

A guide to help children establish a daily walk with God.



Wonder Time™

in Good News Club®

Books 1-6



Since 1937

CEF

CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®

Reaching children worldwide™

© Copyright 2007 Child Evangelism Fellowship of Europe

CEF Centre, Kilchzimmer

4438 Langenbruck, Switzerland

Tel: +41 62 387 30 10

Fax: +41 62 387 30 40

Email: info@cefeurope.org

www.cefeurope.com



INTRODUCTION

Wonder Time™ in Good News Club®

Children enjoy the Wonder Devotional Book:

“I have had all these questions and I just can’t believe they are all in one book.” Sidney, 8 years old

“I am a Christian and go to church, but the devotional book is church every day.” Alesha, 10 years old

“I read the Wonder Devotional Book at night before going to bed. It is much easier for me to understand than the Bible.” Gili, 12 years old.

What is Wonder Time?

Wonder Time is a 5-10 minute segment of the *Good News Club*® dedicated to motivating the children to begin and continue their daily quiet time with God using CEF’s *60-Day Wonder Devotional Books* as a foundation.

Why Wonder Time?

- By introducing *Wonder Time* in the *Good News Club*, we are carrying out Jesus’ commission to make disciples of the children and to teach them all that He has commanded us (Matthew 28:19,20).
- According to George Barna in his book *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, a child’s spiritual condition by the age of 13 is a strong indicator of what his spiritual profile as an adult will be.
- Including *Wonder Devotional Books* as an integral part of the *Good News Club* programme is a vital way of meeting the

second part of CEF's three-fold purpose – discipling children in the Word of God.

How do you introduce Wonder Time in your club?

Distributing the devotional books

- When the children come to the *Good News Club* for the third time they could be given a *Good News Club* membership card and a *Wonder Devotional Book* making them “official” members of the club. This applies to both saved and unsaved children. Be sure to include a letter for the parents with more information. Make the awarding of these items a special event in the club time. This will add value to *The Wonder Devotional Book* because it has been earned and it will also motivate other children to continue attending club so they can also become official members and receive the book.
- Make sure to emphasise that *The Wonder Devotional Book* is a voluntary item. It is not homework!
- It is probably best if the children in each club begin with the same book and progress together through the *Good News Club* year. This will enable the teacher to reinforce in the club what the children are studying as well as to track each child's progress more easily. New children should begin with *The Wonder Devotional Book* that the rest of the club is using at the time. They could be handed the previous books at the end of the year if they are interested. However, if the new children do not know much about God, it might be better to give them the first book and when they have finished that one, then let them continue on with the same book as the rest of the class.
- For clubs where there are both pre-schoolers and older children you can still give all children a Wonder Devotional Book and encourage older children to help younger siblings at home. These younger children can also ask their parents to read the book to them.
- Give the children all six Wonder Devotional Books over the

period of the school year. The fifth book can be given at the end of the *Good News Club* year. Churches that have adopted clubs could sponsor a get-together in the summer to give out the sixth book or the teacher could mail the last book to the children during the summer or have the hostess deliver them personally.

How to introduce the quiet time concept

- Some weeks prior to handing out the Wonder Devotional Books you can teach the children how to have a quiet time. You can get a lot of help on how to do that in the chapter on prayer in the CEF manual *Reaching Children in Good News Clubs* and from the book *A Quiet Time*, both produced by CEF of Europe.
- In your first *Wonder Time* session, have the children open at the beginning of *The Wonder Devotional Book* and read together the instructions about how to have a quiet time. If new children are present the first day you present the devotional book, you will also need to give them a copy so that they do not feel left out.
- Have the children turn to the first devotional and work through the steps together as a model. This might take 12-15 minutes. If possible, divide the club into smaller groups for this activity, with a trained adult in each group.
- This activity might be repeated the following week or two for new children and to make sure that all the children are motivated for this and know how to go about it.
- If you discover that the children are not following through with their quiet time you may need to review the instructions and do another practice demonstration together. In addition, this step may need to be repeated periodically during the year as new children join the club.
- Make sure to train and motivate the whole *Good News Club* team for this wonderful ministry of teaching children to have a regular quiet time. The children will have a lot of joy

in having a quiet time when they see that their teachers are convinced and enthusiastic about it.

How do you maintain interest?

After the first sessions when you introduce the devotional books, subsequent Wonder Time sessions can be done in 3-5 minutes.

The objective each week is not necessarily to evaluate the child's answers written in the devotional book because there probably isn't time for that. It is basically to see that the children are having their quiet time and to encourage them to continue. If necessary, they can be given help with difficulties.

Before Club

The children hand in their *Wonder Devotional Book* on arrival at the club. While the *Good News Club* is in progress, helpers look at what they have done and if the teacher wishes, the helpers could put on stickers, smiley faces etc. in the corner of each devotion that the child has finished. The Wonder Devotional Books are handed back to the children as they leave. It is important that the child only gets the stickers when he brings the book to club. Otherwise you might have children lying about how much they really did!

In Club

- Be passionate about *Wonder Time*!
- Use a song as a signal that *Wonder Time* is about to begin. CEF has produced a special Wonder Time song, "God Wants to Spend Time with You" but another song on prayer could also be used.
- Let various children share a testimony about what God is teaching them through their devotional time.
- The teacher, helper or hostess could also share something God taught them in their own quiet time!
- Recognise all who do even one page of their devotional book for the week.

- Encourage the children to have their quiet time. Do not belittle or pressure those who do not.
- Be enthusiastic yourself about having a daily quiet time with God! The greatest motivator will be the teacher's own enthusiasm in encouraging and getting the children excited about having their own daily quiet time with the Lord.
- It may be helpful for you to add *The Wonder Devotional Book* to your own quiet time so you will be aware of what the children are reading so you can interact with them on the material.
- Focus the children's attention on something to look for or a question to answer in their devotional during the week ahead. (Example: What does it mean that God is Sovereign? How can you show God that you are happy about all He has done for you?) Make sure to follow up on your questions the next week.
- Plan occasionally to deepen the children's understanding of the value of having a quiet time with God:
 - ◀ Share Scripture to remind children of the importance of their time with God.
 - ◀ Use special CEF lessons on prayer (e.g. *A Quiet Time* or *Teach Us to Pray*, produced by CEF of Europe).
 - ◀ Use songs or memory verses about prayer.
 - ◀ Prepare additional teaching on different aspects of prayer (as mentioned before, you can get help in the chapter about prayer in the CEF manual *Reaching Children in Good News Clubs* or use the *Children's Ministry Resource Bible*, pages 1528-1530. Share one segment each week.)
- End your clubs with a challenge to remind and motivate the children to continue having their quiet time using *The Wonder Devotional Book* during the week.

What are some possible solutions to difficulties that could arise as you introduce Wonder Time in the club?

The need for more helpers to correct the books

- Maybe an older person or a teenager would be glad to join the team and check the Wonder Devotional Books as the club is in progress.
- The prayer partners could take turns in this ministry.
- You could make a “Cosy Corner” where one or two of the adults sit and chat with the children and check their books as they arrive so most of the checking is done before club begins. One person could continue to check the latecomers’ books.

Unsaved children

- As mentioned earlier, all children are offered a book. There are numerous references throughout the book on salvation and places where children are encouraged to trust in Christ if they have not already done so.
- Some teachers take time the first day to emphasise the Gospel presentation on the inside cover of the book. Children can be encouraged to read this page at home for themselves. There is even a place the children can record the date when they choose to receive Christ.
- Pray that the book will be a cause for the children to receive Christ.
- If you are beginning a new *Good News Club* or having a club with mainly unsaved children, you might want to wait awhile before introducing the *Wonder Time*.

Non-readers

You might have children who are too young to read properly or maybe are having learning difficulties.

- You could encourage children to ask a parent, grandparent or an older sibling to read for them.

- If you have a club consisting of mainly pre-schoolers, you might not want to introduce the regular *Wonder Devotional Book*, but CEF has produced two other items for younger children. *The Wonder-Fun Bible Activity Book* consists of 48 pages of puzzles, activities and colouring sheets to help children learn about God. *The Wonder Devotional Book Early Reader* contains 100 devotionals for 6-8 year-olds. Both are produced by CEF Press® in USA, but ask your national office about availability.
- You should encourage children who have even just read a small paragraph of one devotion!
- Maybe it is possible for you or the local CEF office to provide a tape or CD with a recording of the devotions.
- If you have children from homes where there is no one willing to read the devotions for them, you need to be very sensitive to avoid the children feeling excluded from the *Wonder Time*. Our final goal is to teach children to have a quiet time – not to read devotions! Encourage those children to recite a memory verse or sing a song from the *Good News Club* during their quiet times. Ask the children what God has taught them through quiet time – not through the devotions.

Children not bringing books to Good News Club

You might have only 50-65 percent of the children bringing the books back to club.

- Remember, the focus is not that the children remember the books but that they have their quiet time with God!
- Praise those who did their devotions even if they forgot the books.
- If the children have a mobile phone, you might ask if they want you to remind them next week to bring the book, through a text message the day prior to the club.

Child participation:

If the guidelines above are followed, there are various ways to involve the children through testimonies and questions.

