

A short devotional containing Bible verses, stories that bring the verses to life, related subjects for focusing, and journal prompts. The style and life stories speak to teens in a real and "non-preachy" way that teens can relate to.

**BIBLE WISDOM FOR TEEN BOYS:
BACKPACK BIBLE SERIES - BOOK ONE**

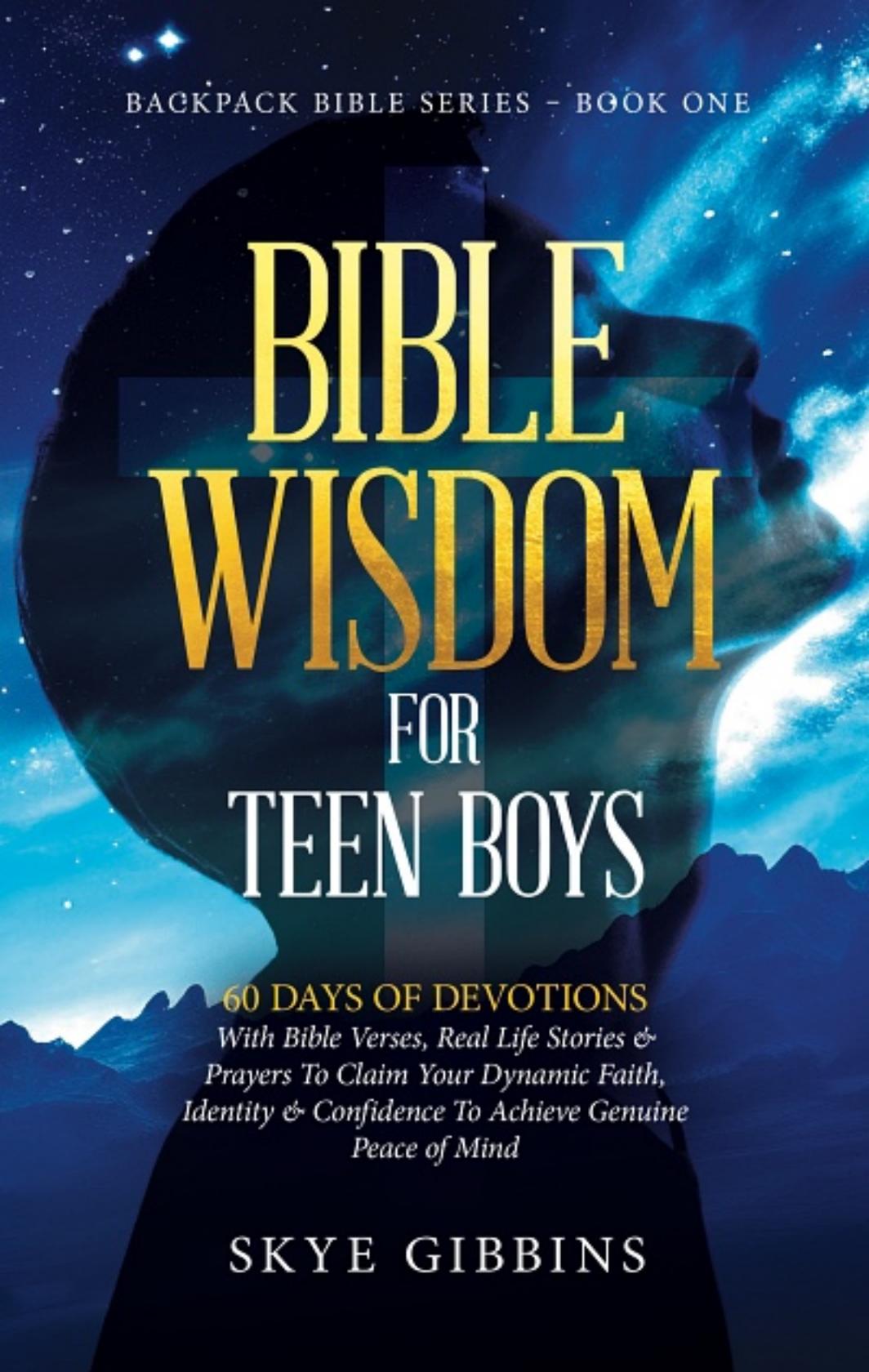
By Skye Gibbins

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BACKPACK BIBLE SERIES - BOOK ONE



**BIBLE
WISDOM**
FOR
TEEN BOYS

60 DAYS OF DEVOTIONS

*With Bible Verses, Real Life Stories &
Prayers To Claim Your Dynamic Faith,
Identity & Confidence To Achieve Genuine
Peace of Mind*

SKYE GIBBINS

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2.

