

What do you get when you mix hilarious faith cartoons with sweet but profound devotions? You not only get a belly laugh for the day but your soul will be revived! It's the spiritual equivalent of bringing peanut butter and chocolate together for the first time. This book gets your endorphins flowing while you learn awesome new things about God.

# **Laughing with God** 40 Fun Faith Devotions to Tickle Your Soul

by Sue Kulpinski Illustrations by John Bush

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# LAUGHING WITH GOD 40 FUN FAITH DEVOTIONS TO TICKLE YOUR SOUL



### SUE KULPINSKI ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN BUSH

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#### **Table of Contents**

Bread & Whine?	
Anyone but Him, Lord!	
Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire	
Curious Minds Want to Know	
Noah's Online Dating Service - Get Married Today!	
Do You Have a Reservation, Sir?	
Who's in Charge Here?	
What Did You Learn in School Today?	
God's Remodel Job	
No, Really - Don't Stop	
Guess Again!	
Frankly, I Prefer My Way	
Let's Poke Holes in This Theory	
Hey God, Where is My Vision Board?	
Does This Make Me Look Fat?	55
Will the Real God Please Stand Up?	57
Got Evil?	
Who Forgot the Wet Wipes?	65
They Must Be Drunk!	69
To Press or be Oppressed?	
I'm Pretty Sure God Can't See Me	
Good for Whom?	
Looking to Chew Some Cud?	
Who Done It?	
Who Turned Out the Lights?	89
Did You Run Out of Smart People?	

You Can't Make Me Truly Forgive You	95
Found Jesus Yet?	97
Macy's or Nordstrom's?	
Did the Devil <i>Really</i> Make Me Do It?	103
Jesus in a Box?	105
If Only I Were in Charge	107
No Down Payment or Closing Costs	111
Got Invitation?	
God Has the Last Laugh	117
Good Things Really Do Come in Small Packages	121
Where's Saul And What Have You Done with Him?	125
Naughty Bits	129
Time for a Siesta	
God, Is It Too Late for Forgiveness?	
Endnotes	



#### Bread & Whine?

Without a doubt, bread is one of the ultimate comfort foods. Bread seems to pair perfectly with whining because it also falls in the "comfort" category of life. Once in awhile, we all love to indulge in whining because it feels so… well, self-indulgent! But God knows the secrets to living a satisfying life and He mysteriously tells us that a state of gratitude is the way to go. What does He know that we don't?

Maybe God found that piece of research online by UCLA's Mindfulness Awareness Research Center that discovered something interesting about our brains. "Regularly expressing gratitude (the quality of being thankful and readiness to show appreciation) literally changes the molecular structure of the brain, keeps the gray matter functioning, and makes us healthier and happier."<sup>i</sup>

Jesus tells us that He *is* the Bread of Life. This "Bread" is symbolic of the spiritual food that provides everything we need to thrive in life on a daily basis; that spiritual food is the Bible. In the Old Testament, God also gave the Israelites a food but it was physical. It was a miraculous type of bread called Manna which God supplied daily. Once again, it symbolized God and His daily provision "for *every* need of the Israelites in a dry desolate desert" (Numbers 11:4-6).

The Bible also tells us that Jesus is the Word (which is the Bible). He is still our daily Manna and desires that we feed off of His Word to learn the secrets of living a life filled with purpose, passion, and impact on this earth.

God knows we have to feed our minds, not just our whining tummies. When we immerse ourselves in His Word, we get filled with wisdom to live out a life that builds a legacy and reveals Him to the world. Our passions in life are also channeled in proper ways.

This is a whole lot better than feeding off of useless information that distracts us from developing an intimate loving relationship with our Creator. Without that relationship, we miss out on knowing His personal plan for our lives which unveils our gifts and purpose (Jeremiah 29:11-12).

Forget the focaccia and go for the Manna. Besides, focaccia is not gluten-free. And don't forget to "step into His courts with thanksgiving and praise" (Psalm 100:4). Your mom will be happy because it's good for your brain! John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Lord, thank you for your 66 love letters called the Bible! Fill me with a renewed hunger for your Word. Help me become more disciplined to spend time with you. I know it brings me the wisdom I need to build a life worth living.



#### **Does This Make Me Look Fat?**

With one taste of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve instantly caused a wardrobe shortage. They didn't realize they were already dressed in the most exquisite apparel possible...the very glory of God! They walked in such a beautiful radiance that they were not even aware they were nudie patooties.

God didn't mince His words when He commanded Adam and Eve *not* to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. As their Creator, God knew they were not designed to expose their minds to evil because it would cause rotten fruit: stress, depression, conflict, sickness, and death.

God's original intent was for mankind to live in an environment filled with love, life, abundance by hanging out in His presence only.

Since God created man as a creature of free will, He was obligated to lay out a choice for the human race in the very center of the Garden of Eden. We all know the story and we've been feeling the effects of this very corrupted world ever since mankind's choice.

Believe it or not, every day we are presented with the same choice as Adam and Eve. We can trust God's perfect wisdom or go our own way. Take God's advice and stick with Him. He *is* the tree of life!

He designed us to bask in His presence in the Garden of Eden where everything is provided for us. Unfortunately, we tend to reject Him to live in the jungle alone. We then wonder why we are stressed and depressed.

It's time to jump back into the Garden of Eden! You have a Father who adores you. In fact, you are the "apple of His eye" (Psalm 17:8). And you certainly don't want to get stuck with a fig leaf wardrobe.

Genesis 2:17 But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.

Dear Lord, thank you for speaking to me through your Word so that I will know your will for my life and make the best choices possible in my life.

#### More to Come

#### Want to keep laughing with God? Join us at MindsetRenewal.com

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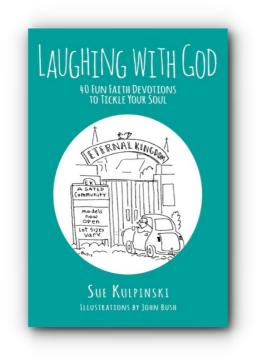
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