Other ideas:

- Ask the first child in club to be a reporter who asks everyone a question related to last week's devotions as the children arrive. Let the child share the results of his interviews during *Wonder Time*.
- Make a Wonder Corner and assign an older child to have a short devotional time with the children who arrive early.

Lynda Pongracz, USA, has developed much of this information. Adapted by CEF of Europe with permission.



WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOK 1

What a God!

What is this book about?

In the first half of *The Wonder Devotional Book* (Year 1), the children and teenagers get to know God as He has shown Himself through Creation and the Bible. They learn Who God is and what He is like. It is essential for the children to consider the biblical view of God from the very beginning, because their thinking is dominated by what the media and society say about God. Very often it is a totally different view of God.

A second step is to bring before them the biblical view of man. As they read each devotional in turn, they encounter how God created man, how He wanted him to be, what became of him and what is man's current relationship to God.

This will bring us directly to the Person of Jesus, Who is the subject of the second part of the devotional book.

The children think about these questions: Who is Jesus? Why did He come? Which part does He have in our relationship to God?

So this devotional book leads the children to think about the fundamental truths of the Bible and invites them to get to know God personally.

Two weeks before you distribute the devotionals

In two weeks each of you will get a very special present: a book which will help you spend some time with God every day. God really wants to have some time every day with you alone! You will be able to get to know Him and discover how wonderful that is!

How can you spend time with God? (*Show them the Devotional Poster.*)

The first step is called ...? (*Let the children answer.*) Before you start your time with God, stop doing all the other activities you have just been busy with. It should be really quiet in the room. That is why we call this time with God the quiet time.

And the next step...? (*A child reads the second step.*)

Look for a place where you will not be disturbed. You can already think about where that could be for you.

The next step is called ...? Now you may take a look at the book that you will get in two weeks. You will find interesting questions, e.g. how old is God? How mighty is He? Of course you will also find the answers to these questions.

What comes next? ... (*Fourth step*) Now you think about what you have read.

And then? ... (*Fifth step*) Now you can tell God everything you are concerned about.

Soon we will have a special time during every club. We'll call it *Wonder Time*. We will be telling each other about this special time we had alone with God. We will hang the poster up here in this room, so that you can always remember the five steps.

One week before you distribute the devotionals:

Do you want to know more about God and Who He is? About why He created man? Only one more week and then you'll get your present. Then you can start having your very own quiet time with God! You will get to know God better and better day by day.

Did you already decide where you are going to have your quiet time? – Maybe in your room or at the kitchen table?

When is the best time for you to do it? In the morning shortly after you get up? That surely is a very good time to do it. Or when you come home from school? Or is it in the evening before you go to bed? Think about it! Be prepared!

How will you do your quiet time? (*Show the poster and let the*

children briefly explain the five points.)

Remember: God wants to spend time with you every day.
Really! Every day of the year.

Week 1

(We suggest you only give out the books after this introduction, so that the children can concentrate on what you are saying.)

Preview/Motivation

The day we were looking forward to for so long has finally arrived! At the end of this lesson you will each get your own *Wonder Devotional Book*. Read one devotional a day.

You may keep this book but please bring it with you each time you come to club. We want to see which pages you have read and you will get a small reward. Please don't write anything in the small white circles at the end of each page. *(Show them the white circles. This space is for you to put in a little Smiley sticker ☺ or draw one.)*

Have you already decided where you will have your quiet time? *(Show them the poster.)*

The first step in your quiet time is called: **STOP!** Before you spend time with God, you have to stop whatever you have just been doing. Is there music playing? Switch it off. Were you playing on the computer? Switch it off. It should be really quiet in the room. God wants to speak. Everything else needs to be still now.

Next: Look for an undisturbed place. And now try to become calm and quiet yourself, so that you can hear what God wants to say to you. Ask God to help you understand what you are about to read. Confess your sin to Him, so that nothing stands between you and Him.

Then turn to the first devotional. *(Show them the page you mean in the book.)* Below the title you will find a Bible verse. Read it slowly and try to remember it. The same verse will be printed below several devotions in a row for you to really

remember it. The Bible verse is the most important part of the devotional because it is God's Word. After that you may read the devotional. Try to understand it.

Now think about what you have read. Then think about how you could answer the question you will find at the end of the page. By writing down your thoughts, you will be able to remember better what you have learned.

Pray at the end of your time with God. You will find a good beginning for your prayer at the end of each page, but you can also tell God everything else that is on your heart.

It may be that you forget these steps. Then you can look them up in your book, on the page before the first devotional. They are almost the same as on the poster. *(Show them the page.)*

Now you can read one devotional a day and by this time next week you will have read **devotionals 1-7**.

(It would surely be a great help for the children if you do the first devotional together with them right away. If possible you could divide them into small groups.)

Week 2

Reflection

How was your quiet time? Did you all find out what time of day is best for you? Was it easy to stop what you were doing to concentrate on your quiet time? *(We suggest that today you only speak with them about the first step on the poster. Try to help the children with the difficulties they had with this aspect. You will discuss the other steps during the following weeks.)*

Wasn't it great to see how mighty God is? Did you also read about how sin came into the world and what God did about it?

Preview/Motivation

Maybe now you are wondering about how God can forgive *you*. Tomorrow you will read about this in your devotional! Apart from that you will learn many other interesting things about God, e.g. how God has everything under control, even in your life.

During the next week you will read **devotionals 8-14**. Don't forget to bring your book home with you!

Week 3

Reflection

Did you all find a good place to have your quiet time? If you have a room of your own, you could prepare a corner just for your quiet time. You could put your book and a pen there.

Is it hard for you to get quiet and calm inside for your quiet time? *(Talk today about the second step on the poster: "Are there interruptions? Are there things that disturb your mind just when you want to spend time with God?" If there are, then try to help the children and give them tips on how to stop these thoughts. Repeat the things from the second step: "Ask God to help you understand what you are about to read. Confess your sins to Him if there is anything that is getting in the way between you and Him.")*

Preview/Motivation

During the next week we will read **devotionals 15-21**.

This time you will find out many interesting things about God's love. It is so very different from the love that we find among people. Many adults and also children know nothing but the false "love" that we see on television. *(You may go into more detail according to the age of the children.)* They don't know real love. Do you want to know how much God loves you, and how you can show others real love? Or do you want to know why sometimes the people who don't love God at all are the ones who experience so many good things anyway? This is one of the many things you will learn during the next week.

Don't forget to bring your book with you next time!

Week 4

Reflection

Did you realize that the Bible verse above the text is sometimes the same for a few days? Do you know why? *(It will help you to remember it more easily.)* I have a tip for you: Read the verse

twice and read it aloud, each time. Then try to say it without looking at it. Do the same the next day! Maybe you will have learned it by heart by the fourth or fifth day! Bible verses are a real treasure, especially if you keep them in your heart. They can remind you of Who God is and they can keep you from committing sins.

Preview/Motivation

Read **devotionals 22-28** for next week.

Anyone who loves God never needs to be afraid of Him. But we should *fear* God. Do you know the difference? And how can we have fear of God without being afraid of Him? Some of the following devotionals will explain it to you.

Week 5

Reflection

Did you realize that you can remember your devotional better if you think about it as you read it and if you answer the question on it? (*See Step 4 on the poster.*) But the questions aren't always so easy, are they? (Ask for some of the children's experiences. Encourage the children who have problems with answering the questions to answer at least one question together with you. Is there someone in their families who could help them?)

Preview/Motivation

Read **devotionals 29-35** during the next week.

After devotional number 32 you will find a special page. It is for clever people. (*Show them the page you mean.*) There you will find several questions which you will surely be able to answer if you read the devotionals carefully. If you don't know the answer, you may look at the notes in small print at the end of the page. They give you a hint about which devotional contains the answer.

Don't forget to bring the book with you next week. (*You could promise to give a little reward to everyone who fills in this special page correctly.*)

Week 6

Reflection

In the past weeks we have thought about God the Father. In the coming weeks we will learn more about God the Son. Then we also have God the ...? (*Wait for answers.*) Later we will also read about this.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – these are three Persons. But there is still only one God. That is a mystery. We cannot understand or explain it properly, but God showed Himself in this way in the Bible. That is why we believe it, because it is written there.

Preview/Motivation

During the next weeks we will think about Jesus. You will learn why He came down from Heaven to earth, what He was to do here among mankind and how he got back to His Father in Heaven.

Next week you will hear about something in Jesus' life that hasn't even happened yet. It lies in the future! We don't know if it will be tomorrow or in a few years. But we know for sure that it will happen! And when it happens, everyone who believes in Him will be very happy! Do you want to know what it is that Christians are looking forward to so much? One of the **devotionals 36-42** will tell you.

Now you can compare and bring together the results of the question sheet, e.g. by having a quiz.

Week 7

Reflection

Who of you found out what it is that will surely happen in the future? (Jesus will come back and He will reign as King.) Apart from that, you learned about a mystery concerning Jesus that we cannot really, fully understand. Do you know what I mean? (He was truly God and truly man at the same time.)

