

A
Girl After
God's
Own Heart
Devotional

Elizabeth George



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
EUGENE, OREGON

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, *New International Version*® NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Verses marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Verses marked TLB are taken from *The Living Bible*, Copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189 USA. All rights reserved.

Material for devotions adapted from:

A Girl After God's Own Heart by Elizabeth George,
Copyright © 2010

A Young Woman After God's Own Heart: A Devotional
by Elizabeth George, Copyright © 2008

Cover by Garborg Design Works, Savage, Minnesota

A GIRL AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART DEVOTIONAL

Copyright © 2012 by Elizabeth George

Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97402

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-6685-6 (Milano Softone™)

ISBN 978-0-7369-4765-7 (padded HC)

ISBN 978-0-7369-4766-4 (eBook)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in China

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 / RDS-SK / 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Hi There!

I'm Elizabeth. And I want to welcome you to this cool little book of really great devotions written just for you. That's right! As I write books for girls, I think about you—where you live. What your family is like. What you look like. Whether or not you have braces. If you have a pet. How old you are. I even wonder about your favorite color, food, song, and hobby.

In other words, I have you in my heart and mind as I write to *you!*

Your journey with God is THE most important journey you will ever take. It's the trip of a lifetime. And the best thing about it? It leads you to God. God loves you. He loves you so much that He sent His precious and only Son, Jesus, to die for you on the cross so you could enjoy Him and live with Him forever.

That, my wonderful, super, beautiful-in-God's-eyes friend, is what the devotions in this book are all about. Just you...and your relationship with God.

So please, have some fun! Take a minute or two each day to learn more about Him and how much He treasures *you*. You are special to me. And you are

special to your parents and grandparents. And you are oh-so-special to your heavenly Father!

In His amazing and everlasting love,
Your friend and sister in Christ,

Elizabeth George

Being "In"



There's nothing wrong with being included as a part of a group of girls. In fact, having friends is an important part of your social life. But it *is* a problem if you're not focused on the most important thing—being "in" with God. He designed your life so that it works best when *He* is at the center of it. If you're not following God's heart, you're not going in the right direction.

You can still be team captain, know some cool girls, and have some good friends. But first make sure you're "in" with Jesus. Read your Bible. Pray. And pray for your friends. And be sure to ask Him if what you're doing makes Him happy. Then give Him all you've got!

Jesus, it's so easy to get caught up in caring about what others think that I forget to focus on You. Please let my friendship with You be the most important one in my life. I want to be "in" with You! Amen.

Attention, Please!

So many things—big and small—attract your attention and distract you from what's truly important. They can even turn your heart away from God and others and onto yourself instead.

Wouldn't you like to get better at paying attention to what *really* matters? Try this. When you wake up in the morning, remind yourself of your number one goal—becoming a girl after God's own heart. Then pray. Ask God to help you focus on the things He says are important. And then step into your brand new day with a happy heart.

Lord, sometimes it's hard to pay attention to You when so many cool things and people and hobbies are in my life. Please help me to remember to focus on You, and what's important to You. Amen.

Treasure Hunt



Did you know that God has a treasure for those who choose to follow Him? Matthew 6:21 says, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

When it comes to treasure, you have a choice to make. You can choose to look for the things you want and think are important, or you can let God direct you to the treasure He has for you—a life of fabulous blessings especially for *you*.

What’s really neat is that God’s treasure isn’t hidden. And it’s not hard to find. As you go through each day and follow God’s path, He will lead you step by step to discover the many treasures He has just for you along the way!

God, please help me to make Your treasure my treasure, to focus the wants, dreams, and desires of my heart on You. I want You to be the most valuable prize in my life. Amen.

Adventure Story

Don't you just love the first day back in school after summer? That's the day everyone gets to share about their summer adventures. Probably your "adventures" weren't about sitting at home watching TV or playing computer games. They were maybe about an exciting camping trip, a fun hike, or even a visit to another state or country.

Well, God has a great adventure planned for you—a trip designed for you and you alone. If you decide to go, you'll have adventure after adventure. And you'll have lots of stories to share with others—stories of how God helped you every step of the way. How He showed you things about yourself you didn't know. How He blessed you, surprised you, gave you something special.

Be sure you share your stories with others. Maybe they will want to join you on your adventure into the Lord's great love, too!

Jesus, help me say yes to the adventures You have planned just for me. I might feel scared sometimes, but I know You will take care of me. And give me the courage to share my stories with others so they too can know about You. Amen.

No One Loves You More

Who loves you the most? Your friends? Nope. Your grandparents? Not quite. Your parents? Not them, either. As much as all these people love you, guess what? God loves you so much more! And becoming a girl after God's own heart starts by knowing—every day, deep down in your heart—that God loves you more than anyone else does.

The Bible tells you that...

- ☉ God is love (1 John 4:8), and
- ☉ God so loved the world (including you!) that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Jesus died so you could have a place in heaven forever with Him. No one *could* ever love you more. And no one *will* ever love you more!

Dear Lord, thank You for loving me. This is awesome...amazing...super cool! Help me remember that You love me more than anyone ever could. And help me remember to keep saying, "Thank You"! Amen.

Follow the Leader

Isn't it fun to remember playing Follow the Leader with your friends? Maybe you've hopped on one foot, waddled like a duck, crawled like a baby, or did other silly things the leader asked everyone to do.

But hey, did you know that God wants you to play Follow the Leader with Him? In the Bible, Jesus lets us know how important it is to follow Him: "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (John 14:15).

How can you follow God's leading? Keep this thought in mind: "If God wants me to do something, I'm going to do it. And if God doesn't want me to do something, I'm not going to do it." As you follow Him, remember that He will always lead you to a place that is good! You can follow Him without any worries.

Lord, thank You that I can follow You through life. Please guide me and help me to live as a girl who does what You want me to do. Thank You for loving me...and leading me in Your path—the right path. Amen.