

BANANA NEWS



GO DEEPER

BOTTOM LINE

GOD IS THE REDEEMER

MEMORY VERSE

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. *Romans 12:2 (NLT)*

DAILY DEVOTIONS

DAY 1: THE NEED FOR A REDEEMER

READ - Genesis 3

When we read the first chapters of Genesis, we see a picture of the life God wanted for us - a life of harmony with Him and with one another. But when the first people disobeyed God, they rejected the perfect life He'd planned for them. So God promised to send His Son, Jesus, the Redeemer, to heal this broken relationship. This is just the beginning of God's amazing story!

DAY 2: GOD GIVES US A CHOICE

READ - Revelation 3:20, John 1:12

God created us to be with Him, but He also gave us a choice. We don't have to love God, but He loves us. When sin entered the world, God had a plan to redeem us and make a way to restore our relationship with Him. Now we have a choice: to continue in our own way, or choose God as our Redeemer. He is knocking – have you answered?

DAY 3: THE REDEEMER LOVES US

READ - 1 John 3:16, Psalm 130:7, Romans 5:8

Why does God offer redemption to you? Because He loves you! God loves the world and everyone in it, and He offers us eternal life with Him. We just have to choose to accept His gift and follow Him wherever He may lead. Where have you seen God's love in your life?

DAY 4: JESUS IS THE REDEEMER

READ - Romans 5:10. Acts 3:19. Isaiah 44:22

Jesus fulfilled God's plan to redeem us. Jesus is the Son of God who lived a perfect life, died on the cross taking the punishment for everyone's sins, and defeated sin and death by coming back to life three days later. If you believe that, you have the choice to admit your sins, ask Jesus for forgiveness, and follow Him. This is the most important choice you can make in your life. If you have questions about choosing to follow Jesus, talk to a parent or other trusted adult today. Don't wait!

DAY 5: SHARE ABOUT GOD'S REDEMPTION

READ - Psalm 107:2, Romans 10:13-15

When you realize God is the Redeemer, you should share that good news with others. Talk with them about who God is to you and what He has done in your life. As you share, you can invite others to make the choice to follow God.



Materials: Paper Plate, Water, Ground Pepper, Toothpick, Dish Soap, Sugar

Follow the directions below for a fun visual of how God draws us to Him.

- 1. Use a plate or shallow dish with water in it and sprinkle some ground pepper in the center of the plate. The pepper represents the people.
- 2. Touch the surface of the water with the toothpick dipped in dish soap. What happened to the pepper? It spread out away from the center! Sin separates us from God.
- 3. Pour the sugar into the middle of the plate to represent God's redemption. It should draw the pepper back towards the middle!

Only God can draw people back to Him. Only God can be our Redeemer. When we choose to follow Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit and we are drawn back to God.



Materials: Soda, Clear Cup, Buttons, Spoon

After you have done something wrong, have you ever felt like you could just keep it a secret and no one would find out? Do you know that no matter how hard we try to keep our sins a secret they have a way of becoming known?

Pour the soda into the glass. This glass represents you, and this soda represents a place where you might try to hide your bad secrets. Now, these buttons represent sin.

Drop these "sins" into your glass of soda, and they will be hidden from our sight, just like hiding our sins. Can you see them? At first they are hidden. But you can only keep these sins a secret for a little while; eventually, sin has a way of coming to the surface.

Watch carefully and you will see them rise to the top. Sin cannot be hidden from God. He knows your heart. Instead of trying to hide sin, remember that we can ask God to forgive us, and He will.

The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. He will clean us of our sins. (*Remove buttons with a spoon*) Now your heart is clean again! Pray and thank God for sending Jesus as the Redeemer.



Materials: Paper Strip, 2 Paperclips

God is the Redeemer and He loves you! Did you know this is true for everyone? Because Jesus loves us, He wants us to tell others about His love for them. Use this neat trick to show others how we were once separated from God, but through Jesus, we have a way to be with Him forever!

- 1. Bend the left side of the paper at dotted line A, but do not fold. The two B's on the paper will touch. Place a paper clip over the B's.
- 2. Flip the paper over left to right, so that the paper clip is on the right and you can't see any words.
- 3. Bend the right side forward at dotted line C so that the D's touch each other back to back. Place a paper clip where the two D's meet as shown in the diagram.
- 4. Read the poem on the folded sheet and then pull the two sides apart quickly. The two paper clips will pop off of the paper and join together!

Check it out: https://youtu.be/40kWZZBIUYY