Preview/Motivation

During the next week you will learn more about Jesus – things that not very many people know! For example: think of Jesus as a child – which of His features are the same as yours? How was He different to you? Why is Jesus called “The Word”? Did He have to fight against doing evil things in the same way as we human beings?

Read **devotionals 43-49** and don’t forget to bring the book with you next week.

◀ *It is now time to order The Wonder Devotional Book Number 2 for the children.*

Week 8

Reflection

Can anybody tell me what we end our quiet time with? Exactly, with prayer.

The prayer you find at the end of every devotional is a good help to get you started. You can add whatever you want to pray for apart from that. What else can we pray for? (*Write down some answers. Probably the children will have many requests concerning their own or other people’s lives. Now you can think with the children about what they can be thankful for and what they can praise God for.*) Don’t forget to thank and praise God for all the good that He does.

Preview/Motivation

In the devotionals for next week we will begin with something very sad, but we will end with something very happy. You will accompany Jesus on His hardest journey but also on His most beautiful pathway. And in the next devotional you will learn about something you can thank God for every day. In fact you *should* thank Him for it every day. Will you want to do that?

Now we’ll read **devotionals 50-56**.

Week 9

Reflection

Were you able to discover what Christians should thank God for every single day? (*For sending His Son to die for us on the cross.*) Did you remember to thank Him for that every day?

Yesterday you read about Jesus' ascension to Heaven. His work here on earth was completed. But what is He doing in Heaven right now? Is He just taking a rest? – You will be surprised at how many things He is working on just for you! It is true! He has much work to do.

Preview/Motivation

During the next week we will read **devotionals 57-60**. Try to answer the questions on the last page of your book the day after you do the last devotional.

You won't find a devotional for the last two days of the week. Does that mean you don't have to do your quiet time? Of course not. God wants to spend time with you every day. The most important thing about the quiet time is to listen to His Word and to talk with Him in prayer. You can even do that without your devotional book.

Pray at the beginning, just as you always do. Then you could read one of the verses which are printed above the devotionals. Maybe you can think of one verse that God has made precious to you during the past weeks. Another possibility is that you try to learn 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 by heart. These are the verses that you read in your last devotional.

Think about what God has made clear to you through this book. Thank Him for that.

You will get a new devotional book next week, but don't forget to bring the old one with you anyway.

WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOK 2

Let's talk about God!



What is this book about?

Important information

1. The first part of this book teaches children about the main truths of the Gospel. They should then be able to also witness to others about it. Of course this is a task for believing children, but the devotionals can also be a help for non-Christian children to understand the Gospel. Please stress the fact, however, that we can only be a witness to others when we have received Jesus into our lives.
2. Make it clear to the children what a privilege it is to be a witness for God, but be sure to avoid any kind of pressure. Not every child is prepared to tell others about Jesus right away. It is our responsibility to help the children in being a witness and to encourage them, but it is up to the Holy Spirit to decide where and when He wants to use the child.

Material

During the third week (devotionals 15-23) the children will get to know the *Wordless Book*. They will get the opportunity to make their own *Wordless Book* as a witnessing tool. You could also use the *Gospel Flipper-Flapper™*. It is a very interesting alternative to the *Wordless Book*. The children love it. It is available from your CEF national office.

Week 1

Reflection

Exactly two months ago we started our *Wonder Time*. You've already learned many things about God, if you've had a *Wonder Devotional Book* from the start and have been having a regular quiet time. Do you know what the very best thing about it is? That you didn't only learn about God, but that God spoke to you through His Word. The Bible is His Word.

(Using some of the following questions, you could start a discussion with the children now.)

- Which of the questions that you had in the beginning were answered through your quiet time?
- Which questions are still not answered? *(This is not the place to answer all their questions but to encourage the children to go on doing their quiet time. They can expect great answers from the Bible and Wonder Devotional Book 2 should be a help to them.)*
- Which devotional did you like best?
- What did you discover about God that you didn't know before? Did you think that God was different from the way He is described in the Bible?
- What do you know about Jesus now?
- Who of you managed to do your quiet time every day or almost every day? It isn't always that easy to find quietness before God and to think only about Him in the midst of all the other things that are on our minds. But don't be discouraged if you didn't manage to do it every day. Now you can begin this second book and have another try. You will get it at the end of today's club.

Preview/Motivation

In the second book you will learn how to tell others in a simple way what you learned about God. A little book will help you. It doesn't have a single word written in it but still it has the most beautiful story in the world to tell. Can you imagine such an unusual book? You can look forward to seeing it after you've read **devotionals 1-7** this week.

You could do a quiz with the children in order to gather and compare the answers they wrote on the Wonder Quiz Page of Wonder Devotional Book 1. You can find many different quiz ideas in our CEF material.

Alternative suggestion: *Collect the two Wonder Quiz pages together with the books and evaluate them at home. This way you will have the opportunity to become better informed about what the children have learned and understood.*

The next time you meet, you could give a little reward to the children who answered all the questions in the books or the two extra pages (or both).

Don't be too hard on the children. We're not in school where we would need to evaluate the children's performance. We want to motivate the children to keep on doing their quiet time, even if they didn't read all the devotionals in the first book.

Week 2

Reflection

Maybe you have often been thinking about how to tell your parents, your friends or your teachers what Jesus means to you. Last week you already got some help concerning this.

- How can you start a conversation?
- What can you tell others about God, Jesus and us human beings?
- Did you have the opportunity to tell others about God before?
Can you tell us about your own experience?

Preview/Motivation

It is easier for us to speak about anything else but about Jesus. Yet that is the most important matter of all: How can I be saved and get inner peace?

Can you think of a person you would like to tell this good news to first? The devotionals for the next week will give you a few tips, to whom and where and when you can be a witness.

During the next week we will read **devotionals 8-14**. Don't leave your book at home next week!

Week 3

Reflection

- During your quiet time last week, did you think of someone you want to tell about Jesus?
- Maybe you are concerned about how that person might react. Can you think about something to encourage you? Never forget: before you speak *about* God, speak *with* Him!

Preview/Motivation

There is a little book that is great to use to explain how a person can be saved. It speaks to children and adults, to prisoners and also to people who live a morally good life. It speaks to the rich and the poor, to English-speaking people (*translator, put your language here instead*) and also to the people who don't understand English (*your language*). How is this possible? You surely want to know.

During the next week you will learn more about this book. I'm sure that it will be a help to you, too, when you try to explain the Good News about Jesus to your friends and others you know. Read devotionals 15-21 for next week. Remember, don't leave your devotional book at home next time!

Week 4

Reflection

Last week you heard about the *Wordless Book* that is known all around the world.

- What kind of book is this that speaks without one word written in it?

Take a Wordless Book with you and let the children explain the meaning of the different pages. If the children can't do that yet because they are too young or too young in their walk with God, explain the pages to them first. Now they may be able to do it

themselves. You could ask the following questions:

- What can I say about God using the golden page?
- What does the dark page tell us about sin?
- What can I say about Jesus, using the red page?
- How can I use the white page to explain to someone how he can believe in Jesus?
- What do you think of when you see the green page? What can you say if you want to help someone grow in his faith?

If the children can't answer these questions, let them look them up in their devotionals. This way they get used to searching for answers in these sources if they forget what they learned.

It is important to take enough time for this because it is the central truths of the Gospel that we are dealing with. You can't just take 2-3 minutes for this; you have to discuss it in detail. It would be a great help for the children to have a lesson about the Wordless Book during club the same week. It will also be important for the other children who don't do the devotionals. They might hear or understand the Gospel for the first time in their lives. You could explain the Wordless Book properly for the whole group of children. Then in the fifth week you could do the craft with them. After that the children could explain the Gospel to each other using their booklet. Alternatively they could make it at home. In the 23rd devotional you will find the explanation of how to do it.

The Gospel Flipper-Flapper is an interesting way for the children to learn together how to explain the Gospel. If you don't have the time or the capacity to do crafts with the children, you can simply order some Flipper-Flappers for them.

You can order the Wordless Book and the Gospel Flipper-Flapper from your CEF national office.

Preview/Motivation

Next week we will each make a *Wordless Book*. Read **devotionals 22-28** for next week. There are other possibilities to

tell others about Jesus besides this. You will learn more about that in the following devotionals. Don't forget your book next week.

Week 5

Craft

Today each of us will make our own *Wordless Book* as a witnessing tool.

You will find the explanation in the 23rd devotional text.

When the booklet is ready, you should repeat the meanings of the pages once more. After that you could ask several children to each explain one of the pages in front of all the others. Then each one could explain the whole book to his neighbour. This is good training for them; the children get some practice and they lose their fear of saying something wrong.

Reflection

Some ideas of how you could start a conversation about it:

- What can I say about **God**, showing the **golden page**?
- What can I say about **Jesus**, showing the **dark page**? (*Use the questions from devotionals 16 to 19 and 21.*)

Practice

You have three minutes to tell your neighbour the Good News about Jesus. You might forget the meaning of the page. If you do, then let your neighbour help you. You could also look up the answer in devotionals 16-21. In Number 23 you will find a review that shows you on which page you can find the different colours.

Now switch roles. Remember: if you have already practised, it will be much easier for you to tell your parents, your brothers and sisters or your friends about it.

