

God's Big Words

Devotions for First Graders

Notes:

*verses in **bold** have posters attached

*Alex devotions come from *Chocolate Chips and Trumpet Tricks* by Nancy Levene

*words are not in any specific order

1. Courage

- Books:

- o *Spaghetti In A Hotdog Bun* by Maria Dismody
- o *Courage* by Bernard Waber
- o Alex Devotion Book: The Secret Password (see Tricia)
- o *Ready For Anything* by Keiko Kasza
- o *Noni Says No* by Heather Hartt-Sussman
- o *Quite A Contrary Man* by Patricia Rusch Hyatt
- o *Stand Tall Molly Lou Melon* by Patty Lovell
- o *The Woods* by Paul Hoppe
- o *Kel Gilligan's Daredevil Stuntshow* by Michael Buckley
- o *Wilfred* by Ryan Higgins
- o *Peep* by Maria VanLieshout
- o *Chester the Brave* by Audrey Penn
- o *Black Dog* by Levi Pinfold
- o *Nana in the City* by Lauren Castillo
- o *A Small Thing...but Big* by Tony Johnston
- o *Noni Speaks Up* by Heather Hartt-Sussman
- o *Sheila Ray the Brave* by Kevin Henkes
- o *Off & Away* by Cale Atkinson
- o *Saturday is Swimming Day* by Hyewon Yum

- Verses:
 - o Philippians 4:13(NIV)...I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
 - o Psalm 27:1 (NKJV)...The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
 - o **Psalm 56:3 (NIV)...When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.**
- Songs:
 - o *Courageous* by Casting Crowns
 - o *I Am* by David Crowder

2. Encourage

- Books:
 - o *Have You Filled A Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud
 - o *You Are Special* by Max Lucado
 - o *You Can Do It, Sam* by Amy Hest
 - o *The Pout-Pout Fish in the Big-Big Dark* by Deborah Diesen
 - o *You Can Do It* by Tony Dungy
 - o *Rooting For You* by Susan Hood
 - o *Janine and the Field Day Finish* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
 - o *Kat Writes a Song* by Greg Foley
- Verse:
 - o **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)...Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.**

3. Imitate

- Books:
 - o *Stephanie's Ponytail* by Robert Munsch
 - o *Hooway For Wodney Wat* by Helen Lester
 - o *Ruby the Copycat* by Margaret Rathmann and Peggy Rathmann
- Songs:

- o *Everywhere You Go* by Third Day
 - o *I Will Follow* by Chris Tomlin
 - o *To Be Like Jesus* by Sovereign Grace Music
 - o *Keep Making Me* by Sidewalk Prophets
 - o *Let Them See You* by JJ Weeks Band
- Verse:
 - o **Ephesians 5:1 (the Message)...Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love.**

4. Image

- Books
 - o *Cornelius* by Leo Lionni
 - o *You Be You* by Linda Kranz
 - o *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match* by Monica Brown
 - o *Chowder* by Peter Brown
 - o *The Big Orange Splot* by Daniel Pinkwater
 - o *Odd Dog* by Claudia Boldt
 - o *The Very Sleepy Sloth* by Andrew Murray
 - o *Effie* by Beverly Allinson
 - o *The Little Pot* by Dawn Stephens
 - o *Marshall Armstrong is New to Our School* by David Mackintosh
 - o *Calvin Can't Fly* by Jennifer Berne
 - o *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae
 - o *Zero* by Kathryn Otoshi
 - o *Willy* by Geert DeKockere
 - o *Red Cat Blue Cat* by Jenni Desmond
 - o *Me and You* by Genevieve Cote
 - o *I Want Your Moo* by Marcella Bakur Weiner and Jill Neimark
 - o *I Love Monkey* by Suzanne Kaufman
 - o *Hilda Must Be Dancing* by Karma Wilson

- o *Two Speckled Eggs* by Jennifer K. Mann
 - o *I Don't Want To Be A Frog* by Dev Petty
 - o *Wild About Us!* by Karen Beaumont
 - o *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall
 - o *Janine.* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
 - o *We'll Paint the Octopus Red* by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
 - o *I am a Cat* by Galia Bernstein
 - o *Rock What Ya Got* by Samantha Berger
 - o *Giraffe Problems* by Jory John
- Verse
 - o **Genesis 1:27 (NIV)...So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**

