

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Luke 18-21

**Monday:** 1 Samuel 21-24

**Tuesday:** 1 Samuel 25-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Samuel 29-31

**Thursday:** 2 Samuel 1-4

**Friday:** 2 Samuel 5-8

**Saturday:** Psalms 46-48

*Verse to Remember*  
*“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”*

—Psalm 46:1 (NIV)

**Which foreign word doesn't belong?**

**oui si nein ja**

**Which word doesn't belong?**

**fedora, beret, moccasins, sombrero, wig**



**Senior Trivia Quiz: DO YOU REMEMBER RADIO?**

1. THE JACK BENNY SHOW: Can you name two characters who appeared with Benny?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY: What place is still referred to as “McGee’s” today?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. BURNS AND ALLEN: How did George Burns end every show?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. THE SAINT: Do you remember the Saint’s name?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL: Can you name the Pimpernel’s alter ego?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. THE MERCURY THEATRE ON THE AIR: Why was one particular broadcast so

memorable? \_\_\_\_\_

7. WALTER WINCHELL’S JOURNAL: How did Winchell open each show?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. MAJOR BOWES AND THE ORIGINAL AMATEUR HOUR: How were winners chosen?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Solution to riddles:** Foreign word: *Nein*; it is the only word that doesn't mean “yes”; word: moccasins; it is the only word that doesn't refer to something worn on the head. **Do You Remember Radio?:** 1. Mary Livingstone and Rochester; 2. That crowded closet that would open to sound effects of all kinds of things crashing to the floor; 3. “Say good night, Gracie.” Gracie would reply, “Good night, Gracie”; 4. Simon Templar; 5. Sir Percy Blakeney; 6. Orson Welles, the show's star, then 22, did such a great acting job, that many in the country believed they had tuned into a news broadcast and the invasion of Martians was indeed real; 7. “Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. North and South America, and all the ships at sea, let's go to press. FLASH!”; 8. By then, most of the radio audience had telephones in their homes, and they called in to vote for their favorite acts.

## Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

*As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands: one for helping yourself, the other for helping others. —Audrey Hepburn*

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In March 2018, Dylan found a crumpled-up dollar bill on the floor of his English class at JFK High School in New York City. His teacher, Kate Mattison, suggested he tape the bill to the white board at the front of their classroom where she put lost items.

The next day, a student asked, “What’s up with the dollar bill?”

Thinking the owner would ultimately claim it, Mattison said, “I don’t know.”

The student thought there was a mystery about it, so he took a dollar bill out of his own wallet and taped it on the board. Now two dollar bills were taped to the board. This got the ball rolling. More students taped dollar bills to the board, always asking their teacher: “What’s up with the dollar bills?”

And Mattison kept replying: “I don’t know.”

Students were intrigued. They thought their teacher started it all and the sooner her goal was reached, the sooner they would find out what she was up to. So they dug deep: 22 dollar bills appeared as well as some coins and soon, \$175.76 taped on the board.

Mattison decided it was time to do something with the money.

She told her classes how it had begun — with Dylan finding the crumpled-up dollar bill on the floor of their classroom. And she told them about her sister’s husband Jerry, who was diagnosed with and subsequently died of Lou Gehrig’s disease. Would they be willing to donate their money to the ALS Therapy Development Institute — a place committed to finding a cure for the disease — in their name, in Jerry’s memory?

The teens’ response?

They taped *more* money on the board for a total of \$321.06. Mattison made the donation just before the month of May, which is ALS National Awareness Month. That was a Saturday. By Monday afternoon, eight more dollars were taped on the board. *The Buffalo News* picked up the story and donations totaled \$1,300 — all because one boy was in the right place at the right time and did the right thing with a crumpled-up dollar bill.

The story of the widow’s mite comes to mind. Remember the woman Jesus pointed out? She was in the temple and had only one small coin. She put it in the offering plate. Jesus highly praised her action. The thing is, we don’t know what a small act of kindness can achieve, but God does. All God asks is to offer what we can, and let him do the rest!