Preview/Motivation

Does God have a goal for your life? What does it look like? During your quiet time you will find some answers to these questions. Read **devotionals 29-35**.

Week 6

Reflection

If you have enough time left, you could repeat the explanation of the Gospel using the “hand method”. It will help the children to memorize the five main points of the Gospel. If there is not so much time, just start by asking the question about God’s plan for our lives.

- Do you remember how you can tell the Gospel using your hand? Forgotten? Look it up in your devotional Number 26. You’ll find it there.
- What does the *index finger* stand for?
- What can you explain using the *middle finger*?
- What do the *ring finger* and the *little finger* “say”?
- Did you already have the opportunity to share the Gospel with somebody using your Wordless Book or your hand?
- Was it hard for you? What did you enjoy about it?
- God has a plan for everyone. We learned about two people in the devotionals last week. Who were they? (Joseph and Esther)
- Which plan did God have for Joseph, which one for Esther?
- He also has a *plan* for your life, although you may not understand everything that is happening in your life. What is God’s main goal for your life?

Preview/Motivation

Time and time again you will be treated unfairly or you may get sick. That’s life. But maybe you will ask: why is life so hard for me?

Or you hear about war and catastrophes. Then you will probably ask why there is so much suffering in this world? How does the Bible answer these questions?

Read **devotionals 36-42** in the next week. Then when we meet again, we want to talk about what you found out about this in your own quiet time.

Week 7

Reflection

Last week during your quiet time you thought about why we have so much *suffering* in the world.

Maybe you also have to cope with suffering. That does not mean God is mad at you and wants to punish you! There are many adults and even children in the world who suffer without being the cause of it themselves. Suffering and death are the consequences of sin. It was never God's will to let people suffer. No, He wants them to be happy and to have fellowship with Him. But the first two human beings, Adam and Eve, turned away from God. That was the day when suffering came into the world. God allows sad things to happen, even in your life.

- What intention could God have with this? (Sometimes God lets suffering happen so that we will become more like Him or to teach us patience or trust.)

But you can be absolutely sure about one thing: God will never leave you alone in your suffering. God is there and He wants to help you in a very special way. He says in His word that He wants to comfort you as a mother comforts her child.

This is a good time for you to tell the children about an experience in your life that made you suffer. It can be very helpful to the children to learn how you handled it and if you perhaps only understood afterwards what God wanted to teach you through it.

The poem "Footprints in the Sand" clearly explains how God carries us through suffering. This poem can be found on a number of Internet websites or in a Christian bookshop.

Psalm 23 is a very good encourager. You could read it together with the children.

How can you react when difficult times come?

Preview/Motivation

Suffering can have many different faces. It may be that you suffer because your family doesn't believe in God. Or you are afraid of moving to a different town. Is God also with you when you have

to go to hospital? Does He help you when your parents divorce? We will think about such questions in **devotionals 43-49** next week.

Remember to bring the devotional book with you to our next meeting.

◀ *It is now time to order The Wonder Devotional Book Number 3 for the children.*

Week 8

Reflection

Nobody wants to suffer, but there is nobody on earth who is always and only happy. There are times when suffering comes into our lives and suddenly we are given the challenge to deal with it. During the past week you've been thinking about various difficult situations.

- Was there a problem described that you have now or that you have had before?
- What kind of help did you find in the Bible or in your devotional?

Preview/Motivation

Or are there problems in your life that are completely different to anything that was described last week? Do you experience violence? Does God care if a parent drinks too much alcohol or even beats up other family members? What are you to do if somebody misuses your body? Does God care for you when you don't have an appropriate home? When you have to live in a children's home or together with your family in a cramped home for asylum-seeking people? Maybe you will find that your problem is the theme of a devotional for next week. Or maybe you will get to know someone who has exactly the same problem.

The following seven devotionals are there to help you and give answers to some of your questions. You will be reading several very important Bible passages concerning suffering. Read **devotionals 50-56** next.

Week 9

Reflection

During your quiet time you tackled many problems again. Even if these problems might not be yours today, it is very good preparation for the future to look up the directions in the Bible ahead of time. With these in your mind and with God as your help, you will be able to face the coming problems and/or to help others who tell you about their problems.

Which of the devotionals became special to you last week?

- Why should you trust God in spite of many problems?
- How can you trust Him?

If you know that several children in your group are dealing with a certain problem, e.g. with their living situation as asylum seekers, or with the fact that their parents are drinking, you could choose that specific devotional to talk about it together.

Preview/Motivation

Praying is talking with God. God gave us the wonderful possibility to talk to Him. He also promises us in the Bible that He will listen to us if we earnestly consult Him. But does God solve all your problems when you pray? We will think about this during the next week. Read devotionals 57-60. The next day you can try to answer the questions that you'll find on the last page of the book.

There is no devotional for the last two days of the following week. Does that mean you don't have to do your quiet time on those days? Of course not. God wants to spend time with you every day. The most important thing about your quiet time is to listen to God's Word and to talk with Him in prayer. You can always do that, even without your devotional book.

Pray first, just as you always do. Then you could read one of the verses that are printed above the devotionals again. Maybe there is a verse that became very important to you during the past weeks because God showed you something through it. Or you could try to learn Jeremiah 29:11 by heart. It is the verse above

the very last devotional. If you know it, you can always remind yourself of God's promise when you suddenly get problems. This will greatly encourage you.

Think about what God has made clear to you through this book. Thank Him for that.

You will get a new devotional book next week, but don't forget to bring the old one with you anyway.



WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOK 3

Strong through God's Spirit!

What is this book about?

The Wonder Devotional Book 3 is about the Holy Spirit. The children are taught about Him as a Person, about what He does, which fruits He produces and what are His gifts.

In the second part the children and the teens learn about the armour of God, its defensive weapons and how it is used. The examples of some people in the Bible who are mentioned at the end show us how they used the armour of God. They motivate us to do the same.

These devotionals are about questions that are seldom asked or answered for the children in our churches. They are very interesting and helpful, but you should try to find out if the children really understood what they have been reading.

Week 1

Reflection

You don't have to be an adult to tell your friends about God. You can do it now. In your second devotional you learned about two different ways of explaining the Gospel very simply.

- Do you remember the two things we learned? (The Wordless Book or the fingers of one hand.)
- Which colours are in the *Wordless Book*? What do they mean?

Even if you have turned to Jesus and you are now His follower, your life will not be free from problems. Jesus never promised

His disciples that they would have a problem-free life, but He did promise that He will always be with us and help us in any situation. That's why you can fully trust in God.

- Did you fill in your last page, the Wonder Quiz page?
What are the answers?

You could do a quiz with the children in order to gather and compare the answers they wrote on the Wonder Quiz Page of The Wonder Devotional Book 2. You can find many different quiz ideas in our CEF material.

Alternative suggestion: *Collect the two Wonder Quiz pages together with the books and evaluate them at home. This way you will have the opportunity to become better informed about what the children have learned and understood.*

The next time you meet, you could give a little reward to the children who answered all the questions in the books or the two extra pages (or both).

Don't be too hard on the children. We're not in school where we would need to evaluate the children's performance. We want to motivate the children to keep on doing their quiet time, even if they didn't read all the devotionals in the first book.

Preview/Motivation

After club you will get the new *Wonder Devotional Book 3*. Sixty exciting devotionals are waiting there for you! In these devotionals you will learn how to become firm in your faith by the Holy Spirit. And even more: you will get to know the invisible protective suit that God wants to give you. It will help you win the battle against Satan and sin.

There are many books and videos about ghosts that scare people when they appear. But who is the Holy Ghost (the Holy Spirit)? You will learn much about Him in the first seven devotionals. Read **devotionals 1-7**.

Week 2

Reflection

- What did you learn about the Holy Spirit last week?
(*three things*)
- What is the Work of the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Holy Spirit work in your life?

Preview/Motivation

Before He went back to His Father in Heaven, Jesus promised His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit. He would lead them through their lives and comfort them when they were sad. Apart from that He was to help them understand the truth so that they would not get into wrong ways.

He is a very special gift to Christians. They received this gift when they were saved.

Next week we will think about how you can know that the Holy Spirit is leading you and what hinders Him from working in your life. To find out about all of this, read **devotionals 8-14**.

Week 3

Reflection

- How does the *Holy Spirit* lead you?
- What keeps the Holy Spirit from working in your life?
- If you listen to the Holy Spirit, your life will be changed. That is very exciting. You will realize that your faith has a great impact on your life. The Bible calls the characteristics that the Holy Spirit creates in your life the “fruits of the Spirit”.
- Which kind of fruit does your life bear?

Preview/Motivation

Do you want to know how the Holy Spirit can create these characteristics in your life? Then you should read devotionals 15-21. You will learn more about one *fruit of the Holy Spirit* each day.

Week 4

Reflection

- Last week you learned about seven of the nine fruits of the Spirit. Do you still know them?
- Did you find some of them in your life?
- Which fruit is the hardest for you to have?
- There are two fruits of the Spirit left which we didn't read about yet. Do you know what they're called?

Preview/Motivation

You will learn more about the two wonderful fruits of the Spirit that are left next week.

