conversation and discussion on Christian values between parent and child on a level that is relatable to a child. You can simply select a devotional to read with your child and pause when questions are posed in the text to allow time for your child to answer. Then encourage your child to express personal experiences or thoughts that relate to the theme you are reading.

Included with each devotional is a simple activity, such as a discussion question, a short rhyme to learn, or a simple project. I have found that emphasizing the lesson I am teaching my children by means of interactive activities brings that spark of fun into the mix that makes these important times of learning a joy.

The Bible verses included with each devotional have been selected from a variety of translations or revised so that they are easy for a young child to understand. Children can also be taught these verses. Repeat the verse several times with your child; he or she should soon be able to recite it from memory. Make a point to review the verses a couple of times a week so the child retains what has been learned.

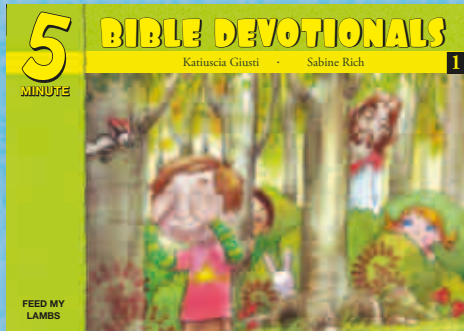
In addition, I will often spice up a devotional reading by including related Bible or character-building stories that complement the principles being taught.

My aim for these books was to have a way to teach my young children Bible-based values, and I have had a wonderful time sharing these simple truths with them in this way. It is my hope that you'll experience the same.

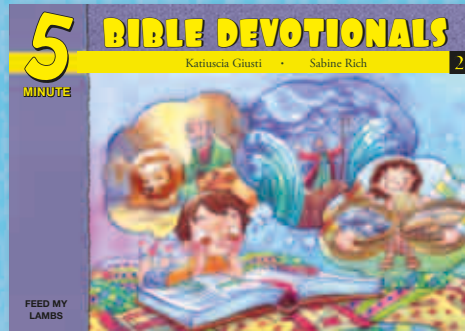
Katiuscia Giusti

5-MINUTE BIBLE DEVOTIONALS

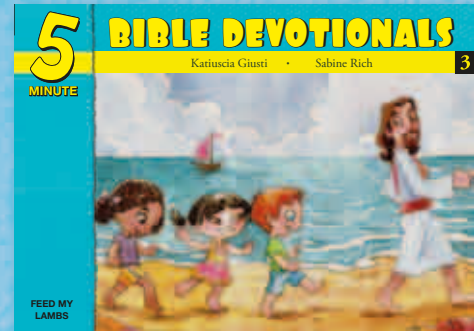
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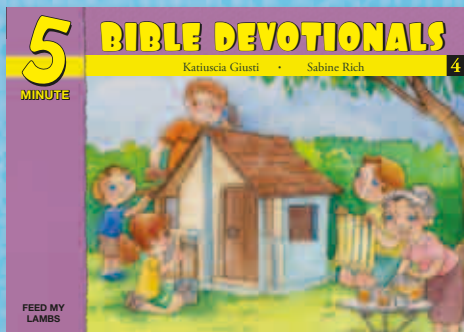
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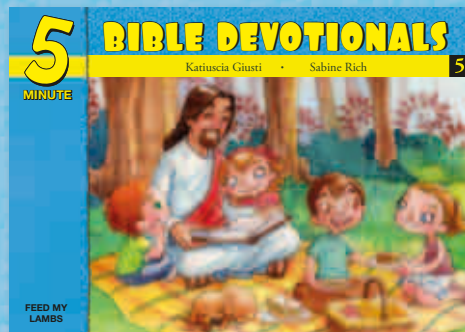
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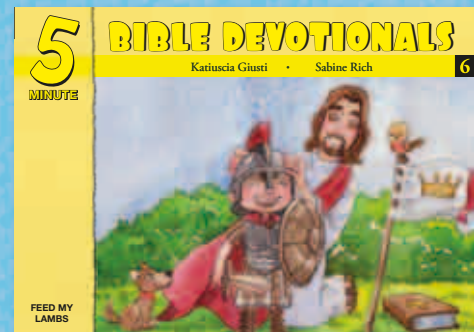
Prayer • God's Word



Christian Living



God/Jesus • Following Jesus • Obedience
Forgiveness



Holy Spirit • Preach the Gospel • Healing
God's Power in You

