

RIVER VALLEY

# ▶ **KiDS** ▶

**HE IS.**

**I AM.**

DEVOTIONAL

# INTRO



## RIVER VALLEY - Kids -

### HEY RIVER VALLEY KIDS!

- ▶ We hope you had an amazing time at Kids Camp, making new friends, playing games and learning about Jesus. Now that you've returned from camp, it's time to start digging into God's word! Each day in this devotional, we'll focus on one of God's awesome "He is" statements. These are special truths about who God is and how He loves us. And because God is so amazing, we can also learn something special about ourselves! That's why each "He is" statement will be followed by an "I am" statement, helping us remember who we are because of who God is. Jump to day one to get started!

# DAY 1

HE IS PRAISEWORTHY.

I AM A WORSHIPPER.

PSALMS 95:1-7 (NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ When we think of worship, it's easy to immediately think of singing to Jesus. However, there are many ways to worship God. We can raise our hands, sing songs, help others in need or even play a sport. Worship can take many forms because our intentions determine our actions.

Worship is a way to give honor, love and praise to Jesus. It's how we show God our obedience and love. God invites us to come before Him with joy and thanksgiving. When we worship, we may feel happy and excited because worship brings joy and happiness into our hearts. There may be other times when we feel heavy or stressed, but we can still draw close to Him no matter how we feel. Whether He has helped us in school, lifted us up when we were sad, healed our bodies when we were hurting or answered our prayers, worship helps us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. It reminds us of who He is and keeps our hearts and minds in a state of gratitude.

Psalm 95:1-7 reminds us that God is our Shepherd. He takes care of us, watches over us and ensures we are protected and cared for. God is always with us!

Challenge: We challenge you to turn on your favorite worship song and praise the Lord! Sing loudly, raise your hands, pray and take action in honoring of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## CHALLENGE

TURN ON YOUR FAVORITE WORSHIP SONG AND PRAISE THE LORD! SING LOUDLY, RAISE YOUR HANDS, PRAY AND TAKE ACTION IN HONORING OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

# DAY 2

HE IS FOCUSED ON ME.

I AM SEEN.

PSALMS 36:5-6 (NLT, MSG)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ Jesus' love is as big as the heavens and His faithfulness (meaning He will never leave us) reaches beyond the clouds! How cool that God uses the earth and His creation to give us a picture of how much He loves and cares for us. He goes on to say His righteousness (or His goodness) is like mighty mountains and His justice (His care for those in need) is as DEEP as the ocean.

What is a picture or image you get in your head when you think of God's love? God's faithfulness? God's righteousness? God's justice? Maybe you picture a part of creation. Maybe you picture a person in your life that displays one of these characteristics or maybe you picture that God is always with you.

Psalms 36:5-6 is expressing to you and me that God cares for us, God sees us and He loves who we are. This verse starts by saying, "Your unfailing love..." This kind of love is different from the world's version of love. This means, God will never love you any less, no matter what. How cool is it that His love is on display for you and me all throughout this passage of scripture?

## CHALLENGE

TAKE TIME TODAY TO DRAW WHAT YOU THINK GOD'S LOVE LOOKS LIKE; MAYBE IT'S A HEART, A FLOWER, A MOUNTAIN, AN OCEAN OR A WAVE. MAYBE IT'S YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR HOME OR THE FOOD ON YOUR TABLE. IF IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, TAKE SOME CHALK OUTSIDE AND DO THE SAME EXERCISE AND WRITE SOMEWHERE, "GOD LOVES YOU!" LET'S NOT KEEP THIS AMAZING LOVE TO OURSELVES, LET'S SHARE IT WITH THE WORLD!



# DAY 3

HE IS LOVE.

I AM LOVED.

PSALMS 145:8 (NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ We often hear that God is love, but how do we know that's true? And how do we know He loves us? To understand what love really means, we look at the Bible. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, it says, "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

God shows us in many Bible stories that He is all of these things. He showed His complete love by giving up His only Son, Jesus, so we could have eternal life and freedom in Him. He shows His love by being patient with us when we mess up and forgiving us when we ask. He is kind by caring for us, especially in our greatest times of need. We can be thankful that God never gives up on us and always wants a relationship with us. He's always there, ready for us to turn to Him anytime, any day. For example, when I was a little girl, I got scared because I lost my dad at a big event. I prayed for God to help me, and right away someone found me and helped me find my dad. God sent someone to help me in that moment because He loves me.

Experiencing this kind of love helps us love others the way Jesus calls us to.

## CHALLENGE

TO REMEMBER HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU, DRAW A GIANT HEART ON A PIECE OF PAPER. INSIDE THAT HEART, WRITE DOWN OR DRAW A PICTURE OF A TIME WHEN GOD SHOWED YOU HIS LOVE. HANG THE PICTURE UP AS A REMINDER AND THEN GO SHOW THAT SAME KIND OF LOVE TO A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND.

# DAY 4

HE IS STRONG.

I AM STRONG.