Maybe sometimes you feel useless, incompetent or incapable because you think you are too young or not very gifted. Then you can know that the Holy Spirit gives a task to every child of God. Together with the task He also gives the needed ability, strength or talent. You will learn about some gifts and tasks in **devotionals 22-28**.

Does God also have a task in mind for you? What could that be? If you don't know yet, then don't forget to ask God to show you the task that is yours. Ask Him during your quiet time and think about it.

Week 5

Reflection

- Does anybody remember the last two fruits of the Spirit that you were thinking about last week?
- What does "gentleness" mean?
- What does "self-control" mean? How can the Holy Spirit help me to have this?
- Why does the Holy Spirit give every believer a task?
- There were three tasks mentioned in the devotionals last week. Which ones?

- Do you already know what you should do?
- How can you find out?

Preview/Motivation

You will learn more (during the next week) about how you can do what God wants you to. There is a new Wonder Quiz page after the 32nd devotional. Fill it in and you will realize how much you've been learning about the Holy Spirit this month. Don't forget to bring that page with you next week so that we can compare our answers.

After that page we will think about the exciting question: Who is Satan? Does he really exist? What does he look like? Find out during the next seven days in your quiet time, as you read **devotionals 29-35**.

Week 6

Reflection

- What are the two tasks you learned about last week?
- Where and how can you fulfill your task?
- Did you find the nine words in the crossword puzzle of the Wonder Quiz page? Tell me the words.
- What are your answers to the questions about the Holy Spirit?
- What did you learn about Satan in your quiet time?

Preview/Motivation

Satan is the great enemy of God. He wants to destroy whatever God has made. He uses various tricks in order to get you. Why does God allow Satan to do such a thing anyway? Is there a chance for you to win the battle against him? We will deal with these important questions in **devotionals 36-42**. Go on doing your quiet time! It will help you to become firm in your faith and to withstand temptation.

You could evaluate and compare the answers on the Wonder Quiz page here by doing a quiz together.

Week 7

Reflection

- Last week you thought about the various temptations and tricks Satan has. How does he try to tempt people?
- How did Satan try to tempt you during the last week? Did you discover some of his tricks?
- Why does God allow Satan to try to tempt you to do something wrong?
- God allows Satan to try you, but He also gives you help in many different ways. If you use them, you will be able to discover Satan's attempts and to stand firm against him. What kind of help does God offer you?

Preview/Motivation

Centuries ago warriors protected themselves with armour. This is used in the Bible as a picture for us to understand how we can protect ourselves from the crafty attacks of the devil. Do you want to get to know the armour of God and how to use it? Then read **devotionals 43-49** during the next week. In the devotional you will also learn how to put on the armour of God.

Remember to always bring the devotional book to club for us to talk about the quiet time together.

◀ *It is now time to order The Wonder Devotional Book Number 4 for the children.*

Week 8

Reflection

- What is the armour of God?
- Tell me the different parts of it.

(We would recommend that you bring a picture of a Roman soldier for the children to have a visual aid. This way they will be able to remember it better and you can show them the different parts of it as well as their function in the spiritual battle.)

Preview/Motivation

Last week you learned through the Bible that God never leaves you alone with temptations. You are His child and He offers you a very good protective suit. But how can you put on the *armour of God*? And what will happen if you forget to put it on? This is the focus of **devotionals 50-56**.

Apart from that you will read of how two men in the Bible dealt with temptations. You will surely be able to learn much from their example. That's why it is good for you to take some time every day for your quiet time with God – you really should do it!

Week 9

Reflection

- How can you use the armour of God in real life?
- Why do you need it every day? What will happen if you forget to use it?
- Prayer is also part of your protection. Why?
- Who are the two men in the Bible you got to know last week?
- What are the temptations that hit Joseph and Daniel?
- How did they deal with these temptations?

Preview/Motivation

In the Bible we don't only find heroes of the faith who handled all their problems properly. The Bible is honest and that's why it also tells us how men and women failed. In **devotionals 57-60** you will read about some of them. How did they deal with their *failure*? And how did God react? To find out more about this, do your quiet time every day.

You will find another Wonder Quiz page about the armour of God after Number 60. This page will help you find out how much you learned during your quiet time in the last month. Are you able to answer all the questions? Then you learned a lot about Satan, his tricks and about God's protection. If you forget something you can look it up in the devotional about it. The

table of where to find which devotional is printed upside down at the end of the Wonder Quiz page.

There is no devotional for the last two days of the next week. Does that mean you don't have to do your quiet time on those days? Of course not. God wants to spend time with you every day. The most important thing about your quiet time is to listen to God's Word and to talk with Him in prayer. You can always do that, even without your book.

Pray first, just as you always do. Then you could read one of the verses that are printed above the devotionals again. Maybe there is a verse that became very important to you during the past weeks because God showed you something through it. Or you could try to learn James 4:7 by heart. It is the verse above the very last devotional. It will always remind you to put on and use the armour of God for your protection. By wearing it, you can win the battle against Satan, who always wants to try you.

Think about what God has made clear to you through this book. Thank Him for that.

You will get a new devotional book next week. But don't forget to bring the old one with you anyway.



WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOK 4

Spend time with God

What is this book about?

In the previous devotionals we learned about God and we practised doing our quiet time faithfully. Now, in *The Wonder Devotional Book 4*, the quiet time itself is our focus.

The children and teenagers will be given some information about the Bible first. They will be told why it is important for them to read the Bible and how they can do it effectively. The following devotionals will introduce them to the different types of prayer.

A very important aspect of prayer is the worship of God. It will be our focus in the next devotional book. We want the children and teenagers to become joyful in praising God. A few devotionals about belonging to the Body of Christ and the fellowship of believers complete this unit.

Week 1

Reflection

Maybe you admire and look up to the men and women of the Bible. Many of them were strong and firm in their faith and God did many great things through them.

- Which men and women of faith who you have read about in the Bible do you remember?
- God wants you to become strong and firm in your faith, but you can't manage that on your own. God knows that we are totally dependent on His help.

- Do you remember the help that God offers you? (The Holy Spirit, the armour of God, prayer.)

If you have enough time left, you could repeat the armour of God using a poster or a picture.

- Even the greatest heroes of the Bible failed sometimes in their lives. Which temptation made David fail? When did Peter make a big mistake?
- How did they get their lives in order with God again?

After their failure these two men experienced many good things together with their God. That is why it is important to always keep on going. I want to encourage you to do your quiet time every day, even if you don't always manage to put what you learned into practice. Just like these men of God, you always have the chance to find peace with God again.

Did you fill in the Wonder Quiz page last week? Can you tell me the answers?

You could do a quiz with the children in order to gather and compare the answers written on the Wonder Quiz Page of The Wonder Devotional Book 3. You can find many different quiz ideas in our CEF material.

Alternative suggestion: Collect the two Wonder Quiz pages together with the books and evaluate them at home. This way you will have the opportunity to become better informed about what the children have learned and understood.

The next time you meet, you could give a little reward to the children who answered all the questions in the books or the two extra pages (or both).

Don't be too hard on the children. We're not in school where we would need to evaluate the children's performance. We want to motivate the children to keep on doing their quiet time, even if they didn't read all the devotionals in the last book.

Preview/Motivation

You will get the new devotional after club today. In *The Wonder*

Devotional Book 4, 60 exciting devotionals are waiting for you!

Do you want to know where the *Bible* comes from and if it is really true? You may ask: Why should I pray and does God answer all my prayers anyway? You will read about all of this in the first part of our new book.

Singers, actors and many other stars are admired by children and adults all over the world. In the end, they are just ordinary human beings with fears and faults. They get old as fast as any other person and most of the time they are forgotten as fast as they became famous.

But God truly is great, mighty and wise! He deserves to be admired. You can put up a poster of a star in your room if you like. But how can you admire, praise and worship God? There is a way for you to show Him that you admire Him. You will learn about it in the second part of this devotional.

Are you excited now? Do you want to make new discoveries about the most important Book in the world? Start today and read **devotionals 1-7**.

Week 2

Reflection

- The Bible is the oldest book that has been translated into the most languages and it is also spread all over the world more than any other book. Why is the Bible such a famous book?
- What makes the Bible so very different from all the other books in the world?
- The Bible consists of two parts. Do you remember what they are called?
- Why does the Bible have two different parts?

If you have a group of children who know a lot about the Bible, you could learn the Books of the Bible by heart together with them. If the children do not know the Bible very well yet, be satisfied with explaining to them that they will find the stories about Jesus in the NT and the stories about Israel, God's people, in the OT.

Preview/Motivation

What did God give us the Bible for? Why is the Bible compared with a sword? Find out in **devotionals 8-14**.

Week 3

Reflection

- You learned about the New Testament in a bit more detail last week. What is it about?
- How can the NT be a help to you?
- Why is the Bible compared with a sword?

It is important for you to know the Bible well. Otherwise you can't stand against Satan's attacks.

Preview/Motivation

The Bible is a very special book because God talks to us through it. How can you find out what God wants to teach you through the Bible? Where is it best to start reading such a big book? You will find answers to these questions in **devotionals 15-21**. And even more: You will get to know about the wonderful possibility we have to talk to the Creator of the whole universe. You don't even need a mobile phone for that!

