

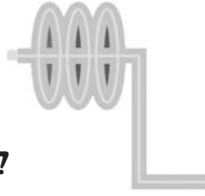


# Weekday Devotions





## THANKS FOR THE MANNA FLAKES



**Do you like eating the same cereal every day?**

**G**od's Old Testament people traveled in the wilderness for forty years. They complained because God was feeding them the same breakfast every day—something called manna, which means, "What is it?" It fell from the sky while they slept. They'd wake up and say, "What is it?"

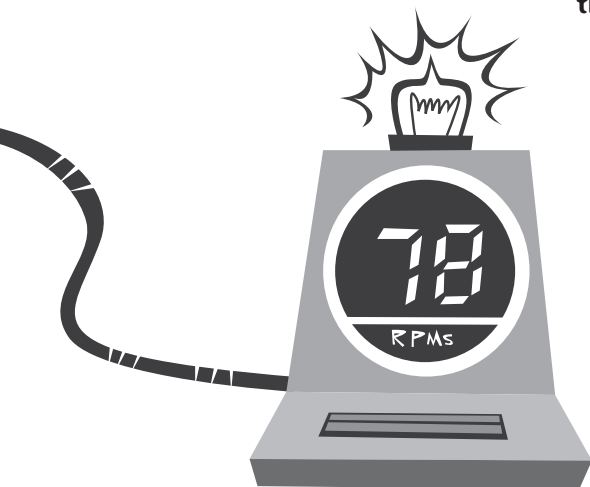
They could have made fun meals out of manna. Think of the possibilities: bamanna bread, hamanna sandwiches, scrambled manna, fried manna, bamanna splits!

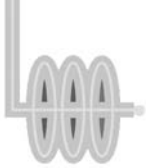
But the people complained. Maybe they said, "Manna, manna, every day. Give us something chickens lay!" God was doing great things for them but they missed his blessings by being ungrateful.

Don't miss the great things God is doing in your life! Start by enjoying and thanking God for the food he provides for you today. Then look around and thank God for all his gifts! Say this as you start your day:

**The LORD has done great  
things for us, and we are  
filled with joy.**

**PSALM 126:3**





## FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

**Animals don't cry—but humans do.**

Still, there are plenty of things I don't understand about crying. Maybe you can help me out.

1. When we get hurt, why do we try so hard not to cry in front of other people—even if it really hurts?
2. Why is it easier to cry around our moms than our dads?
3. What are those funny little gasps that come out of us after we stop crying?
4. Don't you think it's great that we can also cry when we're happy?
5. Why did Jesus cry?

**J**esus cried? Yep, and he cried in front of other people. He didn't hide it. When Jesus' friend Lazarus died, the Bible says:

**Jesus wept. Then the Jews said,  
"See how he loved him!"**

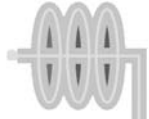
**JOHN 11:35-36**



Jesus knows what it's like to be sad.

God created us with emotions and he gave us tears to relieve our sadness. If you feel like having a good cry today—go ahead! Jesus understands. He can make you feel better!

## ARE YOU WIDE AWAKE?



According to NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, in an average life-time the average American blinks 393,674,400 times. That means, if indeed you are “average,” your eyes are shut for:

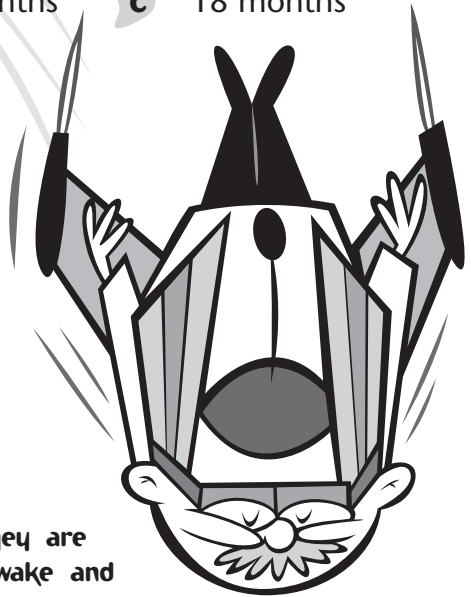
- a** 4 months    **b** 9 months    **c** 18 months

The answer is **c**—eighteen months. Wow! In a life-time, you would be missing out on seeing a year and a half’s worth of stuff! And that doesn’t count sleeping! That’s another twenty-four years of shut-eye!