PSALM 73:26 (NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ When I was younger, my dad was the strongest person I could think of. I looked up to him more than anyone else. If I needed help opening something or moving something heavy, my dad was always the one I would go to. He is also the strongest person mentally and emotionally that I know. Whenever I felt sad or angry, I would talk to my dad, and he would always lift me up and make me feel instantly better.

Even though my dad is the strongest and most reliable person I know, I still feel hurt and weak sometimes. I try to handle things on my own, but my dad and I can only do so much to help me feel strong and confident. That's why it's so important to look to God first! He is limitless! When we seek Him first, He becomes the source of our life! When we are at our lowest or even our best, God reminds us that He is meant to be our strength. So, the next time you feel weak or sad, remember that God is there ready to wrap you in His arms and give you exactly what you need to face the day!

## CHALLENGE

TAKE A MOMENT AND THINK ABOUT A PART OF YOUR LIFE WHERE YOU ARE NEEDING STRENGTH. IT COULD BE WITH HOW YOU TREAT A SIBLING, WITH SOMEONE AT SCHOOL OR EVEN AN IMPORTANT GAME COMING UP. ONCE YOU THINK OF IT, WRITE IT DOWN ON A PIECE OF PAPER. DRAW A CIRCLE AROUND IT AND IMAGINE THAT JESUS IS THE ONE SURROUNDING YOU AND THE CHALLENGE YOU ARE FACING WITH HIS STRENGTH!

# DAY 5

HE IS HERE.

I AM NOT ALONE.

PSALMS 16:11 (NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ It's so great to know that God is always with us! When we give our life to Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives inside us. The Bible shows that there's a special way of life God wants us to follow. As we pray and read the Bible, we learn more about God and what He has done for us. The greatest thing Jesus did was give His life on the cross so we could have a relationship with God forever. Knowing the Holy Spirit is always with us and that we can have a relationship with God should impact the way we see the world, ourselves and everything we go through!

God has given us people to encourage us, pray for us and help us understand the Bible. This could be a parent, grandparent, church leader or your Kids Pastor. God not only promises to never leave us alone, but He also puts people in our lives to support us.

Even though we know we aren't alone, it can sometimes feel like we are. When you feel alone, remember the times when God did something special in your life, like at Kids Camp. When we remember those moments, it should help encourage us and build our faith to believe that He is always with us!

## CHALLENGE

SPEND FIVE MINUTES THINKING ABOUT HOW GOD HAS BEEN WITH YOU. THINK ABOUT TIMES YOU READ YOUR BIBLE OR PRAYED. DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING NEW ABOUT GOD? DID YOU FEEL LIKE SHARING JESUS WITH A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER? HOW DID THAT GO? WRITE THESE THINGS DOWN SO YOU CAN REMEMBER HOW GOD IS WITH YOU!

# DAY 6

HE IS HOLY.

I AM HOLY AND SET APART.

PSALM 29:1-2 (NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ “Honor the Lord, you heavenly beings; honor the Lord for his glory and strength. Honor the Lord for the glory of his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.”  
Psalm 29:1-2

Have you ever thought about what it means to be holy? We use that word a lot in songs! The word holy simply means that we are set apart and special. Did you know that the word hold is used more than 600 times in the Bible, which means it must be pretty important! Since God is Holy and has called us to be holy, we can see that means He wants us to be connected to Him.

Now you might be thinking, “If God is holy, can we really be holy?” That is a great question! We could never be holy in our own strength. It is by the grace of God and only through the Holy Spirit that we can become holy and set apart. We can learn what that means by spending time reading the Bible. We can trust the Bible to guide our thoughts toward discovering what it looks like to be different from the people of this world. Hebrews 12:14 says, “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” Through you being holy and set apart, you can show the love of Jesus to those who may not know Him.

## CHALLENGE

TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY AND ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SHOW YOU AREAS WHERE YOU CAN BECOME HOLY AND SET APART IN YOUR LIFE.



# DAY 7

**HE IS JUST.**

**I AM A PEACEMAKER.**

PSALMS 111:7-8 (NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ This psalm reveals a key truth about God's character: "All He does is just and good." God is always good and we can rely on that! While we try our best to be good, we often fall short—we lose our temper, disobey, lie or roll our eyes. Being good all the time is impossible for us, but not for God.

God is not a really good version of you or me; He is transcendent. This means that He is outside of humanity, above and beyond anything we could ask, seek or imagine. He is holy and set apart. God is unable to sin or fall short. He is always just and always good.

The word 'just' means behaving according to what is morally right and fair. Because God is just, and will never change or do anything wrong, He is the only one who can determine the standard for you and me. Knowing that our all-powerful God is the one in charge should give us peace! We can find rest and security knowing that God is always going to be who He says He is. He will always do what is right and will always be good. When we know that... like really, really know that God is just and good, peace will radiate off of us. It's in Him that we look for direction on how to live. It's in Him that we place our faith. It's in His unchanging character that we find peace. In our schools, homes, sports teams, communities and ANYWHERE we are to create peace by living at peace with ourselves and our world.