5. Kindness

- Books
 - o *A Sick Day For Amos McGee* by Philip C. Stead
 - o *Alex Devotions...Double Chocolate Bonus* (see Tricia)
 - o *The Tooth* by Avi Slodovnick
 - o *It Wasn't My Fault* by Helen Lester
 - o *The New Girl...And Me* by Jacqui Robbins
 - o *Peace Week In Miss Fox's Class* by Eileen Spinelli
 - o *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe
 - o *Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler* by Margery Cuyler
 - o *Pickle-Chiffon Pie* by Jolly Roger Bradfield
 - o *Because Amelia Smiled* by David Ezra Stein
 - o *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
 - o *How Kind!* by Mary Murphy
 - o *If You Plant a Seed* by Kadir Nelson
 - o *Henry Hyena, Why Won't You Laugh?* by Doug Jantzen
 - o *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller

- o *Shelter* by Celine Claire
- Verse:
 - o **Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)...Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**
- Video:
 - o Kindness Boomerang—from Life Vest Inside
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwAYpLVyeFU>)

6. Truth

- Books:
 - o *Princess K.I.M. and the Lie That Grew* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
 - o *John Patrick Norman McHennesy, The Boy Who Was Always Late* by John Birmingham
 - o *Sam Tells Stories* by Thierry Robberecht
 - o *A Children's Book About Lying* by Joy Berry
 - o *I Want My Hat Back* by Jon Klassen
 - o *Halfway Herbert* by Francis Chan
 - o *Tell the Truth, B.B. Wolf* by Judy Sierra
 - o *Eleanor the Hippo Learns to Tell the Truth* by Andy McGuire
 - o *Edwurd Fudwupper Fibbed Big* by Berkeley Breathed
 - o *A Big Fat Enormous Lie* by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
 - o *Little Croc's Purse* by Lizzie Finlay
 - o *Ruthie and the (Not So) Teeny Tiny Lie* by Laura Rankin
 - o *Zip, Zip...Homework* by Nancy Poydar
 - o *Betty Bunny Didn't Do It* by Michael B. Kaplan
 - o *Would I Ever Lie to You?* by Caralyn Buehner
 - o *The Honest To Goodness Truth* by Patricia McKissack
 - o *A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts
- Verse:

- o **Colossians 3:9-10 (the Message)...Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it.**

7. Self-Control

- Books:
 - o *My Mouth Is a Volcano* by Julia Cook
 - o *Katie Loves the Kittens* by John Himmelman
 - o *Betty Bunny Loves Chocolate Cake* by Michael B Kaplan
 - o *The Busy Beaver* by Nicholas Oldland
 - o *If Everybody Did* by Jo Ann Stover
 - o *It's Hard to be Five* by Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell
 - o *Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns to Listen* by Howard Binkow
 - o *Let's Do Nothing* by Tony Fucile
 - o *Oh No, George!* by Chris Haughton
 - o *Hudson the Hippo* by Felicia Law
 - o *The Boy Who Wouldn't Sit Still* by Sharon Lester
 - o *What If Everybody Did That?* by Ellen Javernick
- Song:
 - o *Give Me Self Control* by Sovereign Grace Music
- Verse:
 - o **Proverbs 25:28 (the Message)...A person without self-control is like a house with its doors and windows knocked out.**

8. Patience

- Books:
 - Alex Devotion Book: Pieces, Parts, and Problems (see Tricia)
 - *The Teeny Weeny Tadpole* by Sheridan Cain
 - *Ruby In Her Own Time* by Jonathan Emmett
 - *Ben Hurry (Veggie Tales)* by Doug Peterson
 - *Remy the Rhino Learns Patience* by Andy McGuire
 - *Waiting for the Biblioburro* by Monica Brown
 - *Big Wolf & Little Wolf: The Little Leaf That Wouldn't Fall* by Nadine Brun-Cosme
 - *An Octopus Named Mom* by Kathleen Flaherty
 - *Coco Can't Wait* by Taro Gomi
 - *This Monster Cannot Wait* by Bethany Barton
 - *Be Patient, Petunia* by Erin Butler
 - *Waiting Is Not Easy* by Mo Willems
 - *I'll Wait, Mr. Panda* by Steve Antony
- Video:
 - Kid's Character Builder—Patience (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Epli5qeOcA&feature=related>)
 - Have Patience—Music Machine (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kn6Z2Mop5l&feature=related>)
- Verse:
 - **Ephesians 4:2 (NIV)...Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.**

9. Grace (we usually pair this w/ Forgiveness, b/c they are so similar)

- Books:
 - *The Girl Who Never Made A Mistake* by Mark Pett & Gary Rubinstein
 - *The Lunch Thief* by Anne C. Bromley
 - *Down the Road* by Alice Schertle
 - *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes
- Verse:

- o **Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV)... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.**

- Songs:
 - o *This is Amazing Grace* by Phil Wickham
 - o *Your Grace is Enough* by Matt Maher
 - o *Second Chance* by Rend Collective

10. Forgiveness

- Books:
 - o *Jamaica and Brianna* by Juanita Havill
 - o *Alex Devotion?*
 - o *Lucy and the Bully* by Claire Alexander
 - o *Sorry!* by Norbert Landa
 - o *Otter and Owl Say I'm Sorry* by Crystal Bowman
 - o *Big Red Lollipop* by Rukhsana Khan
 - o *I'm Sorry* by Sam McBratney
 - o *The Berenstain Bears: The Forgiving Tree* by Jan & Mike Berenstain
- Verse:
 - o **Colossians 3:13 (NIV)...Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**

11. Love (Our love for others and God's love for us)

- Books:
 - o *Alex Devotions: Scarface*
 - o *Alex Devotions: Chocolate Chip Surprise*
 - o *Jesus Storybook Bible* (p.302-304)
 - o *Unlovable* by Dan Yaccarino

- o *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts
- o *Ronnie Wilson's Gift* by Francis Chan
- o *Because I Love You* by Max Lucado
- o *Just the Way You Are* by Max Lucado
- o *Plant A Kiss* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- Song:
 - o *The Love Song* by ?
 - o *How Deep The Father's Love For Us* by ?
 - o *Made To Love* by Toby Mac
- Verses:
 - o **1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)...This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: Not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**
 - o **Ephesians 5:2 (the Message)... Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.**

12. Talk

- Books:
 - o *Matthew and Tilly* by Rebecca C. Jones
 - o *The Talking Eggs* by Robert D. SanSouci
 - o *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
 - o *Edwardo the Horriblest Boy in the Whole Wide World* by John Birmingham
 - o *Princess Penelope's Parrot* by Helen Lester
 - o *A Children's Book About Gossiping* by Joy Berry
 - o *Emily's Art* by Peter Catalanotto
 - o *Thank You, Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco
 - o *Jeremy Draws a Monster* by Peter McCarty

- o *It's Mine!* by Leo Lionni
 - o *Words Are Not For Hurting* by Elizabeth Verdick
 - o *The Art of Miss Chew* by Patricia Polacco
 - o *Solomon Crocodile* by Catherine Rayner
 - o *Bully* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
 - o *Andrew's Angry Words* by Dorothea Lachner
 - o *Words and Your Heart* by Kate Jane Neal
 - o *What if Everybody Said That?* by Ellen Javernick
- Verse:
 - o **Ephesians 4:29 (the Message)...Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.**
 - Songs:
 - o *Speak Life* by Toby Mac
 - o *Words* by Hawk Nelson

13. Humility

- Books:
 - o *I'm The Best!* by Lucy Cousins
 - o *Introducing Limelight Larry* by Larry Hodgkinson
 - o *King Hugo's Huge Ego* by Chris VanDusen
 - o *I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean* by Kevin Sherry
 - o *I'm the Best Artist in the Ocean* by Kevin Sherry
 - o *Celestine Drama Queen* by Penny Ives
 - o *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes
 - o *The Tallest of Smalls* by Max Lucado
 - o *Sidney and Norman* by Phil Vischer
 - o *Me First* by Helen Lester
 - o *Too Tall Houses* by Gianna Marino
 - o *The Great Lollipop Caper* by Dan Krall
 - o *Rosie Sprout's Time To Shine* by Allison Wortche
 - o *Cheetah Can't Lose* by Bob Shea

- o *Mustache!* by Mac Barnett
- o *Everyone Loves Bacon* by Kelly DiPucchio
- o *King Louie's Shoes* by D.J. Steinberg
- Verses:
 - o Romans 12:16 (NIV)...Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.
 - o **Romans 12:16 (the Message)...Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.**
- Songs:
 - o *Steal My Show* by Toby Mac

