

Cross my Heart



Lenten Devotions for Children

Read Luke 2:1-7 about
Jesus' Birth

Jesus Christ, you are the very Son of God. No one is greater than you!

So how did it feel to be born a human baby? It must have been humiliating. You must love us very much to make that kind of sacrifice.

And now the season of Lent urges God's children to be humble too. Ashes remind us of that, and so does "giving something up."

All of this will really mean something if it helps me think about you. Since you became a child for me, help me take up my cross each day with childlike faith and follow where you lead.

Savior, I cross my heart and follow ... humbly.



Thursday

Read Luke 2:22-38 about

Simeon and Anna



When you were just a tiny baby, Jesus Christ, Mary and Joseph brought you to God's house, and two people there were very happy to see you. Simeon and Anna were almost like a

grandpa and grandma, they got so excited over you. They gave thanks to God and then talked about what a wonderful future you would have. Grandparents are like that sometimes.

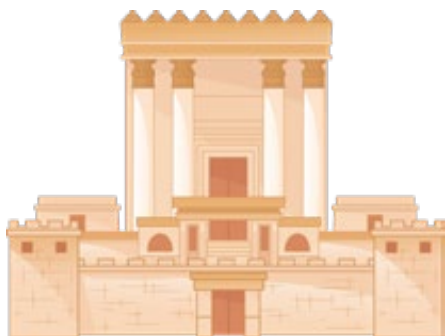
You *did* have a wonderful future before you, Jesus Christ— for you had been born to be the Savior of the world. Because you grew up to be everything you could be, I now have a wonderful future in front of me! Lead me through every stage and every age. Amen.

Savior, I cross my heart and follow ... eagerly.

Friday

Read Luke 2:41-52 about

Young Jesus in the Temple



Lord Jesus, when you were a growing boy and Mary and Joseph took you to God's house, you *listened* to what was going on there. You asked questions when it was time to do that, and you

gave answers when you were supposed to. You felt at home there.

Help me to follow your example and pay attention to the Word of God, to listen and to learn ... and to participate in what goes on in God's house. Help me feel at home there too. Amen.

Savior, I cross my heart and follow ... attentively.

Read Matthew 3:13-17 about

Jesus' Baptism

When you were baptized, Jesus Christ, there in the Jordan River by your cousin John, you took your place with us—human beings—showing what it means to trust the promises of God and to be God's own dear child.

In my baptism, you let me take my place with you. You let me know—for absolutely certain—that I am a child of God, that my place will be with you forever.

Wherever I may go, whatever I may do, please keep me in my place—because “with you” is the very best place to be! Amen.

*Savior, I cross my
heart and follow ...
with you.*



The First Sunday in Lent

Faithful Followers

The Wise Men

When Jesus was born, the Wise Men followed a star, the special star that God provided them.

They knew where to look for the newborn King because they followed God's Word.

The Word and the star both led them to Jesus, a good place to be.



Read Matthew 4:1-11 about

Temptation in the Wilderness

The devil was waiting for you, Jesus Christ, waiting in the wilderness to tempt you with bread and fame and empty promises.



The devil waits to tempt me, too,
I know, and it's not always easy to resist.

But you resisted, Jesus Christ. You trusted in God's Word and you quoted God's Word and you obeyed God's Word ... and you resisted.

Help me, too, to learn God's Word so that I may trust and obey it. Give me strength to resist temptation too. Amen.

Savior, I cross my heart and follow ... obediently.

Cross my Heart

“For God so loved,” the Bible tells us. For God so loved, God sent us Jesus, a living, loving, dying, rising example of God’s great love for us.

Each daily prayerful devotion in this booklet for children and their families highlights God’s great love, given to us in the person of Jesus and shown to us through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. It is a love that we, as Jesus followers, are called to share to all the world through our words and actions during the season of Lent and throughout our lives.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

—Romans 10:9—



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