—Melanie Silva

*Prayer: Loving God, may I be in the right place at the right time and help me to do the right thing. Amen.”*

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** Luke 22-24

**Monday:** 2 Samuel 9-12

**Tuesday:** 2 Samuel 13-15

**Wednesday:** 2 Samuel 16-18

**Thursday:** 2 Samuel 19-21

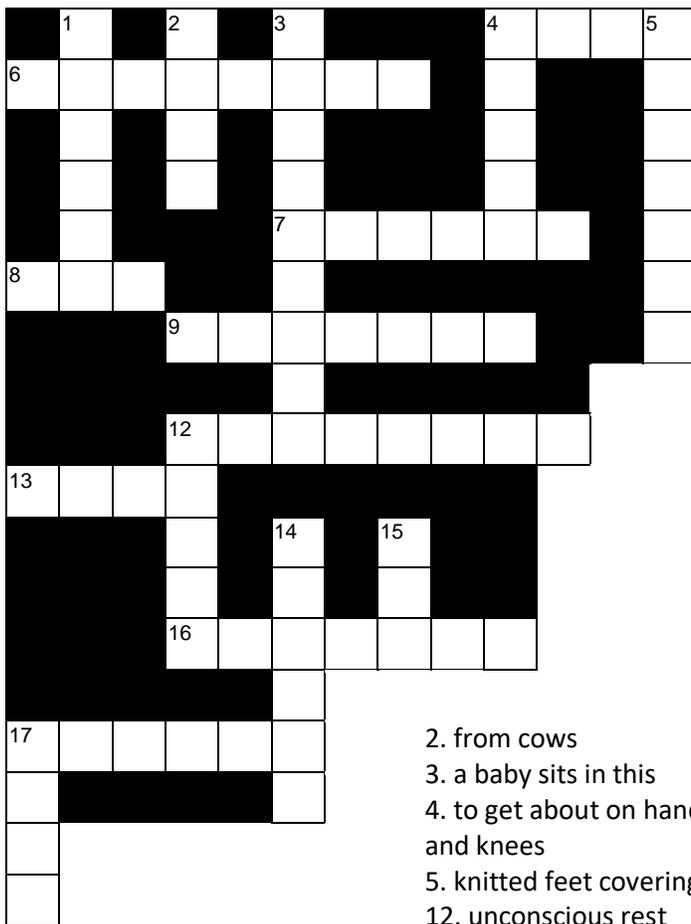
**Friday:** 2 Samuel 22-24

**Saturday:** Psalms 49-51

*Honoring Mothers*

*“Her children arise and call her blessed; ... many women do noble things, but you surpass them all ... a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”*

—Proverbs 31:28-30 (NIV)



# The BABY Crossword



The clues and answers in this crossword relate in some way to babies.

**ACROSS**

- 4. small bed
- 6. binky
- 7. “From the \_\_\_ to the grave”
- 8. to sob
- 9. large cloth to keep baby warm
- 12. baby carriage
- 13. the dish baby eats out of
- 16. where baby plays
- 17. narrow-necked container of milk

**DOWN**

- 1. baby who likes to chatter is said to be “quite a –”
- 2. from cows
- 3. a baby sits in this
- 4. to get about on hands and knees
- 5. knitted feet coverings
- 12. unconscious rest
- 14. what is changed when a baby is wet
- 15. a short rest
- 17. the sound a baby makes after drinking milk

**Answers:** Across — 4. crib, 6. pacifier, 7. cradle, 8. cry, 9. blanket, 12. stroller, 13. bowl, 16. playpen, 17. bottle. Down — 1. talker, 2. milk, 3. highchair, 4. crawl, 5. booties, 12. sleep, 14. diaper, 15. nap, 17. burp.

## Scripture Reading: John 14:1-14

*Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others. —Saint Augustine*

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The teacher said that there was only one rule to the game. “You can only ask yes or no questions. Here is the situation for you to consider. Maude and Clyde lie dead on the floor. They are surrounded by broken glass and water. How did they die?”

We asked the obvious questions related to the glass and water and made little progress.

Then a student asked, “Are Maude and Clyde human?”

“No.” We quickly determined that Maude and Clyde were goldfish.

As the semester progressed, we improved our ability to sift, evaluate and interpret information until the day when our teacher gave us another scenario. She said, “The situation for today is true. An orchestra enters the stage to perform an evening concert. A female member of the orchestra is barefoot. Why?”

“Was she using crutches? Was her foot swollen? Did it have anything to do with an injury? Did it have to do with the instrument she was playing?”

The teacher answered “no” to all of these questions. Getting the correct answer took the longest of any riddle we had attempted. The artist in question plays percussion, and she is profoundly deaf. She “hears” the music through the vibrations in the floor.