FROM GANG LEADER TO GOSPEL
PREACHER

*“Now we look inside, and what we see is that
anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is
created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges!
Look at it!”*

— 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17–18 MSG (SELECTED)

When we bring our lives to Jesus, we don't just get a spiritual tune-up—we are completely remade. This isn't about polishing up the outside; it's about a total transformation from the inside out. Paul, the writer of these verses, knew this firsthand. Once a voracious persecutor of Christians, he was completely changed by an encounter with Jesus—and spent the rest of his life helping others find that same fresh start. Imagine the guilt and self-loathing he may have felt, in looking back at the actions of his former self. Yet, he constantly pressed forward toward total transformation through the presence of Christ.

Nicky Cruz grew up in Puerto Rico, cruelly abused by his parents, exposed to voodoo, and drawn into violence at a young age. By the time he was a teenager, he had been shipped off to New York City by himself, rose through the ranks by street instincts and a vicious facade, and became the leader of one of the most violent and feared gangs in Brooklyn—the Mau Maus. His life was driven by rage, fear, and a relentless pursuit of survival.

Everything changed when a young faith-filled street preacher named David Wilkerson told Nicky, “Jesus loves you.” Nicky laughed. Then he threatened him. He even spat in his face. But Wilkerson kept showing up—offering love, not fear. Eventually, at a massive rally for all the NYC gangs, Nicky broke down and surrendered, overwhelmed by a love that wouldn’t quit.

He gave his life to Christ. He walked away from the gang, the violence, and the street life—and he never looked back. Today, Nicky Cruz has spent more than 60 years preaching the message of Jesus around the world, helping young people trapped in the same darkness he once lived in. His life story, *Run Baby Run*, has sold over 12 million copies worldwide!

Easy To Remember

God doesn’t just clean up your past—He gives you a brand-new future.

Think About It

If Jesus could take a gang leader and make him a preacher, what do you think He can do with *your* story? What parts of your old life are you ready to leave behind?

Prayer For Today

Jesus, I want to be made new in You. Help me let go of anything that keeps me stuck in the past. I believe You can transform my heart, my habits, and my future. Make me into the person You created me to be. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

Take Away

Nicky's story reminds us that no one is too far gone for God's grace. Whether your struggles are loud and obvious or quiet and hidden, God is in the business of total transformation. You don't have to stay in your present form. You can become someone completely new—because of Him.

Open That Journal

What's one part of your "old life" (a habit, attitude, or way of thinking) you'd like Jesus to change?

Write it down—and then write a sentence about the kind of person you want to become in God's eyes.

5.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

“He told them: ‘Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.’”

— LUKE 9:3 NIV

Before he was a saint, Francis of Assisi was anything but: a wealthy, spoiled, and disrespectful son of a high-rolling cloth merchant in Italy. He lived for parties, luxury, and attention. But after a powerful encounter with God, Francis did something radical—he gave up everything. He walked away from his inheritance, lived among the poor, and chose a life of simplicity and service, totally relying on God to provide. His life became an example of simple, joyful faith, completely detached from the clutter of status and stuff.

Yeah, that might sound extreme. And it was! But here’s the point: Francis wasn’t trying to impress anyone—he was following Jesus with his whole heart. While God doesn’t call every person to give away everything and live in poverty,

Francis reminds us that we don't need more *stuff* to live a meaningful life. Jesus asked His disciples to travel light because the real journey wasn't about what they had—it was about who they were becoming. And trusting for provision was part of that becoming.

Let's be honest...Today's walk is full of pressure to own more, wear the right brands, upgrade to the latest phone, and chase popularity. But Jesus challenges us to take a different path. What if the stuff we think we *need* is actually weighing us down?

Following Jesus doesn't mean giving up everything like Francis did. But it *does* mean asking: What's truly important? What distractions are cluttering your life—physically, emotionally, or spiritually? Could “keeping it simple” free up space in your heart for what really matters: faith, kindness, courage, and purpose? And how could you use what you do have in serving God? Learning discernment is the key to answering these questions for yourself.