Week 4

Reflection

- Where is it best to start reading such a big book as the Bible in your quiet time?
- God surely wants to teach you certain things while you are reading His Word. Do you remember the three questions that can help you understand what God wants to tell you?
- God speaks to you in the Bible. But He also gave you the possibility of talking to Him. Imagine: You are allowed to speak to the Creator of the world, the Holy God! The Bible calls it prayer. Where and when can you pray?
- Which great possibilities do you have through prayer?

Preview/Motivation

During the next week you will learn what you can pray for. You will also learn what prayer is all about. Maybe you were praying that your grandmother wouldn't die, but she did. Now you are not sure any more if God really listened to all your prayers when you were in trouble. Or you think that you might have prayed wrongly. You will find answers to these kinds of questions in the devotionals for next week.

Week 5

Reflection

- It is a great gift to us that we are allowed to talk with God. Who of you has already prayed before?
- Does God answer every prayer?
- What did you ask God for and how did He answer?
- (*For the children*) What do the 5 fingers remind you of when you are praying?

Preview/Motivation

You can accomplish much through prayer. You can make use of God's help and strength. Ask Him to help you with the needs you have or to take them away. God will always listen to an honest prayer. But is it okay to pray for yourself, too? How can you pray for others in a way that is really helpful to them? How can you show God that you love Him? These are the topics of **devotionals 29-35**. After the 30th devotional you will have another Wonder Quiz page. Don't forget to fill it in.

Week 6

Reflection

- You thought about prayer last week. Did you think of three people you want to be praying for regularly in the future? You could write down each name on one little card. You could make notes about their needs and requests whenever you hear of that person or when you yourself think of something they need. If a prayer has been answered, you could write the

date of the answer behind the particular request. One thing that you should never forget is to write on the card what you thank God for when you think of that person.

- Why does God want you to pray for your own requests, too?
- Why should you tell God in prayer that He is precious to you?

Preview/Motivation

It is important to know God if you want to be able to show Him true appreciation. How else could you tell Him that you love, respect and appreciate Him?

That's why you will get the chance to think a little bit about Him in the week to come. You will be thinking about the following questions: How much does God know? How much can He do? Why is it God's desire to receive worship?

I trust you will have lots of joy reading **devotionals 36-42** and I will be waiting to hear what you find out about God!

The answers to the Wonder Quiz page can be evaluated now by doing a quiz together to compare the answers the children gave.

Week 7

Reflection

- What did you learn about God in the past week?
- Why is it God's desire to receive worship from you?

Preview/Motivation

During the next week you will get some more answers to the most important questions about life from the Bible, God's Word. Some of the questions sound like this: Can you talk to God just as you are used to talking to a good friend? Or is it just you who is talking while God has to be quiet and listen? What does God think about fun and happiness? Is God always and only gravely serious? How can you find out what is true when somebody tells you something totally different? Read **devotionals 43-49**.

◀ *It is now time to order The Wonder Devotional Book
Number 5 for the children.*

Week 8

Reflection

- Maybe sometimes you feel like your prayer doesn't reach further than the ceiling. You just don't get an answer. What did you learn last week about talking with God?
- Some people turn away from God because they think that God doesn't have fun and He doesn't want us to be happy either. But what does the Bible say? What does God think about joy and happiness?
- In school you might learn that the world came into existence by accident. Most British people (*translator, put your nationality here*) believe that, but the Bible tells us that God created the world. Confusion! Now, how can you find out what is true?

Preview/Motivation

Many people love listening to music. Did you ever wonder if God likes music, too? You will find out in the first devotional!

After that you will think about the question: Is God always with me? Sometimes it feels like He is far, far away. Is that feeling familiar to you? God knows us very well. That's why He thought of something that is very good for us. It is meant for us to sense His nearness in a very special way. Find out what it is in **devotionals 50-56**.

Week 9

Reflection

- Why does God sometimes seem to be so far away?
- Did you find out what God had in mind for us human beings to get help in our lives as Christians?
- Why is it necessary for you to belong to a church?

Preview/Motivation

Did you realize that God made you as a unique person? Someone just like you can't be found anywhere in the whole world. When God made you so unique, He thought of something else. He is pleased by what you can do and wants you to use your gifts for Him. Next week you will be thinking about which talents and gifts God gave you and how you can use them in the church.

You will find another Wonder Quiz page after the 60th devotional. This page will help you find out how many of the things you learned during your quiet time this month are still in your mind. Are you able to answer all the questions correctly? Then you have learned a lot about how you can show or tell God that you love Him. If you forgot something, you may look the answers up in that particular devotional. The table of where to find which theme is printed upside-down at the end of the Wonder Quiz page.

There is no devotional for the last two days of the next week. Does that mean: I don't have to do my quiet time on those days? Of course not. God wants to spend time with you every day. The most important thing about your quiet time is to listen to God's Word and to talk with Him in prayer. You can always do that, even without your book.

Pray first, just as you always do. Then you could read one of the verses that are printed above the devotionals again. Maybe there is a verse that became very important to you during the past weeks because God showed you something through it. Or you could try to learn the Bible verses by heart. You can repeat them for yourself anytime you get into trouble. You will surely be encouraged by the promises that God gives you in His Word.

Think about what God has made clear to you through this book. Thank Him for that.

You will get a new devotional book next week. But don't forget to bring the old one with you anyway.

WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOK 5

Choices that please God



What is this book about?

In *The Wonder Devotional Book 5* the children and teenagers will think about what God wants our everyday lives to be like in practice. Even children think about how they want to live their lives. Very soon they want their lives to have purpose and to fulfill their desires. This devotional shows them very important principles that are derived from the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments do not speak of some time in the future when the children grow up, but they should be obeyed by any age-group and in a very practical way. These principles will be made clear to them by using examples from their own everyday lives or from the lives of several people in the Bible. They can be transferred to the lives of the children very easily. In the last question or activity in the devotionals, the children are challenged to act on these principles themselves. In this way, the book will become a challenge to children who have lost their focus in a multicultural society. They need a biblical foundation they can build their lives on and find their way, before they start going in the wrong direction.

The first devotional is intended to get the children thinking about the fundamental question: Who is the highest authority? Who has the right to give laws and to have us obey them? After that the children will learn about the consequences of obedience or disobedience. They will find out how they can get God's advice on certain questions they might

have. The following devotionals are each about one of God's Commandments. They will be explained first. Then they will see how these things were put into practice in the lives of people in the Bible or in examples that are related to their own experience.

Week 1

Reflection

You have learned a lot about the most important and the most famous book in the world during the past two months. Most people in the world actually know that the Bible exists, but they have never tried to get to know it. You have gone much further than them by now!

- What is the difference between the Bible and all the other books?
- Which two parts does the Bible consist of and what do we read about in these two parts?
- Why is it important for us to read the Bible regularly?
- God speaks to you through the Bible. What ways did God give you to talk to Him?
- How can God answer your prayer?
- What other kind of help does God offer you so that you can get wise advice and experience fellowship with other believers?
- Did you fill in the Wonder Quiz page? What are the answers?

You could do a quiz with the children in order to gather and compare the answers they wrote on the Wonder Quiz page of The Wonder Devotional Book 4. You can find many different quiz ideas in our CEF material.

Alternative suggestion: *Collect the two Wonder Quiz pages together with the books and evaluate them at home. This way you will have the opportunity to become better informed about what the children have learned and understood.*

The next time you meet, you could give a little reward to the children who answered all the questions in the books or the two extra pages (or both).

Don't be too hard on the children. We're not in school where we would need to evaluate the children's performance. We want to motivate the children to keep on doing their quiet time, even if they didn't read all the devotionals in the last book.

Preview/Motivation

You will get *The Wonder Devotional Book 5* after club. There are 60 exciting devotionals waiting for you again!

Maybe you've already been thinking about which occupation you want to have and how you want to live sometime in the future in order to be happy. It is not that easy and many people don't know how to make the right decisions.

The God Who made us knows best how we should live our lives in a way that fills our deepest longings and gives us true happiness. There are many very practical pieces of advice to be found in the Bible.

Now, are you excited about making new discoveries in the most important Book in the world about a life that is truly worth living? Start today by reading **devotionals 1-7**.

Week 2

Reflection

- Last week you learned a lot about the subject of obedience. God wants you to obey. But Whom do you have to obey?
- God is the One Who made us. He knows best what is good for our lives. That's why He gave us directions in His Word, the Bible. Which Commandments do you know?
- How can you obey God's Commandments in your own life?
- What are the consequences of obeying and those of disobeying God's Commandments?

Preview/Motivation

We know the lion as king of the animals because he is big and strong, and because his roar has a great impact on us when we hear it. We are astonished at the cheetah with his speed of up

to 110k km per hour and we are amazed at the skill of the birds when they build their nests. But the Bible even speaks about a very tiny, inconspicuous animal that has amazing abilities. Which animal am I talking about? And who should take what it is doing as an example? Find out in **devotionals 8-14**.

Week 3

Reflection

- Did you find out which animal is so small that nobody takes notice of it and yet it is used as an example for us human beings?
- What kind of people are to take this animal as an example? Why?
- Why does God want you to be diligent?
- We love to have attention from others when we have new shoes or good marks in school. But why is it wrong to boast about what you have or what you can do well?