Our teacher was referring to Evelyn Glennie of Scotland. Profoundly deaf since the age of 12, she taught herself to hear with other parts of her body than her ears. She led the percussion section for the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in London in 2012 and received a Grammy Award in 2014 for Best Classical Instrumental Solo, to name just two of her accomplishments.

Glennie is one of many examples of people who succeed far beyond conventional expectations. Their examples inspire us to push ourselves and to always offer our best.

Perhaps we can ask God to help us understand how we might be able to transcend whatever limitations we feel we have. Too often we succumb to the feeling that there’s nothing we can do. We offer this or that reason for our inaction. But, perhaps, God can help us offer even the simplest gesture that would mean so much to someone else.

—Melanie Silva

*Prayer: Open my eyes and my ears, O God, to touch the world around me in ways that I can hardly imagine. Open my mind to what is possible and grant me the courage to try. Amen.*

**Daily Bible Reading**

- Sunday:** John 1-3  
**Monday:** 1 Kings 1-4  
**Tuesday:** 1 Kings 5-7  
**Wednesday:** 1 Kings 8-10  
**Thursday:** 1 Kings 11-13  
**Friday:** 1 Kings 14-16  
**Saturday:** Psalms 52-54

**VERSE TO REMEMBER**

*“Have mercy on me, O God,  
 according to your unfailing  
 love.” —Psalm 51:1 (NIV)*

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TRIVIA**

1. True or false: The sun is the closest star to Earth.
2. Which country has the largest population and what is its approximate number?
3. How many elements are there in the Periodic Table of Elements?
4. As of 2009, three films had received the highest number of Academy Awards ever won: 11. Name one of these movies.
5. Who was the eighth president of the United States?
6. How many feet are in a mile?
7. What is the Earth’s circumference?

**PLURALIZATION**

Our language has many different ways to form the plural. Can you give the singular or plural form of these words? Unscramble the circled letters to reveal a book of the Bible meaning “songs.”

**SINGULAR**

1. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. Salmon
3. Sheep
4. Species
5. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. Crisis
7. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
8.  \_ \_ \_
9. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
10.  \_ \_ \_

**PLURAL**

- Bacteria
- \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Criteria
- \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- Data
- Wolves
- Phenomena
- Beaux

**SECRET WORD:** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Pluralization:** 1. bacterium, 2. salmon, 3. sheep, 4. species, 5. criterion, 6. crises, 7. datum, 8. wolf, 9. phenomenon, 10. beau. **Secret word:** Psalms;  
**General Knowledge Trivia:** 1. True; 2. China with roughly 1.3 billion people; 3. 117; 4. *Ben Hur* (1959), *Titanic* (1997) and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (2003); 5. Martin Van Buren; 6. 5,280; 7. 24,901.55 miles

## Scripture Reading: John 14:15-21

*We are never nearer Christ than when we find ourselves lost in a holy amazement at His unspeakable love. —John Owen*

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**B**oston Symphony Hall was packed for a performance of the Handel and Haydn Society. The program for this particular night in May 2019 featured Mozart’s “Masonic Funeral Music.” The audience loved it. So they were ready to applaud when the final notes died away. The conductor’s baton was still raised — but before the audience could start applauding, a little kid said, “Wow!”

The acoustics are great in Boston Symphony Hall. Everyone heard it.

According to CBS Sunday Morning, the conductor, Harry Christophers, sent emails to the attendees in an attempt to find the child. An online search began and eventually the child was found. He was Ronan Martin, 9, and he attended the concert with his grandfather, Stephen.

Ronan is on the autism scale and “doesn’t spontaneously come out with a lot of expressions on how he is feeling,” said his grandfather. His breathtaking “wow” therefore takes on even greater significance. David Snead, the president and CEO of the Handel and Haydn Society, said that “the boy brought so much joy to the entire audience.”

And how did the conductor react to the child? “It changed my life,” he said.

Ronan’s “wow” and the conductor’s response set me to thinking. Looking out my window at the pine trees as the sunshine glides down their massive trunks — is this not worthy of a daily “wow”?

Yet, not everyone has a pine tree outside their window. What if you’re looking at a parking lot? Perhaps you don’t have a window in your room.

From whence do the “wows” of our lives come?

Ultimately, the wonder, the amazement, the joy, the wows of life come from God. Every blessing, large or small, is a God-given wow-moment in which to offer praise.

Ronan has challenged me to take note of my surroundings and express an appreciative wow; I am hopeful this will change my life.