Easy To Remember

You don't need more stuff to grow in faith. A simpler life can create more room for God.

Think About It

Today's culture says, “More is better.” But Jesus says, “Less can be enough.” What do you own (or chase after) that might actually be tugging at you in a spiritually unhealthy way?

Could letting go of something help you walk with more peace, joy, and trust?

Prayer For Today

Jesus, please show me how to grow in discernment and live with less, so I can focus on You more. Help me let go of distractions, Lord, and trust that you are enough for every part of my journey. Thank you.

Take Away

Living simply isn't about having nothing—it's about having space for what really matters. When you rely on God instead of your stuff, you'll discover a deeper and broader kind of strength and courage.

Open That Journal

What's one thing you could give up (a habit, distraction, or possession) that could make your life simpler and your faith stronger?

Write about why it's hard to let go, and what you hope God might do when you loosen your grip.

8.

GOD SAID, "TACKLE HUNGER!"

"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing."

— 1 CORINTHIANS 13:2-3 NIV

God didn't whisper. He called the play loud and clear: "Tackle hunger!"

Jason Brown was a star in the NFL, dominating on the field with a \$37 million contract and fans chanting his name. But at the top of his game, something unexpected happened. God put a new calling on Jason's life. And it wasn't another team or more fame, but farming. Yep. Potatoes, green beans,

and rows of dirt. The problem? He didn't know the first thing about how to do it!

But Jason walked away from the league and into a whole new mission. Obedient to following God's call, he searched for land, bought a farm in North Carolina and moved his family there. With no background in farming, he taught himself by watching YouTube videos (seriously!). He named his enterprise "First Fruits Farm", promising God he would give away the first of his crops to benefit those in need. And today, through food banks and other avenues, First Fruits has fed hungry people with hundreds of thousands of pounds of the earth's bounty.

To some, that move looked crazy, and from certain perspectives, it was! But to Jason, it was about love—love of God and love for those in need. He believed that real love isn't just feelings or words; it involves obedience and action. Paul said in 1 Corinthians that even if you have crazy talent, huge faith, or massive generosity, *if you don't have love, it's all worthless*. Jason Brown hasn't just obeyed. He has loved.

Easy to Remember

Without love, the flashiest plays mean nothing.

Think About It

Jason Brown had what most people chase—fame, wealth, and success. But when God called him to trade end zones for corn

rows, he didn't hesitate. He obeyed because *love* was more important than the spotlight.

Love can be as quiet as the sound of a growing spinach leaf. We live in a world that says, "Be great. Be rich. Be famous." But God says, "Be loving." Which message are your ears tuned in to?

Prayer for Today

God, I want to follow You—even when Your plan doesn't make sense to me or others. Please teach me to value the way of love over self-importance, and obedience over applause. Most of all, I want Your quiet voice over the world's noise. Amen.

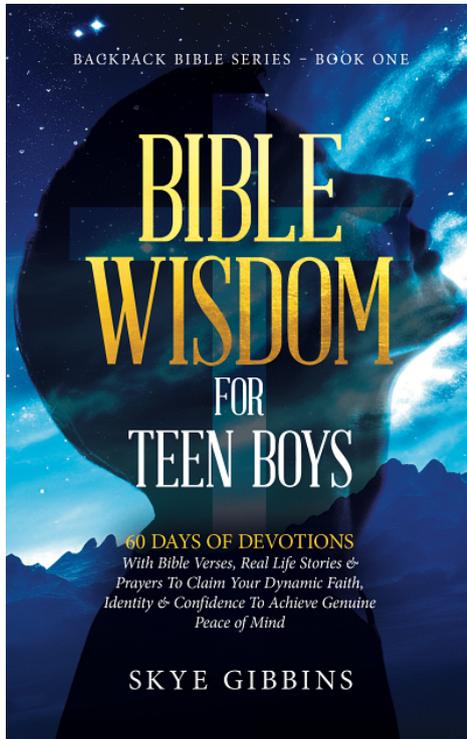
Take Away

Love doesn't always look impressive. But it always changes the world.

Open That Journal

Explore these three questions:

- Is there anything God might be asking me to do that feels uncomfortable or unexpected?
- Am I honestly willing to act in love and obedience, without expecting any recognition?
- Who needs God's love to flow through me this week?



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