## CHALLENGE

**SPEND SOME TIME PRAYING AND ASKING GOD FOR WISDOM TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN ALL SITUATIONS AND FOR BOLDNESS TO SPEAK GOD'S TRUTH. IN BIG BUBBLE LETTERS, WRITE OUT: JUST + GOOD. COLOR THE LETTERS IN YELLOW AND HANG THEM IN YOUR ROOM. USE THIS SIGN TO REMIND YOURSELF THAT IN ALL GOD DOES, HE IS JUST AND GOOD. LET THAT TRUTH GIVE YOU PEACE!**

# DAY 8

**HE IS CREATOR.**

**I AM MADE IN HIS IMAGE.**

PSALM 139:13-18 (NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ Take a moment and think about all the amazing things that God has created. He created things like Mount Everest (the tallest mountain in the world), the deepest ocean (35,876 feet), the lions in the safaris of Africa, every sunrise and sunset, the moon and the stars and the changing seasons that bring bright colors to the leaves in the fall. God created everything. While God created all of these amazing things, He also created you!

The color of your hair, the color of your eyes, the way your laugh sounds, your favorite flavor of ice cream, the toys you like to play with, and the fact that you love sports, music, reading, or hanging out with your family. God knows all of these things about you because He is the one who created you to be like that!

Maybe you don't always like all of the things mentioned above about who you are. Sometimes things in life can make us feel insecure about who we are. Maybe someone you love said something that wasn't very nice or maybe you saw someone who had things that you wished you had. When you feel that way, the best thing to do is to turn to Jesus and remind yourself that God loves you just as you are. He loves you because He created you!

All of the things God created don't even come close in comparison to who He created. He created you, in His perfect design, with a plan and a purpose. In church, we often talk about how God is going to use you or who God is making you into. Psalm 139 reminds us that God doesn't just have a future plan for us but He also has a purpose for you right now! Our Heavenly Father knows you, sees you, loves you and is proud of you.

## CHALLENGE

WRITE DOWN YOUR FAVORITE THINGS THAT GOD MADE YOU TO LOVE AND YOUR FAVORITE PARTS ABOUT WHO YOU ARE. DRAW A PICTURE OF YOURSELF AND THANK GOD FOR MAKING YOU WHO YOU ARE!

# DAY 9

**HE IS FAITHFUL.  
I AM PROTECTED.**

PSALM 91:4 (NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ Today we are focusing on how God is faithful to us and how we are protected. Let's first talk about how God is faithful. We can read in Hebrews 13:5, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" God is stating here that He will be with us in all things. He is with us and protecting us.

When I was a kid, I was afraid of the dark. The dark used to make me feel alone and scared. Have you ever been in a situation that made you feel alone and scared? It may have not been because you were afraid of the dark but maybe it was because you started going to a new school where you didn't know anyone. Or maybe your family was arguing and you didn't know what to do. Those are definitely reasons that could make us feel alone and scared. The good news is that when things happen to make us feel that way, we can take comfort in knowing that the Lord is always with us!

The Lord has promised us that He will keep us safe. We live in a world full of sin and bad things, but God has promised to shelter us from those bad things! There will still be moments when hard things happen but we can have peace knowing that God will never leave us nor forsake us. God will be with us in everything and we can always lean on His promises.

## CHALLENGE

**BUILD A SHELTER (PILLOW FORT) TO REMIND YOU THAT THE LORD WILL SHELTER YOU FROM BAD THINGS AND THAT HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU.**

# DAY 10

HE IS AVAILABLE.

I AM AVAILABLE.

PSALM 17:6 (NIV, NLT)

## DEVOTIONAL:

- ▶ Have you ever wondered if God hears you when you talk to Him? Even more than that, have you ever wondered if God is speaking back to you? I have! When I was a kid, one of my biggest fears was getting lost. I was afraid that I would be in a park, at a store, or even at church and I would turn around and wouldn't be able to find my mom or dad. My parents told me, "If you can't find us, just call out for us, we will hear you and come to you!" One time, I was at the State Fair and there were a lot of people. I wasn't paying attention and when I turned back to follow my parents, I couldn't see them. I remember calling out for them and within a matter of seconds, they found me!

God is a lot like that except He always knows where we are and what we are going through! Because of that, He is listening when we feel sad, lost, worried, happy or strong! Not only is He listening, but we can trust that He is going to respond in the way that we need. Jesus says in John 10 that He is like a shepherd and His sheep (that's us) hear His voice.

To hear God's voice, we need to keep our hearts and minds open to Him. If we're too busy filling our lives with other things, it can be hard to hear God speaking to us. Psalm 17:6 reminds us that God is always listening to us. He wants to show us His love and the plans He has for us by speaking to us. God loves spending time with you because He loves YOU.

## CHALLENGE

SET ASIDE TIME TODAY TO SIT IN THE QUIET AND BE WITH GOD. YOU CAN EVEN SET YOUR TIMER FOR 5 MINUTES AND TALK TO GOD. LISTEN FOR HIM TO SPEAK BACK! WRITE DOWN WHAT HE SPEAKS TO YOU.