—Melanie Silva

*Prayer: We confess, O God, that we have a tendency to be complacent — to take you for granted. We are often silent when we should be saying, “Wow.” Help us to be more aware of the wow-moments of life, and give you the praise. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*



## Scripture Reading: Acts 1:6-14

*He that won't be counseled can't be helped. —Benjamin Franklin*

For more than 20 years, Wally Richardson — a 95-year-old WWII Navy veteran — has been spending his mornings with kids in his community of El Dorado Hills, California.

He sits with his small dog on a bench named for him outside the Marina Valley Middle School waving at parents and greeting the students as they arrive at school. But it isn't a simple "Good morning" or "Hello" that he bestows upon the students who pass by on the way to class. He also peppers them with aphorisms — or "Wallyisms" as the students call them.

"Never look down on someone unless you're helping them up," he called out once.

The "Wallyisms" have become so popular that the students engage in a call-and-response with him. When Wally yells, "If Plan A doesn't work," the kids' reply: "There are 25 other letters in the alphabet!"

In addition to advice, Wally hands out bookmarks with his adages on them which he creates with his wife. Shelby, a sixth grader, was so impressed that she and two other students created a mural at the school with Wally's portrait on it. "You truly think about your life when Wally gives you advice," she commented.

"But why do you do this every day?" Wally once was asked.

He said, "The future depends on our youth. This is how I show them they are loved and accepted for who they are. Love is the force behind anything worth doing. People think God is *up there* but there is no separation between you and God. God is always working through your soul through the way you express yourself to others."

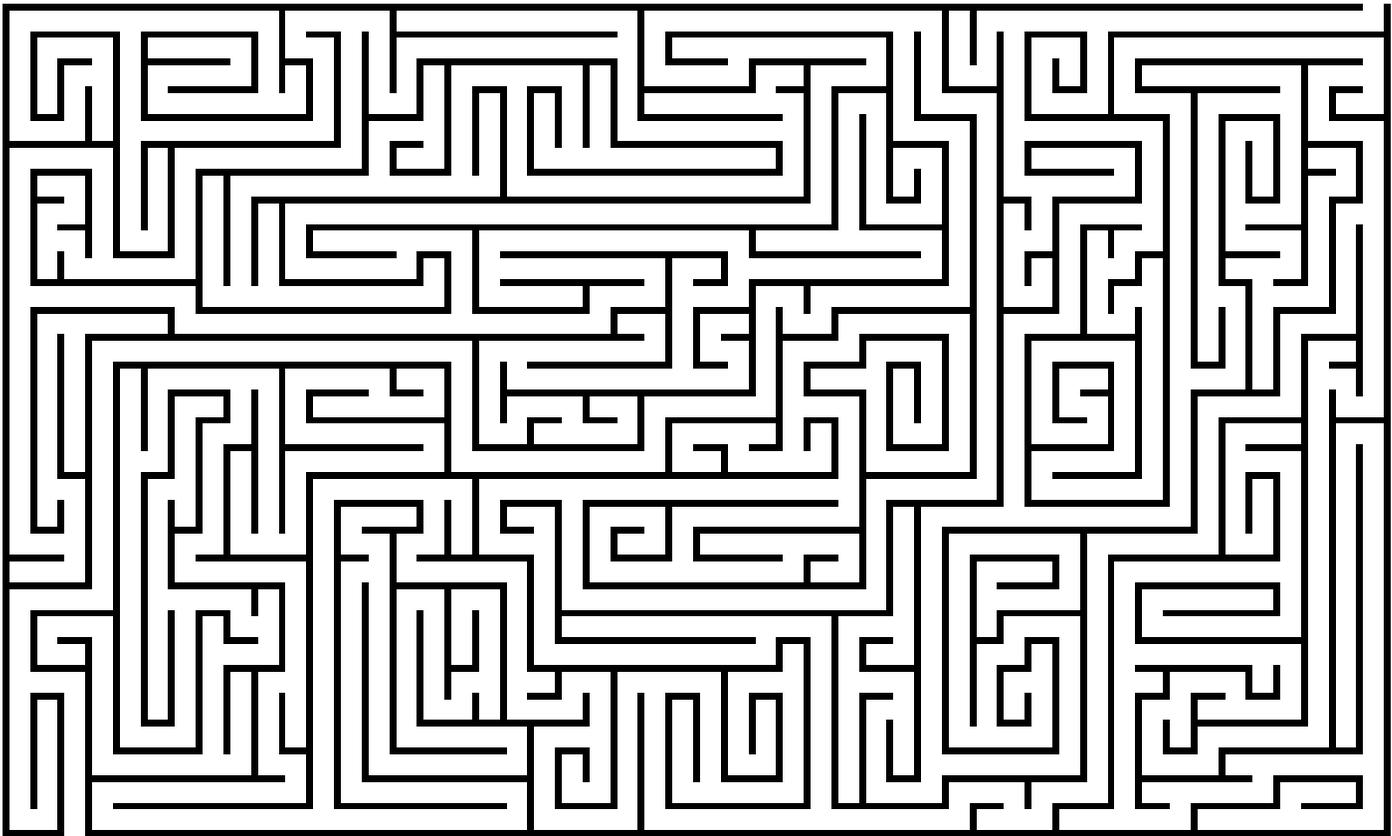
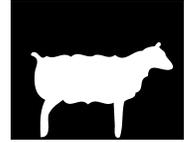
He concluded by saying, "Let no one come to you without leaving better and happier."