Preview/Motivation

It is said that good advice is precious. Because many people need good advice in order to make the right decisions, they are ready to pay a lot for it. You don't get advice from a doctor without someone paying for it; professional advice on looking for a job or the right career can be expensive. But who can give you the assurance that you've really been told the right thing? How can you avoid making wrong decisions? You will find answers to these questions in **devotionals 15-21**.

Week 4

Reflection

- The older you get, the more decisions you'll have to make on your own. Why is it important to make the right decisions?
- How can you avoid making wrong decisions?
- What can you expect to happen when you make wrong decisions on purpose or even by mistake?
- Whom could you ask for advice when you have to make important decisions and you are very unsure about all of it?

- How can you distinguish bad advice from good advice?
- Many people complain about the bad weather, their jobs, their families ... You would hardly believe that they are actually doing quite fine. Why does the Bible call complaining a sin?

Preview/Motivation

Man has managed to tame some of the wildest animals. The tamer puts his head into the mouth of his lion, dolphins play soccer in the water and elephants suddenly stand up on one leg. One thing man did not manage to tame is his own tongue. It is essential for you to have your speech under control because words have a great impact; they are powerful. You can hurt your friend so deeply with words that you lose him and he becomes your enemy. But you can also use your words to encourage your classmate who is in trouble. You may be able to help him so that he doesn't need to repeat the class.

That's why the Bible says so much about our words. I'm sure that it will be a help to you to learn to use the power of your tongue in the right way. Read **devotionals 22-28**.

Week 5

Reflection

- There is an old saying: "Talk is silver; silence is golden". What does the Bible say about this?
- What is gossip and what does it do to you and others?
- Tell me some situations in which God's Name is misused.
- Why does God not want us to misuse His Name?
- Which of the verses mentioned in devotional Number 34 did you like best?

Preview/Motivation

Most of us want to have a friend who is faithful, who will always stand by our side, no matter what happens. Did you already think about yourself? How can you show your faithfulness to your friend or to God? We will be reading about this in

devotionals 29-35 next week. Apart from that, you will read about what God thinks about life. You will find a new Wonder Quiz page after the 30th devotional. Don't forget to fill it in.

Week 6

Reflection

- How can you show faithfulness to a friend?
- God is faithful. He has promised us this in the Bible. How can you show your faithfulness to God?
- God made man in His image. That is why every living being is important and precious to Him. You are very special to Him. How can you show Him that you respect life?
- What does the Bible say about babies who are not born yet?
- That's why nobody is allowed to abort babies. Only God has the right to give and to take away life!
- God wants you to respect people who are responsible for you. Who is responsible for you?
- How can you show your respect to these people? While doing it, remember what David did.

Preview/Motivation

It is not money and riches nor success that satisfy people. The proof is found in magazines and the Daily News or TV. Famous couples divorce, beautiful models get sick with anorexia and sometimes famous actors kill themselves. They aren't happy and they failed to make sense of their lives. It is good that satisfaction is not something you can buy. A satisfied person is the happiest person on earth. If so much depends on being satisfied, you should also think about how you can become a satisfied person. God shows you in the Bible how you can live a life of satisfaction. That is one of the subjects of next week's devotionals. I pray you'll have a lot of joy reading **devotionals 36-42** and I'm looking forward to what you'll be able to tell me about a satisfied life next week!

You could do a quiz with the children in order to gather and

compare the answers that they wrote on the Wonder Quiz page of the previous book.

Week 7

Reflection

- What does 1 Timothy 6:6 say about being satisfied?
- How can you become satisfied and therefore be happy?
- Being greedy is the extreme opposite of being satisfied. What does your greed do to the people around you? Remember Achan.
- What should you do when you have tried to be greedy?

Preview/Motivation

Do you know this feeling? You've been waiting for something you really wanted to have for so long. Now you might even be praying for it and you are disappointed because God didn't fulfill your wish anyway. Waiting and being patient is not easy - anyone would say that. In **devotionals 43-49** you will read about a very rich man who had to put up with very many bad things and still he stayed patient. You will read about how you can become patient yourself, too.

◀ *It is now time to order The Wonder Devotional Book Number 6 for the children.*

Week 8

Reflection

- How did Job react when one misfortune after the other hit him?
- How did God reward his patience?
- How should you react if God doesn't give you what you want immediately?
- What does God say about anger?
- What does self-control mean and how can you learn it?

Preview/Motivation

Unfortunately it will happen again and again in our fellowship between humans that we hurt each other. Most of the time we don't even notice that we have hurt the other person, but we just can't forget what others have done to us. Do you feel the same? Are you still angry because your teacher gave you a bad mark while you think your work wasn't that bad at all? Or are you angry because your mother didn't want you to stay at your friend's place overnight? How can you deal with such thoughts? How should you deal with them? The Bible gives you answers to these questions. Find out more in **devotionals 50-56**. You will also find out what God has to say about honesty in these devotionals.

Week 9

Reflection

1. How can you get rid of bitter thoughts and feelings against other people?
2. Forgiveness is possible! But what is forgiveness?
3. Why does God demand that we forgive each other, even our enemies?
4. How does He want you to forgive? Remember Joseph!
5. God wants you to be friendly. Think about one of your family members, a classmate, a teacher. How can you be friendly to them?

Preview/Motivation

Fear is not a good feeling at all. Everybody knows that. Your pulse beats faster, you start to sweat, your knees start shaking and everybody can see the fear in your eyes. There are so many things in the world that cause fear: Fear of a bad mark, fear of parents getting divorced, fear of death, fear of war, fear of being chosen last for the game in sports.... Next week you will read several Bible verses that want to help you to deal properly with that fear. Read **devotionals 57-60**.

After the 60th devotional you'll find another Wonder Quiz page. This page will help you to find out how much you have remembered from what you learned in your quiet time the last month. Can you answer all the questions? Then you learned a lot about how you can live a life of satisfaction that doesn't miss its goal. It will make yourself and others happy, too. You might have forgotten something. Just look it up in the devotionals. You will find a table of the themes of the devotionals printed upside-down at the end of the Wonder Quiz page.

There is no devotional for the last two days of the next week. Does that mean: I don't have to do my quiet time on those days? Of course not. God wants to spend time with you every day. The most important thing about your quiet time is to listen to God's Word and to talk with Him in prayer. You can always do that, even without your book.

Pray first, just as you always do. Then you could read one of the verses again that are printed above the devotionals. Maybe there is a verse that became very important to you during the past weeks because God showed you something through it. Or you could try to learn the Bible verses by heart. You can say them to yourself anytime you get in trouble. You will surely be encouraged by the promises that God gives you in His Word.

Think about what God has made clear to you through this book. Thank Him for that.

You will get a new devotional book next week. But don't forget to bring the old one with you anyway.

WONDER DEVOTIONAL BOOK 6

Standing for God!



What is this book about?

The Wonder Devotional Book 6 has two main themes. This devotional wants to encourage children and teenagers to have their own position concerning God, man and the Bible and to defend it against the mainstream's opinions. The reader's opinion must be based on Scripture. The devotional book gives young people help to get orientated. The ideals of New Age and astrology that children are now confronted with every day, are also dealt with. This book will teach them to detect Satan's lies and to find God's truths to counteract them.

In the second part of this book the children and teenagers will deal with one of the basics of faith each day. While thinking about some of the main Bible verses, it is made clear to them what they should believe concerning God, salvation, the church, mission and the future. This will strengthen them and they will grow in their faith.

Week 1

Reflection

In the last two months, you learned a lot about how you can live for God. God wants you to obey His Word, the Bible. That's why it is essential for you to read the Bible and think about God's words every day. For it is only if you know God's will that you can also do it.

- Why is it that we should obey God?
- Why does God care whether you are diligent or lazy? Think of the consequences of each in your life.

- Sometimes it is not that easy to decide wisely. What is right and what is wrong? Who or what can help you to work out these questions?
- We can cause a lot of damage with our words. But we can also do many good things with them. That is why God has so much to say about “talking”. Do you remember? What does the Bible tell you to do about your speech?
- How are you supposed to behave when you’re with people who are in authority over you? Think of David!
- Take! Take! Take! We always want more. And advertising can make this desire stronger! But what does the Bible say about this attitude? What negative consequences might greed have? You can clearly see them by looking at Achan’s life.
- Why is patience an important characteristic for us to learn?
- No friendship can last without real forgiveness. We want to have friends, but on the other hand we have problems with forgiving others, too. How did Joseph handle the problem with his brothers?
- The Bible gives you advice on how to deal with your fears. What kind of advice?
- Did you fill in the Wonder Quiz page of *The Wonder Devotional Book 5*? How did you answer?

You could do a quiz with the children in order to gather and compare the answers they wrote on the Wonder Quiz Page of The Wonder Devotional Book 5. You can find many different quiz ideas in our CEF material.

Alternative suggestion: *Collect the two Wonder Quiz pages together with the books and evaluate them at home. This way you will have the opportunity to become better informed about what the children have learned and understood.*

The next time you meet, you could give a little reward to the children who answered all the questions in the books or the two extra pages (or both).