14. Attitude

- Books
 - o *The Pout, Pout Fish* by Deborah Diesen
 - o *Rain Brings Frogs* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
 - o *What Are You So Grumpy About?* by Tom Lichtenheld
 - o *One of Those Days* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
 - o *Making the Moose Out of Life* by Nicholas Oldland
 - o *Pete the Cat* Series by Eric Litwin
 - o *C.R. Mudgeon* by Leslie Muir
 - o *Grumpy Bird* by Jeremy Tankard
 - o *Smile!* by Leigh Hodgkinson
 - o *The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland
 - o *Good News, Bad News* by Jeff Mack
 - o *Pardon Me!* by Daniel Miyares
 - o *Are You Ready To Play Outside?* by Mo Willems
 - o *It's Tough to Lose Your Balloon* by Jarrett Krosoczka
- Verse
 - o **Philippians 2:14 (NIV)...Do everything without grumbling or arguing.**

15. Serve

- Books
 - o *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
 - o *The House in the Middle of Town* by Crystal Bowman
 - o *Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed* by Emily Pearson
 - o *My Heart Will Not Sit Down* by Mara Rockliff
 - o *Bear Has a Story to Tell* by Philip C. Stead
 - o *The Boy on the Yellow Bus* by Crystal Bowman
 - o *One Hand, Two Hands* by Max Lucado
 - o *Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan
 - o *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena
 - o *This Little Light of Mine* illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- Song:
 - o *The Servant Song* by ?
 - o *Do Something* by Matthew West
 - o *Start A Fire* by Unspoken
 - o *Build Your Kingdom Here* by Rend Collective
- Verse
 - o Philippians 2:5&7a (NIV)...Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant.
 - o **Matthew 23:11 (the Message)...Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant. If you puff yourself up, you'll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you're content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty.**

16. Perseverance

- Books
 - o *The Three Ninja Pigs* by Corey Rosen Schwartz
 - o *Dex: The Heart of a Hero* by Caralyn Beuhner
 - o *Gumption* by Elise Broach
 - o *Prudence Wants a Pet* by Cathleen Daly

- o *The Berenstain Bears and the Big Road Race* by Stan and Jan Berenstain
- o *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper
- o *What Goes Up* by Paula Bowles
- o *Whistle for Willie* by Ezra Jack Keats
- o *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires
- o *Sally Jean, The Bicycle Queen* by Cari Best
- o *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin* by Chieri Uegaki
- o *Salt in His Shoes* by Delores Jordan and Roslyn M. Jordan
- o *Brave Irene* by William Steig
- o *Emmanuel's Dream* by Laurie Ann Thompson
- o *Duncan the Story Dragon* by Amanda Driscoll
- Verses
 - o Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)...Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
 - o **Hebrews 12:2-3a...Keep your eyes on *Jesus* who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God.**

17. Sacrifice

- Books
 - o *Peter's Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats
 - o *Louie* by Ezra Jack Keats
 - o *Love Monster and the Last Chocolate* by Rachel Bright
 - o *Winston and George* by John Miller
 - o *Melissa Parkington's Beautiful, Beautiful Hair* by Pat Brisson
 - o *Pet Show!* by Ezra Jack Keats
 - o *The Spiffiest Giant In Town* by Julia Donaldson

- o *Miss Fannie's Hat* by Jan Karon
- o *Erandi's Braids* by Antonio Hernandez Madrigal
- o *Four Feet, Two Sandals* by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed
- o *The Girl and the Bicycle* by Mark Pett
- o *A Gift For Mama* by Linda Ravin Lodding
- o *Uncle Jed's Barbershop* by Margaree King Mitchell
- o *Found* by Salina Yoon
- o *Number One Sam* by Greg Pizzoli
- o *Big Al* by Andrew Clements
- o *The Teddy Bear* by David McPhail
- Verses
 - o **Romans 12:1 (NIV)...Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.**

18. Gentleness

- Books
 - o *The Chocolate-Covered-Cookie Tantrum* by Deborah Blumenthal
 - o *Sometimes I'm Bombaloo* by Rachel Vail
 - o *Hands Are Not For Hitting* by Martine Agassi
 - o *Duck, Duck, Moose!* by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
 - o *Here Comes Destructosaurus!* by Aaron Reynolds
 - o *Tyrannosaurus Wrecks!* by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
 - o *Mostly Monsterly* by Tammi Sauer
 - o *Lively Elizabeth!* by Mara Bergman
 - o *Millie Fierce* by Jane Manning
 - o *Feet Are Not For Kicking* by Elizabeth Verdick
 - o *Orangutangled* by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen
 - o *I Call My Hand Gentle* by Amanda Haan
 - o *The Peace Book* by Todd Parr

- o *Hands Off, Harry!* by Rosemary Wells
- o *How to Heal a Broken Wing* by Bob Graham

- Verses
 - o **Colossians 3:12 (NIV)...Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.**