

Dig In!

Family devotions to feed your faith

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Foreword

What a pleasure it is for me to present Linda Buxa's devotional book to the world on behalf of Time of Grace. Linda has been a friend for many years and someone whose humor, insight, and passion I have appreciated the entire time. She brings a wealth of experience on living the Christian life, assisted by her amazing husband and three children. The voice you will hear in these wonderful devotions is the voice of one who has lived all over America—East Coast, West Coast, Alaska, and the Midwest—and who loves the Word and listens to the Word.

You may have come to know her from her weekly blogs on the Time of Grace website. Now you can enjoy her insights into family life as well through these daily devotions as you seek to let God's Word inform you on how you live. May Linda's joy in the Lord be yours too.

Pastor Maule Jeske

Speaker for Time of Grace
Senior pastor at St. Marcus Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI

Dedication

To everyone at Time of Grace Ministry . . . you accomplished what many wish they could do—left me speechless. Thank you for the humbling opportunity to share Jesus with so many.

To the kids who wrote the “By kids for kids” devotions scattered in this book . . . thank you for sharing Jesus with kids just like you. You are awesome!

To my husband, Greg . . . you are a man after God’s own heart. Your dedication to making sure that family, friends, and strangers know about Jesus is a great example for our children and for everyone. I love you.

To my children—Abby, Lydia, and Ben . . . I’m often so busy reminding you to do your chores and eat healthy foods that I skimp on talking about what has been done for you. These devotions are what I most want you to know about the God who formed you, the Son who saved you, and the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you. God has big plans for you!

Introduction

These devotions aren’t meant to be the only spiritual nourishment kids get. Most are like the ice cream on the front cover: a sweet dessert, simple encouragement that would be great as an after dinner treat or a bedtime snack. Some of these devotions, however, are meatier—big chunks of God’s Word. I want you to dig in, to chew on God’s Word on your own.

I pray that this book draws you closer to the living, powerful God who feeds you every day with his Word. Thank you for taking the time to “taste and see that the LORD is good.”

Linda Buxa



January

January 1

Happy New Year!

All over the world people are coming up with resolutions, things they say they will do to make their lives better.

For kids, New Year's resolutions might sound like these:

- 1. Do my best at school.**
- 2. Be kind to others.**
- 3. Eat ice cream every day.**

That's a pretty cool list, but maybe you're looking for some other ideas. About two thousand years ago, the apostle Paul gave a list of resolution ideas, and this list never gets old. See if anything jumps out at you.

“Brothers and sisters, we ask you to show your appreciation for those leaders who work among you and instruct you. We ask you to love them and think very highly of them because of the work they are doing. Live in peace with each other. We encourage you, brothers and sisters, to instruct those who are not living right, cheer up those who are discouraged, help the weak, and be patient with everyone. Make sure that no one ever pays back one wrong with another wrong. Instead, always try to do what is good for each other and everyone else. Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-18).

Chomp on this!



Which of the things on this list will you, with the Holy Spirit cheering you on, work on this year?

January 2

Seeing clearly

We're going to do a little experiment.

If you wear glasses, take them off.

If you don't wear glasses, borrow someone else's and put them on.
(If no one has glasses, just squint really hard.)

What happened? It messed with your vision and everything got blurry, didn't it?

That's how our idea of heaven is right now. We sort of know what it might be like, but it's kind of blurry. In 1 John 3:2, we hear that when Jesus comes back, our vision will be clear: **“Dear friends, now we are God's children. What we will be isn't completely clear yet. We do know that when Christ appears we will be like him because we will see him as he is.”**

Our human minds can't really imagine heaven because we have never seen perfection. Sin and sadness and hurts blur our minds.

In heaven, however, our vision will be clear. We will be like Jesus. We will be pure, holy, and sinless. We will love God and love each other perfectly. We will never again hurt others or feel guilty for hurting others. We will see Jesus face-to-face and live with him forever.

That's awesome!

Dear Father,

we can't wait to have clear vision. Right now this world is blurry and we stumble around trying to imagine what heaven is like. Help us trust that we will see clearly once we get to heaven. Thank you for letting us be like Jesus. Amen.