Good advice for all of us!

—Melanie Silva

*Prayer: Help me to remember, O God, that each person who crosses my path gives me an opportunity to let you work through my soul. Let it be so. Amen.*

**The Lost Sheep.** Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). He also said, "For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Help this sheep find his way through the maze. *Solution below.*



**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** John 7-10

**Monday:** 2 Kings 11-14:20

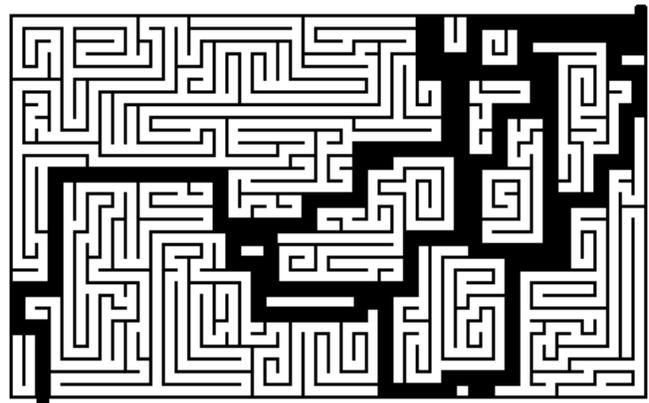
**Tuesday:** Joel 1-3

**Wednesday:** 2 Kings 14:21-25; Jonah 1-4

**Thursday:** 2 Kings 14:26-29; Amos 1-3

**Friday:** Amos 4-6

**Saturday:** Psalms 58-60



## Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21

*The human spirit fails, except when the Holy Spirit fills. —Corrie Ten Boom*

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Today is Pentecost Sunday, and the reading above from Acts tells how the Holy Spirit came upon 120 followers of Jesus who were waiting in an upper room. They were waiting for the Holy Spirit. They were following Jesus' instructions.

They weren't sure what would happen. And when it did happen, it involved wind and fire! Sounds dangerous!

Nadia Bolz-Weber is a Lutheran minister and public theologian. She is the founding and former pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Denver, Colorado.

She tells the story about a gift of used paraments the church received from another church. "My church is like every other church's little sister, so we get a lot of hand-me-downs. As a group of us went through these beautiful altar cloths, we came finally to the red set and found one with an image of a descending dove with completely crazy eyes and claws that looked like talons. Yep. It was as though the Holy Spirit was a raptor."

The little group inspecting these paraments were momentarily undecided. But then one of the group said, "Man, we can't use this one. It makes the Holy Spirit look dangerous."

Perhaps the Holy Spirit is dangerous. We often talk about the "power of the Holy Spirit." In the book of the Acts of the Apostles, we discover that the apostles did some really amazing things, and they did these things in the "power of the Holy Spirit."

In fact, we're told that whatever we attempt to do that is not done in the power of the Spirit is doomed to failure.

The power of the Holy Spirit is not just for a special few.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit was for all of us.

All of the Spirit's power — for us.

All of the Spirit's truth — for us.

All of the Spirit's comfort — for us.

All of the Spirit's guidance — for us.

Let's thank God for the Holy Spirit, even if there might be an element of "danger" involved!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, thank you for the coming of the Holy Spirit and the founding of the church, your church. May we be willing to yield to the Spirit's power in all that we do. Amen.*