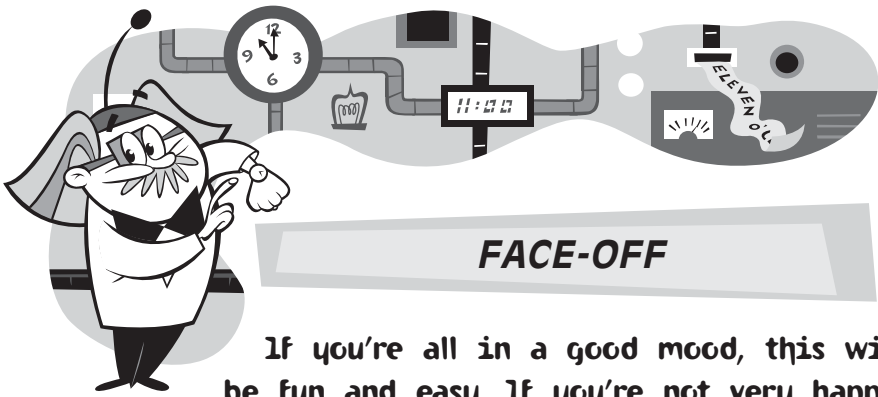
The Bible says:

**Let us not be like the others. They are asleep. Instead, let us be wide awake and in full control of ourselves.**

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:6 NIV**



That doesn’t mean God doesn’t want us to sleep or blink! But he does want us to be awake and aware of the temptations to sin that surround us—from classmates, friends, songs, TV, movies. We can’t spend our lives huddling under the bed. So we must stay awake and alert so we can say, “No!” to those things that draw us away from God.



If you're all in a good mood, this will be fun and easy. If you're not very happy today, well, this may be just what you need! I call it the **Dr. Devo face-off**.

Here are the instructions.

1. Each person has one opportunity to make a funny face.
2. The other contestants judge the face on a scale of one to ten, based on creativity and form. You cannot vote for yourself.
3. The winner doesn't have to clean up after supper for the next two days.

### **Let the face-off begin!**

I hope that brought you lots of laughs! The Bible talks about God's face. It says:

**Seek his face always.**

**1 CHRONICLES 16:11**

Our days will be so much happier if we constantly look to God's face of joy and love.

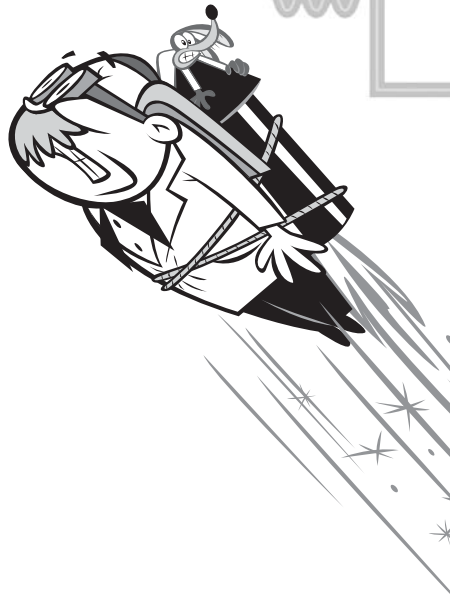
Face the facts: God wants us to always look to him for help, forgiveness, love, fun, power, and every other good gift he has for us. Face it—he loves you very much!

## WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



Below are names of real towns. Try to match the city with the state where it is located.

1. Lizard Lick\_\_\_\_\_
2. Noodle\_\_\_\_\_
3. Joe\_\_\_\_\_
4. Sweet Lips\_\_\_\_\_
5. Tightwad\_\_\_\_\_
6. Nothing\_\_\_\_\_
7. Zap\_\_\_\_\_
8. Monkey's Eyebrow\_\_\_\_\_



States: (a) Texas, (b) Montana, (c) North Carolina, (d) Missouri, (e) Kentucky, (f) North Dakota, (g) Arizona, (h) Tennessee.

**W**hen the children of Israel left Egypt and headed for the Promised Land, they camped in the Desert of Sin (read Exodus 16:1–2). That doesn't sound like the best place to camp, does it? But many times we camp out in the middle of sin—even though we know what's right and what's wrong.

If you've been camping in the Desert of Sin, it may be time to move your tent to a place called Mount Calvary. That's where Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. And remember, Mount Calvary has a great view of heaven!

Is there anything in your life that you need to ask God to forgive you for?