Don't be too hard on the children. We're not in school where we would need to evaluate the children's performance. We want to motivate the children to keep on doing their quiet time, even if they didn't read all the devotionals in the first book.

Preview/Motivation

Did one of your classmates want you to lie so that no one finds out about something she did wrong? How should you as a Christian react? On the one hand you don't want to be called a jerk and lose her sympathy. But on the other hand you want to obey God and tell the truth. Now you are being challenged to stand your ground. This is also the subject of *The Wonder Devotional Book 6*. You will get your own copy after club. There are 60 exciting devotionals waiting for you to read!

Do you want to make new discoveries about these things in the Bible? Start reading **devotionals 1-7** today.

Week 2

Reflection

- Some people say that there is no such thing as a distinction between right and wrong. They say that it is not important at all how we live, as long as we don't disturb other people. What is God's opinion?
- Because many people live as they please, it will always be unusual for others if you still live according to God's plans. It will cause serious problems for you from time to time. How are you to react if your friend wants you to join him in telling lies in order to hide his wrongdoings?
- Did you go through a comparable situation when it was hard for you to live according to God's laws? Tell us about it.
- Why should you obey God even if others do things wrong on purpose and still seem to not get punished for it?

Preview/Motivation

Satan is God's enemy. He always wants the opposite of what God wants. God is the truth in person and everything that He says in

the Bible is true. But Satan is a liar. He tries to get people on his side with his tricky lies. He doesn't want us to believe the truth. That is why it is his goal to keep us away from reading our Bibles and from fully believing in God's Word.

In (*your country*) he has reached his goal with most of the people. There are only a very few people left who read God's Word. That is very sad. That is why they know nothing more about God and Jesus than their Names. But they don't know God's character and that Jesus died for their sins so that they can have the possibility of being reconciled to God the Father. Instead, Satan tries to make everyone believe that man is good and that he doesn't need Jesus. You will be dealing with this and some other lies Satan tells us during the next week.

Discover Satan's lies by reading **devotionals 8-14**.

Week 3

Reflection

- It is important to know Satan's lies so that you can find them out and use God's Word to stand against them.
- What kind of lies does Satan tell about God?
- What is Satan's lie about Jesus?
- How does Satan lie when it comes to our relationship with God?
- What is Satan's lie about us human beings?

Preview/Motivation

How did the world come into existence? By God or by evolution? Can the stars tell us something about our future? Why is there so much fuss about horoscopes? These are some of the areas in which Satan tries to influence us by using his lies. In devotionals 15-21 you will discover some more lies Satan wants us to believe.

Week 4

Reflection

- Last week you found out about some more lies Satan tells us. You looked for answers to these lies in the Bible.

- What is Satan's lie about the Bible?
- Why does Satan not want you to believe in Creation?
- It is our nature as human beings to be very curious. We want to know what will happen in the future. Sometimes people want to get information about the future in order to make the right decisions. Is there a reason for you to still avoid listening to fortune-tellers or reading horoscopes?
- Where can you find answers to the questions that concern you in your life?
- What does the Bible say about your future?

Preview/Motivation

What would you like to have if you had one wish? Would you wish to have power, might, happiness, joy or money? During the next week you will read about what the famous King, Solomon, wished for.

It was not only King Solomon who was allowed to have wishes and to tell them to God. You have the same opportunity to tell God what you truly desire. There is one prayer that God will always answer. Which one is it and why does He answer it? Where can you find the answers to things that you don't understand? You will be thinking about this in **devotionals 22-28**.

God doesn't only want to listen to you - He also wants to talk to you. He has many important things to tell you. How does God talk to you? You will read about that too in the next devotionals.

Week 5

Reflection

- What was it that Solomon wished for when he had this free wish that God gave him?
- Which prayer does God always answer? Why?
- How are you supposed to handle the things that you don't understand?

- The almighty God Who created everything wants to talk to you. Which three ways does God use to talk to us?

Preview/Motivation

Who is God? Did you ever wonder Who He is? You're not the only one! All the time since the first two humans Adam and Eve deliberately turned away from God, the relationship between God and man has been broken. Now people keep on thinking about God – they wonder if He really exists, what He is like, what He looks like and what He does. Some people try to make a sculpture of God because they can't imagine believing in a God whom they cannot see.

In (*your country*) people talk about God a lot, but only very few really know Him. Anyone who wants to get to know God has to look for answers in the Bible. God shows us in the Bible what He is like. There we can read about how God worked in the lives of many different people and nations. This is where we see God's character. Apart from that, God shows us many times in the Bible what He is like by just describing Himself. That is the reason why I want to encourage you to look into the Bible in order to get to know God.

In **devotionals 29-35** you will deal with some of God's main characteristics and other things. Do you want to get to know God? Start today! I will be excited to hear what you find out about Him! After the 30th devotional you may fill in another Wonder Quiz page. Don't forget to bring it with you!

Week 6

Reflection

- What did you find out about God during the last week?
- Tell me five characteristics God has!
- You've also been thinking about God's grace during the last week.
- How can you see God's grace in your life?
- How can you be living by God's grace every day?

Preview/Motivation

Last week you learned many things about God. Next week you will learn about two more of God's characteristics. Which ones do I mean? Find out and tell your family and your friends about your discoveries about God.

But God is not a God Who is far away, not at all interested in your life. No! He gave you one very precious and unimaginably nice gift. Do you want to know more about that gift? Read devotionals 36-42.

I hope you'll have a lot of fun reading and I'm looking forward to hearing about what you found out.

You can collect the answers of the Wonder Quiz page by doing a quiz together.

Week 7

Reflection

- Which two characteristics of God did you read about last week?
- How can you show God's love to somebody else?
- Which wonderful present did God prepare for everybody?
- How can you get this wonderful present?

Preview/Motivation

I'm sure you realized that children often look like and also act like their parents. If you've become a child of God, then your thinking as well as your behaviour will become somewhat similar to God's. Your family, your friends and your classmates will discover the similarity very quickly. It is because before you acted very differently in situations compared to now.

In **devotionals 43-49** you will read about what others will see in your life to realize that you have become a child of God. God will give you some practical help for your everyday life. You can also read about this.

◀ ***It is now time to order The Wonder Devotional Book Number 7 for the children.***

Week 8

Reflection

- How can others see that you are a child of God and that you think and behave like He does?
- What are the practical helps that God offers you for your everyday life so that you can live according to His will? Tell me three of them! (armour of God, prayer, church)

Preview/Motivation

Maybe you have already heard of famous missionaries who went to countries that are far away in order to tell the peoples there about God's Word. Next week you will read about what God says in the Bible. You will read about the first missionaries ever. They got into serious trouble or were even in danger of losing their lives. But they experienced again and again how God helped them. That encouraged them to go on. The Bible gives you answers about who a missionary is and where God wants him to tell others about God. Find out about it in **devotionals 50-56**.

In the last devotionals of this week you will learn about a place that is very beautiful. We as human beings cannot imagine how beautiful it is. The Bible calls it Heaven. Do you want to know more about this wonderful place? Then keep on taking time to read your Bible. The devotional will help you find the right verses.

Week 9

Reflection

- During the last few devotionals you read about missionaries. What kind of person is a missionary?
- Tell me the names of the first two men who went out to foreign countries.
- Why is mission so important?
- If there was no Heaven, mission would be a stupid thing to do. Heaven is the goal everyone who trusts in Jesus wants to reach. But how can we be sure that it really exists?

- How is Heaven described in the Bible?
- Who will get to Heaven?
- What awaits you in Heaven, if you have trusted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

Preview/Motivation

One day an incredibly important event will take place in the world. Before Jesus went back to God after His resurrection, He promised His friends something special. Since then, almost 2,000 years ago, Christians have been waiting anxiously for it to happen.

Read **devotionals 57-60** to find out what Jesus has promised to all those who have accepted Him as their Saviour. Has this made you curious? Then begin with the next devotional at home right away.

After the 60th devotional you will find another Wonder Quiz page. With the help of this page you can find out yourself how much you have remembered from your quiet time the last month. If you can answer all the questions correctly, you have learned a lot about how you can recognise a child of God and how you can become one yourself. You know the different kinds of help God gives you for everyday life and you know what you can expect in the future.

If you have forgotten something you can look it up again in the devotionals. You will find a table of the themes of the devotionals printed upside-down at the end of the Wonder Quiz page.

There is no devotional for the last two days of the next week. Does that mean: I don't have to do my quiet time on those days? Of course not. God wants to spend time with you every day. The most important thing about your quiet time is to listen to God's word and to talk with Him in prayer. You can always do that, even without your book.

Pray first, just as you always do. Then you could read one of the verses again that are printed above the devotionals. Maybe there is a verse that became very important to you during the

past weeks because God showed you something through it. Or you could try to learn the Bible verses by heart. You can go over them in your mind anytime you get into trouble. You will surely be encouraged by the promises that God gives you in His Word. This will encourage you greatly.

Think about what God has made clear to you through this book. Thank Him for that.

You will get a new devotional book next week. But don't forget to bring the old one with you anyway.

Notes

Notes



